

THE SWORD

June 4, 2023



Psalm 28:7 (KJV)

The LORD is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusted in him,
and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth;
and with my song will I praise him.



Sunday Bible Class: 9:00 A.M.

Sunday Worship Experience: 10:00 A.M.

Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 P.M.

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Word of Week Defiance Genesis 25:18

Hebrew Strong's Number: 5921

Definition: upon, above, over

Synopsis: A preposition meaning upon, over, against, by, to, for. The various nuances of this preposition are wide-ranging, and the context determines its exact meaning and usage. Here are some basics: on, upon (Gen. 1:11, 26; Ex. 20:12; 2 Sam. 4:7); in front of (Gen. 18:8; Ex. 27:21); to, unto plus mî, "to whom" (Jer. 6:10); with zō t or kēn following, it means because of, therefore with respect to, concerning (Gen. 20:3; Ruth 4:7); as or according to (Ps. 110:4); besides or over against (Ex. 20:3); to come on (one's) heart, means to come to mind, to think of (Jer. 3:16); to add to, in addition to (yāsap 'al) (Gen. 28:9; 31:50; Deut. 19:9); it has the sense of with, met with (Ex. 3:18). Other phrases include: ke'al-kōl, according to all (Isa. 63:7); from upon, upon, e.g., a camel (Gen. 2:5; 19:24; 24:64); 'al-beli, that... not (Gen. 31:20); 'al-'ašer, because (Ex. 32:35). It is used to indicate God's provincial care, His hand on ('al) someone (Neh. 2:8); and to indicate a burden on someone (Ex. 5:8; 21:22; Job 7:20; Ps. 42:6; Isa. 1:14). It indicates the thing one speaks about or is concerned with when used with verbs of speaking, hearing (Judg. 9:3; Jer. 16:3). It has the sense of eminence or exaltation, above (Deut. 26:19; Ps. 57:5[6], 11[12]). It indicates what one exercises authority over (Isa. 22:15). It is used in the idiom, to fall asleep, sleep falls on someone (Gen. 2:21; 15:12); and of the activity of the mind setting on ('al) something (2 Sam. 14:1; Jer. 22:17; Mal. 3:13). It is used of an army attacking against ('al) a foe (Gen. 34:25; Deut. 19:11; Amos 7:9).

Person of the Week Laban

Laban (Person). Bethuel's son (Gn 24:24, 29), brother of Rebekah (Gn 24:15, 29), father of Leah and Rachel (Gn 29:16), and the uncle and father-in-law of Jacob. Laban's forebears lived in Ur, but his father, Bethuel, was called the Aramaean of Paddan-aram and Laban also is referred to as the Aramaean (Syrian; Gn 25:20; cf. Gn 28:5). Their hometown was Haran, which was in Syria and which, like Ur, was a center of the worship of the moon god, Sin or Nanna(r).

When Isaac came of age, Abraham sent his servant, Eliezer, back to Haran to find a wife for Isaac. Laban greeted Eliezer hospitably and made provision for him and his camels (Gn 24:29–33, 54). Laban acted as the head of the house; he made the decision concerning Rebekah's marriage to Isaac (24:50, 51), and it was to him and his mother that Eliezer made gifts of costly ornaments (24:53).

Laban figures largely in the narrative of his nephew, Jacob, in his quest for a wife. After the deception of Isaac by Rebekah and Jacob, Rebekah feared that Esau would kill Jacob, so she suggested that he flee to her brother, Laban (Gn 27:43); meanwhile she persuaded Isaac that Jacob should go to Haran to find a wife from among their own people. When Jacob arrived in the area of Haran, he met Rachel, the younger daughter of Laban, and was warmly welcomed (29:13). Laban hired Jacob to tend his flocks, and it was agreed that after seven years of work Jacob would receive Rachel as his wages. At the end of that period Laban substituted Leah, his older daughter. Jacob protested, but the two men finally decided that Jacob should serve another seven years for Rachel.

Both Jacob and Laban were schemers and had serious disputes about wages. Jacob proposed that his wages should be certain of the flocks. When this was accepted, the Lord blessed Jacob and his flocks, and Laban became angry. Jacob claimed that Laban had changed his wages 10 times (31:7, 41).

Jacob fled from Haran. Laban pursued him because he was missing his household gods, whose possession made the holder heir to Laban's estate. Rachel had taken them but adroitly concealed them from her father's search.

