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A Prayer Guide for January

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Prayer Stations for The Nations

INTRODUCTION

A few days ago, two younger women asked me if I was an angel. Their question baffled me. My first thought was, “Of course not.” As I answered them, my response to their question was quite simple, “No, I am a sinner, saved by grace. If it weren’t for Jesus and my relationship with Him, I wouldn’t even have godly attributes.”

This conversation has replayed in my mind several times. God has used it to wrap our current month’s prayers on angelic accounts found in the Scriptures.

May your January be the best first fruit of any year you’ve ever experienced. Walk in Christ. Trust Him for a miraculous, “wonderful” month filled with excitement and anticipation. He will work in you. He will work through you. He will work with you during this New Year. And, be assured that His angels will protect you as you fight the fight and keep the faith.

January 1
Hagar-A Woman in Distress
(Genesis 16:7-15)

The Angel of the Lord found Hagar beside a spring of water in the wilderness, along the road to Shur. The Angel said to her, “Hagar, Sarai’s servant, where have you come from, and where are you going?”

“I’m running away from my mistress.”

The Angel of the Lord said to her, “Return to your mistress and submit to her authority.” Then he added, “I will give you more descendants than you can count.”

And the angel also said, “You are now pregnant and will give birth to a son. You are to name him Ishmael (which means ‘God hears’), for the Lord has heard your cry of distress. This son of yours will be a wild man, as untamed as a wild donkey! He will raise his fist against everyone, and everyone will be against him. Yes, he will live in open hostility against all his relatives.”

Thereafter, Hagar used another name to refer to the Lord, who had spoken to her. She said, “You are the God who sees me.” She also said, “Have I truly seen the One who sees me?” So that well was named Beer-la-hai-roi (which means ‘well of the Living One who sees me’).

So Hagar gave Abram a son, and Abram named him Ishmael. Abram was eighty-six years old when Ishmael was born.

Heavenly Father,

I am choosing not to run away from the problems in my life. You are my God who sees me inside as well as out. When I am confronted with situations where I need problems solved, please bring the correct antidote to correct each of them. Thank You for your answers and perfect solutions.

Relying on my God, in Jesus Name, Amen.

January 2
Ishmael-The Outcast
(Genesis 21:8-19)

When Isaac grew up and was about to be weaned, Abraham prepared a huge feast to celebrate the occasion. But Sarah saw Ishmael-the son of Abraham and her Egyptian servant Hagar-making fun of her son, Isaac. So, she turned to Abraham and demanded, "Get rid of that slave-woman and her son. He is not going to share the inheritance with my son, Isaac. I won't have it."

This upset Abraham very much because Ishmael was his son. But God told Abraham, "Do not be upset over the boy

and your servant. Do whatever Sarah tells you, for Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted. But I will also make a nation of the descendants of Hagar's son because he is your son, too."

So Abraham got up early the next morning, prepared food and a container of water, and strapped them on Hagar's shoulders. Then he sent her away with their son, and she wandered aimlessly in the wilderness of Beersheba.

When the water was gone, she put the boy in the shade of a bush. Then she went and sat down by herself about one-hundred yards away. "I don't want to watch the boy die," she said, as she burst into tears.

But God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, "Hagar, what's wrong? Do not be afraid! God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Go to him, and comfort him, for I will make a great nation from his descendants."

Then God opened Hagar's eyes, and she saw a well. She quickly filled her water container and gave the boy a drink.

And God was with the boy as he grew up in the wilderness. He became a skillful archer, and he settled in the wilderness of Paran. His mother arranged for him to marry a woman from the land of Egypt.

Heavenly Father,

At times, others make fun of me, and I am wounded. Today, I am forgiving them of their spiteful behavior. I am rejecting the negative influence they have had on my life and am asking You to work your best in them. (Mark 11:25) I pray for the happiness of those who curse me; I am imploring your blessing on those who hurt me. (Luke 6:28)

As I forgive others, You will forgive me and cleanse me from unrighteousness. (1 Jn. 1:9) Living these truths sets me free to be blessed by You. Relying on your instruction to love my enemies helps me to do good to those who hate me and to pray for anyone who spitefully uses me or persecutes me.

Relying on my God, in Jesus Name, Amen.

January 3
Lot's Household-Protected By Angels
(Genesis 19:1-11)

If you don't know the biblical account of Sodom's destruction recorded in Genesis 19, you need to read it. Then, you will understand how dependable God was to Lot's family and how powerful the angels were whom God sent to Sodom. When Lot's household was surrounded by all the men from every part of the city of Sodom-both young and old- (Genesis 19:4) the angels struck the men

who were at the door of the house, both young and old with blindness so they couldn't find the door and cause any harm.

