

## **TITLE: THE OVERWHELMING LOVE OF GOD**

### **PSALM 107:1**

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD! HIS FAITHFUL LOVE ENDURES FOREVER.

### **GAL. 3:26-28**

FOR YOU ARE ALL CHILDREN OF GOD THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS. AND ALL WHO HAVE BEEN UNITED WITH CHRIST IN BAPTISM HAVE PUT ON CHRIST, LIKE PUTTING ON NEW CLOTHES. THERE IS NO LONGER JEW OR GENTILE, SLAVE OR FREE, MALE AND FEMALE. FOR YOU ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS.

### **PSALM 30:4-5**

SING TO THE LORD, ALL YOU GODLY ONES! PRAISE HIS HOLY NAME. FOR HIS ANGER LASTS ONLY A MOMENT, BUT HIS FAVOR LASTS A LIFETIME! WEEPING MAY LAST THROUGH THE NIGHT, BUT JOY COMES WITH THE MORNING.

### **PROV. 14:12**

THERE IS A PATH BEFORE EACH PERSON THAT SEEMS RIGHT, BUT IT ENDS IN DEATH.

### **1 COR. 2:9**

NO EYE HAS SEEN, NO EAR HAS HEARD, AND NO MIND HAS IMAGINED WHAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.

## **Q: WHAT HAS BEEN THE HARDEST EVENT/EXPERIENCE THAT YOU HAVE EVER WITNESSED?**

### **ISAIAH 15:1-4**

IN ONE NIGHT THE TOWN OF AR WILL BE LEVELED, AND THE CITY OF KIR WILL BE DESTROYED. YOUR PEOPLE WILL GO TO THEIR TEMPLE IN DIBON TO MOURN. THEY WILL GO TO THEIR SACRED SHRINES TO WEEP. THEY WILL WAIL FOR THE FATE OF NEBO AND MEDEBA, SHAVING THEIR HEADS IN SORROW AND CUTTING OFF THEIR BEARDS. THEY WILL WEAR BURLAP AS THEY WANDER THE STREETS. FROM EVERY HOME AND PUBLIC SQUARE WILL COME THE SOUND OF WAILING. THE PEOPLE OF HESBON AND ELEALEH WILL CRY OUT; THEIR VOICES WILL BE HEARD AS FAR AWAY AS JAHAZ! THE BRAVEST WARRIORS OF MOAB WILL CRY OUT IN UTTER TERROR. THEY WILL BE HELPLESS WITH FEAR.

### **ISAIAH 15:5**

MY HEART WEEPS FOR MOAB. ITS PEOPLE FLEE TO ZOAR AND EGLATHSHELISHIYAH. WEEPING, THEY CLIMB THE ROAD TO LUHITH. THEIR CRIES OF DISTRESS CAN BE HEARD ALL ALONG THE ROAD TO HORONAIM.

## **ISAIAH GIVES THE PEOPLE AN OPPORTUNITY TO REPENT – TO TURN AGAIN TO GOD**

### **ISAIAH 16:1**

SEND LAMBS FROM SELA AS TRIBUTE TO THE RULER OF THE LAND. SEND THEM THROUGH THE DESERT TO THE MOUNTAIN OF BEAUTIFUL ZION.

**ISAIAH 16:2-4**

THE WOMEN OF MOAB ARE LEFT LIKE HOMELESS BIRDS AT THE SHALLOW CROSSINGS OF THE ARNON RIVER. "HELP US," THEY CRY. "DEFEND US AGAINST OUR ENEMIES. PROTECT US FROM THEIR RELENTLESS ATTACK. DO NOT BETRAY US NOW THAT WE HAVE ESCAPED. LET OUR REFUGEES STAY AMONG YOU. HIDE THEM FROM OUR ENEMIES UNTIL THE TERROR IS PAST." WHEN OPPRESSION AND DESTRUCTION HAVE ENDED & ENEMY RAIDERS HAVE DISAPPEARED,

**ISAIAH 16:5**

THEN GOD WILL ESTABLISH ONE OF DAVID'S DESCENDANTS AS KING. HE WILL RULE WITH MERCY AND TRUTH. HE WILL ALWAYS DO WHAT IS JUST AND BE EAGER TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT. **THERE IS NO OTHER WAY FOR US TO HAVE ETERNAL LIFE THAN WITH THE HELP OF GOD!**

**ISAIAH 16:6-11**

WE HAVE HEARD ABOUT PROUD MOAB – ABOUT ITS PRIDE AND ARROGANCE AND RAGE. BUT ALL THAT BOASTING HAS DISAPPEARED. THE ENTIRE LAND OF MOAB WEEPS. YES, EVERYONE IN MOAB MOURNS FOR THE CAKES OF RAISINS FROM KIRHARESETH ARE ALL GONE NOW. THE FARMS OF HESHBON ARE ABANDONED; THE VINEYARDS AT SIBMAH ARE DESERTED. THE RULERS OF THE NATIONS HAVE BROKEN DOWN MOAB – THAT BEAUTIFUL GRAPEVINE. ITS TENDRILS SPREAD NORTH AS FAR AS THE TOWN OF JAZER AND TRAILED EASTWARD INTO THE WILDERNESS. ITS SHOOTS REACHED SO FAR WEST THAT THEY CROSSED OVER THE DEAD SEA. SO NOW I WEEP FOR JAZER AND THE VINEYARDS OF SIBMAH; MY TEARS WILL FLOW FOR HESHBON AND ELEALEH. THERE ARE NO MORE SHOUTS OF JOY OVER YOUR SUMMER FRUITS AND HARVEST. GONE NOW IS THE GLADNESS, GONE THE JOY OF HARVEST. THERE WILL BE NO SINGING IN THE VINEYARDS, NO MORE HAPPY SHOUTS, NO TREADING OF GRAPES IN THE WINEPRESSES. I HAVE ENDED ALL THEIR HARVEST JOYS. MY HEARTS CRY FOR MOAB IS LIKE A LAMENT ON A HARP. I AM FILLED WITH ANGUISH FOR KIRHARESETH.

