



# Getting to know **GOD** better

**A Devotional guide leading up to Holy Week**

written by: Rev. Dr. E.N. Poulson & Dr. Koh Siang Kiang

He cares to  
know the  
names of all  
the stars in  
the sky, and  
the number of  
hairs you have  
on your head  
right now....

How MUCH DO  
YOU KNOW ABOUT  
**HIM?**

Note: You may make copies for your personal use. If you know of people who may be blessed by this compilation, do feel free to share with them. However, do not make changes to or lift out information from this compilation without consulting with the authors.

# *Getting to Know God... Better*

## **A Devotional Guide** ***leading up to Holy Week 2013***

**written by:**  
**Rev. Dr. E.N. Poulson & Dr. Koh Siang Kiang**

Historically, many churches have encouraged a period of meditation, self-searching and prayer leading to Easter. The older denominations sometimes observe fasting or other forms of abstinence.

We are not suggesting you introduce some new observance in your church; but you personally may find this devotional material to be spiritually uplifting. Our purpose is to help you focus on God, and ultimately prepare for a heartfelt response toward the Resurrection (Easter, the most important day of the Christian calendar).  
**1 Corinthians 15:14,17.**

This Devotional Guide provides material for the 40 days (excluding Sundays) leading up to Holy Week (the last week of Christ's earthly ministry before His Crucifixion and Resurrection).

We will meditate on God's Name, Titles and Descriptions.

You will notice that "Name" is singular. God has only one Name. But there are many Titles and descriptions of His character and work.

Each day there will be an assigned theme, based on a short Scripture portion. In some instances, additional Bible readings will be indicated for those who wish to further pursue the subject at hand. We also suggest some personal applications, and a sample of what you may pray about. We end each portion with a suitable hymn or chorus.

***There are no devotionals written for Sundays.*** We encourage you to go to church. Enjoy fellowship with God and His people. Personally apply lessons learned from the sermon and Bible Class.

**A suggestion for those who have not established a habit of personal quiet time.**

You are likely very busy. But we suggest you begin by asking the Lord to help you be disciplined in spending time to get to know Him.

Start by setting aside ten minutes a day to worship, read, meditate and pray. It can be early in the morning, even at lunch time or in the evening. You will be surprised to discover that you really want to devote more time to fellowship with God.

***Below are steps that can help you with your daily devotions:***

1. Pray for spiritual insight and hunger to want to hear God speak to you;
2. Read and meditate on the passage/s suggested. To meditate involves trying to clear your minds of other matters so you can concentrate on Holy Scripture, the living Word of God;
3. Read the comments of the authors to help you better understand the meaning of God's Name, Titles or Descriptions;
4. You might jot down questions and observations to bring to your small group or church leaders for sharing, discussion, explanation or clarification;
5. In reading God's Word, it is very important for you to make applications. What is this passage teaching you personally? What changes must you make in your life?
6. Prayer. There is a suggested thought for you to pray. But as you meditate you might want to follow this acronym: (ACTS) Adore, Confess, Thank, Supplicate (Ask in behalf of someone else);
7. Each hymn/chorus has been carefully chosen to help you take this meditation with you through the day
8. Don't keep the blessings learned to yourself. Share with someone else;
9. Encourage someone else in their devotional life – share this booklet with them.

## Wednesday 13 February

Read and meditate:

### 2 Samuel 22:31-33

#### His title:

“God” Hebrew = El or Elah.

Eloah, Elyon.

It means “Strong One”.

#### Hymn/Chorus:

*O Lord my God!*

*When I in awesome wonder.*

*Consider all the worlds*

*Thy hands have made,*

*I see the stars,*

*I hear the rolling thunder,*

*Thy pow’r thro’out*

*The universe displayed.*

#### Refrain:

*Then sings my soul,*

*My Saviour God to Thee;*

*How great Thou art (2xs).*

*~ Carl Gustav Boberg,  
translated by Stuart K. Hine*

#### Reflections:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

This is the generic word for any so-called deity.

In the Bible, references to the True God begin with a capital letter (God); but for references to a heathen deity, a lower case is used (god).

God or god appears 382 times in Scripture.

When reading, be careful to distinguish the True from the false. And be sure that you personally know Him.

Note: Isaiah 45:20-22: reference to the True God and the false gods.

#### Application:

- What does this passage teach concerning El?
- What does He personally mean to you today?

#### Prayer:

What family and friends of yours do not know our Strong One? Pray they will one day call Him God.

## Thursday 14 February

Read and meditate:

### Genesis 1:1-31

- Count the number of times “God” is referred to in this passage.
- What was His main activity described in this passage?

### His Title:

“God” Hebrew = **Elohim**, is mentioned 2,185 times in Scripture.

### Hymn/Chorus:

*(Tune: Love Divine All Loves Excelling - Beecher)*

TITLE: GOD OUR FATHER WE ADORE THEE

*Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
Three in One! We give Thee praise!  
For the riches we inherit,  
Heart and voice to Thee we raise!  
We adore Thee! We adore Thee!  
Thee we bless thro’ endless days!  
(2xs) Amen!*

~George W. Frazer

### Reflections:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

This name is what we might call a uniplural word, like our English word “class”. One class may be composed of two or many students. This name suggests that there is something unique about God. There are hints concerning Him as a complex Being. But only when we come to the New Testament do we learn that this One God eternally exists in Three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We call that the Trinity.

### Application:

- What does Elohim in Psalm 40:1-8, especially verses 3, 5 and 8 tell you about God?
- What does He mean to you personally?

### Prayer:

Thank God for the work He has done in you.

