

The Tracing of Apostasy

Safeguards on Apostasy

Fredrick G. Omondi

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

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INTRODUCTION

Apostasy is as old as history and it came about after creation. It is a serious and a thorny issue and God the Creator of heaven and earth and all that is therein hates it and has warned mankind to come out of it and be safe. Unfortunately, many have not taken it seriously but sooner or later they will fall victim to it and their lives will go from bad to worse as the time goes. The enemy Satan has deceived many by blinding their spirituality so that they cannot see their fallen nature and instead think they are right with God. Apostasy is a dangerous thing that one need to come out of it when one falls victim, as early as yesterday as to remain in it is to be doomed before the Holy God of Israel.

In this book you will be able to trace this dreaded thing and also be well informed on the necessary safeguards.

You will never regret to have read this book. Time is ticking to the day of judgement of the Mighty and terrible God who will unleash full

judgement on all that dwell on earth so it is only wise that one stays away from apostasy and be safe. The antidote is one for those who fall victim: To bring a genuine repentance to the Holy One of Israel and to strive in life to stay away from one thing and which is sin.

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Chapter 1

The archangel Lucifer

God who is the Creator of heaven and earth and all that is therein he is a Spirit (Genesis 1:1, John 4:24) and therefore he must have created first the invisible (spiritual) before creating the visible (physical) (Colossians 1:15-16). Among the invisible (spiritual) that God created were angels who would serve and worship him.

Now after creating the angels he appointed three of them to be leaders in three areas to lead all the rest and these three given the title 'archangel'. One of them was known as Lucifer and who is the subject that we are going to look at in this chapter.

Lucifer was in charge of worship- meaning he led all other angels of God in worshipping God on a daily basis (Isaiah 6:1-3, Revelation 4:1-8). But at a certain time, things went awry wrong. Let us now see the reason why that happened.

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;

That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?

Isaiah 14:12-17

The archangel Lucifer fell from his position and from heaven as he was too ambitious and

full of the self-you can see the word 'I' five times. Although he was already in a very high position, he wanted to be above that-to be in the position of God who created him! Quite unimaginable, as it is like trying to overthrow God! We need to be careful in life by living a self less life, avoiding any form of competition and having a good check on our ambition.

Moreover the word of the Lord came unto men, saying,

Son of man, take up a lamentation on upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.

Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: and workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast

created. Thou art the anointed Cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

Ezekiel 28:11-17

From that scripture we find that iniquity (sin) removes one's perfection and so we should be always careful in life not to sin. Lucifer's

heart was lifted up because of his beauty (what he had) and that was his undoing. Pride comes in when we lift up our hearts and that reminds us of the need to be humble in whatever situation we are in- rich or wealthy, or poor, or educated and learned, in whatever position we are in life. We need also to be contented. Lucifer was not contented in the position God gave him and he was proud as we have seen and that corrupted everything else.

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,
And prevailed not; neither was there place found any more in heaven.

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Revelation 12:7-9

Lucifer by his life in heaven he became a rebel and he and all that sided or sympathised with him were cast out of heaven to the earth. God is very, very, very holy (Isaiah 6:1-3) and he cannot entertain sin. He must have commanded his archangel Michael (in charge of war) to move into action before things go hay-wire in heaven by removing the leaven (yeast) before it spreads any further.

Heaven being a perfect place as it is holy and all the inhabitants, anything unclean or impure cannot be allowed to be there (Revelation 21:1—2, 27). We need to avoid pride and rebellion as they bring people down (Luke 18:9-14, 1 Samuel 15:22-23, Numbers 16:1-33).

We can see clearly that apostasy can be traced back from the time of creation. The falling away from the normal standards that has been set makes one's status to be an apostate as apostasy had crept in. Holiness and righteousness is the standard in heaven and

Lucifer was found to have fallen short of that and he had to be gotten rid of. That standard has not changed and any one hoping to be in heaven need to take note of it and to continually strive to be holy and righteous (Hebrews 12:14, Matthew 5:8, Matthew 5:6, 20, Revelation 19:1-8).

Chapter 2

Adam and Eve

God created the first man Adam and out of him he created Eve who then became his wife and they too as we are going to see, they fell short of God's standard.

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.

And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to everything that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.

And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

THUS the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested

from all his work which God created and made.

These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens,

And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain up on the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground.

But there went out a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had made.

And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the

midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads.

The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havillah, where there is gold;

And the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone.

And the name of the second river is Gihon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia.

And the name of the third river is Hiddekel: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is Euphrates.

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.

Genesis 1:26-2:17

God being a perfect being all things he created were perfect including man whom he created last on the sixth day of his work schedule.

So when God placed man in the Garden of Eden, he was a perfect man and righteous.

God being a God of order he gave Adam instruction on how to live. The question is that did he live that way? As that was God's standard for him as the norm.

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, neither shall ye touch 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 tree thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Genesis 3:1-6

From that scripture we do see that man fell from God's grace as he lived below God's set standard. The man Adam disobeyed God going against his commandment. He became apostate as he allowed apostasy in his life.

We must know that God does not mince his words and what he says is final - no debate about it and no doubting it.

The serpent wanted to bring doubt in the woman's heart.

The woman too was over ambitious (not contented) with her life as she wanted to be as some god knowing good and evil and that is why she went ahead to do what she did, disregarding and brushing aside God's command. Already they had all the fruits of all the trees except only that in the midst of the garden, for their food but to her that was not satisfactory, what a blunder!

We need to learn now that 'all that glitters is not gold', as people say and that all that is pleasant to our eyes is not necessarily good for us and that true wisdom is from God not from anywhere else not even from our institution of higher learning.

The bad tendency in life came from Satan (formerly known as Lucifer) as brought to the first man God created and as descendants of

the first man, we have inherited from them. That is why a second Adam (Jesus Christ) had to come from heaven to put things right in an orderly manner. All mankind needs to switch to the second Adam for their redemption to be put right again with God. When man fell all things went wrong and disorganized as righteousness left and unrighteousness came in. In the second Adam we need to live a careful life so that we don't fall back to the life of the first Adam who had backslidden.

