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A publication of the...

Churches of Christ

Founder: Christ – Mt. 16:18 Place: Jerusalem – Isa. 2:1-3, Acts 2:5 Time: A.D. 33 – Dan. 2:44, Acts 2 Head: Christ – Eph. 1:22

Organization:

Christ as head – Eph. 5:23 Elders oversee local church – Heb. 13:17, Titus 1:5 Deacons as servants – Acts 6:1-6, 1 Tim. 3:8-13 Members compose body – Col. 1:2

Name (group):

Church of God – Eph. 3:15

Body of Christ – Eph. 1:22-23

Churches of Christ – Rm. 16:16

Bride of Christ – Rm. 7:4

Name (individuals):

Disciples – John 15:8

Saints – Rm. 1:7

Brethren – Lk. 8:21

Children of God - Gal. 4:26

Christian - Acts11:25-26

Creed: Jesus/Bible - Acts 8:37

Rule of Faith & Practice:

Word of God - 2 Tim. 3:16-17

Worship: Jn. 4:24

Sing - Eph. 5:19

Pray - Acts 2:42; 1 Thes. 5:17

Teach - Acts 5:42

Communion - 1 Cor. 1:23-26

Contribute - 1 Cor. 16:1-2

Mission: Save Souls – 1 Tim. 4:16

Warning: Be Faithful – 2 John 9

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The world's last day will be quite eventful. All these things will occur:

- The Lord's return (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18),
- The dead raised (John 5:28-29),
- The living changed (1 Corinthians 15:51),
- The earth burned up (2 Peter 3:10–13),
- Humanity judged (Matthew 25:31–46),
- Kingdom given to God (1 Corinthians 15:24),
- Wicked separated (Matthew 25:41), and the
- Saved go home (1 Thessalonians 4:15–17).

Is that last day near? Some say so. Are they right? How can we know? What can we know? Let's see what the Bible says.

The End Will Come

The world will have an end as surely as it had a beginning (1 Corinthians 15:24; Hebrews 3:6, 14; 2 Peter 3:1-11). Jesus promised to return (John 14:2-3), but each generation has its doubters. Scoffers in Peter's day asked, "Where is the promise of his coming?" (2 Peter 3:4). They thought a long delay meant God had forgotten humanity-if He was there at all. Peter explained that time is irrelevant to God-a thousand years is as a single day (3:8). Promises, however, are important to God. "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise" (3:9). He is faithful (2 Thessalonians 3:3); He cannot lie (Titus 1:2). Thus, "the day of the Lord will come" (2 Peter 3:10).

The End Will Come Unexpectedly

One preacher would ask, "Do you believe Jesus is coming today?" If the person replied "no," he would say, "Then you had better be ready, for He is coming at an hour when you think not!" (Luke 12:40).

No one can predict the world's expiration date. Some things have not been revealed to men. Moses wrote, "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us" (Deuteronomy 29:29). Jesus said, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power" (Acts 1:7; cf. Acts 15:18; 17:26). Jesus repeatedly emphasized: "Of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father" (Mark 13:32; cf. Matthew 24:36, 42, 44, 25:13, 19).

Still, many have tried to set a date (from Wikipedia):

- Montanus' followers, in the second century, sold their belongings and ascended a hill to await Jesus' return. Eventually, police had to disperse them because they resorted to stealing to survive.
- Hippolytus of Rome predicted A.D. 500 based on the dimensions of Noah's ark.
- Pope Sylvester II predicted January 1, 1000. Riots occurred. Pilgrims headed to Jerusalem.