*You can discover whether a particular text uses El or elohim, or any other Name or Title. Consult Young’s Concordance or Strong’s Concordance. These useful tools list the English NAME and TITLES according to the original Hebrew or Greek words.*

## Friday 15 February

Read and Meditate:

### Exodus 3:13-15

#### The Name:

- “**LORD**” is the unique personal Name of God(v15)
- The meaning is indicated in vs. 14, **I AM**: It is not “I was” nor “I will be”. He is the eternally self-existent One.

#### Hymn/Chorus:

TITLE: HE IS LORD, HE IS LORD

*YOU are Lord, YOU are Lord.  
YOU have risen from the dead,  
And YOU are Lord.  
Every knee shall bow,  
Every tongue confess  
That Jesus Christ is Lord.*

~anonymous

#### Reflections:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Past and future are all present to Him. You can easily spot it in your English Bible because it will be printed in all capital letters, **LORD**. The Hebrew is four consonants, **YHWH**.

We don't even know how to pronounce it. To ancient Jews it was so sacred that they did not dare even to say it!

Closest to the probable Hebrew pronunciation is YAHWEH. In English we usually refer to Him as JEHOVAH. Scripture shows that YHWH is not only eternally existent, but is also eternally active. He reveals Himself (otherwise, we could not know Him). It is the LORD Who enters into personal relationship with people.

#### Application:

- Deuteronomy 6:4 *Jehovah our Elohim is one Jehovah*. What does that mean to you?
- Malachi 3:16-17. Reaffirm your faith, in the relationship with YHWH.
- List ways you can esteem that Name. Check your speech so that you do not fall into the common blasphemous expression of our day which uses “God” or “Lord” as an exclamation, or even a curse.

#### Prayer:

Ask the LORD to help you know Him as “**I AM**”, and to esteem His Name.



## Saturday 16 February

Read and Meditate:

**Psalm 8:1–9**

**His Title:**

**“Lord”.**

### Hymn/Chorus:

*Master, speak!  
Thy servant heareth,  
Waiting for Thy gracious Word,  
Longing for Thy voice that cheereth  
Master, let it now be heard.  
I am list'ning, Lord, for Thee;  
What hast Thou to say to me?  
~Frances R. Havergal*

### Reflections:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**N**ote the difference in the way God is addressed. LORD. See yesterday's note.

In this Psalm the name has only a capital “**L**”. That is the translation of the Hebrew title **Adon** or **Adonai**, which means “master”. Often it is used in Scripture with reference to man; for example, as husband or employer or an officer. In those contexts, it begins with a lower case (lord). But when the reference is to God (as in Psalm 8), it is “Lord”. A master is responsible for instructing and providing for his servant; a servant is responsible to obey his master.

[Note the difference between LORD (YHWH) and Lord (Adon or Adonai).]

### Application:

- Isaiah 6:8-11. Why did Isaiah refer to Him as “**Adonai?**”
- Who is He to you?
- How would you respond to Him as your “**Adonai?**”
- What is your “**Adonai?**” asking you to do for Him?

### Prayer:

Ask the LORD to help you obey His command.



**Monday 18 February**

Read and meditate:

**Genesis 17:1**

**The compound Name:**  
**God Almighty** Hebrew = **El shaddai**.

**Hymn/Chorus:**

*I sing th' almighty pow'r of God,  
That made the mountains rise,  
That spread the flowing seas  
abroad,  
And built the lofty skies.  
I sing the wisdom that ordained,  
The sun to rule the day;  
The moon shines full at his  
command,  
And all the stars obey.*  
~Isaac Watts

This name is used 48 times in the Old Testament. This common English translation is not the best. The concept of great Strength is already conveyed by El. More exact would be a name such as “*God All Sufficient*”. The Hebrew word *shaddai* suggests fruitfulness, and provision. The root, *shad* refers to a mother’s breast, giving strength and comfort.

**Application:**

- How did ancient believers, like Abraham, experience this aspect of God’s ways even before He revealed Himself as YHWH (Exodus 6:3).
- *El Shaddai* is referred to 30 times in Job. He is the God Whom we can turn to in times of deepest trouble. What needs might you have today in which you can experience the all sufficiency of “El shaddai?”

**Prayer:**

Ask God to give you strength and comfort in the things you might face today.

**Reflections:**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

## Tuesday 19 February

Read and meditate:

**Genesis 14:18-22**

**The compound Name:**

**...most high God, El Elyon.**

Elyon means “*highest*”.

### Hymn/Chorus:

*For the beauty of the earth,  
For the glory of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth  
Over and around us lies;  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the beauty of each hour  
Of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
Sun and moon, and stars of light;  
Lord of all, to thee we raise  
This our hymn of grateful praise.  
~Folliott S. Pierpoint*

### Reflections:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

**N**ote how He is described as ***Creator of heaven and earth.*** As Creator He has total authority both in earth and in heaven.

### Application:

- List the things in these verses that speak of God as “El Elyon”. (see Deuteronomy 32:8; Psalm 9:1-8; Psalm 47:2; Daniel 4:35-37).
- How do you see God as “El Elyon” in all that is happening today?

### Prayer:

Thank the Lord for being our “most high God” in the midst of turmoil.

## Wednesday 20 February

Read and Meditate:

**Genesis 21:33**

**The compound Name:**

**Eternal God, El Olam**

### Hymn/Chorus:

*Eternal Father, strong to save,  
Whose arm hath bound the restless  
wave,  
Who bid'st the mighty ocean deep  
Its own appointed limits keep;  
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,  
For those in peril on the sea!*

*~William Whiting*

The word definitely means without beginning or end. See Psalm 90:2. But Olam includes the thought of something hidden, which is a reminder that we can know the eternal God only because He has revealed Himself.

