

**A Christian
and
Divine plan**

Fredrick G. Omondi

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

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INTRODUCTION

God as the Creator of all living beings has a plan for every human being as he created man in his own image after his likeness (Genesis 1:20-27) and more so to them that he has called he has a purpose for them to accomplish (Jeremiah 29:10-11, John 14:1-3). Such people who have been called God facilitates them with gifts to accomplish the task/s at hand. For that reason therefore a Christian need not be complacent in salvation by sitting back doing nothing and only hoping to enter heaven but need to seek God for divine direction on one's life to get to know specifically what God has called him or her to do while still on this life on earth.

To begin with one need to know the will of God by reading studying and meditating on the Scriptures as well as obeying them by acting upon them too (Joshua 1:8, 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16-17, James 1:22-25).

In seeking spiritual direction on one's life for specific tasks that one was called to do one must take time in prayer and fasting for God to speak to him or her say in an audible voice, in a dream or in a vision; if at one's conversation to Christ one did not get instructed accordingly as we are going to see in various case studies in this book.

In this book we are going to see that God calls people of all walks of life from all races and sets them apart for some specific purpose

prior to final entry into heaven and the contribution of parents to align their children in the right path for God and finally end with the various case studies that corroborates the fact that God calls people to be participators in his divine plan and see how and why those in the case studies were called by God.

The reader need to know for sure that God called him or her for something and not for nothing and that he or she need to seek to know it and be busy working at it before being with the Lord in heaven (1 Corinthians 15:58, Galatians 6:7-8, Revelation 22:7, 12-14).

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Chapter 1

The Divine call

God has a plan for all human beings and that could be the reason why he made man different from all other creatures, making man in His own image after his likeness (Genesis 1:26-27). God did so for a purpose. But for that to come to pass it was necessary for one to get a divine call (more so after the fall in the Garden of Eden).

Divine purposes can only be easily accomplished by divine direction. Divine direction can only be received when a person has undergone a spiritual birth/a new birth being born of the Spirit of God which regenerates a person's life to be spiritually alive.

Now after one has been so regenerated one is endowed with a spiritual gift or gifts to be able to do God's work and in the end accomplish God's plan in one's life. A Divine call is the call of God to serve him as a servant / a minister. Let us now look at the scriptures.

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them also glorified.

Romans 8:28-30

When God created you and I, he knew us in advance and predestinated us to conform to his Son Jesus Christ thereby calling us at the opportune time and justifying us (Romans 5:1-9) and lastly he will go ahead to glorify us (Romans 8:22-23, Philippians 3:20-21, 1 Corinthians 15: 50-54).

But I certify you brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.

For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:

And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers.

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace

To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood.

Galatians 1:11-16

Apostle Paul acknowledges God's divine plan in his calling in the above scripture.

AND when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: the first Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;

Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;

Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

Matthew 10:1-8

Then the eleven disciples went away unto Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

And when they saw him, they worshiped him: but some doubted.

And Jesus came, and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.

A'-men.

Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus Christ told his disciples what to do after calling them when he had begun his ministry and did the same (as a reminder) after his resurrection prior to his ascension back to heaven and he had this to tell them:

When they therefore were come together, they asked him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Sa-mar'-i-a and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 1:68

Jesus as the Truth (John 14:6) had told them the truth.

AND when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:1-4

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

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

1 Peter 2:9-10

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

Ephesians 2:19-20

The above scriptures do show our position after being called by God. Now with the Holy Spirit comes gifts upon each one of us.

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in all.

But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

Wherefore he saith, when he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

(Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

And he gave some, apostles; and some prophets; and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Ephesians 4:4-13

Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

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

For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?

Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

1 Corinthians 12:27-30

You and I were born again to be some one in the house of God but not necessarily in the same ministry or with the same gift but as God Himself was pleased. You or me can be an apostle, a prophet, an evangelist, a pastor, a teacher, an elder, a deacon or a deaconess, a worshipper, an intercessor or in children's ministry such as Sunday school and so on.

Now finally even if we know specifically where God has placed us in his house, we still need to seek and get spiritual direction even in the ministry work (Acts 16:1-10; 22:17-21; 27:21-26) and also we need to stir up our gift/s (2 Timothy 1:6-11).

Chapter 2

The Parenting Factor

Parenting has a part to play in the upbringing of children for them to be aligned to receive godly character by providing to the children a conducive environment in the home by teaching them godly virtues and at the same time being good role models for them to follow in life as well as taking them to church to be dedicated to the Lord and when reach Sunday school age (not small babies) to be taken to attend lessons there so that they are brought up in a godly way in that environment too.

Finally when the children become young boys or young girls they need to be taught how to do small household and domestic chores and be encouraged not to be lazy but to learn to work for a living so that when they grow up they don't depend on others (Genesis 3:19, 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12, Acts 18:1-3).

At the same time the parents need to be remembering their children regularly when in prayer for God's protection and guidance.

All the above efforts are good for the children and who knows, God can call them and equip them and bring to come to pass his divine purposes through them. Let us now look at a few examples in the scriptures on good upbringing of children.

And they rose up in the morning early, and worshiped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to Ra'-mah: and El-ka'-nah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her.

Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, because I have asked him of the LORD.

And the man El-ka'-nah, and all his house, went up to offer unto the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and his vow.

But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, I will not go up until the child be weaned, and then I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide forever.

And El-ka'-nah her husband said unto her, Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the LORD establish his word. So the woman abode and gave her son suck until she weaned him.

And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one e'-phah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shi'-loh: and the child was young.

And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to E'-li.

And she said, Oh my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD.

For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him:

Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshiped the LORD there.

1 Samuel 1:19-28

And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward Sodom: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way.

And the LORD said, shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;

Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Go-mor-'rah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;

I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.

And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the Lord.

Genesis 18:16-22

In the above scripture we see after God had visited the home of Abraham what later transpired. God knew the faithfulness of Abraham in obedience to him and knew as well that Abraham would extend it to his children and his household to be God fearing in obedience to Jehovah Yahweh. By doing so he would have opened a way for God to bring upon him what he had been promise by God. We know at the time that Abraham was already a parent after getting a son by his maid Hagar, the child Ishmael and he was expecting the promised son who would be named Isaac, followed by many other descendants as God had promised who would later inherit the land of Canaan.

From the foregoing we can see that God had told him of the coming judgment on the people of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah (verses 20-33) and secondly that the good upbringing of children in fearing God in obeying him can effectively bring about the will of God to come to pass in their lives (verses 17-19). God therefore expects spiritual leadership in homes by the parents who are supposed to lead in word and deed according to the word of the Lord (Ephesians 6:1-4, 1 Timothy 3:1-5, Joshua 24:14-15, Job 1:1-5). Now the issue of parenting in spiritual matters is so important that God reminded the Israelites to observe that practice as indicated here.

How good to have God fearing parents! Hannah fulfilled her vow and took her son to appear before the Lord and left him there in Shiloh at the house of the Lord. God had no option but to accept him and to use him as necessary.

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

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

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

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

Luke 2:21-24

The parents of Jesus too, were God fearing and took baby Jesus to be presented before the Lord in the temple in Jerusalem. They went further and did more to the boy Jesus exposing him to the temple environment even the more.

Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the pass over.

And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.

And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.

But they, supposing him to have been in company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.

And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.

And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? Behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Luke 2:41-52

The boy Jesus also learned godly ways in the temple environment. He was in a good place and increased in the wisdom of heaven and not of this world which comes to nothing as touching on the Father's business.

And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them.