Heavenly Father,

Lot was an alien, a foreigner in Sodom. I am defined as an alien in this world, for You have redeemed me by the blood of the Lamb. Today, I praise You for the angels You have sent to my household. May they be the strongest strong ones to protect me and my family. Thank You, Lord, for the skill and strength You have imparted to them. Thank You, Lord, that You desire to protect me and my household. Let nothing formed against us prosper, we are your people called by your name, and we are secure in your promises.

Relying upon my God, in Jesus Name, Amen

January 4

**Lot's Household-Delivered by Angels
(Genesis 19:12-17)**

Meanwhile, the angels questioned Lot. "Do you have any other relatives here in the city?" they asked. "Get them out of this place-your sons-in-law, sons, daughters, or anyone else. For we are about to destroy this city completely. The outcry against this place is so great it has reached the Lord, and He has sent us to destroy it." So Lot rushed out to tell his daughters' fiancés, "Quick, get out of the city! The Lord is about to destroy it." But the young men thought he was only joking.

At dawn the next morning the angels became insistent. "Hurry," they said to Lot. "Take your wife and your two daughters who are here. Get out right now, or you will be swept away in the destruction of the city!"

When Lot still hesitated, the angels seized his hand and the hands of his wife and the two daughters and rushed them to safety outside the city, for the Lord was merciful. When they were safely out of the city, one of the angels ordered, "Run for your lives! And don't look back or stop anywhere in the valley! Escape to the mountains, or you will be swept away!"

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for travel mercies. I rejoice for You have your angels encamped round about me for my protection when I go in and come out. If I face "bumps in the road", I will continue on my journey, assured that You will keep me fear-free. Should any kind of frustration occur, I will praise You and be delivered, confident that your perfect will is in play.

Thank You for the form of transportation I'll be; using for travel. I am trusting all the equipment to be in perfect working order. Bless the driver with godly wisdom. Bless me with great discernment and discretion as I am delivered to my destination.

Relying on my God, in Jesus Name, Amen.

January 5
Lot's Household-Instructed by Angels
(Genesis 19:18-25)

“O no, my Lord!” Lot begged. “You have been so gracious to me and saved my life, and you have shown such great kindness. But I cannot go to the mountains. Disaster would catch up to me there, and I would soon die. See, there is a small village nearby. Please let me go there instead; don’t you see how small it is? Then my life will be saved.”

“Alright,” the angel said, “I will grant your request. I will not destroy the little village. But hurry! Escape to it, for I can do nothing until you arrive there.”

(This explains why this village was known as Zoar, which means “little place.”)

Lot reached the village just as the sun was rising over the horizon. Then the Lord rained down fire and burning sulfur from the sky on Sodom and Gomorrah. He utterly destroyed them, along with the other cities and villages of the plain wiping out all the people and every bit of vegetation.

Heavenly Father,

Thank You that You love me with an everlasting love. You teach me that your angels are holy ambassadors, able to provide me with solutions for my problems. Thank You for the angels You have sent and will continue to send to me. May I learn to listen well when they instruct me. Thank

You that You have created these angels to serve your purposes in my life. Today, I am praying for them to be strengthened and encouraged. When they minister to me, may I see who they are and receive their instruction.

Relying on my God, in Jesus Name, Amen.

January 6
Lot's Wife-Disobeyed the Angels
(Genesis 19:26)

But Lot's wife looked back as she was following behind him, and she turned into a pillar of salt.

Heavenly Father,

One of the greatest examples in Scripture of the consequences of disobedience is Lot's wife. She would not harken to your instruction. May I learn to harken to your instruction so I will not become a pillar of salt. As a child of the light, I enforce my will to line up with your will for me. I will look forward to a good report from You. I am increasing in wisdom and stature and favor with You as your Holy Spirit continually leads me into all truth. I am choosing this day to keep my eyes on You, Jesus, not looking back, thankful that my course is directed by You.

Relying on my God, in Jesus Name, Amen.

January 7
Jacob-The Liar
(Genesis 32)

Jacob, Isaac's son and twin brother of Esau, had lived with a lying tongue for many years. Having robbed Esau of his father's blessing on the first born, Jacob fled for fear of his life. By doing so, tumultuous years followed. The consequences of a lying tongue far outweigh the blessings of Isaac.

After living for decades away from his home-land, Jacob returns. On his way, angels of God met him. When Jacob saw them he said, "This is the camp of God."

In that place he sent messengers to Esau, asking for favor, fearful of his brother. And then, Jacob created an intricate scheme to protect his wives and children. Little did he know what God had planned for him that night. Left alone, Jacob wrestled with a man all night. Jacob would acquiesce. In the end, God, being God, wrenched Jacob's hip. Still Jacob said, "I will not let go unless you bless me." And God did. God changed Jacob's name from liar to Israel because he had struggled with God and with men and had overcome.

Heavenly Father,

May I be able to identify angels as easily as Jacob did. You, God, have created them for me to judge. In order to honestly use my judgment, I must have spiritual discernment to recognize them as your ministering spirits. Thank You that You created them. Thank You that they are competent and capable, strong to help me at all times. No matter what I am facing, your Word promises me that there are more angels on my side than my enemy, the devil, can muster. I put my confidence in You and your care of me.