### Application:

- Exodus 15:18 and Psalm 90:2  
How is “El Olam” described in these verses?
- What difference does it make to know that our God is “eternal?”  
In what way has this thought made an impact in your life?
- List three things the Lord has revealed to you about Himself.

### Prayer:

Thank Him for making those things about Him known to you.

### Reflections:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Thursday 21 February

Read and meditate:

### Psalm 24:8

**The compound Name:**

**Mighty God, El Gibbor**

Hebrew is rich in words to remind us that God is mighty. You can trust Him to deliver you and be your Defender.

### Application:

- According to Isaiah 9:6, who is “Mighty God?”
- In what way, is the Lord a “strong and Mighty God to you?”

### Prayer:

Thank God for His protection of you.

### Hymn/Chorus:

*What a Mighty God we serve,  
What a Mighty God we serve.  
Angels bow before Him,  
Heaven and Earth adore Him,  
What a Mighty God we serve.  
~African traditional song*

### Reflections:

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Friday 22 February

Read and meditate:

**Genesis 2:4**

**The compound Name:**

**LORD God. Jehovah Elohim**

### Hymn/Chorus:

*Great is thy faithfulness,  
O God my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with thee;  
Thou changest not,  
Thy compassions, they fail not;  
As thou hast been thou forever will be.*

*Great is thy faithfulness! (2 x)  
Morning by morning  
New mercies I see;  
All I have needed thy hand hath  
provided;  
Great is thy faithfulness,  
Lord, unto me!*

*~Thomas O. Chisholm*

A reminder that the God of Creation (Elohim) is the personal God who makes and keeps covenant (a one-sided agreement or promise) with His people.

Creation was not the evolutionary chance work of natural forces, but of this personal God. All that is true concerning the Covenant Name, pertains to the God Who made the earth and heavens.

### Application:

- Psalm 136. What promises from **Jehovah Elohim** have you experienced ?
- What must you do to reaffirm your allegiance to **Jehovah Elohim**, Who will not forget or fail.

### Prayer:

Pray for your faithfulness to God.

### Reflections:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Saturday 23 February

Read and meditate:

**2 Samuel 7:18-29**

**The compound Name:**  
**Sovereign LORD Adonay**  
**Jehovah**

This name emphasises the role of the LORD as Master Who has supreme authority and power.

### **Application:**

- Do you see yourself as His servant?
- Check how totally obedient you are.

### **Prayer:**

For God to help you be His obedient servant.

### **Hymn/Chorus:**

*O Master, let me walk with thee  
In lowly paths of service free;  
Tell me thy secret; help me bear  
The strain of toil, the fret of care.*

*Help me the slow of heart to move  
By some clear, winning word of love;  
Teach me the wayward feet to stay,  
And guide them in the homeward way.  
~Washington Gladden*

### **Reflections:**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

## Monday 25 February

Read and meditate:

### 1 Samuel 1:3

**The compound Name:**  
**LORD of hosts Jehovah**  
**Sabaoth**

### Hymn/Chorus:

**TITLE: A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD**

*Did we in our own strength confide,  
Our striving would be losing;  
Were not the right Man on our side,  
The Man of God's own choosing:  
Dost ask who that may be?  
Christ Jesus, it is He;  
Lord Sabaoth, His Name,  
From age to age the same,  
And He must win the battle.*

*~Martin Luther, translated by  
Frederic H. Hedge*

Whether angels or nations,  
He is able to summon any  
of the hosts to protect or deliver  
or comfort His people. You may  
not always be aware of it, but “**The  
LORD of hosts** promises that He  
has made preparation for your  
welfare”,

### Application:

- What does Hebrews 1:14 teach you about “The LORD of hosts?”
- In what way has He helped you personally?

### Prayer:

Thank the Lord for surrounding you with His hosts of angels.

### Reflections:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Tuesday 26 February

Read and meditate:

**Genesis 22:14**

**The compound Name:**

The LORD will provide  
Jehovah-jireh

### Hymn/Chorus:

*Jehovah Jireh My provider  
His grace is sufficient  
For me, for me, for me  
My God shall supply all my needs  
According to His riches in glory  
He will give His angels  
Charge over me*

~Merla Watson

God tested the faith of Abraham. When it was evident that Abraham was prepared to be totally obedient to God's command, The LORD provided a substitute for sacrifice. Abraham named the place as a constant reminder that God hears the cry of faith and provides our deepest needs.

### Application:

How has God been your Jehovah-jireh? List down ways God has been your provider.

### Prayer:

Thank the Lord for all that He has done for you.

### Reflections:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Wednesday 27 February

Read and meditate:

**Exodus 15:26**

**The compound Name:**  
**The LORD that heals,**  
**Jehovah-rapha,**

### Hymn/Chorus:

*I am Thine, O Lord,  
I have heard Thy voice,  
And it told Thy love to me;  
But I long to rise in the arms of faith  
And be closer drawn to Thee.*

#### Refrain:

*Draw me nearer,  
Nearer, blessed Lord,  
To the cross where Thou hast died;  
Draw me nearer, nearer,  
Nearer, blessed Lord,  
To Thy precious, bleeding side.*  
~Fanny J Crosby

### Reflections:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**L**iving for God, we will encounter disappointments and trials. God is able to remove the bitterness of such experiences and give us blessing.

### Application:

- What kind of disappointments or trials might you be facing?
- Psalm 40:1-3. What must you do to experience God's peace?

### Prayer:

"God help me to see disappointments and trials as an opportunity to know You better".

