

Chapter 48

Let It Be

BIBLE

After the uproar had ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, took leave of them, and departed to go into Macedonia.¹ When he had gone through those parts, and had encouraged them with many words, he came into Greece.²

He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath day.³ Immediately many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even around the door; and he spoke the word to them.⁴

But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with jealousy, and contradicted the things which were spoken by Paul, and blasphemed.⁵

“Behold, you are of nothing, and your work is of nothing. He who chooses you is an abomination.⁶ For wherever the carcass is, there is where the vultures gather together.”⁷

“As for the word that you have spoken to us in Yahweh’s name, we will not listen to you.”⁸

COMMENTARY

¹ **Acts 20:1** Paul was inspired to write “Let it Be” after his mother Mary, who died of breast cancer when he was 14, appeared to him one night in a dream, giving him strength while he was going through a difficult time. Paul: “In the dream she said, ‘It’ll be all right.’ I’m not sure if she used the words ‘Let it be’ but that was the gist of her advice.”

² **Acts 20:2** Paul: “I do these songs still: ‘Let it Be’ and the like. And to actually see young kids crying over the spirit in the song, I’m very proud of that. It could have gone the other way. I say to people ‘Hey if the Beatles were really bad, we could have played Hitler’s game. We could have got kids to do anything, such was our power.’”

³ **Luke 13:10** Paul: “I think we gave some sort of freedom to the world. I meet a lot of people now who say the Beatles freed them up. If you think about it the world was slightly more of an upper-class place until the Beatles came along.”

⁴ **Mark 2:2**

⁵ **Acts 13:45**

⁶ **Isaiah 41:24**

⁷ **Matthew 24:28**

⁸ **Jeremiah 44:16**

When Paul wanted to enter in to the people, the disciples didn't allow him.⁹ He departed there, and went into the house of a certain man named Justus, one who worshiped God, whose house was next door to the synagogue.¹⁰ He went in therefore, and shut the door on them both, and prayed to Yahweh.¹¹

“Hear, Yahweh, my prayer. Listen to the voice of my petitions.¹² Hide me from the conspiracy of the wicked, from the noisy crowd of the ones doing evil.¹³

“Teach me your way, Yahweh. Lead me in a straight path, because of my enemies.¹⁴ Streams of tears run down my eyes, because they don't observe your law.¹⁵

“My soul is laid low in the dust. Revive me according to your word!¹⁶ My heart is troubled, and doesn't rest. Days of affliction have come on me.¹⁷

“Out of the depths I have cried to you, Yahweh.¹⁸ I am small and despised. I don't forget your precepts.¹⁹ I have done what is just and righteous. Don't leave me to my oppressors.”²⁰

The following night, the Lord stood by him, and said, “Cheer up, Paul, for as you have testified about me at Jerusalem, so you must testify also at Rome.²¹ Greet Mary, who labored much for us.”²²

⁹ **Acts 19:30**

¹⁰ **Acts 18:7**

¹¹ **2 Kings 4:33**

¹² **Psalms 86:6**

¹³ **Psalms 64:2** Paul: “Now I need a place to hide away” (“Yesterday”)

¹⁴ **Psalms 27:11** Paul is looking for direction in “The Long And Winding Road”: “Let me know the way...lead me to your door.”

¹⁵ **Psalms 119:136** “Though the days are few they're filled with tears,” Paul cries in “You Won't See Me.”

¹⁶ **Psalms 119:25** Paul: “I'm Down (I'm Really Down)” (“I'm Down”)

¹⁷ **Job 30:27** “Yesterday all my troubles seemed so far away, now it looks as though they're here to stay,” Paul reveals in “Yesterday.”

¹⁸ **Psalms 130:1** “Many times I've been alone and many times I've cried,” Paul shares in “The Long And Winding Road.”

¹⁹ **Psalms 119:41** Paul: “I'm not half the man I used to be” (“Yesterday”)

²⁰ **Psalms 119:121** “Don't leave me waiting here,” Paul cries out in “The Long And Winding Road.”

²¹ **Acts 23:11**

²² **Romans 16:6** [*“Mary” is Paul's mother Mary McCartney*] “Mother Mary comes to me,” Paul shares in “Let it Be.” Paul, on his dream: “That's a wonderful thing about dreams: you actually are reunited with that person for a second; there they are and you appear to both be physically together again.”

An angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense.²³ Mary said “My soul magnifies the Lord.”²⁴ My son, attend to my words. Turn your ear to my sayings.²⁵

“My mouth will speak *words of wisdom*. My heart shall utter understanding.²⁶ I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you shall go. I will counsel you with my eye on you.²⁷ As one whom his mother comforts, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted in Jerusalem.”²⁸

“My son, don’t forget my teaching; but let your heart keep my commandments.²⁹ Let your garments be always white, and don’t let your head lack oil.”³⁰

“Stop trusting in man, whose breath is in his nostrils; for of what account is he?”³¹ Trust in Yahweh forever; for in Yah, Yahweh, is an everlasting Rock.³²

“When they bring you before the synagogues, the rulers, and the authorities, don’t be anxious how or what you will answer, or what you will say.³³ Yahweh will fight for you, and you shall be still.”³⁴

²³ **Luke 1:11** “In my hour of darkness she is standing right in front of me,” Paul informs us in “Let it Be.”

²⁴ **Luke 1:46** Although the reference to “Mother Mary” in “Let it Be” does not refer to the mother of Jesus, Paul encourages people to interpret the song any way they wish.

²⁵ **Proverbs 4:20** Paul: “Mother Mary makes it a quasi-religious thing, so you can take it what way. I don’t mind. I’m quite happy if people want to use it to shore up their faith. I have no problem with that. I think it’s a great thing to have faith of any sort, particularly in the world we live in.”

²⁶ **Psalm 49:3** Mary is “speaking words of wisdom” in “Let it Be.”

²⁷ **Psalm 32:8** In Luke 1:38 the Virgin Mary does in fact utter the words “let it be” while responding to the angel Gabriel: “Behold, the servant of the Lord; **let it be** done to me according to your word.”

²⁸ **Isaiah 66:13**

²⁹ **Proverbs 3:1**

³⁰ **Ecclesiastes 9:8** White represents purity; oil represents love.

³¹ **Isaiah 2:22**

³² **Isaiah 26:4**

³³ **Luke 12:22** Jon Kabat-Zinn: “It’s not a matter of letting go – you would if you could. Instead of ‘Let it go,’ we should probably say ‘Let it Be.’”

³⁴ **Exodus 14:14**

“Now, my son, may Yahweh be with you and prosper you, and build the house of Yahweh your God, as he has spoken concerning you.”³⁵

“Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, give I to you. Don't let your heart be troubled, neither *let it be* fearful.”³⁶

“Now therefore write this song for yourselves, and teach it to the children of Israel: put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for me against the children of Israel.”³⁷

The Preacher sought to find out acceptable words, and that which was written blamelessly, words of truth.³⁸ The multitude, crying aloud, began to ask him to do as he always did for them.³⁹ They all wept a lot, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him.⁴⁰

After he had taken leave of them, he went up the mountain to pray.⁴¹

“Teach me, Yahweh, the way of your statutes. I will keep them to the end.⁴² Though princes sit and slander me, your servant will meditate on your statutes.”⁴³ For you have been my help. I will rejoice in the shadow of your wings.⁴⁴

“How sweet are your promises to my taste, more than honey to my mouth!”⁴⁵ They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.⁴⁶

³⁵ **1 Chronicles 22:11**

³⁶ **John 14:27** Mary is counseling Paul to just “let it be”; to not let his heart be troubled and to not “let it be” fearful. “Let it Be,” released in March of 1970, was the Beatles next to last single. Their last single, “The Long And Winding Road,” was released two months later, shortly after the group had officially announced their breakup. Taken together, these two final gifts to the world, both written by Paul as piano based ballads, offer a powerful spiritual lesson. The way to navigate “the long and winding road” is simply to “let it be.”

³⁷ **Deuteronomy 13:19**

³⁸ **Ecclesiastes 12:10** [“*The Preacher*” is Paul]

³⁹ **Mark 15:8**

⁴⁰ **Acts 20:37**

⁴¹ **Matthew 6:46**

⁴² **Psalm 119:33** “Tell me tell me tell me come on tell me the answer,” Paul pleads in “Helter Skelter.”

⁴³ **Psalm 119:23** To meditate is simply to think deeply or focus the mind for a period of time, for spiritual purposes or simply as a way to relax. The purpose of spiritual meditation is to reside in our essential nature, to attain a sense of the Presence of God.

