



The Glory
In
Perseverance

A litmus test in Christianity

Fredrick G. Omondi

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

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INTRODUCTION

I was prompted to write this book having the knowledge and experience on the fact that the Christian walk is full of challenges and which one must go through in order to overcome them and be able to move to another level and at last to reach one's destination in life as God who called one purposed.

The challenges I am talking about is on persecution because of one's faith in Christ Jesus which requires perseverance in order for one to remain in the faith. I have now come to the realization that through one's perseverance, one actually is made to become a hardcore instead of being a weakling which is good in the walk of faith and in that way one must come out victorious overcoming all the obstacles in life and the Lord will be very ready to glorify, to congratulate and crown one in the end of that long walk / race (Hebrews 12:1-3, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Revelation 21: 6-7; 22:12-14; 3:11, Philippians 3:8-21, 2 Timothy 4:1-8)

The Christian walk is not a vain adventure and therefore one need not quit as in a race any quitter is automatically disqualified and only those who continue in the race are in a position to win it as others also get other position of number 2,3,4,5 and so on. This is the only race that one must finish because if one does not, one loses virtually everything in life and it would be a big loss indeed - an eternal loss by having to live eternally in the lake of fire! quite unimaginable simply because one's name could not be found in the Lamb's book of life where all the overcomers in Christ Jesus are listed (Revelation 20:11-15).

So if you are in this race as I am, make sure you finish it otherwise it will be a big shame indeed (Luke 14:25-34) and for that matter you must make all efforts to finish it come rain, come sunshine (2 Timothy 2:1-13; 4:1-8)

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Chapter 1

The Scriptures speaks

In this chapter we are going to look at various scriptures that speaks on perseverance which a Christians needs to have in life as God has provided it through his Spirit that he has promised to give to every believer (Galatians 5:22, Luke 24:44-49, John 14:14-17, Acts 1:8).

Jesus Christ is the Lord of glory (James 2:1) and he persevered in life and was exalted by his Father (Philippians 2:5-11) it follows therefore that all who believe in him must persevere in life as well. All believers who will persevere in life being opposed and going through persecution and sufferings will definitely be glorified as the climax in the Christian walk and to be forever with the Lord in heaven. So, it is not in vain to persevere in the Lord in this life. There is nothing more satisfying thing in life than to be glorified and be with the Lord in the glorious kingdom of heaven. Now let us look at the meaning of the

word perseverance and what it has to offer in the end.

Perseverance in simple terms it is to refuse to quite in one's ambition or vocation when things are quite tough in life as quitting means abandoning your ambition or vocation all together in the middle of one's journey to achieve or reach your goal. Now in the Christian context the goal is to enter into the kingdom of God in heaven and be able to live with him there eternally. And for that matter perseverance is neither optional nor negotiable in Christianity and one has but to bite the bullet.

It is common knowledge from the Scriptures that one must be an overcomer in the Christian walk to be able to enter into the kingdom of God in heaven (Revelation 2:7, 11,17,26-28; 3:5, 12, 21). The key is to hold fast on the faith in Jesus Christ and having one's focus on the lively hope with all the glory that accompanies it (Hebrews 12:1-3, 1 Peter 1:1-9, Matthew 24:1-14, 1 John 4:1-4;

5:1-5, 1 Peter 3:14-18; 4:12-19). Glorification is the climax of salvation when in this walk of faith, one is transformed with a glorious body and taken up to be with the Lord in heaven forever (Matthew 10:22; 22:23-30; Philippians 3:20-21, 1 Peter 1:1-7, 1 John 3:1-2). The process of glorification being necessary because God's dwelling place in heaven is holy (Revelation 21:9-10) and God too is quite holy (Isaiah 6:1-3) and his holiness is too glorious to behold (Exodus 19) – hence the need to be glorified to be able to be in his presence and to withstand the glory as one will be there eternally with him (Revelation 22:1-5). I think it is high time we do now to look at the Scriptures.

Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues;

And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in the same hour what ye shall speak.

For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.

And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

Matthew 10:16-22

Hard times are to face all Christians but the key is to endure to the end, and that way reach the destiny which is to be raptured and be taken into heaven by the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Corinthians 15:50-58) because all these that we pass through in

life are just for a season so let us yearn to be at a better place (2 Corinthians 4:13-18, Philippians 3:20-21).

And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded **the people, and having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.** Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium and Antioch,

Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

Acts 14:19-22

Now that is what it means to persevere in this journey / walk of faith. Apostle Paul was

stoned into that city and was drawn out of the city by those who stoned him for they thought he was now dead. But surprisingly after the apostle rose up from the ground, after the disciples had stood round about him, he went back to that city and as if that is not enough, he went with Barnabas to Derbe; not for him to nurse his wounds from the stoning, but to preach Jesus Christ in that city. Amazing! I salute my brother.

Something noble that they did after such an experience was to confirm the souls of other brethren in the Lord to remain steadfast in their faith in Jesus Christ and to inform them that their sufferings are to lead them into the kingdom of God.

Jesus Christ at one time told his followers that if one cannot take up his cross and follow him, he is not fit to be his follower (disciple) (Matthew 10:38-39). Now the carrying of one's cross and following Jesus being a cardinal duty for every Christian is not a simple thing, as some religionists have been

lied to by Satan the deceiver, where you find some carrying a wooden cross and still others carrying a miniature metallic cross on a ring on their necks! Oh, what a pity, May the Lord help us to know the Scriptures through the Holy Spirit (our teacher, guide and counsellor). The Holy Spirit is also known as the Spirit of truth (John 14:15-17) as he is the Spirit of God and also of Christ who is the truth and they are all one (John 14:4-6; Revelation 19:11, John 10:27-30). The Holy Spirit is the only one who can teach us the word of God which is truth ((John 14:26), for the Holy Bible is inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16-17) and that is why religionists fall prey to the deception of the devil as they use their minds to try understand the Scriptures and not the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:6-15) as the Holy Bible is not a newspaper or a magazine, it is a special book (manual) which is spiritual for one's eternity with God in heaven after this life on earth.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and **joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.**

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.

Romans 8:14-18

Sufferings awaits us Christians for our own good. They don't come to discourage and break us but to encourage us and to build us and make us to be fit to be glorified at the coming of our Lord and Saviour to take us home ((John 14:1-3). It follows therefore that we must continue to take our cross and follow

the Lord for our glorification that ushers into the holy city of Jerusalem (Revelation 21).

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

Our sufferings are packaged with the glory of God which we are anticipating to be revealed in us at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in the rapture into heaven.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Matthew 5:10-12

If there is something Christians of this generation fear it is persecution. But the above scripture brings the treasure in persecution for those who suffer for Christ's sake. Those who are persecuted as we saw in the above scripture, they are not only blessed but in heaven their reward is great. Now that should be good news to us Christians.

Let me state here categorically that any perseverance done outside Christ Jesus is not rewarding in the end as such efforts can only end in hell.

PETER an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the
strangers scattered throughout Pontus,
Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,
Elect according to the foreknowledge of God
the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit,
unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of
Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be
multiplied.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant
mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively
hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from
the dead.

To an inheritance incorruptible, and
undefiled, and that faded not away, reserved
in heaven for you,

Who are kept by the power of God through
faith unto salvation to be revealed in the last
time.

Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a
season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through
manifold temptations:

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

1 Peter 1:1-7

The endurance of Christians in this life passing through hardships comes with their glorification at rapture when the Lord comes to take his holy Church with him into the kingdom of his Father in heaven.

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Hebrews 2:9-10

The captain of our salvation was made perfect through suffering and so we too have to taste it and be glorified and honoured as well.

Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblamably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:

As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children,

That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

1 Thessalonians 2:1-12

Christians have been called to glory by God who is all glorious and so there is need to persevere living in the fear of God.

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

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

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

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

Colossians 3:1-4

There is glory in perseverance. Now let us have our affection on holiness and righteousness which are the hallmarks of heaven and anticipate to be glorified just as our Lord was glorified.

Therefore **I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus which is with eternal glory.**

It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:

If we suffer, we shall also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us:

2 Timothy 2:10-12

Apostle Paul endured many things in life for the elect's sakes because he focused in what

awaited him in heaven, that is, to be glorified eternally being with the Lord.

All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, and another of fishes, and another of birds.

There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.

There is one glory of the sun, and another of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.

So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

As it is earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.

And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

1 Corinthians 15:39-49

In the above scripture Apostle Paul in writing to the church at Corinth he went further to elaborate to them the resurrection of believers in Christ Jesus, that the body they have now is of the earth and is temporal but when Christ comes for his Church to take them home in heaven, they will be glorified, being given a heavenly body which is spiritual and eternal. You can also read the following scriptures on that glorified body by the Lord himself who is spiritual from the beginning of the creation of heaven and earth and all that is therein –

Matthew 22:23-30 and Philippians 3:20-21.
But all that is to be given only to those who
are in Christ Jesus and persevered in life unto
the end.

Chapter 2

The life of Noah

In this chapter we are going to look at the life of Noah and the remaining chapters we will as well be looking at the lives of other men of God including the life of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ what they went through and which of course required perseverance to the end.

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

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

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

There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they

bear children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at heart.

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

But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

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

And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth.

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

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

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

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

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

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

And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breadth of life, from under

heaven; and everything that is in the earth shall die.

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

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

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

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

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

AND the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteousness before me in this generation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping thing, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark.

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

Genesis 7 & 8

When one looks at the above scriptures one is amazed by the herculean task that was given to Noah by God and how precise Noah executed it. Just by looking at the task alone can make one's heart to faint! Noah went through a lot of endurance working day by day, month by month, year by year in an effort to finish the task he was given, leave alone going looking for the materials and the many discouraging remarks from different people on what he was all up to. He must have been ridiculed so many times over the years, but he got not discouraged or tired until

he accomplished the task and saved his household. Quite superb job. Now that is what we call perseverance in the walk with the Lord.

Chapter 3

The life of Jacob

In this chapter we are going to see the life of Jacob and how he persevered. Now as we begin to look at the first scripture and the at the backdrop of his life seeing that he was more insightful in the things of the spirit and that is why he outwitted his brother Esau and received his birth right as his father blessed him instead of his brother (Genesis 25:19-34).

And Jacob went out from Beer-sheba, and went toward Haran.

And he lighted upon a place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy

father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;

And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.

And Jacob awakened out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not.

And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and poured oil upon the top of it.

And he called the name of that place Beth-el:
but the name of that city was called Luz at the
first.

And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will
be with me, and will keep me in this way that
I go, and will give me bread to eat, and
raiment to put on,

So that I come again to my father's house in
peace; then shall the LORD be my God:

And this stone, which I have set a pillar, shall
be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give
me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.

Genesis 28:10-22

In the above scripture we do see that Jacob
had a good dream of an entry leading right
into heaven and saw the Lord as well. It is
more likely as he was heavenly minded and
had to be heavenly oriented. We need to take
note that at the time he was already a blessed
man after his father Isaac had blessed him
earlier prior to this event.

THEN Jacob went on his journey, and came into the land of the people of the east.

And he looked, and behold a well in the field, and, lo, there were three flocks of sheep lying by it; for out of that well they watered the flocks: and a great stone was upon the well's mouth.

And thither were all the flocks gathered: and they rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the sheep, and put the stone again upon the well's mouth in his place.

And Jacob said unto them, My brethren, whence be ye? And they said, Of Haran are we.

And he said unto them, Know ye Laban the son of Nahor? And they said, We know him. And he said unto them, Is he well? And they said, He is well: and, behold, Rachel his daughter cometh with the sheep.

And he said, Lo, it is yet high day, neither is it time that the cattle should be gathered together: water ye the sheep, and go and feed them.

And they said, We cannot, until all the flocks be gathered together, and till they roll the stone from the well's mouth; then we water the sheep.

And while he yet spake with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep: for she kept them.

And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near, and rolled the stone from off the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother.

And Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted up his voice, and wept.

And Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's brother, and that he was Rebecca's son: and she ran and told her father.

And it came to pass, when Laban heard the tidings of Jacob his sister's son, that he ran to meet him, and embraced him, and kissed him, and brought him to his house.

And Laban said to him, Surely thou art my bone and my flesh. And he abode with him the space of one month.

And Laban said unto Jacob, Because thou art my brother, shouldest thou therefore serve me for nought? Tell me, what shall thy wages be?

And Laban had two daughters: the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel.

Leah was tender eyed; but Rachel was beautiful and well favoured.

And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter.

And Laban said, It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me.

And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had for her.

And Jacob said unto Laban, Give me my wife, for my days are fulfilled, that I may go in unto her.

And Laban gathered together all the men of the place, and made a feast.

And it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter, and brought her to him; and he went in unto her.

And Laban gave unto his daughter Leah Zilpah his maid for an handmaid.

And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it was Leah: and he said to Laban, What is this that thou hast done unto me? Did not I serve with thee for Rachel? Wherefore then hast thou beguiled me?

And Laban said, It must not be so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn.

Fulfil her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years.

And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave him Rachel his daughter to wife also.

And Laban gave to Rachel his daughter Bilhah his handmaid to be her maid.

And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years.

Genesis 29:1-30

In the above scripture we now do see the perseverance of Jacob in an effort to get a wife for himself. Seven years is not a short time working for Laban his mother's brother.

AND Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him.

And when Jacob saw them, he said, This is God's host: and he called the name of that place Mahanaim.

And Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother unto the land of Seir, the country of Edom.

And he commanded them, saying, Thus shall ye speak unto my lord Esau; Thy servant Jacob saith thus, I have sojourned with Laban, and stayed there until now:

And I have oxen, and asses, flocks, and menservants, and women servants: and I have

sent to tell my lord, that I may find grace in
thy sight.

And the messengers returned to Jacob, saying,
We came to thy brother Esau, and also he
cometh to meet thee, and four hundred men
with him.

The Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed:
and he divided the people that was with him,
and the flocks, and herds, and the camels, into
two bands;

And said, If Esau come to the one company,
and smite it, then the other company which is
left shall escape.

And Jacob said, O God of my father
Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the
LORD which sadist unto me, Return unto thy
country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal
well with thee:

I am not worthy of the least of all mercies,
and of all truth, which thou hast shewed unto
thy servant; for with my staff I passed over
this Jordan; and now I am become two bands.

Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau: for I fear him, lest he will come and smite, and the mother with the children.

And thou sadist, I will surely do ye good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.

And he lodged there that same night; and took of that which came to his hand as present for Esau his brother;

Two hundred she goats, and twenty he goats, two hundred ewes, and twenty rams, Thirty milch camels with their colts, forty kine, and ten bulls, twenty she asses, and ten fowls.

And he delivered them into the hand of his servants, every drove by themselves; and said unto his servants, Pass over before me, and put a space betwixt drove and drove.

And he commanded the foremost, saying, When Esau my brother meeteeth thee, and asketh thee, saying, Whose art thou? And

whither goest thou? And whose are these
before thee?