## Thursday 28 February

Read and meditate:

**Exodus 17:8-15**

**The compound Name:**  
**The LORD our Banner,**  
**Jehovah-Nissi.**

### Hymn/Chorus:

*There is a place of quiet rest,  
Near to the heart of God;  
A place where sin cannot molest,  
Near to the heart of God.*

#### Refrain:

*O Jesus, blest Redeemer,  
Sent from the heart of God,  
Hold us who wait before thee  
Near to the heart of God.  
~Cleland B. McAfee*

In the battles of life, whether physical or spiritual, we must rally around Him. God Himself is the One Who hears and answers our cry when we are in danger.

### Application:

- What situations are you facing today in which you need to call on Jehovah-Nissi?
- How did He answer your cry?

### Prayer:

Thank the Lord for hearing all your cries.

### Reflections:

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Friday 1 March

Read and meditate:

**Judges 6:23-24**

**The compound Name:**

**The LORD our Peace, Jehovah  
Shalom**

### Hymn/Chorus:

*Peace, perfect peace;*

*In this dark world of sin?*

*The Blood of Jesus whispers  
peace within.*

*It is enough: earth's struggles  
soon shall cease,*

*And Jesus, calls us to heaven's*

*Perfect peace.*

*~Edward H Bickersteth, Jr.*

Gideon was instructed that he was to liberate Israel from a threatening army of Midianites. What an impossible task! But Gideon obeyed. Demonstrating perfect peace, Gideon did it God's way, and God gave the victory.

### Application:

- Judges 6:11-22. What principles can you glean from here?
- What one situation are you facing now in which you can seek His peace?

### Prayer:

Threats may be around you. Ask the Lord to give you peace.

### Reflections:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Saturday 2 March

Read and meditate:

### Psalm 23:1

**The compound Name:**

**The LORD my shepherd,  
Jehovah-ra-ah,**

### Hymn/Chorus:

*The Lord's my Shepherd,  
I'll not want.  
He makes me down to lie  
In pastures green;  
He leadeth me The quiet waters by.  
My soul He doth restore again;  
And me to walk doth make  
Within the paths of righteousness,  
E'en for His own Name's sake.*

*~Francis Rous*

We are the “sheep of His pasture”. God leads, feeds and protects His own.

### Application:

- John 10:1-18. What do these verses teach concerning the Shepherd?
- How are you related to Him? Recall some instances in which He led and protected you.

### Prayer:

In addition to the above, thank the Shepherd for nourishing you by His Word!

### Reflections:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

## Monday 4 March

Read and meditate:

**Ezekiel 48:35**

**The compound Name:**

**The LORD is there,  
Jehovah-shammah**

### **Hymn/Chorus:**

*Heaven is a wonderful place,  
Filled with glory and grace.  
I want to see my Saviour's face.  
Heaven is a wonderful place.*

*~O. A. Lambert*

**M**an has spun many imaginative dreams about heaven. Don't be overly caught up with thoughts of gold and jewels and even family members. Heaven will be heaven because the LORD will be there, and we will be in His Presence, forever!

### **Application:**

Look into your life. Ensure you have a personal relationship with God, so you will be in heaven. The Lord is there!

### **Prayer:**

Dear Jesus, thank you for giving Your life so that I can be in heaven with You.

### **Reflections:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Tuesday 5 March

Read and meditate:

**Jeremiah 23:6**

**The compound Name:**

**LORD our Righteousness,  
Jehovah Tsidkenu.**

### Hymn/Chorus:

*My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus Christ, my righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

### Refrain:

*On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.  
When darkness veils His lovely face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In every high and stormy gale,  
My anchor holds within the veil.  
~Edward Mote*

### Reflections:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

**H**e will come as King, to rule.  
We will be able to stand in His Presence because of the truth of 2 Corinthians 5:21.

See also Jeremiah 33:16. Because the King is righteous, the City will be righteous. Consider the state of the world in our time. How would it be different if all rulers were righteous?

### Application:

In this unrighteous world, how can Christ's righteousness be reflected in you?

### Prayer:

Ask God to help you live righteously for Him.



*The Lord is also referred to in other familiar terms.  
Here are a few descriptive terms for our meditation.*

## **Wednesday 6 March**

Read and meditate:

**Jeremiah 18:1-10**

### **Description:**

**POTTER**, Heb yatsar= one who fashions, makes.

### **Hymn/Chorus:**

*Have thine own way, Lord!  
Have thine own way!  
Thou art the potter, I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me  
After thy will,  
While I am waiting,  
Yielded and still.*

*~Adelaide A Pollard*

### **Reflections:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

A potter was a highly skilled craftsman. He was forming a vessel for a special purpose (perhaps to store oil, or pour out wine). But the clay was resistant, and the potter started all over, forming another vessel of lesser value (perhaps a rather common washbasin for washing the feet).

The LORD likened Himself to the potter, and Israel was the clay. He stated the principle that He had authority over all nations, to make of them instruments of greater or lesser honour as He saw fit.

The Spirit led Paul to use this illustration to apply likewise to individuals. As “clay” we ought not to resist His will, and we have no right to challenge His design.

### **Application:**

- Romans 9:20-21. How does this illustration of Paul apply to you?
- As clay, what must you do to submit to His design?
- What struggles do you face in resisting His Will.

### **Prayer:**

For the Lord to help you in total submission to Him.

## Thursday 7 March

Read and meditate:

**Psalm 18:2; 19:14; 62:5-8**

**Description:**

**Rock**

### **Hymn/Chorus:**

*Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in thee;  
Let the water and the blood,  
From thy wounded side which  
flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure;  
Save from wrath  
And make me pure.*

*~Augustus M Toplady*

We may think of “rock” as a firm foundation for life. But the Psalmist sings of the “rock” as a hiding place. He is a shelter from the storms and enemies of life.

### **Application:**

- What mental or spiritual danger are you facing? “Flee to the Rock”. Personally take refuge in Him. Ask the Rock to protect you, and you will come forth a winner!

