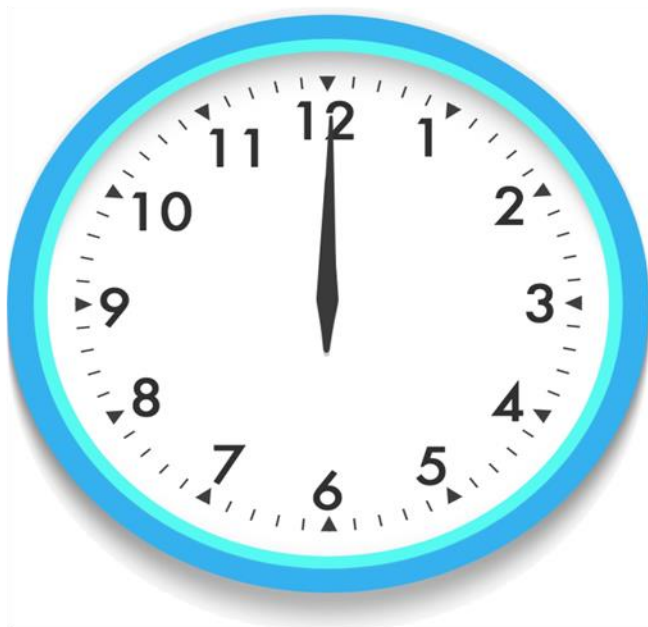


The Message Of The Hour

The knowledge for action today



FREDRICK G. OMONDI

**The Message
of
The Hour**

Fredrick G. Omondi

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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INTRODUCTION

Time is an essence in life and very dear and just like money, need not be squandered but used wisely.

Therefore, one needs to invest properly in the time one has in life. Time is one thing that does not wait for any one but keeps on ticking every second every day and it cannot be stopped or rewound to suit anyone. It is only Joshua the son of Nun who was privileged by God, at battle with his enemies, by God allowing the sun to continue to shine throughout the day so that Joshua can defeat the armies of five kings of the Amorites who were invading Gibeon in Israel. (Joshua 10:4-15). That has never happened again to any one. Get to know that God has a purpose for each one of us and unless you use your time wisely you will not achieve what God planned for you. Many have died at a time they have not achieved all that God intended for them and therefore not reached their destiny in life and that is unfortunate thing to happen to anyone. (Jeremiah 29:10-11). There is a

time for everything on earth and therefore one need wisdom to know what time to do what and so on (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, Isaiah 1:1-3, 1 Chronicles 12:32). But true wisdom can come only from one source and that is God. That definitely takes us to the fact of life that we must cooperate and work with God to be able to face life with both vigour and direction or else we mess up our lives. We don't need to be geniuses to know that fact, so we must decide from the word go. (Romans 1:18-32).

The most foolish thing for anyone to do is to try to go it alone in life. I can assure you that you won't make it so don't deceive yourself. Life without God is meaningless and boring. It is living a life in futility (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; 17-18).

CONTENTS

Introduction	4
Chapter One	7
The Time	
Chapter Two	33
Being in God	
Chapter three	60
Obeying God	
Chapter four	111
Being Ready	
Chapter five	156
What Next?	

Chapter One

The Time

Time as you are aware, is a crucial factor in life and therefore must be spent very wisely indeed to the best advantage. This chapter is going to dwell on that factor to a large extent based on what the Holy Scripture say about it.

The days of our years are three score years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be four score years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

Who knoweth the power of thine anger? Even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath.

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

Psalm 90:10-12

The above scripture talks of generally the number of years that one can stay on earth during the psalmist's time. But now it is even less as more people now die before their seventieth or eightieth birthday. Why? Because of the increase of sin in the world. During Noah's time when sin began to

increase in mankind God decreased the average age of mankind to one hundred and twenty years from almost one thousand, years before. (Genesis 6:1-3; 5:1-27). That fact alone tells you that we are living at the generation of the most wicked, in fact more wicked than that of Sodom and Gomorrah and that should raise much concern with everyone. Unfortunately, many people are not much concerned about it and some would say “It is how the world is”, but it is not the world but mankind (Ecclesiastes 7:29). What many don’t know is that God’s judgement is imminent and there is nothing like resting after death for the wicked save only for the saints. (Hebrews 9:27, Revelation 14:13) That is why the Psalmist talking of God’s wrath in verse 11 and requesting God to teach us to number our days, how? By applying our hearts unto wisdom, that is, wise living is necessary as God’s anger and wrath is sure.

Remember how short my time is: wherefore last thou made all men in vain?

What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death?
Shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the
grave?

Psalms 89:47-48

Surely at one time one must die. The Psalmist sees that a person has a short time to live on earth and to him he sees as if God's creation of man is in vain. It is not in vain as God's intention was for man to live forever if he continued in obedience to him. But alas, man became disobedient and that has remained his way of life and that brought death of man into the picture.

For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them.

Ecclesiastes 9:12

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

For God shall bring every work into judgement,
with every secret thing, whether it be good, or
whether it be evil.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Lift up your eyes to the heavens and look upon the
earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away
like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a
garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like
manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my
righteousness shall not be abolished.

Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the
people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the
reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their
revelings.

For the moth shall eat them up like a garment, and
the worm shall eat them like wool: but my
righteousness shall be for ever, and my salvation
from generation to generation.

Isaiah 51:6-8

The salvation of God is available to all here for all
and it is either you take it or you leave it. But if you
leave it, it will be too bad for you.

FOR, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

Malachi 4:1

Now is the time to stop being wicked doing wickedly by turning back to God the Creator lest one is burned up in the lake of fire at God's appointed time.

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long suffering to us-ward, not wanting that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved,
what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy
conversation and godliness,

2 Peter 3:9-11

We cannot be holy on our own. We need Jesus
Christ the Holy One of Israel in our lives. We
cannot have him unless we repent and turn away
from sin and begin to live a godly life from
henceforth. These are not mere stories but hard
facts of life.

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on
it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled
away; and there was found no place for them.

And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before
God; and the books were opened: and another book
was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead
were judged out of those things which were written
in the books, according to their works.

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and
death and hell delivered up the dead which were in
them and they were judged every man according to

their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the Lake of fire.

Revelation 20:11-15

Hurry up and ensure you have Christ Jesus in your life. It is only them who have Jesus in them and showed righteousness in their lives that their names will be found in the book of life as they lived a godly life on earth.

Yes, judgement is coming and that is why we need to live in wisdom right first time.

The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

Proverbs 18:10

Looks like a glimmer of hope for mankind, isn't it? No, but wait a minute. Those who are supposed to run to that name, are supposed to be righteous for them to be safe.

That tells you that one need to get the righteousness of God through Christ Jesus and begin to live right (righteously) so that when the going gets tough one

can run to that name to be safe. That goes well with the slogan “If you are not saved you are not safe”.

THIS know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

2 Timothy 3:1-5

That is the state of mankind in this generation of ours. We are living in the last days and only holiness and righteousness will count before the throne of God, from each individual here on earth.

AND Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to show him the buildings of the temple.

And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, there shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

And as he sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Then shall they deliver you up, to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Matthew 24:1-14

I have seen the above and heard and can tell you the end is nearing and is just at the corner. This is a time of endurance in the Lord. Jesus Christ was speaking to his disciples over two thousand years ago and now our generation is very near to that end. I believe you also have seen and heard what Jesus Christ told his disciples.