Laban and Jacob parted after making a covenant of peace and erecting a pillar of stones to serve as a witness between them (Gn 31:46–50).

Minister's Minutes Grow Up

"And ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall." Mal. 4:2

Yes, when the sun shines, the sick quit their chambers, and walk abroad to breathe the fresh air. When the sun brings spring and summer, the cattle quit their stalls, and seek pasture on the higher Alps. Even thus, when we have conscious fellowship with our Lord, we leave the stall of despondency, and walk abroad in the fields of holy confidence. We ascend to the mountains of joy, and feed on sweet pasturage which grows nearer Heaven than the provender of carnal men.

To "go forth" and to "grow up" is a double promise. O my soul, be thou eager to enjoy both blessings! Why shouldst thou be a prisoner? Arise, and walk at liberty. Jesus saith that His sheep shall go in and out and find pasture; go forth, then, and feed in the rich meadows of boundless love.

Why remain a babe in grace? Grow up. Young calves grow fast, especially if they are stall-fed; and thou hast the choice care of thy Redeemer. Grow, then, in grace, and in the knowledge of thy Lord and Saviour. Be neither straitened nor stunted. The Sun of Righteousness has risen upon thee. Answer to His beams, as the buds to the natural sun. Open thine heart, expand and grow up into Him in all things.

Announcements

- Let us keep all those who have lost loved ones in our thoughts and prayers.
- We would like to wish a happy birthday and/or anniversary to everyone who is celebrating this week.
- National Youth Conference will be July 8-13, 2023 at the University of South Carolina Upstate in Spartanburg, SC for \$325 per person. Special Collections June 11 and 18, 2023.
- Church Zoom Information for Sunday School, Sunday Worship and Adult Wednesday Night Class:
Meeting ID: 915 0578 2664 Password: 859242 Call In Number: 1-346-248-7799
- Youth Midweek Bible Study Zoom Link: **Meeting ID: 851 7396 0683**
- **RESUME: June 11, 2023 at 7:30PM** - How to Study the Bible Class: **Zoom Information - Meeting ID: 994 1559 2898 Password: Jesus**

Continuous Announcements

- Every 2nd Sunday Marsalis Avenue host a Zoom Grief Support Meeting at 4PM (Meeting ID: 880 4065 3591, Passcode: 411521)
- California Avenue Church of Christ in Bakersfield, CA host a Sunday Evening Spiritual Encouragement Hour each week on Zoom at 7:30PM central time (Meeting ID: 875 1387 3553, Passcode: 1020cal#)

What is the Plan of Salvation?

I Peter 1:20 (NASB) says, “For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you.” Before God said let there be light, the plan for mankind’s salvation had already been created by the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Before God formed man from the dust of the earth, the heavenly trinity had already established a plan for the redemption of mankind. Before God beheld that all He created was “very good” and decided to rest on the seventh day, the Godhead formulated a mystery that would be revealed to reunite mankind with God. We must be thankful to God that His love for us reached back before there was an us. In knowing this, we should follow after the WORD that was made flesh and dwelt amongst us without hesitation. Jesus the Christ is everything that we need (II Peter 1:2–4).

Hear the Gospel of Jesus the Christ (Romans 10:14). One must hear the glorious message that Jesus the Christ sacrificially died for the penalty of our sin, and that he was raised from the dead by the power of God.

Believe in Jesus the Christ (Hebrews 11:6). One must believe that Jesus was more than just a man, but the Christ.

Repent in the name of Jesus the Christ (Luke 24:46–47). Repentance is required; however, it is not said to take away sin, but rather it produces in us a desire to be vindicated by Jesus the Christ.

Confess that Jesus the Christ is the Son of God (Acts 8:36–37). A person must be willing to make the greatest proclamation ever known to mankind, and that is Jesus the Christ is the Son of God.

Be baptized for the remission of sins in the name of Jesus the Christ (Acts 2:38). Baptism is not a sign of salvation, but rather a New Testament requirement for salvation. The action emulates our Lord and Savior’s death, burial and resurrection.

Being faithful until death like Jesus the Christ (Philippians 2:4–8). If we stay faithful to God’s will, God’s word and God’s way, we will have a home not made with hands awaiting us some day.

What is the Plan of Salvation? How do I become a Christian?

The Answer: JESUS the CHRIST