### **Prayer:**

Thank you Lord that in the midst of difficulties I have a hiding place in You, my Rock.

### **Reflections:**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

## Friday 8 March

Read and meditate:

### Proverbs 18:10

#### Description:

Tower

#### Hymn/Chorus:

*(Tune: A mighty Fortress is Our God)*

*A tow'r of strength our God is still*

*A mighty shield and weapon;*

*He is our help from all the ill*

*That hath us now o'er taken.*

*The old bitter foe*

*Now means deadly woe:*

*Deep guile and great might*

*Are His great arms in fight;*

*On earth is not his equal.*

*~Martin Luther, translated by  
Henry James Buckoll*

The reference is not only to a place of refuge from a storm; its height provides a panoramic view of the environment and a sight of any distant marauding bands of robbers or approaching enemy warriors. Flee to the LORD and you may be able to see your life in perspective and to be forewarned of danger.

#### Application:

- What important decisions might you be facing in which you need the Tower?
- Come before Him Who will show you His will for your life.

#### Prayer:

Praise God that He is able to see what is around and about us.

#### Reflections:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Saturday 9 March

Read and meditate:

**Isaiah 40:28-31**

### Description:

*Creator, Bara*

Isaiah takes comfort in knowing the One Who existed before all things. He made all things, and yet is not weary. He still has energy and power to meet your need in every circumstance of life.

Note: When Scripture says that Elohim rested on the seventh day, it was not because He was tired, but because the task was complete.

### Application:

- If God is your Creator, list the things these verses indicate to assure you He knows about you and your situation.
- What is the one thing that must happen for you to fully experience Him? Respond to Him!

### Prayer:

Though many things may weary and tire me, God, help me “Be still and know that You are God”.

### Hymn/Chorus:

*Are you weary, are you heavy hearted?  
Tell it to Jesus, tell it to Jesus.  
Are you grieving over joys departed?  
Tell it to Jesus alone.*

#### Refrain:

*Tell it to Jesus, tell it to Jesus,  
He's a Friend that's well known.  
You've no other such a friend or  
brother,  
Tell it to Jesus alone.*

*Do the tears flow down your cheeks  
unbidden?  
Tell it to Jesus, tell it to Jesus.  
Have you sins that to men's eyes are  
hidden?  
Tell it to Jesus alone.*

*~ Jeremiah E Rankin*

### Reflections:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Monday 11 March

Read and meditate:

**Matthew 6:6-15**

**Description:**

**Father – Greek Pater**

**Hymn/Chorus:**

*Dear Lord and Father of mankind,*

*Forgive our foolish ways;*

*Reclothe us in our rightful mind,*

*In purer lives Thy service find,*

*In deeper reverence, praise.*

*~John G Whittier*

Over and again Jesus spoke of a special Father/child relationship between God and believers. Having been accepted into His family by faith, we are privileged to call Him “Father”. On His part, it implies a certain spiritual likeness; an intimate relationship; His love, direction, provision and protection. On our part it implies love, respect, trust and obedience.

**Application:**

- What is your relationship with God like?
- Do you dare to call Him “Father?” Either stop and thank Him for being your Father, or confess your sins to Him, so that He will be your Father.

**Prayer:**

Dear Lord I thank You that I can call You Father. Thank You for Your love for me.

**Reflections:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Tuesday 12 March

Read and meditate:

### 2 Samuel 22:2

**Description:**  
**Deliverer**

### Hymn/Chorus:

*Yield not to temptation,  
For yielding is sin;  
Each vict'ry will help you  
Some other to win;  
Fight manfully onward,  
Dark passions subdue,  
Look ever to Jesus,  
He'll carry you through.*

### Refrain:

*Ask the Savior to help you,  
Comfort, strengthen, and keep you;  
He is willing to aid you,  
He will carry you through.*

~Horatius R. Palmer

David sang of God as his Deliverer, on the day God gave him the victory over all of his enemies. Scripture declares that God has rescued His people from times of trouble, from sin and even from death. He plans to deliver us out of this present evil age (Galatians 1:4).

### Application:

What circumstance are you facing now in which you need a deliverer? Something physical? Mental? Social? Spiritual? See 1 Corinthians 10:13. What has the Lord promised to do?

### Prayer:

Thank the Lord for His promise to give you a way out of a difficult situation.

### Reflections:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Wednesday 13 March

Read and meditate:

### Psalm 31:3

#### Description:

#### Fortress

#### Hymn/Chorus:

*A mighty fortress is our God,  
A bulwark never failing;  
Our helper He, amid the flood  
Of mortal ills prevailing:  
For still our ancient foe  
doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and power are great,  
And, armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.*

*~Martin Luther, translated by  
Frederic H. Hedge*

The history of the world is a record of wars. In like manner, a spiritual person is constantly under attack from forces of the world and the devil. A “Fortress” is a stronghold, a fortification. It is a place we can go to take refuge at a time of need.

#### Application:

- In your spiritual life, what enmity are you experiencing?
- Romans 8:37-39. What assurances do these verses offer for your personal encouragement?
- List ways in which being IN Christ, your Fortress that cannot be overthrown, can help you gain victory over your enemy.

#### Prayer:

Thank the Lord He is your fortress, in Whom you can take refuge at any time of need.

#### Reflections:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Thursday 14 March

Read and meditate:

**Isaiah 54:5**

**Description:**  
**Husband**

### Hymn/Chorus:

*The Church's one foundation  
Is Jesus Christ her Lord,  
She is His new creation  
By water and the Word.  
From heaven He came and sought her  
To be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her  
And for her life He died.*

*~Samuel J Stone*

While the passage speaks of the unique relationship between God and Israel, Scripture also speaks of the church as the Bride of Christ. We bear His Name and He promises to love, to provide and to protect.