Relying on my God, in Jesus Name, Amen.

January 8
Israel-Surprised by God
Genesis 37-48

Scripture presents Joseph as a man without guile, enslaved and imprisoned by enemies who either lied about him or envied his prized position to such an extent that he spent most of his innocent youth and adulthood as a captive. Yet, God had a plan-many years later-when Joseph was miraculously placed in authority-second only to Pharaoh in power. He exercised life and death over those very men, his own flesh and blood, his brothers, who had murder in their hearts toward Joseph when he was just a boy. Little did they care about or understand Joseph's pain filled life. Famine had come into their homeland. All they wanted was to feed their own bellies.

Through a series of contrived circumstances, Joseph was able to be reunited with his father, formerly called Jacob. But God had given Jacob a new name, Israel, for he had struggled with God and with men, and had prevailed.

Once again with his father, Joseph took his sons before Israel. Israel stretched out his hands and laid them on Ephraim and Manasseh to bless them and Joseph.

“May the God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day, the Angel who has delivered me from all harm—may he bless these boys. May they be called by my name and the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac, and may they increase greatly upon the earth.”

Reading this blessing, we see that angel is capitalized. Why? Traditional Christian interpretation has held that this “Angel” was a preincarnate manifestation of Christ as God’s messenger-servant. Israel understood how well he had been delivered from all harm and desired for the generations following him to receive this same deliverance. He had lived a rough life. He was lied to by his father-in-law, Laban, when Leah was given to him as his wife instead of the woman he loved, and had worked to obtain for seven years, Rebecca. His life was filled with severe disappointment. However, he credited the Angel as his deliverer from all harm. Today, as you pray, consider how your Angel (Christ) has protected you from all harm.

Psalm 27 is a beautiful presentation of the safety God sets before us. Pray it with faith, believing that He hears and answers.

Friends; never, never, never underestimate your Jesus!

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for being my light and my salvation. So, why should I be afraid? You are my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble? Thank You that evil people, my enemies and my foes will stumble and fall. Should a mighty army surround me, my heart will not be afraid. I will remain confident.

May I live in your house all the days of my life. Lord, conceal me when troubles come and hide me in your sanctuary. Place me on a high rock, out of reach of my enemies who surround me. I am offering You sacrifices with shouts of joy, singing and praising You with music.

You have always been my helper. Lord, hold me close. Teach me how to live. Lead me along the right path. When my enemies accuse me of things I've never done, let me remain confident of this, I will see the Lord's goodness. I am waiting patiently for You, Lord. I will be brave. I will be courageous. Yes, I am waiting patiently for You.

Relying on my God, in Jesus Name, Amen.

January 9
God's Angel to Prepare the Way
Exodus 23:20-26

“See, I am sending an Angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared. Pay attention to him and listen to what he says. Do not rebel against him; he will not forgive your rebellion, since my Name is in him. If you listen carefully to what he says and do all that I say, I will be an enemy to your enemies and will oppose those who oppose you. My Angel will go ahead of you and bring you into the land of the Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hivites and Jebusites, and I will wipe them out. Do not bow down before their gods or worship them or follow their practices. You must demolish them and break their sacred stones to pieces. Worship the Lord your God, and His blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you, and none will miscarry and be barren in your land. I will give you a full life span.”

Heavenly Father,

You gave succinct and viable instructions to your people in the wilderness. I should apply these instructions to my life. Thank You for showing me “Your Way”, Jesus. I am privileged to obey your directives. And, I am blessed to abide in You. Thank You for your place of safety and protection as I live each day of this life. I will not rebel against You. I will not worship idols. I will not imitate evil practices of unbelievers. I will serve only You, my God.

Thank You for providing me with food and water and protecting me from illness. Thank You for giving me healthy children. Thank You for a long, full life.

Relying on my God, in Jesus Name, Amen.

January 10
Balaam's Donkey
Numbers 22-23

“Balaam got up in the morning, saddled his donkey and went with the princes of Moab. But God was very angry when he went, and the Angel of the Lord stood in the road to oppose him. Balaam was riding on his donkey, and his two servants were with him. When the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord standing in the road with a drawn sword in His hand, she turned off the road into a field. Balaam beat her to get her back on the road.

Then the Angel of the Lord stood in a narrow path between two vineyards, with walls on both sides. When the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord, she pressed close to the wall, crushing Balaam's foot against it. So he beat her again.

Then the Angel of the Lord moved on ahead and stood in a narrow place where there was no room to turn, either to the right or to the left. When the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord, she lay down under Balaam, and he was angry

and beat her with his staff. Then the Lord opened the donkey's mouth, and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?"

