

What has God Done for You Lately

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There are some who say:

- ‘there is no God’
- ‘If there is a God, where is He?’
- ‘He ‘hasn’t done anything for me, lately’
- ‘If there is a God, why doesn’t He come down here and straighten this mess out?’

We’ve all probably had times in our lives when we’ve kind of had that thought: Why had God done for me, lately?—especially if we’ve gone through a lot of trials and troubles.

I asked a couple of people and one said, ‘God has done everything for me.’ Another said, ‘God’s done a lot of things for me.’ Those are good answers, because God does hear all our words and He hears all of our accusations; He hears our comments. Certainly any blaspheme toward God doesn’t nullify God; it doesn’t mean He doesn’t exist.

What has God done for us, and continues to do for us every day and we just take those things for granted?

Genesis 1:1: “In *the* beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” God says here that He’s the One Who created the heavens and the earth. We’ll see later that *all things* were made by the One Who became Jesus Christ. God says, ‘I’m the One! I created the heavens and the earth.’

Can you imagine if we just take for granted the earth that we live upon and the heavens, all the things that we see and the stars at night. We read from Scripture that shows that God is the One, that He’s created all things.

Isaiah 42:5: “Thus says the LORD God, *He* who created the heavens and stretched them out, spreading forth the earth and its offspring ... [the movies and things that we see about the universe and how it goes on and on] ...He who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it.” God is the One Who created the people, all things, He gives the breath of life to all the people who live upon the earth.

Isaiah 40:12: “Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out the heavens with a span? And who has comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?” What a test it would be if someone from one of our notable colleges—i.e. MIT—was asked: ‘I want you to figure out all the dust on the earth, or just in the Sahara Desert; I want you to measure that.’ Or how

about if you say, ‘I want to know how much sand is on all the beaches of the earth. Once you figure that out then tell me how many particles of sand there is per ton.’ *God says that He created all that, and He knows how much there is!*

I made a comment to a neighbor one time about rain—I think we were having a dry summer that year—‘Isn’t it nice that we don’t have to figure out how much water it takes for these trees to live.’ Think about all the forests around the world; how much water does it take to keep all those trees alive and keep them going? The high learned and mathematicians—whatever you want to call them—in our society; there are a lot of smart people; but how much water does it take to keep all of the trees alive just here in the United States? What times is it best?

God has all of that worked out. He knows how much water it takes, and He’s created the seasons of the year, and when it’s time for the trees to come back—which are kind of dormant—God knows all that.

Verse 13: “Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, and who was His counselor that he might instruct Him? With whom did He take counsel, and *who* instructed Him and taught Him in the path of judgment, and taught Him knowledge, and made known the way of understanding to Him?” (vs 13-14). Who instructed God?

We know that Job had a situation where he thought he knew a lot. He did, but God had to show him, and asked him some questions: Where were you when I did this? When I did that? Job finally realized and put his hand over his mouth and said, ‘I don’t know anything!’

Verse 18: “To whom then will you compare God? Or what likeness will you compare to Him?”

Verse 21: “Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood *from* the foundations of the earth? *It is* He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers; *it is* He who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in” (vs 21-22). He is the One Who created and does all these things.

Have you ever notice all the different faces of the sky. I was noticing several months ago when driving down the road close to sunset all the different colors as the sun was going down: the reds, some black and different colors. It was very beautiful to look at.

God changes the face of the sky almost every day. What if we had the same sky to look at each and every day? What if it was just drab and overcast everyday? There are places on the earth that gets kind of like that, but God changes the face of the sky. Some days there are white clouds with a beautiful blue background. Other times it is kind of overcast. Other times just a beautiful blue sky with no clouds at all, and the beautiful sunsets. God actually changes the face of the sky; doesn't leave it the same for us.

Did that just come into being? *No, God is the One Who takes care of that!* He's the One Who is in charge!

Verse 25: "To whom then will you compare Me, or who is My equal?" says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold, who has created these *things*, who brings out their host by number? **He calls them all by names.** God calls all the stars by name by the greatness of His might, for He is strong in power; not one fails" (vs 25-26).

It's just like the situation that goes back to the time of the Israelites and the time of the exodus from Egypt when God knew not only the firstborn of man, but He also knew the firstborn of beasts. God knows those things.