### Application:

- Do you have such an intimate relationship with God that you can enjoy all His promises?
- Ephesians 5:25-27. We often think of provision and protection in the material sense. But how do these verses describe God's spiritual provision and protection for you?

### Prayer:

Tell God how you feel towards Him and His love for you.

### Reflections:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

## Friday 15 March

Read and mediate:

**John 15:1**

**Description:**  
**Husbandman**

### Hymn/Chorus:

*All to Jesus I surrender;  
All to Him I freely give;  
I will ever love and trust Him,  
In His presence daily live.*

#### Refrain:

*I surrender all,  
I surrender all,  
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,  
I surrender all.*

*~Judson W. Van De Venter*

A more modern translation is “**Vinedresser**”. A Husbandman cares for the vine, loosening the soil, pulling up weeds, watering and fertilizing; and, when necessary, pruning away all parts that sap energy. His purpose is that we might bear fruit (see Galatians 5:22).

### Application:

- List ways the Husbandman (vinedresser) has cared for your spiritual garden.
- Which areas in your “garden” need pruning?
- How have you cooperated to allow Him to prune you?
- Check your attitude towards allowing Him to fully accomplish His purposes through you.

### Prayer:

Lord, help me to surrender myself to Your full care.

### Reflections:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Saturday 16 March

Read and mediate:

**Genesis 18:25**

**Description:**

**Judge**

### Hymn/Chorus:

*Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it!  
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;  
Redeemed through His infinite  
mercy,  
His child and forever I am.*

#### Refrain:

*Redeemed, redeemed,  
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;  
Redeemed, redeemed,  
His child, and forever, I am.  
I think of my blessed Redeemer,  
I think of Him all the day long;  
I sing, for I cannot be silent;  
His love is the theme of my song.*

*~ Fanny J Crosby*

### Reflections:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Knowing that his nephew, Lot, was in Sodom, Abraham pleaded with God to withhold judgment on that wicked city. He understood the character of God, and made that the basis of his request. You need not fear God as Judge if you are one of His redeemed ones.

### Application:

- 2 Corinthians 5:10 and John 19:30. What do these verses teach concerning God as our Judge?
- What assurance do they give concerning our future? Where do you stand in regard to the judgment seat?

### Prayer:

If you are a Christian, thank the Lord that Jesus paid it all. If you have not asked Jesus to be your Saviour, won't you stop right now and tell Him you want His forgiveness?

## Monday 18 March

Read and meditate:

**Psalm 24:8-10**

**Description:**

**King**

**Hymn/Chorus:**

*Come, Thou almighty King,  
Help us Thy name to sing,  
Help us to praise!  
Father all glorious,  
O'er all victorious,  
Come and reign over us,  
Ancient of Days!*

*~anonymous*

In Bible times there was no such thing as a “Constitutional Monarch”. A king had absolute authority. His power was determined by the strength of his army. All of the attributes of God contribute to His reign over nature and nations and over your life.

**Application:**

- Who is this King of Glory to you?
- What kind of power does He have?
- How have you responded to Him, as His subject?

**Prayer:**

Ask the King who reigns over lives, to help you be His loyal subject.

**Reflections:**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Tuesday 19 March

Read and meditate:

**Romans 15:33**

**Description:**

**God of peace**

### Hymn/Chorus:

*When peace, like a river,  
Attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot,  
Thou has taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well, with my soul.*

#### Refrain:

*It is well, with my soul,  
It is well, it is well, with my soul.  
~Horatio G Spafford*

“Peace” implies a situation in which all of the parts are in the right place and functioning as they are supposed to. Another good synonym is “harmony”. As in Paul’s day, our world is torn by disagreement and warfare. Everyone suffers because of sin. In the midst of outer chaos, you can experience inner peace, because “the God of peace” is with you.

### Application:

- Philippians 4:9. How can you experience the “God of peace” with you?
- List the things you must put into practice to see this happening.

### Prayer:

Dear God, help me know Your inner peace even in the midst of this chaotic world.

### Reflections:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Wednesday 20 March

Read and meditate:

**Isaiah 30:18**

**Description:**  
**God of justice**

### Hymn/Chorus:

TITLE: GOD OF GRACE AND GOD OF GLORY

*Lo! the hosts of evil round us.  
Scorn the Christ, assail His ways!  
From the fears that long have  
bound us  
Free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, Grant us courage.  
For the living of these days,  
For the living of these days.*  
~Harry E Fosdick

Justice implies fair and honorable treatment. Israel was being treated unfairly by powerful nations. Isaiah turned their attention to the God who knows the rules and will apply blessing or judgment according to what is right and honorable. God has not changed!

### Application:

- List the kinds of situations today in which people may find themselves unfairly treated?
- What would you yourself do if you received such treatment?
- Who would you appeal to?

### Prayer:

Lord, keep me from treating others unfairly; and help me demonstrate true faith if I am the victim. Thank you that I can appeal to the highest Court of Justice; namely, God.

### Reflections:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Thursday 21 March

Read and meditate:

**Hebrews 11:8-10**

**Description:**

**Architect and Builder**

### Hymn/Chorus:

*I love Thy Church, O Lord,  
The house of Thine abode,  
The church our blest Redeemer  
saved.*

*With His own precious blood.*

*I love Thy church, O God!*

*Her walls before Thee stand.*

*Dear as the apple of Thine eye,*

*And graven on Thy hand.*

*~Timothy Dwight*

The Church is not a product of human ingenuity and design. All of its members and officers have been described and set apart by the Lord Himself. Men have often added to or taken from that which is prescribed in Scripture. Such practice has often left the church under-equipped or top-heavy.

