

**May 2026  
Volume 5**

HRS

MIN

SEC

**C L : O S : E R**

**MONTHLY BIBLE READING**

# DAY 122

1 Chr. 16 • Ps. 106 • Matt. 19

## Scripture Reading

Praise Comes from Memory

### Psalm 106

#### TODAY'S FOCUS

Then they believed his promises and sang his praise. But they soon forgot what he had done and did not wait for his plan to unfold. Psalm 106:12-13

The quality, duration, and intensity of our praise and worship directly correlate to our memory and interpretation of our experiences. If we see ourselves as the master of our destiny, we leave very little room for praise and worship of God. How can we praise a God we don't really need? In Psalm 106, the Psalmist begins with a statement of praise and then a prayer for personal help. The Psalmist then pivots to recounting the things God has done in the past for his ancestors from the time they left Egypt to his faithfulness in the wilderness.

Psalm 106 lists the works of God. He delivered the Israelites from Egypt through the Red Sea, saved them from their adversaries, punished them for their rebellion against Moses and Aaron, prevented the disobedient elders from entering the Promised Land, punished them for sacrificing their children to false gods, and delivered them into the hands of their enemies to rule over them. In the midst of all this, the Psalmist declares the mercy and love of God.

Throughout Psalm 106, we see God's people rightfully deserved punishment for their rebellion as they discarded God and served idols. Nevertheless, when they humbled themselves and prayed, He delivered them.

As we think about our lives, we will probably see a direct correlation between times of rebellion and the judgment of God. It is through acknowledgment of the holiness and power of God that we can see God's goodness and grace when he chooses not to destroy us or give us the full discipline we deserve. How many times have we deserved punishment but God only gave us a fraction of what we deserved?

## Prayer

***Gracious God, we sin against you all too often. But your grace and mercy abound in our lives, so we don't need to be afraid. And for that we give thanks.***

***Amen.***

#### NOTES

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# DAY 144

1 King 9 • 2 Chronicles 8  
Psalm 136 • Romans 5

## Scripture Reading

Counting Our Blessings

### Psalm 136

#### TODAY'S FOCUS

He remembered us in our low estate . . . His love endures forever. — Psalm 136:23

“Count your blessings, name them one by one. . . .” These words are part of an old hymn Christians have sung for more than 100 years, and the message is still important today. Central to the pilgrim journey we travel is taking stock of the gifts God has given us.

Psalm 136 has reminded people of this fact for well over 2,000 years, and it urges us to remember God’s goodness in community. In this Psalm we can see a clear call-and-response format. As God’s people sang this psalm together, a worship leader would sing the first phrase, and the people would respond with the refrain “His love endures forever.” Again and again they would recount what God had done for them—from freeing them, to feeding them, to remembering them. And as they counted their blessings, they would say, “His loves endures forever.”

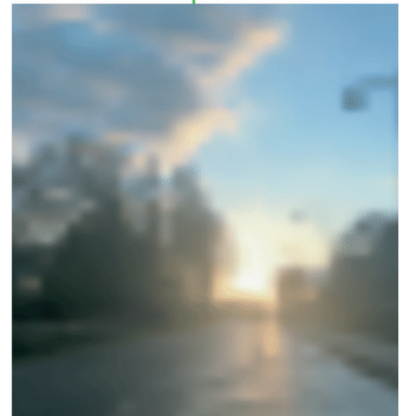
When God’s people gather to worship, we see echoes of this psalm’s graceful rhythms. The wonders of God’s grace and forgiveness are declared, and the people sing songs of thanksgiving. The good news that Jesus saves and that God’s Spirit is at work among us is preached, and the people commit themselves to grateful service. At the end of the worship time, God’s promise of blessing is spoken over his people, and they receive it joyfully with an “Amen.”

With whom will you join to count your blessings today?

## Prayer

*Gracious God, we often try to seize for ourselves what you delight to offer as a gift. Help us to look today to Christ, who has already paid the price of your blessing for us.*

*Amen.*



#### NOTES

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# DAY 150

Proverbs 13-15 • Romans 11

## Scripture Reading

Part of God's Family Tree

**Romans 11:13-24, 33-36**

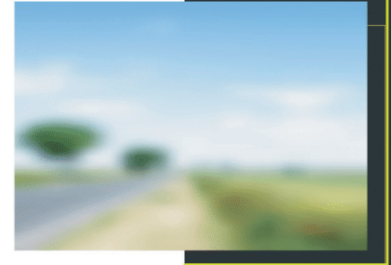
### TODAY'S FOCUS

**You, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others. . . .**  
— Romans 11:17

In our reading today, the apostle Paul is talking about his own people, Israel, as an olive tree rooted and cultivated by God, and he is speaking to Gentiles, people from all other nations besides Israel.

We all need tangible ways to picture what God is doing with us in the story of salvation, and this passage is like a forest of many images that relate to trees, branches, roots, sap, and grafting to help us understand God's purposes. Although this chapter is rather difficult on some levels, even a basic reading of the verses shows that God is eager to take on the challenge of integrating wild branches with a cultivated rootstock, which is not the usual practice. It's typical to attach a cultivated branch to the root of a wild tree, because a wild rootstock is usually more hardy and a cultivated branch usually produces more fruit.

But we can see that by reversing the process, God has the power to sustain the weaker root and will also insert weaker branches, which will still, because of His kindness and mercy, result in a vibrant, fruitful tree. God not only includes strong, able people, but He also shows a preference for weak and unlikely candidates. God will even go so far as to graft a broken branch in again.



We don't know why God chooses to gather His people this way, but for all of us who feel weak, disabled, left behind, or inadequate, this passage offers profound hope. God can and will include us in the big story of His never-ending love.

## Prayer

***Father, thank you for patiently waiting for us to come home to you. As you run toward us, we run toward your arms ready to embrace us.***

***Amen.***

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# DAY 151

Proverbs 13-15 • Romans 11

## Scripture Reading

Are You TransFORMED  
or ConFORMED?

**Romans 12: 1-2, 9-21**

### TODAY'S FOCUS

**Therefore, I urge you, brothers, and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing, and perfect will. — Romans 12: 1-2**

The book of Romans was a letter the Apostle Paul wrote to the new church in Rome. In Romans 12, Paul describes how a Christian should live and urges the Church, then and now, to offer our lives to God, holy and sacrificially, to please Him. He reminds us that because of God's mercy towards us, He is worthy and deserving of our "true and proper worship."

Paul cautions that we should not be conformed to this world. Being CONFORMED means being molded, or to become just like something else--to take on its shape. Instead, Paul challenges us to be TRANSFORMED, which from the Greek means to actually "change form"--to take on a new nature and become something completely different. I Peter 1:14 tells us, ". . . do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance." Praise God, we no longer have to live in ignorance! God has given us a manual (the Bible) and a Counselor (the Holy Spirit) so we can have transformed minds with new defaults.

Many people only see Jesus as a savior. However, have you surrendered to Jesus as your Lord--defined as a master having influence, to whom obedience and service is due? Are your thoughts, preferences, actions, reactions, attitudes, and words transformed by God? Or are they conformed to the world and popular culture?

## Prayer

*God, we are grateful! You sacrificed your Son for us to have abundant and eternal life. We want to live transformed lives, surrendered to You as our Lord because we owe You everything. If we live by the instructions in Your Word, we can have joyous lives in the center of Your perfect will, no matter what tests and trials we face. We thank you!*

*Amen.*

### NOTES

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