THE SEED OF THE WOMAN

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed. (Genesis 3:15)

"Because He stooped so low God has exalted Him very high" (Philippians 2:9 Arthur Way's Translation). From this first great act and fact in His revelation to that last greater act when He died for our sins on Calvary, and up until the time when God exalted Him very high to sit at God's own right hand in the heavenlies, our Saviour's example was one of profound humility. He came from the bosom of the Father to become the "Seed of the Woman." The one who said, "the words which I have spoken to you, the same shall judge you," was, in His innocence, judged by sinful men and crucified.

Oh, You who humbled Yourself to be born of a woman, who bore our sins in Your own body on the tree, we bow on our faces before You and worship and adore You. May we empty ourselves to be filled by You. Amen. Offspring of the woman - NIV

THE ANGEL OF THE LORD

And the Angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time. (Genesis 22:15)

The "Angel (or Messenger) of Jehovah" was Himself God's message to us. He brought His own message to heal our deep sorrows and losses—He is our sin offering. He gave up His glory to bear our pain through the sacrifice of His own body on the cross.

We worship You, O "Angel of the Lord" and thank You that You are indeed a messenger for our salvation. Let us receive Your message with deep love and gratitude. Amen.

SHILOH (PEACEMAKER)

The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be. (Genesis 49:10)

Israel must walk in darkness under law until the years may seem eternity, but "Shiloh" comes at last and peace with Him. Has Shiloh come to you? And has the peace which passes understanding, the peace *He* made, entered into your soul? For Shiloh came and conquered every foe that could harass you, and He stands today offering the peace He made "that passes knowledge." Have you received it? Has Shiloh come in vain for you? Begin today and "in everything by prayer and supplication make your requests known to Him," and Shiloh's peace shall "calm your heart."

Lord, Your peace passes all our earthly understanding. Help us to remain obedient and faithful to You so that Your peace will remain. Amen.

THE STONE OF ISRAEL

But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel). (Genesis 49:24)

The "Stone of Israel," the chief Cornerstone, is rejected by the builders, a Stone of Stumbling, a Rock of Offense, a Foundation Stone, on which alone we build all that shall stand. He makes us a polished, living stone; built in with other stones; perhaps a pillar to stand permanently and always be a part of His temple, for His own indwelling.

Holy Lord, self-offered for my peace; through death that I might live, through fire that I might become indestructible enlighten me today till I perceive Your peace that passes understanding. Amen. The rock of Israel - NV

THE PEACE OFFERING

And if his oblation be a sacrifice of peace offering, he shall offer it without blemish before the Lord. (Leviticus 3:1)

Is there any point of dispute between your Lord and you? One little thing which you do not surrender? He is right. He cannot change. It is your heart which must surrender. Then can you receive the peace which passes knowledge. He has made the offering which these Old Testament sacrifices prefigured and which atones for all your past, but you must yield your will to Him. Shall it be now?

Lord Jesus, change my heart by Your power that I may know the wonderful blessings of peace with God through Your atoning blood. Amen.

Fellowship offering - NIV

A STAR

I shall see him, but not now; I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth. (Numbers 24:17)

What could be more beautiful or more fitting than that our Lord should be called of God "a Star"? Those who know Him best may say, "I shall see Him, but not now. I shall behold Him, but not nigh." From far beyond our world of trouble and care and change, He shines with undimmed light, a radiant, guiding Star to all who will follow Him—a morning Star, a promise of a better day.

Lord God, Your star is a sign of hope, pointing to the heavens. Let us see You shining brightly as Maker of heaven and earth, and our personal Saviour. Amen.

A SCEPTRE

A Sceptre shall rise out of Israel. (Numbers 24:17)

There is a view of Jesus which men are slow to see, but some day all the world shall know that "a Scepter" shall rise out of Israel and evil will be destroyed before His righteousness more swiftly than ice must melt before the glowing sun. It is in the very nature of things that sin must be consumed before His glorious holiness. It can only be the love of sin that blinds the eyes of men to His consuming righteousness.

Search me, O God, and know my heart. Try me and know my thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting. Then melt me, mold me, fill me, and use me. Amen.

THE CAPTAIN OF THE HOST OF THE LORD

And He said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come. (Joshua 5:14)

The hosts of Israel stand before the gateway to a promised land. No swords are drawn, no skill have they, but with them is an unseen host, and with the host stands "the Captain of Jehovah's Host." Jericho and all the giants of the land submit, and for you, "behind the dim unknown stands God within the shadows keeping a watch above His own."

> Captain of the Hosts of God, In the path where You have trod, Bows my soul in humble awe— Take command. Your word is law.

