

First Light

Amidst the masking and the distancing, the testing and the quarantines – could there be a glimmer of hope out there? Even though we have altered, changed, amended, moved, canceled, and rescheduled pretty much everything in our lives – there is a ray of light trying to shine through to you and to me. Nope, it's not from Moderna or Pfizer or PPP or stimulus checks... It is struggling to make itself evident as there are so many other distracting sights and sounds. This seed of deep and enduring strength has been present all along and it has been near your heart the whole time. Granted, lately it has maybe wandered a little into dark alleys of doubt and has double parked in zones of fear, but there is a single word that God said over and over again while leading a rebellious and impetuous people of his own choosing that is ours today as well. As his prophets preached and wrote and cried out and even sometimes begrudgingly carried out his pronouncement of the coming destruction for disobedience, God pointed out his primary goal of the whole universal mission: **Know***.

He wanted the Israelites to **know** that he was God. To **know** that he has always been. To **know** that he is the God of the bright morning and the clouded day. To **know** that he has never left. To **know** that he has always completely wanted to have a supernatural relationship with every single one of them. To **know** that he's never broken a promise. To **know** that it breaks his heart when he is dismissed and replaced. That same God of heaven and earth wants the exact same for all of us: He wants us to **know** Him. To **know** that he keeps his word. To **know** that he hears every cry. To **know** him - to really **know** him.

As the sky continues to fall on us and as the world's pressure builds, it is important that we **know**. That we **know** that God has never moved, that he is always there, that he hears our deepest thoughts and our prayers, that he wants us to trust him, that he wants us to wait on him. He wants us to watch him move heaven and earth and every other seemingly stable thing in our lives to accomplish his plan – his purpose – his mission. And he wants us to **know** – that He is the God of both the microscopic and the mountainous, the predictable and the precarious. And to **know** that he wants us to be a part of his plan – his eternal and everlasting plan.

Stay the course. Hold the fort. Brace against the wind. In a time where nothing is certain – we can know. **We can know that he is God and that he is always with us.***Ezekiel uses this 84 times – **Know that I am Lord**