

Giving Thanks in Old Testament

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BIG SANDY, Texas—One of the greatest sins in this life is the sin of ingratitude. Our loving Father wants His children to express thankfulness to Him and to each other.

There are many scriptures that mention the importance of giving thanks to God. Let's look at a few verses from the Old Testament about this important quality.

Remember God

As we enjoy meditating about the many blessings (physical and spiritual) in our lives, let's be sure that we continue to give our appreciation back to God.

Deuteronomy 8:10-14—"When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you. Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, lest—when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them; and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage."

Ezra 3:11—"And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD: 'For He is good, for His mercy endures forever toward Israel.' Then all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid."

Psalms 100:1-5—"Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; come before His presence with singing. Know that the LORD, He is God; it is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name. For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations."

Psalm 105:1-4—"Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works! Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the LORD! Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face evermore!"

Psalm 106:1-2—"Praise the LORD! Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD? Who can declare all His praise?"

Appreciate people

It is important in this life that we make a habit of the action of showing appreciation to people in our lives.

I realize that we do not all have the same circumstances in our lives. We do not have the same quality of relationships in our lives. (If you are struggling with the loss of support from family, notice how you may have support from friends.)

As you read the following verses, I hope you will see family and friends who are a blessing to you.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12—"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up. Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; but how can one be warm alone? Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken."

Proverbs 18:24—"A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."