See, I have set before thee this day life and good,
and death and evil;

In that I command thee this day to love the LORD
thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his
statutes and judgements, that thou mayest live and
multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in
the land whither thou goest to posses it.

But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not
hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other
gods, and serve them;

I denounce unto you, this day, that ye shall surely
perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon
the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to
possess it.

I call heaven and earth to record this day against
you, that I have set before you life and death,
blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that
both thou and thy seed may live.

That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that
thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest
cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of
thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which

the LORD swear unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Please note the time. God is talking of today and not tomorrow. He has even gone ahead and advised you accordingly, to choose life and blessing.

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Isaiah 1:18-20

God is calling you now. You can reason with him in repentance and he forgives you right away.

Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Isaiah 55:6-7

It is time for seeking and finding God (as one's refuge) God is that generous- abundant in pardoning for one's sins. He is near.

Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

Hosea 10:12

Both these two prophets are speaking with one voice that people seek the Lord now. When you have expired you cannot get him then, if you did not seek him before and got him. If you have not found him please do not procrastinate.

And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me.

And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?

And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

And he spake a parable unto them, saying, the ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

And he thought within himself, saying, what shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

And he said, this will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruit and my goods.

And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

Luke 12:13-21

We should avoid being unduly obsessed with things of the world such that we lose focus of the heavenly. Our spirituality is more important than our material possessions. We need not be lost in things.

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth,
where moth, and rust doth corrupt, and where
thieves break through and steal:

But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and
where thieves do not break through and steal:

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be
also.

Matthew 6:19-21

Rather than accumulating much wealth here on
earth, spend it in serving the Lord and it will be
stored in heaven for you.

And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good
Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? None is good, save one, that is, God.

Thou knowest the commandments, do not commit adultery,

Do not kill, do not steal, do not bear false witness,
Honour thy father and thy mother.

And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up.

Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.

And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, how hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

And they that heard it, said, who then can be saved?

And he said, the things which are impossible with men are possible with God.

Luke 18:18-27

Richness can be a snare to you, especially if you are not in God and can easily miss entering heaven. Because only in God can one be able not to idolize it and worship it. There are examples of the saints who were very rich and are going to enter the kingdom of God.

BOAST not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

Proverbs 27:1

It is all about time. Be more concerned of today than tomorrow for you might not reach it alive or might reach it but it may turn against you completely. (Matthew 6:34). You can plan, but not worry, but commit to God trusting him. (Psalm 37:5).

And of the children of Is'-sa-char, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do,.....

.....

Chronicles 12:32

The children of Issachar had understanding of the times and knew what Israel needed to do. These were children of God and God has infinite understanding. You can make a wise decision to be also a child of God if you are not one and live wisely. That will now bring us to the next topic of being in God in chapter Two and as I conclude this chapter; have a look at this:

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Acts 17:30-31

Now it is repentance time as Christ soon will judge the whole world, but before that God has given us a window of escape that if one repents of one's sins and accept Jesus the Messiah as Lord and Saviour

one is forgiven, saved and will not face judgment for sins committed earlier in life.

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repented me that I have made them.

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.

And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Ja'pheth.

The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

Make thee an ark of go'-pher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.

Genesis 6:5-14

Now why did the Lord request Noah to build an ark? It was for saving some for the sake of Noah and who would then later replenish the earth once again. (Genesis 9:1-19). Now that was a physical ark. Just as wickedness increased on the earth during the generations of Noah at that time and the earth was corrupt and filled with violence, the same has happened in our generation. It is just too corrupt and full of violence. God foresaw all these events long, long time ago after creation and was armed with a solution. God did reveal it to mankind by giving out his only begotten Son to be a propitiation for the sins of all mankind. Jesus Christ's birth came from the Holy Spirit and he was crucified on the cross (a wood) at Calvary so that

by his death and resurrection he can save lives and create them a new. Those who believe in him can be safe and live forever (which actually was the initial plan of God when he created man). (John 3:16, Romans 3: 23-26, Matthew 1:18-21, Galatians 3:7-14). Jesus Christ came to the earth to be a spiritual ark and that is why to be in him one must first believe in his death and resurrection. It is a spiritual issue (that is, faith) (Romans 10:8-13)

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

Romans 3:23-26

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with of the Holy Ghost.

Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee, Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1:18-21

Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying,

In thee shall all nations be blessed.

So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

For as many are of the works of the law are under the curse:

For it is written, cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, the just shall live by faith.

And the law is not of faith: but, the man that doeth them shall live in them.

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Galatians 3:714

Just as Noah and all his household were saved by entering in the ark, likewise now all must enter and be in Jesus Christ to be saved. (2 Corinthians 5:17, John 11:23-26).

The time we are living in now is very important as it is a time that the Church of Christ is being restored back to glory prior to her rapture by the Lord Jesus.

It is so because the Church is living at the verge of rapture and as it was birthed in glory on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4) and must therefore be raptured in glory as well as the one involved in all this is the King of glory (Daniel 7:13-14, Revelation 5:11-14, Psalm 24:8-10) who will take the holy Church to his glorious kingdom in heaven (Matthew 19:27-28, Revelation 21: 9-22: 1-5).

This is a time of revival for the Church of Christ as prophesied by the prophet Joel (Joel 2:28-30 and the prophet Malachi (Malachi 4:5-6), going by the events that keep on unfolding. It is a time that we continue to witness the miracles of God as it is being restored back to God in repentance, holiness

and righteousness. It is a time that has continued to show wonders in the heavens and in the earth!

This is a time to have a right standing with the Lord in genuine repentance and the turning away from sin and living a holy and righteous life by faith in Christ Jesus before the judgement day (Malachi 4:1-3, Revelation 20:11-15).

This is the time and hour of not only being a Christian but also (additionally) to maintain one's wedding garment clean away from any filth (sin) which render the wedding garment worthless/useless before God (Zechariah 3:1-5).

Chapter Two

Being in God.

If you are not saved you are not safe but must face God's judgement (Romans 8:1-4). But do not despair as there is hope still for you.

THERE is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Romans 8:1-4

God alone through Christ Jesus can give a person the Holy Spirit for that person to live a life well pleasing to God by walking after the Spirit and not

after the sinful flesh. And thereby not condemned for sin.

We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles,

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, , and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.

For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.

For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Galatians 2: 15-21

Apostle Paul went at length to explain to the church at Galatia about this phenomenon of justification of men by faith in Christ Jesus and not by works of the law and that is why though a Jew he had to follow this right path of justification by faith, which is a possibility with men unlike the opposite path, which is justification by the works of the law which is in itself impossible.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

The same point apostle Paul expounded on to the church at Ephesus that no man should boast that he is saved because of anything good he has done because salvation is but the gift of God by his grace through faith in Christ Jesus.

Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? Nay: but by the law of faith:

Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Romans 3:20-28

Here also the apostle Paul has detailed this doctrine of faith very vividly to the church at Rome. It seems it was a real issue then, which was being misunderstood by many and even today, many preachers of the word to some extent have not grasped it.

THEREFORE being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Romans 5:1

Apostle Paul goes on to speak to the church in Rome after much explanation on this important subject of justification.

But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:22-23

We are freed from the bondage of sin when we have believed in Christ Jesus after repeating of our sins and the Holy Spirit of God that we receive as promised by the Lord himself, make us holy and lead us to everlasting life.

