



#### PRAY:

Father show us who you are. Show us your person, your power, your purposes. Overwhelm us with a knowledge of you that penetrates our minds and imbeds itself in the deepest recesses of our hearts. Let this knowledge so change our hearts that it results in our lives being lived in light of who you are, what you have done and what you say is true about us in Jesus Christ.

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## AS YOU READ THROUGH TODAY'S PASSAGES REFLECT ON THESE QUESTIONS:

What are some things revealed in these passages about the person and character of God? Who is he? What is he like?

What are some things that God has done to reveal who he is?

Who are you in light of God's work? What is it that God is saying about you?

How should knowing who God is, what he has done and what he says about you change how you live?



#### A Man of God Confronts Jeroboam

13 And behold, a man of God came out of Judah by the word of the LORD to Bethel. Jeroboam was standing by the altar to make offerings. <sup>2</sup> And the man cried against the altar by the word of the LORD and said, "O altar, altar, thus says the LORD: 'Behold, a son shall be born to the house of David, Josiah by name, and he shall sacrifice on you the priests of the high places who make offerings on you, and human bones shall be burned on you." " 3 And he gave a sign the same day, saying, "This is the sign that the LORD has spoken: 'Behold, the altar shall be torn down, and the ashes that are on it shall be poured out." <sup>4</sup> And when the king heard the saying of the man of God, which he cried against the altar at Bethel, Jeroboam stretched out his hand from the altar, saying, "Seize him." And his hand, which he stretched out against him, dried up, so that he could not draw it back to himself. <sup>5</sup> The altar also was torn down, and the ashes poured out from the altar, according to the sign that the man of God had given by the word of the LORD. <sup>6</sup> And the king said to the man of God, "Entreat now the favor of the LORD your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me." And the man of God entreated the LORD, and the king's hand was restored to him and became as it was before. <sup>7</sup> And the king said to the man of God, "Come home with me, and refresh yourself, and I will give you a reward." <sup>8</sup> And the man of God said to the king, "If you give me half your house, I will not go in with you. And I will not eat bread or drink water in this place, <sup>9</sup> for so was it commanded me by the word of the LORD, saying, 'You shall neither eat bread nor drink water nor return by the way that you came.' " 10 So he went another way and did not return by the way that he came to Bethel.

#### The Prophet's Disobedience

<sup>11</sup> Now an old prophet lived in Bethel. And his sons came and told him all that the man of God had done that day in Bethel. They also told to their father the words that he had spoken to the king. <sup>12</sup> And their father said to them, "Which way did he go?" And his sons showed him the way that the man of God who came from Judah had gone. <sup>13</sup> And he said to his sons, "Saddle the donkey for me." So they saddled the donkey for him and he mounted it. <sup>14</sup> And he went after the man of God and found him sitting under an oak. And he said to him, "Are you the man of God who came from Judah?" And he said, "I am." <sup>15</sup> Then he said to him, "Come home with me and eat bread." <sup>16</sup> And he said, "I may not return with you, or go in with you, neither will I eat bread nor drink water with you in this place, <sup>17</sup> for it was said to me by the word of the LORD, 'You shall neither eat bread nor drink water there, nor return by the way that you came.' " <sup>18</sup> And he said to him, "I also am a prophet as you are, and an angel spoke to me by the word of the LORD, saying, 'Bring him back with you into your house that he may eat bread and drink water.' " But he lied to him. <sup>19</sup> So he went back with him and ate bread in his house and drank water.

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<sup>20</sup> And as they sat at the table, the word of the LORD came to the prophet who had brought him back. <sup>21</sup> And he cried to the man of God who came from Judah, "Thus says the LORD, 'Because you have disobeyed the word of the LORD and have not kept the command that the LORD your God commanded you, <sup>22</sup> but have come back and have eaten bread and drunk water in the place of which he said to you, "Eat no bread and drink no water," your body shall not come to the tomb of your fathers.' " <sup>23</sup> And after he had eaten bread and drunk, he saddled the donkey for the prophet whom he had brought back. <sup>24</sup> And as he went away a lion met him on the road and killed him. And his body was thrown in the road, and the donkey stood beside it; the lion also stood beside the body. <sup>25</sup> And behold, men passed by and saw the body thrown in the road and the lion standing by the body. And they came and told it in the city where the old prophet lived.

<sup>26</sup> And when the prophet who had brought him back from the way heard of it, he said, "It is the man of God who disobeyed the word of the LORD; therefore the LORD has given him to the lion, which has torn him and killed him, according to the word that the LORD spoke to him."

<sup>27</sup> And he said to his sons, "Saddle the donkey for me." And they saddled it. <sup>28</sup> And he went and found his body thrown in the road, and the donkey and the lion standing beside the body. The lion had not eaten the body or torn the donkey. <sup>29</sup> And the prophet took up the body of the man of God and laid it on the donkey and brought it back to the city to mourn and to bury him. <sup>30</sup> And he laid the body in his own grave. And they mourned over him, saying, "Alas, my brother!" <sup>31</sup> And after he had buried him, he said to his sons, "When I die, bury me in the grave in which the man of God is buried; lay my bones beside his bones. <sup>32</sup> For the saying that he called out by the word of the LORD against the altar in Bethel and against all the houses of the high places that are in the cities of Samaria shall surely come to pass."

