Golden Text | I Corinthians 3:9 *you*
9 You happen to be God's field in which we are working.

Responsive Reading | Isaiah 45:5; 65:18 *be*, 20 (to :), 21–25
5 I am God, the only God there is. Besides me there are no real gods. I'm the one who armed you for this work, though you don't even know me,
18 Look ahead with joy. Anticipate what I'm creating: I'll create Jerusalem as sheer joy, create my people as pure delight.
20 No more babies dying in the cradle, or old people who don't enjoy a full lifetime
21 They'll build houses and move in. They'll plant fields and eat what they grow.
22 No more building a house that some outsider takes over, No more planting fields that some enemy confiscates, For my people will be as long-lived as trees, my chosen ones will have satisfaction in their work.
23 They won't work and have nothing come of it, they won't have children snatched out from under them. For they themselves are plantings blessed by God, with their children and grandchildren likewise God-blessed.
24 Before they call out, I'll answer. Before they've finished speaking, I'll have heard.
25 Wolf and lamb will graze the same meadow, lion and ox eat straw from the same trough, but snakes - they'll get a diet of dirt! Neither animal nor human will hurt or kill anywhere on my Holy Mountain," says God.

Section 1

1 | Genesis 1:31 (to 1st .)
31 God looked over everything he had made; it was so good, so very good!

2 | Isaiah 45:8, 9, 11, 12, 18
8 "Open up, heavens, and rain. Clouds, pour out buckets of my goodness! Loosen up, earth, and bloom salvation; sprout right living. I, God, generate all this.
9 But doom to you who fight your Maker - you're a pot at odds with the potter! Does clay talk back to the potter: 'What are you doing? What clumsy fingers!'
11 Thus God, The Holy of Israel, Israel's Maker, says: "Do you question who or what I'm making? Are you telling me what I can or cannot do?"
12 I made earth, and I created man and woman to live on it. I handcrafted the skies and direct all the constellations in their turnings.
18 God, Creator of the heavens - he is, remember, God. Maker of earth - he put it on its foundations, built it from scratch. He didn't go to all that trouble to just leave it empty, nothing in it. He made it to be lived in. This God says: "I am God, the one and only."

11 For as the earth bursts with spring wildflowers, and as a garden cascades with blossoms, So the Master, God, brings righteousness into full bloom and puts praise on display before the nations.

Section 2

1 God! Look! Enemies past counting! Enemies sprouting like mushrooms, 2 Mobs of them all around me, roaring their mockery: "Hah! No help for him from God!" 3 But you, God, shield me on all sides; You ground my feet, you lift my head high;

3 Know this: God is God, and God, God. He made us; we didn't make him.
4 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, God showed up and said to him, "I am The Strong God, live entirely before me, live to the hilt! 2 I'll make a covenant between us and I'll give you a huge family." 5 Your name will no longer be Abram, but Abraham, meaning that 'I'm making you the father of many nations.' 15 God continued speaking to Abraham, "And Sarai your wife: Don't call her Sarai any longer; call her Sarah. 16 I'll bless her - yes! I'll give you a son by her! Oh, how I'll bless her! Nations will come from her; kings of nations will come from her." 17 Abraham fell flat on his face. And then he laughed, thinking, "Can a hundred-year-old man father a son? And can Sarah, at ninety years, have a baby?" 19 But God said, ". Your wife, Sarah, will have a baby, a son.

7 Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born. 6 Sarah said, God has blessed me with laughter and all who get the news will laugh with me!

Section 3

44 Jesus summed it all up when he cried out, "Whoever believes in me, believes not just in me but in the One who sent me. 19 So Jesus explained himself at length. "I'm telling you this straight. The Son can't independently do a thing, only what he sees the Father doing. What the Father does, the Son does."
20 The Father loves the Son and includes him in everything he is doing.
30 "I can't do a solitary thing on my own: I listen, then I decide. You can trust my decision because I'm not out to get my own way but only to carry out orders.

35 Then Jesus made a circuit of all the towns and villages. He taught in their meeting places, reported kingdom news, and healed their diseased bodies, healed their bruised and hurt lives.

Section 4

35 As you look around right now, wouldn't you say that in about four months it will be time to harvest? Well, I'm telling you to open your eyes and take a good look at what's right in front of you. These Samaritan fields are ripe. It's harvest time!

12 | Matthew 15:32–37
32 Jesus called his disciples and said, "I hurt for these people. For three days now they've been with me, and now they have nothing to eat. I can't send them away without a meal - they'd probably collapse on the road."
33 His disciples said, "But where in this deserted place are you going to dig up enough food for a meal?"
34 Jesus asked, "How much bread do you have?"
35 At that, Jesus directed the people to sit down.
36 He took the seven loaves and the fish. After giving thanks, he divided it up and gave it to the people.
37 Everyone ate. They had all they wanted. It took seven large baskets to collect the leftovers.
38 Over four thousand people ate their fill at that meal.

Section 5

13 | Psalms 145:10
10 Creation and creatures applaud you, God;

8 "You're blessed when you get your inside world - your mind and heart - put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.
10 "You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom.

15 | Acts 5:12 (to ;), 15–21, 25, 27, 28 (to ?), 29, 34, 35, 38, 39 (to ;), 42
12 Through the work of the apostles, many God-signs were set up among the people, many wonderful things done.
15 They even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on stretchers and bedrolls, hoping they would be touched by Peter's shadow when he walked by.
16 They came from the villages surrounding Jerusalem, throngs of them, bringing the sick and bedeviled. And they all were healed. To Obey God Rather than Men
17 Provoked mightily by all this, the Chief Priest and those on his side, mainly the sect of Sadducees, went into action,
18 arrested the apostles, and put them in the town jail.
19 But during the night an angel of God opened the jailhouse door and led them out.
20 He said, "Go to the Temple and take your stand. Tell the people everything there is to say about this Life."
21 Promptly obedient, they entered the Temple at daybreak and went on with their teaching.
25 Just then someone showed up and said, "Did you know that the men you put in jail are back in the Temple teaching the people?"
27 Bringing them back, they stood them before the High Council. The Chief Priest said,
28 "Didn't we give you strict orders not to teach in Jesus' name? And here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are trying your best to blame us for the death of this man."
34 But one of the council members stood up, a Pharisee by the name of Gamaliel, a teacher of God's Law who was honored by everyone. He ordered the men taken out of the room for a short time,
35 then said, "Fellow Israelites, be careful what you do to these men.
38 "So I am telling you: Hands off these men! Let them alone. If this program or this work is merely human, it will fall apart,
39 but if it is of God, there is nothing you can do about it - and you better not be found fighting against God!"
42 Every day they were in the Temple and homes, teaching and preaching Christ Jesus, not letting up for a minute.

Section 6
16 | II Corinthians 2:14

14 And I got it, thank God!
15 Because of Christ, we give off a sweet scent rising to God, which is recognized by those on the way of salvation - an aroma redolent with life.

17 | II Corinthians 3:4, 5

4 We couldn't be more sure of ourselves in this - that you, written by Christ himself for God, are our letter of recommendation.
5 We wouldn't think of writing this kind of letter about ourselves. Only God can write such a letter.

18 | Ephesians 2:10

10 No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.

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