

Introduction: This year's 10 Days of Prayer meditations are taken from the names of Christ in the book of Revelation. This vision or revelation of Jesus was given to a church facing intense persecution. What images of Jesus are we given? We see a Jesus who is wholly in control of human affairs, regardless of how things look. We learn that God's plan is on track and cannot be thwarted. We see that Jesus wanted to encourage his church to be faithful.

As the African Study Bible says, "Because of Jesus Christ's victory, they too will ultimately be victorious. Some other churches, though, were living by the values of a hostile world. These churches needed to be awakened, reminded that the honor, wealth and power that this world values will pass away. It is Jesus and those who do his will who will last for ever. Revelation shows the power of God to establish his final kingdom in spite of all opposition."

The image of Jesus we get from Revelation is an encouragement to us all during these difficult times of global and personal challenges in our lives and ministries. These names of Jesus are kaleidoscopic. Studying them reveals the different facets of his beauty, magnificence and majesty. May you be encouraged as you meditate on each of these names.

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Day 1 Faithful and True Witness

Revelation 1:5; 3:14, 19:11

1:5 "and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth."

3:14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation."

19:11 "I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war."

In a world where faithfulness and truth are increasingly rare, Lord Jesus, we adore you because you are the faithful and true witness. In these three passages, we read this true description of your nature and character. We praise you because you are the faithful and true witness in your dealings with the church. We praise you because you are true and faithful in your judgments. We love you because in you we have a saviour who is true and faithful in revealing to us the true nature and works of God.

Forgive us for not being faithful and true witnesses of yours in our homes and in our dealings with one another. Lord Jesus we ask for forgiveness for those times when we have refused to see or

listen to your faithful and true witness in others. Please forgive us for the times we have avoided speaking the truth to ourselves. Forgive us also for the times when we have been ambivalent and lukewarm, because we were afraid or wanted to please others, and thereby failed to treat justly those who were depending on us.

Jesus, thank you for the ways in which you have revealed your truth to each of us and our families. Thank you for the freedom and joy this truth has brought us. Thank you for revealing yourself and blessing the work of SIM over the last century and more. We thank you for revealing yourself through us to the people you have called us to serve.

Heavenly Father, in a world which is increasingly devoid of truth, we pray you will help us be faithful and true witnesses of yours in our homes and in our dealings with one another. We pray that faithfulness and truth will characterise our dealings with the people among whom we serve. We pray we will be faithful and true in our judgements. Help us to be known as faithful witnesses of the truth. Encourage our hearts through the faithful and true witness of our predecessors. Make us effective witnesses of yours so that our ministries will yield fruit that will last through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SIM ministries prayer requests

Faithful Witness

Pray God will raise up teams of intercessors to stand in the gap for forgotten communities and whose prayers will pave the way for godly, humble workers who will be committed to long-term, sacrificial service.

Pray team leaders would have grace and wisdom as they communicate with fellow workers and build bridges into communities so the gospel may be shared.

Pray for the sustainable development of long-term funding streams for worker support, and the resources needed for ministry.

Day 2 First and Last

Revelation 1:17-18 “When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”

2:8 “To the angel of the church in Smyrna write: These are the words of him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again.”

Jesus, we worship you because you are the first and the last. You are in control of everything because you are there at the beginning and the end and in between. We praise you for your gracious hand upon us. Your word teaches us that you will not break a bruised reed and you will

not snuff out a flickering light. You are familiar with our frame. You know we are weak. Because you are the first and the last, we will not be afraid.

As your disciples, may you forgive us for living in the fear of death

Lord Jesus, we are surrounded by so many fear-inducing things and things we cannot control. It may be that we are powerless, have no influence, no money, no prominent friends, are barren are worried about our health or the failing health of a spouse or a child, or do not enough to retire among many other fears. Jesus, who knows the end of a matter from the beginning, we hear you saying to us, "Do not be afraid."

We thank you because you promised to be with us until the close of the age. Thank you for the comfort and assurance that those we love who have gone before us are now in your presence and that some day we too will share in this resurrection.

Loving Saviour, we abandon ourselves to the mercy of your love for us. You are the one who holds our hand in battle. Give us courage to trust you with our fears and worries and our unknowns, our anxiety about the lack of impressive numbers despite our hard work. May we sense your touch and hear your voice of comfort today. Help us still our hearts and quieten our racing minds.

Flood our hearts with your peace and the assurance of your ever-abiding presence.

Jesus, deliver us from the fear of death. Grow in our hearts the confidence and assurance that we also share in your victory over death. Help us to proclaim boldly among the people we serve that Christ is the first and the last, who died for our sins and now lives again never to die. Hallelujah! Amen!

SIM ministries prayer requests

For Freedom

For SIM's *For Freedom* to provide support, training and encouragement to workers involved in anti-trafficking and ministry to the vulnerable.