We think we know it all. We think with our computerized systems that we have so much knowledge—and we do—and it says that knowledge is going to continue to increase toward the end. But what man can compare himself to God? We know that Nebuchadnezzar had to learn that big lesson.

Verse 28: "Have you not known? Have you not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, does not grow weak nor weary? And His understanding no one can fathom." We can't even begin to understand the knowledge and how great God is.

When Elijah called down fire from heaven when the Baal from Baal-Peor, people had to understand that Baal wasn't God. God had Elijah pour water over all the sacrifices and they were having a drought and, I'm sure they wondered why Elijah was wasting all this water; 'We can't afford to waste this water; we're having a drought. When Elijah called upon God, He brought fire down and it consumed the sacrifices and it also lapped up the water in the ditch that they dug around it.

The people stood back and said, 'The Lord, He is God; He's the One!' Before they had been giving all their praise, honor and worship to this Baal.

Isaiah 51:13: "And you forget the LORD your Maker, Who has stretched out the heavens and

laid the foundations of the earth. And you dread continually, every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy. And where *is* the fury of the oppressor?" You forget God! The One Who stretched out the heavens and created all things!

Isaiah 52:5: "'Now, therefore, what have I here,' says the LORD, 'that My people are taken away for nothing? Those who rule over them howl,' says the LORD; 'and without ceasing My name is blasphemed every day.'" They continued to blaspheme and curse the name of the One Who created everything that there is.

Verse 6: "Therefore, My people shall know My name, thus *it shall be* in that day, for I *am* He Who speaks; behold, *it is* I." So, God says there is coming a time when His people will know Him!

Verse 7: "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good tidings, who publishes peace; who brings good news, who publishes salvation; who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'" There is coming a time that all will know who God is, and they will stop blaspheming the name. Just like in the case of Elijah when the people said, 'The Lord, He is God.' People will know who is God!

Jeremiah 10:9: "Silver beaten into plates is brought from Tarshish, and gold from Uphaz, the work of the workman, and of the hands of the goldsmith. Violet and purple *are* their clothing; they *are* all the work of skillful ones." Those are some of the talents and abilities that man has, but a lot of times they're forming gods just like the calf that Aaron made when Moses was upon the mountain. These are all just the *work of man's hands!*

Verse 10: "But the LORD *is* the true God, He *is* the living God, and the everlasting King. At His wrath..." There is coming a time of wrath; we may be seeing some of that going on now with the conditions around the earth at this time to wake up, to show that God is the power.

Who is going to stop the tornadoes that they had in Oklahoma? *No man was able to run out and snap his fingers or no preacher was able to say, 'Stop' and they stopped.* They continued on. In God's mercy, we know that not too many people were killed.

"...the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to stand His fury" (v 10). There's coming a time when they will actually hide in the rocks and the caves and things like that to 'get away from the face of God.'

Verse 11: "Thus you shall say to them, 'The gods who have not made the heavens and the earth, they shall perish from the earth and from under these heavens.' He has made the earth by His power; He

has established the world by His wisdom, and has stretched out the heavens by His judgment. When He utters His voice, *there is* a noise of a multitude of waters in the heavens. ‘He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; He makes lightnings with rain, and brings forth the wind out of His treasures.’ Every man is stupid for *lack of* knowledge; every refiner is put to shame by the graven image; for his molten image is a lie, and there is no breath in them” (vs 11-14). They can’t do anything!

Look at all the different idols that people have: in their homes, on the dash of their cars, all the totem poles that men have carved out; just pieces of stone or wood; they can’t speak or do anything. But man looks to them, something physical that he can see and bows down to them.

We see that God makes the lightning and the rain, all the idols are nothing and man is stupid for his lack of knowledge of God. God is the One Who has created all things and let’s give Him the credit, where credit is due.

Moses told Israel that God was their God, Deuteronomy 6:4: “Hear, O Israel. Our one God is *the* LORD, *the* LORD. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might” (vs 4-5). That’s what happened in the situation with Phineas where the Simeonite brought a woman in from Midian. He goes in and kills her and stays the plague. Again, they were worshipping other gods from the nations around them.

