

**A Christian
and
Divine Protection**

Fredrick G. Omondi

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

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INTRODUCTION

The safety of a Christian is important and God guarantees it as long as one adheres to some divine principle. Jehovah Elohim - the Eternal Creator is also the protector of his creations. In this book you are going to see the various scriptures that touch on the safety of the elect of God. In the same breath you are going to find many case studies in the scriptures of those that experienced divine protection.

Also, of equal importance you are going to know why God may sometimes withdraw his protection from an individual and which you need to carefully take note of for your own good.

Therefore, it is better to be safe than sorry.

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Chapter 1

God's protection

The protection that comes from God is divine protection and is the best protection in the whole world as it is perfect because God Himself is a perfect being.

The word to protect simply means to make sure that somebody or something is not harmed, injured, damaged and so on. So God is the perfect protector as gives perfect protection.

In the book of Psalms God says so, that he is the one that protects.

EXCEPT the LORD build the house, they labor in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

Psalm 127:1

Everything is in vain if God is not in it, that is, is not put into consideration / allowed to contribute. God does not keep only cities but living beings too which of course include human beings. Now there is a very close relationship between God and his children (Christians) concerning the task of

protection. God is keen on their protection and ensures their protection. True safety can only be found in God and not from any other. For instance, it is common knowledge that heads of states are normally given the biggest and the best security more than any other person in those states, yet some all the same have been assassinated by assassins. Why is that so? Because God was not in it. Many of us (human beings) depend much on the flesh (on other people or on ourselves) on many things be it work or security and not on God and that is our undoing. We are just flesh and immortal in nature because of the fall of man in the Garden of Eden but God is a spirit and God's Spirit has unlimited power, wisdom, name it. So, no matter how the security men are awake and alert wherever they are still premises are broken into and property or money are stolen and people are killed.

The world is not safe at all without God Himself who is the Creator of heaven and earth and all there is in it. Therefore, God is the most important being in all matters of life on all living beings.

Let us now go to the scriptures navigating through it to see what it says regarding protection.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand.

The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.

The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.

The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

Psalm 121:4-8

The above is a beautiful assurance from God to keep and to preserve the Israelites. The same applies to Christians. Christians are kept (protected) by God Himself who does not weary and go to slumber or sleep as men do. So, we are safe and secure in the hands of a Mighty God throughout our lives from all evil (harm) as long as we remain in Him (John 6:39, Revelation 3:7-10).

Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers,
and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it
were for a little moment, until the indignation be
over past.

Isaiah 26:20

God will protect his people - the raptured saints
from the Tribulation period by providing them with
rooms in heaven to hide in there until the
Tribulation period and the Great Tribulation period
has passed away on the earth before the Lord
coming down with the saints in his Millennium rule
in Jerusalem.

GOD is our refuge and strength, a very present help
in trouble.

Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be
removed, and though the mountains be carried into
the midst of the sea;

Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled,
though the mountains shake with the swelling
thereof.

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is
our refuge. Selah.

Psalm 46:1-3, 7

A Christian need not be fearful of any threat in life but to be bold (proverbs 28:1) as long as is in a right standing with God by living righteously as God then becomes a defense at all times to him or her. God of Israel is a real protector.

But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice:
Let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.

Psalm 5:11

God defends those that love and trust in Him

O love the LORD, all ye his saints: for the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer.

Psalm 31:23

Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;
To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

Psalm 33:18-19

The Lord God's eye is upon those who fear him (the saints) to see that they are preserved being kept out of any danger and to keep them alive even in famine!

Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah

Psalm 32:7

Only God can preserve one's life from the dangers in this world.

For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.

Proverbs 2:6-8

God protects the way of his saints.

But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.

2 Thessalonians 3:3

Only the Lord can protect us from evil (Matthew 6:13)

AFTER these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

Genesis 15:1

Now that was God talking to Abram in a vision and telling him not to fear as God Himself is his protection (shield) plus more than just protection. Let me bring to your attention the fact that Abram who God changed his name to Abraham (Genesis 17:1-5) had believed in God and became the father of faith (Galatians 3:6-9). Therefore, all those who believe in God through Christ Jesus, God is their protection and everything.

The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will

trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

Psalm 18:2

King David in writing that psalm acknowledged God as his fortress. A fortress is a good place for protection as it is strongly built and it is most difficult to attack. So if God is your fortress as he was for David, your safety is guaranteed. David too believed in God and was ever filled with God's Spirit (1 Samuel 17:37, 45-47; I Samuel 16:11-13).

When the wicked, even mine enemies and foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.

Though a host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.

Psalm 27:2-3

Do you know why David was so confident of his safety? It was because he believed in God and had put his trust in Him and therefore did not have any fear of any enemy who may want to harm him as he knows such will but stumble and fall.

Praise be to the most holy God, the God of Israel
(Isaiah 6:1-3).

There is none like unto the God of Jesh'-urun, who
rideth upon the heaven in thy help, and in his
Excellency on the sky.

The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are
the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the
enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy
them.

Israel then shall dwell in safety alone: the fountain
of Jacob shall be upon a land of corn and wine; also
his heavens shall drop down dew.

Happy art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee, O
people saved by the LORD, the shield of thy help,
and who is the sword of thy Excellency! And thine
enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou
shalt tread upon their high places.

Deuteronomy 33:26-29

The Israelites God was their shield to protect them
from their enemies even to date and it applies to
Christians as well. Surely there is no enchantment
against Jacob, neither is there any divination

against Israel: according to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What hath God wrought!

Number 23:23

The above words were uttered by prophet Balaam concerning the people of God-Israelites whom he saw as a protected people as they were the blessed of God and could therefore not be cursed and no harm could come upon them as a result of witchcraft. Therefore, people will keep wondering what God had done to them that witchcraft cannot affect them! Remember what God said to Abraham when he called him (Genesis 12:1-3).

The same protection applies to Christians today who are the children of God by faith (Galatians 3:26; 6-9).

That kind of protection may be withdrawn only when Christians commit sin as they are exposed and become vulnerable to Satan's attacks (Numbers 25:1-3, Proverbs 26:2).

I LIFTED up mine eyes again, and looked, and behold a man with a measuring line is his hand.

Then said I, Whither goest thou? And he said unto me,

To measure Jerusalem, to see what is the breadth thereof, and what is the length thereof.

And behold, the angel that talked with me went forth, and another angel went out to meet him,

And said unto him, Run, speak to this young man, saying, Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls for the multitude of men and cattle there in:

For I, saith the LORD, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her.

Zechariah 2:1-5

In the above prophecy which the prophet Zechariah saw in a vision God promised to be the protector of the city of Jerusalem when it will be highly populated with people and livestock and said he will be like a wall of fire around that city. Remember God of Israel is a consuming fire and can consume any enemies of his people (Hebrews 12:29).

The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.

Nahum 1:7

God is a stronghold only to them that truly trust in him. Those that trust in the Lord are those who believe in him and have their faith anchored in him. Faith and trust go hand in hand and you cannot separate them.

That art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.

Psalm 119:114

A shield is something that covers one and one can hide behind it. It is for protection of the holder. The psalmist says that God is his shield and therefore hides in God.

Deliver me, O LORD, from mine enemies: I flee unto thee to hide me.

Psalm 143:9

It is only in God that one can hide for one's safety.

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.

Colossians 3:1-3

The above is but by the way as has been led by the Spirit. Christians are dead to sin and their lives are hidden with Christ in God. Any one who is alive to sin is then excluded from divine protection. Be in Christ and die to sin and your safety is assured.

And thou shalt be secure, because there is hope; yea, thou shalt dig about thee, and thou shalt take thy rest in safety.

Also thou shalt lie down, and none shall make thee afraid; yea, many shall make suit unto thee.

Job 11:18-19

In God one's safety is guaranteed and one can sleep soundly as there is nothing to make one afraid as

one's mind is in complete peace without any worries.

HE that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shall thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.

Psalm 91:1-6

God can protect you from all things and not from one thing (danger) alone.

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

The rich man's wealth is his strong city, and as a high wall in his own conceit.

Proverbs 18:10-11

The name of the Lord is a strong tower to the righteous, please get it right. I recall an incident in which we were from a big meeting of the Lord and all of a sudden the bus we were traveling in veered out of the road towards some ditch and one pastor who was sitting beside me near the driver called on the name of the Lord 'Jesus!' and all was well. Other people such as the rich imagine their wealth to be of some help in protecting them which of course is not as God is the only one who can actually protect a person.

For the turning away of the simple shall slay them,
and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.
But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely,
and shall be quite from fear of evil.

Proverbs 1:32-33

For those who are ignorant and those who are rich
and are not obedient to God will not be safe. Only

the obedient to God's commandments shall dwell safely and with a peaceful heart.

O Israel, trust thou in the LORD: he is their help and their shield.

O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD: he is their help and their shield.

The LORD hath been mindful of us: he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron.

He will bless them that fear the LORD, both small and great.

Psalm 115:9-13

Are you a child of God and do serve him? Do you really fear the Lord? (John 1:11-13, 1 John 5:1-5, 1 Peter 2:7-10, Job 28:28). If the answer is yes to the above, then you are blessed and God will protect you and be your help.

He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that

stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and
shutteth his eyes from seeing evil;
He shall dwell on high: his place of defense shall be
munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his
waters shall be sure.

Isaiah 33:15-16

There you are. Living right and speaking the truth,
hating corruption and hearing slander as well as
shunning seeing anything evil are the hallmarks of
those who will dwell on high with God in their
midst and will be both protected and blessed by
God.

BUT now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O
Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel,
Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called
thee by thy name; thou art mine.

When thou passest through the waters, I will be
with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not
overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire,
thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame
kindle upon thee.

Isaiah 43:1-2

If you are a child of God fear not for you are God's as he has called you by your name (Romans 8:28-31, Isaiah 42:6-7) and therefore he will protect you from the many dangers in life. Remember the children of Judah before king Nebuchadnezzar who God rescued miraculously such that they had no hurt whatsoever (Daniel 3:8-27) also remember the children of Israel who on one hand before them there was the Red sea and behind them the Egyptian army with their king and God beautifully delivered them and they came out on the other side unscathed (Exodus 14:1-31).

The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

Psalm 34:7

God has assigned angels to protect those who truly fear him and they are safe.