BLESSED is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

Psalm 32:1-2

That is the condition of a person who has repented of his or her sin and believed in Jesus Christ and therefore his or her heart is clean as had been cleansed by the blood of Christ (Psalms 32:5).

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Acts 2:36-41

AND as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sad'-du-ce-es, came upon them,

Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide.

Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes,

And Annas the high priest, and Cai'-a-phas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.

And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, If we be this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;

Be it known unto you, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Acts 4:1-12

Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:
And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the Law of Moses.

Acts 13:38-39

JUDGE not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgement ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.
And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine eye?

Or how will thou say to your brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and behold, a beam is in thine eyes?

Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eyes; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast, out the mote of thy brother's eye.

Matthew 7:1-5

THERE were present at that season some that told him of the Galileans, whose blood Pilate mingled with their sacrifices.

And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans, because they suffered such things?

I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Si-lo'-am fell and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem?

I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Luke 13:1-5

JESUS went unto the Mount of Olives.

And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.

And the scribes and the Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,

They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.

Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?

This they said, tempting him that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.

So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.

And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at

the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, woman, where are those thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee?

She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

John 8:1-11

I have given those three scriptures intentionally because I notice that many of us are fond of looking at others' actions more than looking at their own and hence miss the point and continue to live an unrighteous life in themselves. Therefore, one need to stop being critical and pointing fingers at others. Get to know that we are not good enough to enter heaven without Jesus Christ in our lives as he alone is the one who is good (Luke 18:18-19, John 10:31; 14:6-10). One need not miss the golden opportunity of getting saved and not back away from that opportunity shunning it but to turn to Jesus repenting of one's sins and asking for forgiveness for one's salvation. King Agrippa missed it by a

whisker by rejecting the truth (Acts 26:24-29). It is better to be like the thief on the cross who used the opportunity at hand and was saved (Luke 23:39-43).

And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

And he said to another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.

And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.

And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Luke 9:57-62

Many people when preached to, are fond of giving flimsy excuses; But now is not the time to do that as we are living in the end time and Christ is soon coming to take away the Church to be with him in heaven eternally.

This is not the time for looking at the others' lives but at your own and where you intend to have your eternity.

Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?

Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?

Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? Follow thou me.

John 21:20-22

This is the time to follow Jesus and not ask many questions as time is very much limited. Any questions you have you will have time to ask when you are in heaven and probably you will find

yourself with no question to ask as will be fully satisfied with everything there.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe.

He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light.

That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:6-13

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:14-16

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are past away; behold, all things are become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Repenting one's sins and believing in Christ Jesus as Saviour make one to be in Christ and be created anew spiritually.

I AM the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

I am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing.

John 15:1-5

Jesus describes himself as the vine and those that believe in him as the branches. We must be in Christ and abide in him to be fruitful for God. We must abide in the word of God which is Christ. If we do not, we will have nothing good (fruit) to show before God at the last day.

Being in God is being in Christ and manifesting Christ like character and hence becoming a true Christian / follower / disciple of Jesus Christ.

Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for the seek Saul:

And when he had found him, he brought him unto An'-ti-och. And it came to pass, that a whole year

they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in An'-ti-och.

Acts 11:25-26

That name 'Christians' is what God had prophesied through the prophet Isaiah that God's priests shall be called by men as the Ministers of God. You can see that the disciples assembled at Antioch for a span of a whole year teaching people who definitely noticed their lifestyle and it was Christ like (as they followed the footsteps of the Lord) and hence the men (people) called them Christians and do you know? Incidentally the name implies Christ in, how marvellous. Christ must be in for one to be created anew in his/her spirit by the Spirit of God to qualify to be a Christian. So people must stop calling themselves Christians and Christ is not in their hearts as that is hypocrisy of the highest order. You cannot imitate Christ if he is not in you because Christ's life is automatically manifested from the heart and one doesn't need to act but live Christ from deep within oneself (Galatians 2:20, Philippians 1:20:21).

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:21

Why one must be in God

May be if you are not a child of God (a Christian), you have wondered why I have talked so much about being in God as a topic. Well, it is not in vain but I just underscore the importance of that fact. The main reason for being in God is for one to not be tossed to and fro by Satan and to overcome him and finally enter heaven to be with the Lord for ever. I have some scriptures to support this which you will I agree with fully.

For they that are of the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.

Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Romans 8:5-9

You cannot be a Christian if you don't have the Holy Spirit and you can only have him if you have believed in Christ and invited him into your life. You further can't keep the laws of God without his Spirit in you.

AND you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

Even when we were dead in sins hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Ephesians 2:1-5

It is only the Spirit of God that revives us if we believe in Christ Jesus and we begin to live a spiritual life not led by the flesh but by God's Spirit.

When we are not in God, we are carnal and are led by the flesh influenced by the power of the devil so that we fulfil all the lusts of the flesh and of the mind. Lust is the work of the flesh and not of the Spirit, mind you. (Galatians 5:19-21).

And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

Revelation 12:10-12

It is a known fact even in heaven that the earth and the sea is no longer safe as the Devil has been cast down here and is creating havoc, as he had tried to do in heaven after rebelling against God. The devil is a spirit and an evil one and can only be defeated by a spirit and of course the opposite spirit of God-the Holy Spirit. If you have no Holy Spirit you are doomed to fail.

And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

Luke 22:31-32

Do you know why Christ told Simon Peter those words? He knew that the Holy Spirit was not yet in Peter's heart and therefore the enemy would have a chance in his life as he pleases and that is why he prayed for him.

Later, that is why he told his disciples that he will go back to heaven to his Father, but will not leave them alone but he will send them another Comforter (the Holy Spirit), only they need continue to obey God's commandments.

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

John 14:15-17

The disciples knew Christ for he was with them for about 3 years or so after calling them to him but he was going to send the Holy Spirit to represent him and to dwell in them for ever.

All this time they were being helped by Christ himself who was full of the Holy Spirit but later they too will have him to help them in life.

WHOSOEVER believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world, even our faith.

Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 John 5:1-5

You must have faith in God to be born of God and be in him and be able to overcome the world by that faith and God's Spirit in you; because God is above every creation, he is supreme and Almighty. So, if you are not in God don't play around with Satan, he will fry you alive as you are powerless against him. The battle between man and Satan is a spiritual one and is real, hence you must be spiritual to overcome.

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the in the Lord; and in the power of his might.

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Ephesians 6:10-13

Apostle Paul wrote an epistle to the church at Ephesus regarding spiritual warfare which need be fought spiritually and not physically. You can only be strong when you are in the Lord otherwise you are too weak in the flesh and will be utterly defeated by the spiritual forces listed - they are many going by their levels and power. You defeat the enemy with the things / weapons of God only.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor
angels, nor principalities, nor powers, no things
present, nor things to come,
Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall
be able to separate us from the love of God, which
is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:35-39

Chapter Three

Obeying God

Now if one is already in God as a child of God the first thing that one must learn and pretty fast, is to be always obedient to God and not to fear mortal men but God alone. Men can be given only the respect they deserve but not to be feared as that will be a snare. Be it known that to obey God is not negotiable neither is it debatable otherwise one will come out a loser in the end if one reverts to such. It is always a blessing to faithfully obey the Lord God as you are going to see in the scriptures shortly. (Romans 13:1-7, Matthew 10:28-33, Psalms 19:9; 24:9; 112:1, Job 28:28, Proverbs 9:10-12; 14:27; 29:25).