- Pope Innocent III taught it would come 666 years after Islam's rise (1284).
- Martin Luther predicted by 1600.
- Christopher Columbus predicted 1656 in his *Book of Prophecies* (1501).
- Following Isaac Newton's death in 1727 thousands of pages deciphering Bible codes and dates were found. Some estimate he spent twice the time on this as on science. In a twist to common date-setting, he said the end would be no earlier than 2060. He said, "This I mention not to assert when the time of the end shall be, but to put a stop to the rash conjectures of fanciful men."
- William Miller, an upstate New York farmer and founder of Adventism, thought he had found the final day by matching dates on the calendar with the words of Daniel. He calculated the last day to be Sunday, March 21, 1844. His congregation, many in white robes, went to meet Jesus on a rooftop. When He did not come, calculations were revised to October 22, 1844.
- Joseph Smith said Christ would come by 1891.
- Charles T. Russell predicted Jesus' return in 1874. After it passed, he explained that Jesus had come in invisible form to fight a spiritual battle that would close in October 1914. Other Watchtower prophets predicted the "end of the present order of things" for 1918, 1925, 1975, and 1984.
- Herbert W. Armstrong told members of his church a "rapture" was to take place in 1936, and that only they would be saved.
- During World War II, some watched world political events and nuclear armaments involving Europe, Israel, Russia, and America and warned the last days were here. Premillennial leaders were convinced the end would be within one generation (40 years) of Israel's becoming a nation in 1948. Hal Lindsey, for instance, laid it out in the popular book, *The Late Great Planet Earth* (1970). He believed that Jesus would return by 1988 and that after a seven year period of tribulation, Jesus would visibly appear by 1995 to win the Battle of Armageddon and commence a millennial reign.
- Jerry Falwell foresaw God pouring out judgment on the world on January 1, 2000. Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins

- stated the Y2K bug would trigger global economic chaos, which the Antichrist would use to rise to power. As the date approached they recanted.
- Harold Camping gained notoriety by predicting that October 21, 2011, would be the final day. After this failed, Camping admitted in a private interview that he no longer believed anybody could know the time of the end of the world.

With this last statement, we can agree. Jesus had said it long ago.

The End May—or May Not—Be Soon

Everything the Bible said would occur before Jesus' return has happened—e.g., a departure from truth (Acts 20:29; 1 Timothy 4:1–3) and the man of sin revealed (2 Thessalonians 2:3). Jesus could now come at any time.

Then, again, He could wait another thousand years to give more time for souls to be added to His kingdom (2 Peter 3:9).

But what about "the signs of the times" we hear about?

When a famine, earthquake, or war occurs, many see the end just around the corner. This happened with the Gulf War, 9/11, Afghanistan, and Iraq. As wickedness grows, many say the end cannot be far off. It is possible that the end is near, of course, but does the Bible give signs to watch for?

Matthew 24 is the passage often used to assert this doctrine. This chapter answers two questions the disciples asked following Jesus' prediction of the temple's destruction (24:1–3):

- "Tell us, when shall these things [involving the temple] be?"
- "And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" (24:3).

Jesus answered the questions in order. In the first section (24:4–35), He explained signs pertaining to the Roman invasion of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. In the second (24:36–25:46), He plainly stated there would be no signs to precede His return.

To properly interpret Matthew 24, it is imperative to observe what scholars call the chapter's "continental divide" in verse 34: "Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled." "All these things" refers to what He had said up to that point (24:4–33). Everything before verse 34 pertains to that generation—roughly A.D. 30–70. Everything following verse 35 pertains to His second coming.

In which section do some think they find

"signs" of the end of time? The first section, which discusses events that occurred in first century Jerusalem and have nothing to do with a twenty-first century international nuclear conflict. It does mention "the end" (24:6, 13, 14), but this refers to the end of Judaism, not the end of the world. In figurative language, it mentions Christ "coming," but this refers to His coming in judgment on that generation and not His personal return (cf. Matthew 16:28).

The wars, famines, earthquakes, and false Christs that some see as fulfilled in today's newspapers, ancient historians Josephus, Suetonius, Tacitus, and Seneca show occurred in the years leading up to A.D. 70. A simple reading of the text shows the threat was a Roman invasion of Jerusalem:

- The "holy place" (temple) (24:15) in Jerusalem (Luke 21:20) was the target.
- Fleeing to the mountains (24:16) was advised (which Christians dwelling in Jerusalem did when Rome attacked).
- Returning from housetops to take things from houses was forbidden (24:17). Christians had to flee quickly before officials closed the gates and trapped them in the seige. The fastest way was across the "road of roofs" to the edge of town.
- Harsh, outside conditions were considered. They were to pray that they did not have to flee in winter (24:20) and that they would not be pregnant or nursing a child at the time (24:19). This makes sense in a Roman attack, but not for the end of time.
- A Sabbath day invasion was undesirable (24:20) because Christians living in a Jewish city could find the gates locked if they needed to flee on Saturday (cf. Nehemiah 13:19).