AND at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as

never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life,.....

Daniel 12:1-2a

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.

Revelation 2:8-11

God assures his protection to his children who are called by his name who are faithful to him persevering in all situations and thereby becoming overcomers who have their names maintained in the book of life and hence will not taste the second death which is eternal damnation.

They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever.

As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the LORD is round about his people from henceforth even forever.

Psalms 125:1-2

Did you see that! That is how God protects his own whom he calls 'My people'. Ideally those who God calls 'My people' are guaranteed divine protection and those are the saints who have separated themselves from sin because they have the wisdom of God and have committed their lives to God to be used by him. Let us look at some of the scriptures that touch on those God calls 'my people'.

AND at the time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, everyone that shall be found written in the book.

And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

Daniel 12:1-3

Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of wicked one;

The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Matthew 13:36-43

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 the 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 unto 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.

Matthew 25:1-12

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

And what concord hath Christ with Be'-li-al? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, And touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

and will be a father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

We can see for ourselves that only Christians who have separated themselves from wickedness are wise and righteous and are going to be guaranteed

divine protection and will be ruptured and shine in the kingdom of God in heaven.

And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake.

But there shall not a hair of your head perish.

Luke 21:17-18

That is how the Lord is serious in protecting his followers. I can go on and on and on in supporting that God protects but please let me stop there.

In the next chapters you are going to see God now in action on people's lives. I have treated them as case studies. Let me admit that the case studies are not exhaustive as many others I may have left out.

Chapter 2

Case study #1: Noah and his family

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, wherein is the breadth of life, from under heaven; and everything 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 every 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, for them.

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

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.

Of every clean beast thou shalt take thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female.

Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth.

For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth.

And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him.

And Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth.

And Noah, went in, and his sons' wives with him, into the ark, because of the waters of the flood.

Of clean beasts, and of beasts that are not clean, and of fowls, and of everything that creepeth upon the earth,

There went in two and two unto Noah into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah.

And it came to pass after seven days, the waters of the flood were upon the earth.

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.

And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.

In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Ja'-pheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark;

They, and every beast after his kind, and all the cattle after their kind and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind, and every fowl after his kind, every bird of every sort.

And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life.

And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in.

And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lifted up above the earth.

And the waters prevailed, and were increased greatly upon the earth; and the ark went upon the face of the waters.

And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered.

Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered.

And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man:

All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died.

And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the

heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth:
and Noah only remained alive and they that were
with him in the ark.

And the waters prevailed upon the earth a hundred
and fifty days.

AND God remembered Noah, and every living
thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark:
and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and
the waters assuaged;

The fountains also of the deep and the windows of
heaven were stopped, and the rain from heaven was
restrained;

And the waters returned from off the earth
continually: and after the end of the hundred and
fifty days the waters were abated.

And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the
seventeenth day of the month upon the mountains
of Ar'-a-rat.

And the waters decreased continually until the tenth
month: in the tenth month, on the first day of the
month, were tops of mountains seen.

And it came to pass at the end of forty days, that Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made:

And he sent forth a raven, which went forth to and fro, until the waters were dried up from off the earth.

Also he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters were abated from off the face of the ground; But the dove found no rest for the sole of her foot, and she returned unto him into the ark, for the water were on the face of the whole earth: then he put forth his hand, and took her, and pulled her in unto him into the ark.

And he stayed yet other seven days; and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark;

And the dove came into him in the evening; and, lo, in her mouth was an olive leaf plucked off: so Noah knew that the waters were abated from off the earth.

And he stayed yet other seven days; and sent forth the dove; which returned not again unto him any more.

And it came to pass in the six hundredth and first year, in the first month, the waters were dried up from off the earth: and Noah removed the covering of the Ark, and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry.

And in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, was the earth dried.

And God spake unto Noah, saying,
Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons; wives with thee.

Bring forth with thee every living things that is with thee, of all flesh, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth; that they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth.

Every beast, every creeping thing, and every fowl, and whatsoever creepeth upon the earth, after their kinds, went forth out of the ark.

And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

And the LORD smelled a sweet savor; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the

ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more everything living, as I have done.

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

Genesis 6:9-8:22

Chapter 3

Case study #2: The Israelites

AND the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,

This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.

Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for a house:

And if the house be too little for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.

Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.

And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.

Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof.

And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaieth of it until morning ye shall burn with fire.

And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S pass over.

For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD.

And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I

will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance forever.

Exodus 12:1-14

God saved the Israelites by protecting them by a token of blood of a lamb. We too can only be protected by God if our bodies have been covered by the blood of Jesus Christ his Son. We are saved by the blood and are also protected by the blood and therefore we need to continue to be under the blood of our Savior.

AND the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
Speak unto the children of Israel, that they turn and encamp before Pi-ha-hi'-roth, between Mig'-dol and the sea, over against Ba'-al-ze'-phon: before it shall ye encamp by the sea.

For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, They are entangled in the land, the wilderness hath shut them in.

And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, that he shall follow after them; and I will be honored upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host; that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD. And they did so.

And it was told the king of Egypt that the people fled: and the heart of Pharaoh and of his servants was turned against the people, and they said, Why have we done this, that we have left Israel go from serving us?

And he made ready his chariot, and took his people with him:

And he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over everyone of them.

And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued after the children of Israel: and the children of Israel went out with a high hand.

But the Egyptians pursued after them all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pi'-ha-hi'-roth, before Ba'-al-ze'-phon.

And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD.

And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt?

Is that not the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying,

Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness.

And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will show to you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more for ever.

The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:

Bit lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. And, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them: and I will get me honor upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.

And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten me honor upon Pharaoh, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.

And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them:

And it became between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night. And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.

And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians,

And took off their chariot wheels, that they drove them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians.

And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.

And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

And the waters returned, and covered the chariots and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them.

But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the seashore.

And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses.

Exodus 14

God for sure really protected the children of Israel from the Egyptians who pursued them and instead of the Egyptians harming them or forcing them back to Egypt to continue serving them they were safe and it is the Egyptians that all perished in the sea. God's protection is obviously unparalleled to any other protection that may be.

And after these things I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree. Then I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, “Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads. “And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred *and* forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel *were* sealed:

Of the tribe of Judah were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad *were* sealed twelve thousand.

Of the tribe of Asher *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Naphtali *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasseh *were* sealed twelve thousand.

Of the tribe of Simeon *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi *were* sealed twelve

thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar *were* sealed twelve thousand.

Of the tribe of Zebulun *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph *were* sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin *were* sealed twelve thousand.

Revelation 7:1-8

AND the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven to the earth: and to him was given the key to the bottomless pit.

And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.

And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power.

And it was commanded them not to hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment *was as* the torment of a scorpion, when it striketh a man.

And in those days shall men will seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.

And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared for battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces *were* as the faces of men.

And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were like the teeth of *lions*.

And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron;

and the sound of their wings *was* as the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle. And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power *was* to hurt men five months.

And they had as king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew tongue *is* Abaddon, but in Greek tongue hath his

name Apollyon.

Revelation 9:1-11

From the above two scriptures you can see that during the Great tribulation God is going to protect 144,000 Jews from the twelve tribes of the children of Israel by having them sealed on their foreheads so that they are not hurt by the unusually looking locusts to come from the bottomless pit and therefore to be preserved by God from the torment which would go for a span of five full months.

The Israelites were chosen by God to be his treasured possession and were a shadow of the Church of Christ and if God would preserve the above number for his special purpose on the face of the earth at the Great tribulation, then definitely he is going to and is doing the same to those in the body of Christ who are faithful to him, as they too have a special duty on God's agenda to all humanity on the earth (Matthew 8:16-20, 1 Peter 2:5-10). These too also have the seal of God (Ephesians 1:12-14).

For your information the cases on the children of Israel are not the only ones where God protected

them definitely there are others but let these suffice
you.

Chapter 4

Case study # 3: Moses

NOW these are the names of the children of Israel, which came into Egypt; every man and his household came with Jacob.

Reuben, Simon, Levi and Judah.

Is'-sa-char, Zeb'-u-lun, and Benjamin.

Dan, and Naph'-ta-li, Gad and Asher.

And all the souls that came out of the loins of Jacob were seventy souls: for Joseph was in Egypt already.

And Joseph died, and all his brethren and all that generation.

And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them.

Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.

And he said unto his people,

Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we.

Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it came to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land.

Therefore they did set over them taskmasters, to afflict them with their burden. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pi'-them and Ra-am'-ses.

But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel.

And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigor:

And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in bricks, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigor.

And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one was Shiph'-rah, and the name of the other Pu'-ah:

And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them upon the stools;

if it be a son then ye shall kill him: but if it be a daughter, then she shall live.

But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.

And the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said unto them, Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive?

And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them.

Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty.

And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses.

And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive.

AND there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi.

And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months.

And when she could not long hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink.

And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done him.

And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it.

And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children.

Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse, the child for thee?

And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother.

And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it.

And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water.

And it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out unto his brethren, and looked on their burdens: and he spied an Egyptian smiting a Hebrew, one of his brethren.

And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that there was no man, he slew the Egyptian, and hid him in the sand.

And when he went out the second day, behold, two men of the Hebrews strove together: and he said unto him that did the wrong, Wherefore smitest thou thy fellow?

And he said, Who made thee a prince and a judge over us? Intendedst thou to kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian?

And Moses feared, and said, Surely this thing is known.

Now when Pharaoh heard this thing, he sought to slay Moses.

But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh, and dwelt in the land of Mid'-i-an: and he sat down by a well.

Now the priest of Mid'-i-an had seven daughters: and they came and drew water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock.

And the shepherds came and drove them away: but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock.

And when they came to Reu'-el their father, he said, How is it that ye are come so soon today?

And they said, An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds, and also drew water enough for us, and watered the flock.

And he said unto his daughters, And where is he? call him, that he may eat bread.

And Moses was content to dwell with the man: and he gave Moses Zip-po'-rah his daughter.

And she bare him a son, and he called his name Ger-shom: for he said, I have been a stranger in a strange land.

And it came to pass in the process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage.

And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them.

Exodus 1 & 2

Now the above is a most interesting event that unfolded on the life of Moses who later became a servant of God in the prophetic ministry. If you begin to read chapter 3 you will see that God called him and commissioned him to go to Pharaoh and to bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt where they were in bondage. The case of Moses reminds me of the epistle of Apostle Paul to the church in Rome (Romans 8:28-30).

