



O give thanks unto the
Lord; for he is good.

—Psalms 136:1



Christian Science Sentinel
Bible Lens

Thanksgiving

2020

Thanksgiving

from the Responsive Reading

I Chronicles 16:8

*Oh, give thanks to the LORD!
Call upon His name;
Make known His deeds among the peoples!*

—New King James Version

At this pivotal moment in Israel's history, the ark of the covenant—the sacred chest holding the Ten Commandments—is at last brought to Jerusalem. Its past has involved years of movement from place to place, as well as its grave loss to the Philistines and eventual recovery (see I Samuel, chaps. 4–6). The ark's arrival in the holy city symbolizes a promise of permanence that will culminate in the building of the Temple. Understandably, this event inspires great thanksgiving and praise to God.

David's outpouring of thanks in I Chronicles 16 is composed of elements of Psalms 105, 96, and 106. This verse is identical to Psalms 105:1.

I Chronicles 16:29

*Give to the LORD the glory due His name;
Bring an offering, and come before Him.
Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of
holiness!*

—New King James Version

A scriptural authority suggests, "The idea of men coming 'before him' took on fresh reality with the arrival of the ark, over which the cloud of God's presence rested." Another source interprets the charge to wor-

ship God, "Worship the Lord for the majesty of [his] holiness."

from Section 1

5 | Deuteronomy 11:1

Love the Lord thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, always.

Moses repeatedly exhorts his people to love and obey Yahweh. His reminders address the rebelliousness they have sometimes expressed (outlined in Deuteronomy 9:7–24) and help offset pagan influences around them. The Hebrew leader follows this admonition with a summary of God's "great acts" on their behalf and His promises for their future (see 11:2–15).

from Section 3

8 | I Kings 4:1, 24

Solomon was king over all Israel. . . . And he had peace on all sides round about him.

Solomon was the son of King David and Bathsheba. David had older sons in line for the throne, but he had promised Bathsheba that Solomon would rule. And though Solomon was known for his wisdom, his writings, and his wealth, sources agree that his crowning achievement was the building of the Temple in Jerusalem.

9 | I Kings 5:2, 5

Solomon sent to Hiram, saying, . . . Behold, I purpose to build an house unto the name of the Lord my God.

An exploration of Bible citations from the *Christian Science Quarterly*® Bible Lessons

“... a lesson on which the prosperity of Christian Science largely depends.” —Mary Baker Eddy

Years earlier, when David became king, he received materials from King Hiram of the Phoenician city of Tyre to build a palace (see II Samuel 5:11). After David’s death, Hiram and Solomon establish a relationship that enables the building of the Temple. As part of their agreement, Hiram provides Solomon with craftsmen and building supplies (including prized cedar from Lebanon), and Solomon gives Hiram wheat and olive oil (see I Kings 5:7–12).

13 | II Chronicles 9:29

Now the rest of the acts of Solomon, first and last, are they not written in the book of Nathan the prophet, and in the prophecy of Ahijah the Shilonite, and in the visions of Iddo the seer against Jeroboam the son of Nebat?

Nathan is the prophet who brought King David the news that he would not be allowed to build a temple to God—and who rebuked David after the king’s sin with Bathsheba (see II Samuel 7:1–17; 12:1–14). Little is known about the seers Ahijah and Iddo, and no writings by these three men have been found.

14 | Colossians 3:15

Let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

Scholars point out that the Greek word rendered *rule* here (*brabeuō*) can mean an umpire’s action. God’s peace settles conflicts of the heart and rules its thoughts and actions.

from Section 4

17 | Matthew 15:32

Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat.

Because this account of feeding four thousand people is so similar to Jesus’ feeding of five thousand (see 14:15–21), some sources assume that they are versions of the same event. In Mark 8:19, 20, however, the Master refers to the two records as separate.

18 | John 21:25

There are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written.

Concluding his Gospel, the author states unequivocally that only a fraction of Jesus’ works are recorded in Scripture. A commentator notes: “Human categories are powerless to describe Christ, and human books are inadequate to hold him. And so [the writing] ends with the innumerable triumphs, the inexhaustible power, and the limitless grace of Jesus Christ.”

Resources quoted in this issue

RR: New King James Version®, copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved; Gaebelien, Frank E., Polcyn, Dick, Patterson, R. D., Austel, Hermann J., Payne, Barton J., Yamauchi, Edwin M., Huey, F. B., Jr., and Smick, Elmer B. *The Expositor’s Bible Commentary: With the New International Version of the Holy Bible, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan Pub. House, 1988; Perowne, John J. S., Kirkpatrick, Alexander F., Chase, Frederic H., Parry, Reginald St. John, and Nairne, Alexander, eds. *The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges.* 58 vols. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1882–1922. Also available at biblehub.com/commentaries.

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Related healing ideas

Thanksgiving

Father, may I rise to know
that higher praise
beyond self-centered gratitude
for mercies given or expected;
that praise which is Your glory
reflected in pure adoration,
in realization of heaven here.

Lord, may my consciousness
be where Your glory touches
and transfigures thought,
teaching a way of life transformed
by grace—
itself a song of praise.

By Nancy L. Holder
From the November 1977 issue of *The
Christian Science Journal*

Thank God

They will not lift, whatever you do,
Those clouds that overshadow you?
Thank God that evil is not true.

Thank God that Love cannot create
Resentment, anger, fear, or hate.
These have no presence, power, or weight.

Thank God that all He makes is good,
And this authentic gratitude
Shall prove Love's father-motherhood.

Thus Truth brings harmony to view
And gently renders all things new.
Thank God that good alone is true.

By Edgar Isaac Newgass
From the June 26, 1948, issue of the
Christian Science Sentinel

Songs of praise

For progress made, for fears allayed,
We offer songs of praise;
For love, and peace, and plenitude
Throughout the Truth-filled days,
For inspiration gained through prayer
When mortal sense is still;
Accept, O God, our thanks for this
The harvest of Thy will.

By Florence Mayer Houghton
From the November 1945 issue of *The
Christian Science Journal*

Gratitude

I think my Father heard me say
I had no time in one short day
To show my thanks sufficiently
For all the good He gives to me,
Because He answered, "You will see,
My child, you have eternity."

By A. Martha Davis
From the September 1944 issue of *The
Christian Science Journal*