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.

Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

Romans 13:1-7

And fear them not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Are not two sparrows sold for a fathom? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.

But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 10:28-33

The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgements of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

Psalms 19:9

O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.

Psalms 34:9

PRAISE, ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.

Psalm 112:1

And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the LORD, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

Job 28:28

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the Holy is understanding.

For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased.

If thou be wise, thou shalt be wise for thyself: but if thou scornest, thou alone shalt bear it.

Proverbs 9:10-12

The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

Proverbs 14:27

The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

Proverbs 29:25

I hope that you have already realized that fearing God by obeying his commandments is the right way to go. Read on.

O that there were such a heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!

Go say to them, Get you into your tents again.

But as for thee, stand thou here by me, and I will speak unto thee all the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgements, which thou shalt teach them, that they may do them in the land which I give them to possess it.

Ye shall observe to do therefore as the LORD your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

Ye shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may

prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess.

Deuteronomy 5:29-33

Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation.

These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

Exodus 19:5-6

WHEREFORE laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speaking,

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye grow whereby:

If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,

Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which he disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

1 Peter 2:1-10

And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the A-mal'-ek-ites, and fight against them until they be consumed.

Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?

And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of A-mal'-ek-ites.

But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gil'-gal.

And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

1 Samuel 15:18-22

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Many people will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works?

And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

And everyone that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Matthew 7:21-27

While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him.

Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.

But he answered and said unto him that told him, who is my mother? And who are my brethren?

And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said,

Behold my mother and my brethren!

For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Matthew 12:46-50

Examples of obedience

1. Noah

AND it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be a hundred and twenty years.

There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and that bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repented me that I have made them.

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.

And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Ja'pheth.

The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

Make thee an ark of go'-pher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.

And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits.

A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it.

And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, where in is the

breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die.

But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.

And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female.

Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive.

And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them.

Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

Genesis 6

2. Abraham

NOW the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee:

And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Har'-an.

And Abram took Sar'-a-i his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Har'-an; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

Genesis 12:1-5

AND it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.

And he said, Take now, thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Mo-ri'-ah; and offer him there for a burnt

offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and so the place afar off.

And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.

And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.

And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son.

And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?

And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.

And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.

And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

And Abraham called the name of that place Je-ho'-vah- ji'-reh: as it is said to this day, in the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.

Genesis 22:1-14

3. Joshua

AND it came to pass, when Ja'-bin king of Ha'-zor had heard those things, that he sent to Jo'-bab king of Ma'-don, and to the king of Shim'-ron, and to the king of Ach'-shaph,

And to the kings that were on the north of the mountains, and of the plains south of Chin'-ne-roth, and in the valley, and in the borders of Dor on the west,

And to the Ca'-na-an-ite on the east and on the west, and to the Am'-o-rite, and the Hit'-tite and the Per'-iz-zite, and the Jeb'-u-site in the mountains, and to the Hi'-vite under Hermon in the land of Miz'-peh.

And they went out, they and all their hosts with them, much people, even as the sand that is upon the seashore in multitude, with horses and chariots very many.

And when all these kings were met together at the waters of Me'-rom, to fight against Israel.

And the LORD said unto Joshua,

Be not afraid because of them: for tomorrow about this time I will deliver them up all slain before

Israel: thou shalt hough their horse, and burn their chariots with fire.

So Joshua came, and all the people of war with him, against them by the waters of Me'-rom suddenly; and they fell upon them.

And the LORD delivered them into the hand of Israel, who smote them and chased them unto great Zi'-don, and unto Mis'-re-photh-ma'-im, and unto the valley of Miz'-peh eastward; and they smote them, until they left them none remaining.

And Joshua did unto them as the LORD bade him: he houghed their horses, and burnt their chariots with fire.

And Joshua at that time turned back, and took Ha'-zor, and smote the king thereof with the sword: for Ha'-zor before-time was the head of all those kingdoms.

And they smote all the souls that were therein with the edge of the sword, utterly destroying them: there was not any left to breathe: and he burnt Ha'-zor with fire.

And all the cities of those kings, and all the kings in them, did Joshua take, and smote them with the

edge of the sword, and he utterly destroyed them, as Moses the servant of the LORD commanded.

But as for the cities that stood still in their strength, Israel, burned none of them, save Ha'-zor only; that did Joshua burn.

And all the spoils of these cities, and the cattle, the children of Israel took for a prey unto themselves: but every man they smote with the edge of the sword, until they had destroyed them, neither left they any to breath.

As the LORD commanded Moses his servant, so did Moses command Joshua, and so did Joshua; he left nothing undone of all that the LORD commanded Moses.

Joshua 11:1-15

4. Hezekiah

Now it came to pass in the third year of Ho-she'-a son of E'-lah king of Israel, that Hez-e-ki'-ah the son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign.

Twenty and five years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty and nine years in

Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Abi, the daughter of Zach-a-ri'-ah.

And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father did.

He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brazen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Ne-hush'-tan.

He trusted in the LORD God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him.

For he clave to the LORD, and departed not from following him, but kept his commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses.

And the LORD was with him; and he prospered whithersoever he went forth: and he rebelled against the king of Assyria, and served him not.

He smote the Phil'-is'tines, even unto Gaza, and the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city.

2 Kings 18:1-8

5. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishaël and Azariah.

IN the third year of the reign of Je-hoi'-a-kim king of Judah came Neb-u-chad-nez'-zar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it.

And the Lord gave Je-hoi'-a-kim king of Judah unto his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shi'-nar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.

And the king spake unto Ash'-pe-naz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes;

Children in whom was no blemish, but well-favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chal-de'-ans.

And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king.

Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Han-a-ni'-ah, Mish'-a-el, and Az-a-ri'-ah: Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Bel-te-shaz'-zar; and to Han-a-ni'-ah, of Sha'-drach; and to Mish'-a-el, of Me'-shach; and to Az-a-ri'-ah, of A-bed'-ne-go.

But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.

And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? Then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king.

Then said Daniel to Mel'-zah, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over David, Hana-ni'-ah, Mish'-a-el, and Az-a-riah, Prove thy servants, I

beseech thee ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.

Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.

So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days.

And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of king's meat.

Thus Mel'-zah took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse.

As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Neb-u-chad-nez'-zar.

And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Han-a-ni'-ah,

Mish'-a-el, and Az-a-ri'-ah: Therefore stood, they before the king.

And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.

Daniel 1:1-20

6. Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

NEB-U-CHAD-NEZ'-ZAR the king made an image of gold, whose height was three score cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits; he set it up in the plain of Du'-ra, in the province of Babylon.

Then Neb-u-chad-nez'-zar the king sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Neb-u-chad-nez'-zar the king had set up.

Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Neb-

u-chad-nez'-zar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Neb-u-chad-nez'-zar had set up.

Then a herald cried out aloud,

To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages,

That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Neb-u-chad-nez'-zar the king had set up:

And whoso falleth not down and worshipeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of music all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshiped the golden image that, Neb-u-chad-nez'-zar the king had set up.

Wherefore at that time certain Chalde'-ans came near, and accused the Jews.

They spake and said to the king Neb-u-chad-nez'-zar, O king, live for ever.

Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image:

And whoso falleth not down and worshipeth, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Sha'-drach, Me'-shach, and A-bed'-ne-go; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

Then Neb-u-chad-nez'-zar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Sha'-drach, Me'-shach, and A-bed'-ne-go.