Surely God protected Moses right from his birth to the time he was now an adult going by what unfolded in his life. To begin with, the king of Egypt Pharaoh would have been wise enough not to instruct the Hebrew midwives to the killing men children born by Hebrew women (imagine killing the children of your own!?)

If at all the king wanted to do away with them he would have given the task to Egyptian midwives or if not there he would have hired from a neighboring country if he truly was serious and expected his order to be strictly followed. Secondly, when the baby Moses was born and the mother hid her for three months but later found she could not continue hiding him and made an ark of bulrushes and later put the baby in it and laid the ark in the flags by the river's brink leaving her sister behind to watch what would happen to him, all that was not enough as it was precarious and moreover because the king now had charged all the people to cast the Hebrew men children into the river to die, any Egyptian would have seen this baby and obeyed that directive and which it did not happen and instead

Pharaoh's daughter saw the baby and had compassion on him and decided to take him. All this was God at work protecting the baby's life.

Thirdly, Pharaoh's daughter did not notice that the sister of the baby and the mother of the baby resembled each other to see there was some conspiracy.

Also, she had her maidens whom she would have given the task of nursing the baby or hired another maid by her own and not by getting an advice from someone else and what was special in having a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby and not any other? All these point to the fact that there was some hidden force at work of course God's Spirit was at it.

Fourthly, when Moses as a baby was taken to Pharaoh's daughter after being nursed by her mother, Pharaoh must have known the baby to be of a Hebrew woman and did nothing to harm him yet he was the one that ordered for such to be cast into the river.

Fifth, when Moses had grown and could go out and ended revenging by killing an Egyptians and the

king came to know and wanted to kill him, It is quite amazing that Moses fled from Pharaoh's face, just how? how? You know how kings' palaces are guarded and there are many soldiers around as well as many other domestic servants how could he have just left without being arrested or reported to Pharaoh as he must have given instructions for Moses not to leave the palace. God worked again to see Moses was out of that palace and safe.

Sixth, as time went by, it seems even the king did not send his soldiers to look for Moses in the country or neighboring country and finally Pharaoh died and it seems no body bothered to follow up or probably the issue of Moses was –forgotten by the Egyptians. What God had for Moses had to come to pass and that is why his life was spared miraculously as God had a plan with his life just as he has for every individual (Jeremiah 29:10-11).

Chapter 5

Case study # 4: Joseph

AND Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan.

These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bil'-hah, and with the son of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.

Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colors.

And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

And Joseph dreamed a dream and he told it his brethren and they hated him yet the more.

And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed:

For, behold we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.

And his brethren said unto him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.

And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.

And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?

And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

And his brethren went to feed their father's flock in She'-chem.

And Israel said unto Joseph, Do not thy brethren feed the flock in She'-chem? Come, and I will send thee unto them. And he said unto him, Here am I.

And he said to him, Go, I pray thee, see whether it be well with the flocks; and bring me word again.

So he sent him out of the vale of He'-bron, and he came to She'-chem.

And a certain man found him, and, behold, he was wandering in the field: and the man asked him, saying, What seekest thou?

And he said, I seek my brethren: tell me, I pray thee, where they feed their flocks.

And the man said, They are departed hence; for I heard them say, Let us go to Do'-than. And Joseph went after his brethren, and found them in Do'-than.

And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him.

And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh.

Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.

And Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him.

And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again.

And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stripped Joseph of his coat, his coat of many colors that was on him;

And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.

And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold a company of Ish'-mae-lites came from Gil'-e-ad with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt.

And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood.

Come, and let us sell him to the Ish'-mae-lites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content.

Then there passed by Mid'-i-anites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ish'-mae-lites for twenty

pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.

And Reuben returned into the pit; and, behold, Joseph was not in the pit; and he rent his clothes.

And he returned unto his brethren, and said, The child is not; and I, whither shall I go?

And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood;

And they sent the coat of many colors, and they brought it to their father; and said,

This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or no.

And he knew it, and said, It is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces.

And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days.

And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him.

And the Mid'-i-nites sold him into Egypt unto Pot'-i-phar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard.

Genesis 37

In the plot by Joseph's brothers to kill Joseph God intervened as he too was the one that was giving Joseph those dreams showing him his future life. First the brothers wanted to kill Joseph but I believe the Spirit of God brought a different opinion to Reuben who advised his brothers that they should not kill him and suggested that they just cast him into some pit. He intended to go back later to bring him out of the pit and to take him back to his father. The second time when they saw a company of Ishmaelites who were merchants God this time used Judah who said unto his brothers that it is more profitable to sell their brother to these men. And the brothers consented to that. But even before that, there was a possibility for Joseph to get injured in the process of being cast into a pit and which did not happen that too was just the hand of the Lord. By taking out Joseph from that pit and selling him to the merchants led to Joseph further

being sold to Potiphar which later led him to be overseer in Potiphar's household, then on false claims to prison where also he was made to be a leader of all the prisoners and later interpreted dreams to fellow prisoners who had dreamed then interpreted the dream of the king of Egypt who later elevated him to the second in command after him in Egypt and he ended helping his family when there was famine. It was all God's plan to save his family members at such a time that God knew would come. The case of Joseph too is like that of Moses in some way and the epistle of Apostle Paul to the church in Rome do apply (Romans 8:28-30). Whereas God planned Moses to deliver the children of Israel from bondage in Egypt, Joseph God planned for him to save his family members from the coming famine in their land. You can read all the above about Joseph's life after being sold in the some book of Genesis from chapter 39 onwards.

Chapter 6

Case study # 5 Lot

AND there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;

And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night.

And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.

But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter:

And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.

And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him.

And said, I pray you brethren, do not so wickedly. Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof.

And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door. But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door.

And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door.

And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? Son-in-law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place:

For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it.

And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons-in-law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons-in-law.

And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.

And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.

And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.

Genesis 19:1-17

In the above case we do see how God protected Lot and his household from the wicked men of the city of Sodom as well as from the impending destruction which God was about to unleash on the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Chapter 7

Case study # 6. Rahab

AND Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shitt'-im two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into an harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there.

And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, Behold, there came men in hither tonight of the children of Israel to search out the country.

And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house: for they be come to search out all the country.

And the woman took the two men, and hid them, and said thus, There came men unto me, but I wist not whence they were:

And it came to pass about the time of shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that the men went out: whither the men went I wot not: pursue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them.

But she had brought them up to the roof of the house, and hid them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof.

And the men pursued after them the way to Jordan unto the fords: and as soon as they which pursued after them were gone out, they shut the gate.

And before they were laid down, she came up unto them upon the roof;

And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.

For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed,

And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.

Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also show kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token:

And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.

And the men answered her, our life is for yours, if ye utter not this our business. And it shall be, when the LORD hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee.

Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house was upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall.

And she said unto them, Get you to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you; and hide yourselves there three days, until the pursuers be returned: and afterward may ye go your way.

And the men said unto her, We will be blameless of this thine oath which thou hast made us swear.

Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee.

And it shall be, that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be

upon his head, and we will be guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand be upon him.

And if thou utter this our business, then we will be quit of thine oath which thou hast made us to swear.

And she said, According unto your words, so be it. And she sent them away, and they departed: and she bound the scarlet line in the window.

Joshua 2:1-21

Although she was once a harlot and because of her faith (Hebrews 11:31) in the God of Israel, she was saved by the scarlet thread (a symbol and color of blood – the blood of the Lamb of God which was to be shed at his crucifixion at Calvary).

Chapter 8

Case study # 7: David

Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Phil-is'-tine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.

David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Phil-is'-tine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

And Saul armed David with his armor, and he put a helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail.

And David girded his sword upon his armor, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them.

And David put them off him.

And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip;

and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Phil-is'-tine.

And the Phil-is'-tine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield went before him.

And when the Phil-is'-tine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance.

And the Phil-is'-tine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Phil-is'-tine cursed David by his gods.

And the Phil-is'-tine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field.

Then said David to the Phil-is'-tine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Phil-is'-tines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth;

that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.

And it came to pass, when the Phil-is'-tine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Phil-is'-tine.

And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Phil-is'-tine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.

So David prevailed over the Phil-is'-tine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Phil-is'-tine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David.

Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Phil-is'-tine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith.

And when the Phil-is'-tines saw their champions was dead, they fled.

1 Samuel 17:36-51

It was quite a tall order for just a youth to kill a giant experienced and fully armed soldier by just a sling and a stone. It is unimaginable. God had earlier protected David against a lion and a bear and this time round God protected him against this giant who was very much feared (1 Samuel 17:22-24). God protects his people.

It is recorded in the scripture that David was a man after God's heart (1 Samuel 13:13-14).

AND it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house.

Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.

And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle. And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Phil-is'-tine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of music.

And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.

And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands: and what can he have more than the kingdom?

And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.

And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied

in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand.

And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it. And David avoided out of his presence twice.

1 Samuel 18:1-11

You can see that king Saul attempted to kill David who then was playing a harp with his hand and David avoided out of his presence twice. It is only God who protected him from that attack so that he was not hurt.

And there was war again: and David went out, and fought with the Phil-is'-tine, and slew them with a great slaughter; and they fled from him.

And the evil spirit from the LORD was upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his Javelin in his hand; and David played with his hand.

And Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the javelin; but he slipped away out of Saul's presence, and he smote the javelin into the wall: and David fled, and escaped that night.

Saul also sent messengers unto David's house to watch him, and to slay him in the morning: and Michal David's wife told him, saying, If thou save not thy life tonight, tomorrow thou shalt be slain.

So Michal let David down through a window: and he went, and fled, and escaped.

And Michal took an image, and laid it in the bed, and put a pillow of goat's hair for his bolster; and covered it with a cloth.

And when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, He is sick.

And when the messengers were come in, behold, there was an image in the bed with a pillow of goat's hair for his bolster.

And Saul said unto Michal, Why hast thou deceived me so, and sent away mine enemy, that he is escaped?

And Michal answered Saul, He said unto me, let me go; why should I kill thee?

So David fled, and escaped and came to Samuel to Ra'-mah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and dwelt in Nai'-oth.