Then thou shalt say, They be thy servant
Jacob's; it is a present sent unto my lord Esau:
and, behold, also he is behind us.

And so commanded he the second, and the
third, and all that followed the droves, saying,
On this manner shall ye speak unto Esau,
when ye find him.

And say ye moreover, Behold, thy servant
Jacob is behind us. For he said, I will appease
him with the present that goeth before me,
and afterward I will see his face; peradventure
he will accept me.

So went the present over before him: and
himself lodged that night in the company.
And he arose up that night, and took his two
wives, and his two women servants, and his
eleven sons, and passed over the ford Jabbok.
And he took them, and sent them over the
brook, and sent over that he had.\
And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a
man with him until the breaking of the day.

And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him.

And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh.

And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.

And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob.

And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

And Jacob asked him, and said, tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there.

And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.

And as he passed over Peniel the sun rose upon him, and he halted upon his thigh.

Therefore the children of Israel eat not of the sinew which shrank, which is upon the hollow of the thy, unto this day: because he touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh in the sinew that shrank.

Genesis 32

In the above scripture we do see that Jacob was able to recognise that the angels of God were God's host (had come from God who is in heaven). I do believe it is because he was insightful in spiritual matters. At that time Jacob was on his way to meet his brother after a long time since his father's death as he feared for his life and fled to Haran where his uncle Laban was living as was advised by her mother he realised that his brother Esau would revenge for his lost birth right. Now when Jacob sent messengers ahead of him as he was going to meet his brother and they brought him word that Esau his brother was coming to meet him with a big company of men, he was not only afraid but distressed as well. Why? Because he knew he had deceived

him out of his birth right and as it is said ‘The guilty are afraid’ (Proverbs 28:1) he was of course afraid. Now was the time of reckoning for him and he remembered God just as is common with most of us, to remember God only when things have gone out of hand, which is unwise as we all need God the rest of our life. Thank God Jacob came to a point of repenting his sins to God and asking for his intervention. For sure he was brought low and had to tell his messengers twice to tell his brother Esau when they will find him, that he (Jacob) was his servant. The unfortunate thing is that he was still at his old tricks by trying to appease his brother with presents and divided his people into bands to be on the fore front and him following from behind! God had mercy on him.

Chapter 4

The life of Joseph

In this chapter we are going to see the life of Joseph on what he experienced in life and that needed perseverance on his part.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

And his brethren went to feed their father's flock in Shechem.

And Israel I said unto Joseph, Do not thy brethren feed the flock in Shechem? come and I will send thee unto them. And he said to him, Here am I.

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

So he sent him out of the vale of Hebron and he came to Shechem.

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

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

And the man said, They are departed hence; for I heard them say,

Let us go to Do'-than. And Joseph went after his brethren, and found them in Do'-than.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Come, and let us sell him to Ishmaelites; and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content.

Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver; and they brought Joseph into Egypt.

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

And he returned unto his brethren, and said,
The child is not; and I, whither shall I go?
And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid
of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood;
And they sent the coat of many colours, and
they brought it to their father; and said, This
have we found: know now whether it be thy
son's coat or no.

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

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

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

And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto
Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain
of the guard.

AND Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmaelites, which brought him down thither.

And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.

And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.

And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.

And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field.

And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand;
and he knew not aught he had, save the bread
which he did eat.

And Joseph was a goodly person, and well-
favoured.

And it came to pass after these things, that his
master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and
she said, Lie with me.

But he refused, and said unto his master's
wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is
with me in the house, and he hath committed
all that he hath to my hand;

There is none greater in this house than I;
neither hath he back anything from me but
thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I
do this great wickedness, and sin against
God?

**And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph
day by day, that he hearkened not unto
her, to lie by her, or to be with her.**

**And it came to pass about this time, that
Joseph went into the house to do his**

business; and there was none of the men of the house there within.

And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth,

That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, see, he hath brought in a Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice:

And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out.

And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home.

And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me:

And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out.

And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled.

And Joseph's master took him, and put him into prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in prison.

But the LORD was with Joseph, and showed mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it.

The keeper of the prison looked not to anything that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper.

Genesis 37 & 39

From the above scriptures you can see for yourself the kind of hardships Joseph went through not only in their house with his

brothers but also in a stranger's house as a servant. He was so enduring believing and trusting and obeying the Lord God and for sure the Lord did wonders in his life promoting him many times until if you continue with the next chapters of the book of Genesis he became second in command in Egypt deputizing Pharaoh the king and saved the lives of his parents and his siblings. If you remain faithful to God, he will be with you and remain faithful to you and reward you with promotions in life. God had talked to him in the dreams of how he was going to lift him up (Psalm 75:6-7). Joseph is among those that can be counted in the Scriptures as faithful to God just as our Lord Jesus Christ, Noah, Abraham, Samuel and others. Although a new Bible cannot be written now, but you and I can start (if not started) to be faithful to God unto the end of our walk with the Lord and be counted in heaven as well among the faithful.

Chapter 5

The life of Ruth

In this chapter we are going to see the life of Ruth how she persevered in life and the outcome thereafter.

NOW it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Beth-lehem-judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons.

And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Beth-lehem-judah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there.

And Elimelech Naomi's husband die; and she was left, and her two sons.

And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of one was Orpah, and the name of the other Ruth: and they dwelled there about ten years.

And Mahlon and Chilion died also both of them; and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband.

Then she arose wither daughters in law, that she might return from the country of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the LORD had visited his people in giving them bread.

Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her; and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah.

And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the LORD deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me.

The LORD grant you that ye may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept.

And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people.

And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters:
why will ye go with me? Are there yet any
more sons in my womb, that they may be your
husbands:

Turn again my daughters, go your way; for I
am too old to have an husband. If I should
say, I have hope, if I should have an husband
also tonight, and should also bear sons.

Would ye tarry for them till they were grown?
would ye stay for them from having
husbands: nay, my daughters; for it grieveth
me much for your sakes that the hand of the
LORD is gone out against me.

And their lifted up their voice, and wept
again: and Orpah kissed her mother in law;
but Ruth clave unto her.

And she said, Behold, thy sister in law is gone
back unto her people, and unto her gods:
return thou after thy sister in law.

And Ruth said, Entreat me not to leave thee,
or to return from following after thee: for
whither thou goest, I will go; and thou where

lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:

Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if aught but death part thee and me.

When she saw that she was steadfastly minded to go with her, then she left speaking unto her.

So they two went until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Beth-lehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi?

And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me.

I went out full, and the LORD hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the LORD hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me?

So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned

out of the country of Moab: and they came to Beth-lehem in the beginning of the barley harvest.

AND Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz.

And Ruth the Moabite said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace.

And she said unto her, Go, my daughter.

And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz, who was of the kindred of Elimelech.

And, behold, Boaz came from Beth-lehem, and said unto the reapers, The LORD be with you. And they answered him, The LORD bless thee.

Then said Boaz unto his servant that was set over the reapers, Whose damsel is this?

And the servant that was set over the reapers answered said, It is the Moabitish damsel that

came back with Naomi out of the country of Moab:

And she said, I pray you, let me glean and gather after the reapers among sheaves: so she came, and hath continued even from the morning until now, that she tarried a little in the house.

Then said Boaz unto Ruth, Hearest thou not, my daughter? Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by the maidens:

Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after them: have I not charged the young men that they shall not touch thee? And when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men have drawn.

Then she fell on her face, and bowed herself to the ground, and said unto him, Why have I found grace in thine eyes, that thou shouldest take knowledge of me, a stranger?