For the more than 25 workers from 14 countries who are attending regular meetings, that they may be encouraged and blessed by the support of the network.

For new anti-trafficking ministries beginning in Nigeria and Cote D'Ivoire; for M in Nigeria as she develops a new prevention project with the ECWA churches, and for T&H as they establish a shelter for trafficked women.

Day 3 First born from the dead

Revelation 1:5 "and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth."

Jesus, we praise you because you have the power over death. You are the first to rise from the dead. You conquered both sin and death. Neither could hold you prisoner.

We thank you for delivering us from the power of sin and death. We thank you for promising those who trust in you both freedom from enslavement to sin in this life and resurrection from the dead.

Deliver us from the fear of death. As your daughters and sons, empower us to share this message of victory over death boldly. Help us live our lives and carry out our ministries proclaiming boldly, “for us to live is Christ and to die is gain.”

Death is feared by human beings. It is the human mortal enemy. Human beings have not found a cure for it. In Biblical culture and African culture, the first born, especially the male child, is honoured and occupies a special place in both the family and society. Jesus is the first born from the dead, which means he has special privilege. An African proverb says that if a person promises to give you a shirt, look at what he is wearing because that is an indication of the type of clothing you will get. Jesus promised that those who trust in him will live again, even if they die. Since he rose from the dead, we can trust his promise. He has gone ahead of us. Hallelujah!

As children of God, help us live our lives in the confidence of eternal life, knowing that what Jesus had, we will also receive. Give us confidence to preach this good news to a world that is obsessed with immortality but looking for it in the wrong places.

SIM ministries prayer requests

Business Ministries

Praise God for the recent white paper on business ministries, for the beginnings of a global team and the growth of some regional hubs.

Pray for the business ministries leaders and others as they consider how SIM can place professionals to serve strategically across the world.

Pray for wisdom and direction as we invest in micro-enterprises at a time when this is so relevant in a COVID+ world.

Day 4 King of Kings

Revelation 17:14 “They will wage war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will triumph over them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.”

19:16 “On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”

In our world, there are many powerful people who control people, nations, events, systems, structures and whose words carry a lot of weight and affect us and our witness, Jesus we adore you because you are more powerful than any of them and are victorious over all the affairs of the world. None of your plans can be thwarted. We remind our faint hearts and declare that you are KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Forgive us for our lack of courage in our service. Encourage our hearts with the assurance that, as your servants, we are victors in this battle against the kings of this world. You are the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. In your mighty and victorious name we pray. Amen.

We thank you for your sustaining power over the world. If you had left us to our folly we would have been destroyed. Thank you for your grace and for not allowing the evil to always have their way.

We cry to you because the world is waging war against the innocent, the weak, the poor and your servants. Give us faith to fight this battle in your might and using your strategies. We pray for all those who are fighting against corrupt systems, structures, and peoples in our world, even if they are not your children. Help us find ways to collaborate with them in this righteous battle to dismantle ungodly structures and systems.

In this ongoing battle, Lord Jesus help us not to wage this war in our own strength or to employ worldly strategies. May your will be done here on earth as it is in heaven. Jesus may your glory and truth be heard. May the Spirit of the Lord come upon us and anoint us to preach good news to the poor. Help us proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind. Help us release the oppressed and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour. Amen!

SIM ministries prayer requests

Hope for Life

Pray for our ministries and partner churches who are actively responding to the impacts of COVID-19 through outreach and relief efforts.

Pray for the financial needs of our Hope for Life ministries – that the LORD will raise up local and international support through donors and partners; and for wisdom and guidance as a number of our ministries explore livelihood opportunities to empower those who are vulnerable.

Pray for strong and effective partnerships with like-minded ministries, that we might bring hope and give life through care, prevention, development, medical and church equipping ministries.

Day 5 King of Nations

Revelation 15:3 “and sang the song of God’s servant Moses and of the Lamb:

“Great and marvelous are your deeds,

Lord God Almighty.

Just and true are your ways,

King of the nations.”

Jesus we worship you because you are the true king of all the peoples. The nations are rightfully yours. We bless you for your truly great and marvellous deeds in the past and today. Your ways are

just and true .We sing to you with the nations because salvation belongs to you. May our worship be acceptable to you.

Forgive us for despising your great and marvellous deeds in our lives. Forgive us for sharing in your glory.

Forgive us for the times when we have installed ourselves as kings over our affairs, over others or over the people we serve. Forgive us for the times when we have installed the wealthy and the powerful over ourselves and others. Please deliver us from our enslavement to ourselves, to our desires, to pleasing others and to worldly methods and strategies in our ministry.

We thank you because you have met our yearnings and deep longings. Times without number, you have turned our mourning into dancing. You have delivered us from our sins and given us a new inheritance in you.