Balaam answered the donkey, "You have made a fool of me! If I had a sword in my hand, I would kill you right now."

The donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your own donkey, which you have always ridden, to this day? Have I been in the habit of doing this to you?"

"No," he said.

Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the Lord standing in the road with His sword drawn. So he bowed low and fell face down.

The Angel of the Lord asked him, "Why have you beaten your donkey these three times? I have come here to oppose you because your path is a reckless one before me. The donkey saw me and turned away from me these three times. If she had not turned away, I would certainly have killed you by now, but I would have spared her."

Balaam said to the Angel of the Lord, "I have sinned. I did not realize You were standing in the road to oppose me. Now if you are displeased, I will go back."

The Angel of the Lord said to Balaam, “Go with the men, but speak only what I tell you.” So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.”

Heavenly Father,

Today, I am inclining myself and my senses to your wisdom. Please enhance the vision of my spiritual eyes and the hearing of my spiritual ears so I will never miss out on your leading and provision. Fear of You and humility are what You require of me. I will do what You want me to do, what is right even when it is difficult. My desire is to be in such tight fellowship with You, that I won't be ashamed when I meet with my Mighty Warrior, Jesus. Again, thank You for the strength, the life, the honor, and the wealth You bestow upon me.

Relying on my God, in Jesus Name, Amen.

January 11
The Covenant Maker
Judges 2:1-5

The Angel of the Lord went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said, “I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land I swore to give to your forefathers. I said, ‘I will never break my covenant with you, and you shall not make a covenant with the people of this land, but you shall break down their altars.’ Yet you have disobeyed me. Why have

you done this? Now, therefore, I tell you that I will not drive them out before you; they will be thorns in your sides, and their gods will be a snare to you.”

When the Angel of the Lord had spoken these things to all the Israelites, the people wept aloud, and they called that place Bokim. There they offered sacrifices to the Lord.

Israel, as a nation, had not followed the Lord’s directions, so He withdrew His helping hand. Each of us are responsible for ourselves. Individual and corporate thoughts as well as actions should follow zealous obedience to meet God’s expectations. America has fallen away from the Lord. Today, let us pray for our nation and its restoration under God.

Heavenly Father,

You are an awesome covenant maker. Thank You that You will never break your covenant with me. Your promises are true, and I will keep my promises to You. Please, guard my mind, my tongue, and my actions- today and forever. Free me to be an awesome covenant keeper for your glory. I am choosing to walk with your courage and not be faint. I am choosing to walk with your love. I will do good to all the people I meet. I will be your blessing. Thank You for blessing me with these attitudes and actions.

Relying on my God, in Jesus Name, Amen.

January 12
Gideon-Mighty Warrior
Judges 6

The Angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak at Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezwite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. When the Angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, He said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior."

"But Sir," Gideon replied, "If the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? Where are all His wonders that our fathers told us about when they said, 'Did not the Lord bring us up out of Egypt?' But now the Lord has abandoned us and put us into the hand of Midian."

The Lord turned to him and said, "Go in the strength you have and save Israel out of Midian's hand. Am I not sending you?"

"But Lord," Gideon asked, "How can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family."

The Lord answered, "I will be with you, and you will strike down all the Midianites together."

Again, the people of God had not listened to His instructions. When Gideon was threshing his wheat in the winepress, fear of his enemies placed him there in a very confined space to protect the wheat from being stolen by the Midianites. When the Angel of the Lord appeared and

addressed him as a mighty warrior, Gideon's surprise was evident. He saw himself as weak, even referring to himself as the least in his family. But God was commissioning him just as He had commissioned Moses to deliver Israel. Gideon's question, "How can I?" shows his lack of faith. It's interesting how the Lord usually calls the lowly rather than the mighty to act for Him. Our prayer for today will focus on having a greater gift of faith.

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for your gift of faith. When I am called upon to defend the truth, please supply me with a greater gift of faith. Let it rise up in me to heighten my ability to be all You created me to be for your glory. I will not fleece You as Gideon did. I will trust in You alone. I will witness for You. I will testify for You. I will fight for You as You defend me. I am yours, and You are mine. With You for me, who can be against me? I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!!! Honor to my King! Glory to my Lord!

Relying on my God, in Jesus Name, Amen.

January 13
Samson's Parents Visited
Judges 13

Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, so the Lord delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years.

A certain man of Zorah, named Manoah, from the clan of the Danites, had a wife who was sterile and remained childless. The Angel of the Lord appeared to her and said, "You are sterile and childless, but you are going to conceive and have a son. Now see to it that you drink no wine or other fermented drink and that you do not eat anything unclean, because you will conceive and give birth to a son. No razor may be used on his head, because the boy is to be a Nazarite, set apart to God from birth, and he will begin the deliverance of Israel from the hands of the Philistines."

