

ADVOCATE

D&C 43:3-5

with the father

Prince
of
PEACE
ISAIAH 9:6

LORD
of Hosts
2 NEPHI 16:3

THE Alpha
&
Omega
REVELATION 21:6

ISAIAH 9:6

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

See also: Isaiah 32:17, John 14:27, D&C 59:23

"Peace can come to an individual only by an unconditional surrender -- surrender to him who is the Prince of Peace, who has the power to confer peace."

{Howard W. Hunter}

"Peace is a gift. We don't determine the conditions upon which this gift is given. Our Father in Heaven sets the terms. Sometimes we become so focused on our quest for peace that we forget it is one of the fruits of a righteous life. Our best course for finding peace is to live righteously—to keep our covenants. This is the only course that leads to that inner peace we all desire. The adversary would tempt us to put all our efforts into directions other than a righteous life in our search for peace, but if we do this we will be disappointed in the end. True peace comes only from the Lord as a result of our righteous lives. ... No matter how daunting the challenges in our lives or in the world around us, we know we can have peace through the power of the infinite Atonement because Christ overcame the world."

{Paul V. Johnson, Where Can I Turn For Peace, April 2013}

FOR THOUGHT:

Read Quentin L. Cook's talk Personal Peace: The Reward of Righteousness from April 2013 General Conference

REVELATION 21:6

And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

See also: Revelation 1:8, Revelation 22:13, 3 Nephi 9:18



In the Bible dictionary we read that these letters are often applied as descriptive names of the all-encompassing nature of Christ, being the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

"These letters from the Greek suggest the universal role of Jesus from the beginning of the world to its end. But he ought to be Alpha and Omega in the particular as well—our personal beginning and our individual end—that model by which we shape our journey of three score years and ten, and the standard by which we measure it at its conclusion.

In every choice we make, he ought to be our point of reckoning, our charted course, our only harbor ahead. He should be for us individually what he is for all men collectively—the very brackets of existence, the compass of our privilege. We should not stray outside him. We should not want to try. "

{Jeffrey R. Holland, Whom Say Ye That I Am?, September 1974}

FOR THOUGHT:

Why is it suggested that we pray morning and night -- at the beginning and end of our day? How is that significant?

D&C 45:3-5

Listen to him who is the advocate with the Father, who is pleading your cause before him—

Saying: Father, behold the sufferings and death of him who did no sin, in whom thou wast well pleased; behold the blood of thy Son which was shed, the blood of him whom thou gavest that thyself might be glorified ;

Wherefore, Father, spare these my brethren that believe on my name, that they may come unto me and have everlasting life.

See also: Mosiah 15 8-9, D&C 29:5

advocate

{noun ad-vuh-kit}

1. one that pleads the cause of another; specifically: one that pleads the cause of another before a tribunal or judicial court
2. a person who pleads for or in behalf of another; intercessor.

"It is of great significance to me that I may at any moment and in any circumstance approach through prayer the throne of grace, that my Heavenly Father will hear my petition, that my Advocate, him who did no sin, whose blood was shed, will plead my cause. ... I rely heavily on that access to God, which he gives to all his children, for he is indeed no respecter of persons, and he that asks shall receive."

{D. Todd Christofferson, I Know in Whom I Have Trusted, May 1993}

FOR THOUGHT:

Why do we pray "in the name of Jesus Christ"?

2 NEPHI 16:3

And one cried unto another, and said: Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of Hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.

See also: 2 Kings 6:15-17, D&C 84:88

Also seen in the scriptures as Lord of Sabaoth, Sabaoth meaning hosts. According to the Bible Dictionary, The Lord of Sabaoth was a title of Jehovah; the hosts were the armies of Israel, but also included the angelic armies of heaven.