But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

Mark 10:13-16

Children should be taken into the house of the Father in order to be blessed. Refusing to do so is to throw them to the dogs where they

eventually end in narcotic drugs, alcohol, immorality and all such vices.

You can read further the following the need to expose your children to the right environment for their spirituality: Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 22:6, 15; 23:13-14; 29:15-17, Deuteronomy 6:1-9; 11:18-21.

The best place to take your children is the house of the Lord which is based on the word of God and the best person you can take your children to is Jesus, as they need him more than any one else or anything else. Jesus as the Way is the answer to their lives just as he is the answer in our lives too.

Now these are the commandment's, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it:

That thou mightiest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.

Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey.

Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God is one LORD:

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sitteth in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as front lets between thine eyes.

And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

Deuteronomy 6: 1-9

The above were God's commandments to the Israelites - the parents who were supposed to obey and to likewise teach their children to obey as well. Now those were the descendants of Abraham a friend of God (Isaiah 41:8-9) who were to worship and serve their God the Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 41:14).

Now why does God impress upon Abraham and his seed the Israelites the need to obey his commandments? It is because God wanted his will to come to pass on them (Matthew 6:9-13) as he

never does things outside his divine will (Amos 3:1-8, Isaiah 55:10-11, Matthew 5:17-18).

Just as God chose the Israelites as his own people so have born again Christians been called by adoption through Christ Jesus to be the children of God and be part of the larger family of God who are in heaven and obey God in totality thereby fulfilling the will of God up there. Christians are expected to fulfill the will of God while still here on earth. But in case one was not taught the way of the Lord as the parents probably did not personally know the Lord (were not saved) still God has so many ways of doing things and still can call such a person to Himself and prepare him or her to be God's vessel to serve him, as God is not limited in any way whatsoever as he is Omnipotent, Omniscient and Omnipresent.

Touching on good upbringing of children in Christian virtues I believe if one follows God's true ministers who God has used mightily some or most of them their parents gave them a good upbringing in the fear of the Lord.

Chapter 3

Case study 1: Adam

In the following chapter series on case studies we are going to see how some were called by God to ministry and their mission and now here I do begin with Adam the first man that God created.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Genesis 1:26-28

And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him.

And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found a help meet for him.

And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

Now the serpent was more subtile than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said, unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, ye shall not eat of it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Genesis 2:15-3:6

We do see that man was given the task of procreation, keeping and dressing the Garden of Eden and to have dominion over every living creature on the earth but unfortunately, because he disobeyed God's commandment, he lost the dominion to the serpent (Satan).

Chapter 4

Case study 2: Enoch

In this chapter series we are going to see the case of Enoch the son of Jared.

And Jared lived an hundred sixty and two years, and he begat Enoch:

And Jared lived after he begat Enoch eight hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:

And all the days of Jared were nine hundred sixty and two years: and he died

And Enoch lived sixty and five years: and begat Methuselah:

And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:

And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years:

And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

Genesis 5:18-24

By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Hebrews 11:5

And Enoch also the seventh from Adam, prophesied of this saying,
Behold the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,
To execute judgement upon all, and to convince all that are
ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have
ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly
sinners have spoken against him.

These are murmurers, complainers walking after their own lusts;
and their mouths speaketh great swelling words, having men's
persons in admiration because of advantage.

Jude 14-16

From the above scriptures we do see that Enoch too was called by
God to walk with him and to prophecy for he had faith that pleased
God and he must have completed the work God assigned to him
and God took him. Do note that he was the seventh [a perfect
number] from Adam and we know that after Adam fell into sin all
others that followed inherited the sinful nature and began to sin as
evidenced in Cain [Genesis 4:1-8] and it is only when Enos was
born that men began to call upon the name of the Lord and God in
his divine wisdom had chosen Enoch to serve him, during that
generation.

Chapter 5

Case study 3: Noah

In this chapter series we are going to see the case of Noah the son of Lamech.

And La'mech lives an hundred eighty and two years, and begat a son:

And he called his name Noah, saying, This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord hath cursed.

And Lamech lived after he begat Noah five hundred ninety and five years, and begat sons and daughters:

And all the days of Lamech were seven hundred seventy and seven years: and he died.

And Noah was five hundred years old: and Noah begat Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, 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 female.

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

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

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

Genesis 5:28-6:22

We can see from the above scripture that Noah was called by God to serve him by preaching righteousness to the people in his generation as he himself was righteous and also he went on to built an ark as was commanded by God which saved him and his household as a remnant on the earth and other creatures as well (Hebrews 11:7). He fully accomplished the task he was given by God.

Chapter 6

Case study 4: Abram

In this chapter series we are going to see the case of Abram the son of Terah.

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

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

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

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

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

And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Si'-chem, unto the plain of Mo'-reh. And the Ca'-na-an-ite was then in the land.

And the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the Lord, who appeared unto him.

And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Ha'-i on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the Lord, and called upon the name of the Lord.

And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south.

And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn three; for the famine was grievous in the land.

And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sar'-a-i his wife, Behold now, I know that thou art a fair woman to look upon:

Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say,

This is his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive.

Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee.

And it came to pass, that when Abram was come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman that she was very fair.

The princes also of Pharaoh saw her, and commended her before Pharaoh: and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.

And he entreated Abram well for her sake: and he had sheep, and oxen, and he asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels.

And the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sar'-a-i Abram's wife.

And Pharaoh called Abram, and said, What is this that thou hast done unto me? why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife?

Why saidst thou, She is my sister? so I might have taken her to me to wife: now therefore behold thy wife, take her, and go thy way.

And Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him: and they sent him away, and his wife, and all that he had.

AND Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south.

And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.

And he went on his journeys from the south even to Beth-el, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Beth-el and Ha'-i;

Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the LORD.

Genesis 12:1-13:4

From the above scripture we do see that Abram was called by God to separate from his country, from his kindred (relatives) and from his father's house so as to be blessed and to be a blessing to all the

families of the earth because of his obedience to God which is by faith and he was to be an example to the earth on how people ought to relate with God. But we find that at the start he slipped a bit after being called at some point. But it has been said ‘To slip is not to fall,’ as we can see that in his life, he truly obeyed God in his life even passing the hardest test (Genesis 22).

Chapter 7

Case study 4: Moses

In the following chapter series on case studies we are going to see how some were called by God to ministry and their mission and now here we begin the series with 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 come 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'-thom 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.

NOW Moses kept the flock of Jeth'-ro his father-in-law, the priest of Mid'-i-an: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Hor'-eb.

And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.

And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.

And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their sorrows;

And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good and a

large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Hit'-tites, and the Am'-o-rites, and the Per'-iz-zites, and the Hi'-vites, and the Jeb'-u-sites.

Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them.

Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

And Moses said unto God,

Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?

And he said; Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: when thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.

And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them?

And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of

Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations.

Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared unto me, saying, I have surely visited you, and seen that which is done to you in Egypt:

And I have said, I will bring you up out the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Ca'-na-an-ites, and the Hit'-tites, and the Am'-o-rites, and the Per'-iz-zites, and the Hi'-vites, and the Jeb'-u-sites, unto a land flowing with milk and honey.

And they shall hearken to thy voice: and thou shalt come, thou and the elders of Israel, unto the king of Egypt and ye shall say unto him, The LORD God of the Hebrews hath met with us: and now let us go, we beseech thee, three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.

And I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not by a mighty hand.

And I will stretch out my hand, and smite Egypt with all my wonders which I will do in the midst thereof: and after that he will let you go.

And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians: and it shall come to pass, that, when ye go, ye shall not go empty.