Then the woman went to her husband and told him, "A man of God came to me. He looked like an angel of God, very awesome. I didn't ask him where he came from, and he didn't tell me his name. But he said to me, "You will conceive and give birth to a son. Now then, drink no wine or other fermented drink and do not eat anything unclean, because the boy will be a Nazarite of God from birth until the day of his death."

Then Manoah prayed to the Lord: "O Lord, I beg You, let the man of God you sent to us come again to teach us how to bring up the boy who is to be born."

God heard Manoah, and the Angel of God came again to the woman while she was out in the field; but her husband Manoah was not with her. The woman hurried to tell her husband, "He's here! The man who appeared to me the other day." Manoah got up and followed his wife. When

he came to the man, he said, "Are you the one who talked to my wife?"

"I Am" He said.

So Manoah asked Him, "When your words are fulfilled, what is to be the rule for the boy's life and work?"

The Angel of the Lord answered, "Your wife must do all that I have told her. She must not eat anything that comes from the grapevine, nor drink any wine or other fermented drink nor eat anything unclean. She must do everything I have commanded her."

Heavenly Father,

Visit me with your blessings. Stir up the gifts that are within me. Create fresh fruit. Keep me from being barren. Release me to be your instrument of peace and righteousness. May I embrace all You give me as an extension of your will for my life. Make your face to shine upon me and be gracious to me as I serve You. You are the Lord of the harvest, and I am your laborer.

Relying on my God, in Jesus Name, Amen.

January 14
Conscience Stricken David
II Samuel 24:16

Chapter twenty-four of Second Samuel opens with King David taking a census in Israel and Judah. By doing so, he disobeyed God's Word. Upon completion of the census, David's conscience began to bother him. He confessed and asked the Lord's forgiveness. The next morning the prophet Gad came to David with three choices of punishment from the Lord. David had to choose one of them. He chose to fall into the hands of God rather than human hands for he understood the greatness of God's mercy. His decision resulted in God sending a plague. Seven-hundred thousand died. But, as the angel was preparing to destroy Jerusalem, the Lord relented and told the death angel to stop. When David saw the angel, he said, "I am the one who has sinned and done wrong! But these people are as innocent as sheep-what have they done? Let your anger fall against me and my family."

In the first sentence of this chapter we learn of God's anger burning against Israel. He was really punishing the nation for their disobedience. We can see that he had made a huge mistake by taking the census. God sent the angel of death. Obviously, this angel carried a plague to wipe out those seven-hundred thousand people.

David's pride got the best of him. He did not follow the census taking prescription God gave Moses in Exodus 30:12. A census could legitimately be taken only by the

one who owned what was being counted. Therefore, David had no right to count Israel or Judah. They belonged to God.

I could go in many directions with today's prayer initiative. I've chosen our prayer to be focused on our own preparation for death, our beautiful homecoming with our Lord. This may sound somewhat morbid, but as I considered myself in this equation, I thought about my own readiness to receive the angel of death someday. May you be blessed and have many years to prepare for your own homecoming.

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for your divine timing for my life span. May I glorify your name continually through my last breath. I am comforted by your Holy Spirit. Do not allow me to carry a spirit of heaviness. Anoint me with your oil of joy and give me beauty for ashes. Place garments of praise upon me and help me to wear them worthily.

My hope is in You alone. You know the number of hairs on my head and the number of breaths I will breathe. Create a pure heart in me that pleases You, so I will be refreshed in your presence on the day You choose to bring me home. May my desire be to only have done your will on earth as it is in heaven. My life is yours. Thank You for your life in me now and forevermore.

Relying on my God, in Jesus Name, Amen.

January 15
Elijah Flees to Horeb
I Kings 19

We learn from I Kings 19 that Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed the prophets of Baal. So, Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, letting him know that his life would be like one of them. Elijah ran with fear for his life. When he came to Beersheba, he left his servant there and traveled another day into the desert. Seated under a broom tree, he prayed, "I have had enough, Lord," he said. "Take my life, I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep.

All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." He found a cake of bread by his head and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.

The angel of the Lord returned, touched him and said, "Get up and eat for the journey is too much for you." So he got up and drank and ate. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. There he went into a cave and spent the night.

Heavenly Father,

Today, I am presenting my fears to You, asking You to conquer them. Thank You that your Word tells me that I

am more than a conqueror in Jesus Christ. Some situations are so difficult I just want to run away from them as Elijah did. Fear gripped him, just as it can grip me.

When the spirit of fear tries to rob me of my faith in You, God, I'm seeking You to kill this spirit's effect on me. I am claiming Isaiah 43:1-3. I will not be afraid. I am ransomed by Christ. I am God's child. When I go through deep waters of trouble, You go with me. The flames of the fires of oppression will not consume me. My Lord, my God, my Savior-You are with me.

Relying on my God, in Jesus Name, Amen.