And Boaz answered and said unto her, It hath fully been shewed me, all that thou hast done

unto thy mother in law since the death pf
thine husband: and how thou hast left thy
father and mother, and the land of thy
nativity, and art come unto a people which
thou knewest not heretofore.

The LORD recompense thy work and a full
reward be given thee of the LORD God of
Israel, under whose wings thou art come to
trust.

Then she said, Let me find favour in thy sight,
my lord; for that thou hast comforted me, and
for that thou hast spoken friendly unto thine
handmaid, though I be not like unto one of
thine handmaidens.

And Boaz said unto her, At mealtime come
thou thither, and eat of the bread, and dip thy
morsel in the vinegar. And she sat beside the
reapers: And he reached her parched corn, and
she did eat, and was sufficed, and left.

And when she was risen up to glean, Boaz
commanded his young men, saying, Let her
glean even among the sheaves, and reproach
her not:

And let fall some of the handfuls of purpose
for her, and leave them, that she may glean
them, and rebuke her not.

So she gleaned in the field until even, and
beat out that she had gleaned: and it was
about an ephah of barley.

And she took it up, and went into the city: and
her mother in law saw what she had gleaned:
and she brought forth, and gave to her that she
had reserved after she was sufficed.

And her mother in law said unto her, Where
hast thou gleaned today? and where
wroughtest thou? blessed be he that did take
knowledge of thee. And she shewed her
mother in law with whom she had wrought,
and said, The man's name with whom I
wrought today is Boaz.

And Naomi said unto her daughter in law,
Blessed be of the LORD, who hath not left off
his kindness to the living and to the dead. And
Naomi said unto her, The man is near of kin
unto us, one of our next kinsman.

And Ruth the Moabitess said, He said unto me also, Thou shalt keep fast by my young men, until they have ended all my harvest.

And Naomi said unto Ruth her daughter in law, It is good, my daughter in law that thou go out with his maidens, that they meet thee not in any other field.

So she kept fast by the maidens of Boaz to glean unto the end of barley harvest and of wheat harvest; and dwelt with her mother in law.

THEN Naomi her mother in law said unto her, My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee?

And now is not Boaz of our kindred, with whose maidens thou wast? Behold, he winnoweth barley tonight in the threshing floor.

Wash thyself therefore, and anoint thee, and put thy raiment upon thee, and get thee down to the floor: but make not thyself known unto the man, until he shall have done eating and drinking.

And it shall be, when he lieth down, that thou shalt mark the place where he shall lie, and thou shalt go in, and uncover his feet, and lay thee down; and he will tell thee what thou shalt do.

And she said unto her, All that thou sayest unto me I will do.

And she went down unto the floor, and did according to all that her mother in law bade her.

And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of corn: and she came softly, and uncovered his feet, and laid her down.

And it came to pass at midnight, that the man was afraid, and turned himself: and, behold, a woman lay at his feet.

And he said, Who art thou? And she answered, I am Ruth thine handmaid: spread therefore thy skirt over thine handmaid; for thou art a near kinsman.

And he said, Blessed be thou of the LORD, my daughter: for thou hast shewed more

kindness in the latter end than at the beginning, inasmuch as thou followedst not young men, whether poor or rich.

And now my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman.

And now it is true that I am thy near kinsman: howbeit there is a kinsman nearer than I.

Tarry this night, and it shall be in the morning, that if he will perform unto thee part of a kinsman, well; let him do the kinsman part: but if he will not do the part of a kinsman to thee, then will I do the part of a kinsman to thee, as the LORD liveth: lie down until the morning.

And she lay at his feet until the morning: and she rose up before one could know another.

And he said, Let it not be known that a woman came into the floor.

Also he said, Bring the veil that hast upon thee, and hold it. And when she held it, he

measured six measures of barley, and laid it on her: and she went into the city.

And when she came to her mother in law, she said, Who art thou, my daughter? And she told her all that the man had done to her.

And she said, These six measures of barley gave he me; for he said to me, Go not empty unto thy mother in law.

Then said she, Sit still, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall: for the man will not be in rest, until he have finished the thing this day.

THEN went Boaz up to the gate, and sat him down there: and, behold, the kinsman of whom Boaz spake came by; unto him he said, Ho, such a one! Turn aside, sit down here.

And he turned aside, and sat down.

And he took ten men of the elders of the city, and said, Sit ye down here. And they sat down.

And he said unto the kinsman, Naomi, that is come again out of the country of Moab,

selled a parcel of land, which was our brother Elimelech's:

And I thought to advertise thee, saying, Buy it before the inhabitants, and before the elders of my people. If thou wilt redeem it, redeem it: but if thou wilt not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know: for there is none to redeem it beside thee; and I am after thee. And he said, I will redeem it.

Then said Boaz, What day thou buyest the field of the hand of Naomi, thou must buy it also of Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to raise up the name of the dead upon his inheritance.

And the kinsman said, I cannot redeem it of myself, lest I mar my own inheritance: redeem thou my right to thyself; for I cannot redeem it.

Now this was the manner in former time in Israel concerning changing, for to confirm all things; a man plucked off his shoe, and gave it to his neighbour: and this was a testimony in Israel.

Therefore the kinsman said unto Boaz, Buy it for thee. So he drew off his shoe.

And Boaz said unto the elders, and unto the people, Ye are witnesses this day, that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, of the hand of Naomi.

Moreover Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of Mahlon, have I purchased to be my wife, to raise up the name of the dead be not cut off from among his brethren, and from the gate of his place: ye are witnesses this day.

And all the people which were in the gate, and the elders, said, We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman that is come into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel: and do thou worthily in Ephrathah, and be famous in Beth-lehem: And let thy house be like the house of Pharez, whom Tamar bare unto Judah, of the seed which the LORD shall give thee of this young woman.

So Boaz took Ruth, and she was his wife: and when he went in unto her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bare a son.

And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed be the LORD, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel.

And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for thy daughter in law, which loveth thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him.

And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it.

And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

Now these are the generations of Pharez:

Phares begat Hezron,

And Hezron begat Ram, and Ram begat Amminadab,

And Amminadab begat Nahshon, and Nahshon begat Boaz, and Boaz begat Obed.

And Obed begat Jesse, and Jesse begat David.

Ruth 1,2,3 and 4

In the above scripture we do see how Ruth chose the God of Israel – the true God and could not be persuaded by her mother in law to leave her come rain, come sunshine and how she obeyed her mother in law's instructions and how she conducted herself well and persevered in life going to glean corn and barley at the field of Boaz. It may seem as a small thing but it is not so easy as it is demeaning in some way but all the same she endured in that kind of life and cared not being worried of anything and eventually she ended getting married to Boaz and now she had a husband after waiting patiently all the time, after the death of her husband Chilion. In the end she happened to be in the lineage of king David and the Lord Jesus Christ, (Matthew 1:1-16) although as for her, she was a woman from the country of Moab. From her life we learn the need to persevere in all conditions as those of faith in Christ

Jesus in order to be rewarded in the end with eternal life in heaven plus many more. So perseverance plays a key role in the Christian walk.

Chapter 6

The life of David

In this chapter we are going to look at the life of David and see for ourselves what he went through although he had been anointed by the prophet Samuel to be a king over the people of Israel and how he endured.

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

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

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

And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.

And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted

in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.

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

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

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

And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.

And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand.

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

And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul.

Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people.

And David behaved himself very wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him.

But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.

And Saul said to David, Behold my elder daughter Merab, her will I give thee to wife: only be thou valiant for me, and fight the LORD'S battles. For Saul said, let not mine hand be upon him, but let the hand of the Philistines be upon him.