God says, ‘Look, Israel, I am your God! I’m the One Who created you! I brought you out of Egypt! I delivered you from bondage—harsh bondage! I’ve given you all these things and promised to bring you into a land of milk and honey.’ We know that story that some of them were not able to go in because of the sins and turning God into another god.

All of these things we just take for granted—don’t we? We just get up each and every day and if the sun is shining we are little more positive. When it’s cloudy and overcast we sometimes think: Why is cloudy and overcast today, I had so much to do outside, go golfing or whatever. We also have to fight our minds about some of these things. God gives us different phases of the sky; He gives us the day and the night.

We see where God says that He created the heavens and the earth; He’s the One Whom the credit should go to. He stretched out the heavens.

Genesis 1:4: “And God saw the light that *it was* good; and God divided between the light and the darkness.” So, there was darkness and God

created light to divide it. Can you imagine being in darkness all the time and not having any light at all? Sometimes how good it is to see the light come up in the morning with the sun. I remember when our oldest son was very small, sometimes he didn’t want to sleep at night, but when the sun came up he was up raring to go. He didn’t like the darkness; he liked the light better and he was up and ready to go.

I recall our first years going to the Feast and, of course, we stayed in a strange place at night and he was awake a lot. But as soon as it got daylight he’d jump up and was ready to go. Light is a good thing. Dark is good, too, because that’s the time that God has given us to rest and sleep. God is the One Who has created and divided the light from the darkness.

Verse 14: “And God said, ‘Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide between the day and the night, and let them be for signs, and for appointed seasons, and for days and years.’” God gave specific lights. We have the blessing of having four seasons in this area in Ohio. We are able to see spring in the beginning of the year, things coming back to life. And summer, the growing season; the fall, harvesting season; winter where we get snow. We’re able to experience and see the seasons that God has created.

Verse 15: “‘And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light upon the earth.’” And it was so. And God *had* made two great lights, the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night; and *God had made* the stars *also*” (vs 15-16). God created the sun, moon and the stars.

What if there was no sun at all? If we didn’t have a sun we couldn’t exist upon the earth. Who keeps it going? Lately it’s been in the news because of the sunbursts spewing out, and our sun is about a hundred times larger than the earth. But if we didn’t have the heat from the sun, we couldn’t exist.

What if we didn’t have the moon? *It controls the tides and is used for months, days and different things we can calculate by that!*

- What if we didn’t have those things?
- When did they come into being?
- What man created them?

Man did not! Man has all this philosophy and things he dreams up about how these things came into existence, but ***God is the One Who says, ‘I created them,*** and I created man upon the earth.’

Verse 9: “And God said, ‘Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together to one place, and let the dry land appear.’ And it was so.” Evidently, it was covered with water or vapor and

God let dry land appear and it was.

- What if we didn't have oceans?
- What if we didn't have lakes?
- What if we didn't have streams or rivers or springs?

Water was a big thing in the time of Abraham, where Abraham and Lot had a little dispute between their herdsmen, and another time Isaac had some problems with wells. People living in that area said, 'We're going to take this, it belongs to us, it's our land.' Water was very important and still is today. We just take it for granted because most of us can go over and turn on the faucet and we get water. We can take a shower, use it for washing clothes, the car—many things. We're blessed to be able to have that. But if you ever had to live where you didn't have those modern conveniences—such as Abraham, and others—then you realize, especially in a drought, how important water is.

I can remember when we couldn't go over and turn on a faucet. We had to go carry water from a well or spring. In times when it was very hot and dry—had a dry summer—the wells or springs went dry and people had to go and get water somewhere else. I don't recall any trucks coming around town where they had water in a big tank and you could buy it. People had to borrow from someone else who did have a good well or spring.

We just take these things for granted! God is the One Who gives us that; He created that! All of us need water for drinking and its many uses. Do we stop and thank God for it? In the time of Elijah when they had the drought, but eventually God said, 'Okay, tell them I'm going to send rain' and He did. He gave them water showing the mercy of the great God Who gives us all things.

We know in national disasters, such as floods, they have water but it's polluted; or in tornadoes, hurricanes or earthquakes, again; water has to be brought in. This is the only time when people really acknowledge God. They say, 'God did it. God caused this problem.'