But every woman shall borrow of her neighbor, and of her that sojourneth in her house, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold and raiment: and ye shall put them upon your sons, and upon your daughters; and ye shall spoil the Egyptians.

Exodus 1, 2 & 3

God knew in advance that his people the children of Israel would be in bondage in Egypt for four hundred years and in his divine plan arranged for them a deliver and that is why Moses was born and you can see the events that unfolded in Moses' life until God called him and commissioned him to deliver God's people from Egypt to the promised land (Genesis 15). God used Moses as a prophet to lead the children of Israel out of the land of captivity.

Chapter 8

Case study 6: Joshua

The next in the series is Joshua the son of Nun.

AND Moses went and spake these words unto all Israel.

And he said unto them, I am a hundred and twenty years old this day; I can no more go out and come in: also the LORD hath said unto me, Thou shalt not go over this Jordan.

The LORD thy God, he will go over before thee, and he will destroy these nations from before thee, and thou shalt possess them: and Joshua, he shall go over before thee, as the LORD hath said.

And the LORD shall do unto them as he did to Si'-hon and to Og, kings of the Am'-o-rites, and unto the land of them, whom he destroyed.

And the LORD shall give them up before your face, that ye may do unto them according unto all the commandments which I have commanded you.

Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel,

Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the LORD hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it.

And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee; fear not, neither be dismayed.

Deuteronomy 31:1-8

AND Moses went up from the plains of Moab unto the mountain of Ne'-bo to the top of Pis'-gah, that is over against Jericho.

And the LORD showed him all the land of Gilead, unto Dan.

And all Naph'-ta-li, and the land of E'-phra-im, and Ma-nas'-seh, and all the land of Judah unto the utmost sea,

And the south, and the plain of the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, unto Zo'-ar.

And the LORD said unto him, This is the land which I sware unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed: I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes but thou shalt not go over thither.

So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD.

And he buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Beth-pe'-or: but no man knoweth of his sepulcher unto this day.

And Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.

And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days: so the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended.

And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him: and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the LORD commanded Moses.

And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face,

In all the signs and the wonders, which the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh, and to all his servants, and to all his land,

And in all that mighty hand, and in all the great terror which Moses showed in the sight of the Israel.

Deuteronomy 34

NOW after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying,

Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.

Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.

From the wilderness and this Leb'-a-non even unto the great river, the river Eu-phra'-tes, all the land of the Hit'-ti-tes, and unto the Great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.

There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them.

Only be thou strong and very courageous that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

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

Have not I commanded thee?

Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Joshua 1:1-9

God was not surprised that Moses had died and therefore could not lead his people the children of Israel into the promised land. He knew well in advance and had Moses have Joshua the son of Nun as his servant and who worked under him and he prepared him by giving him some tasks and also laid his hands upon him in preparing him for the big task of finally accomplishing the task of God which God gave him, he Moses, to lead them into the promised land. Moses went further encouraging Joshua of completing the task by taking over after his death. Moses and Joshua were a type of Christ who would eventually come to deliver all mankind by his death on the cross as an atonement for sins.

Chapter 9

Case study 7: Joseph

The next in our series is Joseph the son of Jacob.

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

AND it came to pass at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh dreamed: and, behold, he stood by the river.

And, behold, there came out of the river seven well-favored kine and fat-fleshed; and they fed in a meadow.

And, behold, seven other kine came up after them out of the river, ill-favored and lean-fleshed kine did eat up the seven well-favored and fat kine. So Pharaoh awoke.

And he slept and dreamed the second time: and, behold, seven ears of corn came up upon one stalk, rank and good.

And, behold, seven thin ears and blasted with the east wind sprung up after them.

And the seven thin ears devoured the seven rank and full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and, behold, it was a dream.

And it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled; and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt, and all the wise

men thereof: and Pharaoh told them his dream; but there was none that could interpret them unto Pharaoh.

Then spake the chief butler unto Pharaoh, saying, I do remember my faults this day:

Pharaoh was wrath with his servants, and put me in ward in the captain of the guard's house, both me and the chief baker:

And we dreamed a dream in one night, I and he; we dreamed each man according to the interpretation of his dream.

And there was there with us a young man, a Hebrew, servant to the captain of the guard; and we told him, and he interpreted to us our dreams; to each man according to his dream he did interpret.

And it came to pass, as he interpreted to us, so it was; me he restored unto mine office, and him he hanged.

Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon: and he shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came in unto Pharaoh.

And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard a say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it.

And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.

And Pharaoh said unto Joseph,

In my dream, behold, I stood upon the bank of the river:

And, behold, there came up out of the river seven kine, fat-fleshed and well-favored; and they fed in a meadow:

And, behold, seven other kine came up after them, poor and very ill-favored and lean-fleshed, such as I never saw in all the land of Egypt for badness:

And the lean and the ill-favored kine did eat up the first seven fat kine:

And when they had eaten them up, it could not be known that they had eaten them; but they were still ill-favored, as at the beginning. So I awoke.

And I saw in my dream, and, behold, seven ears came up in one stalk, full and good:

And, behold, seven thin ears withered, thin, and blasted with the east wind sprung up after them.

And the thin ears devoured the seven good ones: and I told this unto magicians; but there was none that could declare it to me.

And Joseph said unto Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh is one: God hath showed Pharaoh what he is about to do.

The seven good kine are seven years; and the seven good ears are seven years; the dream is one.

And the seven thin and ill-favored kine that came up after them are seven years; and the seven empty ears blasted with the east wind shall be seven years of famine.

This is the thing that I have spoken unto Pharaoh: What God is about to do he sheweth unto Pharaoh.

Behold, there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt:

And there shall arise after them seven years of famine; and all the plenty shall be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine shall consume the land;

And the plenty shall not be known in the land by reason of that famine following; for it shall be very grievous.

And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice; it is because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.

Now therefore let Pharaoh look out a man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt.

Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, and take up the fifth part of the land of Egypt in the seven plentiful years.

And let them gather all the food of those good years that come, and lay up corn under the hand of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities.

And that food shall be for store to the land against the seven years of famine, which shall be in the land of Egypt; that the land perish not through the famine.

And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants.

And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom the spirit of God is?

And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath showed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art:

Thou shalt be over my house, and according to thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.

And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt.

And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it up on Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck;

And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt.

And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnath -paaneah; and he gave him to wife, Asenath the daughter of Poti-phe-rah priest of On. And Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt.

And Joseph was thirty years old when he stood before Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh, and went throughout all the land of Egypt.

And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls.

And he gathered up all the food of the seven years which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities: the food of the field, which was round about every city, laid he up in the same.

And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number.

And unto Joseph were born two sons before the years of famine came, which, Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On bare unto him.

And Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: For God, said he, hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house.

And the name of the second called he Ephraim: For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.

And the seven years of plenteousness, that was in the land of Egypt, were ended.

And the seven years of dearth began to come, according as Joseph had said: and the dearth was in all lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread.

And when all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread: and Pharaoh said unto all the Egyptians, Go unto Joseph; what he said to you, do.

And the famine was over all the face of the earth: and Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold unto the Egyptians; and the famine waxed sore in the land of Egypt.

And all countries came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn; because that the famine was so sore in all lands.

Genesis 41

God had a plan for the boy Joseph and he is the one that gave Joseph those dreams which touched on Joseph's life, that he would be elevated in society in a strange land in order to be able to save his family (the house of Jacob) from the famine that would come in the future so that the nation of Israel would not disappear. God even made sure the pit Joseph would be cast into had no water and used Reuben followed by Judah to preserve Joseph's life as he was the one to be used by God when the great famine comes.