Then they brought these men before the king.

Neb-u-chad-nez'-zar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Sha'-drach, Me'-shach, and A-bed'-ne-go, do not ye serve my gods nor worship the golden image which I have set up?

Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye shall fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver us out of thine hands?

Sha'-drach, Me'-shach, and A-bed'-ne-go, answered and said to the king, O Neb-u-chad-nez'-zar we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O King.

But if not, be it known unto thee O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

Daniel 3:1-18

7. Daniel

IT pleased Da-ri'-us to set over the kingdom a hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom;

And over these three presidents of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage.

Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

Then the presidents and princes sought to find an occasion against Daniel concerning the Kingdom; but they could not find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

Then these men said, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.

Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Da-ri'-us, live for ever.

All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask

a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

Wherefore king Da-ri'-us signed the writing and the decree.

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled up on his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did afore time.

Daniel 6:1-10

8. Jesus' parents

And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

And when the days of her purification according to the Law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;

(As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;)

And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, a pair of turtle doves, or two young pigeons.

And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.

Luke 2:21-24, 39

9. The apostles

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves,

Saying, what shall we do to these men? For what indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is

manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it.

But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name.

And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

But Peter and John answered and said unto them, whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.

For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

Acts 4:13-20

And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? And, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.

Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, we ought to obey God rather than men.

The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.

Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

Acts 5:27-32

Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:

But showed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and do works meet for repentance.

For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill me.

Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to the small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come:

That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should show light unto the people and to the Gentiles.

And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad.

But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness.

Acts 26:19-26

The benefits in obedience

AND it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field.

Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store.

Blessed shall thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.

The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.

The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

The LORD shall establish thee a holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways.

And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of thee.

And the LORD shall make thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his

season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt not borrow.

And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them: And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

Deuteronomy 28:1-14

The consequences of disobedience and rebellion

The consequences as you are going to see are very costly indeed and very bitter to swallow.

a) Disobedience

But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:

Cursed shall thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field.

Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store.

Cursed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

Cursed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and cursed shalt thou be when thou goest out.

The LORD shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me.

The LORD shall make the pestilence cleave unto thee, until he have consumed thee from off the land, whither thou goest to possess it.

The LORD shall smite thee with a consumption, and with a fever, and with an inflammation, and with an extreme burning, and with the sword, and with blasting, and with mildew; and they shall pursue thee until thou perish.

And thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron.

The LORD shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed.

The LORD shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth.

And thy carcase shall be meat unto all fowls of the air, and unto the beasts of the earth, and no man shall fray them away.

The LORD will smite thee with the botch of Egypt, and with the emerods, and with the scab, and with the itch, whereof thou canst not be healed.

The LORD shall smite thee with madness, and blindness, and astonishment of heart:

And thou shalt grape at noonday, as the blind gropeth in darkness, and thou shalt be only oppressed and spoiled evermore, and no man shall save thee.

Thou shalt betroth a wife, and another man shall lie with her: thou shalt build a house, and thou shalt not dwell therein: thou shalt plant a vineyard, and shalt not gather the grapes thereof.

Thine ox shall be slain before thine eyes, and thou shalt not eat thereof: thine ass shall be violently taken away from before thy face, and shall not be restored to thee: thy sheep shall be given unto thine enemies, and thou shalt have none to rescue them.

Thy sons and thy daughters shall be given unto another people, and thine eyes shall look, and fail with longing for them all the day long: and there shall be no might in thine hand.

The fruit of thy land, and all thy labours, shall a nation which thou knowest not eat up; and thou shalt be only oppressed and crushed always:

So that thou shalt be mad for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see.

The LORD shall smite thee in the knees, and in the legs, from the sole of thy foot unto the top of thy head.

The LORD shall bring thee, and thy king which thou shalt set over thee, unto a nation which neither thou nor thy fathers have known; and there shalt thou serve other gods, wood and stone.

And thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations whither the LORD shall lead thee.

Thou shalt carry much seed out into the field, and shalt gather but little in; for the locust shall consume it.

Thou shalt plant vineyards, and dress them, but shalt neither drink of the wine, nor gather the grapes; for the worms shall eat them.

Thou shalt have olive trees throughout thy coasts, but thou shalt not enjoy them; for they shall go into captivity.

All thy trees and fruit of the land shall the locust consume.

The stranger that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low. He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail. Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his

commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee:

And they shall be upon thee a sign and for a wonder, and upon thy seed for ever.

Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with gladness of heart, for abundance of all things;

Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.

The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand;

A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor show favour to the young:

And he shall eat the fruit of thy cattle, and the fruit of thy land, until thou be destroyed: which also shall not leave thee either corn, wine, or oil, or the increase of thy kine, or flocks of thy sheep, until he have destroyed thee.

And he shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fenced walls come down, wherein thou trustedst, throughout all thy land: and he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land, which the LORD thy God hath given thee.

And thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body, the flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters, which the LORD thy God hath given thee, in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee:

So that the man that is tender among you, and very delicate his eye shall be evil toward his brother, and toward the wife of his bosom, and toward the remnant of his children which he shall leave:

So that he will not give to any of them of the flesh of his children whom he shall eat: because he hath nothing left him in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee in all thy gates.

The tender and the delicate woman among you, which would not adventure to set the sole of her foot upon the ground for delicateness and tenderness, her eye shall be evil towards the

husband of her bosom, and toward her son, and toward her daughter,

And toward her young one that cometh out from between her feet, and toward her children which she shall bear: for she shall eat them for want of all things secretly in the siege and straitness, wherewith thine enemy shall distress thee in thy gates.

If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD;

Then the LORD will make thy plagues wonderful, and the plague of thy seed, even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sicknesses, and of long continuance.

Moreover he will bring upon thee all the diseases of Egypt, which thou wast afraid of; and they shall cleave unto thee.

Also every sickness, every plague, which is not written in the book of this law, them will the LORD bring upon thee, until thou be destroyed.

And ye shall be left few in number, whereas ye were as the stars of heaven for multitude; because thou wouldest not obey the voice of the LORD thy God.

And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it.

And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, whither neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone.

And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind:

And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life:

In the morning thou shalt say,

Would God it were even! And at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! For the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see.

And the LORD shall bring thee into Egypt again with ships, by the way whereof I spake unto thee, Thou shalt see it no more again: and there ye shall be sold unto your enemies for bondmen and bondwomen, and no man shall buy you.

Deuteronomy 28:15-68

It is a very, very sorry state indeed to be in. The above consequences of disobedience surpasses very far the benefits of obedience you read of earlier. It is obvious to any one that one obeys God through and through.

b) Rebellion

NOW Kor'-ah the son of Iz'-har, the son of Ko'-hath, the son of Levi, and Da'-than and A-bi'-ram, the sons of E-li'-ab, and On, the son of Pe'-leth, sons of Reuben, took men:

And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of

the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown:

And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them,

Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?

And when Moses heard it, he fell upon his face:

And he spake unto Kor'-ah and unto all his company, saying, Even tomorrow the LORD will show who are his, and who is holy; and will cause him to come near unto him: even him whom he hath chosen will he cause to come near unto him.