"The title 'Lord of hosts' is so important that it is found some 250 times in the Old Testament; Isaiah alone used the term about fifty times. This title, then, is a frequent reminder that the Lord has hosts of angels. ... The Lord of hosts of angels refers to immense numbers. ... For example, Lehi envisioned 'God sitting upon his throne, surrounded with numberless concourses of angels' (1 Nephi 1:8). Two passages of scripture—Hebrews 12:22 and Doctrine and Covenants 76:67—use the expression 'an innumerable company of angels.' Furthermore, John the Revelator recorded:

And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne . . . : and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands. [Revelation 5:11]

Indeed, ten thousand times ten thousand angels, which equals 100 million, symbolizes a great number. To sum up, there are numberless concourses of angels, an innumerable company of angels, and hosts of angels—all of whom are in the service of our Lord and God."

{Donald W. Parry, Angels, Chariots, and the Lord of Hosts, BYU Speeches, July 2012}

FOR THOUGHT:

Angels serve as protective and reassuring forces for the righteous. Read the story of Elisha in 2 Kings 6:15-17

THE GOOD
SHEPHERD
JOHN 10:11

the true
VINE
JOHN 15:5

THE
Light
OF THE
WORLD
JOHN 8:12

the
WAY
the
Life & the
JOHN 14:6

JOHN 15:4-5

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

See also: 1 Nephi 15:15, John 15:1

"Years ago I took a botany class at BYU. The professor described a problem that sometimes occurs with sweet cherry trees. Apparently, there are times when they look fully mature, are beautifully shaped, and have complete foliage, but they don't bear fruit. As I remember, he said that there are times when the sugar that sets fruit does not stay in the branches but goes to the roots instead. If this has occurred, then it may be necessary to 'shock' the tree by upsetting the cambium layer in the tree trunk so that the sugar will stay in the top of the tree and set fruit.

We students asked how one does this. The professor told us we could carefully cut into the bark with a knife or we could shoot the tree with a small-caliber firearm. (Apparently, years ago some farmers did this.) Or we could beat the bark with a baseball bat. He said if we did beat the bark with a bat, we should do it after dark so our neighbors wouldn't see us.

Well, I decided to try shocking the tree because I had a seven-year-old sweet cherry tree that would not bear fruit. So I got out my bat, waited until dark, and 'carefully' tapped the bark around the base of the tree—then waited for the results. And results I got. The leaves began to wilt, turn yellow and then brown, and finally fall to the ground. I had completely girdled the tree, which totally cut off the branches from the roots. The tree died.

My purpose is not to illustrate that a little knowledge can be a dangerous thing—though in my case it was. Rather, my purpose is to illustrate the devastation that results when branches are cut off from their roots. When this occurs, nourishment cannot flow from the roots to the branches. Similarly, if we cut ourselves off from the Holy Ghost, our source of spiritual nourishment, we experience spiritual devastation.

{Steven C. Baugh, The Parable of the Cherry Tree, BYU Speeches, May 2010}

FOR THOUGHT:

Why do we need the constant companionship of the Holy Ghost?
How can we enjoy the constant companionship of the Holy Ghost?

JOHN 14:6

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

See also: 2 Nephi 31:20-21, Acts 4:12

"One of the most popular and attractive philosophies of men is to live life your own way, do your own thing, be yourself, don't let others tell you what to do. But the Lord said, 'I am the way.' He said, 'Follow me.' He said, 'What manner of men ought ye to be? Verily I say unto you, even as I am.' ...

The Lord's way is not hard. Life is hard, not the gospel. There is an opposition in all things, everywhere, for everyone. Life is hard for all of us, but life is also simple. We have only two choices. We can either follow the Lord and be endowed with His power and have peace, light, strength, knowledge, confidence, love, and joy, or we can go some other way, any other way, whatever other way, and go it alone—without His support, without His power, without guidance, in darkness, turmoil, doubt, grief, and despair. And I ask, which way is easier? ...

Get on the path and never, ever give up. You never give up. You just keep on going. You don't quit, and you will make it. There is only one way to happiness and fulfillment. Jesus Christ is the Way."

{Lawrence E. Corbridge, The Way, October 2008}

FOR THOUGHT:

What truths must we know in order to stay on the path to salvation and eternal life?