Chapter 3

The Israelites

God the Creator of heaven and earth chose the people of Israel (the Jews) as his own people among all the nations of the earth (Deuteronomy 7 and 8) and it was that they would be obedient and faithful to him for their own good. Let us see how they behaved.

AND the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
Speak unto the children of Israel, that they turn and encamp before Pihahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, over against Baal-zephon: before it shall ye encamp by the sea.

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

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

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

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

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

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

But the Egyptians pursued after them all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pihahiroth, before Baal-zephon.

And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and

they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD.

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

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

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

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

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

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

But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

And, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them: and I will get me honour upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.

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

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

And it became between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night.

And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

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

And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, And took off their chariot wheels, that they drove them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians.

And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may

come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.

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

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

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

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

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

Exodus 14

From the above scripture we can see how the Israelites complained to Moses when they were on their way from Egypt where they were in bondage and had been delivered by God and were heading to the promised land Canaan.

They were now at the Red sea before them and the Egyptians pursuing them at their back- They doubted God to save them from their former masters-Pharaoh the king and the Egyptians, and this was a fall back before the God of their fathers who had miraculously removed them from their bondage.

AND they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt.

And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness.

**And the children of Israel said unto them,
Would to God we had died by the hand of
the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we
sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat
bread to the full; for ye have brought us
forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole
assembly with hunger.**

Then said the LORD unto Moses,
Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you;
and the people shall go out and gather a
certain rate every day, that I may prove them,
whether they will walk in my law, or no.

And it shall come to pass, that on the sixth
day they shall prepare that which they bring
in: and it shall be twice as much as they
gather daily.

And Moses and Aaron said unto all the
children of Israel, At even, then ye shall know
that the LORD hath brought you out from the
land of Egypt.

And in the morning, then ye shall see the
glory of the LORD; for that he heareth your

murmurings against the LORD: and what are we, what ye murmur against us?

And Moses said, This shall be, when the LORD shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; for that the LORD heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what are we? Your murmurings are not against us, but against the LORD.

And Moses spake unto Aaron,
Say unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and, behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel: speak unto them, saying, At even ye shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I am the LORD your God.

And it came to pass, that at even the quails came up, and covered the camp: and in the morning the dew lay round about the host.

And when the dew that lay was gone up,
behold, upon the face of the wilderness there
lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar
frost on the ground.

And when the children of Israel saw it, they
said one to another, It is manna: for they wist
not what it was. And Moses said unto them,
This is the bread which the LORD hath given
you to eat.

This is the thing which the LORD hath
commanded, Gather of it every man
according to his eating, an omer for
everyman, according to the number of your
persons; take ye every man for them which
are in his tents.

And the children of Israel did so, and
gathered, some more, some less.

And when they did mete it with an omer, he
that gathered much had nothing over, and he
that gathered little had no lack; they gathered
every man according to his eating.

And Moses said, Let no man leave of it till the
morning.

Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto Moses; but some of them left of it until the morning and it bred worms, and stank: and Moses was worth with them.

And they gathered it every morning, every man according to his eating: and when the sun waxed hot, it melted.

And it came to pass, that on the sixth day they gathered twice as much bread, two omers for one man: and all the rulers of the congregation came and told Moses.

And he said unto them, This is that which the LORD hath said, Tomorrow is the rest of the holy Sabbath unto the LORD: bake that which ye will bake today, and seethe that ye will seethe; and that which remaineth over lay up for you to be kept until the morning.

And they laid it up till the morning, as Moses bade: and it did not stink, neither was there any worm therein.

And Moses said, Eat that today; for today is a Sabbath unto the LORD: today ye shall not find it in the field.

Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, which is the Sabbath, in it there shall be none.

And it came to pass, that there went out some of the people on the seventh day for to gather, and they found none.

And the LORD said unto Moses, How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws?

See, for that the LORD hath given you the Sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day.

So the people rested on the seventh day.

And the house of Israel called the name thereof Manna: and it was like coriander seed, white; and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.

And Moses said, This is the thing which the LORD commandeth, Fill an omer of it to be kept for your generations; that they may see the bread wherewith I have fed you in the

wilderness, when I brought you forth from the land of Egypt.

And Moses said unto Aaron,

Take a pot, and put an omer full of manna therein, and lay it up before the LORD, to be kept for your generations.

As the LORD commanded Moses, so Aaron laid it up before the Testimony, to be kept.

And the children of Israel did eat manna forty years, until they came to a land inhabited; they did eat manna, until they came unto the borders of the land of Canaan.

Now an omer is the tenth part of an ephah.

Exodus 16

We have seen also in the above scripture how they murmured against Moses and Aaron when they were hungry. In both cases they kept on reminding Moses about Egypt where they were in bondage and also preferring to have died there than in the wilderness. This time round they did more by disobeying the commandments of God. All these are nothing but traces of apostasy (they were backsliding).

AND all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the LORD, and pitched in Rephidim: and there was no water for the people to drink.

Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD?

And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?

And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me.

And the LORD said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the

elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go. Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Hor'-eb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders Israel.

And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not?

Exodus 17:1-7

Even in the above scripture the Israelites because they thirsted for water and it was not readily available, they both murmured and rebuked Moses to provide for them and as before they gave serious accusations against Moses and as if to add salt on an injury they doubted the presence of God saying, Is the Lord with us, or not?

AND when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me.

And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron.

And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD.

And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves:

They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshiped it, and have sacrificed there unto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt.

And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiff-necked people:

Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them: and I will make of thee a great nation.

Exodus 32:1-10

Now that is how low the Israelites went from bad to worse. This time it was the sin of

idolatry (Deuteronomy 5:1-10). Going by God's statement to Moses, he had now disowned them for they had totally abandoned God. God told Moses in verbatim 'Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves'. Now it is a dangerous situation when God finally rejects you because of your perpetual disobedience to him (1 Samuel 13:1-14; 15:1-23; 28:1-25; 31:1-6). The Israelites were now completely apostate.

AND when the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard it; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp.

And the people cried unto Moses; and when Moses prayed unto the LORD, the fire was quenched.

And he called the name of the place Tab'-erah: because the fire of the LORD burnt among them.