Cause me to possess the land, Led by Your Almighty hand. Be my guide, defense and power, Lead me from this very hour.

Lead me ever onward on the path of righteousness for Your name's sake. Amen.

THE ROCK OF MY SALVATION

The Lord liveth; and blessed be my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation. (2 Samuel 22:47)

No graver danger threatens the believer than that of forgetting that he was redeemed—forgetting even as he experiences it what our salvation cost, and who is the rock foundation of our faith. To meet this need our Saviour pictures Himself not merely as the Rock of Ages, and our Strong Rock of Refuge, but "the Rock of our Salvation." Here, in Him and based upon His merit and atoning grace, we were saved from among the lost. Let us glory in this precious name and never forget that He was "wounded for our transgressions" and that "He bore our sins in His own body on the tree."

Our precious Lord, may we have all joy and peace in believing that our salvation is built upon a solid Rock, standing through all ages. Amen.

The Rock, my Savior - NIV

THE LIGHT OF THE MORNING

And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds. (2 Samuel 23:4)

No single name or picture of our Lord could possibly reveal Him as the full supply of all our need. Our Lord is to His people not only "the Morning Star," but when the lights of night shall fade in the dawning day, He becomes "the Light of the Morning." When all of earth's years have passed, when all earth's visions fade and flee away, when the great glory of that morning of our eternal life in heaven shall break upon us, we shall find that He who guided our entire earthly pilgrimage is still our source of life and guidance over there.

Lord God, precious Saviour, Your mercies are new every morning. May the bright star of Your love shine in our hearts, bringing joy at beginning of day. Amen.

THE DAYSMAN

Neither is there any daysman betwixt us, that might lay his hand upon us both. (Job 9:33)

When the day of reckoning comes, when by His just decrees I should hear the sentence which my sins deserve, when I shall stand before the Father, stripped of all pretense and sham, then will I fear no evil, for my "Daysman," Mediator, Arbitrator, will stand and speak for me. Can I do less than bow upon my face and worship Him, now and throughout eternity?

Jesus, You stand in the gap on my behalf, covering my sin. May no evil come between us, but only unbroken fellowship through the mediator of the covenant of grace. Amen. Arbitrator - NIV

MY SHIELD

But thou, O Lord, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head. (Psalm 3:3)

The storms of life assault us in many forms—demonic oppression, illness, financial worries, weaknesses of many kinds. But our great Shield protects us from them all. Just as at the cross, Christ stands in for us and is able to take the fierce onslaught of all evil, sin, and death.

O God, let us always and everywhere seek the covering of Your mighty Shield in order to remain strong. Amen.

MY GLORY

But thou, O Lord, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head. (Psalm 3:3)

That God is "glory"—or "excellence"—beyond our understanding, none can deny. But do our hearts look up to Him today in humble, earnest worship, and know the truth, and speak the truth—"You are *my Glory"*? Our safety lies in the fact that He possesses us. Our deepest, holiest joy comes only when we humbly say in the hour of secret worship, "You are mine."

O, Lord my Glory, be my shield this day. My head shall lift up to the heavens to Your majesty, and I shall hold my head high, because of Your mighty protection. Amen.

THE LIFTER UP OF MINE HEAD

But thou, O Lord, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head. (Psalm 3:3)

So often our heads are bowed down with worry, guilt, and shame. We should always look up and see the God who is "above" all our circumstances, working to reveal His glory on our behalf.

> Oh, You who have given Your glory to me, Anoint my blind eyes Till Your glory I see. Lift up my bowed head,

Be my shield and my light, Till Your radiant glory Shall banish my night.

Lord Jesus, we often glory in earthly things. Put our eyes on things above, where You reign, to know the glory of heavenly things and await Your coming from heaven. Amen.

MY FORTRESS

The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. (*Psalm 18:2*)

"A mighty fortress is my God," and no evil may reach the soul that shelters there. There is no saint of God who may look back through all the troubled years of any earthly pilgrimage, and not say, if he shall speak truly, "I have been kept by the power of God." Every failure of our lives and each defeat has come when we have sought some earthly fortress rather than our Lord.

I am hiding, Lord, in You. Your walls are impregnable, so I can withstand life's onslaughts. Let our praise to You be as incense, O Lord. Amen.

MY SHEPHERD

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. (Psalm 23:1)

To say, "The Lord is *my Shepherd*," must carry with it in our understanding not merely grateful praise for the infinite grace and tenderness of the Great Shepherd who leads us by still waters and in green pastures, but confession of our own helplessness and need of a Shepherd's care. And a remembrance also of our lost, undone condition, until

> "All through the mountains, thunder-riven, And up from the rocky steep, There arose a glad cry to the gates of heaven, 'Rejoice! I have found My sheep!'"