January 16
Hezekiah-Victorious Rescue
II Chronicles 32:9-22

While King Sennacherib of Assyria was still besieging the town of Lachish, he sent his officers to Jerusalem with this message for Hezekiah and all the people in the city: "This is what King Sennacherib of Assyria says: What are you trusting in that makes you think you can survive my siege of Jerusalem? Hezekiah has said, 'The Lord our God will rescue us from the King of Assyria.' Surely Hezekiah is misleading you, sentencing you to death by famine and thirst! Don't you realize that Hezekiah is the very person who destroyed all the Lord's shrines and altars? He commanded Judah and Jerusalem to worship only at the altar at the Temple and to offer sacrifices on it alone.

Surely you must realize what I and the other Kings of Assyria before me have done to all the people of the earth! Were any of the gods of those nations able to rescue their people from my power? Which of their gods was able to rescue its people from the destructive power of my predecessors? What makes you think your God can rescue you from me. Don't let Hezekiah deceive you! Don't let him fool you like this! I say it again-no god of any nation or kingdom has ever yet been able to rescue his people from me or my ancestors. How much less will your God rescue you from my power."

And Sennacherib's officers further mocked the Lord God and his servant Hezekiah, heaping insult upon insult. The King also sent letters scorning the Lord, the God of Israel. He wrote, "Just as the gods of all the other nations failed to rescue their people from my power, so the God of Hezekiah will also fail." The Assyrian officials who brought the letters shouted this in Hebrew to the people gathered on the walls of the city trying to terrify them so it would be easier to capture the city. These officers talked about the God of Jerusalem as though He were one of the pagan gods, made by human hands.

Then King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah cried out in prayer to God in heaven and the Lord sent an angel who destroyed the Assyrian army with all its commanders and officers. So Sennacherib was forced to return home in disgrace to his own land. And when he entered the temple of his god, some of his own sons killed him with a sword.

That is how the Lord rescued Hezekiah and the people of Jerusalem and from all the others who threatened them. So, there was peace throughout the land.

Heavenly Father,

May I always depend on You as I pray believing. You will defeat my enemies. When others speak lies about You, shut their mouths and show my community who You are. Your name is above every name. I will never take your name in vain. I will forever exalt You, for You always cause me to triumph in Christ Jesus.

Relying on my God, in Jesus Name, Amen.

January 17
Taste and See
Psalm 34:7-8

“The Angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and He delivers them. Taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him.”

In these verses we see that Jesus will and does surround those of us who fear Him, exalt Him, honor Him, and that we are delivered in all ways by Him. If we will only taste and see, we will find that He is good.

So, we must take refuge in Him. By doing so, we are blessed.

Heavenly Father,

Thank You, Jesus, You are a guard for me. Thank You that You surround me and You defend me. I fear You. May I always taste and see your goodness as You pour your Spirit out on me. When I receive from You, I ask that my hands be clean and my heart be pure. Let me run with patience that particular race You have set before me.

Relying on my God, in Jesus Name, Amen.

January 18
Elisha-Surrounded to do Battle
II Kings 6:13-18

God told His prophet, Elisha, the plans of Israel's enemies and Elisha related these to the King of Israel. King Aram gave orders for his men to go and find out where Elisha was staying so that he could send troops to seize him. The report came back that Elisha was at Dothan. So, one night the king sent a great army with many chariots and horses to surround the city. When the servant of the man of God got up the next morning and went outside he saw troops, horses and chariots everywhere. "O, Sir, what will we do now?" The young man cried to Elisha.

"Don't be afraid!" Elisha told him. "For there are more on our side than on theirs!" Then Elisha prayed, "O Lord, open his eyes and let him see!" The Lord opened the young

man's eyes, and when he looked up he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire.

Elisha prayed, "O Lord, please make the Aramean army blind." So the Lord struck them with blindness.

Then Elisha went out and told them, "You have come the wrong way", and he led them to the city of Samaria. Elisha prayed again, "O Lord, now open their eyes, and let them see." So, the Lord opened their eyes and they discovered that they were in the middle of Samaria.

Heavenly Father,

Thank You, Lord, that we are surrounded by your great army of angels. Thank You, Lord, that You are in control of everything for You are sovereign. May I stand firm, trusting You to always protect me. You are full of kindness, and You will give me all I need. I will not allow myself to fall into the error of pride-thinking that I can take care of things my own way. In the Name of Jesus, I am a blood bought over-comer, purchased by the blood of the Lamb.

Relying on my God, in Jesus Name, Amen.

January 19
A Great Army to Shield Me
Psalm 68:17-20

“The chariots of God are twenty-thousand, even thousands of angels: the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the Holy Place. Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the Lord God might dwell among them. Blessed be the Lord who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our Salvation. He that is our God is the God of salvation; and unto God the Lord belong the issues from death.”

Heavenly Father,

Thank You that You have quickened me according to everything that is mine in your Word. You have preserved me from all evil. Every day, Lord, You load me with benefits. I have your light of life to lead me. You give me everything I need and more, so that there is not only enough for my own needs, but plenty left over to give joyfully to others. I have the victory through what Christ has done. I will spread your Gospel like a sweet perfume.