And the mixed multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?

We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlic:

But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.

Numbers 11:1-6

The Israelites case was complicated by the mixed multitude that was among them and which also led them into sin. That mixed multitude began to lust for things and the Israelites blindly followed suit as they were in the company of these other people and they fell for the trap of inclusivity and also lusted remembering what they used to take in the

land of Egypt and talking quite foolishly over perishable things (food). No wonder it has been truly said that the body of the chosen / called of God is their enemy, why? Because it can easily lead you into sin. Those who are called or chosen by God need to focus more on heaven than on the earth, be spiritual than materialistic, be concerned the most on the welfare of their spirituality which matters most on entry into heaven and into eternity (Colossians 3:1-8, Philippians 3:20-21).

The Israelites had been delivered and removed from Egypt and were no longer there but their spirits was still in Egypt save for their physical bodies that were absent-quite a sad state. Christians who are the real Israel too must learn from the Israelites that they were removed from the bondage of sin and need not live as they were before their conversation as they are in another life-spiritual life and no longer living in the flesh so there must be a change in lifestyle and there could be no more cucumbers, fish, and

so forth that may not be compatible with the new life as they are now new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17).

The Israelites who at some point were faced with hunger and murmured against Moses and Aaron (Exodus 16:1-3) could now in that scripture have the audacity to despise the food (manna) that God provided to them in abundance and that had been their sustenance including flesh (quails) which God also had provided.

There is a big danger in associating with anybody and everybody. There is great need to choose who to associate with and more so if you have been called and chosen by God. Associations have great impact in people's lives and that is why God cautioned the Israelites and cautions Christians. Let us navigate the scriptures.

WHEN the Lord thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before

thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou;

And when the Lord the God shall deliver them before thee; thou shalt smite them, and utterly destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor show mercy unto them:

Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son.

For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the Lord be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.

But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire.

**For thou art a holy people unto the LORD
thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen
thee to be a special people unto himself,
above all people that are upon the face of
the earth.**

Deuteronomy 7:1-6

Any association including on marriage is important before God and Christians must be careful and must choose wisely. God calls people to a separated life so are to remain pure free from any impurity. Without separation there is no maintenance of purity. The called must live a special lifestyle as they are a special people, holy people of God called to be holy as God is holy.

BLESSED is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Psalm 1:1-3

Separated life is mandatory all Christians who want to be used by God and want to maintain a pure life and finally to be with the Lord in heaven for eternity.

Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceives not in him the lips of knowledge.

Proverbs 14:7

Go out from the presence of a foolish man if you are a Christian to avoid getting foolish knowledge as Christians are among the wise before God as they have the wisdom of God in them, that is, Jesus Christ. So what is wise to do?

Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

Proverbs 27:17

Christian fellowships are most beneficial in salvation, as only one who is sharp (wise) can sharpen another. The opposite is true as we can see.

If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth me, if the dead rise not? Let us eat and drink; for tomorrow we die.

Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

Awake to righteousness, and sin not for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame.

1 Corinthians 15:32-34

Apostle Paul was quite categorical in addressing the problem that was adversely affecting the church at Corinth. Not all they associated with had the knowledge of God and therefore posed a danger to the church. It was a rebuke and at the same time an advice on how to rightly associate.

AND Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman.

And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard it.

(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth).

And the LORD spake suddenly unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And they three came out.

And the LORD came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth.

And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream.

My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house.

With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?

And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them; and he departed.

And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous.

Numbers 12:1-10

Now although it is quite a dangerous thing to talk ill of the ministers of God, unfortunately many Christians have not learned enough from the experience of Miriam and from a Sunday service it is the talk on the way back home by Christians about the pastor, about the preacher and even about other brethren in that congregation. In a nutshell it is backbiting and it is sin talking from the back of somebody

instead of facing the minister, brother or sister on whatever issue. It is high time the Church matures and comes out of such unethical behaviour (Romans 13:10-12). All these things that some unwary Christians call small or think are small can easily lead to their fall from the faith in Jesus Christ and be not surprised into hell fire. Remember what Apostle Paul said to the church at Corinth, that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? (1 Corinthians 5:1-8). It is high time the Church of Christ stop playing with the salvation they received from the Lord of glory who is about to appear but rather be busy working at it in preparation for the Lord's imminent coming (Philippians 2:12).

AND the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, everyone a ruler among them.

And Moses by the commandment of the LORD sent them from the wilderness of Paran: all those men were heads of the children of Israel.

And these were their names: of the tribe of Reuben, Shammua the son of Zaccur.

Of the tribe of Simeon, Shaphat the son of Hori.

Of the tribe of Judah, Caleb the son of Jephuneh.

Of the tribe of Issachar, Igal the son of Joseph.

Of the tribe of Ephraim, Oshea the son of Nun.

Of the tribe of Benjamin, Palti the son of Raphu.

Of the tribe of Zebulun, Gaddiel the son of Sodi.

Of the tribe of Joseph, namely of the tribe of Manasseh, Gaddi the son of Susi

Of the tribe of Dan, Ammiel the son of Gemalli.

Of the tribe of Asher, Sethur the son of Michael.

Of the tribe of Naphtali, Nahbi the son of Vophsi.

Of the tribe of Gad, Geuel the son of Machi

These are the names of the men which Moses sent to spy out the land. And Moses called Oshea the son of Nun Joshua.

And Moses sent them to spy out the land of Canaan, and said unto them, Get you up this way southward, and go up into the mountain.

And see the land, what it is; and the people that dwell therein, whether they be strong or weak, few or many;

And what the land is, whether it be good or bad; and what cities they be that dwell in, whether in tents, or in strongholds;

And what the land is, whether it be fat or lean, whether there be wood therein, or not. And be ye of good courage, and bring of the fruit of the land. Now the time was the time of firstripe grapes.

So they went up, and searched the land from the wilderness of Sin unto Rehob, as men come to Hamath.

And they ascended by the south, and came unto Hebron; where Ahiman, Sheshai, and Talmi, the children of Anak, were (Now Hebron was built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.)

And they came unto the brook of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two upon a staff; and they brought of the pomegranates, and of the figs.