It is interesting that people claim to find clues in Jesus' sermon on the end of time that the One who gave it did not know were there! In the middle of the sermon, Jesus said that "of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only" (Matthew 24:36; cf. Mark 13:32).

The important thing is to always be ready for Jesus to return. To get ready one must become a Christian (Acts 8:35–40); to stay ready one must remain faithful (Titus 2:11–13; Revelation 2:10).

If we are ready everyday for Jesus to come someday, then we will be ready any day He chooses!



EMERGENCY

CONTACT NUMBERS

If any of the following situations are happening in your life, please dial the appropriate numbers.

If you are unsure that God loves you, dial John 3:16.

If you need faith, dial Hebrews 11.

If you need comfort, dial 2 Corinthians 1:3-7.

If you are worried, dial Mathew 6:25–34.

If you feel depressed, dial 1 Peter 5:6–7.

If you hear gossip, dial Proverbs 26:22–25.

If you feel overwhelmed by some force, dial 1 John 4:4.

If you are unsure about your current friends, dial 1 Corinthians 15:33.

If you love worldly things in life, dial 1 John 2:15.

If you love money, dial 1 Timothy 6:10.

If you are focused on succeeding in this life, dial Matthew 16:26.

If you want to be fruitful in life, dial John 15:1–11.

If you want advice for your investments, dial Matthew 6:19-21.

If you aren't sure about participating in something, dial Philippians 4:8.

If you are experiencing sorrow or pain, dial Revelation 21:4.

If you are being persecuted, dial Matthew 5:10–12.

If you are being tempted to sin, dial 1 Corinthians 10:13.

If you have sinned, dial 1 John 1:9.

If you feel you can't be forgiven and saved, dial 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.

If you are in trouble and need to be saved, dial 1 Peter 3:21.

All numbers can be dialed directly. If as a Christian you need to speak with someone directly, please bow your head in prayer now. God is standing by.

—Brett Petrillo, Denver, Colorado

"Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness"

PSALM 4:1



Bring the Candles

Abraham Davenport served as the Speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives.

One day in 1789, the sky of Hartford darkened ominously and some of the representatives, glancing out the windows, feared the end was at hand.

Suppressing the uproar for an immediate adjournment, Davenport rose and said, "The Day of Judgment is either approaching or it is not. If it is not, there is no cause for adjournment. If it is, I choose to be found doing my duty. Therefore, I

wish that candles be brought."

The Day of Judgment will one day appear. When it does, how will our Lord find you?

"Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants."

LUKE 12:37-38



God's Grace Christ's Blood The Holy Spirit's Gospel Sinner's Faith Sinner's Repentance Sinner's Confession Sinner's Baptism Christian's Work Christian's Hope Christian's Endurance

Ephesians 2:8 Romans 5:9 Romans 1:16 Acts 16:31 Luke 13:3 Romans 10:10 1 Peter 3:21 James 2:24 Romans 8:24 Revelation 2:10

Home PAGE



The Kind of Dad I'd Buy

If I went shopping for a dad, Here is what I'd buy:

One who would always stop To answer a little boy's "Why?"

One who would always speak kindly To a little girl or boy,

One who would give to others A bit of sunshine and joy.

I'd pick a dad that followed The Bible's Golden Rule,

And one who went regularly To church and Sunday School.

I'd buy the very finest dad To place on our family tree,

And then I'd try to live like him
So he would be happy with me.

—Helen Kitchell Evans

"Honour thy father."
EXODUS 20:12



For more material on the home and family, fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, grandparents, and family finances, go to www.housetohouse.com.