And David said unto Saul, Who am I? and what is my life,' or my father's family in Israel, that I should be son in law to the king?

But it came to pass at the time when Merab Saul's daughter should have been given to David, that she was given unto Adriel the Meholathite to wife.

1 Samuel 18:1-19

Now if you read the remaining verses in the chapter you will find that king Saul had real ill intentions on David and he was behaving hypocritically to David.

David the son of Jesse was now in the house of the king serving him playing for him with a harp to appease the evil spirit that would now and then come into king Saul so as to leave him (1 Samuel 16:14-23) and at the same time David used to go to fight the enemies of Israel the Philistines for Saul and risking his life but king Saul even tried to slay David with a javelin twice and went further and promised David his daughter as a wife which turned to be a false promise yet David endured all this and did not quit!

And Saul spake to Jonathan his son, and to all his servants, that they should kill David.

But Jonathan Saul's son delighted much in David: and Jonathan told David, saying, Saul my father seeketh to kill thee; now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning, and abide in a secret place, and hide thyself:

And I will go out and stand beside my father in the field where thou art, and I will commune with my father of thee; and what I see, that I will tell thee.

And Jonathan spake good of David unto Saul his father, and said unto him, Let not the king sin against his servant, against David; because he hath not sinned against thee, and because his works have been to thee ward very good:

For he did put his life in his hand, and slew the Philistines, and the LORD wrought a great salvation for all Israel: thou sawest it, and didst rejoice: wherefore then wilt thou sin against innocent blood, to slay David without a cause?

And Saul hearkened to the voice of Jonathan:
and Saul sware, As the LORD liveth, he shall
not be slain.

And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan
showed him all those things. And Jonathan
brought David to Saul, and he was in his
presence, as in times past.

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

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

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

1 Samuel 19:1-10

If you continue up to the end of the first book
of Samuel from where we have left you will
see that king Saul continued in his efforts to

pursue to kill David without succeeding and king Saul together with his sons ended being killed in their battle with the Philistines. Later you will find that finally David became the king of Israel. David did not quit but endured all that came his way. Thank God that he eventually became king after such an endurance and also is awaiting to live eternally with the Lord in heaven as he was an overcomer. You can see that one need to endure in life as a Christian despite the many challenges and sufferings in order to be an overcomer and be with the Lord for ever and ever, Amen.

Chapter 7

The life of Elisha

In this chapter we are going to see the life of Elisha how he conducted himself and the outcome thereof.

AND it came to pass, when the LORD would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal.

And Elijah said unto Elisha, Tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Beth-el.

And Elisha said unto him, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Beth-el.

And the sons of the prophets that were at Beth-el came forth to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head today? And he said, Yea, I know it; hold your peace.

And Elijah said unto him, Elisha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Jericho. And he said, As the LORD liveth,

and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they came to Jericho.

And the sons of the prophets that were at Jericho came to Elisha, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head today? And he answered, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace. And Elijah said unto him, Tarry, I pray thee, here; for the LORD hath sent me to Jordan. And he said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And they two went on.

And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went, and stood to view afar off: and they two stood by Jordan.

And Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground.

And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said to Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from

thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.

And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so.

And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces.

He took also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan.

And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the LORD God of Elijah? And when

also he had smitten the waters, they parted
hither and thither: and Elisha went over.
And when the sons of the prophets which
were to view at Jericho saw him, they said,
The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And
they came to meet him, and bowed
themselves to the ground before him.

2 Kings 2:1-15

Elisha did not let Elijah go by himself where
the Lord instructed him to go but instead
persisted in all the occasions and asked that he
accompany him and vowed not to leave him
at all and in the end of all of it he received
what he asked from Elijah receiving a double
portion of anointing that Elijah had. He did
many miracles by that anointing and even at
his death after his burial the anointing was
effective at the grave and resurrected a dead
person (2 Kings 13:14-21). It follows
therefore that in this walk of faith consistency
and persistence is required of Christians in
order to be able to reach one's destination in
Christ Jesus and which is of course to enter

heaven to be with the Lord for ever and ever (eternally) and to enjoy all the wonderful things that are there for the saints (1 Corinthians 2:6-9). To enjoy the peace, joy, fellowship with the Father and to worship Him in the beauty of holiness. Now in order to achieve all that one must be heavenly focussed and not to live a double standard life as some of us have done for instance by attending church services or going to Christian fellowships only when one feels like and setting an on and off trend in life which is not good at all for one's spiritual welfare. A total commitment is required in the Christian walk or else one for sure will get nothing out of one's conversion. That is one among other reasons why the Lord Jesus Christ told those who wanted to follow him that if they do not have a total commitment then they are not fit to be his disciples (Luke 9:61-62). The Lord Jesus Christ also said to his disciples that they need to be watch waiting for his coming to take them home as his coming will be sudden

(Matthew 24:36-42) and that we do see from Elisha who was very alert and watchful and was able to see the prophet Elijah being taken up into heaven.

Chapter 8

The life of Job

In this chapter we are going to look at the life of Job what he went through and how he persevered.

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

And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters.

His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

And his sons went and feasted in their houses, everyone his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them.

And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and

offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.

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

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

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

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

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

But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand.

So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

And there was a day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house:

And there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were ploughing, and the asses feeding beside them:

And the Sa-be'-ans fell upon them, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house:

And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshiped,

And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

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

And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and walking up and down in it.

And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? And still he holdest fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.

And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.

But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.

And the LORD unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.

So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.

And he took him a potsherd to scrap himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes.

Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die.

But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? **In all this did not Job sin with his lips.**

Job 1:1--2:10

Job went through very bad experiences losing his wealth, his children and getting into serious ill health but as the scripture states, he retained his integrity holding fast to his faith in the Lord. All the messengers that brought news to him it was just bad news, and bad news and nothing good and all in a span of probably an hour or two or even less. It was

most disheartening but all the same it bothered not Job, who instead of rising up to cry and wail especially to the bad news of the death of his seven sons and three daughters, instead he worshipped and praised the Lord. Job endured much and I salute him.

Many of us Christians cannot stomach all that Job went through. Why? because these days many of us are worried or bothered by very small things - a headache, a cold, lack of some finance, losing a loved one the list goes on and on. In all these things just like in the case of Job, God is still available and he is still God as his does not change under any circumstance whatsoever (Hebrew 13:8).

Many Christians when things get quite tough the easiest option they find is coming out of Christianity (falling back and leaving their precious faith). But faith in the Lord is quite precious (1 Peter 1:3-7) and one need not lose it by falling away. If you read the last chapter of this book of Job God fully restored Job's life (Job 42:10-17).

Chapter 9

The life of Daniel

In this chapter we are going to look at the life of Daniel on what he went through in life.

IT pleased Darius to set over the kingdom a hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom;

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

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

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

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

Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live forever.

All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

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

Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree.

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three

times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

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

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

Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

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

Then the king, when he heard these words, was so displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he

laboured till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

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

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

And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

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

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

And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

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

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

Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones

in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.

Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.

I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and steadfast forever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.

He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of lions.

So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Daniel 6

You can see from the above scripture that Daniel went through a hard time and endured and did not stop doing what he was doing to his God praying to him and giving his supplications on a daily basis and risked his

life and had to be cast in the den of lions for believing in his God but thank God who is faithful who delivered and rescued Daniel. Many would have quitted and stopped to praying to God going by the tough decree signed by king Darius but not Daniel. That is called endurance- Not giving up for the cause of Christ however tough it may seem.