Satan's efforts to have Joseph killed failed miserably but still he used these brothers of Joseph to lie to their father by what they did to conceal the whereabouts of Joseph (Satan as we know is both a murderer and a liar- John 8:44) the thought of slaying Joseph and lying to their father originated from the Devil, therefore let us carefully watch our thoughts and determine their source before acting on them. In the above case it has been proved that the majority is not always right as at first all agreed to slay Joseph save for his brother Reuben who had reservations, same to the second

case where Judah suggested to the others the selling of Joseph to the Ishmaelites and others consented (which led Joseph into Egypt where God was to prepare him to save the rest of his family from famine). God is omniscient and omnipotent and does not work by crisis (management by crisis) as men do. He is so organized and plans in advance events in life and cannot be overtaken by anything. For further reading on this matter of Joseph you can read chapters 39, 40, 42 through to chapter 50. From Jacob's family we see God called Joseph and raised him to save themselves from famine.

Chapter 10

Case study 8: Gideon

In this chapter series we are going to see the case of Gideon.

AND the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Mid'-i-an seven years.

And the hand of Mid'-i-an prevailed against Israel: and because of the Mid'-i-anites the children of Israel made them the dens which are in the mountains, and caves, and strongholds.

And so it was, when Israel had sown, that Mid'-i-anites came up, and the A-mal'-ek-ites, and the children of the east, even they came up against them;

And they encamped against them, and destroyed the increase of the earth, till thou come unto Ga'-za, and left no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass.

For they came up with their cattle and their tents, and they came up as grass hoppers for multitude; for both they and their camels were without number: and they entered into the land to destroy it.

And Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Mid'-i-a-nites; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD.

And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, because of the Mid'-i-a-nites,

That the LORD sent a prophet unto the children of Israel, which said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought you up from Egypt and brought you forth out of the house of bondage; And I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all that oppressed you, and drove them out from before you, and gave you their land;

And I said unto you, I am the LORD your God; fear not the gods of the Am'-o-rites, in whose land ye dwell: but ye have not obeyed my voice.

And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which was in Oph'-rah, that pertained unto Jo'-ash the A'-bi-ez'-rite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Mid'-i-a-nites.

And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valor.

And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Mid'-i-a-nites.

And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Mid-i-a-nites: have I not sent thee?

And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? Behold, my family is poor in Ma-nas'-seh, and I am the least in my father's house.

And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Mid'-i-a-nites as one man.

Judges 6:1-16

We can see from the above account that God called Gideon for one specific task - to save Israel from the hand of the Midianites who had prevailed against the children of Israel for seven years so that they were greatly impoverished and had cried to the Lord.

Gideon had some excuses just as Moses and Jeremiah had (Exodus 4:1-13, Jeremiah 1:4-8). Gideon looked down upon his tribe and his family (which does not matter when God has called a person). Do remember the case of Saul son of Kish, Joseph son of Jacob and David son of Jesse.

For further reading on what transpired after Gideon's call you can read the same book of Judges in chapter 7 and 8 respectively.

Chapter 11

Case study 9: Samson

In this particular series we are going to see the case of Samson the son of Manoah.

AND the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Phi-is'-tines forty years.

And there was a certain man of Zor'-ah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Ma-no'-ah; and his wife was barren, and bare not.

And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son.

Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing:

For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Phil-is'-tines.

Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, A man of God came unto me, and his countenance was like the countenance of an

angel of God, very terrible: but I asked him not whence he was, neither told he me his name:

But he said unto me, Behold, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and now drink no wine nor strong drink, neither eat any unclean thing: for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death.

Then Ma-no'-ah entreated the LORD, and said, O my Lord, let the man of God which thou didst send come again unto us, and teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born.

And God hearkened to the voice of Ma-no'-ah; and the angel of God came again unto the woman as she sat in the field: but Ma-no'-ah her husband was not with her.

And the woman made haste, and ran, and showed her husband, and said unto him, behold, the man hath appeared unto me, that came unto me the other day.

And Ma-no'-ah arose, and went after his wife, and came to the man, and said unto him,

Art thou the man that spakest unto the woman? And he said, I am.

And Ma-no'-ah said, Now let thy word come to pass. How shall we order the child, and how shall we do unto him?

And the angel of the LORD said unto Ma-no'-ah, Of all that I said unto the woman let her beware.

She may not eat of anything that cometh of the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink, nor eat any unclean thing: all that commanded her let her observe.

And Ma-no'-ah said unto the angel of the LORD, I pray thee, let us detain thee, until we shall have made ready a kid for thee.

And the angel of the LORD said unto Ma-no'-ah, Though thou detain me, I will not eat of thy bread: and if thou wilt offer a burnt offering, thou must offer it unto the LORD. For Ma-no'-ah knew not that he was an angel of the LORD.

And Ma-no'-ah said unto the angel of the LORD, what is thy name, that when thy sayings come to pass we may do thee honor?

And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Why askest thou thus after my name, seeing it is secret?

So Ma-no'-ah took a kid with a meat offering, and offered it upon a rock unto the LORD: and the angel did wondrously; and Ma-no'-ah and his wife looked on.

For it came to pass, when the flame went up toward heaven from off the altar, that the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar. And Ma-no'-ah and his wife looked on it, and fell on their faces to the ground.

But the angel of the LORD did no more appear to Ma-no'-ah and to his wife. Then Ma-no'-ah knew that he was an angel of the LORD.

And Ma-no'-ah said unto his wife, We shall surely die, because we have seen God.

But his wife said unto him, If the LORD were pleased to kill us, he would not have received a burnt offering and a meat offering at our hands, neither would he have showed us all these things, nor would as at this time have told us such things as these.

And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him.

And the spirit of the LORD began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zor'-ah and Esh'-ta-ol.

Judges 13

We can see in the above scriptures that God called Samson specifically to begin to deliver the children of Israel from the hands of the Philistines who had ruled them for a span of forty years for doing evil in the sight of God. The truth of the matter going by what happened to the children of Israel is that even as born - again Christians we too will face trouble when we sin against God. The case of Samson being a Nazarite is like also the case of John the Baptist as the same condition applied (Luke 1:11-15).

For sure Samson did what he was called for to a great extent killing over four thousand Philistines.

Chapter 12

Case study 10: Samuel

In this chapter series we are going to see the case of have Samuel.

And they rose up in the morning early, and worshiped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to Ra'-mah: and El-ka'-nah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her.

Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the LORD.

And the man El-ka'-nah, and all his house, went up to offer unto the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and his vow.

But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, I will not go up until the child be weaned, and then I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide for ever.

And El-ka'-nah her husband said unto her, Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the LORD establish his word. So the woman abode and gave her son suck until she weaned him.

And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one e'-pah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shi'-loh: and the child was young.

And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to E'-li.

And she said, Oh my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD.

For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him:

Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshiped the LORD there.

1 Samuel 1:19-28

Now the sons of E'-li were sons of Be'-li-al; they knew not the LORD.

And the priests' custom with the people was, that when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant came, while the flesh was in seething, with a flesh hook of three teeth in his hand;

And he struck it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the flesh hook brought up the priest took for himself. So they did in Shi'-loh unto all the Israelites that came thither.

Also before they burnt the fat, the priest's servant came, and said to the man that sacrificed, Give flesh to roast for the priest; for he will not have sodden flesh of thee, but raw.

And if any man said unto him, Let them not fail to burn the fat presently, and then take as much as thy soul desireth; then he

would answer him, Nay; but thou shalt give it to me now: and if not, I will take it by force.

Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD: for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.

But Samuel ministered before the LORD, being a child, girded with linen e'-phod.

Moreover his mother made him a little coat, and brought it to him from year to year, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

And E'-li blessed El-ka'-nah and his wife, and said, the LORD give thee seed of this woman for the loan which is lent to the LORD. And they went unto their own house.

And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived, and bare three sons and two daughters.

And the child Samuel grew before the LORD.

Now E'-li was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

And he said unto them, why do ye such things? For I hear of your evil dealings by all this people.

Nay, my sons; for it is no good report that I hear: ye make the LORD'S people to transgress.

If one man sin against another the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall entreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the LORD would slay them.

And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favor both with the LORD, and also with men.

1 Samuel 2:12-26

AND the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before E'-li.

And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision.

And it came to pass at that time, when E'-li was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see.

And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was and Samuel was laid down to sleep:

That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I.

And he ran unto E'-li, and said, Here am I: for thou calledst me.

And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.

And the LORD called yet again, Samuel.

And Samuel arose and went to E'-li, and said, Here am I: for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son: lie down again.

Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him.

And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to E'-li, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me.

And E'-li perceived that the LORD had called the child.

Therefore E'-li said unto Samuel, Go, lie down; and it shall be if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD, for thy servant heareth.

So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

And the LORD came, and stood and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel, Then Samuel answered, Speak: for thy servant heareth.

And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.

In that day I will perform against E'-li all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end.

For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

And therefore I have sworn unto the house of E'-li, that the iniquity of E'-li's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever.

And Samuel lay until morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel feared to show E'-li, the vision.

Then E'-li, called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered Here am I.

And he said, what is the thing that the LORD hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide it not from me: God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide anything from me of all the things that he said unto thee.

And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him.

And he said, It is the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good.

And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

And all Israel from Dan even to Beer-she'-ba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD.

And the LORD appeared again in Shi'-loh: for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shi'loh by the word of the LORD.

1 Samuel 3

From the above scriptures we find that Samuel was born to be a prophet of God and he was called by God to restore the priesthood in Israel at a time when it had reached its lowest level, that is, it had fallen completely.

Evil was rampant in the priesthood as men abhorred the offering of the Lord, were immoral as well as insensitive to the ways of the Lord (1 Samuel 2:12-17, 22; 3:1-3 / Leviticus 24:1-4). No wonder

there was no revelation from the Lord that was forthcoming due to those unfortunate acts (iniquities).

God had stopped talking to the priesthood and called Samuel who he began to talk to from henceforth. God judged harshly the house of Eli for the short comings (1 Samuel 3:10-14) for even Eli himself was casual in trying to rebuke his sons and when he heard of God's judgment he took it as a simple matter not giving it serious thought by not repenting and crying to the Lord (1 Samuel 2:22-23; 3:15-18). Eli was so insensitive spiritually and it took him three visits by Samuel telling him he had called him before perceiving that God is the one that was calling Samuel (1 Samuel 3:1-9).

Chapter 13

Case study 11: David

In this chapter series we are going to see the case of David the son of Jesse.

AND the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided a king among his sons.

And Samuel said, How can I go? If Saul hear it, he will kill me. And the LORD said, Take a heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the LORD.

And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show thee what thou should do: and thou shalt anoint unto me him whom I name unto thee.

And Samuel did that which the LORD spake, and came to Bethlehem.

And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, Comest thou peaceably?

And he said, Peaceably: I am come to sacrifice unto the LORD: sanctify yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice. And he sanctified Jesse and his sons, and called them to the sacrifice.

And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on E-li'-ab, and said, Surely the LORD'S anointed is before him.

But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outside appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

Then Jesse called A-bin'-a-dab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.

Then Jesse made Sham'-mah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.

Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these.

And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep.

And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither. And he sent and brought him in.

Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.

Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ra'-mah.

1 Samuel 16:1-13

And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Phil-is'-tine.

And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Phil-is'-tine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:

And I went out after him, and smote him, and slew him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.

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 carcases of the host of the Phil-is'-tine 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 my 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 champion was dead, they fled.

And the men of Israel and of Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued the Phil-is'-tines, until thou come to the valley, and to the gates of Ek'-ron. And the wounded of the Phil-is'-tines fell down by the way to Sha-a-ra'-im, even unto Gath, and unto Ek'-ron.

And the children of Israel returned from chasing after the Phil-is'-tines, and they spoiled their tents.

And David took the head of the Phil-is'-tine, and brought it to Jerusalem; but he put his armor in his tent.

1 Samuel 17:32-54

God called David to be king of his people the Israelites after Saul who was the first king messed up and God chose David as he was better and a man after God's heart who would do what God commands him (1 Samuel 13:1-14; 15:1-28).

The Israelites had many enemies and David delivered the Israelites from their attacks defeating the enemies in every battle as God was with him. He was the best king Israel ever had.

Chapter 14

Case study 12: Solomon

In this chapter series we are going to see the case of Solomon the son of David.

AND Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants unto Solomon; for he had heard that they had anointed him king in the room of his father: for Hiram was ever a lover of David.

And Solomon sent to Hiram, saying,

Thou knowest how that David my father could not build an house unto the name of the LORD his God for the wars which were about him on every side, until the LORD put them under the soles of his feet.

But now the LORD my God hath given me rest on every side, so that there is neither adversary nor evil occurrent.

And, behold, I purpose to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD spake unto David my father, saying, Thy son, whom I will set upon thy throne in thy room, he shall build an house unto my name.

Now therefore command thou that they hew me cedar trees out of Lebanon; and my servants shall be with thy servants: and unto thee will I give hire for thy servants according to all that thou shalt

appoint: for thou knowest that there is not among us any that can skill to hew timber like unto the Sidonians.

And it came to pass, when Hiram heard the words of Solomon, that he rejoiced greatly, and said, Blessed be the LORD this day, which hath given unto David a wise son over this great people.

And Hiram sent to Solomon, saying, I have considered the things which thou sentest to me for: and I will do all thy desire concerning timber of cedar, and concerning timber of fir.

My servants shall bring them down from Lebanon unto the sea: and I will convey them by sea in floats unto the place that thou shalt appoint me, and will cause them to be discharged there, and thou shalt receive them: and thou shalt accomplish my desire, in giving food for my household.

So Hiram gave Solomon cedar trees and fir trees according to all his desire.

And Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand measures of wheat for food to his household, and twenty measures of pure oil: thus gave Solomon to Hiram year by year.

And the LORD gave Solomon wisdom, as he promised him: and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon; and they two made a league together.

And king Solomon raised a levy out of Israel; and the levy was thirty thousand men.

And he sent them to Lebanon, ten thousand a month by courses: a month they were in Lebanon, and two months at home: and Adoniram was over the levy.

And Solomon had threescore and ten thousand that bare burdens, and fourscore thousand hewers in the mountains:

Beside the chief of Solomon's officers which were over the work, three thousand and three hundred, which ruled over the people that wrought the work.

And the king commanded, and they brought great stones, costly stones, to lay the foundation of the house.

And Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders did hew them, and the stone squarers: so they prepared timber and stones to build the house.

AND it came to pass in the four hundred and eighteenth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the LORD. And the house which king Solomon built for the LORD, the length thereof was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof twenty cubits, and the height thereof thirty cubits.

And the porch before the temple of the house, twenty cubits was the length thereof, according to the breadth of the house; and ten cubits was the breadth thereof before the house.

And for the house he made windows of narrow lights.