In insurance policies have a clause in them that says, 'acts of God.' God doesn't exist until you have a natural catastrophe—hurricane, tornado, flood, tsunami; you name it—and the insurance says 'we don't cover acts of God—and they spell them out—all of a sudden God has done this and He's responsible for it. Man even has it in the language and written in his contracts for insurance purposes, and I'm sure, for a lot of other documents, as well.

What does that say? *Blaspheme! Blaspheme against God!* We blame Him when things happen not to our liking.

How about things that live in the water? For example: fish. My grandson says he likes to fish. I like to fish, too, but I don't think I like to fish as much as he does. There are clean and unclean that is there. God created all of them.

I think most of us would like to have a nice meal of salmon, especially if it's not farm raised; if it comes from Alaska, or someplace like that. Cod is good. I enjoy a nice trout that came down out of a nice mountain stream. All of these things God has created and *we just take them for granted!* We have stores where we can go and purchase them, or to a restaurant and purchase that. God has created all of those things.

Verse 24: "And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind—livestock, creeping things, and beasts of the earth—each after its kind.' And it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the livestock after their kind, and every creeping thing upon the earth after their kind. And God saw that it was good" (vs 24-25).

God made the earth; He made all the livestock. Think about cattle and all the different things that they're good for. The meat we enjoy. Also, the hides of cattle can be used; the milk and butter and cheese.

Genesis 18:1: "And the LORD appeared to him in the plains of Mamre, and he sat at the tent door in the heat of the day. And he lifted up his eyes and looked, and lo, three men stood by him. And when he saw *them*, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground" (vs 1-2) He must have recognized who they were.

Verse 3: "And he said, 'My LORD, if now I have found favor in Your sight, do not pass away, I pray, from Your servant. Let a little water, I pray, be brought, and wash Your feet, and rest under the tree. And I will bring a bite of bread, and will comfort your hearts. After that You shall pass on, for this is why You have come to Your servant.' And they said, 'Do so, as you have said.' And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, 'Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal; knead *it*, and make cakes.' And Abraham ran out to the herd and brought a calf, tender and good. And he gave *it* to a young man. And he hurried to dress it. And he took butter and milk, and the calf, which he had dressed, and set *it* before them. And he stood by them under the tree, and they ate" (vs 3-8).

At that time, milk and butter was good, because Abraham had given it to the One Whom we know became Christ. He and the angels with Him ate it.

But because of the way that man does

now—just to gain money—raises the cattle with all the hormones and things that he injects into them, and keeps them in feed lots where they don't get exercise and standing in filth sometimes up to their knees. It's a means of making money, not a matter of having something that's good, clean and wholesome. Man has done that to everything that God has created and gave to man and said that it's good. Man turns around and pollutes it.

Verse 8: "And he took butter and milk, and the calf, which he had dressed, and set *it* before them. And he stood by them under the tree, and they ate." It goes to show that when God says that it's good, *it is good!* But man has polluted all those things because of his wanting to make money and provide for all those who want to buy the product.

Think about all the sheep: the wool to make clothing, the hides that can be used. Goats milk is supposed to be good for the digestive problems. I bought a little bit of goat cheese not too long ago and it wasn't too bad. It tastes a little bit like cottage cheese, but it's pretty good to put on a cracker.

All of these things *we take for granted*—don't we?

Genesis 1:29: "And God said, 'Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree upon which *is the* fruit of a tree bearing seed—to you they shall be for food.'" God has given us all these different herbs and things we have, as well; and the fruit-bearing trees.

Sometimes you may think you don't have anything to pray about, I can't think of what to pray for. Why don't you just thank God for all the different fruit-bearing trees and things, and the fruits that come into season.

My wife and I were picking strawberries and there was a guy in the row next to us—he came from the city—and his grandson had asked him what he was going to do that day and he told him he was going to pick strawberries. His grandson didn't understand what that was.

To many people: where does chocolate milk come from? *A chocolate cow, of course!* All these things they have no knowledge of. They grow up in the city all their lives and never been out on a farm and seen cattle, horses, sheep, goats, chickens, ducks and other animals, so they really don't have any idea.

God has given fruit in its season: strawberries, raspberries, blackberries and peaches. My wife always likes it when they start selling peaches because they bring them up from the Carolinas and we really enjoy them. But you have pears, apples, all the those things. We try to keep

fruit in the house, especially apples and bananas, but these other things are seasonal.