Chapter 10

The life of Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah

In this chapter we are going to look at the lives of the three Hebrew boys on what they went through which shows their endurance in real hard time.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR the king made an image of gold, whose height was three score cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasures, the counsellors, the sheriffs and all the rulers of the provinces,

were gathered unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Then a herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages.

That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up:

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

Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of music, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

Wherefore at that time certain chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews.

They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king live for ever.

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

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

There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king.

Nebuchadnezzar spake and unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?

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

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

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

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

Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.

And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

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

Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and

they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego ye servants of the most High God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire.

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

Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak anything

amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.

Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon.

Daniel 3

The three Jews surely knew their God the God of Israel to trust in him that much. They had made their mind not to serve the god of king Nebuchadnezzar and to worship the golden image that the king had set up.

Even the threatening and the face of the king could not change their mind, even increasing the heat of the burning fiery furnace seven times hotter could not disturb their mind. These three showed a high degree of endurance and I salute them and thank the Lord God for giving them enough grace (2 Corinthians 12:7-10) in the fiery trial and his

faithfulness bringing a great deliverance in the
nick of time.

Chapter 11

The life of Jesus

In this chapter we are going to look at the life of Jesus Christ on what he went through in life here on earth and which was prophesied by the prophet Isaiah in the book of Isaiah (Isaiah 53). He referred to him as a man of sorrows for he suffered more than any other being that God created. All that was for the redemption of mankind who had fallen into sin and was separated from God. He therefore came to reconcile man with God by atoning for their sins on the cross. Jesus Christ is also referred to as the suffering servant as a servant of God on earth he really suffered in the hands of men.

What we are going to see now in our reading is the fulfilment of that prophecy by the prophet Isaiah as was later recorded by his four disciples namely: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and for our case I am going to restrict myself in the book by saint Matthew.

Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.

And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful, and very heavy.

Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here and watch with me.

And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit is indeed willing, but the flesh is weak.

He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may

not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy.

And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.

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.

And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear.

Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.

Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?

But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?

In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me.

But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.

And they that had laid hold on Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.

But Peter followed him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end.

Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witnesses against Jesus, to put him to death;

But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses,

And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.

And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee?

But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.

Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy.

What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death.

Then did they spit on his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands,

Saying, Prophecy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee?

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

But he denied before them all, saying, 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.

WHEN the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death:

And when they had bound him, they led him, away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself,

and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.

And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood.

And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in.

Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day.

Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, and they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value; and gave them for the potter's field, as the LORD appointed me.

And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the

King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him,
Thou sayest.

And when he was accused of the chief priests
and elders, he answered nothing.

Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not
how many things they witness against thee?

And he answered him to never a word;
insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.
Now at that feast the governor was wont to
release unto the people a prisoner, whom they
would.

And they had then a notable prisoner, called
Bar-ab'-bas.

Therefore when they were gathered together,
Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I
release unto you? Barabbas or Jesus which is
called Christ?

For he knew that for envy they had delivered
him.

When he was set down on the judgement seat,
his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou
nothing to do with that just man: for I have

suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.

But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus.

The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas.

Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified.

And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified.

When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.

Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.

Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers.

And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe.

And when they had plaited a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.

And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and led him away to crucify him.

And as they came out, they found a man of Cy-re'-ne, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.

And when they were come unto a place called Gol'-go-tha, that is to say, a place of the skull,

They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall; and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink.

And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, they parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.

And sitting down they watched him there; And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left.

And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads.

And saying Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save

thysself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross.

Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said,

He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.

He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.

The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.

Matthew 26:36--27:44

Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God had such a big burden on him and suffered so much in order to redeem mankind. He had to accept to be crucified on a tree and all sins of mankind were placed on him, ooh my God and my Redeemer! (Isaiah 53:3-6, 2 Corinthians 5:20-21). Surely, we have no righteousness of our own (Jeremiah 23:5-6) but Jesus Christ is become our righteousness

we that have believed in him (Isaiah 64:6; 66:3-4, Romans 10:1-3).

Jesus Christ in his life showed the highest degree of perseverance and left an example for his disciples who are willing to be with him in eternity in heaven; to follow his footsteps in life. If you read the Holy Bible you will come across those who followed the footsteps of Jesus Christ in perseverance. You and I are we going to follow and be with the Lord in heaven when he comes for his holy Church? The ball is in our courts.

Chapter 12

The life of Paul

In this chapter we are going to look at the life of Paul to see the things he went through as a servant of the Lord.

I say again, Let no man think me a fool, if otherwise, yet as a fool receive me, that I may boast myself a little.

That which I speak, I speak it not after the Lord, but as it were foolishly, in this confidence of boasting.

Seeing that many glory after the flesh, I will glory also.

For ye suffer fools gladly, seeing ye yourselves are wise.

For ye suffer, if a man bring you into bondage, if a man devour you, if a man exalt himself, if a man smite you in the face.

I speak as concerning reproach, as though we had been weak.

Howbeit whereinsoever any is bold, (I speak foolishly,) I am bold also.

Are they Hebrews? So am I. are they Israelites? So am I. are they the seed of Abraham. So am I.

Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.

Thrice was I beaten with rods, once I was stoned, thrice suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own country men, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

In weariness and painfulness, in watching often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the case of all the churches.

Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?

If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.

The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not.

In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me:

And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands.

2 Corinthians 11:16-33

Although Apostle Paul has listed what he went through as a minister of Christ, they are in a summary form. What he went through was too much and he kept on persevering until he finished his ministry confident of the work he did for the Lord that had called him into service (2 Timothy 4:1-8).

Chapter 13

The life of Stephen

In this chapter we are going to look at the life of Stephen on what he went through in life showing his perseverance in his walk with the Lord.

And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people. Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of then of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen.

And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.

Then they suborned men, which said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God.

And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council,

And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law:

For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us.

And all that sat in the council, looking steadfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.

THEN said the high priest, Are these things so?

And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran,

And said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall show thee.

Then came he out of the land of the Chaldeans, and dwelt in Harran: and from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell.

And he gave him none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on: yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child.

And God spake on this wise, that his seed should sojourn in a strange land; and that they should bring them into bondage, and entreat them evil four hundred years.

And the nation to whom they shall be in bondage will I judge, said God: and after that shall they come forth, and serve me in this place.

And he gave him the covenant of circumcision: and so Abraham begat Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat the twelve patriarchs.

And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him, And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight

of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.

Now there came a dearth over all the land of Egypt and Canaan, and great affliction: and out fathers found no sustenance.

But when Jacob heard that there was corn in Egypt, he sent out our fathers first.

And at the second time Joseph was made known to his brethren; and Joseph's kindred was made known unto Pharaoh.

Then sent Joseph, and called his father Jacob to him, and all his kindred, threescore and fifteen souls.

So Jacob went down into Egypt, and died, he, and our fathers,

And were carried over into Shechem, and laid in the sepulcher that Abraham bought for a sum of money of the sons of Emmor the father of Shechem.

But when the time of the promise drew nigh, which God had sworn to Abraham, the people grew and multiplied in Egypt, Till another king arose, which knew not Joseph.

The same dealt subtilly with our kindred, and evil entreated our fathers, so that they cast out their young children, to the end they might not live.

In which time Moses was born, and was exceeding fair, and nourished up in his father's house three months.

And when he was cast out, Pharaoh's daughter took him up, and nourished him for her own son.

And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds.

And when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel.

And seeing one of them suffer wrong, he defended him, and avenged him that was oppressed, and smote the Egyptian:

For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: but they understood not.

And the next day he showed himself unto them as they strove, and would have set them at one again, saying, sirs, ye are brethren; why do ye wrong one to another?

