

**Proclaiming the Lord's Favor**  
**(our prayer for our daughters and sons)**

*Isaiah 61*

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,  
to preach the good news to the poor...  
to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from  
darkness for the prisoners...  
to bestow on them a crown of **beauty** instead of ashes,  
the oil of **gladness** instead of mourning,  
and a garment of **praise** instead of a spirit of despair.

**They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting  
of the LORD for the display of His splendor,  
that He may be glorified.**

They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the  
places long devastated they will renew the ruined cities  
that have been devastated for generations...

And you will be called **priests of the LORD**,  
you will be named **ministers of our God**.  
You will feed on the wealth of the nations,  
and in their riches you will boast.

Instead of their shame My people will receive a double  
portion, and instead of disgrace they will rejoice in  
their inheritance; and so they will inherit a double  
portion in their land, and **everlasting joy will be  
theirs**.

For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and  
iniquity. In My faithfulness I will reward them and  
**make an everlasting covenant with them**.  
Their descendants will be known among the nations  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge them,  
that **they are an offspring the LORD has blessed**.

**I delight greatly in the LORD;**  
**my soul rejoices in my God.**  
**For He has clothed me with garments of salvation**  
**and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness,**  
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the soil makes the sprout come up  
and a garden causes seeds to grow,  
so **the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and  
praise spring up before all nations**.

November 11, 1996

**Hannah** - "God is gracious, God shows favor"

**Mishael** - "Who is what God is?"  
(See Daniel 1 & 3)

"gift from God; close to God"

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December 4, 1997

**Lydia** - "bending;" region on west coast of Asia

**Kathleen** - "pure; innocent"

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January 28, 2000

**Miriam** - "plump one; bitter; wished-for-child;  
one who loves or is loved"

**Gail** - "father's joy; lively; joyful"

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June 14, 2001

**Elizabeth** - "God is my oath;  
a worshiper of God"

**Sophia** - "wisdom"

Prov 9:10 *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,  
and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.*

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April 2, 2003

**Joseph** - "He will add"

**Niqqayon** - "innocence; purity"

Psalm 26:6-7 *"I wash my hands in innocence, and go about  
your altar, O Lord, proclaiming aloud your praise and  
telling of all your wonderful deeds."*

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September 27, 2004

**Rebekah** - "choice calf; a quarrel appeased;  
(the fattened calf was used to signify reconciliation)

**Elynn** - "light; beautiful woman"

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July 31, 2006

**John** - "the LORD is gracious; gift of God"

**Lemuel** - "belonging to God"

Proverbs 31 *"The sayings of King Lemuel - an oracle  
his mother taught him..."*

Ezekiel 36:23,25-28

*Then the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Sovereign LORD, when I show myself holy through you before their eyes. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart ... I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws... you will be my people, and I will be your God.*

Psalms 127:3-5

*Lo, children are the LORD's good gift; the womb's fruit His reward. Children of youth as arrows are in hands of mighty ones. Who has his quiver filled with these, O happy shall he be; when foes they greet within the gate they shall from shame be free.*

Psalms 128

*Blessed the man that fears Jehovah and that walketh in His ways;  
Thou shalt eat of thy hands' labor and be prospered all thy days.  
Like a vine with fruit abounding in thy house thy wife is found,  
And like olive plants they children, compassing thy table round.  
Lo, on him that fears Jehovah shall this blessedness attend;  
For Jehovah out of Zion shall to thee His blessing send.  
Thou shalt see Jerus'lem prosper all thy days till life shall cease;  
Thou shalt see thy children's children, unto Israel be peace.*

(1 Samuel 1:1-2:10) **Hannah** pours out her heart to God.

- ✿ We desire for our Hannah to also be a woman of prayer.
  - ✿ Hannah faithfully worships the LORD even amidst persecution.
  - ✿ She dedicates her child to the service of the LORD even before its birth.
  - ✿ Her husband loves her.
  - ✿ She is filled with joy trusting in God's Word.
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(Acts 16:6-40) God opens **Lydia's** heart to respond to the gospel.

- ✿ She is a successful business woman.
  - ✿ Lydia extends hospitality and her home is a place of encouragement (v.15,40).
  - ✿ Her prayers may have been the means by which the gospel was brought to her region (see v.9). ✿ Lydia is a worshiper of God and gathers at a place of prayer, especially on the Sabbath (v.13-14). ✿ Lydia properly receives Christ's sacraments, along with all those in her household (v.15).
  - ✿ Lydia is bold and judged "to be faithful to the Lord" (v.15).
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(Exodus 3:1-8; 15:20,21; Numbers 12:1-15)

- ✿ **Miriam** joyfully worships, repents and is healed.
  - ✿ Even as a young girl she cares for the needs of a sibling.
  - ✿ The LORD redeems His people, and uses Miriam to lead them (Micah 6:4).
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(Luke 1:5-80) **Elizabeth** is righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord (v.6).

- ✿ Elizabeth's child leaps for joy in her womb in the presence of the Savior. v.44
  - ✿ She is blessed by God to have a child who is filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb, and who will turn many to the Lord (v.15,17).
  - ✿ Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and knows the Messiah has come.
  - ✿ She prays and confesses Him (v.42-45).
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(Genesis 37-50; Niqqayon is used in Psalm 26)

- ✿ At the beginning of **Joseph's** life, there is an acknowledgment of the sovereign grace of God. ✿ His life bears testimony to a close walk with the Lord. There is not a single word of reproof against Joseph.
  - ✿ He is noble of character, pure in heart and life, and an example as a ruler and brother. ✿ Forgives the wrongs committed by others and sees the big picture of God working the good for His people.
  - ✿ On his deathbed he anchors his faith in the covenantal promises made by God to his forefathers (Gen50; Heb 11:22).
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(Genesis 24) **Rebekah** is a hard working and humble servant.

- ✿ She does as the Lord directs - willingly, readily, and immediately (v.51,58)
  - ✿ Rebekah received a blessing as she went to a foreign land (v.60):  
"Our sister, may you increase to thousands upon thousands; may your offspring possess the gates of their enemies."  
✿ Rebekah demonstrates modesty (v. 65).
  - ✿ She marries one who meditates on the Word of God (v. 63).
  - ✿ She is loved by her husband and comforts him (v.67).
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✿ **John** is known as the disciple whom Jesus loved. (John 13:23)

- ✿ His life is transformed from a Son of Thunder (Mark 3:17) who wanted to call fire down on a Samaritan village (Lk 9:55-56) to being gentle, loving and tender; he is even the one whom Jesus entrusts to care for his mother (John 19:27).
- ✿ John is close to Jesus. He is bold and loyal to Christ, from the Cross (John 19:26) to exile (Revelation 1:9). ✿ He spends special time with Jesus on the Lord's Day. (Rev 1:10) ✿ Proclaims Christ's command to love one another 10x.