This do; Take you censers, Kor'-ah, and all his company;

And put fire therein, and put incense in them before the LORD tomorrow: and it shall be that the man whom the LORD doth choose, he shall be holy: ye take too much upon you, ye sons of Levi.

And Moses said unto Kor'-ah, Hear, I pray, ye sons of Levi:

Seemeth it but a small thing unto you, that the God of Israel hath separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to himself to do the service of the tabernacle of the LORD, and to stand before the congregation to minister unto them?

And he hath brought thee near to him, and all thy brethren the sons of Levi with thee: and seek ye the priesthood also?

For which cause both thou and all thy company are gathered together against the LORD: and what is Aaron, that ye murmur against him?

And Moses sent to call Da'-than, and A-bi'-ram, the sons of Eli'-ab: which said, We will not come up: Is it a small thing that thou hast brought us up out of a land that floweth with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, except thou make thyself altogether a prince over us?

Moreover thou hast not brought us into a land that floweth with milk and honey, or given us inheritance of fields and vineyards: wilt thou put out the eyes of these men? We will not come up.

And Moses was very wroth, and said unto the LORD, Respect not thou their offering: I have not

taken one ass from them, neither have I hurt one of them.

And Moses said unto Kor'-ah, be thou and all thy company before the LORD, thou, and they, and Aaron, tomorrow:

And take every man his censer, and put incense in them, and bring ye before the LORD every man his censer, two hundred and fifty censers; thou also, and Aaron, each of you his censer.

And they took every man his censer, and put fire in them, and laid incense thereon, and stood in the door of the tabernacle of the congregation with Moses and Aaron.

And Kor'-ah gathered all the congregation against them unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the congregation.

And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying,

Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment.

And they fell upon their faces, and said, O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and wilt thou be wroth with all the congregation?

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Speak unto the congregation, saying,

Get you up, from about the tabernacle of Kor'-ah, Da'-than, and Abi'-ram.

And Moses rose up and went unto Da'-than, and Abi'-ram; and the elders of Israel followed him.

And he spake unto the congregation, saying, Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins.

So they gat up from the tabernacle of Kor'-ah, Da'-than, and Abi'-ram, on every side: and Da'-than, and Abi'-ram came out, and stood in the door of their tents, and their wives, and their sons, and their little children.

And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind.

If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; then the LORD hath not sent me.

But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD.

And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them:

And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained to Kor'-ah, and all their goods.

They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.

And all Israel that were round about them fled at the cry of them: for they said, lest the earth swallow us up also.

And there came out a fire from the LORD, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men that offered incense.

Numbers 16: 1-35

Well, you don't play with fire as fire will burn you. These rebels did not know that they were rebelling against God by rebellion against Moses and Aaron, for God is the one that appointed them to their positions and gave them power. God is a consuming fire. (Exodus 3:1-4:18, Hebrews 12:28-29). God takes rebellion very seriously and equates the sin as the sin of witchcraft, and how God detests witchcraft! (1 Samuel 15:23, Deuteronomy 18:9-13). I have dwelt more and more on the topic on obedience because it is so important and is actually the foundation of Christianity (Matthew 7:23-27, John 14:15, James 1:22-25, 1 John 2:3-5). Without obedience one can be sure to be heading to hell and not to heaven as the case should be if one was obedient.

Chapter Four

Being Ready

After you have been born again and is now a child of God and are in God, you must be prepared and ready to receive good things from your Father who is in heaven as he is good. Here we are going to see how we need to prepare and be ready and what good thing is ahead of us. We are also going to see that our preparation is urgent for us to be ready, and be ready 24/7.

LET not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

John 14:1-3

In a nutshell that is the great reward awaiting us who have decided to follow Jesus by faith. Surely, we need see where he resides up there in heaven.

So, we are here temporarily. He has gone to prepare a place for us and we too need not just sit and wait for him, as the place must be very special, for he is a king. We therefore need to prepare ourselves and be ready/acceptable to enter and live with him in that palace.

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Philippians 3:20-21

Our permanent residence is in heaven. We will not need an Aeroplane to take us there as our bodies will be changed to be able to fly us there. But our part is to prepare our hearts before that time and the Lord to deal with our corrupt and mortal bodies.

BEHOLD, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons

of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

1 John 3:1-3

So I was right. We need to purify our hearts to be ready to meet with our Master.

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Colossians 3:1-5

Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.

Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

Colossians 4: 5-6

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

And be not conformed to the world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Romans 12:1-2

See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools,
but as wise,
Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.
Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding
what the will of the Lord is.
And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but
be filled with the Spirit;
Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and
spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your
heart to the Lord;
Giving thanks always for all things unto God and
the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;
Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of
God.

Ephesians 5:15-21

If you do not redeem the time you will not be ready
when the Lord comes to take the Church in the
rapture of holy saints and you have to live a life
fearing the Lord and being submissive to him and
to the brethren in the Lord.

AND Jesus answered and spake unto them again by
parables, and said,

The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king,
which made a marriage for his son,
And sent forth his servants to call them that were
bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.
Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell
them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my
dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all
things are ready: come unto the marriage.
But they made light of it, and went their ways, one
to his farm, another to his merchandise:
And the remnant took his servants, and entreated
them spitefully, and slew them.
But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and
he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those
murderers, and burned up their city.
Then said he to his servants,
The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden
were not worthy.
Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as
ye shall find, bid to the marriage.
So those servants went out into the highways, and
gathered together all as many as they found, both

bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.

And when the king came into see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:

And he saith unto him, Friend, how comest thou in hither not have a wedding garment? And he was speechless.

Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

For many are called, but few are chosen.

Matthew 22:1-14

Now the above text is talking about God who has prepared a marriage for his Son Jesus Christ, between his Son as the bridegroom and the Church as the bride (those that are called and set apart for the Lord).

But the Church is still dilly dallying in sin (unrighteousness) but the wedding is ready in heaven, yet the Church is still putting on filthy rags and not in a wedding garment and therefore can easily miss being in that wedding for lack of

readiness and can easily be in the lot of the unrighteous headed for eternal judgement. If you read the book of Revelation (Revelation 19:7-8) you will find part of the Church that was ready as had lived righteously and were in that big wedding as were found worthy and had to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white. May the Lord help you and I to live righteously and be found worthy and ready to be in that wedding supper of the Lamb of God.

From the two scriptures, that is Matthew 22:1-14 and Revelation 19:6-8 we see clearly the common denominator is a wedding garment which one must have to be in the marriage supper of the Lamb of God for those who are called to be present and not with any other garment. Also to note is the fact that the garment need to be clean and white. That therefore calls for holy and pure, righteous living and not forgetting to genuinely repent when one falters (1 John 1:8-2:1-2, 1 John 3:2-3, Revelation 2:1-5; 22:12-14).

Let us all strive as Christians to live righteously and be found so in the house of God.

Surely, God has sent just so many servants of his to the Church but their message to some extent has fallen on deaf ears because many have spiritual insensibility. And God's servants have suffered from within and without. God is now calling all in the world (the end-time harvest) to come and partake in this wonderful wedding.

THEN shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

And the foolish said to the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

But the wise answered, saying,

Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open for us.

But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Matthew 25:1-13

The above account is still on the Church (the ten virgins) and the need for the Church to prepare and be ready for the coming of the bridegroom (Christ Jesus). The essential item required is oil.