1 Samuel 19:8-18

You can see that Saul yet again attempted to kill David but David fled and escaped and Saul sent messengers to David's house to watch him and to slay him in the morning and David's wife Michal who was Saul's daughter divulged the information to David and also let David down through a window and David went and fled and escaped and went to Samuel a prophet of God who also earlier God had sent him to anoint him as king (1 Samuel 16:1-13) and both Samuel and David left Ramah and went and dwelt at Naioth.

All those were miraculous escapes and it is only God that protected him so that he be not killed in all those attempts to his life.

Chapter 9

Case study #8: Jehoshaphat

And they continued three years without war between Syria and Israel.

And it came to pass in the third year, that Jehoshaphat the king of Judah came down to the king of Israel.

And the king of Israel said unto his servants, know ye that Ramoth in Gilead is ours and we be still, and take it not out of the hand of the king of Syria?

And he said unto Jehoshaphat,

Wilt thou go with me to battle Ramoth-gilead? And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, I am as thou art, my people as thy people, my horses as thy horses.

And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel, inquire, I pray thee, at the word of the Lord today.

Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall I go against Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall I forbear? And they said, Go up; for the Lord shall deliver it into the hand of the king.

And Jehoshaphat said, is there not here a prophet of the Lord besides, that we might inquire of him?

And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may inquire of the Lord: but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so.

Then the king of Israel called an officer, and said, Hasten hither Micaiah the son of Imlah.

And the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah sat each on his throne, having put on their robes, in a void place in the entrance of the gate of Samaria: and all the prophets prophesied before them.

And Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah made him horns of iron: and he said, Thus said the Lord, With these shalt thou push the Syrians, until thou have consumed them.

And all the prophets prophesied so, saying, Go up to Ramoth-gilead, and prosper: for the Lord shall deliver it into the king's hand.

And the messenger that was gone to call spake unto him, saying, Behold now, the words of the prophets

declare good unto the king with one mouth: let thy word, I pray thee, be like the word of one of them and speak that which is good.

And Micaiah said, As the Lord liveth, what the Lord saith unto me, that will I speak.

So he came to the king. And the king said unto him, Micaiah, shall we go against Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall we forbear?

And he answered him, Go, and prosper: for the Lord shall deliver it into the hand of the king.

And the king said unto him, How many times shall I adjure thee that thou tell me nothing but that which is true in the name of the Lord?

And he said, I saw all Israel scattered upon the hills, as sheep that have not a shepherd: and the Lord said, These have no master: let them return every man to his house in peace.

And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell thee that he would prophesy no good concerning me, but evil?

And he said, Hear thou the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and all the host of

heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left.

And the Lord said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?

And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner.

And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him.

And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.

And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so.

Now therefore, behold, the Lord hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the Lord hath spoken evil concerning thee.

But Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah went near, and smote Micaiah in the cheek, and said, Which way went the spirit of the Lord from me to speak unto thee?

And Micaiah said, Behold, thou shalt see in that day, when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself.

And the king of Israel, said, Take Micaiah, and carry him back unto Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash the king's son;

And say, Thus saith the king, Put this fellow in the prison, and feed him with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until I come in peace.

And Micaiah said, If thou return at all in peace, the Lord hath not spoken by me. and he said, Hearken, O People, every one of you.

So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramoth-gilead.

And the king of Israel said, unto Jehoshaphat, I will disguise myself, and enter into the battle; but put on thou on thy robes. And the king of Israel disguised himself, and went into the battle.

But the king of Syria commanded his thirty and two captains that had rule over his chariots, saying, Fight neither with small nor great, save only with the king of Israel.

And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, Surely it is the king of Israel. And they turned aside to fight against him: and Jehoshaphat cried out.

And it came to pass, when the captain of the chariots perceived that it was not the king of Israel, that they turned back from pursuing him.

And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness: wherefore he said unto the driver of his chariot, Turn thine hand, and carry me out of the host; for I am wounded.

And the battle increased that day: and the king was stayed up in his chariot against the Syrians, and died at even: and the blood ran out of the wound into the midst of the chariot.

And there went a proclamation throughout the host about the going down of the sun, saying, Every man to his city, and every man to his own country. So the king died, and was brought to Samaria; and they buried the king in Samaria.

And one washed the chariot in the pool of Samaria; and the dogs licked up his blood; and they washed his armor; according unto the word of the Lord which he spake.

1 Kings 22: 1-38

From the above account you can see the importance of living in the fear of God as king Jehoshaphat did. King Jehoshaphat was a wise king as he said no evil to God's servants and also, he made it a habit to be seeking counsel from God's servants (verse 1-8). You can read also the book of Chronicles (2 Chronicles 20:1-28). Because he lived in the fear of God endeavoring to do God's will, God also protected his life as is recorded in our key scripture above. God is the one who made him to cry when the captains of the chariots of Syria were pursuing him so as his identity be known by the Syrian captains so that he is not killed by mistake and that way he went back to his house in peace in one piece. What a wonderful God that we have, the God of Israel that protects his own. This scripture came to pass: – Romans 8:28. It is quite a good thing to know the Lord as divine protection is assured as long as you remain obedient to him.

Chapter 10

Case study # 9: Elisha

AND the sons of the prophets said unto E-li'-sha, Behold now, the place where we dwell with thee is too strait for us.

Let us go, we pray thee, unto Jordan, and take thence every man a beam, and let us make as a place there, where we may dwell. And he answered, Go ye.

And one said, Be content, I pray thee, and go with thy servants.

And he answered, I will go.

So he went with them. And when they came to Jordan, they cut down wood.

But as one was felling a beam, the axe head fell into the water: and he cried, and said,

Alas, master! for it was borrowed.

And the man of God said, Where fell it? And he showed him the place. And he cut down a stick, and cast it in thither; and the iron did swim.

Therefore said he, Take it up to thee. And he put out his hand, and took it.

Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying,

In such and such a place shall be my camp.

And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down.

And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once, nor twice.

Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them Will ye not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?

And one of his servants said, None, my Lord, O King: but E-li'-sha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber.

And he said, Go and spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, he is in Do'-than.

Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about.

And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, a host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?

And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.

And E-li'-sha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about E-li'-sha.

And when they came down to him, E-li'-sha prayed unto the LORD, and said, Smite these people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of E-li'-sha.

And E-li'-sha said unto them,

This is not the way, neither is this the city: follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom ye seek.

But he led them to Sa-mar'-i-a.

And it came to pass, when they were come into Sa-mar'-i-a, that E-li'-sha said, LORD, open the eyes of these men, that they may see. And the LORD

opened their eyes, and they saw; and, behold, they were in the midst of Sa-mar'-i-a.

And the king of Israel said unto E-li'-sha, when he saw them,

My father, shall I smite them? shall I smite them?

And he answered, Thou shalt not smite them: wouldest thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow? set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their master.

And he prepared great provision for them: and when they had eaten and drunk, he sent them away, and they went to their master. So the bands of Syria came no more into the land of Israel.

2 Kings 6:1-23

In the above case you can see how God was protecting his servant prophet Elisha by providing a big security team from heaven who were around him. Also, when the king of Syria sent his servants to go and spy on the prophet and they told him he is in Dothan. The king sent his soldiers to go and fetch him. The prophet asked the Lord to make them blind and God did just that and they became

blind. Then the prophet led them to Samaria where the king of Israel was and when the king saw them he was excited and asked the prophet if he can kill them, but the prophet declined and rightly advised him just to entertain them with food and drink and to leave them to go back to their king.

The prophet gave them a right dose of the Lord (Matthew 5:43-45, Romans 12:19-21) for after eating and drinking and they were released (sent away) to go back to their king (master), they never came back again to the land of Israel- they had received enough shame.

Chapter 11

Case study # 10: Job

THERE was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.

And the LORD said unto Satan,

Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

And the LORD said unto Satan.

Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?

Hast not thou made a hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

Job 1:1, 6-10

The angel of the Lord on campeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

Psalms 34:7

What we learn from the above scriptures is that those who truly fear God and live a righteous life, God gives them His protection (verse 10).

Satan as a spirit he was seeing what surrounded the household of Job as a result of Job's right standing with the Lord. We Christians very rarely see such except God allows us to when he sees it fit. We also learn that God is the only one who can allow Satan to attack us if truly we are living a holy and righteous life, apart from God we too can allow Satan to attack us when we open a loophole for him through a door opened by our sin. Verse 13 to 22 we can see what Satan can do to us if God or we allow Satan to attack us. We also see that Job maintained his integrity in God, if you read further even chapter 2 from verse 1 to verse 10. Job showed that he loved God (the one who blesses)

more than what God blessed him with. What about us?

That is why Jesus said it is easier for a camel to enter into the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 19:16-26). The rich young ruler had just failed the Lord's test when Jesus told his disciples those words. But Job did pass the test. Why? because we need to compare spiritual things with the spiritual (1 Corinthians 2:13-14) If you read the book of Ezekiel you will find Job compared/ranked alongside Noah and Daniel (Ezekiel 14:12-14; 20) and if you read the epistle to the Hebrews you see that both Noah and Daniel indirectly and all those so mentioned are overcomers (those it is said that through faith they did this or that) those obtained a good report of faith-sort of a 'clean bill' and are inheritors in the kingdom of God (Hebrews 11: 7, 33d 39-40).

Let us be careful on riches and wealth as they are a deciding factor on whether we enter the kingdom of God or not, depending on our love for God and for them as well as how we spend it and what we spend

it for. May the Lord help us on this those of us who will have them in this life. It is not a small test but an examination proper.

Chapter 12

Case study # 11: Jeremiah

And the LORD hath given me knowledge of it, and I know it: then thou showedst me their doings.

But I was like a lamb or an ox that is brought to the slaughter; and I knew not that they had devised devices against me, saying, Let us destroy the tree with the fruit thereof, and let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name may be no more remembered.

But, O LORD of hosts, that judgest righteously, that triest the reins and the heart, let me see thy vengeance on them: for unto thee have I revealed my cause.

Therefore thus saith the LORD of the men of An'-a-thoth, that seek my life, saying, Prophesy not in the name of the LORD, that die not by our hand:

Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, I will punish them: the young men shall die by the sword; their sons and their daughters shall die by famine:

And there shall be remnant of them: for I will bring evil upon the men of An'-a-thoth, even the year of their visitation.

