May 13th Readings OBADIAH 1:1-21 REVELATION 4:1-11 PSALM 132:1-18 PROVERBS 29:24-25

Obadiah 1:17 reads "But on Mount Zion there will be those who escape, and it will be holy. And the house of Jacob will possess their possessions." The previous verses talk about the end of all nations. For me, verse 17 gives comfort. The world can be a scary place and very little of the reported news is uplifting. I know that people can become worried about what will happen and how future generations will be able to face the trials ahead (or current generations for that matter). The world doesn't offer hope very often. God does. His children will escape to a holy place.

May 14th Readings JONAH 1:1-4:11 REVELATION 5:1-14 PSALM 133:1-3 PROVERBS 29:26-27

Psalm 133 says it is a blessing for brothers to dwell in unity. This is by no means the first or the last time this idea is expressed. In school, I learned pretty quickly that a lesson that is repeated quite a lot usually means it's important. Really important. Like, really, really important! So what does that mean, to dwell in unity with our brothers? We can't disagree? Good luck with that. Only brothers, not sisters? Don't think that's it either. Do we just accept failure? NO! I would say part of what it means is this: "If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men."-Romans 12:18. That's just when dealing with the world. For our fellow Christians, Colossians has some pretty

good words on the subject summed up by 3:14 which reads, "Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity."

## May 15th Readings MICAH 1:1-4:13 REVELATION 6:1-17 PSALM 134:1-3 PROVERBS 30:1-4

Some phrases in our society are overused. Still more are used incorrectly. One that comes to mind is LOL, or laugh out loud, for those who didn't already know. While preparing for this writing, verses 2 and 3 of Proverbs 30 caused me to actually Laugh Out Loud. I related to these statements. "Surely I am more stupid than any man, and I do not have the understanding of a man. Neither have I learned wisdom, nor do I have the knowledge of the Holy One." There are times where we can feel full of knowledge, wisdom, and ourselves. Then there's that last part: nor do I have the knowledge of the Holy One. When you start using the creator of all as a reference, well, now the rest makes sense. The laughter stops. But don't despair! Ephesians 3:19 says, "And to know the love of Christ which surpasses all knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God." I don't need the understanding of man if I know God. That's awesome.

May 16th Readings MICAH 5:1-7:20 REVELATION 7:1-17

## <u>PSALM 135:1-21</u> <u>PROVERBS 30:5-6</u>

Proverbs 30 verses 5 and 6 contain two warnings. The first is a comfort to us. "He is a shield to those who would take refuge in him" warns those who would act against the faithful. Children of God will not be without defenses. That doesn't mean our lives will be easy or that Satan won't attack. The end is assured, though, and we will triumph. The second warning, however, is directed straight at us. "Do not add to His words or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar." The reason I say it is directed at believers is because we are the ones most likely to start changing the word accidentally. The world wouldn't care if the word was changed. We should. We need to know it and keep it whole.

## May 17th Readings NAHUM 1:1-3:19 REVELATION 8:1-13 PSALM 136:1-26 PROVERBS 30:7-9

This passage in Proverbs 30 is one of those sets of verses that really feels like it was written to me. Many times in life (or mine at least) it seems that just a little more or less of something would solve my problems. Just a little more money and bills wouldn't seem like such a burden. Just a little less work and my shoulders wouldn't feel so heavy. Just 5 more minutes and I'll get up. Verses 8 and 9 paint a little different picture. "Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion, that I not be full and deny You and say, "Who is the LORD?" or that I not be in want and steal and profane the name of my God." Too much or too little can cause issues, problems we don't need. Next time maybe I won't feel like more money or less work would solve my problems.

Maybe I have my portion. I won't lie though, 5 more minutes of sleep always sounds good.

## May 18th Readings HABAKKUK 1:1-3:19 REVELATION 9:1-21 PSALM 137:1-9 PROVERBS 30:10

Verse 18 of Habakkuk 3 is a pretty good verse. "Yet I will exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation." There is no qualification needed. It doesn't say ONLY when things are going well I will rejoice in the God of my salvation. Nor should we exult in the LORD ONLY when we're down. It doesn't matter what is going on around you or the events in your life. This verse holds true regardless. We should always have joy and peace in the LORD our God.

May 19th Readings ZEPHANIAH 1:1-3:20 REVELATION 10:1-11 PSALM 138:1-8 PROVERBS 30:11-14

Psalm 138 was written by King David. I like David. He is an example to us of how we should be. David screwed up a few times in his life. Big time. Once he realized what he had done he always came back to the LORD. This psalm was written for us by a man

who knows what it is to sin and fall short of His glory. He also knows how to move forward in His light. "Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch forth Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and Your right hand will save me." No matter what is thrown at us, whether it is sin or simply life, God is there for us. "For great is the glory of the LORD."