But he that did his neighbour wrong thrust his away, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge over us?

Will thou kill me, as thou didst the Egyptian yesterday? then fled Moses at this saying, and was a stranger in the land of Midian, where he begat two sons.

And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sinai an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush.

When Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight: and as he drew near to behold it, the voice of the Lord came unto him,

Saying, I am the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Then Moses trembled, and durst not behold.

Then said the Lord to him, put off thy shoes from thy feet: for the place where thou standest is holy ground. I have seen, I have seen the affliction of my people which is in Egypt, and I have heard their groaning, and am come down to deliver them and now come, I will send thee into Egypt.

This Moses whom they refused, saying, who made thee a ruler and a judge? the same did God send to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel which appeared to him in the bush.

He brought them out, after that he had showed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red sea, and in the wilderness forty years.

This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, a prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear.

This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sinai, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:

To whom our fathers would not obey, but thrust him from them, and in their hearts turned back again into Egypt.

Saying unto Aaron, Make us gods to go before us; for as for this Moses, which brought us out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

And they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, as rejoiced in the works of their own hands.

Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, O ye house of Israel, have ye offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices by the space of forty years in the wilderness?

Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them: and I will carry you away beyond Babylon.

Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as he had appointed, speaking

unto Moses, that he should make it according to the fashion that he had seen.

Which also our fathers that came after brought in with Joshua into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drove out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David; Who found favour before God, and desired to find a tabernacle for the God of Jacob.

But Solomon built him a house.

Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet,

Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest? hath not my hand made all these things?

Ye stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.

Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which showed before of the coming of the Just One;

of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.

When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.

But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,

And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 6:8 -- 7:60

Stephen slept in the Lord as a result of the persecution he went through by being stoned by a whole council who were cut in their hearts by the truth that Stephen spoke to them as they were unable to receive it being religionists who had no God in them as they were not of God (John 8:37-47). Stephen was promoted to glory to be with the Lord in heaven. Remember the case of Lazarus (Luke 16:19-22).

Chapter 14

Other lives

In this chapter we are going to briefly see some other servants of God who endured in life for Christ's sake and came out victorious and because they overcame and are part and parcel of those who are destined to live with the Lord eternally in heaven.

By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.

By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

Hebrews 11:24-27

Moses chose the noble way of suffering for Christ's sake in order to receive the reward awaiting him and was courageous enough to leave the king's palace in Egypt to be with God's people out there and to suffer with them and feared God more than the king. Most of us who call ourselves Christians fear more the rulers of this world than God and when the rulers speak, they tremble at their words! The apostles of Christ were different compared to we Christians of this generation (Acts 4:1-20) for they knew the Lord they were serving who is the King of kings and the Lord of lords (Revelation 19:11-16) and not only that, they knew his word (Matthew 10:23-33).

And what shall I more say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gid'-e-on, and of Bar'-ak and of Samson, and of Jeph'-thah; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

Who through faith subdued kingdoms,
wrought righteousness, obtained promises,
stopped the mouth of lions,

Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the
edge of the sword, out of weakness were
made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to
flight the armies of the aliens.

Women received their dead raised to life
again: and others were tortured, not accepting
deliverance; that they might obtain a better
resurrection:

And others had trial of cruel mockings and
scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and
imprisonment:

They were stoned, they were sawn asunder,
were tempted, were slain with the sword: they
wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins;
being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

(Of whom the world was not worthy :) they
wandered in deserts; and in mountains, and in
dens and caves of the earth.

And these all, having obtained a good report
through faith, received not the promise:

God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

Hebrews 11:32-40

The above men of God went through a lot of suffering and although some names of them have not been mentioned in the scripture, what they went through is recorded in our earlier chapters together with their names. They are waiting for a better resurrection that is why they did not want deliverance in their sufferings. The better resurrection is the first resurrection and also referred to as the resurrection of the righteous (Luke 20:27-40, John 6:37-40, 1 Corinthians 15:50-58, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 2 Corinthians 5:1-10, Philippians 3:20-21, 1 Peter 1:1-9, Revelation 20:6). We also need to know from the foregoing scriptures that the first resurrection is simply the rapture of the holy Church of Jesus Christ from the earth and into heaven for her eternity. Now comes the bombshell.

Those who persevered in the Lord are first going to be glorified: Psalm 73:24, Matthew 13:43, 1 Corinthians 15:49-58, 2 Corinthians 4:17, Colossians 3:4 and 1 Peter 5:1 and then to get crowns and rewards according to their service to the Lord: 1 Corinthians 9:25, 2 Timothy 4:8, James 1:12 / Revelation 2:10, 1 Peter 5:4 and Revelation 2:7; 17; 26; 3:5; 12; 21; 21:7. And lastly to be forever in the joy of the Lord: Revelation 21:1,4, 22:3, 5.

A word of caution

We need to know that it is possible for a Christian to lose his crown which he would have received in heaven, going by what the Scripture says:

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name

of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from God: and I will write upon him my new name.

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

Revelation 3:11-13

It is true as we remember the case of Adam and Eve who lost holiness as a result of disobeying God in the garden of Eden where God had placed them (Genesis 2&3, Romans 3:23, 5:12) and as we are going to see also from the Scripture which follows hereunder.

And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents.

And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebecca loved Jacob.

And Jacob sod pottage: and Esau came from the field, and he was faint:

And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with the same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was his name called Edom. And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birth right.

And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birth right do to me?

And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he swore unto him: and he sold his birth right unto Jacob.

Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentils; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birth right.

Genesis 25:27-34

In the above scripture we do find that the two sons of Isaac Esau and Jacob what was their occupation and what transpired as a result of careless living by Esau and who ended losing his birth right as we are going to see below.

AND it came to pass, that when Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see, he called Esau his eldest son, and said unto him, My son: and he said unto him, Behold, here am I.

And he said, Behold now, I am old, I know not the day of my death:

Now therefore take, I pray thee, thy weapons, thy quiver and thy bow, and go out to the field, and take me some venison;

And make me savoury meat, such as I love, and bring it to me, that I may eat; that my soul may bless thee before I die.

And Rebecca heard when Isaac spake to Esau his son. And Esau went to the field to hunt for venison, and bring it.

And Rebecca spake unto Jacob her son, saying, Behold, I heard thy father speak unto Esau thy brother, saying,

Bring me venison, and make me savoury meat, that I may eat, and bless thee before the LORD before my death.

Now therefore, my son, obey my voice according to that which I command thee.

Go now to the flock, and fetch me from thence two good kids of the goats; and I will make them savoury meat for thy father, such as he loveth:

And thou shalt bring it to thy father, that he may eat, and that he may bless thee before his death.

And Jacob said to Rebecca his mother, Behold, Esau my brother is a hairy man, and I am a smooth man:

My father peradventure will feel me, and I shall seem to him as a deceiver; and I shall bring a curse upon me, and not a blessing.

And his mother said unto him, Upon me be thy curse, my son: only obey my voice, and go fetch me them.

And he went, and fetched, and brought them to his mother: and his mother made savoury meat, such as his father loved.

And Rebecca took goodly raiment of her eldest son Esau, which were with her in the

house, and put them upon Jacob her younger son:

And she put the skins of the kids of the goats upon his hands, and upon the smooth of his neck:

And she gave the savoury meat and the bread, which she had prepared, into the hand of her son Jacob.

And he came unto his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I; who art thou, my son?

And Jacob said unto his father, I am Esau thy firstborn; I have done according as thou badest me: arise, I pray thee, sit and eat of my venison, that thy soul may bless me.