And against the wall of the house he built chambers round about, both of the temple and of the oracle: and he made chambers round about:

The nethermost chamber was five cubits broad, and the middle was six cubits broad, and the third was seven cubits broad: for without in the wall of the house he made narrowed rests round about, that the beams should not be fastened in the walls of the house.

And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building.

The door for the middle chamber was in the right side of the house: and they went up with winding stairs into the middle chamber, and out of the middle into the third.

So he built the house, and finished it; and covered the house with beams and boards of cedar.

And then he built chambers against all the house, five cubits high: and they rested on the house with timber of cedar.

And the word of the LORD came to Solomon, saying,

Concerning this house which thou art in building, if thou wilt walk in my statutes, and execute my judgements, and keep all my

commandments to walk in them; then will I perform my word with thee, which I spake unto David thy father:

And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel.

So Solomon built the house, and finished it.

1 Kings 5:1-6:14

God in his divine plan had a dual purpose for Solomon: To take the reign from his father and to build a temple for the name of the Lord and the temple which Solomon built perfectly well and finished it.

Chapter 15

Case study 13: Josiah

In this chapter series we are going to see the case of Josiah who became a king at quite an early age!

JOSIAH was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years.

And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left.

For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father: and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images.

And they brake down the altars of Baalim in his presence; and the images, that were on high above them, he cut down; and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images, he brake in pieces, and made dust of them, and strowed it upon the graves of them that had sacrificed unto them.

And he burnt the bones of the priests upon their altars, and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem.

And so did he in the cities of Manasseh, and Ephraim, and Simeon, even unto Naphtali, with their mattocks round about.

And when he had broken down the altars and the groves, and had beaten the graven images into powder, and cut down all the idols throughout all the land of Israel, he returned to Jerusalem.

Now in the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land, and the house, he sent Shaphan the son of Azaliah, and Maasaih the governor of the city, and Joah the son of Joahaz the recorder, to repair the house of the LORD his God.

And when they came to Hilkiah the high priest, they delivered the money that was brought into the house of God, which the Levites that kept the doors had gathered of the hand of Manasseh and Ephraim, and all the remnant of Israel, and of all Judah and Benjamin; and they returned to Jerusalem.

And they put it in the hand of the workmen that had the oversight of the house of the LORD, and they gave it to the workmen that wrought in the house of the LORD, to repair and amend the house: Even to the artificers and builders gave they it, to buy hewn stone, and timber for couplings, and to the floor the houses which the kings of Judah had destroyed.

And the men did the work faithfully: and the overseers of them were Jahath and Obadiah, the Levites, of the sons of Merari; and Zechariah and Meshullam, of the sons of the Kohathites, to set it forward; and other of the Levites, and that could skill of instruments of music.

Also they were the bearers of burdens, and were overseers of all that wrought the work in any manner of service: and of the Levites there were scribes, and officers, and porters.

And when they brought out the money that was brought into the house of the LORD, Hilkiyah the priest found a book of the law of the LORD given by Moses.

And Hilkiyah answered and said to Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD. And Hilkiyah delivered the book to Shaphan.

And Shaphan carried the book to the king, and brought the king word back again, saying, All that was committed to thy servants, they do it.

And they have gathered together the money that was found in the house of the LORD, and have delivered it into the hand of the overseers, and to the hands of the workmen.

Then Shaphan the scribe told the king, saying, Hilkiyah the priest hath given me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king.

And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the law, that he rent his clothes.

And the king commanded Hilkiyah, and Ahikam the son of Micah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king's, saying, Go inquire of the LORD for me, and for them that are left in Israel and Judah, concerning the words of the book that is found: for

great is the wrath of the LORD that is poured out upon us, because our fathers have not kept the word of the LORD, to do after all that is written in this book.

And Hilkiah, and they that the king had appointed, went to Huldah the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvath, the son of Hasrah, keeper of the wardrobe; (now she dwelt in Jerusalem in the college:) and they spake to her to that effect.

And she answered them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Tell ye the man that sent you to me,

Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, and upon the inhabitants thereof, even all the curses that are written in the book which they have read before the king of Judah:

Because they have forsaken, and have burnt incense unto other gods, that they might provoke me to anger with all the works of their hands; therefore my wrath shall be poured out upon this place, and shall not be quenched.

And as for the king of Judah, who sent you to inquire of the LORD, so shall ye say unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel concerning the words which thou hast heard;

Because thine heart was tender, and thou didst humble thyself before God, when thou heardest his words against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, and humbledst thyself before me,

and didst rend thy clothes, and weep before me; I have even heard thee also, saith the LORD.

Behold, I will gather thee to thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered to thy grave in peace, neither shall thine eyes see all the evil that I will bring upon this place, and upon the inhabitants of the same. So they brought the king word again.

Then the king sent and gathered together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem.

And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and the priests, and the Levites, and all the people, great and small: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant that was found in the house of the LORD.

And the king stood in his place, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments, and his testimonies, and his statutes, with all his heart, and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant which are written in this book.

And he caused all that were present in Jerusalem and Benjamin to stand to it. And the inhabitants of Jerusalem did according to the covenant of God, the God of their fathers.

And Josiah took all the abominations out of all the countries that pertained to the children of Israel, and made all that were present in Israel to serve, even to serve the LORD their God.

And all his days they departed not from following the LORD, the God of their fathers.

2 Chronicles 34

God in his wisdom knew that a time would come when Judah and Israel would forsake him and serve other gods and he purposed to have Josiah be appointed king so as to bring a big revival in those lands and which he did quite well in the fear of the Lord.

Chapter 16

Case study 14: Isaiah

In this chapter series we are going to see the case of Isaiah son of Amoz.

THE vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uz-zi'-ah, Jo'-tham, Ahaz, and Hez'-e-ki'-ah, kings of Judah.

Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Lord hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.

The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.

Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.

Why should ye be stricken anymore? Ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.

From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.

Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers.

And the daughter of Zion is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city.

Except the Lord of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Go-mor'-rah.

Hear the word of the Lord, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Go-mor'-rah.

To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the Lord: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and fat of the fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of goats.

When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts?

Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me, the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting.

Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them.

And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;

Learn to do well; Seek judgement, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

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

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

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

How is the faithful city become an harlot! It was full of judgement; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers.

Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water:

Thy princes are rebellious, and companion of thieves; every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.

Therefore saith the Lord, the Lord of hosts, the mighty One of Israel, Ah, I will ease me of mine adversaries, and avenge me of mine enemies.

And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin:

And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, the city of righteousness, the faithful city.

Zion shall be redeemed with judgement, and her converts with righteousness.

And the destruction of the transgressors and of the sinners shall be together, and they that forsake the Lord shall be consumed.

For they shall be ashamed of the oaks which ye have desired, and ye shall be confounded for the gardens that ye have chosen.

For ye shall be as an oak whose leaf fadeth, and as a garden that hath no water.

And the strong shall be as tow, and the maker of it as a spark, and they shall both burn together, and none shall quench them.

Isaiah 1

IN the year that king Uz-zi'-ah died. I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

Above it stood the ser'-a-phims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

Then said I, Woe is me! For I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.

Then flew one of the ser'-a-phim unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:

And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I, send me.

And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not.

Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the house without man and the land be utterly desolate.

And the Lord have removed men far away, and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land.

But yet in it shall be a tenth, and it shall return, and shall be eaten: as a teil tree, and as an oak, whose substance is in them, when they cast their leaves: so the holy seed shall be the substance thereof.

