

OLD TESTAMENT  
READINGS &  
DEVOTIONALS



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VOLUME 6

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C.M.H. Koenig Books

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# 1

## Reading: 1 Chronicles 23-24

Reader! I only detain you with the reflection of one interesting thought, which seems to arise out of the perusal of [chapter 23], concerning the Levites. You see how numerous they were in those early ages of the church; and you will, I am sure, think with me, that in the present hour faithful ministers can never be too numerous, in laboring in the word and doctrine. If Jesus, in the days of his flesh, commanded his disciples to pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into his harvest;<sup>1</sup> well may we with earnestness beseech of him, now in compassion to the perishing state of thousands everywhere around, to send forth truly awakened servants of the sanctuary to his service. Lord Jesus, I would say, thou great Bishop of souls! graciously do thou ordain pastors after thine own heart, which shall feed thy people with understanding and knowledge. Let them be such, O Lord, as shall do the work of Evangelists, and make full proof of their ministry. Oh! for the dawn of that glorious day when the watchmen upon the walls of Zion shall see eye to eye!

when the church of Jesus upon earth shall bear some resemblance to the church triumphant in glory. Surely, dearest Jesus, when that hour comes, so faithfully promised, and so devoutly prayed for by the faithful in all ages, under the quickening influences of the Holy Spirit; that hour, that day, when Ethiopia, and Seba, and the multitude of the isles, shall stretch forth their hands unto God: surely, Lord, thou wilt be adored by the redeemed below, in congregations as numerous as the multitude which John saw in heaven, whom no man could number. Lord! hasten the hour in mercy to a lost world; cut short thy work in righteousness, thou that art mighty to save; and bring on the latter day glory, *when the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever. Amen.* (Hawker, Poor Man's Old Testament Commentary: 1 Kings-Esther, 397)

Footnote:

1. Matthew 9:38.

## 2

# Reading: 1 Chronicles 25

My soul! in beholding this goodly company of the singers in the temple, think of him whose praise they celebrated, and sing thy song of redemption also; for he hath called thee out of darkness into his marvelous light. The song they sang is the same as John heard the armies of Israel in heaven sing, and which, neither in heaven nor earth can any sing, but the redeemed. Reader! can you join the happy chorus? Are you of this temple service? Salvation is the joyful sound; and to the Lamb that was slain in the accomplishment of it is, the voice is directed in praise. Precious, precious Lord Jesus! let me daily, hourly, sing of thy love, shout loudly of thy mercy; and here, however faintly, poorly, and with a feeble voice, my notes express the unequalled blessing; still may my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, if I prefer not thee and thy salvation above my chief joy. And wilt not thou, gracious Redeemer, since thou hast purchased me with a price so dear as thy blood, take me at length, when my song is ended upon earth, to sing it anew before thy throne of glory in heaven? (Hawker, Poor Man's Old Testament Commentary: 1 Kings-Esther, 404)

# 3

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## Reading: Psalm 139

*“God, how precious your thoughts are to me ...”* Psalm 139:17

Divine omniscience affords no comfort to the ungodly mind, but to the child of God it overflows with consolation. God is always thinking upon us, never turns aside his mind from us, has us always before his eyes; and this is precisely as we would have it, for it would be dreadful to exist for a moment beyond the observation of our heavenly Father. His thoughts are always tender, loving, wise, prudent, far-reaching, and they bring to us countless benefits: hence it is a choice delight to remember them. The Lord always did think upon his people: hence their election and the covenant of grace by which their salvation is secured; he always will think upon them: hence their final perseverance by which they shall be brought safely to their final rest. In all our wanderings the watchful glance of the Eternal Watcher is evermore fixed upon us – we never roam beyond the Shepherd’s eye. In our sorrows he observes us incessantly, and not a pang escapes him; in our toils he marks all our weariness, and writes in his book all the struggles of his faithful ones. These thoughts of the Lord encompass us in all our paths, and penetrate



the innermost region of our being. Not a nerve or tissue, valve or vessel, of our bodily organization is uncared for; all the littles of our little world are thought upon by the great God.

Dear reader, is this precious to you? then hold to it. Never be led astray by those philosophic fools who preach up an impersonal God, and talk of self-existent, self-governing matter. The Lord liveth and thinketh upon us, this is a truth far too precious for us to be lightly robbed of it. The notice of a nobleman is valued so highly that he who has it counts his fortune made; but what is it to be thought of by the King of kings! If the Lord thinketh upon us, all is well, and we may rejoice evermore. (Spurgeon, *Eve*, Apr 30)

# 4

## Reading: Psalm 143

It is beautiful to observe, how the holy pleader begs for deliverance upon the footing of God's righteousness. Jesus, when he stood as the sinner's surety, did this: and in his name all his people do the same.<sup>1</sup> God's righteousness, as well as God's grace, becomes the plea, when a soul hath an interest in the Redeemer's righteousness. (Hawker, Poor Man's Old Testament Commentary: Job-Psalms, 621)

Footnote:

1. Acts 4:12; Hebrews 7:22.

# 5

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## Reading: 1 Chronicles 26

From the perusal of this Chapter, the ministers of Jesus may derive, under his Spirit's teaching, sweet instruction, to shew with what vigilance they are expected to stand as *porters* in their station. Ye shall be named (saith the prophet) the priests of the Lord. Men shall call you the ministers of our God.<sup>1</sup> Placed at the doors of the house of Jesus, what an eye of vigilance should be open to everyone about to enter; to observe their walk, their life, their conversation, their object, their pursuit, their design. And how to look out and notice the approaches of the enemy, so as to defend the truth from error, and keep back the feet of those who hold the truth in unrighteousness.

From the character and officers represented here under the name of *treasurers*, how sweetly are the Scribes in the gospel, which are well instructed, taught the necessity of bringing out of the gospel treasury to the people, things new and old. Entrusted by Jesus with the charge of his holy word, his ordinances, and all his precious truths in a way of instrumentality; oh! how lovely is the office of those who, from their inexhaustible Storehouse, bring forth con-

tinually to the people the unsearchable riches of Christ. But on the contrary, what an awful abuse of their office do they make, who preach themselves instead of Christ Jesus the Lord.

And let all *officers*, and *judges*, and *magistrates*, from this sweet chapter learn also, that since the temple service with all its appendages were thus appointed, how needful it must be to manifest that they bear not the sword in vain, but by a wise and impartial administration, are counted worthy of double honor.

Lord Jesus! give to all thy servants grace in the several ordinations of thy service, that all, with a single eye to thy glory, may promote thy blessed cause, and set forward the salvation of thy people. (Hawker, Poor Man's Old Testament Commentary: 1 Kings-Esther, 408)

Footnote:

1. Isaiah 61:6; Revelation 1:6; 5:10.