Jeremiah 11:18-23

IN the beginning of the reign of Je-hoi'-a-kim the son of Jo-si'-ah king of Judah came this word from the LORD, saying,

Thus saith the LORD; stand in the court of the LORD'S house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD'S house, all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a word:

If so be they will hearken, and turn every man from his evil way, that I may repent me of evil, which I purpose to do unto them because of the evil of their doings.

And thou shalt say unto them,

Thus saith the LORD; If ye will not hearken to me, to walk in my law, which I have set before you,

To hearken to the words of my servants the prophets, whom I sent unto you, both rising up early, and sending them, but ye have not hearkened;

Then will I make this house like Shi'-loh, and will make this city a curse to all the nations of the earth. So the priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD.

Now it came to pass, when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking all that the LORD commanded him to speak unto all the people, that the priests and the prophets and all the people took him, saying, Thou shalt surely die.

Why hast thou prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying,

This house shall be like Shi'-loh, and this city shall be desolate without an inhabitant?

And all the people were gathered against Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.

When the princes of Judah heard these things, then they came up from the king's house unto the house of the LORD, and sat down in the entry of the new gate of the LORD'S house.

Then spake the priests and the prophets unto the princes and to all the people, saying, This man is

worthy to die; for he hath prophesied against this city as ye have heard with your ears.

Then spake Jeremiah unto all the princes and to all the people, saying, The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city, all the words that ye have heard.

Therefore now amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God; and the LORD will repent him of the evil that he hath pronounced against you.

As for me, behold, I am in your hand: do with me as seemeth good and meet unto you.

But know ye for certain that if ye put me to death, ye shall surely bring innocent blood upon yourselves, and upon this city, and upon the inhabitants thereof: for of a truth the LORD hath sent me unto you to speak all these words in your ears.

Then said the princes and all the people unto the priests and the prophets; this man is not worthy to die: for he hath spoken to us in the name of the LORD our God.

Jeremiah 26:1-16

THEN Sheph-a-ti'-ah the son of Mat'-tan, and Ged-a-li'-ah the son of Pash'-ur, and Ju'-cal the son of Shel-e-mi'-ah, and Pash'-ur the son of Mal-chi'-ah, heard the words that Jeremiah had spoken unto all the people, saying,

Thus saith the LORD, He that remaineth in this city shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence: but he that goeth forth to the Chal-de'—ans shall live; for he shall have his life for a prey, and shall live.

Thus saith the LORD, This city shall surely be given into the hand of the king of Babylon's army, which shall take it.

Therefore the princes said unto the king, We beseech thee, let this man be put to death: for thus he weakeneth the hands of the men of war that remain in this city, and the hands of all the people, in speaking such words unto them: for this man seeketh not the welfare of this people, but the hurt.

Then Zed-e-ki'-ah the king said,

Behold, he is in your hand: for the king is not he that can do anything against you.

Then took they Jeremiah, and cast him into the dungeon of Mal-chi'-ah the son of Ham'-me-lech, that was in the court of the prison: and they let down Jeremiah with cords. And in the dungeon there was no water, but mire: so Jeremiah sunk in the mire.

Now when E'-bed-mel'-ech the E-thi-o'-pi-an, one of the eunuchs which was in the king's house, heard that they had put Jeremiah in the dungeon; the king then sitting in the gate of Benjamin;

E'-bed-mel'-ech went forth out of the king's house, and spake to the king, saying,

My Lord the king, these men have done evil in all that they have done to Jeremiah the prophet, whom they have cast into the dungeon; and he is like to die for hunger in the place where he is: for there is no more bread in the city.

Then the king commanded E'-bed-mel'-ech the E-thi-o'-pi-an, saying, Take from hence thirty men with thee, and take up Jeremiah the prophet out of the dungeon, before he die.

So E'-bed-mel'-ech took the men with him, and went into the house of the king under the treasury

and took thence old cast clouts and old rotten rags, and let them down by cords into the dungeon to Jeremiah.

And E'-bed-mel'-ech the E-thi-o'-pi-an said unto Jeremiah,

Put now these old cast clouts and rotten rags under thine arm holes under the cords. And Jeremiah did so.

So they drew up Jeremiah with cords, and took him up out of the dungeon: and Jeremiah remained in the court of the prison.

Jeremiah 38:1-13

IN the ninth year of Zed-e-ki'-ah king of Judah, in the tenth month, came Neb-u'-chad-rez'-zar king of Babylon and all his army against Jerusalem, and they besieged it.

And in the eleventh year of Zed-e-ki'-ah, in the fourth month, the ninth day of the month, the city was broken up.

And all the princes of the king of Babylon came in, and sat in the middle gate, even Ner'-gal-sha-re'-zer, Sam'-gar-ne'-bo, Sar'-se-chim, Rab'-sa-ris,

Ner'-gal-sha-re'-zer, Rab-mag with all the residue of the princes of the king of Babylon.

And it came to pass, that when Zed-e-ki'-ah king of Judah saw them, and all the men of war, then they fled, and went forth out of the city by night, by the way of the king's garden, by the gate betwixt the two walls: and he went out the way of the plain.

But the Chal-de'-ans army pursued after them, and overtook Zed-e-ki'-ah in the plains of Jericho: and when they had taken him, they brought him up to Neb-u'-chad-rez'-zar king of Babylon, to Rib'-lah in the land of Ha'-math where he gave judgment upon him.

Then the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zed-e-ki'-ah in Rib'-lah before his eyes: also the king of Babylon slew all the nobles of Judah.

Moreover he put out Zed-e-ki'-ah's eyes, and bound him with chains, to carry him to Babylon.

And the Chal-de'-ans burned the king's house, and the houses of the people, with fire, and brake down the walls of Jerusalem.

Then Neb'-u-zar-a'-dan the captain of the guard carried away captive into Babylon the remnant of

the people that remained in the city, and those that fell away, that fell to him, with the rest of the people that remained.

But Neb'-u-zar-a'-dan the captain of the guard left of the poor people, which had nothing in the land of Judah, and gave them vineyards and fields at the same time.

Now Neb-u'-chad-rez'-zar king of Babylon gave charge concerning Jeremiah to Neb'-u-zar-a'-dan the captain of the guard saying,

Take him, and look well to him, and do him no harm; but do unto him even as he shall say unto thee.

So Neb-u'-zar-a'-dan the captain of the guard sent and Neb'-u-zar-a'-dan, Rab'-sa-ris, and Ner'-gal-sha-re'-zer, Rab-mag and all the king of Babylon's princes;

Even they sent, and took Jeremiah out of the court of the prison, and committed him unto Ged-a-li'-ah the son of A-hi'-kam the son of Sha'-phan, that he should carry him home: so he dwelt among the people.

Now the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah, while he was shut up in the court of the prison, saying,

Go and speak to E'-bed-mel'-ech the E-thi-o'-pi-an, saying

Thus saith the LORD of hosts the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring my words upon this city for evil, and not for good; and they shall be accomplished in that day before thee.

But I will deliver thee in that day, saith the LORD: and thou shalt not be given into the hand of the men whom thou art afraid.

For I will surely deliver thee, and thou shalt not fall by the sword, but thy life shall be for a prey unto thee: because thou hast put thy trust in me, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 39

From all the above instances you can see that despite all the attempts to kill Jeremiah the prophet of God, God miraculously saved his life as God is the protector of his servants. You can be sure God will protect you as long as you remain in him being obedient and faithful.

Chapter 13

Case study # 12: Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah

NEB-U-CHAD-NEZ-ZAR the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore 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 together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counselors, 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 the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counselors, the sheriffs and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image which Neb-u-chad-nez-zar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Neb-u-chad-nez-zar the king had set up.

Then a herald cried 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 whose falleth not down and worshipeth 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 chal-de'-ans came near, and accused the Jews.

They spake and said to the 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 cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image:

And whose 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, 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 cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace;

and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my 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.

Then was Neb'-u-chad-nez'-zar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Sha'-drach, Me'-shach and A-bed'-ne-go: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.

And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Sha'-drach, Me'-shach and A-bed'-ne-go, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

Then these men were bound in their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Sha'-drach, Me'-shach and A-bed'-ne-go.

And these three men, Sha'-drach, Me'-shach and A-bed'-ne-go, fell down bound in the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

Then Neb'-u-chad-nez'-zar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counselors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

He answered and said, lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

Then Neb'-u-chad-nez'-zar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Sha'-drach, Me'-shach and A-bed'-ne-go, ye servants of the most High God, come forth, and

come hither. Then Sha'-drach, Me'-shach and A-bed'-ne-go, came forth of the midst of the fire.

And the princes, governors, and captains and the king's counselors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was a hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire hand passed on them.

Daniel 3:1-27

From the above incident you can see the amazing power of the most High God how he protects his servants!!! The trio were promoted after that and even the king made another decree that to all people that any man that will speak anything wrong against the God of the trio will be severely dealt with accordingly (verses 28-30). From the above account it is quite clear that God is always with Christians as long as they are obedient to his commandments and also he does not leave them even when they undergo difficult situations and that is why he was seen among the trio in the burning fiery furnace and that is quite an assurance to us.

Chapter 14

Case study # 13: 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 occasion against Daniel concerning the Kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

Then said these men, 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 governor, and the princes, the counselors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, 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 upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did afore time.

Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplications before his God.

Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree;

Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty

days, save of thee O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The things is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.

Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he labored till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.

Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own

signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of music brought before him:

Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel,

O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever.

My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouth, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of

the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

Daniel 6:1-23

Daniel, just as Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah were all fixed by their enemies but the God of Israel, Jehovah El Gib-bor mightily delivered them and were not hurt at all, at all.

Surely and surely, this God protects His own. Who is like him? None (Isaiah 43:1-4; 11-12).

Chapter 15

Case study #14: Jonah

NOW the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of A-mit'-tai, saying,

Arise, go to Nin'-e-veh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.

But Johah rose us to flee unto Tar'-shish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tar'-shish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tar'-shish from the presence of the LORD.

But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken.

Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.

So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, what meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy

God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not.

And they said everyone to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil is upon us. So they cast lots and the lot fell upon Jonah.

Then said they unto him, Tell us, we pray thee, for whose cause this evil is upon us;

What is thy occupation? and whence comest thou?

What is thy country? and of what people art thou?

And he said unto them, I am a Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land.

Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him,

Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous.

And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you:

for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you.

Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land; but they could not: for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them.

Wherefore they cried unto the LORD, and said, We beseech thee, O LORD, we beseech thee, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood: for thou, O LORD, hast done as it pleased thee.

So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging.

Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the LORD, and made vows.

Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

THEN Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly.

And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice.

For thou hast cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me.

Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple.

The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head.

I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me forever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God.

When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple.

They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.

But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD.

And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

Jonah 1 & 2

God intervened in the above scripture and provided to Jonah an unusual provision (a fish) for his safety to preserve his life as he would have drowned to death in the sea water. Also, God provided protection for him in the fish's belly for him not to suffocate for lack of oxygen as it was not a living room for him (mind you Jonah described it as hell). Finally, when the fish vomited Johan on dry land, Jonah came out alive and unscathed and now was ready for the assignment of God which he had left undone. God proved his omnipotence in the above case.

God because he is gracious and merciful, he forgave Jonah for his flagrant disobedience for he had seen his folly over the matter in very clear terms. God had shown his divine protection over the life of Jonah. He is the God of miracles. But here is a warning to us; Let us not tempt him or provoke him into anger as he is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:28-29) and lest things work out against us (Matthew 4:5-7, Psalm 78:15-31).

Chapter 16

Case study # 15: Jesus

NOW when Jesus was born in Beth-lehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east and are come to worship him.

When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

And they said unto him, In Beth-lehem of Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet.

And thou Beth-lehem, in the land of Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall come a governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

And he sent them to Beth-lehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

When they had heard the king they departed; and, lo, the star which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshiped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

And when they were departed behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee

word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet saying,

Out of Egypt have I called my Son.

Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Beth-lehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men.

Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying,

IN Ramah was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and would not be comforted, because they are not.

But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,

Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life.

And he arose, and took the young child and his mother and came into the land of Israel.

But when he heard that Ar-che-la'-us did reign in Judea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.

Matthew 2

God protected his own Son Jesus Christ whom king Herod wanted to kill.

Chapter 17

Case study # 16: The Church of Christ

And when he had received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus.

And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

But all that heard him were amazed, and said; is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests?

But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ.

And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him:

But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him:

Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket.

And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all

afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple.

But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.

And he was with them coming and going out at Jerusalem.

And he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him.

Which when the brethren knew, they brought him down to Cae-sa-re'-a, and sent him forth to Tarsus.

Then had the churches rest throughout all Judea and Galilee and Sa-mar'-i-a, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

Acts 9:19-31

Paul's life was in danger just after his conversion and first the Jews wanted to kill him and later the Grecians also wanted to slay him. But in all those instances God protected him as he first knew of the

Jews taking counsel to kill him and later the disciples came to know of the Grecians intent of wanting to slay him.

The disciples in the first instance took him and let him down by the wall in a basket. In the second instance they brought Paul to Caesarea and sent him forth to Tarsus.

And when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews which were of Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up all the people, and laid hands on him,

Crying out, Men of Israel, help:

This is the man, that teacheth all men every where against the people, and the law, and this place: and further brought Greeks also into the temple, and hath polluted this holy place. (For they had seen before with him in the city Troph'-i-mus an Ephesian, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple.)

And all the city was moved, and the people ran together: and they took Paul, and drew him out of the temple: and forthwith the doors were shut.

And as they went about to kill him, tidings came unto the chief captain of the band, that all Jerusalem was in uproar.

Who immediately took soldiers and centurions, and ran down unto them: and when they saw the chief captain and the soldiers, they left beating of Paul.

Then the chief captain came near, and took him, and commanded him to be bound with two chains; and demanded who he was, and what he had done.

And some cried one thing, some another, among the multitude: and when he could not know the certainty for the tumult, he commanded him to be carried into the castle.

And when he came upon the stairs, so it was, that he was borne of the soldiers for the violence of the people.

For the multitude of the people followed after crying, Away with him.

Acts 21:27-36

From the above incident it is quite clear that Paul would have been killed without doubt but God protected him by making sure the uproar reached chief captain who came immediately with soldiers

to see for themselves what it was all about and thereby took Paul from the people.

And when it was day, certain of the Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.

And they were more than forty which had made this conspiracy.

And they came to the chief priests and elders, and said,

We have bound ourselves under a great curse, that we will eat nothing until we have slain Paul.

Now therefore ye with the council signify to the chief captain that he bring him down unto you tomorrow, as though ye would inquire something more perfectly concerning him: and we, or ever he come near, are ready to kill him.

And when Paul's sister's son heard of their lying in wait, he went and entered into the castle, and told Paul.

Then Paul called one of the centurions unto him, and said,

Bring this young man unto the chief captain:" for he hath a certain thing to tell him".

So he took him, and brought him to the chief captain, and said, Paul the prisoner called me unto him, and prayed me to bring this young man unto thee, who hath something to say unto thee.

Then the chief captain took him by the hand, and went with him aside privately, and asked him, What is that thou hast to tell me?

And he said, The Jews have agreed to desire thee that thou wouldest bring down Paul tomorrow into the council, as though they would inquire somewhat of him more perfectly.

But do not yield thou unto them: for there lie in wait for him of them more than forty men, which have bound themselves with an oath, that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed him: and now are they ready, looking for a promise from thee.

So the chief captain then let the young man depart, and charged him, See thou tell no man that thou hast showed these things to me.

And he called unto him two centurions, saying,
Make ready two hundred soldiers to go to Cae-sa-
re'-a, and housemen threescore and ten, and
spearmen two hundred, at the third hour of the
night;

And provide them beasts, that they may set Paul on,
and bring him safe unto Felix the governor.

And he wrote a letter after this manner:

Claudius Lys'-i-as unto the most excellent governor
Felix sendeth greetings.

This man was taken of the Jews, and should have
been killed of them: then came I with an army, and
rescued him, having understood that he was a
Roman.

And when I would have known the cause wherefore
they accused him, I brought him forth into their
council:

Whom I perceived to be accused of questions of
their law, but to have nothing laid to his charge
worthy of death or of bonds.

And when it was told me of how that the Jews laid
wait for the man, I sent straight way to thee, and

gave commandment to his accusers also to say before thee what they had against him. Farewell.

Then the soldiers, as it was commanded them, took Paul, and brought him by night to An'-tip'-a-tris.

On the morrow they left the horsemen to go with him, and returned to the castle:

Who, when they came to Cae-sa-re'-a, and delivered the epistle to the governor, presented Paul also before him.

And when the governor had read the letter, he asked of what province he was. And when he understood that he was of Ci-li'-ci-a;

I will hear thee, said he, when thine accusers are also come.

And he commanded him to be kept in Herod's judgment hall.

Acts 23:12-35

You can see here that the Jews were still after Paul's life and had a conspiracy of how to get rid of him. It seemed like a carefully planned conspiracy. But the Omniscient and Omnipresent God knew all this would happen and made sure Paul's sister's son was with the Jews as they conspired against Paul's

life. The young man was bold enough and went right into the castle where Paul was and spilled the beans. Paul also requested one of the centurions to take the young man to the chief captain. The chief captain quickly arranged for a very big contingent of soldiers armed to send Paul safely at night to Governor Felix where they arrived safely.

God is the protector of his servants. He protected Paul on those occasions.

But not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Eu-roc'-ly-don.

And when the ship was caught, and could not bear up into the wind, we let her drive.

And running under a certain island which is called Clauda, we had much work to come by the boat:

Which when they had taken up, they used helps, undergirding the ship; and, fearing lest they should fall into quicksand's, struck sail, and so were driven.

And we being exceedingly tossed with a tempest, the next day they lightened the ship;

And the third day we cast out with our own hands
the tackling of the ship.

And when neither sun nor stars in many days
appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope
that we should be saved was then taken away.

But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the
midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have
hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from
Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss.

And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there
shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of
the ship.

For there stood by me this night the angel of God,
whose I am, and whom I serve,

Saying, Fear not Paul; thou must be brought before
Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that
sail with thee.

Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe
God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

Acts 27:14-25

There was a big storm when Paul and other
prisoners were being taken to Rome but God who is

most faithful preserved his life plus all that were sailing with him. God protected them in the sea.

AND when they were escaped, then they knew that the island was called Mel-i'-ta.

And the barbarous people showed us no little kindness: for they kindled a fire, and received us everyone, because of the present rain, and because of the cold.

And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand.

And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live.

And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm.

Acts 28:1-5

A viper is known to be a very poisonous snake. But it did no harm to Paul. It was all about divine protection which only Jehovah provides.

AFTER these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth;

And found a certain Jew named Aq'-uil-a, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them.

And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: (for by their occupation they were tentmakers).

And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.

And when Silas and Timothy were come from Mac-e-do'-ni-a, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ.

And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.

And he departed thence, and entered into a certain man's house, named Justus, one that worshipped God, whose house joined hard to the synagogue.

And Cris'-pus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.

Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid; but speak, and hold not thy peace:

For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.

And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

Acts 18:1-11

In the above scripture the Lord is assuring apostle Paul his protection on him and that he need not be afraid but to continue preaching to people despite the opposition he was facing from the Jews.

AND at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to the same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

Daniel 12:1

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 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 Gos,
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.**

Revelation 3:7-13

In the above two scriptures we do find God talking on his protection on his holy Church that he will protect them at the verge of the Tribulation period as he will come to their rescue by having them raptured (taken away) from the earth to be taken into heaven to be with him eternally.

BUT of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.

For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunk in the night.

But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.

Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

In the above scripture we do see God assuring his Church his protection and that he will not leave them to suffer in the Tribulation period. Now from all the above we do see that God surely protects his own.

Chapter 18

Case study # 17: My personal experience

To say the truth, I too personally have seen the protection of the Almighty over my life and on several occasions I have had a close brush with death and can say if it were not for God, I would not be alive now.

Straight away I am going to share them on those I was able to remember.

1. One day at a time I had been transferred from Muguga near Nairobi to go and work at Alupe near Busia. One day I had gone to Busia to do something riding on my bicycle and on my way back from Busia when I was not far from where I was to branch on the left leaving the Busia Kisumu tarmac road and taking a murram road of Busia junction heading to Malaba I heard a vehicle horn and thought probably it was a bus behind me coming and as I was riding at the far edge of the road, I did not bother to look back.

