

Seek & Search & Rescue

1 Peter 5:8 your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, **seek**ing whom he may devour:

Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Jesus said...

Matt 7: 7 Ask, and it shall be given you; **seek**, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: 8 For every one that askes receives; and he that seeks finds; and to him that knocks it shall be opened.

So, Let's Pray!

Jesus also said...

John 5: 39 **Search the scriptures**; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me

Job 11: 7 Canst thou by **searching** find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? 8 It is as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know? 9 The measure thereof is longer than the earth, and broader than the sea.

Romans 11:33 **O the depth of the riches** both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how un**search**able are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

We can't search God, but He can search us.

Psa 139:1] O lord, thou hast **search**ed me, and known me. 2 You know my sitting-down and my rising-up, you understand my thought afar off.

6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.

7 **Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?** 8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there... 9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; 10 Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

23 **Search** me, **O God, and know my heart**: try me, and know my thoughts:

24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Jeremiah 17: 9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

10 **I the LORD search the heart**, I try the reins, even to **give** every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Deut 4:29

if from thence thou shalt **seek** the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.

Jeremiah 29:13 And **ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.** 14 **And I will be found of you,** vs11 **For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD**, thoughts of peace, and not of evil,

Isaiah 55: 6 **Seek ye the LORD while he may be found**, call ye upon him while he is near: 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Acts 17:27 That **they should seek the Lord**, if haply they might feel after him, though he be not far from every one of us: for in him we live and move and have our being.

God has been searching for us since the beginning of this world. Adam, where are you? Mankind has also been searching, often for the wrong things in all the wrong places. Sutter's Mill seemed to be the right place. Gold! Found right there in the river. The 1848 Gold Rush! Thousands flocked to California, searching for wealth and happiness.

Num 13:1] And **the LORD spake unto Moses**, saying, **2 Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan**, which I give unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, every one a ruler among them.

Different story in Deuteronomy 1:

22 And **ye came near unto me every one of you, and said, We will send men before us, and they shall search us out the land**, and bring us word again by what way we must go up, and into what cities we shall come. 23 And the saying pleased me well: and I took twelve men of you, one of a tribe:

12 men sent on a reconnaissance mission. Among them: **Caleb** (Judah), **Joshua** (Ephraim) brought back a GOOD report; other 10: Giants! We're grasshoppers. No way!

24 And they turned and went up into the mountain, and came unto the valley of Eshcol, and searched it out. 25 And they took of the fruit of the land in their hands, and brought it down unto us, and brought us word again, and said, It is a good land which the LORD our God doth give us.

26 Notwithstanding ye would not go up,

“Oh, that we had died in the wilderness! You have brought us out here to kill us!”

40 days they spent spying out the land, so 40 years they would spend dying in the wilderness in answer to their prayer. Only 2, from that generation, entered into the land. Caleb (now 85) said, give me the mountain with the giants.

Joshua also in his 80's takes over for Moses and becomes the leader.

They are ready to cross over Jordan from Moab onto the plains of Jericho.

Time to search out the land...again. This time a different search with only two! A good report!

Joshua 2 tells the story. “Spy secretly, go view the land, even Jericho.” So, they did.

went right into Jericho to stay at Harlot Rahab's House in the “red cord” district on the city wall.

King of Jericho was informed of their arrival, and ordered Rahab to “Bring forth the men...for they have come to SEARCH out the country.”

Rescue x 2

Rahab hides them and then lies to the king. “I didn't know who they were, and they have already left the city. Quick, go after them and you'll catch them!”

OK, the coast is clear.

You can come out from under the flax. I know that Jehovah has given this land to you. We've heard all about your crossing the Red Sea on dry ground, and we saw you come across the Jordan river as the waters parted; we've heard how you utterly destroyed the Amorites. Our hearts melt and now there is no courage in anyone. Jehovah your God is God in heaven above and the earth beneath!

So, now that I have shown you kindness in saving your lives, show kindness to me and my family by saving ours. Give me a true token [Hebrew: oath] that you will do this. “Our lives for yours.”

Rahab rescued the spies; the spies rescue Rahab.

She lowers them out of her window on a scarlet cord. And that becomes the sign, the mark of her deliverance. "Bind this scarlet thread in your window, and all who are in your house shall be saved."

Like the mark placed on the forehead of those who cry and sign for the abominations in Ezekiel 9. The man dressed in linen (a priest) with a writer's inkhorn by his side, searches for those in the city who grieve over its sins. They are spared.

The account in Joshua doesn't tell us the names of these two spies, but it is quite possible that one of them might be the one name Salmon in Matthew 1:5, the father of Boaz and husband of Rahab.

Then Boaz, like his father, married Ruth, the Moabitess. Both father and son married women from outside Israel. Hosea 2:23 records this: "I will say to them which were **not my people**, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God."

That's what Ruth said. "Thy people shall be my people, and thy God, my God."

The desire to SEEK after God, to SEARCH for "Him whom my soul loveth" continued in line of Boaz. His son, Obed, had a son named Jesse, who had a son named David who wrote a lot of songs:

Psalms 34:7 The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. 8 O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him. 9 O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him. 10 ...they that **seek** the LORD shall not want any good thing.

David's final words to Solomon: 1Chr 22:

19 Now set your heart and your soul to **seek** the LORD your God; arise therefore, and build ye the sanctuary of the LORD God.

Solomon finished building the House of the Lord, took 20 years, and at the dedication he prayed. God appeared to him that night in a dream and said: I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice. 14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and **seek** my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. 2Chr 7:12-14

But it was the final Son of David who came to "seek and to save that which was lost."

He is the Good Shepherd, who gave his life for the sheep, leaving the 90 and 9, and searches for the lost one.

Ezekiel 34:11 I, even I, **will both search my sheep, and seek them out**. 12 As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep,

16 **I will seek that which was lost**, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick:

And here we are today. People are still seeking. But the time is coming when seeking time will end. Amos 8:11 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: 12 And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, **they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD**, and shall not find it.

Malachi 3:1 **the LORD, whom ye seek**, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. 2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: 3 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons

of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness. So...

Matt 6:33 **seek ye first** the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matt 13:45 the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, **seek**ing goodly pearls: 46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

Are we seeking goodly pearls? Gems of truth in the Word of God?
Or is Jesus seeking goodly pearls to place in His kingdom?

Yes.

John 4:23 the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father **seek**eth such to worship him.

Col 3:1] If ye then be risen with Christ, **seek those things which are above**, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.