JOHN 10:14

I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

See also: 1 Nephi 22:25, Mosiah 26:21

When I was a very small boy, my father found a lamb all alone out in the desert. The herd of sheep to which its mother belonged had moved on, and somehow the lamb got separated from its mother, and the shepherd must not have known that it was lost. Because it could not survive alone in the desert, my father picked it up and brought it home. To have left the lamb there would have meant certain death, either by falling prey to the coyotes or by starvation because it was so young that it still needed milk. ... My father gave the lamb to me, and I became its shepherd.

For several weeks I warmed cow's milk in a baby's bottle and fed the lamb. We became fast friends. ... It began to grow. My lamb and I would play on the lawn. Sometimes we would lie together on the grass and I would lay my head on its soft, woolly side and look up at the blue sky and the white billowing clouds. I did not lock my lamb up during the day. It would not run away. It soon learned to eat grass. I could call my lamb from anywhere in the yard by just imitating as best I could the bleating sound of a sheep. ...

One night there came a terrible storm. I forgot to put my lamb in the barn that night as I should have done. I went to bed. My little friend was frightened in the storm, and I could hear it bleating. I knew that I should help my pet, but I wanted to stay safe, warm, and dry in my bed. I didn't get up as I should have done. The next morning I went out to find my lamb dead. A dog had also heard its bleating cry and killed it. My heart was broken. I had not been a good shepherd or steward of that which my father had entrusted to me. My father said, 'Son, couldn't I trust you to take care of just one lamb?' My father's remark hurt me more than losing my woolly friend. I resolved that day, as a little boy, that I would try never again to neglect my stewardship as a shepherd if I were ever placed in that position again.

Not too many years thereafter I was called as a junior companion to a home teacher. There were times when it was so cold or stormy and I wanted to stay home and be comfortable, but in my mind's ear I could hear my little lamb bleating, and I knew I needed to be a good shepherd and go with my senior companion. In all those many years, whenever I have had a desire to shirk my duties, there would come to me a remembrance of how sorry I was that night so many years ago when I had not been a good shepherd.

{President James E. Faust}

FOR THOUGHT:

Read the Parable of the Lost Sheep in Luke 15:3-7 and consider:

"When Christ died, He died for you individually, as much as if you had been the only man [or woman] in the world."

{C S Lewis, Mere Christianity}

"However late you think you are, however many chances you think you have missed, however many mistakes you feel you have made, or talents you think you don't have, or however far from home and family and God you feel you have travelled, I testify that you have not travelled beyond the reach of divine love."

{Paul V. Johnson, Where Can I Turn For Peace, April 2013}

JOHN 8:12

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

See also: D&C 50:24-25

"As you appropriately seek for and apply unto the spirit of revelation, I promise you will 'walk in the light of the Lord' (Isaiah 2:5; 2 Nephi 12:5). Sometimes the spirit of revelation will operate immediately and intensely, other times subtly and gradually, and often so delicately you may not even consciously recognize it. But regardless of the pattern whereby this blessing is received, the light it provides will illuminate and enlarge your soul, enlighten your understanding (see Alma 5:7; 32:28), and direct and protect you and your family."

{David A. Bednar, The Spirit of Revelation, April 2011}

"As we follow the teachings of Jesus Christ, He is the light. One of his names is 'the Light.' As we follow His example and live according to His teachings, there is illumination for all the aspects of our life. To the degree that we reject Him and reject His teachings, we're on our own. I'd much prefer to follow His light. I know when there is a power beyond my own that comes from God to me and through me, which is the spirit of revelation."

{David A. Bednar, Patterns of Light: Spirit of Revelation}

FOR THOUGHT:

Watch Elder David A. Bednar's "Patterns of Light" videos:

<https://www.lds.org/media-library/video/2012-01-010-patterns-of-light-the-light-of-christ>

<https://www.lds.org/media-library/video/2012-01-011-patterns-of-light-discerning-light>

<https://www.lds.org/media-library/video/2012-01-012-patterns-of-light-spirit-of-revelation>