

“The Path Of Life”

“I beg your pardon,
I never promised you a rose garden.
Along with the sunshine,
There's gotta be a little rain sometimes.”

- **Lynn Anderson**

Is everything sad going to come untrue? - **Samwise Gamgee**

We live in a post apocalyptic world

Genesis 3:24 He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

Romans 8:20 For the **creation was subjected to futility**, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, **in hope**

2Timothy 3:1 But **understand this**, that in the **last days there will come times of difficulty**.

1Peter 4:12 Beloved, **do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you**.

Acts 14:21 When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch,

Acts 14:22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, **encouraging them to continue in the faith**, and **saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God**.

Matthew 24:3 As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, **“Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”**

Matthew 24:4 And Jesus answered them, **“See that no one leads you astray**.

Matthew 24:5 For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and **they will lead many astray.**

Matthew 24:6 And you will hear of **wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed**, for **this must take place**, but the end is not yet.

Matthew 24:7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be **famines and earthquakes in various places.**

Matthew 24:8 All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

Matthew 24:9 "Then **they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death**, and **you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake.**

Matthew 24:10 And then **many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.**

Matthew 24:11 And **many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.**

Matthew 24:12 And because **lawlessness will be increased**, the **love of many will grow cold.**

Matthew 24:13 **But the one who endures to the end will be saved.**

Matthew 24:14 And this **gospel of the kingdom** will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and **then the end will come.**

Romans 8:23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, **groan inwardly as we wait** eagerly for adoption as sons, **the redemption of our bodies.**

John 14:27 **Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.**

John 16:33 I have said these things to you, that ***in me* you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."**

Longterm forecast - bright & secure

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “**Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.**”

Revelation 21:4 **He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”**

Revelation 21:5 And he who was seated on the throne said, “**Behold, I am making all things new.**” Also he said, “**Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.**”

John 14:1 “**Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.**”

John 14:2 In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that **I go to prepare a place for you?**

John 14:3 And if **I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.**

Hebrews 11:13 These all **died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them** and greeted them from afar, and **having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.**

Threats to living in exile with peace and joy

Psalms 16:11 You make known to me **the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “**I am the way, and (I am) the truth, and (I am) the life.** No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 10:10 The thief comes **only to steal and kill and destroy.** I came that they may **have life and have it abundantly.**

John 8:44 You are of your father **the devil**, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a **murderer** from the beginning, and **does not stand in the truth,**

because **there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.**

Genesis 3:1 Now the **serpent was more crafty** than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, **“Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?”**

Genesis 3:4 But the serpent said to the woman, **“You will not surely die.**

Hebrews 11:6 And **without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards** those who seek him.

Psalms 37:4 **Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.**

James 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and **he himself tempts no one.**

James 1:14 But each person is tempted when he is **lured and enticed by his own desire.**

James 1:15 Then **desire** when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and **sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.**

James 1:16 **Do not be deceived,** my beloved brothers.

James 1:17 **Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father** of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

The Father is good and only gives good gifts, and all sin leads to death.

Psalms 34:18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, **plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.**

Mark 4:38 But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, **“Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”**

John 16:33 I have said these things to you, that ***in me*** you may have peace. **In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.**”

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Galatians 5:23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Exodus 20:3 “You shall have no other gods before me.

Matthew 6:24 “**No one can serve two masters**, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Mark 3:25 And if a house is divided against itself, **that house will not be able to stand.**

All things work together for good...

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus.

1John 4:18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. **For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.**

Romans 8:28 And we know that for those who love God **all things work together for good**, for those who are called according to his purpose.

2Corinthians 4:17 For this **light momentary affliction** is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,

2Corinthians 1:8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.

2Corinthians 1:9 Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. **But that was to make us rely not on ourselves** but on God who raises the dead.

Philippians 4:14 Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble.

Psalms 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Psalms 23:5 You prepare a table before me **in the presence of my enemies**; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

John 14:31 but **I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father**. Rise, let us go from here.

Hebrews 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also **lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely**, and let us **run with endurance the race that is set before us**,

Hebrews 12:2 **looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith**, who for the **joy that was set before him endured** the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:3 **Consider him who endured** from sinners such hostility against himself, **so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted**.

Matthew 11:28 Come to me, **all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest**.

Psalms 42:1 As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants **my soul for you, O God**.

John 4:13 Jesus said to her, "**Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again**,

John 4:14 but whoever drinks of the water that **I will give him will never be thirsty again**. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Romans 8:32 **He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?**

Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall **tribulation**, or **distress**, or **persecution**, or **famine**, or **nakedness**, or **danger**, or **sword**?

Nothing can separate you from Christ's love, but believing a lie can separate you from experiencing the reality of Christ's love.

Mark 10:13 And they were bringing **children to him** that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them.

Mark 10:14 But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, **“Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.**

Mark 10:15 Truly, I say to you, **whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”**

Mark 10:16 And **he took them in his arms and blessed them**, laying his hands on them.

The most mature thing you can do is live like a child who totally trusts in the protective care of an all powerful, all loving Father.

“But Sam lay back, and started with open mouth, and for a moment, between bewilderment and great joy, he could not answer. At last has gasped: “Gandalf! I thought you were dead! But then I thought I was dead myself. Is everything sad going to come untrue? What’s happened to the world?”

“A great shadow has departed,” said Gandalf, and then he laughed and the sound was like music, or water in a parched land; and as he listened the thought came to Sam that he had not heard laughter, the pure sound of merriment, for days upon days without count. It fell upon his ears like the echo of all the joys he had ever known. But he himself burst into tears. Then as sweet rain will pass down a wind of spring and the sun will shine out the clearer, his tears ceased, and his laughter welled up, and laughing he sprang from his bed.

“How do I feel?” he cried. “Well I don’t know how to say it. I feel, I feel” – he waved his arms in the air – “I feel like spring after winter, and sun on the leaves; and like trumpets and harps and all the songs I have ever heard!”

Romans 12:12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

**“Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true -
Behold, I am making all things new.”**