What I did not know is that it was not a bus or some small vehicle but a long trailer truck and it passed me quite closely in fact so close that some people shouted in alarm fearing that at any moment the trailer truck would crash me to death.

The people were on my left who were witnessing what was unfolding then. When I realized it was a trailer truck when it reached me and I saw the front part, I panicked and at the same time God gave me an unusual courage and I did not become unsteady at all at all, the same to the driver of the trailer truck until the whole body of the trailer truck had passed me and I had a big sigh of relief at the same time thanking God in my heart for saving me from imminent death. Between me and the body of the trailer truck was too thin a space like one inch only and if any of us had in any way moved to the side of the other it would have been a totally different story and a very, very sad one indeed on my part. I am saying so because I have seen not a bicycle but saloon cars and minibus or bus that were crashed by a trailer truck and very many or all did not survive the impact but succumbed to death.

It is usually a grisly sight to look at. I thank God for saving my life in that incident.

2. There was a time when I was still working in Muguga near Nairobi and I had gone to Nairobi and I do remember I was then along Tom Mboya street and wanted to cross to another side of the road and I don't know if I properly checked / looked twice on both sides if there were vehicles close coming on the opposite directions. When I was exactly in the middle of the road, I was shocked because I think I heard vehicles hooting on both of my sides on the left and on the right more or less at the same time. When I looked quickly on both sides vehicles were coming at high speeds and their distance between me and them seemed to be the same and the speed the same and I found that I could not move back or move forwards as on either way I would be knocked down and the only alternative was to stand still immediately where I was, my heart racing in me and only hoping for the best that I am not crushed and mangled

in between the vehicles. God protected me as I came out alive not knocked by any of the two vehicles that were speeding on the opposite directions towards me. I don't know how but God knows. Probably an angel was covering my body between the two vehicles. Now that to me was a miracle and I can only thank God for that.

3. When I was still working at Alupe near Busia on one Saturday a brother and I were going to a fund raising in another church which was a branch of the one we were fellowshipping at Alupe. This other branch was at Nambale and as all of us had bicycles, we had decided to go riding on our bicycles and the distance was about twenty kilometers. In the evening when we were coming back and now not far from Alupe and we were riding fast as it was in the evening and soon the sun would set all of a sudden I fell down very hard with my bicycle and the impact was so much such that the new trouser I had put on at the knee level was

virtually torn through. This was a murram road as I said earlier from Busia junction taking the Malaba road. I was badly bruised on the knee and on my chest but not a single bone was broken. I do think I did not go to visit a Hospital but just did some self medication as I did not see the situation serious enough to warrant it as I was walking normally and I could do all tasks well without any difficulty. I think probably the enemy was not happy with the church fundraising as it was for the work of the Lord and he wanted to discourage me and to discredit what I had done. I thank God because some have died riding on a bicycle and say fell down and so on.

God protected my life as I had come from a worthy cause.

4. One day my colleague and I were privileged to accompany our Director as well as some Research scientists to travel on a chartered plane from Nairobi Wilson Airport to the coast region to a place known as Galana where there

is a big ranch and we had a field station there and the reason was to go and attend an Annual General meeting with the staff who were stationed there. My colleague and I had been invited by the Director probably to see what activities go on there and also to hear how funds are spent in the field. My colleague was heading Finance department and I was heading Supplies department. When we had finished attending the meeting and have taken meals we left back for Nairobi. The Aeroplane I recall was a Cessna and had a capacity to carry about fifteen passengers the pilot included now when we were still far from Nairobi something happened. On the dashboard of the plane there came a tit, tit sound and which became continuous and also red light bleeping and bleeping. I was told that the fuel somehow was getting depleted reason is that an unplanned trip sort of was done from Galana to some near place around there for some reason I don't know probably to see some of the areas of the activities of the station or another substation or

probably to visit the ranch office and therefore affected the fuel which was in the fuel tank/s. This sound and the bleeping red light continued until we descended at Wilson Airport. When all that was happening the sound and the bleeping we were in mid air and still far from our destination. We arrived and disembarked safely at the Airport and I really thank God that it was so. God had really by his grace protected us from some possible mishap while still in the air.

5. At another time I had gone to Sarit Centre in Nairobi to go and withdraw money from a bank there and I think I had a tight schedule that day and was doing things in a hurry to be able to accomplish all the tasks. When I reached the centre I straight away headed to the bank and was in a corridor which passes where the bank is. I did not notice quickly that at the door of the bank, next to it, there was a security van which I believe had brought some cash to the bank and there was a contingent of security personnel in uniform and with their guns (I

believe they were AK-47 rifles) in their hands and their fingers on the trigger as it normally happens with such risky operations. I realized much later that I was a lone ranger, why? because all the people around the bank outside had most likely seen the security van and had received specific instruction when the van stopped and the security personnel came out that all to keep off- to be away and far from them, this happened when I had not yet come to the scene. It is only when I neared the bank I saw the security personnel one of who spoke to me these words “you are the one who is stiff-necked and brave enough to disobey our instruction by coming near us?;” I was shocked and stood on my tracks and had only this to say “I am very sorry, I did not hear the instruction;” at the same time turned back and left the seen very fast. It was God that protected me by making sure the security personnel did not attempt to shoot me, why? because in such a scenario, it is not uncommon to be shot down dead, as the security personnel may have the

impression that I am a threat especially in such a case that they had given instruction for people not to go near them. They would think that because I seem to be brave enough to approach them and they are armed, probably I have with me a hand grenade or some high explosives to blow them up and make a robbery. Also, probably I am a group member who are attempting robbery and others are around to follow suit. To me that is how I took it and thank God for his protection.

6. One day when I was now working in Kisumu thieves broke into my house at night without me and my son getting to know and stole many items such as a mountain bike (new), gas cooker, T.V. set including a DVD player, wall clock, chairs and so on most of which I had just recently purchased. The thieves entered the house through the kitchen door by first removing a window pane and then have their hand go down and open the kitchen door, which was just next to the window. My son woke up

in the morning to bathe and prepare breakfast to go to school and he came to me and told me ‘Father, the kitchen door is opened!’ and I told him ‘Did you not close it last night?’ and he replied, ‘I did father’. I then arose from the bed and went and witnessed it and when we began to look at the kitchen and the sitting room the items I have mentioned were missing. If the thieves wanted to kill us or light a fire and leave the house we would have died. It is only God that did protect us from any harm on our lives. As for the items, life is too dear to be compared to them. I thank God for his care on our lives.

7. At one time we went with our altar members to the meeting of the Lord in Mombasa at Tononoka grounds. We had hired a bus to take us there and to bring us back. On our way on the return journey between Bomet and Kaplong all of a sudden, the vehicle veered off the road into a ditch and we thought we were going to roll over. At that time, I was sitting next to one pastor and were in the front seat next to the

driver. The pastor spoke and said ‘Jesus’ and the bus did stop and no one was injured and the vehicle did not roll over. At that area the road was going up hill and nobody knew what actually happened. I think the enemy was not happy as we were spiritually enriched from the meeting and were becoming more of a threat to his kingdom. I do thank God for saving our lives. He really protected us.

8. I do remember very well that during my tenor in formal employment there were at least three staff retrenchments and by God’s grace I was not affected the same happened to my spouse too who also was not affected by the retrenchment exercise. I therefore retired at the age of 55 years on my own volition though the mandatory age for retirement had been placed at the age of 60 years. I felt in my spirit that enough is enough and it was high time I retired from formal employment for other noble work and acknowledged God as my Ebenezer as I had gone through many challenges and refused to compromise on many occasions on things

that others saw as normal. I take this opportunity to really thank the Lord for His protection. I can confidently say that God can protect you in all areas of your life as long as you remain God fearing and being faithful in all you do.

9. One day we were traveling on a bus and one of the passengers wanted to go for a short call and told the conductor to tell the driver to stop at some point but the conductor or the driver ignored. Later she kept on pestering the conductor to tell the driver to stop and this time round the driver stopped. Not only that passenger came out but others as well including me to go for a short call. It is only when we were about to board the bus and to continue with the journey that one of us saw that all the wheel stud nuts of one of the tyres of the bus were loose save for only one and immediately informed the conductor who also was somehow surprised and took a wheel spanner and tightened well all of them and it is then when

we continued with our journey. I believe God was protecting us and made that passenger to feel she needed to go for a short call and insisted so that we may see we were but traveling under God's grace and mercy and were in serious danger then as the bus was speeding very badly and it would have rolled over and killed us. I thank God yet again for saving our lives.

10. At one time I was traveling from Nairobi going home in south Nyanza and when we were not too far from Kisii we had a big bang and I thought it was some bomb. The vehicle stopped although it was going at high speed. One of the tyres had bursted. We took sometime there when they were fixing a new tyre after removing the other one and we continued with the journey. I thank God for that too and do thank him in advance for his protection still on my life.
11. One day I went to sleep at night as usual and when I was deep asleep late at night I was

abruptly awoken by some sounds (small sounds) and when I lighted a lamp to see what was making that sound I was taken aback as I found out that I had been invaded by red ants in my bedroom as I saw multitude and multitudes of the red ants almost everywhere on the walls and on the floor and they were on the beddings as well and were on my body and I had to undress my pyjama suit as well as the underwear in order to be able to remove each one of them pretty fast as they already had begun to bite my skin mercilessly. After that, I tried to sweep the ants that were on the floor and remove the upper beddings but it was not enough and a thought came to me that I will never succeed and I needed the help of God and I commanded the ants in the name of the Lord to leave the room latest by sunrise, as it was already early morning like 3 or 4 a.m. and I had some short sleep. When I wake say around 6.00 am the red ants had left the bedroom and I thanked the Lord as he was indeed my protector

on the following grounds going by what I experienced:

- I was awoken in good time (most likely by the Spirit of God) as I was asleep and knew nothing that was going on in that bedroom.
- No ants had ever entered my ears or my nose (which if they did, I would have been in a more precarious condition).
- I was able to command the ants to leave the room just as Jesus used to command situations and they obeyed and normalized.

I give my Lord all the praise honor and glory for all that.