⁴⁴ **Psalm 63:7**

⁴⁵ **Psalm 119:103**

⁴⁶ **Lamentations 3:23**

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“Blessed are the people who learn to acclaim you. They walk in the light of your presence, Yahweh.⁴⁷ Let the proud be disappointed, for they have overthrown me wrongfully. I will meditate on your precepts.⁴⁸

“I fade away like an evening shadow. I am shaken off like a locust.⁴⁹ But I will sing of your strength. Yes, I will sing aloud of your loving kindness in the morning. For you have been my high tower, a refuge in the day of my distress.⁵⁰

“I will give thanks to you, Lord, among the peoples. I will sing praises to you among the nations.⁵¹ I will sing a new song to you, God. On a ten-stringed lyre, I will sing praises to you.”⁵²

Now very early in the morning, he came again into the temple, and all the people came to him. He sat down, and taught them.⁵³

“Wake up, harp and lyre! I will wake up the dawn.⁵⁴ This greeting is by me, Paul, with my own hand.⁵⁵ I waited patiently for Yahweh. He turned to me, and heard my cry.⁵⁶

“He has put a new song in my mouth, even praise to our God. Many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in Yahweh.⁵⁷

⁴⁷ **Psalm 89:15** Emmett Fox: “The root of all difficulties is a lack of the sense of the Presence of God.”

⁴⁸ **Psalm 119:78** Krishnamurti, on meditation: “It's something that comes naturally, when all positive and negative assertions and accomplishments have been understood and drop away easily. It is the total emptiness of the brain... It's out of this emptiness love comes, otherwise it's not love.”

⁴⁹ **Psalm 109:23** “There's a shadow hanging over me,” Paul observes in “Yesterday.”

⁵⁰ **Psalm 59:16** Cicero: “Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all others.”

⁵¹ **Psalm 57:9 9**

⁵² **Psalm 144:9**

⁵³ **John 8:2** Paul: “All day long, I'm sitting singing songs for everyone” (“Mother Nature's Son”)

⁵⁴ **Psalm 108:2** Paul: “I wake up to the sound of music” (“Let It Be”)

⁵⁵ **1 Corinthians 16:21**

⁵⁶ **Psalm 40:1** W.A. Criswell: “God sends people into our lives just when we need them, to say the right word, His word, just when we need it.”

⁵⁷ **Psalm 40:3 7** Paul, on songwriting: “People who create and write, it actually does flow-just flows from into their head, into their hand, and they write it down. It's simple.”

“Yahweh is my strength and my shield. My heart has trusted in him, and I am helped. Therefore my heart greatly rejoices. With my song I will thank him.”⁵⁸

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”⁵⁹ This is the message which we have heard from him and announce to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.⁶⁰

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness hasn't overcome it.”⁶¹ Therefore see whether the light that is in you isn't darkness.⁶²

“If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.”⁶³ Let your heart therefore be perfect with Yahweh our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as it is today.⁶⁴

“Then you will call, and Yahweh will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say, ‘Here I am’. If you take away from among you the yoke, finger pointing, and speaking wickedly;⁶⁵ and if you pour out your soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul: then your light will rise in darkness, and your obscurity will be as the noonday.”⁶⁶

⁵⁸ **Psalms 28:7** Robert Holden: “The real gift of gratitude is that the more grateful you are, the more present you become.”

⁵⁹ **2 Corinthians 1:2**

⁶⁰ **1 John 1:5** God is all there is, without any opposite, in the same way that light has no opposite. Darkness is not the *opposite* of light, it is the *absence* of light.

⁶¹ **John 1:5 Paul:** “There is still a light that shines on me,” Paul affirms in “Let It Be.”

⁶² **Luke 11:35** Desmond Tutu: “Hope is being able to see there is light despite all of the darkness.”

⁶³ **Mark 3:25** In “Let It Be” the “broken hearted people,” divided against themselves, “may be parted.”

⁶⁴ **1 Kings 8:61** A perfect heart is one that is whole and undivided. When we are conflicted internally, such as not being able to forgive someone, we are in effect waging war against ourselves.

⁶⁵ **Isaiah 58:9** In “Let it Be,” when the “broken hearted people” “agree” then “there will be an answer.”