### Application:

- Ephesians 4:11-16. Make a list of what God has prescribed for His church?
- How have you responded to the need of the church?
- In your capacity, how have you equipped the church to meet its need?

### Prayer:

Lord, Give us eyes to behold Your wisdom in the organizational structure of the Church You established at Pentecost. And spare us from pride in thinking that we can improve on it.

### Reflections:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Friday 22 March

Read and meditate:

**Romans 8:14-17**

**Description:**

**Abba**

### Hymn/Chorus:

**TITLE: WE ARE FAMILY**

*We are heirs of the Father,  
We are joint-heirs with the Son  
We are children of the Kingdom,  
We are family - we are one.  
We are washed, we are sanctified,  
We are cleansed by the blood,  
We are born of the Spirit,  
We are children of the Lord.  
~Jimmy & Carol Owens*

This was not a designation used by the ancient Jews. The Aramaic word was like our word “papa”, by which a little child might endearingly address his father. Later the word was used even by adults to indicate submissive close relationship. Jesus, in His hour of great agony, revealed His intimate relationship with the Father by addressing Him as Abba (Mark 14:36). We have been brought into that unique relationship as sons of God.

### Application:

- Galatians 4:6. What did Paul call people who have that unique relationship with God?
- Examine your heart to ensure you are privileged to speak to Him in that intimate, childlike way.

### Prayer:

Thank you, Abba Father that I belong to You.

### Reflections:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Saturday 23 March

Read and meditate:

**Exodus 20:7**

**Description:**

The **Third Commandment**

The Name and Titles and designations which we have considered all refer to the One and only God Who is high above all, and is to be spoken of only with awe and reverence.

**Application:**

- How has the common speech pattern of society and media influenced you?
- Examine yourself and have a close brother or sister cross-check to ensure that no vulgarity or swearing are unconsciously used even in your exclamation.

**Prayer:**

Lord, I magnify Your Name; I am learning to acknowledge Your majesty every time I refer to You. Please guard my tongue, that I may never use Your Name or designation irreverently.

**Hymn/Chorus:**

*Immortal, invisible,  
God only wise,  
In light inaccessible  
Hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious,  
The Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious,  
Thy great name we praise.*  
~Walter C Smith

**Reflections:**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

NOW, we come to the events of HOLY WEEK

**Sunday 24 March**  
*PALM SUNDAY | Day 1 of Holy Week*  
*Triumphal Entry*

Read and meditate:  
**Mark 11:1-11**

**Hymn/Chorus:**  
*Hosanna, Hosanna,  
Hosanna in the highest (x 2)*  
*Lord we lift up Your name,  
With our hearts full of praise;  
Be exalted, oh Lord my God!  
Hosanna in the highest!*  
~Carl Tuttle

Jesus offered Himself to Jerusalem as **KING**. He was joyfully hailed by Galilean pilgrims, but rejected by religious leaders, who stirred up the mobs to declare that they would not have this man rule over them.

- Application:**
- If you were on the scene, how would you have responded to the triumphal entry?
  - More importantly, what is your response to Jesus now?

**Prayer:**  
Lord, I want to be open and available for Your noblest purposes to be worked out in my life. I crown You King.

**Reflections:**

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

## Monday 25 March

*Day 2 of Holy Week.*

*Cursed a fig tree, Cleansed the Temple.*

Read and meditate:

**Mark 11:12-19**

### Hymn/Chorus:

*Search me, O God,  
And know my heart today,  
Try me, O Saviour,  
Know my thoughts, I pray;  
See if there be some wicked way in me;  
Cleanse me from every sin,  
and set me free.*

*I praise Thee, Lord,  
For cleansing me from sin;  
Fulfill Thy word and  
make me pure within;  
Fill me with fire,  
Where once I burned with shame;  
Grant my desire to magnify Thy name.*  
~J Edwin Orr

That species of fig tree normally put forth fruit first and afterwards leaves. This particular tree was abnormal and disappointing. Jesus came to it and found no fruit. Cursing the tree was not, in this case, an indication of anger, but a demonstration of God's displeasure with hypocrisy which is pretending to be something it was not.

Entering Jerusalem, He presented Himself as **PRIEST** and cleansed the Temple so that it might be used only for its intended purpose.

### Application:

- Evaluate the growing custom of using the church as a place to buy and sell, often under the guise of fundraising for missions.
- 1 Corinthians 6:19. What about your body as the temple of God?

### Prayer:

Lord, help me to surrender my body as a holy instrument, so that I will bear fruit for Your glory and not be a Christian in name only.

### Reflections:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

## Tuesday 26 March

Day 3 of Holy Week.

He came as **PROPHET** to teach.

Read and meditate:

**Mark 11:20-26**

### Hymn/Chorus:

Teach me to pray, Lord,  
Teach me to pray;  
This is my heart-cry day unto day;  
I long to know Thy will and Thy way;  
Teach me to pray, Lord,

Teach me to pray.  
Living in Thee, Lord, and Thou in me,  
Constant abiding, this is my plea;  
Grant me Thy power,  
Boundless and free,  
Power with men and power with Thee.  
~Albert S Reitz

**H**e taught the disciples to pray in faith.

The fig tree was a good example of hypocrisy: leaves but no fruit. Faith will accomplish the seemingly impossible. But, do beware of showmanship. You can not pray in faith unless your desire conforms to His will.

### Application:

- Romans 10:17. How can you develop more mature faith?
- Read and meditate: Mark 11:27-12:40. He was confronted by religious leaders. They challenged His authority although He had demonstrated that He had the kind of authority that could come only from God.
- Watch the motive behind your questions. To evade the truth? To make yourself look smart? To discover the truth?

### Prayer:

Lord, help me to have a growing knowledge of Your revealed will and of Your absolute authority so that I will be able to pray BY FAITH.