Relying on my God, in Jesus Name, Amen.

January 20
Gabriel Explains the Vision
Daniel 8:15-19

As I, Daniel, was trying to understand the meaning of this vision, someone who looked like a man stood in front of me. And I heard a human voice calling out from the Ulai River, “Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of his vision.”

As Gabriel approached the place where I was standing, I became so terrified that I fell with my face to the ground. “Son of Man”, he said, “You must understand that the events you have seen in your vision relate to the time of the end.”

While he was speaking, I fainted and lay there with my face to the ground. But Gabriel roused me with a touch and helped me to my feet.

Heavenly Father,

May I be as Daniel, seeking You while You may be found.
May I succumb deeply to a love relationship with You that equals Daniel’s. He, Lord, is a model to be emulated. Turn my heart toward prayer so that I will pray without ceasing to learn
more of You and equip others so they will be more like You.

Relying on my God, in Jesus Name, Amen.

January 21
Gabriel Gets Through
Daniel 10:10-14

Just then a hand touched me (Daniel) and lifted me and the man said to me, “Daniel, you are very precious to God, so listen carefully to what I have to say to you. Stand up, for I have been sent to you.” When he said this to me, I stood up, still trembling. Then he said, “Don’t be afraid. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer. But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of Persia. Now I am here to explain what will happen to your people in the future, for this vision concerns a time yet to come.”

Heavenly Father,

I realize that I am precious to You for You have saved me and provided me with so many blessed benefits. Never allow me to take anything You provide for granted. May I always have praise on my lips when I receive your blessings. Touch me and teach me your ways, Lord, so that I am freshly anointed to press toward the mark of the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus.

Relying on my God, in Jesus Name, Amen.

January 22
He is Our Righteousness
Zechariah 3:1-9

Then the angel showed me Joshua the High Priest standing before the Angel of the Lord. The Accuser, Satan, was there at the Angel's right hand, making accusations against Joshua. And the Lord said to Satan, "I, the Lord, reject your accusations, Satan. Yes, the Lord, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebukes you. This man is like a burning stick that has been snatched from the fire."

Joshua's clothing was filthy as he stood there before the Angel. So, the Angel said to the others standing there, "Take off his filthy clothes." And turning to Joshua he said, "See, I have taken away your sins, and now I am giving you these fine new clothes."

Then I said, "They should also place a clean turban on his head." So, they put a clean, priestly turban on his head and dressed him in new clothes while the Angel of the Lord stood by.

Then the Angel of the Lord spoke very solemnly to Joshua and said, "This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: If you follow my ways and carefully serve me, then you will be given authority over my temple and its courtyards. I will let you walk among these others standing here. Listen to me, O Joshua the High Priest and all you other priests. You are symbols of things to come. Soon I am going to bring

my servant, the Branch. Now look at the jewel I have set before Joshua, a single stone with seven facets. I will engrave an inscription on it, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies and I will remove the sins of this land in a single day."

Heavenly Father,

Thank You that your enemies are scattered. And those who hate You shall flee before your face. As smoke is driven away, so shall You drive them away. As wax melts before the fire, so the wicked shall perish. But as your righteous person, I will rejoice before You. I will sing to You. I am jubilant before You. You are a Father to me. You are a champion of the widow. Yea, God. You make the lonely to live in a home. You bring out the prisoners, and I thank You.

(Ps. 68:1-6)

Relying on my God, in Jesus Name, Amen.

January 23
The Scriptures Say...
Matthew 4:6

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. For forty days and forty nights He fasted and became very hungry. During that time the devil

came and said to Him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread."

But Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took Him to the Holy City, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, "If You are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He will order His angels to protect You. And they will hold You up with their hands so You won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'"

Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'"

Heavenly Father,

Never let me test You.

Relying on my God, in Jesus Name, Amen.

January 24
We Have it All
Matthew 4:8-11

Next, the devil took Him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed Him the kingdoms of the world and all their glory. "I will give it all to You," he said, "if You will kneel down and worship me."

"Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "For the Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only Him.'"

Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

Heavenly Father,

May I be a pure worshipper. May I serve You only. Show me how to do a better job for your glory.

Relying on my God, in Jesus Name, Amen.

January 25
Who is Greatest?
Matthew 18:1-10

About that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked,
“Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

Jesus called a little child to Him and put the child among them. Then He said, “I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven. So anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

“And, anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf is welcoming Me. But if you cause one of these little ones who trusts in Me to fall into sin, it would be better for you to have a large millstone tied around your neck and be drowned in the depths of the sea.”

“What sorrow awaits the world because it tempts people to sin. Temptations are inevitable, but what sorrow awaits the person who does the tempting. So if your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It’s better to enter eternal life with only one hand or one foot than to be thrown into eternal fire with both of your hands and feet. And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It’s better to enter eternal life with only one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of Hell.”