⁶⁶ **Isaiah 58:10** Martin Luther King Jr.: “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

“In that day, the deaf will hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind will see out of obscurity and out of darkness.”⁶⁷

“Ask a sign of Yahweh your God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above.”⁶⁸ **Let it be**, when these signs have come to you, that you do what is appropriate for the occasion; for God is with you.⁶⁹

“Yahweh will also be a high tower for the oppressed; a high tower in *times of trouble*.⁷⁰ He heals the *broken in heart*, and binds up their wounds.⁷¹ They also who err in spirit will come to understanding, and those who grumble will receive instruction.”⁷²

“Therefore, sirs, cheer up! For I believe God, that it will be just as it has been spoken to me.”⁷³ Don’t remember the former things, and don’t consider the things of old.⁷⁴ This is the day that Yahweh has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it!”⁷⁵

He said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, don’t be anxious for your life, what you will eat, nor yet for your body, what you will wear.”⁷⁶

⁶⁷ **Isaiah 29:18** In “Let It Be” “there is still a chance that they will see.”

⁶⁸ **Isaiah 7:11** Dr. Wayne Dyer: “The Divine is at work within you, moving you toward your life purpose. Let yourself be guided and see what happens when you simply ‘let it be’.”

⁶⁹ **1 Samuel 10:7** The affirmation “let it be” has a similar meaning to the Hebrew word “amen.”

⁷⁰ **Psalms 9:9** In “Let it Be,” Divine guidance and comfort comes to Paul in “times of trouble.”

⁷¹ **Psalms 147:3** In “Let it Be,” when the “broken hearted people living in the world agree,” they are healed.

⁷² **Isaiah 29:24**

⁷³ **Acts 27:25** Bhagavad Gita: “By working without attachment, one attains the Supreme.”

⁷⁴ **Isaiah 43:18** Lao Tzu: “If you are depressed you are living in the past. If you are anxious you are living in the future. If you are at peace you are living in the present.”

⁷⁵ **Psalms 118:24** Thich Nhat Hanh: “The miracle is not to walk on water. The miracle is to walk on the green earth, dwelling deeply in the present moment and feeling truly alive.”

⁷⁶ **Luke 12:22** Osho: “Trust does not mean that everything will be all right. Trust means everything is already all right.”

“Which of you by being anxious can add a cubit to his height?⁷⁷ Which of you, by being anxious, can add one moment to his lifespan?⁷⁸

“Offer the sacrifices of righteousness. Put your trust in Yahweh.”⁷⁹

When the king had heard the words of the law, he tore his clothes.⁸⁰

The king answered the man of God, “Now intercede for the favor of Yahweh your God, and pray for me, that my hand may be restored me again.” The man of God interceded with Yahweh, and the king’s hand was restored to him again, and became as it was before.⁸¹

When the multitude saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voice, saying in the language of Lycaonia, “The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!”⁸²

Many more believed because of his word.⁸³ But taking his leave of them, and saying, “I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem, but I will return again to you if God wills,” he set sail from Ephesus.⁸⁴

For Paul had determined to sail past Ephesus, that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening, if it were possible for him, to be in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost.⁸⁵

⁷⁷ **Luke 12:25** Corrie ten Boom:

“Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow, it empties today of its strength.”

⁷⁸ **Matthew 6:27** The Beatles: “Let it be.”

⁷⁹ **Psalms 4:5**

⁸⁰ **2 Chronicles 34:19**

⁸¹ **1 Kings 13:6** [“*The man of God is Paul*”]

Paul is able to facilitate the healing of the king by knowing the truth about him. In his own mind, which is also the mind of God, he knows that the king is healthy, whole and complete, and he ignores any evidence that might seem to indicate otherwise.

⁸² **Acts 14:11**

⁸³ **John 4:41** Since the breakup of the Beatles, Paul has become a crusader for environmentalism, animal rights, and vegetarianism. This is perhaps the closest thing to “religion” in his life.

⁸⁴ **Acts 18:21** Paul: “If anyone wants to save the planet, all they have to do is just stop eating meat. That’s the single most important thing you could do. Vegetarianism takes care of so many things in one shot: ecology, famine, cruelty.”

⁸⁵ **Acts 20:16** There is literally great peace inside *Jerusalem*; the third and fourth syllables of the name of the holy city are derived from *shalom*, which is the Hebrew word for peace.