The place was called the brook Eschol, because of the cluster of grapes which the children of Israel cut down from thence.

And they returned from searching of the land after forty days.

And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto

them, and unto all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land.

And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it.

Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the city are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there.

The A-mal'-ek-ites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hit'-ti-tes, and the Jeb'-u-sites, and the Am'-o-rites, dwell in the mountains: and the Ca'-na-na-ites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.

And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.

But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.

And they brought up and evil report of the land which they had searched unto the

children of Israel, saying, The land, though which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature.

And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

AND all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.

And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would God we had died in this wilderness!

And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? Were it not better for us to return into Egypt?

And they said one to another, let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.

Then Moses and Aaron fell on their face before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.

And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephuneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes:

And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land.

If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.

Only rebel not against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not.

But all the congregation bade to stone them with stones. And the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel.

And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them?

I will smite them with pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they.

Numbers 13:1-14:12

From the above scripture we do see the same pattern of behaviour common with the Israelites and which was murmuring and which ended with rebellion as had provoked God. They were living by sight unlike Christians who are expected to live by faith, they were physical whereas Christians are spiritual (Habakkuk 2:1-4, 2 Corinthians 5:1-10, Hebrews 10:35-39).

Truly the Israelites who were chosen by God to be his own special people were a shadow of the Church of Christ and as the Church of Christ is split in two groups so was the Israelites - The likes of Joshua and Caleb and Moses on God's side and the rest on another

side same to the Church of Christ the wise virgins, virgins are the bride of Christ and the foolish virgins as not for the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 25:1-13).

Those on God's side continue believing in God and the others stop believing, doubt and abandon God altogether. The former are spiritual and the latter are earthly. Also to note is that the Israelites were promised a better land than the land they were in bondage- Canaan (physical and temporal). The Israelites delivered physically Christians to be both first spiritually followed physically by a new body and ushered into heaven. The Israelites were not used to hardships yet they knew very well they were in the wilderness and not in their homes and that the life there was temporary they would soon enter the land of Canaan and dwell there and so they need to persevere on their journey. It was their undoing and as they always touched on death (Proverbs 18:20-21) and for sure a majority ended dying in the wilderness and not seeing

that promised land save for Joshua and Caleb and the little ones of the children of Israel.

The same mistake is being repeated by a majority of Christians who fear for persecutions and even more opposition which is in itself harmless and want to live a life free of any hardships yet they fail to know that this is a cruel world and is a wilderness and perseverance is mandatory or else one will remain in this wilderness as the Israelites and not see the inside of heaven. Time is out and therefore what is left is to take frankly and to salvage what can be salvaged in life, that is, to make serious and decisive amendments to enable one to reach the right destiny at the end of the walk / journey.

It was quite absurd on the part of the Israelites to dare give false accusation on the God of Israel who had delivered them out of bondage and from the hands of Pharaoh the king of Egypt and also wanted to stone Joshua and Caleb who were giving them encouragement in possessing the promised land and that what

they wanted was only to go back to Egypt! Meaning they preferred to be slaves in bondage yet they had a redeemer to set them free and to live in freedom and in peace (Numbers 14:1-10).

It had reached now a point that the Israelites were not only disobedient but now were rebellious. If one is continued in disobedience one will soon find oneself in rebellion as well and is a serious and a very precarious situation as we are going to see shortly in the following scripture.

NOW Korah, the son of Izhar the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram, and sons of Eliab, and On, the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men:

And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown:

And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, everyone of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?

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

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

This do; Take your censers, Korah, and all his company;

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

And Moses said unto Korah, Hear, I pray you,
ye sons of Levi:

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

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

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

**And Moses sent to call Dathan and A-bi'-
ram, the sons of Eliab: which said, We will
not come up:**

**Is it a small thing that thou hast brought us
up out of a land that floweth with milk and
honey, to kill us in the wilderness, except
thou make thyself, altogether a prince over
us?**

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

And Moses was very wroth, and said unto the LORD, Respect not thou their offering: I have not taken one ass from them, neither have I hurt one of them.

And Moses said unto Korah,

Be thou and all thy company before the LORD, thou, and they, and Aaron, tomorrow: And take every man his censer, and put incense in them, and bring ye before the LORD every man his censer, two hundred and fifty censers; thou Also, and Aaron, each of you his censer.

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

And Korah gathered all the congregation against them unto the door of the tabernacle

of the congregation: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the congregation.

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

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

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

And the LORD spake unto Moses saying, Speak unto the congregation, saying, Get you up from about the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.

And Moses rose up and went unto Dathan, and Abiram; and the elders of Israel followed him.

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

So they gat up from the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, on every side: and Dathan, and Abiram came out and stood in the door of their tents, and their wives, and their sons, and their little children.

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

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

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

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

And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all

the men that appertained to Korah, and all their goods.

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

Numbers 16:1-33

Now that is how serious it is to rise up against God's true servant. It is rebellion and only death is the reward. For your information the spirit behind rebellion is a ruling (a kingly) spirit and is none other than the spirit of Satan who happens to be the first rebel against God the holy One of Israel, the Creator of all things those visible and those not visible.

Rebellion is a dangerous lane to one's life. The rebellious in God are already apostate and in that way they must perish as we have just seen in the above scripture.

AND the children of Israel set forward, and pitched in the plains of Moab on this side Jordan by Jericho.

And Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites.

And Moab was sore afraid of the people, because they were many: and Moab was distressed because of the children of Israel.

And Moab said unto the elders of Midian, Now shall this company lick up all that are round about us, as the ox licketh up the grass of the field. And Balak the son of Zippor was king of the Moabites at that time.

He sent messengers therefore unto Balaam the son of Beor to Pethor, which is by the river of the land of the children of his people, to call him, saying, Behold, there is a people come out from Egypt: behold, they cover the face of the earth, and they abide over against me.

Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people; for they are too mighty for me: peradventure I shall prevail, that I may drive them out of the land: for I wot that he whom thou blesses is blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed.

And the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the rewards of divination in their hand; and they came unto Balaam, and spake unto him the words of Balak.

And he said unto them, Lodge here this night, and I will bring you word again, as the LORD shall speak unto me: and the princes of Moab adode with Balaam.