Lord Jesus, tender Shepherd, lead us forth this day in glad service for You. Feed, care for, and protect us from wolves and allow us to feed in Your green pastures. Amen.

RESTORER

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. (Psalm 23:3)

We wander from God and from the paths of righteousness from following Him beside the still waters—till we lose the way, lose joy, lose the sound of His voice. Then the Master "restores [the only use of this form in the Old Testament] our soul"; "brings us back into His way," into the paths of righteousness.

O, gracious "Restorer," bring back my wandering soul as a straying sheep and lead me on in the paths of righteousness "for Your name's sake." Lead me in the everlasting way as Your obedient servant. Amen.

THE LORD MIGHTY IN BATTLE

Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. (Psalm 24:8)

No life can be lived for God in these difficult days without terrific conflict. Foes within and foes without assail each saint continuously. Principalities and powers are arrayed against the child of God who seeks to serve his Master. We have no might with which to meet "this great host that comes out against us," but Jehovah, Mighty in Battle, is our Saviour, our Intercessor, Our Elder Brother, our ever-present Friend.

I must fight if I would win; increase my courage, Lord, and save me from the massive array of foes. Protect me from all evil and harm and fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Amen.

KING OF GLORY

Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory. (Psalm 24:10)

Jehovah Jesus, the glorious King! Not merely *a* king, but glorious, excelling all others in mighty truth and power, grace and love. We almost forget for a time His absolute sovereignty as we bow in humble worship before His matchless glory, and cry again and again, "Thy kingdom come," O Glorious King.

Lord Jesus, let us open the gates of our heart so that the King of Glory might come in. You are our hope of glory. Prepare us to be glorified with You. Amen.

MY STRONG ROCK

Bow down thine ear to me; deliver me speedily: be thou my strong rock, for an house of defence to save me. (*Psalm 31:2*)

No sorrow of men is so deep and dark and bitter as to be without a refuge, a rock, a safe retreat. However deep our sorrow, however dark our sin, however hopeless our lot among men, the Man of Sorrows bore our sin in His own body on the tree. He carried all our grief. He is our "Strong Rock." A strong, safe house, in which I am defended from flesh, the world, the devil.

Lord, You are the rock on which we have our testimony. We shall not be moved because You are our solid foundation, a house no one can destroy. Amen. Rock of refuge - NW

A STRONG TOWER

For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy. (*Psalm 61:3*)

What is the testimony of *our* souls today as we read that which others have said concerning Him who has been a "Strong Tower" from the enemy? Did any child of God in danger hasten within the Strong Tower of His Presence and find anything of failure or defeat? Must we not confess that every failure has come when we were found outside?

O Strong Tower, may we enter in today and dwell in You and be safe. What have we to fear with the safety of Your divine shelter all around us? Amen.

A STRANGER AND AN ALIEN

I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children. (Psalm 69:8)

He became an outcast for us so that we in turn could find our home with Him for all eternity. Let us identify with Him as aliens and strangers on this earth, for the One not received by His native land.

> What was the price He paid, That, what he bore for me; "A STRANGER, AN ALIEN"; alone, He died on Calvary.

A "STRANGER" to make me a friend, An "ALIEN" to give me a home. Great Stranger, I fall at Your feet, No longer from You will I roam.

Lord Jesus, may we be strangers to the world in order to be friends with You who had no place to lay His head. Let us not love the world. Amen.

THE KING'S SON

Give the king thy judgments, O God, and thy righteousness unto the King's Son. (Psalm 72:1)

How little do our hearts pay the homage due to God as *KING* and to Jesus as His *Son*. We bow our heads, we lift our hats, we pay our homage to the fleeting, trifling power of earth's great men, but do we, as we enter the house of God, bow humbly and revere *the King's Son?* Are earthly thoughts hushed and earthly words stilled as we gather in the house of God? Even when our worship leader voices our desires to Him, do wandering thoughts of earthly things deprive us of the blessing and the answer to our prayers?

Lord, teach us how to pray, that we may truly worship You. Let us realize that it is to the Son of the Most High that we speak. Draw us to Yourself and hear our imperfect prayers that we may obtain mercy. Amen.

GOD'S FIRSTBORN

Also I will make him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth. (Psalm 89:27)

"Remove your shoes from off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy." The Eternal Father, God, is speaking. "My Firstborn I will make higher than the kings of earth." You who are the last-born of the Father, the Firstborn is your Elder Brother. You have shared His humiliation leading to your salvation. You shall share His exaltation bringing you to your eternal glory.

We worship You, Lord Jesus, God's "Firstborn"! We thank You that we have been born again from the very life of the Firstborn among many brethren. Amen.