- 1. Remember that thy wife is thy partner and not thy property.
- 2. Do not expect thy wife to be wife and wage earner at the same time.
- 3. Think not that thy business is none of thy wife's business.
- 4. Thou shalt hold thy wife's love by the same means that thou won it.
- 5. Thou shalt make the building of thy home thy first business.
- 6. Thou shalt cooperate with thy wife in establishing family discipline.
- 7. Thou shalt enter into thy house with cheerfulness.

- 8. Thou shalt not let anyone criticize thy wife to thy face and get away with it; neither thy father, nor thy mother, nor thy brethren, nor thy sisters, nor thy children.
- 9. Thou shalt be in subjection to Christ in all things so thy wife may find joy in being in subjection to you.
- 10. Thou shalt keep thy marriage vows with all diligence as a sacred covenant between thee, thy wife, and God.

"Husbands, love your wives."

EPHESIANS 5:25

The Quick-Thinking Usher

An elderly woman walked into the local country church. The friendly usher greeted her at the door and helped her up the flight of steps.

"Where would you like to sit?" he asked politely.

"The front row, please," she answered. "You really don't want to do that," the

"You really don't want to do that," the usher said. "The preacher is really boring."

"Do you happen to know who I am?" the woman inquired.

"No," he said.

"I'm the preacher's mother," she replied indignantly.

"Do you know who I am?" he asked.

"No," she said.

"Good," he answered, and quickly walked away.





Is \$4 Million Enough?

David D. Burns is a psychiatrist who comes in contact with many who suffer from depression.

Dr. Burns once had as a patient a 70-year-old woman whose husband had done to her "something so bad" that she couldn't put up with it, and she wanted a divorce after 50 years of marriage. "Why was she so upset?" he thought. "Has he beaten her or was he an alcoholic?"

She told Dr. Burns, "Last week my husband gave me \$4 million in cash!"

He was dumbfounded, and asked, "When he gave you the money, what were your thoughts?" She said, "If he really loved me, he would have given me \$8 million."

"She felt unloved and poor; she thought her life was not worth living; and she had thoughts of divorce and suicide. Yes, it sounds crazy when it happens to somebody else, but when it happens to you, it seems to make sense," Dr. Burns summarized.

I suppose that there is a tendency with all of us to reflect more on the things which we don't have than to appreciate the things we do have. As a result we become miserable, because there is always someone who is "better off" than we are. We are far richer than the

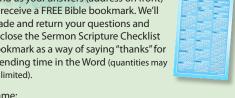


great majority of the world, regardless of how poor we feel. But instead of feeling grateful, we often complain. It doesn't make sense to anyone else, but it seems to make sense to us.

A good dose of 1 Thessalonians 5:18 would be the prescription I would recommend. —John Gipson

To ask a Bible question or view previously answered questions, go to www.HouseToHouse.com.

Send us your answers (address on front) to receive a FREE Bible bookmark. We'll grade and return your questions and enclose the Sermon Scripture Checklist bookmark as a way of saying "thanks" for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited).



Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	

Questions Taken from the King James Version

Answers to Last Issue: O Worship the King! 1. Must, spirit, truth (John 4:24); 2. King, worship (Matthew 2:2); 3. Vain, men (Matthew 15:9); 4. Apostles', bread, prayers (Acts 2:42); 5. First, break bread (Acts 20:7); 6. Men, doubting (1 Timothy 2:8); 7. T (1 Corinthians 11:23); 8. T (1 Corinthians 11:24-26); 9. F (it represents His body, 1 Corinthians 11:23–24); 10. T (1 $\,$ Corinthians 11:26-28); 11. Death, come (1 Corinthians 11:26); 12. Unworthily, damnation (1 Corinthians 11:29); 13. T (1 Corinthians 16:1-2); 14. First, every (1 Corinthians 16:2); 15. Teaching, singing, hearts, Lord (Colossians 3:16); 16. Whatsoever, name (Colossians 3:17); 17. Forsaking, assembling (Hebrews 10:25); 18. Pray, sing (James 5:13); 19. F (Revelation 22:18-19); 20. Praise (Hebrews 13:15).