**ISAIAH 16:12**

THE PEOPLE OF MOAB WILL WORSHIP AT THEIR PAGAN SHRINES, BUT IT WILL DO THEM NO GOOD. THEY WILL CRY TO THE GODS IN THEIR TEMPLES, BUT NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO SAVE THEM.

**FOR THOSE OF US WHO HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS, WE ARE ABLE TO REJOICE****HAB. 3:17-19**

EVEN THOUGH THE FIG TREES HAVE NO BLOSSOMS, AND THERE ARE NO GRAPES ON THE VINES; EVEN THOUGH THE OLIVE CROP FAILS, AND THE FIELDS LIE EMPTY AND BARREN; EVEN THOUGH THE FLOCKS DIE IN THE FIELDS, AND THE CATTLE BARN ARE EMPTY, YET I'LL REJOICE IN THE LORD! I WILL BE JOYFUL IN THE GOD OF MY SALVATION! THE SOVEREIGN LORD IS MY STRENGTH! HE MAKES ME AS SUREFOOTED AS A DEER, ABLE TO TREAD UPON THE HEIGHTS.

## **WE CAN REJOICE - BECAUSE CHRIST - THE GOOD NEWS - HAS BEEN SHARED WITH US**

### **LUKE 4:17-21**

THE SCROLL OF ISAIAH THE PROPHET WAS HANDED TO HIM. HE UNROLLED THE SCROLL AND FOUND THE PLACE WHERE THIS WAS WRITTEN: "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, FOR HE HAS ANOINTED ME TO BRING GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM THAT CAPTIVES WILL BE RELEASED, THAT THE BLIND WILL SEE, THAT THE OPPRESSED WILL BE SET FREE, AND THAT THE TIME OF THE LORD'S FAVOR HAS COME." HE ROLLED UP THE SCROLL, HANDED IT BACK TO THE ATTENDANT, AND SAT DOWN. ALL EYES IN THE SYNAGOGUE LOOKED AT HIM INTENTLY. THEN HE BEGAN TO SPEAK TO THEM, "THE SCRIPTURE YOU'VE JUST HEARD HAS BEEN FULFILLED THIS VERY DAY!"

## **WE CAN REJOICE – BECAUSE WE GET TO HELP OTHERS EXPERIENCE A LIFE THAT'S FULL OF JOY**

### **ISAIAH 61:3-7**

TO ALL WHO MOURN IN ISRAEL, HE WILL GIVE A CROWN OF BEAUTY FOR ASHES, A JOYOUS BLESSING INSTEAD OF MOURNING, FESTIVE PRAISE INSTEAD OF DESPAIR. IN THEIR RIGHTEOUSNESS, THEY WILL BE LIKE GREAT OAKS THAT THE LORD HAS PLANTED FOR HIS OWN GLORY. THEY WILL REBUILD THE ANCIENT RUINS, REPAIRING CITIES DESTROYED LONG AGO. THEY WILL REVIVE THEM, THOUGH THEY HAVE BEEN DESERTED FOR MANY GENERATIONS. FOREIGNERS WILL BE YOUR SERVANTS. THEY WILL FEED YOUR FLOCKS AND PLOW YOUR FIELDS AND TEND YOUR VINEYARDS. YOU WILL BE CALLED PRIESTS OF THE LORD, MINISTERS OF OUR GOD. YOU'LL FEED ON THE TREASURES OF THE NATIONS AND BOAST IN THEIR RICHES. INSTEAD OF SHAME AND DISHONOR, YOU WILL ENJOY A DOUBLE SHARE OF HONOR. YOU WILL POSSESS A DOUBLE PORTION OF PROSPERITY IN YOUR LAND AND EVERLASTING JOY WILL BE YOURS.

### **ISAIAH 61:8-9**

"FOR I, THE LORD, LOVE JUSTICE. I HATE ROBBERY AND WRONGDOING. I WILL FAITHFULLY REWARD MY PEOPLE FOR THEIR SUFFERING AND MAKE AN EVERLASTING COVENANT WITH THEM. THEIR DESCENDANTS WILL BE RECOGNIZED AND HONORED AMONG THE NATIONS. EVERYONE WILL REALIZE THAT THEY ARE A PEOPLE THE LORD HAS BLESSED."

### **ISAIAH 61:10-11**

I AM OVERWHELMED WITH JOY IN THE LORD MY GOD! FOR HE HAS DRESSED ME WITH THE CLOTHING OF SALVATION AND DRAPED ME IN A ROBE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. I AM LIKE A BRIDEGROOM IN HIS WEDDING SUIT OR A BRIDE WITH HER JEWELS. THE SOVERIGN LORD WILL SHOW HIS JUSTICE TO THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD. EVERYONE WILL PRAISE HIM! HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS WILL BE LIKE A GARDEN IN EARLY SPRING, WITH PLANTS SPRINGING UP EVERYWHERE.