All the virgins have lamps (which can be likened to salvation) (Luke 2:25-32, Matthew 1:18-21; 4:12-16, John 1:6-13). On the other hand, oil is likened

to the Holy Spirit. Just as a lamp without oil cannot burn same salvation without the Holy Spirit cannot go far as is dead as a dodo. Christians must not be complacent with the little anointing at conversion, which is but the first fruits of the Spirit (a down-payment) and a seal (Romans 8:23, Ephesians 1:10-14; 4:30) But need to strive and see to it that they are filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18, Acts 1:8; 2:1-4; 4:13-31). If that does not take place at all, definitely there will be a burn out in their salvation and that is dangerous indeed in both opposing the enemy as well as one's entry into heaven through rapture. (Romans 8:9-11, Ephesians 6:10-20). Beside one having a pass port one need a visa to enter another country; same to heaven salvation with being Spirit filled. Absence of the Spirit disqualifies one's entry into heaven.

It is true that the door of heaven will be shut immediately after they have entered heaven and no late - comers will be entertained (allowed in). I would say save for the 144,000, 12,000 each from the 12 tribes of Israel and the 2 witnesses. (Revelation 7:1-8; 11:1-12).

Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning;

And ye yourselves like unto men, that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.

Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

Luke 12:35-38

We need to see that our lights are burning and have not gone off so that we are able to be watchful and be ready for the coming of the Lord. Let us be watchful now for the Lord is coming from heaven where the wedding has been prepared to take us there to be partakers in it up there. There he will serve us just as the bridegroom serves his bride – (husband provides for his wife).

SIMON Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that you shall neither be barren nor

unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

2 Peter 1:1-12

All that talks of the need for Christians to prepare and be ready for the big day- rapture.

But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to

us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

2 Peter 3: 8-14

It is all about the Church to be ready and stop dilly-dallying and doubting as the time of the Lord's coming is quite tricky.

It is time to try as much as possible to be at peace with the Lord in spotlessness and blamelessness. May the Lord help us.

And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees;

When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand.

So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass,

Know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand, Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled.

Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

Luke 21:29-33

In the above conversation Jesus was actually telling his disciples of the grace period/the church age but in a parable of course.

The state of Israel was once again declared a sovereign state in 1948 after many Israelites had returned back to their ancestral land after being in exile for many years in the nations of the world scattered by God for their disobedience and now God had restored them as he had promised (Jeremiah 30:1-3, Ezekiel 36:1-38).

The Church of Christ is literally in the grace period prior to rapture time when she will be snatched away from the world to go and live eternally with the Lord Jesus Christ who is her Bridegroom, she being the Bride.

The period at hand is the zero countdown to the rapture of Christ's holy Church into heaven. This period began in 1948 when the Israelites were gathered in Israel in large numbers from the nations of the world and they declared Israel as a sovereign nation. The big question is 'Are we ready? As the kingdom of God has now drawn very close and the rapture is around the corner and when it comes to pass as in a twinkling of an eye then Israel's spiritual restoration will follow later in the Tribulation period where 144,000 Jews will be

saved (1 Corinthians 15:50-58, Revelation 7:1-8, Revelation 14:1-5)

May the Lord help us we who have believed already in his only Son Jesus Christ (the Gentile Church) to be found ready for the rapture.

But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven but by my Father only.

But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark,

And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

But know this, that if the Goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Matthew 24:36-44

So as I said, it is that tricky! The point is clear that what is required not to miss that time (be left out) is readiness.

Things will continue as usual but truly in the spiritual realm it will not be the same and events that will follow in the usualness of the physical will be most sudden and most unexpected at that hour and many will realize much later that something unusual had visited the face of the earth, as many will find their family members, relatives and friends are no longer in their midst. It will be quite disturbing to reckon with, but it has happened and it will remain so - irreversible.

How I wish I will not be locked out but will have been taken away with 'the ones'. How about you, what is your wish? If it is the same as mine, then let

us work hard, very hard, every day towards that goal and by God's grace, we will live not to regret our efforts.

And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armour of light.

Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

Romans 13:11-14

There are things that Christians must remove out of their lives now (the works of darkness, that is, all unrighteousness) why? Because the time/season of darkness is just about to be over and there is an urgent need to adjust and be ready to welcome the next season (a time of light) when the righteous have to depart for their home. It is not time to have

Jesus Christ to be aside but to be in you. Don't address yourself now by putting off Jesus for a while for any reason as it is being fleshy which is messy, as you can easily mess up yourself that way and the Lord cannot accept you in a messy state.

Now what do we do then? The answer is only to be awake in the spirit and not sleeping as your salvation has drawn closer. (Philippians 3:20-21, Romans 8:22-25, Ephesians 4:30, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).

Now let me say this, you can't play hide- and-seek game with God. You are either in God (with him) or you are out of God (without him and therefore in the world and is in the flesh and not in the spirit).

So let us choose one now and stick to it, lest we lose. (Revelation 3:14-22).

And unto the angel of the church of the La-od-i-ce'-ans write; These things saith the A'-men, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth.

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3:14-22

God is not a child and hates the children's game of hide- and- seek, he will not hesitate to spew you out of his mouth as your taste of being lukewarm is bad to him. It is better to be hot for the Lord.

But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the Excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may

apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in anything ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, Let us mind the same thing.

Philippians 3:7-16

It is time for pressing on in the Christian walk towards the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus and nothing less and reaching forth unto those things which are before us (in front) and forgetting the things that are (behind / past) us.

But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. A'-men.

1 Peter 4:7-11

Because the end is near, then that calls for soberness and watchfulness in prayer, coupled with fervent charity among the brethren, as well as serving the Lord. Now look at the following scriptures.

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

1 Corinthians 12:7

Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

Who hath saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

But is now manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

2 Timothy 1:6-11

Yes, Christians have each received a gift from God through the Holy Spirit not to keep as a souvenir but to use it to profit the others and by so doing

they are stirring up that gift so given which is in them. There is no need to fear as some Christians have been fearing because of persecutions. But persecutions and all sorts of sufferings are obvious in the Christian walk, as I wrote in the book entitled “A Christian and Persecutions and Imprisonments”

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever.
A'-men.

1 Peter 5:8-11

While you are busy preparing to be ready to wait for the glorious coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the enemy is not sleeping or sitting

back, but is busy looking for you and me who are saved and are headed for heaven. He is busy strategizing on a daily basis how to make us fall. We must therefore be equally busy in soberness and vigilance.

Thanks be to God as he will come to our rescue if we stand firm in the faith to perfect and settle us. May the Lord help us to mature now living in holiness and righteousness and having no spot or wrinkle but be blameless. One must be wise God wise to be able to have understanding and be ready for the coming of the Lord to snatch away the Church from the world.

Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.

Daniel 12:10

THEREFORE we ought to give more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward;

How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy, Ghost, according to his own will?

Hebrews 2:1-4

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Joshua 1:8

For those who want prosperity and success. You must observe and do the will of God at all times. Education, position and so on never guarantee prosperity or success. By the way, prosperity

according to God is not limited to material wealth but is more than that. It is actually spiritual wealth that translates to eternal life with the King of kings and the Lord of lords, Halleluiah.

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 7:21

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

James 1:22-25

Hey!! What do we do then? It seems that was revealed to Apostle Paul and he wrote an epistle (a second one) to the church at Corinth.