And God came unto Balaam, and said, What men are these with thee?

And Balaam said unto God, Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, hath sent unto me, saying,

Behold, there is a people come out of Egypt, which covereth the face of the earth: come now, curse me them; peradventure I shall be able to overcome them, and drive them out.

And God said unto Balaam,

Thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed.

And Balaam rose up in the morning, and said unto the princes of Balak, Get you into your

land: for the LORD refuseth to give me leave to go with you.

And the princes of Moab rose up, and they went unto Balak, and said, Balaam refuseth to come with us.

And Balak sent yet again princes, more, and more honourable than they.

**And they came to Balaam, and said to him,
Thus saith Balak the son of Zippor,
Let nothing, I pray thee, hinder thee from coming unto me:**

For I will promote thee unto very great honour, and I will do whatsoever thou sayest unto me: come therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people.

And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more.

Now therefore, I pray you, tarry ye also here this night, that I may know what the LORD will say unto me more.

And God came unto Balaam at night, and said unto him,

If the men come to call thee, rise up, and go with them; but yet the word which I shall say unto thee, that shalt thou do.

And Balaam rose up in the morning, and saddled his ass, and went with the princes of Moab.

And God's anger was kindled because he went: and the angel of the LORD stood in the way for an adversary against him.

Now he was riding upon his ass, and his two servants were with him.

And the ass saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and the ass turned aside out of the way, and went into the field: and Balaam smote the ass, to turn her into the way.

But the angel of the LORD stood in a path of the vineyards, a wall being on this side, and a wall on that side.

And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she thrust herself unto the wall, and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall: and he smote her again.

And the angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place, where there was no way to turn either to the right or to the left.

And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she fell down under Balaam: and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he smote the ass with a staff.

And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times?

And Balaam said unto the ass, Because thou hast mocked me: I would there were a sword in mine hand, for now would I kill thee.

And the ass said unto Balaam, Am not I thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since, I was thine unto this day? Was I ever wont to do so unto thee? And he said, Nay.

Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face.

And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? Behold, I went out to withstand thee, because thy way is perverse before me:

Numbers 22:1-32

Balaam who was a prophet of God but because he had lust for rewards he disobeyed God and that resulted into his being apostate and later we find that he was now not a prophet but a soothsayer (servant of Satan) and he was killed (Joshua 13:22) as was no longer useful to the Lord. You can also read the book of Kings on how king Solomon became apostate (1Kings 11).

Chapter 4

The early Church

The early Church that was birthed on the day of Pentecost also has traces of apostasy as some followers of Jesus found themselves in the dilemma. Let us go to the scriptures.

THEN Jesus six days before the Passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him.

Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.

Then saith one of the disciples Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?

This he said, not that he cared for the poor;
but because he was a thief, and had the bag,
and bare what was put therein.

Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day
of my burying hath she kept this.

For the poor always ye have with you; but me
ye have not always.

John 12:1-8

The scriptures are over 100 percent true and it
is just a matter of time before it is fulfilled
before our eyes and ears. The love of money
is the root of all evil:..... (1 Timothy 6:10).
Judas Iscariot did not end it there- stealing
from the church coffers but he went a notch
higher to his total destruction.

AND it came to pass, when Jesus had finished
all these sayings, he said unto his disciples,
Ye know that after two days is the feast of
Passover and the Son of man is betrayed to be
crucified.

Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot,
went unto the chief priests,

And said unto them, what will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.

And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.

And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people.

Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast.

And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him.

And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him.

Matthew 26:1-2, 14-16; 47-50

If you love to be kissed, there you are: In some cases, it does not matter much and can be a betrayal, hypocrisy, lust of the flesh, name it. So do not value it so much.

It is only healthy I think to legally married couples otherwise to me I think it should be discarded by now going by what the Lord Jesus Christ went through after that one kiss - it was more of a nightmare going through a shameful and cursed death yet he was sinless and deserved nothing of the sort! Not at all.

We need to understand that entertaining sin in life is a dangerous predicament as one sin if not repented and turned away from leads to another evil spirit leading one to another sin and it goes on out of hand. The evil spirit that led Judas Iscariot to love money so much (the spirit of lust) led to stealing from the church coffers and advanced to betrayal most likely from another spirit, the spirit of betrayal as each sin there is an evil spirit that lead people to commit that particular sin. The life of Judas Iscariot ended badly just as the Lord Jesus had said 'It would have been better if he was not born' on the one to betray him and Judas Iscariot committed suicide hanging himself (Matthew 27:1-5). So we can see that the all

the money he got from stealing and the betrayal of his master did not bring anything good to his life- he died a cursed death which he deserved as he was not only a thief but a murderer bringing the killing of his innocent master.

Then saith Jesus unto them,

All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.

But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.

Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended.

Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.

Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.

Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a small damsel came unto him, and said unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee.

But he denied before them all, I know not what thou sayest.

And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth.

And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man.

And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech betrayeth thee. Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew.

And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

Matthew 26:31-35, 69-75

Jesus earlier had seen that Peter was on a backsliding lane as he would go physical (Matthew 26:47-54) deny the Lord thrice (the above scripture and also lead the rest of the disciples back to fishing where some of them had been brought out from (Matthew 4:18-22) as we are going to see in the following scripture.

AFTER these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise showed he himself.

There were together Simon Peter and Thomas called Didymus, and Na-than'-a-el of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples.

Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him,

We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.

But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus.

Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? they answered him, No.

And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.

Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.

John 21:1-7

Simon Peter led all the other disciples back to fishing (remember Jesus told Simon Peter and the sons of Zebedee - follow me and I will make you fishers of men). But now here they are in the sea fishing and it was in vain as they were offside before God. They were supposed to be proclaiming the gospel of Christ Jesus. No wonder Simon Peter was

naked physical and cast himself into the sea.
But it was more than that as it showed his
spiritual condition as well.

Many therefore of his disciples, when they
had heard this, said, This is an hard saying:
who can hear it?

When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples
murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this
offend you?

What and if ye shall see the Son of man
ascend up where he was before?

It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh
profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto
you, they are spirit, and they are life.