<sup>33</sup> After this thing Jeroboam did not turn from his evil way, but made priests for the high places again from among all the people. Any who would, he ordained to be priests of the high places. <sup>34</sup> And this thing became sin to the house of Jeroboam, so as to cut it off and to destroy it from the face of the earth.



# PHILIPPIANS 4

**4** Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

#### **Exhortation, Encouragement, and Prayer**

<sup>2</sup> I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. <sup>3</sup> Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

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<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup> do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup> What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

#### **God's Provision**

<sup>10</sup> I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. <sup>11</sup> Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. <sup>12</sup> I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. <sup>13</sup> I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

<sup>14</sup> Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. <sup>15</sup> And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. <sup>16</sup> Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. <sup>17</sup> Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. <sup>18</sup> I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. <sup>19</sup> And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. <sup>20</sup> To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

#### **Final Greetings**

<sup>21</sup> Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. <sup>22</sup> All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.

<sup>23</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.



# **EZEKIEL 43**

#### The Glory of the LORD Fills the Temple

**43** Then he led me to the gate, the gate facing east. <sup>2</sup> And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the east. And the sound of his coming was like the sound of many

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waters, and the earth shone with his glory. <sup>3</sup> And the vision I saw was just like the vision that I had seen when he came to destroy the city, and just like the vision that I had seen by the Chebar canal. And I fell on my face. <sup>4</sup> As the glory of the LORD entered the temple by the gate facing east, <sup>5</sup> the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple.

<sup>6</sup> While the man was standing beside me, I heard one speaking to me out of the temple, <sup>7</sup> and he said to me, "Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the people of Israel forever. And the house of Israel shall no more defile my holy name, neither they, nor their kings, by their whoring and by the dead bodies of their kings at their high places, <sup>8</sup> by setting their threshold by my threshold and their doorposts beside my doorposts, with only a wall between me and them. They have defiled my holy name by their abominations that they have committed, so I have consumed them in my anger. <sup>9</sup> Now let them put away their whoring and the dead bodies of their kings far from me, and I will dwell in their midst forever.

<sup>10</sup> "As for you, son of man, describe to the house of Israel the temple, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities; and they shall measure the plan. <sup>11</sup> And if they are ashamed of all that they have done, make known to them the design of the temple, its arrangement, its exits and its entrances, that is, its whole design; and make known to them as well all its statutes and its whole design and all its laws, and write it down in their sight, so that they may observe all its laws and all its statutes and carry them out. <sup>12</sup> This is the law of the temple: the whole territory on the top of the mountain all around shall be most holy. Behold, this is the law of the temple.

#### The Altar

<sup>13</sup> "These are the measurements of the altar by cubits (the cubit being a cubit and a handbreadth): its base shall be one cubit high and one cubit broad, with a rim of one span around its edge. And this shall be the height of the altar: <sup>14</sup> from the base on the ground to the lower ledge, two cubits, with a breadth of one cubit; and from the smaller ledge to the larger ledge, four cubits, with a breadth of one cubit; <sup>15</sup> and the altar hearth, four cubits; and from the altar hearth projecting upward, four horns. <sup>16</sup> The altar hearth shall be square, twelve cubits long by twelve broad. <sup>17</sup> The ledge also shall be square, fourteen cubits long by fourteen broad, with a rim around it half a cubit broad, and its base one cubit all around. The steps of the altar shall face east."

<sup>18</sup> And he said to me, "Son of man, thus says the Lord GoD: These are the ordinances for the altar: On the day when it is erected for offering burnt offerings upon it and for throwing blood against it, <sup>19</sup> you shall give to the Levitical priests of the family of Zadok, who draw near to me to minister to me, declares the Lord GoD, a bull from the herd for a sin offering. <sup>20</sup> And you shall take some of its blood and put it on the four horns of the altar and on the four corners of the ledge and upon the rim all around. Thus you shall purify the altar and make atonement for it. <sup>21</sup> You shall also take the bull of the sin offering, and it shall be burned in the appointed place belonging to the temple, outside the sacred area. <sup>22</sup> And on the second day you shall

offer a male goat without blemish for a sin offering; and the altar shall be purified, as it was purified with the bull. <sup>23</sup> When you have finished purifying it, you shall offer a bull from the herd without blemish and a ram from the flock without blemish. <sup>24</sup> You shall present them before the LORD, and the priests shall sprinkle salt on them and offer them up as a burnt offering to the LORD. <sup>25</sup> For seven days you shall provide daily a male goat for a sin offering; also, a bull from the herd and a ram from the flock, without blemish, shall be provided. <sup>26</sup> Seven days shall they make atonement for the altar and cleanse it, and so consecrate it. <sup>27</sup> And when they have completed these days, then from the eighth day onward the priests shall offer on the altar your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, and I will accept you, declares the Lord God."

Notes Thoughts Questions:



## JOURNAL A PRAYER TO THE LORD FROM YOUR READING TODAY.