

Lent 2006  
Letters from God

**Lent 1, March 5, 2006**  
*Everlasting covenant . . . everlasting love*

*Letter from God: Based on Mark 1:9-15 and 1 Peter 3:18-22*

My dear child,

I see you are beginning the journey of Lent. Some people find this journey to be a sad or strenuous pathway, one they would rather not take. But be assured that along the journey you will see signs of my relentless love, especially when your journey seems the most difficult.

Think of Jesus, my Beloved Son, who faced hunger, temptation, and loneliness out in the desert. Yes, Jesus was challenged; but he was also strengthened and comforted. Remember, too, that three years later Jesus walked the most difficult path of all – the journey through death to life. Jesus suffered for you, my dear child, to bring you to me. Do you see how very deep my love is for you?

So enter this Lenten journey with hope. I will never leave you alone with your struggles, for even in the struggles I will strengthen you with joy. Take the first steps on the path, and you will discover my relentless love along the way.

Shalom, my child,  
God

**Lent 2, March 12, 2006**  
*Longing for fruitfulness*

*Letter from God: Based on Genesis 17:1-7, 15, 16 and Romans 4:13-25*

My dear child,

I know the struggles you face every day can leave you feeling defeated and hopeless. It often seems you just spin your wheels and your life is fruitless. But you won't find the answer by following more rules. The answer is to trust in my promises.

Abraham learned this after a long struggle to make my promise to him come true on his own. When he finally trusted his future to me, his future became part of the wonderful future I am creating in this world. It came about in my way and in my time.

You may be tempted to earn my blessing by working harder and following more rules. But that path will only wear you out, and you won't experience the blessing I have for you. You will find that faithful living is much easier once you experience the security and freedom of believing in my promises.

Shalom, my child,  
Live in the freedom of my promises,  
God

**Lent 3, March 19, 2006**  
**An illuminating Word**

*Letter from God: Based on 1 Corinthians 1:18-25*

My dear child,

Have you discovered true wisdom yet? To those who doubt and laugh, the cross is just a foolish myth. But to you, the cross is glorious, the path of joy and hope.

My ways confuse the smartest people in the world. They are too smart for their own good! They chase knowledge without knowing me. They can't understand how a condemned man could ever show the glory of God. They can't understand how one who is defeated could ever bring power to someone else. So they smirk.

But to those who have truly tasted the joys of salvation, Jesus – and Jesus alone – is the source of all true wisdom and power. Now, as always, my folly is wiser than any human wisdom; my weakness is stronger than any human power.

Imagine how that wisdom and power can transform your life each day. If you live in the wisdom of the crucified Jesus and in the power of the resurrected Christ, you won't ever need to envy anything the world possesses.

Shalom, my child,

Live in the wisdom and power of my peace in Jesus,  
God

**Lent 4, March 26, 2006**

***Facing our fears, receiving God's riches***

***Letter from God: Based on Ephesians 2:1-10***

My dear child,

Do you recall your past life, how you were so unaware of the joy I freely share with my beloved children? You were scratching for fulfillment in self-indulgence and self-sufficiency.

But in my deep mercy and love, I reached into your life to make you alive in Christ Jesus by a free and powerful gift of grace. When I lifted up Jesus, I lifted you up right along with him.

I simply want to show you the richness of my grace, a gift of my relentless love. Nothing you do could make me do this. Nor could anything you do stop the flow of my love into your life. I give it to you freely. I release you from the ugly trap of your former life and bring you into my beautiful life, a life designed especially with you in mind. What a work of art you are in Christ Jesus!

How long, my child, before you look into your life and recognize my faithful, relentless love?

Shalom, my child,

Live in my grace and love,  
God

**Lent 5, April 2, 2006**

***Restoring what is broken***

***Letter from God: Based on Hebrews 5:5-10 and John 12: 20-33***

My dear child,

Has the purpose of this Lenten journey become a bit clearer to you by now? Remember how Jesus faced human life completely, in both its pain and its joy. Jesus knows every turn in the road that you could ever face.

I chose Jesus for his journey, and I was with him every step of the way. He kept me close to his heart at all times. When he was frustrated and in pain, he cried out to me in prayer. I always heard his cries, and I felt his pain in my heart.

I hope by now you realize that I have chosen you, too. I promise to give you grace in the middle of your struggles. Keep me close, and I will hear your cries.

But you also have choices. Will you follow Jesus on the path he has chosen? Do you believe his testimony that "Those who love their life will lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for life eternal?" Do you believe Jesus still walks with you on the journey?

Shalom, my child,

Make your choices well,  
God

**Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday) April 9, 2006**  
*Awaiting our exalted Savior*

*Letter from God: Based on Mark 11:1-11 and Philippians 2:5-11*

My dear child,

As you near the end of this Lenten journey, are you ready to let go of your worldly ways?

The crowds who were laying palm leaves in Jesus' path were hoping he would bring immediate deliverance and blessing. But Jesus knew that the deepest deliverance and greatest blessing he could provide lay along the road of sacrifice. So Jesus let go of earthly power, wealth and fame.

Of course, even living an earthly life was a "letting go" for Jesus. He let go of the glory of his heavenly life in order to join you in your struggles. He gave up everything to show you my relentless love and to bring you into my kingdom. But by letting go, Jesus received the ultimate honor and glory when I raised him from the grave and restored him to his rightful place at my side, with all his former majesty and power.

Do you have the same attitude as Jesus? Would you let go of everything to bring others into my kingdom? The greatest joy is found not in holding on, but in letting go.

Shalom, my child,

Let go and discover my greatest joys for you,

God