But there are some of you that believe not.
For Jesus knew from the beginning who they
were that believed not, and who should betray
him.

And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that
no man can come unto me, except it were
given unto him of my Father.

From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

John 6:60-66

The disciples of Jesus who were not serious saw that Christ's sayings were quite hard to them and decided to go back and stopped following Jesus. That in a nutshell is apostasy. You cannot stop following Jesus (the truth) and still remain in salvation, the place for you is to be in a state of apostasy (you are apostate).

Chapter 5

False ministers

In this chapter on false ministers lies potential danger in making people to backslide and become apostate because these ministers mislead the people they minister to and those who are unwary fall victim to their messages which are not the doctrines of Christ and therefore are false.

Let us now look at some scriptures on these false ministers.

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorns, or figs of thistles?

Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

**A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit,
neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good
fruit.**

Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is
hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

Matthew 7:15-20

But what I do, that I will do, that I may cut off
occasion from them which desire occasion;
that wherein they glory, they may be found
even as we.

**For such are false apostles, deceitful
workers, transforming themselves into the
apostles of Christ.**

And no marvel; for Satan himself is
transformed into an angel of light.

Therefore it is not great thing if his ministers
also be transformed as the ministers of
righteousness; whose end shall be according
to their works.

2 Corinthians 11:12-15

BUT there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that brought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

And covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgement now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

2 Peter 2:1-3

JUDE, the servant of Jesus Christ, and the brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, **it was**

needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this damnation, **ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness,** and denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.

Jude 1-5

The above scriptures are not stories but facts. The false ministers are with us even today. So what do we do? We need know some safe guards on this serious issue.

One need to be meditating on the word of God found in the Holy Bible, be reading and

studying the word of God and to store in one's heart among other things as well.

One need to sieve every word that comes from all ministers and see if they are referring always in the Holy Bible and if has any doubt to quarantine the words so as to take time as the people of Berea did to confirm if the messages they heard were genuine or not (Acts 17:10-11) and if they are true then one can allow them to sink in one's heart. But if not, to throw them as trash and forget completely about them as the first step and the second step to stop from henceforth listening to such ministers. These false ministers are many in churches and have sweet tongues talking of sweet things to the congregants-things that are temporal (earthly) but not spiritual and eternal (heavenly) and therefore derailing many from the true faith and the way to heaven and that results into bunches of apostates who will never see the entrance of heaven which is very holy.

Chapter 6

The latter Church

When I am talking now about the latter Church, I am specifically talking more of the Laodicean church which is the last spoken of in the whole Church age. This latter Church is already with us and it can be likened to the five foolish virgins that also were waiting for the Bridegroom to come (Matthew 25:1-13). Let us first take time to look at that church.

And to the angel of **the church of the Laodiceans** write; These things saith the A'-men, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth.

Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and

knowest not that thou art wretched and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

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

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

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

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

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

Revelation 3:14-22

This latter Church is in serious trouble and in dire need of the Lord Jesus Christ the head of the Church of God. But the unfortunate thing

it does not know her real status which is really out of order going by God's standards. It is so as it has been blinded by the prince of this world and it is therefore – living in utter deception unaware of the dangers lying before it.

This Church is lukewarm as it has allowed the world to come into it and has mingled with the world so that there is no order but confusion of some sort. It is in danger as is about to be spit out by the Lord, save only if they repent of their folly. I told you that all they do point only to foolishness.

This church claims to be rich but the riches are material (earthly) and not spiritual (heavenly) and that is why the Lord is advising her to buy from him gold tried in fire which to me I believe is the word of God which is the truth and is the doctrine of Christ which is truly lacking (Psalm 12:6; 19:8; 119:72) which has been tried in fire just as gold and other very precious metals and which is not only light for the Church but a

way of life (Proverbs 6:23). Instead it is found full with the doctrines of men (Mark 7:1-13) and the doctrines of devils (2 Timothy 4:1).

The riches they claim and the goods are merely the big church buildings, musical equipment and furniture as well as big cars and posh homes (all that are physical and comes to nought) and not what is expected from them (Colossians 3:16, Hebrews 12:14) which are all spiritual.

The Church is naked as there is no righteousness and that is why it is advised to get white raiment from the Lord to cover her nakedness (Matthew 5:16, 20, Revelation 19:6-9) and so there is no power and hence end up with faked miracles (false fire) and the pushing of people when praying for them to delude the congregants that there is power of God at work making people to fall down yet it is man power (physical push) and not God power (spiritual touch). The Church is advised to get eye salve as it cannot see (is blind spiritually) as a result of the spirit of

religion that has blinded them so that they cannot see well (discern what is good or evil). This Church is not repentant and that is why it is advised to repent and by doing so open the door for the Lord who is out and knocking and who when is allowed in can enable the Church to overcome Satan and sin living a holy and righteous life and be able to be with the Lord in heaven. As I said earlier this Church had allowed the world in it and have merged with it so that the physical dressing is wanting and God is fed up of seeing their nakedness and the worship is wanting as is more of a disco out there and full of unholy dancing that can make the Lord to vomit and in order not to undergo that, God does not come down in their midst. It can be said to be behaving as the foolish virgins who cannot discern what is more important to them to prepare for the bridegroom as to them they think it is business as usual unaware of the changing times which requires some adjustments here and there-transformation in

life (2 Timothy 3:1-5). Now in closing this chapter let me point to you that this is the only church that Jesus Christ did not have any commendation for it. The churches that need to be emulated are the church of Smyrna and the church of Philadelphia as the Lord had no complaint on them. But apart from the church of Laodicea other churches that the Lord had issues with include the following: Ephesus (Revelation 2:4-5), Pergamos (Revelation 2:14-16), Thyatira (Revelation 2:20) and Sardis (Revelation 3:2-3).

Chapter 7

Other safeguards

As the chapter title says, what we are about to learn are but other safeguards in addition to the lessons we have learnt on the previous six chapters.

In beginning I find that perseverance in what we go through in salvation is one thing that will make us to continue standing and not to fall away from the faith. Many in Christianity expect things to be smooth for them in life but the reality is that it is going to be rough and sometimes very rough and not smooth as they thought or wished it to be.

Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

James 5:11

Another factor that we also find in this scripture is patience. Unfortunately, many believers are in a big hurry and want say

things blessing and so on now, now and not some other time.

Job went through real tough time in his life that many of us would have backslidden saying ‘there is nothing good in salvation’. But thank God Job never quit and instead remained steadfast in faith in God. He endured all the hardships he went through (Job 1 and 2).

Job’s case I find it to be classic and intentional to all believers in Christ Jesus to have perseverance in life in order to overcome the many challenges in life that face them.

For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.

For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? But if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

1 Peter 2:19-21

It may be bitter to swallow but that is the truth that in Christianity there is suffering. So Christians must be ready to suffer for Christ's sake in standing for the truth. We need to stand for Christ to come for our rescue by establishing us.

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

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

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

To whom be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 5:8-11

In this scripture we find more information- the need to be sober and vigilant in life and to stand in resisting the devil knowing that after going through all that God will make us perfect. Quite encouraging indeed.

For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;

Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

Philippians 1:29-30

This and many other scriptures may sound strange and harsh to Christians but we must learn to live by the truth which is irrevocable.

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and deceived.

But thou continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned of them:

2 Timothy 3:12-14

There is suffering in persecution for the believers in Christ Jesus but they have to endure to remain in the precious faith which they received.

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

By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Romans 5:1-5

After being justified by faith one has peace with God through Jesus Christ who is the Prince of peace. But one has no peace with men (the world) who know not the Lord (John 16:20-21) and so tribulations will continue to come on one.

I CHARGE thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine.

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

But watch out thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

2 Timothy 4:1-5

The bottom line is that we continue in service to the Lord or else we may find ourselves to have gone backwards and gone astray in the things of faith.

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

Hebrews 2:1

There is need for every believer to hold on what one has heard and not let them slip away in order to be safe in our salvation as then we will be on course in our walk with the Lord.

Also we need to be very much aware that we are in a spiritual warfare and there are things we need to do to win our battles.

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

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

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

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

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about
with truth, and having on the breastplate of
righteousness;

And your feet shod with the preparation of the
gospel of peace;

Above all, taking the shield of faith,
wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the
fiery darts of the wicked.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the
sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Ephesians 6:10-18

Putting the whole armour of God takes the centre stage but many don't take it seriously to their downfall.

One must live a truthful and righteous life always using the word of God as well as being prayerful and of course acting on one's faith. If one misses on or two or more one will be the victim and not victor to the devil and sooner or later one ends giving up the fight and guess what one backslides and end up an apostate - not useful at all for the Lord's work or for entry into the kingdom of glory.

Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me:

For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world...

2 Timothy 4:9-10

Loving the world in Christianity is dangerous as it can easily lead to backsliding and one become apostate. No wonder the Scripture has warned on it (1 John 2:15-17, James 4:1-4).

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same hope.

Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Romans 8:18-21

From that scripture it is obvious that a believer in Christ Jesus is subject to sufferings in the body while still on earth but it is temporal and one need just hold on to one's faith in perseverance and finally will be

delivered out of it by the Lord being glorified at his coming to take the Church to be with him in heaven and without perseverance one will fall out of the faith and apostasy will creep in.

The need to avoid the middle ground

In this journey of faith, we are going to find that there is real need of avoiding the middle ground in order to be safe.

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

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

And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in

the plain, escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.

And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my Lord: Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life, and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die:

Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live.

And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken.

Genesis 19:15-21

In the above scripture we do find that Lot was advised by the angels of God that they run to a safer ground to the mountain but he opted for an easy way to be allowed to go to a little city called Zoar instead. Now that was not wise of him because the angels were from God and knew what was better for his life.

Many of us do things in life saying to ourselves ‘This is a small thing and it won’t affect my faith’, but the truth of the matter it affects us. We need stick only to what God has said and not rationalize things in life against God’s word. There is need to go an extra mile (deep) in God and not remain on shallow waters.

And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel?

And he answered, I have not troubled Israel, but thou, and thy father’s house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim.

Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel’s table.

So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto mount Carmel.

And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? If the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

1 Kings 18:17-21

The prophet of God Elijah had seen that the children of Israel were living between two opinions and that is why he posed that question to them and which was confirmed by their silence. That very thing is happening to part of the Church right now and is but apostasy. Some believers are living a mediocre Christianity as they are neither here nor there and that is dangerous. One need be for God fully and not partially. One need not to love both the world and God at the same time for then who will one serve? (James 4:4-8, 1 John 2:15-17, 2 Timothy 4:1-10a). Let all believers avoid the middle ground.

And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God:

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

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

Revelation 3:14-16

Now there you are it is in black and white as the Lord has plainly put it. God hates the idea of one being in the middle ground in life before him. Any believer who thrives on that in this life is in for a big, big surprise on the judgement day. It better to make amends now by fully living for the Lord being hot and not cold. Be zealous for God and be with him in the life to come into eternity.

Apostle Paul had the following to tell the church at Corinth.

But as God is true, our word toward you was not yea and nay,

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, even by me and Silvanus and Timothy, was not yea and nay, but in him was yea.

For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God:

Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

2 Corinthians 1:18-22

You can see from that scripture that the word of faith being preached has no contradiction or confusion of any sort and God who brings salvation to those that believe in his Son Jesus Christ is faithful and seals them with the Holy Spirit and therefore once one has believed then it is a total resolve and there is no middle ground or turning back. One is either in Christ

or not at all – hence the word yea and not yea
and nay.

Chapter 8

The danger in apostasy

We all need to know that there is potential danger in apostasy. If one finds oneself in apostasy one should make all efforts to come out of it. It is not a good thing to be in it. The life in apostasy is pretty bad. You can also read my other book entitled ‘A Christian and How not to backslide’. Now the following are the immediate setbacks and how God views a backslider.

BUT the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel.

And Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Beth-haven, on the east side of Beth-el, and spake unto them, saying, Go up and view the country. And the men went up and viewed Ai.

And they returned to Joshua, and said unto him, Let not all the people go up; but let about two or three thousand men go up and smite Ai; and make not all the people to labour thither; for they are but few.