The Great Judgment Scene

Find answers in: Matthew 25:1–46 and Revelation 20:11–15.

- 1. T/F Nine out of ten virgins remembered to bring extra oil.
- 2. T/F The bridegroom came at midnight.
- 3. "_____therefore, for ye know neither the _____ nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."
- 4. T/F The man going away divided his talents evenly among three servants.
- 5. T/F The man with five talents was able to double his before his master returned.
- 6. "Well done, thou good and _ servant: thou hast been ___ enter thou into the _____ of thy lord."
- 7. "Cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer : there shall be _ and gnashing of __
- 8. T/F When Jesus comes, angels will accompany Him.
- Before Jesus "shall be gathered ___ nations: and he shall them one from another, as a ___ divideth his sheep from the goats."
- 10. T/F The sheep will be put on the left

- hand, and the goats on the right.
- 11. The King shall say, "Inasmuch as ye did it to one of the least of these, ye did it _____ to me."
- 12. T/F The everlasting fire was originally prepared for the devil and his angels.
- 13. T/F Punishment will be short-lived and the wicked will later join the righteous.
- 14. T/F The judgment throne is described as gold in color.
- 15. "And I saw the dead, ____ _____, stand before God; and the _ were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of __: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their _
- 16. T/F Being cast into the lake of fire is called the "second death."
- 17. "Whosoever was not found in the book of _____ was cast into the lake of fire."



Museum Bibles

The Bible is not a museum piece to be admired at a distance and dusted now and again. It is a treasure to be polished. It is a tool to be used. It is a light to be shined. It is a mirror to be viewed. It is a sword to be sharpened, It is a food to be digested.

The poet worded it this way: "These hath God married, and no man shall part, dust on the Bible, and drought in the heart."

It is best to have a specific time each day. Many find it easier to study in the morning (cf. Psalm 88:13; Mark 1:35). God's mercies "are new every morning" (Lamentations 3:23). Some like to study on their lunch hour (Psalm 55:17; Acts 10:9). Others are night owls who focus best at night while it is quiet (Psalm 119:148).

Experiment with different times to see what works best for you. The most important thing is not to own a "museum Bible."

"O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day."

PSALM 119:97

Free Audio Downloads!



- ▶ And the Door Was Shut —Wendell Winkler
- ▶ The Second Coming of Christ —Winford Claiborne
- ▶ The Judgment Day —Johnny Ramsey
- ▶ Preparing for the Time to Come —B. J. Clarke
- ▶ If Jesus Had Come Yesterday —Billy Lambert
- ▶ The World Didn't End Yesterday —Allen Webster

To listen to these and more than 200 others, go to www.HouseToHouse.com/hth/audio



Recommended Resource

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- ☐ I want to learn more about your Bible school and programs.
- ☐ I have a prayer request: _
- ☐ I have a Bible question:
- ☐ I want to know more about what God requires for salvation. Please have someone schedule a personal visit with me.

I want to learn more about the Bible!

Address:

Phone:___

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 Pressure-free . . . work on your own at home.
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Tracts:

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- ☐ **NEW!** Three Books on God's Reading List
- □ **NEW!** Three Tests of Abraham's Faith
- ☐ **NEW!** Distracted Driving on the Straight and Narrow Way
- ☐ The Weeping Preacher
- ☐ The Rooster That Woke Up Peter
- ☐ Does It Make Any Difference Which Church I Attend?
- ☐ Playing Hide-N-Seek with God.
- ☐ This Is Going to Sting a Little
- ☐ Advice to the Grieving
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- ☐ Should Christians Celebrate Christmas as a Holy Day?
- ☐ Babel's Rebels
- ☐ Saving the Church
- ☐ The Kingdom of Christ
- ☐ Kingdom the Same as Church?
- ☐ Don't Fall
- ☐ Beating the Devil