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

2 Corinthians 13:5

Now to be in faith simply means to be faithful. To be obedient to the word of God and therefore guaranteeing the presence of Jesus Christ in you, period; (John 15:4-5, 1 John 3:18-24)

If you stop examining yourself, you have stopped yourself from being ready. Therefore, this self-examination is a prerequisite and is a continuous process.

Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

And in nothing, terrified by your adversaries; which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God.

Philippians 1:27-28

A closer look at the seven churches in the Bible.

If you closely and keenly look at the chapters in the book of Revelation you will come to the realization that it touches on the Church of God, the events to unfold both on earth and in heaven and ultimately the end of the world which is the day of God's judgement and the ensuing eternity either in heaven or in hell.

For this case study I am going to dwell on chapters 1 through to 3 where specifically it touches on Christ's revelation in addressing His church here on earth.

THE revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us, from our sins in his own blood,

And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever: A'-men.

Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, A'-men.

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

Saying, I am Alpha and Omega the first and the last: and, what thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Eph'-e-sus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Per'-ga-mos, and unto Thy-a-ti'-ra, and unto Sar'-dis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto La-od-i-ce'-a.

And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candle sticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool,

as white as snow; and his eyes were as as flame of fire;

And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, A'-men; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

UNTO the angel of the church of Eph'-e-sus write;
These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in
his right hand who walketh in the midst of the
seven golden candlesticks;

I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience,
and how thou canst not bear them which are evil:
and thou hast tried them which say they are
apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my
name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

Nethertheless I have somewhat against thee,
because thou hast left thy first love.

Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen,
and repent, and do the first works; or else I will
come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy
candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the
Nic-o-la'-i-tans, which I also hate.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit
saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh
will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the
midst of the paradise of God.

And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write;
These things saith the first and the last, which was
dead, and is alive;

I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but
thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them
which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the
synagogue of Satan.

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer:
behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison,
that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation
ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give
thee a crown of life.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit
saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall
not be hurt of the second death.

And to the angel of the church in Per'-ga-mos
write; These things saith he which hath the sharp
sword with two edges;

I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even
where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my
name, and hast not denied my faith even in those
days wherein An'-ti-pas was my faithful martyr,
who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Ba'-la-am, who taught Balak to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nic-o-la'-i-tans, which thing I hate.

Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden man'-na, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

And unto the angel of the church in Thy-a-ti'-ra write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like brass;

I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.

Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee,
because thou sufferest that woman Jez'-e-bel,
which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to
seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to
eat things sacrificed unto idols.

And I gave her space to repent of her fornication;
and she repented not,

Behold, I will cast her into a bed and them that
commit adultery with her into great tribulation,
except they repent of their deeds.

And I will kill her children with death; and all the
churches shall know that I am he which searcheth
the reins and hearts: and I will give unto everyone
of you according to your works.

But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thy-a-ti'-ra,
as many as have not this doctrine, and which have
not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will
put upon you none other burden.

But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.
And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works
unto the end, to him will I give power over the
nations:

And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

And I will give him the morning star.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

AND unto the angel of the church in Sar'-dis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

Thou hast a few names even in Sar'-dis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out

of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

And unto the angel of the church of the La-od-i-ce'-ans write; These things saith the A'-men, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot, I would thou wert cold or hot.

So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold or hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth.

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy

nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 1, 2, & 3

Because Jesus Christ is Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending and the Omniscient, he knew all how the state of the Church is going to be throughout the ages and disclosed it to his beloved disciple apostle John who was then confined at the isle of Patmos because of the word of God he was preaching and testifying of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ told John the strengths and weaknesses of the Church and commending and rebuking her and expecting her to respond positively by steadfastly

continuing in her strengths and shunning away in her weaknesses after repenting of the same so as to be acceptable and ready for him and before God his Father so as to be able to be with him in God's paradise. The letters / messages to the seven churches serves as a blueprint for the Church to be able to enter the kingdom of God in heaven, the seven churches (a number of completeness, that is, the number seven) is therefore representative of the Church of Christ throughout the ages (in her spiritual state) and by the messages if respond positively be able to reach perfection for entry into heaven.

A Christian expecting to be in heaven must live a repentant and holy life walking in righteousness (Hebrews 12:14, Matthew 5:20) but unfortunately many Christians will not heed these qualities and therefore will miss heaven and heaven for sure will be populated with the holy angels of God than with holy Christians who will be the minority there.

Now the choice is yours and mine how we want to live and is a make or break decision on our part.

Chapter Five

What Next?

After you have prepared yourself and is ready you must have now an expectation which is to wait for the Lord to take you home as this world is not your home. But do maintain your readiness as the Lord's coming as you read in the previous chapter is a sudden event, and it is irreversible. There are no regrets whatsoever if you maintain the status quo in holiness and righteousness.

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

1 Corinthians 15:50 - 55

Yes, we must have a totally new body that is like the one of angels and which is immortal. You may read also in the book of Luke (Luke 20:27-36) about the new body, after our bodies are changed.

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We are all assured as the saints of God of being raptured to meet and be with the Lord, be it we have slept or are still alive, only we must be in the Lord. (Revelation 14:13, Galatians 2:20, Philippians 1:21). You have seen from the two scriptures above that those asleep will come out first by resurrection with changed bodies and those that are alive have their bodies also changed and all the two groups are caught up together in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then what will happen after that?

Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

1 Corinthians 3:13-15

And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thundering, saying Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.

And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me,

These are the true sayings of God.

Revelation 19:6-9

AND I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

Revelation 21:1-5

I cannot keep quiet but to tell you of our new abode in heaven by directing you to read on, Revelation 21:9-22:5. By God's grace and mercy and his love for the Church let's meet there, in Jesus' name.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it might be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

1 Peter 1:3-7

AND the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

And Noah went in, and his sons, and his wife, and his son's wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood.

Genesis 7:1, 7

Even this time round, only the righteous are going to be delivered from the waters of the Tribulation period and be safe with the Lord in heaven.

Notes to the reader

My thanks to you for reading this book. In case you have something to share about the book please do write using the address given.

If you are not yet saved or you were saved and have backslidden, this is your golden chance to be right with God. Sincerely repeat this prayer for your salvation:

‘Lord Jesus I come to you today as a sinner, I do repent of all my sins today, please do forgive me of all my sins and cleanse me with your precious blood which you shed on the cross. I invite you into my life. I ask all this, in Jesus’ name. Amen’.

If you have said the above prayer do join a Bible teaching church that practise what the scriptures say and ask to be baptized in much water and prayed for to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Stay away from all sin.

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The Message of The Hour

‘Getting to know the time we are living in today. A decisive time indeed, needing much soberness and watchfulness’

In the world we are living in today there are many events that keep on unfolding before our very eyes and which we need not ignore and

continue living as if nothing has happened. Rather we need to be

concerned and do something before it is too late to do anything. This book will enlighten you on these events and what need to be done now and not later. Get your copy and be in the know and act.

The Author Fredrick Geoffrey Omondi aged 59 years old is married and they have four children. He is a born - again Christian and a preacher and teacher of the word of God and holds a Diploma certificate in Biblical Studies both from Emmaus Bible School and Voice of Prophecy. He is an active life member of the Scripture Union of Kenya. He is a member of an altar of the Ministry of Repentance and Holiness. He is the Author of several Inspirational books some of which are:- ‘The World of Wisdom’, ‘The Christian Walk’, ‘The Secret in Healing and Health’, ‘The Powerful Tongue’.



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