“Beware that you don’t look down on any of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels are always in the presence of My Heavenly Father.”

Heavenly Father,

Thank You that the children’s angels are always in the presence of their Heavenly Father. Don’t ever allow me to cause any little one who trusts in You to fall into sin. Let me become like a little child, humble, so that I might become great in your kingdom. May I always welcome a little child like Jesus did on the day the disciples asked, “Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

Relying on my God, in Jesus Name, Amen.

January 26
Betrayed to Rise
Matthew 26:48-53

The traitor, Judas, had given them a prearranged signal: “You will know which one to arrest when I greet Him with a kiss.” So Judas came straight to Jesus. “Greetings, Rabbi!” He exclaimed and gave Him the kiss.

Jesus said, “My friend, go ahead and do what you have come for.”

Then the others grabbed Jesus and arrested Him. But one of the men with Jesus pulled out his sword and struck the High Priest's slave, slashing off his ear.

“Put away your sword,” Jesus told him. “Those who use the sword will die by the sword. Don't you realize that I could ask My Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and He would send them instantly? But If I did, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that describe what must happen now?”

Heavenly Father,

Thank You, Lord, that your Scriptures were fulfilled that night, and You chose not to call forth thousands of angels. Instead, You were willing to fulfill the words of the prophets as recorded in the Scriptures. That night, Jesus, You were betrayed and deserted. Help me not to betray You or desert You. Never allow me to backslide.

Relying on my God, in Jesus Name, Amen.

January 27
Set Free to Proclaim
Acts 5:17-21

The High Priest and his officials, who were Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. But an angel of the Lord came at night, opened the gates of the jail, and brought them

out. Then he told them, “Go to the Temple and give the people this message of life!”

So at daybreak the apostles entered the Temple, as they were told, and immediately began teaching.

Heavenly Father,

May I be as your apostles were, willing to suffer on your behalf. Should this happen, bring me out, so that I may declare the message of life. I remain yours, faithfully serving You to the end.

Relying on my God, in Jesus Name, Amen.

January 28
The Son is Greater than the Angels
Hebrews 1:5-6

For God never said to any angel what He said to Jesus:

“You are My Son. Today I have become your Father.”

God also said, “I will be His Father and He will be My Son.”

And when He brought His firstborn Son into the world, God said, “Let all of God’s angels worship Him.”

Heavenly Father,

Thank You that your Son paid it all for me! My heart is in your hands for You have brought me into your kingdom as your child. You are my Father. I am now a joint heir with Jesus Christ, and I join with all of your angels and other saints to worship Him. Relying on my God, in Jesus Name, Amen.

January 29
Like The Winds
Hebrews 1:7-9

Regarding the angels, He says, “He sends His angels like the winds, His servants like flames of fire.”

But to the Son He says, “Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever. You rule with a scepter of justice. You love justice and hate evil. Therefore, O God, your God has anointed You pouring out the oil of joy on You more than on anyone else.”

Heavenly Father,

Thank You, Lord, that your throne endures forever and ever. Your scepter of justice is perfect. Thank You that You love justice and hate evil. Thank You that Jesus is our anointed High Priest and King. His work on Calvary birthed more joy in Him than anyone else. But, I can testify of your joy in my life as I walk in your Spirit.

Thank You for sending your angels like the winds. I receive them as Jesus’ servants like flames of fire.

Relying on my God, in Jesus Name, Amen.

January 30
God Never Said...
Hebrews 1: 10-13

He also says to the Son, "In the beginning, Lord, You laid the foundation of the earth and made the heavens with your hands. They will perish, but You remain forever. They will wear out like old clothing. You will fold them up like a cloak and discard them like old clothing. But You are always the same; You will live forever."

And God never said to any of the angels, "Sit in the place of honor at My right hand until I humble your enemies, making them a footstool under your feet."

Therefore, angels are only servants-spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation.

Heavenly Father,

Thank You that You created a beautiful earth for me to dwell on. Thank You that You made the heavens with your own hands. I know that they will burn up eventually, but You will remain forever. Hallelujah! Thank You for your wonderful attributes. Your Word teaches me that the angels are simply servants. Thank You for their care of the people who will inherit salvation.

Relying on my God, in Jesus Name, Amen.

January 31
Don't Forget
Hebrews 13:1-3

Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters. Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it! Remember those in prison, as if you were there yourself. Remember also those being mistreated as if you felt their pain in your own bodies.

Heavenly Father,

Thank You that You have given your agape love to me so that I may continue loving others. Thank You that I am able to show hospitality to strangers. May I entertain angels. Today, I am choosing to pray for prisoners. Show me how to extend compassion to the mistreated and unfortunate. Give me empathy to feel their pain. I believe your Word. May I follow it.

Relying on my God, in Jesus Name, Amen.