Isaiah 6

From the above two scriptures we do see Isaiah being called into the prophetic ministry to be a prophet of God. He prophesied of the state of the lands of Judah and Jerusalem of God's people the Israelites and the need for a repentance. Also, in his book he prophesied of the coming Messiah who would redeem mankind and the restoration of the city of Jerusalem.

From the above two scriptures he showed the sinfulness of men and the holiness of God and the need for a holy and righteous living. His prophesy on Judah and Jerusalem is a complete picture of the Church today and the people of the world generally.

Chapter 17

Case study 15: Jeremiah

In the following chapter series, we are going to see the case of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah.

THE words of Jeremiah the son of Hil-ki'-ah, of the priests that were in An'-a-thoth in the land of Benjamin:

To whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Jo-si'-ah the son of Amon king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign.

It came also in the days of Je-hoi'-a-kim the son of Jo-si'-ah king of Judah, unto the end of the eleventh year of Zed-e-ki'-ah the son of Jo-si'-ah king of Judah, unto the carrying away of Jerusalem captive in the fifth month.

Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou comest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.

But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.

Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.

See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.

Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying Jeremiah, what seest thou? And I said, I see a rod of an almond tree.

Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it.

And the word of the LORD came unto me the second time, saying, What seest thou? And I said, I see a seething pot; and the face thereof is toward the north.

Then the LORD said unto me, Out of the north an evil shall break forth upon all the inhabitants of the land.

For, lo, I will call all the families of the kingdoms of the north, saith the LORD; and they shall come, and they shall set every one his throne at the entering of the gates of Jerusalem, and against all the walls thereof around about, and against all the cities of Judah.

And I will utter my judgments against them touching all their wickedness who have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, and worshiped the works of their own hands.

Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them.

For, behold, I have made thee this day a defensed city, and an iron pillar, and brazen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land.

And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee.

MOREOVER the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying Thus saith the LORD; I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, the love of thine espousals, when thou wentest after me in the wildernesss, in a land that was not sown.

Israel was holiness unto the LORD, and the first fruits of his increase: all that devour him shall offend; evil shall come upon them, saith the LORD.

Hear ye the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel:

Thus saith the LORD, what iniquity have your fathers found in me, and they are gone far from me, and have walked after vanity, and are become vain?

Neither say they, where is the LORD that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, that led us through the wilderness, through a land of deserts and of pits, through a land of drought, and of the shadow of death, through a land that no man passed through, and where no man dwelt?

And I brought you into a plentiful country, to eat the fruit thereof and the goodness thereof; but when ye entered, ye defiled my land, and made mine heritage an abomination.

The priests, said not, Where is the LORD? and they that handle the law knew me not: the pastors also transgressed against me, and the prophets prophesied by Ba'al, and walked after things that do not profit.

Wherefore I will yet plead with you, saith the LORD, and with your children's children will I plead.

For pass over the isles of Chit'-tim, and see; and send unto Ke'-dar, and consider diligently, and see if there be such a thing.

Hath a nation changed their gods, which are yet no gods? but my people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit.

Jeremiah 1:1-2:11

Jeremiah was called by God at a time when the Hebrews had gone far away from God and God through the prophet pleaded for them to return back to him but they were adamant and the prophet warned them of the coming judgment.

From the scripture we can deduce that God knows each individual from creation and has a plan for each one of them (Verse 4 and 5 of the first chapter).

Chapter 18

Case study 16: Ezekiel

In this chapter series we are going to see the case of Ezekiel the son of Buzi.

NOW it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Che'-bar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.

In the fifth day of the month, which was the fifth year of Je-hoi'-achin's captivity,

The word of the LORD came expressly unto E-zek'-iel the priest, the son of Bu'-zi, in the land of the Chal-de'-ans by the river Che'-bar; and the hand of the LORD was upon him.

And I looked, and behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire in folding itself, and a brightness was about it and out of the midst thereof as the color of amber, out of the midst of the fire.

Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man. And every one had four faces, and everyone had four wings.

And their feet were straight feet; and the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf's foot: and they sparkled like the color of burnished brass.

And they had the hands of man under their wings on their four sides; and they four had their faces and their wings.

Their wings were joined one to another, they turned not when they went; they went everyone straight forward.

As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle.

Thus were their faces: and their wings were stretched upward; two wings of every one were joined one to another, and two covered their bodies.

And they went everyone straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; and they turned not when they went.

As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, and like the appearance of lamps: it went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning.

And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning.

Now as I beheld the living creatures, behold one wheel upon the earth by the living creatures, with his four faces.

The appearance of the wheels and their work was like unto the color of a beryl: and they four had one likeness: and their appearance and their work was as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel.

When they went, they went upon their four sides: and they turned not when they went.

As for their rings, they were so high that they were dreadful; and their rings were full of eyes round about them four.

And when the living creatures went, the wheels went by them: and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted.

Whithersoever the spirit was to go, they went, thither was their spirit to go; and the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.

When those went, these went; when those stood, these stood; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels.

And the likeness of the firmament upon the heads of the living creature was as the color of the terrible crystal, stretched forth over their heads above.

And under the firmament were their wings straight, the one toward the other: every one had two which covered on this side, and every one had two, which covered on that side, their bodies.

And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech, as the noise of a host: when they stood, they let down their wings.

And there was a voice from the firmament that was over their heads, when they stood, and had let down their wings.

And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness of the appearance of a man above upon it.

And I saw as the color of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had the brightness round about.

As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell down upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.

AND he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee.

And the spirit entered into me when he spake unto me, and set me upon my feet, that I heard him that spake unto me.

And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, even unto this very day. For they are imprudent children and stiff-necked. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD. And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them.

And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns be with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house.

And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear or whether they will forbear: for they are most rebellious.

But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee, Be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house: open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee.

And when I looked, behold, a hand was sent unto me; and lo, a roll of a book was therein.

And he spread it before me; and it was written within and without: and there was written there in lamentations, and mourning, and woe.

Ezekiel 1 & 2

God called Ezekiel into the prophetic ministry from priesthood and sent him just as he sent Jeremiah, to the Hebrews. Ezekiel's prophecies centered on Judah and Jerusalem. God told Ezekiel to speak to the children of Israel whether they will hear him or forbear.

Chapter 19

Case study # 17: Jonah

In this chapter series we are going to see the case of Jonah the son of Amittai.

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 Jonah rose up 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 every one 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 hadst 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 for ever: 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.

AND the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying,

Arise, go unto Nin'-e-veh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee.

So Jonah, arose, and went unto Nin'-e-veh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nin'-e-veh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey.

And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days and Nin'-e-veh shall be overthrown.

So the people of Nin'-e-veh, believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sack cloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.

For word came unto the king of Nin'-e-veh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sack cloth, and sat in ashes.

And he caused it to be proclaimed and published through Nin'-e-veh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither

man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything: let them not feed, nor drink water:

But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands.

Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger that we perish not.

And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

Jonah 1, 2 & 3

God called Jonah to go and preach to Nineveh a great city of the Gentiles to show his grace and mercy if they repented of their evil. But Jonah did the unimaginable for a prophet of God by trying to run away from the presence of God which is impossible (Psalm 139:1-12), by taking a ship at Joppa destined to Tarshish. Jonah ended up in a belly of a great fish and stayed in there for three whole days and was vomited on dry land by the great fish after God had received Jonah's repentance.

Then God commissioned him again to go and preach to the people of Nineveh and he obliged and the people truly repented of their evil doings and God did have mercy on them and were spared judgment.