There again, I think about this great country that God has given us, whereas in Florida, California—now we know the weather patterns have changed—some of the vegetables and fruits that they're able to have year around in the stores, because of the climate that God gave in those particular states.

These things we just take for granted! The only time we get a wakeup call is when we have severe storms or bad weather and people go into the stores and take everything out. After about three days of snow—or whatever it is—and the shelves are bare because the trucks haven't been able to get in to re-supply them. These things, as I've said, *we just take for granted!* How often do we just stop and thank God for all He's created and given us?

David mentions some of this. There are times when we don't know what to pray about, just turn to Psa. 148 and read it:

Psalm 148:1: "O praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise Him in the heights. Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts. Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you stars of light" (vs 1-3). God created all these things!

Verse 4: "Praise Him, you heavens of heavens... [because they're stretched out] ...and waters that are above the heavens. Let them praise the name of the LORD, for He commanded and they were created. He has also established them forever and ever; He has made a decree, which shall not pass away. Let praise be to the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters, and all the depths; fire and hail, snow and vapor, stormy winds fulfilling His Word, mountains and all hills, fruitful trees and all cedars" (vs 4-9). As I just mentioned all the different fruits, trees, vegetables and things that we have.

Verse 10: "Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds." Each morning I wake up with the birds chirping outside. They're out there before daylight chirping—kind of a wakeup call in the morning.

Verse 11: "Kings of the earth and all people, princes and all judges of the earth." What great thing that would be if all the kings of the earth, rulers of the earth, knew God and was praising Him and would reign over their people in a Godly manner.

Verse 12: "Both young men and maidens, old men and children; let them praise the name of the LORD, for His name alone is exalted; His glory is above the earth and the heavens. And He has also lifted up a horn for His people, praise for all His saints, even of the children of Israel, a people near to

Him. O praise the LORD!” (vs 12-14).

David goes down the line there, basically, of all things, starting with the heavens and the water and vapors, all the animals, birds, beasts—everything. He praised God because God is the One Who created them.

After God created all these things, He had a another *special* creation: “Genesis 1:26: “And God said, ‘**Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness**; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of heaven and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that crawls upon the earth.’ And God created man in His *own* image, in the image of God He created him. He created them male and female” (vs 26-27). Later on it talks about how God created a helpmate for Adam.

Isaiah 45:9: “Woe to him who fights with the One Who formed him, a potsherd among the potsherds of the earth! Shall the clay say to him who forms it, ‘What are you making?’ Or your work, ‘He *has* no hands?’ Woe to him who says to *his* father, ‘What are you begetting?’ Or to the woman, ‘What are you laboring over?’ Thus says the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and the One who formed him, ‘Ask Me of things that are to come concerning My sons, and concerning the work of My hands. I have made the earth and created man upon it; I *with* My hands have stretched out the heavens; and all their host have I commanded” (vs 9-12). Here God says that He’s the One Who formed the earth, created man upon it.

Verse 18: “For thus says the LORD the Creator of the heavens, He Himself *is* God, Who formed the earth and made it; He has established it. He created it not in vain...” God had a purpose; God was zealous. God wanted to do these things, and when He did them. He still maintains them and makes sure that the earth, sun, moon, stars and heavens. God has created a great clock that keeps time in doing these things. He created them not in vain, but for our benefit, to be inhabited, so that we can enjoy water, food, fruits and vegetables, cattle, learn to work and prune the earth and keep it as He told Adam.

“...*but* formed it to be inhabited. ‘I *am* the LORD, and *there is* no other” (v 18).

We know that carnal nature—which we all have—really doesn’t understand the things of God unless we have God’s Spirit to help us.

1-Corinthians 2:12: “Now, we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that *is* of God, so that we might know the things graciously given to us by God; which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in *words*

taught by *the* Holy Spirit *in order to* communicate spiritual things by spiritual *means*. But *the* natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand *them* because they are spiritually discerned. However, the one who is spiritual discerns all things, but he himself is discerned by no one. For who has known *the* mind of *the* Lord? Who shall instruct Him? But we have *the* mind of Christ” (vs 12-16).