- ☐ Bible's Most Misunderstood Page
- ☐ Are We Rushing Worship?
- ☐ How to Follow Jesus
- ☐ How to Love Your Spouse
- ☐ Heaven Is Four Steps Away (#1)
- ☐ Shall We Gather at the River?
- ☐ Did Jesus Make Intoxicating Wine?
- ☐ Salvation: Who Needs It?
- ☐ If I Don't Preach on Hell
- ☐ In Pursuit of Patience
- ☐ Swift in Running to Mischief
- ☐ The Advantage of Disadvantage
- ☐ Christ's Busiest Week
- ☐ Who's Your Friend? (Youth)
- ☐ My Offering
- ☐ Slow to Anger
- ☐ Back issues of House to House/ Heart to Heart

Christ His Church

The Bible vividly portrays the nature of the church in the various descriptive titles. These show its relationship to Christ and to the world, as well as the relationship of members one to another.

As a Pearl, the church is costly. It is to be "bought" even at the expense of selling all one has (Matthew 13:45–46).

As a Kingdom, it is obedient. Divine law emanates only from King Jesus (Matthew 17:5; 28:18). Efforts of others to bind where the King has loosed or to loose where the King has bound are not tolerated in His kingdom.

As a House, it is orderly. Every stone is fitly framed together as a "spiritual house" (1 Peter 2:5) for a habitation of God (Ephesians 2:22).

As a Flock, it is dependent. The flock is to be fed the pure milk and meat of the word (1 Peter 2:2; Hebrews 5:12; 1 Timothy 4:6). It is dependent on the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls (1 Peter 2:25; John 10).

As a Family, it bears His name (Ephesians 3:15). It is composed of children of God who are joint-heirs with Christ of the heavenly fortune (Romans 8:17).

As a Bride, it is joined to Him in love. The church is subject to Him who loved it and gave Himself for it (Ephesians 5:22–33).

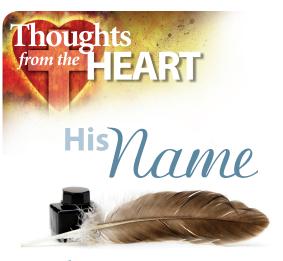
As a Body, it is united. No member is unnecessary, each cares for the other, and all are joined to the Head (1 Corinthians 12:12–27).

Are you a member of it? —Bulletin Digest

"And his name shall be called Wonderful."

ISAIAH 9:6

How many minutes does it take to read each book of the **New Testament** Average readers can read each book of Mark Galatians • Ephesians the New Testament in the number of minutes shown on this chart. **Facts** Total time: 8:57 Number of books: 27 **Number of chapters: 260** Number of verses: 7,956 Read 5 chapters a week to finish the New Testament in a year, or 9 chapters a day to finish in a month!



God gave Jesus a name. In fact, He "highly exalted him" and gave Him a "name which is above every name" (Philippians 2:9). God "set him at his own right hand" far above "every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come" (Ephesians 1:20–21).

Jesus has many "names," in fact.

- To Abraham and Moses He was the great "I AM" (Exodus 3:14; John 8:58).
- To Moses He was "the Passover Lamb" (Exodus 12:21–23; 1 Corinthians 5:7).
- To David He was "the Good Shepherd" (Psalm 23; John 10:11).
- To Solomon He was "the Rose of Sharon" (Song of Solomon 2:1; Isaiah 35:1–2). Since holiness is beautiful (1 Chronicles 16:29), Jesus is the most attractive person ever to live, since He was the holiest (Hebrews 4:15).
- To Job He was "the Kinsman Redeemer" (Job 19:25; Ephesians 1:7; Revelation 5:9).
- To Isaiah He was "the Rock in a weary land" (Isaiah 32:2; 1 Corinthians 10:4; John 7:37).
- To Jeremiah He was "the Lord our Righteousness" (Jeremiah 23:6; 1 Corinthians 1:30).

The psalmist said, "His name shall endure for ever: his name shall be continued as long as the sun: and men shall be blessed in him: all nations shall call him blessed" (Psalm 72:17). —Author Unknown





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