Jesus, teach us daily to relinquish the kingship of our lives to you. Help us install you as king over the people we serve. Deliver us from any national loyalty which undermines our loyalty to you as our king. Lord Jesus, bless our efforts to make you famous and king over the nations. May all the peoples praise you! May all the peoples praise you! In your mighty name we pray. Amen.

SIM ministries prayer requests

Radio and media

Pray for the Tower Project at ELWA in Liberia. An old 300 ft FM tower has to come down and a new 340ft tower put up. Pray the old tower will stay standing until the new one is erected.

Pray for Radio Lilanguka in Mangochi, Malawi. This FM radio station has only been on air a few years and is reaching the Yao people, who live across four countries.

Pray for good SIM representation at the forthcoming NRB (National Religious Broadcasting) Convention in Dallas, Texas from June 21-24.

Day 6 Lion of the tribe of Judah and Lamb of God

Revelation 5:5-6 “Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.” Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.”

Jesus, the Lion of the tribe of Judah and the Lamb of God, we worship you. We praise you because you are both terrifying and approachable. You are both powerful and gentle. As the Lion, you crush Satan under your foot. And as the Lamb of God, you satisfy God’s wrath against our sins. You are our God and creator but also our brother and friend. There is no one like you.

Forgive us for the times when we have abused your approachability and closeness. Remind us of your power, your majesty and the awesome fear that is your due.

We thank you for taking the form of a man and dwelling among us. Lamb of God, we thank you today and every day for the incredible price you paid to purchase our ransom. You laid down your divine glory and became human, bearing our sins and suffering and dying for us.

Jesus, Lion and Lamb, please teach us to be confident and compassionate in our dealings with one another and in our ministries. May we learn to lay down our rights, or anything we consider to be of worth, even our very lives, in order to reconcile ourselves with our brothers and sisters and to bring people to the saving knowledge of Christ.

Jesus, forgive us for using our strength and privileges to serve ourselves rather than serve you and others. Lion of the tribe of Judah, forgive us also for the times when we have been timid. Remind us that we have been seated with you in the heavenly realms.

Give us wisdom to balance our strength and privileges with the humility to serve others and so honour you. In your precious and powerful name we pray. Amen.

SIM ministries prayer requests

Arts

Pray our arts workers would have opportunities to share their message and the reason they create the work they do.

Pray for God to raise up and deploy more arts workers to join existing teams, especially in creative access locations where the arts have proved wonderful at opening doors and hearts.

Pray for a growing sense of community among SIM arts workers, across our great geographical, linguistic and activity diversity.

Day 7 Ruler of the kings of the earth

Revelation 1:5 “and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.”

Lord Jesus, we worship you because you are the true ruler of kings of the earth. All kings are in authority because you placed them or allowed them to be there. They are ultimately responsible to you. You said to Pilate he had no authority over you unless it had been given to him from above. Kings of the earth do not have ultimate authority - only you do. The hearts of kings are in your hands. You can overrule them. All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to you. We acknowledge you as the true ruler of the kings of the earth.

Lord, forgive us for the times when we have misused our positions of privilege or leadership and led as if we had ultimate authority. Forgive us for the times when we have ascribed the glory due to you to earthly rulers. Also forgive us for fearing earthly rulers more than we fear you. Deliver us

from the fear of earthly leaders who can only destroy our bodies but not our souls. Jesus, give us the courage and boldness of the apostles and saints of old who chose to obey you, rather than earthly rulers. Teach us to fear only you.

Jesus, we thank you for godly rulers and leaders. We pray for all leaders in our areas of ministry, that they will see their role as being held in trust from you. Teach us how to walk with such leaders, so that they will act justly and walk humbly with you and that in their spheres of influence, justice will roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. In your name we pray. Amen.

SIM ministries prayer requests

Next Generation

Pray for our youth leaders around the world to have discerning hearts and wise minds as they seek to understand the needs of our youth and find creative ways of reaching and discipling them.

Pray for the orphaned and abandoned children being cared for at iKhethelo Children's Village in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, to receive a good education and to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Please pray for Nokdang and Among, who teach English to University students in Thailand where Christians make up only one per cent of the population. They integrate a biblical worldview, values, and principles in all their lesson plans.

Day 8 Ruler of God's creation

Revelation 3:14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation."

Precious Jesus, ruler of creation, we praise you because everything you made is beautiful. We join all creation in awe and wonder at your handiwork. Whether it is in the morning, afternoon or at night; whether it is by seeing, hearing, touching, smelling, or tasting; we are mesmerised by the wisdom, beauty, grandeur and majesty of your creation. Jesus the creator, sustainer and ruler of all creation, we worship you. There is no one like you.