Unless we have God’s Spirit, or God’s Spirit is with us, we really can’t appreciate or understand the things of God.

1-Corinthians 1:26: “For you see your calling, brethren...” Those whom God has called, have acknowledge God, repented, been baptized and have His Holy Spirit

“...that *there are* not many who are wise according to the flesh, not many who are powerful, not many who are highborn *among you*. Rather, God has chosen the foolish things of the world, so that He might put to shame those who are wise; and God has chosen the weak things of the world so that He might put to shame the strong things. And the lowborn of the world, and the despised has God chosen—even the things that are counted as nothing—in order that He might bring to nothing the things that are” (vs 26-28).

We have been given an opportunity before the great rich and the great mighty. Do we just take that for granted? Sometimes my wife and I talk about all the different problems and things in the Church and people and the things that they do. I remind her of this Scripture: God didn’t call the bright and the noble; he called the nobodies of the world with all the problems, and taken all the baggage and things that a lot of us had when we were called into God’s Church.

But God has given us an opportunity that we can be before the rich of the world and the wise and knowledgeable so that we can actually become sons and daughters in His kingdom and be firstfruits. What a great thing that is! Too often we do not think about that, and we don’t realize the great opportunity that God has give us. ***We just take it for granted!***

Most importantly and the greatest thing that God has done is that ***He has sent His Son to this earth as a sacrifice for our sins***, an atonement for our sins.

John 3:16 is a Scripture that is quoted often by the ‘Christian religions’ of the world; many of them know it by heart: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish, but may have everlasting life.”

God made a way to buy back man from the clutches of Satan the devil—who caused Eve to sin and Adam to sin. Someone had to come, and each year at Passover time we go to the Scripture that says, ‘From the foundation of the world He was chosen to be our sacrificial lamb.’

Ephesians 3:9: “And that I might enlighten all *as to* what *is* the fellowship of the mystery that has been hidden from the ages in God, Who created all things by Jesus Christ; so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the Church to the principalities and the powers in the heavenly *places*, according to *His* eternal purpose, which He has wrought in Christ Jesus our Lord” (vs 9-11).

So, the great mystery has been revealed to us! God has given us that understanding!

Colossian 1:10: “That you may walk worthily of the Lord, unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power according to the might of His glory, unto all endurance and long-suffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father, Who has made us qualified for the share of the inheritance of the saints in the light; Who has personally rescued us from the power of darkness and has transferred *us* unto the kingdom of the Son of His love” (vs 10-13).

God called us out of darkness and into light, taking the veil off and showing us the mystery that’s been ‘hidden from the world.’ We are able to share in that and He called basically the lowborn, the nobodies, to give us this great opportunity to be firstfruits and kings and priests in His kingdom. What a great and wonderful thing!

Verse 14: “In Whom we have redemption through His [Christ’s] own blood, *even* the remission of sins; Who is *the* image of the invisible God, *the* firstborn of all creation” (vs 14-15).

God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His Son, the Son of His love.

Isaiah 45:22: “Turn to Me, and be saved, all the ends of the earth; for I *am* God, and there *is* none else. I have sworn by Myself, the word has gone out of My mouth *in* righteousness, and shall not turn back, that unto Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear” (vs 22-23). There’s coming a time when all—from the least to the greatest—shall all know God!

These are just some of the things that God has done for us, and is continuing to do for us today. Let’s think about them and be thankful!

Scriptural References:

- 1) Genesis 1:1
- 2) Isaiah 42:5
- 3) Isaiah 40:12-14, 18, 21-22, 25-26, 28
- 4) Isaiah 51:13
- 5) Isaiah 52:5-7
- 6) Jeremiah 10:9-14
- 7) Deuteronomy 6:4-5
- 8) Genesis 1:4, 14-16, 9, 24-25
- 9) Genesis 18:1-8
- 10) Genesis 1:29
- 11) Psalm 148:1-14
- 12) Genesis 1:26-27
- 13) Isaiah 45:9-12, 18
- 14) 1 Corinthians 2:12-16
- 15) 1 Corinthians 1:26-28
- 16) John 3:16
- 17) Ephesians 3:9-11
- 18) Colossians 1:10-15
- 19) Isaiah 45:22-23

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