Let us stay away from the folly of Jonah and do the work of God which he has bestowed on us, lest we are forced to as it happened to Jonah (who learnt a lesson the hard way!

Chapter 20

Case study 18: John the Baptist

In this chapter series we are going to see the case of John the son of Zechariah.

There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zech-a-ri'-ah, of the course of Abi'-jah: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.

And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.

And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course,

According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.

And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

And when Zech-a-ri'ah saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

But the angel said unto him, Fear not Zech-a-ri'ah: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.

For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.

And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Eli'-jah, To turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the Just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Luke 1:5-17

IN those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea,

And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judea, and all the region round about Jordan, And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

Matthew 3:1-6

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

John 1:6-9

The birth of John the son of Zechariah was even prophesied by the prophet Isaiah and it was of course in God's plan that he be born ahead of the Son of God, that is Jesus, so as to prepare the hearts of men and women through repentance and to be ready to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior by their faith in Him (Acts 19:1-7).

Chapter 21

Case study 19: John son of Zebedee

In this chapter series we are going to see the case of John the son of Zebedee and who was the beloved disciple of Jesus Christ.

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

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

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

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

And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

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

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

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

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

Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

And I turned to see the voice that spake unto me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks:

And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

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

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

And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and death.

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

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

Revelation 1

God in his divine plan purposed that when he brings John the son of Zebedee into the earth, he would use him to deliver the instructions of Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, to his Church which in the scripture numbers seven in total, seven representing perfection / completion. Now the instructions being in the form of a

long letter and which you can find in the second and third chapter of the book of Revelation.

Chapter 22

Case study 20: Jesus Christ

In this chapter series we are going to see the case of Jesus the Son of the living God.

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

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

But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying,

Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

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

Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Im-man'-u-el, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

And knew her not till she had brought forth her first-born son: and he called his name JESUS.

Matthew 1:18-25

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, name Nazareth,

To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

And the angel said unto her,

Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God.

And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Luke 1:26-35

God in his plan for the redemption of mankind he intended to have Jesus come to the earth and be born taking the body of man and to give his life as a sacrifice for the atonement of the sins of mankind so as to reconcile man back to God and later to rule eternally in his kingdom as the Eternal King (King of kings and Lord of lords). The redeemed of the Lord shall be with him eternally in the New Jerusalem, being the citizens together with the holy angels of God.

Chapter 23

Case study 21: Paul

In this last series of our study we are going to see the case of Paul of Tarsus.

AND Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord went unto the high priest,

And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:

And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?

And he said, Who art thou Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him; Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man.

And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.

And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink. And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named An-a-ni-as; and to him said the Lord in a vision, An-a-ni-as. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord.

And the Lord said unto him,

Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,

And hath seen in a vision a man named An-a-ni'-as coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.

Then An-a-ni'-as answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:

And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.

But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

And An-a-ni'-as went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou comest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

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 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 spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, 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.

Acts 9:1-30

Saul who after believing in Jesus Christ and was baptized his name became Paul. God called him and he asked the Lord what to do (verse 6) which many of us did not do when we were called though naturally when called one need to know why he or she has been called by asking the one who has called.

Saul totally surrendered to the Lord and went into prayer and fasting for three days in seeking God. The result is that he knew what he ought to do and was baptized and was filled with the Holy Spirit and did not waste time after eating and getting strength to walk (mind you he had just come from a complete fast / a dry fast).

He straightaway began to preach Christ boldly by Holy Spirit power regardless of what people said about him. He was completely focused in his mission. God had called him more specifically to go preach to the Gentiles but also to the Jews (verse 15). Let us look at the following scriptures for further enlightenment.

And it came to pass, that, when I was come again to Jerusalem, even while I prayed in the temple, I was in a trance;
And saw him saying unto me, Make haste, and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem: for they will not receive thy testimony concerning me.

And I said, Lord, they know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue them that believed on thee:

And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by, and consenting unto his death, and kept the raiment of them that slew him.

And he said unto me, Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles.

Acts 22:17-21

The above scripture shows very clearly that the Lord had called Paul specifically to go and preach to the Gentiles the good news of the Kingdom of God (verse 21).

AND when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: the first Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;

Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;

Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

Matthew 10:1-8

In the above scripture we do see that the first twelve disciples of Jesus were commanded not to preach to all the others but only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, meaning to the Jews. That could be the reason why God called Paul to go preach to the Gentiles as a first priority and also to the others as a second

priority. Apostle Paul himself adduced to that fact as is explained in his epistle to his son in the faith, Timothy, as follows hereunder.

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

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

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

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

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

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

2 Timothy 1:6-11

Now as we are going to see in the same epistle, Apostle Paul worked tirelessly for what he was called to do such that he was quite confident to have accomplished his mission for the Lord.

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:6-8

And from Mi-le'-tus he sent to Eph'-e-sus, and called the elders of the church.

And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons,

Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have showed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,

Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:

Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bounds and afflictions abide me.

But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more.

Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men.

For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn everyone night and day with tears.

And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

Acts 20:17-32

It is quite amazing what apostle Paul contributed to the kingdom of God being fully committed to the cause of Christ. I just do envy him as I cannot at all be compared to him in even any way at all.

I only wish all of us born again Christians could stop loving our own lives more than the cause of the gospel by emulating the likes of Paul.

All the case studies were but a sample from the scriptures. In ending let me say this - all who become born again by God's Spirit were born into the world for a purpose and not for nothing. (Jeremiah 29:10-11).

Chapter 24

In conclusion

In concluding the book, I do say that the case studies were but a sample from the Holy Scriptures as they are many others who were called by God to serve him. What is clear is that all born again Christians they were called for a purpose, for some specific task and not for fun with nothing to do. So, if you were called and don't know what you were called to do, just do what Saul of Tarsus did by asking the Lord (Acts 9:1-6). Do not continue to remain complacent and idle as you definitely have something to do as was the case of Saul (Acts 9:7-22). Why do you think I say so? It is because you need to do it to show your love for one who loved you so much and laid his life for you (1 John 4:9-10, John 3:16; 15:13-16) and also bearing in mind that you will be rewarded when the Lord comes in his glory to take you home (John 14:1-3, 1 Corinthians 15:50-55, Philippians 3:8-21, 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18, Revelation 22:12-14).

From the case studies in this book we do learn many lessons. We do find that not all those that were called responded positively as some responded negatively by asking questions or being fearful and looking down upon themselves and so forth. Others too became disobedient on their call wanting to abandon what they

were called to do. Those who do fall in this category from our case studies are as follows:

1. Adam (Genesis 3)
2. Moses (Exodus 3 and 4)
3. Gideon (Judges 6)
4. Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1)
5. Jonah (Jonah 1)

Now let me give a piece of advice from all the case studies which is: The life that you will live after being called by God will determine the extent of your accomplishment of the work you were assigned by the Lord to do and therefore one should always be conscious of this in life (Matthew 5:13-16, Ephesians 4:17-5:20, Philippians 1:27-2:16, Colossians 2:6-8; 3:1-17, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12).

I need not elaborate on the lives of those who were called, as you can take your time to examine how they lived and how they performed in discharging their duties and if they partly or fully completed the tasks given to them by the Lord. But the key scriptures for the success by those who are called in various tasks are as follows: 2 Timothy 2:19-21; 4:1-5, 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 9:23-27; 15:58, Philippians 3:13-16, 2 Timothy 4:6-8.

Notes to the reader

I trust and believe that this book has been of use to you and take the opportunity to thank you for reading it. In case you have any comments to make feel free to do so using the address given.

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