Thank you for creating each of us fearfully and wonderfully. You know us each by name and have uniquely placed us to fulfil your purposes. For this, we thank you. We thank you for your wisdom in creating and appointing the church to be your faithful and true witness in the world. We thank you for calling each of us to be a part of your grand purpose. Thank you for giving us everything we need to do the task and the Holy Spirit to convict, teach and empower us. Holy Spirit, we love you.

Jesus, forgive us and have mercy on us for the times we have made idols of your creation; whether it is ourselves, things, nature or our accomplishments. Forgive us for the times we have thought that our own strength gave us what we have. Forgive us for not being faithful stewards of your creation. Forgive us for relying on nature instead of trusting you.

Lord Jesus, ruler of creation, help us to slow down and so enjoy the wonders of your creation around us. Help us to slow down and learn what you might be saying to us through your work because your word teaches us that “day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.” Teach us to be faithful stewards of your creation. Help us to see the worth of each one of colleagues.

SIM ministries prayer requests

Diaspora

Pray for more opportunities for Christian organisations and workers to access Tibetan diaspora communities, who have yet to hear God’s good news. Pray for Tibetan diaspora second generation to access gospel resources on the internet.

Pray for Christian workers from the Middle East who are leaving the region and heading to Europe, that they might bring the hope of the gospel to those with whom they share a common language.

Pray for organisations which seek to provide training and mentorship to those in diaspora communities who have discovered the love of Jesus, so they might share it more effectively with their neighbours.

Day 9 The One who has the sharp and double-edged sword

Revelation 1:16 “In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.”

2:12 “To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.”

Jesus, we worship you because of who you are; a holy and loving saviour. You wield the sword for our good to cut deep, to expose and to excise what is displeasing to you. We bless you because we know your purpose is to conform us to your image.

Lord Jesus, we know that we live in a world in which the truth is offensive. Please forgive us for our failure to speak the truth; and for our rejection, and even persecution, of those who speak hard truths to us personally and to our organisation. Forgive us for compromising on the truth in our daily interactions with one another. We ask for forgiveness for those times when our action or inaction has resulted in people not hearing the gospel fully and turning to you. Please have mercy on us.

Jesus, use your sword to expose our hidden sins and habits which so easily entangle us. Open our eyes to see the work you need to do in us and soften our hearts to be receptive and welcoming to your visits. Teach us to speak the truth in love to ourselves and those around us. Give us courage to be able to speak the truth, even if it will cost us friendship, fame, fortune or even our lives. Teach us how to handle the word of truth correctly, applying it to penetrate our souls and spirits. Jesus, help us to allow the sword of the spirit to judge our thoughts and attitudes and those of the people

we serve so that we would become more like you, for the glory of your name. May we become people who welcome the discipline and rebuke of the sword of the spirit. May the vision of what you want us to become overwhelm us into willing submission to your renovation work. Amen.

SIM ministries prayer requests

International Orality

For God to raise up men and women in each SIM country who would become orality advocates. For God to impress upon pastors and Christian leaders the efficacy of adopting oral teaching methods.

For God to call forth Christian workers who can raise up disciples in the least-reached places of the world, where the written word is unknown or unused.

Day 10 Word of God

Revelation 19:13 “He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.”

Lord Jesus, when there is confusion, we yearn for true words, words we can understand and words we can rely on. In a world which sees us bombarded with words from the time we wake up to the time we lay down, this is what we need. You are the very Word of God. You are the word of life, which our souls yearn for. We praise you because this word is not hidden from us but is closer to us than our very own breath.

Jesus, forgive us for those times when we have sought and listened to other words for comfort and direction, rather than your words. Jesus, we thank you because you are merciful and have not left us to our folly and rebellion. Thank you for speaking your word into our darkest moments. Thank you for always being ready to speak to us when we confess our sins and draw near to you.

Word of God, we confess that we need you today and every day. We can rely on every word of yours. You are the lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. A word that will never fail. Hallelujah!

Jesus, you are the Word of God, the word of truth. You are the word of the one who loves us. Amid the cacophony beckoning us, may we learn to hear you clearly so that we can discern which path we need to walk. May we have the courage to walk in obedience on the path laid out for us. May we listen to your word and obey so that we can find joy, life and victory in our calling. By so doing, we will also be faithful and true until you return or call us home. Amen!

SIM ministries prayer requests

Trauma Healing

Praise God for open doors into sensitive countries so that God's word can be shared through the ministry of Trauma Healing; and pray the Lord would use this ministry to draw people to him and to heal the wounds of their hearts.

Pray the Lord would raise up facilitators who are equipped to cross significant barriers into the least reached areas and that they, in turn, would invest in the development of other leaders.

Pray for the translation of the trauma healing materials into local languages, so that many more people would have the opportunity to be restored.