12. One day in an afternoon around 3.15 pm or there about after having a siesta I went out of my home to take a short walk and to see and check part of my farm where I had agreed with someone to plough it for me using a plough equipment and oxen, if he had done so. I started checking from one side of the farm and going towards the end; and as I walked on the right side of the farm, my mind was fixed on the farm which was therefore on my left side, and

my eyes too was more inclined on the left side. Then as I neared towards the end suddenly a thought came to my mind to pose and to look on my right and what I saw at a first glance looked like a long strip of grayish cloth. But when I looked more keenly trying to look at its length, towards the end I was shocked greatly. Why? That length it turned out not to be a long strip of cloth but a snake most likely a cobra, as I saw it's head already raised up about 2 to 3 feet above the ground in the air and the eyes keenly watching for my next move. I strongly believe it was ready to attack if I had moved even a step further towards it. I stood tongue tied and then quickly turned where I came from and ran so fast like in a 100 meters' race for my dear life. The snake was roughly about 10 - 12 feet long and at the time it was not moving at all but just stood. I now know as I recall the incident that it was God's divine protection that brought the difference between death and life. God saw it all when I left my home and made the Holy Spirit to bring to my attention what

was just a few meters ahead of me – real danger, for me to flee. Without the Spirit of God who is my helper definitely it would have been bad news as you know a cobra is a venomous snake. I take this very opportunity to thank God my Creator and Redeemer for his grace and mercy for protecting me that way and do praise him giving Him all the glory in Jesus' name, Amen and Amen.

Chapter 19

Withdrawal of God's protection

There are some circumstances that may lead to the withdrawal of God's protection. The withdrawal is more temporal than permanent in nature.

The main reason for the withdrawal of the protection of God come as a result of sin in one's life. Let us look at this scripture.

He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso breakth a hedge, a serpent shall bit him.

Ecclesiastes 10:8

The first part and the second part of the above scripture have some similarity in that both of them create an open space. The first part makes it possible for one to accidentally fall into and the second part make it possible for one to be attacked as it serves as a fence and surrounds a building or a person as we are going to see in another scripture. The scripture talks of Satan as the old serpent (Revelation 12:9).

Therefore, we can conclude that when you open a hole / space in your life a serpent (a devil) will bite

(attack) you by/through that opening. Let us look at the scripture I just said we are going to see.

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.

And the LORD said unto Satan,

Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

And the LORD said unto Satan,

Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?

Hast not thou made a hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

Job 1:6-10

If that conversation was not recorded in the holy Bible, we may not have known that there is a hedge

that God provides as a protection surrounding a righteous person as well as his or her property. So here too, we see the word 'hedge' again. It follows therefore that if one sins one allows an opening to exist in one's life and through which the enemy (the serpent) can reach and attack one. So Christians need to be careful on the issue of this thing called sin as it makes one to be vulnerable to the bites (attacks) of the devil.

Let us now look at some examples, but before that we now know there is a spiritual hedge around each righteous man or woman as it was with Job and Satan as a spirit he could see it in Job's life and God did not deny it that there was nothing like that.

And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.

No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there:

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 35:8-10

Although the above scripture is touching on the glory of the Millennium rule of Jesus Christ on the earth at Jerusalem, it nevertheless applies to his holy Church as well who experience God's divine protection now as they are living a holy lifestyle and therefore walking in God's highway which is the way of holiness. One is safe in God's hand right now if he or she is in Christ Jesus and living a holy life and will be taken to safety in the rapture of the holy Church to be with the Lord during the 7 year Tribulation period and when God restores his earthly kingdom for 1000 years (Revelation 19) and then be with those saints into eternity in heaven (Revelation 20 to 22).

Go not up for the LORD is not among you; that ye be not smitten before your enemies.

For the A-mal;-ek-ites and the Ca'-na-an-ites are there before you, and ye shall fall by the sword: because ye are turned away from the LORD, therefore the LORD will not be with you.

But they presumed to go up unto the hill top: nevertheless the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and Moses, departed not out of the camp.

Then the A-mal;-ek-ites came down, and the Ca'-na-an-ites which dwelt in that hill, and smote them, and discomfited them, even unto Hor'-mah.

Numbers 14:42-45

The children of Israel were advised by Moses that they should not go to face their enemies because they had turned away from God and God was not with them but they went ahead and were smitten by their enemies. Why? Simply because they had sinned by murmuring against God and therefore God's protection / presence was not available for them as the sin had exposed them to their enemies. In the spiritual realm there was no hedge surrounding them.

AND the word of Samuel came to all Israel. Now Israel went out against the Phil-is'-tines to battle, and pitched beside Eb-en-e'-zer: and the Phil-is'-tines pitched in A'-phek.

And the Phil-is'-tines put themselves in array against Israel: and when they joined battle, Israel was smitten before the Phil-is'-tines: and they slew of the army in the field about four thousand men.

And when the people were come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, Wherefore hath the LORD smitten us today before the Phil-is'-tines? Let us fetch the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of Shi'-loh unto us, that, when it cometh among us, it may save us out of the hand of our enemies.

So the people sent to Shi'-loh, that they might bring from thence the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth between the cher'-u-bim: and the two sons of E'-li, Hoph'-ni and Phin'-e-has, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

And when the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, so that the earth rang again,

And when the Phil-is'-tines heard the noise of the shout, they said, What meaneth the noise of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews? And they understood that the ark of the LORD was come into the camp.

And the Phil-is'-tines were afraid, for they said, God is come into the camp. And they said, Woe unto us! for there hath not been such a thing heretofore.

Woe unto us! who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty God's? these are the God's that smote the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness.

Be strong, and quit yourselves like men, O ye Phil-is'-tines that ye be not servants unto the Hebrews, as they have been to you: quit yourselves like men, and fight.

And the Phil-is'-tines fought, and Israel was smitten, and they fled every man into his tent: and there was a great slaughter; for there fell of Israel thirty thousand footmen.

And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of E'-li, Hoph'-ni and Phin'-e-has, were slain.

1 Samuel 4:1-11

The reason why Israel were smitten was as a result of the sins of Hophni and Phinehas the sons of Eli who we read earlier that they disobeyed God by abhorring the offering of the Lord and God withdrew his protection from them and even the ark of the covenant of the Lord could not save them from the hand of their enemies as these same disobedient sons of E'-li were with the ark of the covenant of the Lord and God judged them as they too were among the slain. Please do remember that these sons of Eli did worse things by laying with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation (an unimaginable thing to do) (1 Samuel 2:22).

BUT the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for A'-chan, the son of Car'-mi, the son of Zab'-di, the son of Zer'-ah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel.

And Joshua sent men from Jericho to A'-i, which is beside Beth-a'-ven, on the east side of Beth-el, and spake unto them, saying, Go up and view the country. And the men went up and viewed A'-i.

And they returned to Joshua, and said unto him, Let not all the people go up; but let about two or three thousand men go up and smite A'-i; and make not all the people to labor thither; for they are but few.

So there went up thither of the people about three thousand men: and they fled before the men of A'-i.

And the men of A'-i smote of them about thirty and six men: for they chased them from before the gate even unto Sheb'-a-rim, and smote them in the going down: wherefore the hearts of the people melted, and became as water.

And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their head.

And Joshua said, Alas, O Lord GOD, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Am'-o-rites, to

destroy us would to God we had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jordan.

O Lord, What shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies!

For the Ca'-na-an-ites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name?

And the LORD said unto Joshua,

Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face?

Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff.

Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.

Joshua 7:1-12

God was not with the children of Israel and therefore they were without God's protection and were quite vulnerable against their enemies. But as I said earlier, the withdrawal of God's protection is more temporal than permanent as suggested by God in verse 12. I am saying so because if you continue up to the last verse of the chapter you will find that God relented and when you begin chapter 8 God now says to Joshua to go to A'-i, and that he has given it to his hand, the king and the people as well- meaning God was now going to be in their midst to provide the necessary protection which he had withdrawn earlier and this time round they utterly destroyed all the inhabitants of Ai.

NOW the Philistines fought against Israel: and the men of Israel fled before the Philistines, and fell down slain in mount Gilboa.

And the Philistines followed hard upon Saul and upon his sons; and the Philistines slew Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Malchi-shua, Saul's sons.

And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him; and he was sore wounded of the archers.

Then said Saul to his armor bearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me. But his armor bearer would not; for he was sore afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword, and fell upon it.

And when the armor bearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise upon his sword, and died with him. So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armor bearer, and all his men, that same day together.

1 Samuel 31:1-6

Saul and his sons all died in one day because God's protection had been withdrawn as Saul had on various occasions disobeyed God (1 Samuel 13:1-14; 15:1-23; 28:1-25) in addition to his several attempts of trying to take away the life of David who God had sent prophet Samuel to anoint as king.

When the host goeth forth against thine enemies,
then keep thee from every wicked thing.

If there be among you any man, that is not clean by
reason of uncleanness that chanceth him by night,
then shall he go abroad out of the camp, he shall
not come within the camp:

But it shall be, when evening cometh on, he shall
wash himself with water: and when the sun is
down, he shall come into the camp again.

Thou shalt have a place also without the camp,
whither thou shalt go forth abroad:

And thou shalt have a paddle upon thy weapon; and
it shall be, when thou wilt ease thyself abroad, thou
shalt dig there with, and shalt turn back and cover
that which cometh from thee:

For the LORD thy God walketh in the midst of thy
camp, to deliver thee, and to give up thine enemies
before thee; therefore shall thy camp be holy: that
he see no unclean thing in thee, and turn away from
thee.

Deuteronomy 23:9-14

The above scripture talks of sanitation and more
and that God is holy and detests any wicked or

unclean thing and will keep away from such. We are supposed to keep ourselves and our environment clean for God to continue to be in our midst or else he will turn away from us meaning we lose many things including God's protection.

I do think that is the scripture some have given the phrase 'cleanliness is next to godliness'. But I need to say this. Outside cleanliness without inside cleanliness cannot be next to godliness.

Both our environment including our outside man (the body) and our inside man (the soul) must be kept clean for us to give God a conducive environment to continue to stay with us. The right approach is cleaning the inside then followed by cleaning the outside (Mark 7:1-9, 1 Peter 1:13-16). General cleanliness therefore is not enough for God to be with us but salvation of our souls as well.

Let us therefore keep ourselves clean and pure from any impurities as well as to keep our environment clean to be safe indeed in God.

Notes of the reader

I take this very opportunity to say thank you for reading this book and hope it has been of use to you in reassuring of your safety in the Lord.

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