### Reflections:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

## Wednesday 27 March

*Day 4 of Holy Week.*

*There is no recorded event on this day.*

Read and meditate on a background event:

**John 12:1-8**

### Hymn/Chorus:

**TITLE:** SOMETHING FOR JESUS

*Saviour, Thy dying love*

*Thou gavest me;*

*Nor should I aught withhold,*

*Dear Lord, from Thee.*

*In love my soul would bow,*

*My heart fulfill its vow,*

*Some offering bring Thee now,*

*Something for Thee.*

*~S. Dryden Phelps*

### Reflections:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Mary's action demonstrated that she understood the teachings of Jesus more perfectly than did even the disciples. To them she was extravagant and wasteful. You may be criticized if you present a generous gift to the work of the Lord, or present your own life to His service. Why waste your time and energy on that small class of unruly children? Why go abroad as a missionary when you could use your skills to make money and support others to go to that illiterate tribe? Christ notes your purpose and spirit in giving. We know the name of only one of her critics; but the story of Mary has been told in most countries of the world.

### Application:

- How do you determine how much of your means and of yourself you give to God?
- What does Jesus want you to give Him?

### Prayer:

Lord, help me to understand what You are doing in the world, and to worship and glorify You in all of my giving.

## Thursday 28 March

*Day 5 of Holy Week. Upper Room,  
and Gethsemane.*

Read and meditate:

**Mark 14:12-42**

### Hymn/Chorus:

*(Tune: When I Survey The*

*Wondrous Cross - 'Hamburg')*

*Thy Supper, Lord, before us spread,*

*The cup beside the broken bread,*

*Reminds us of Thy life laid down.*

*The shameful cross,*

*The thorny crown.*

*Now may the worship we know here.*

*Remind us always Thou art near;*

*Help us to live our lives each day.*

*In love and faith, O Lord, we pray.*

*~Joseph F. Green*

Jesus knew exactly what was to happen and prepared His disciples. In the midst of observing Passover, He introduced what we call “The Lord’s Supper”, or “Holy Communion”, or “Breaking of Bread”. Passover looked back to deliverance from slavery. We observe The Lord’s Supper, looking back on deliverance from Sin.

### Application:

- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. When you partake of Holy Communion, what are you to remember and to proclaim?
- The next time you take part in the Holy Communion do remember the reason why we are commanded to do it.

### Prayer:

Lord, help me not to do this simply as a ritual, but a true act of worship.

### Reflections:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Friday 29 March

*We call it Good Friday.*

*Arrest, Trials, Crucifixion, Death.*

Read and meditate:

**Mark 14:43-15:46**

### Hymn/Chorus:

*When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.*

*~Isaac Watts*

**P**onder the viciousness of His arrest; the falsehood of charges against Him; the way He was handed to Pilate, passed to Herod, sent back to Pilate, given over to the hostile crowd, crucified between criminals.

So much happened, in so short a time! Meditate on this fact: it was for YOU – in your place -- that He suffered and died.

### Application:

- Can you remember what the suffering and death of Jesus meant to you when you first trusted Him as Saviour? What does it mean to you now?
- If you have not yet trusted Jesus as Saviour, contemplate and respond to His great love for you now.

### Prayer:

Lord, never let me lose the sense of wonder at such great love!

### Reflections:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



## Saturday 30 March

*Burial (more accurately,  
entombment)*

Read and meditate:  
**Matthew 27:57-66;**  
**Luke 23:50-53**

### Hymn/Chorus:

*Low in the grave He lay,  
Jesus my Saviour!  
Waiting the coming day,  
Jesus my Lord!*

### Refrain:

*Up from the grave He arose,  
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;  
He arose a victor from the dark domain,  
And He lives forever  
With His saints to reign.  
He arose! He arose!  
Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

*~Robert Lowry*

Joseph from Arimathea had not yet testified of his faith in Christ. He dared to ask Pilate for the Body of Christ. He prepared the body for entombment. He laid the body to rest in his own family gravesite.

Isaiah 53:9 prophesied that He would be *with the rich in His death*. The entrance was closed by a large stone. Enemies of Christ took every precaution to seal and guard the tomb

### Application:

The disciples had all fled. It was a new convert who took the risk and gave up something precious. What about you and your testimony for Him? Can you remember a time when you allowed fear to keep you from openly declaring your faith? Ask God to help you be a witness for Him.

### Prayer:

Lord, give me boldness to testify, even in a time of danger.

### Reflections:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Sunday 31 March

*Resurrection Sunday*

*"He Is Risen!"*

Go to church. Join with Christians everywhere to celebrate His Victory over death and the grave!

Find time to read and meditate on: **Mark 16:2-14**





# **A Devotional Guide**

## ***leading up to Holy Week 2013***

This devotional guide provides material for the 40 days leading up to Holy Week (the last week of Christ's earthly ministry before His Crucifixion and Resurrection). It guides through a 40-day period of meditation, self-searching and prayer leading to Easter.

### **About the authors:**

**Rev. Dr. E.N. Poulson** has served in Singapore since 1953. From California, USA, he was invited by forty local Chinese churches to help begin the Singapore Bible College. Having served the College for 36 years, he served as Senior Pastor of Grace Baptist Church for 7 years. Since then he has kept up an active ministry of preaching, teaching and counseling.

**Dr. Koh Siang Kiang** trusted Jesus as her personal Saviour in 1973. After graduation from Singapore Bible College in 1978, she served in churches and then as Administrative Assistant to Dr Poulson. Under the latter's pupilage, she has studied and taught in theological colleges in the U.S.A. and Singapore. She is currently Associate Professor of Christian Education at Singapore Bible College.