So there went up thither of the people about three thousand men: and they fled before the men of Ai.

And the men of Ai smote of them about thirty and six men: for they chased them from before the gate even unto Shebarim, and smote them in the going down: wherefore the hearts of the people melted, and became as water.

Joshua 7:1-5

What is evident in the scripture is that because of the trespass of the children of Israel they were defeated when they went against Ai.

And the Philistines fought, and Israel was smitten, and they fled every man into his tent: and there was a very great slaughter; for there fell of Israel thirty thousand footmen.

And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were slain.

1 Samuel 4:10-11

In the above scripture we find yet another defeat on the side of Israel because of the fallen priesthood by the two sons of Eli. Like the earlier case above the sin of one or two of them brought a disaster to the whole nation!

And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the LORD.

And he gathered unto him the children of Ammon and Amalek, and went and smote Israel, and possessed the city of palm trees. So the children of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years.

Judges 3:12-14

It is that serious that even the Lord himself can turn against one who has backslidden and leave one to serve the enemy for many years –

be a slave to the enemy! This time round there was still a defeat. From the foregoing we do see that defeat is inevitable by a backslider as all things work against one.

Cut off thine hair, O Jerusalem, and cast it away, and take up a lamentation on high places; for the LORD hath rejected and forsaken the generation of his wrath.

For the children of Judah have done evil in my sight, saith the LORD: they have set their abominations in the house which is called by my name, to pollute it.

And they have built the high places of Tophet, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and daughters in the fire; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my heart.

Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be called Tophet, nor the valley of the son of Hinnom, but the valley of slaughter: for they shall bury in Tophet, till there be no place.

And the carcasses of this people shall be meat for the fowls of the heaven, and for the beasts of the earth; and none shall fray them away.

Then will I cause to cease from the cities of Judah, and from the streets of Jerusalem, the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride: for the land shall be desolate.

Jeremiah 7:29-34

God can remove the favour, joy and gladness from a backslider so that one is lonely and gloomy in life. What a miserable state it can turn out to be!

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

Psalms 51:10-12

Now the worst that can happen to a backslider is not only to lose the joy of salvation but the Holy Spirit who is a helper to a Christian. One is left helpless and therefore hopeless!

NOW will I sing to my well beloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My well beloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes.

And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem, and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, betwixt me and my vineyard.

What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes?

And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard: I will take away the hedge

thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down:

Isaiah 5:1-5

Now the Israelites God described them as his vineyard and he had made all efforts on them to be his own people and expected much from them but alas, that was not forthcoming from them! The same applies to the Church of Christ. Jesus did all for her on the cross and God expects better life (Holiness and righteousness) and which if is lacking in her, God can remove his divine grace, favour and protection such that she is left vulnerable to all situations. In a nutshell God expects fruitfulness and not unfruitfulness which can be equated to wickedness before him. A backslider for that matter is considered unfruitful and should I say, therefore useless. Let us look at some scriptures to find out about it.

When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.

Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished.

Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: **and the last state of that man is worse than the first.** Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

Matthew 12:43-45

When one is redeemed by the blood of the Lamb of God one's life is cleaned up and is put in order. One therefore need to fill the empty place in life with the word of God and the Holy Spirit who are a hindrance to the unclean spirits that left at one's redemption. If not, there is a possibility of those spirits coming back to one and making one's life very miserable. The word of God is the sword

of the Spirit and the Holy Spirit is the power of God in one and is stronger than all other spirits combined (Ephesians 6:16-17, 1 John 4:4). It is dangerous to be saved and to remain empty (with only salvation) and not to move deeper in God (Ephesians 4:17-24) as only by moving deeper in the things of God does one grow and get strong unto maturity in God and only that is what makes a significant difference in the life of the saved and that is God's intention so that later one can inherit the kingdom of heaven, being with God eternally. One becomes easy prey to Satan when remains a spiritual babe (not growing in the Lord). Get to know that the more we grow in the Lord the stronger we become. So let us all who are in the faith in Jesus Christ have that in mind and pursue it with much vigour.

For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again

entangled therein and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

2 Peter 2:20-22

All people have only one way of escaping the pollutions of the world and that is to come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. From that starting point they need not stagnate but be busy in the things of God so as not to be entangled again by the pollutions of the world that can later overcome them. You can see the picture of an apostate - it is a pretty bad and not to be admired by anyone. Let us not become a proverb in God's sight.

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God:

But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing, whose end is to be burned.

Hebrews 6:4-8

Those who have been enlightened are those who have been redeemed by the Lord. That Lot have come to know the way of righteousness and have been made holy by the Holy Spirit. They need not fall away from the

true faith in Jesus Christ which they received as it would be a tall order to make attempts to bring them back in the faith.

All who are in the faith need not reach there. It is said it is like crucifying their Saviour on the cross again, yet that crucifixion was quite shameful at the time.

If one falls away from the true faith in Jesus Christ one becomes spiritually numb as spiritual sensitivity has gone.

For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

But a certain fearful looking for of judgement and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses.

Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden underfoot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was

sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, the lord shall judge his people.

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Hebrews 10:26-31

Because one had fallen away from the faith, one will be far from the truth and therefore not in a position to discern what is good or what is bad and therefore fall victim of sinning wilfully, the result of which is quite frightening- God to recompense on all unrighteousness (there will be no mercy on the judgement day and no bribing can take place) as I see my fellow countrymen are fond of. There is a worse punishment for the apostates as the blood of Jesus Christ was involved in the redemption of mankind. Let us not take that dangerous direction.

THEN shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

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

While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

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

Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Matthew 25:1-13

It is time to wake up and stop being foolish in the things of God or else we will be disowned (rejected). Those five foolish virgins did not make it into heaven and we have only two eternities after this life on earth. We have heaven and we also have hell.

Let us be wise so as not to be found in hell.

To be wise simply put is to fear the Lord and if you have understanding in that fear you will depart from evil (Job 28:28). In a nutshell apostasy leads to eternal damnation in hell.

Notes to the reader

I take this opportunity to thank you for reading this book and hope it has been of much help to you.

In case you have any comments please feel free and write to us using the address below.

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