And Isaac said unto his son, How is it that thou hast found it so quickly, my son? And he said, Because the LORD thy God brought it to me.

And Isaac said unto Jacob, Come near, I pray thee, that I may feel thee, my son, whether thou be my very son Esau or not.

And Jacob went near unto Isaac his father;
and he felt him, and said, The voice is Jacob's
voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.

And he discerned him not, because his hands
were hairy, as his brother Esau's hands: so he
blessed him.

And he said, Art thou my very son Esau? And
he said I am.

And he said, bring it near to me, and I will eat
of my son's venison, that my soul may bless
thee. And he brought it near to him, and he
did eat: and he brought him wine, and he did
drink.

And his father Isaac said unto him, Come near
me now, and kiss me, my son.

And he came near, and kissed him: and he
smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed
him, and said, See, the smell of my son is as
the smell of a field which the LORD hath
blessed:

Therefore God give thee of the dew of
heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and
plenty of corn and wine:

Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be that blesseth thee.

And it came to pass, as soon as Isaac had made an end of blessing Jacob, and Jacob was yet scarce gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting.

And he also had made savoury meat, and brought it unto his father, and said unto his father, Let my father arise, and eat of his son's venison, that thy soul may bless me.

And Isaac his father said unto him, Who art thou? And he said, I am thy son, thy firstborn Esau.

And Isaac trembled very exceedingly, and said, Who: where is he that hath taken venison, and brought it to me, and I have eaten of all before thou camest, and have blessed him? yea, and he shall be blessed.

And when Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and said unto his father, Bless me, even me also, oh my father. And he said, thy brother came with subtilty, and hath taken away thy blessing.

And he said, is not he rightly named Jacob? For he hath supplanted me these two times: he took away my birth right; and, behold, now he hath taken away my blessing. And he said, Hast thou not reserved a blessing for me? And Isaac answered and said unto Esau, Behold, I have made him thy lord, and all his brethren have I given to him for servants; and with corn and wine have I sustained him: and what shall I do now unto thee, my son?

And Esau said unto his father, hast thou but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also, Oh my father. And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept.

And Isaac his father answered and said unto him, Behold dwelling shall be the fatness of

the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above;

And by thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck.

Genesis 27:1-40

In the above scripture it came to pass that Esau lost his birth right to his brother Jacob. We see that Esau asked his father if he had another blessing reserved but his father told him that his brother had taken the blessing from him, meaning his birth right. Just as there cannot be two birth rights in a family, the same applies to crowns in heaven where each saint can only be given one crown and only the Jesus Christ has many crowns. Esau had lost his birth right to his brother Jacob and as his father said the only thing that remained is that when he has the dominion that he shall break his yoke from off his neck and stop serving his brother. The loosing of

Esau's birth right was already sealed as the following scripture says.

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birth right.

For ye know that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, thou he sought it carefully with tears.

Hebrews 12:14-17

And it came to pass, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine: and Israel heard it. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve:

The sons of Leah; Reuben, Jacob's first born,
and Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and
Issachar, and Zebulun:

And the Rachel; Joseph, and Benjamin:

And the sons of Bilhah, Rachel's handmaid;
Dan, and Naphtali:

And the sons of Zilpah, Leah's handmaid;
Gad, and Asher: these are the sons of Jacob
which were born to him in Paddan-aram.

Genesis 35:22-26

In the above scripture we do see the immoral
act of Reuben which had a bad consequence
which we are going to see in the following
scripture.

And Jacob called unto his sons, and said,
gather yourselves together, that I may tell you
that which shall befall you in the last days.

Gather yourselves together, and hear ye sons
of Jacob; and hearken unto Israel your father.

Reuben, thou art my first borne, my might,
and the beginning of my strength, the

excellency of dignity and the excellency of power:

Unstable as water, thou shalt not excel; because thou wentest up to thy father's bed; then defildest thou it: he went up to my couch.

Genesis 49:1-4

Now Reuben instead of retaining his birth right as the firstborn of Israel he received a curse from his father and which we are going to find in the following scripture.

AND after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and they were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

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

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

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

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

Revelation 7:1-8

From the above scripture we do see that something is going to change in that those who are to be sealed during the Tribulation

period and destined for heaven, Judah's tribe takes position one replacing Reuben. Why? Because Judah was blessed and Reuben was cursed for his sin (Genesis 49:8-12, 1-4). It should take note that in heaven others will not get a crown (1 Corinthians 3:10-15) and that is why in an earlier scripture (Revelation 3:11) it warns of the need to hold fast to what one has so that one does not lose one's crown. Worse still is the fact that if one continues to live a careless life one is in danger of losing being in heaven. So, we need to take our salvation seriously.

Saul reigned one year; and when he had reigned two years over Israel, Saul chose him three thousand men of Israel; whereof two thousand were with Saul in Michmash and in mount Beth-el, and a thousand were with Jonathan in Gibeah of Benjamin: and the rest of the people he sent every man to his tent.

And Jonathan smote the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, Let the Hebrews hear.

And all Israel heard say that Saul had smote a garrison of the Philistines, and that Israel also was had in abomination with the Philistines. And the people were called together after Saul to Gilgal.

And the Philistines were gathered together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots, and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the sea shore in multitude: and they came up, and pitched in Michmash, eastward from Beth-aven.

When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, (for the people were distressed,) then the people did hide themselves in caves, and in thickets, and in rocks, and in high places, and in pits.

And some of the Hebrews went over Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he

was yet in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him. And Saul said, bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering.

And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him.

And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash;

Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me in Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering.

And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: that thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD thy God have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.

But now thy kingdom shalt not continue: the LORD hath sort him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.

1 Samuel 13:1-14

In the above scripture we are told that King Saul did foolishly by offering a burnt offering to the Lord which was not under his jurisdiction as he was a king and not a priest and that was sin before God, and therefore that was his undoing as we are going to see in the next scripture.

AND the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have

rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Beth-lehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

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

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

And Samuel did that which the LORD spake, and came to Bethlehem. And the elders of the town trembled at his coming, and said, Comest thou peaceably?

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

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

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

Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, neither hath the LORD chosen this.

And Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, neither hath the LORD chosen this.

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

And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.

And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance,

and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.

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

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Now in the above scripture the time of Saul's reign began to diminish as David the son of Jesse the Bethlehemite whom the Lord had chosen to replace him had already been anointed to be the king over Israel and it was just a matter of time and Saul's reign would come to an end for the Lord had already rejected him because he obeyed not the commandment of God. Now let us see the end of Saul's reign as king of Israel, what transpired in the following scripture.

NOW the Philistines fought against Israel: and the men of Israel fled from before the

Philistines, and fell down slain in mount Gilboa.

And the Philistines followed hard upon Saul and upon his sons; and the Philistines slew Jonathan, and Abinadab, and Malchi-shua, Saul's sons.

And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him; and he was sore wounded of the archers.

Then said Saul unto his armourbearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me. But his armourbearer would not; for he was sore afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword, and fell upon it.

And when his armourbearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise upon his sword, and died with him.

So Saul died, and his three sons, and his armourbearer, and all his men, that same day together.

1 Samuel 31:1-6

King Saul lost his reign to David because he persevered not in waiting patiently for the prophet Samuel to sacrifice a burnt offering to the Lord for him and he took upon himself to do it. Moreover, he had earlier disobeyed God's voice by not obeying to the letter the instructions of the Lord to kill all the Amalekites and their property (1 Samuel 15). But as for David, he persevered after being anointed to be the king of Israel going through many attempts of king Saul trying to kill him, yet he served the king so well regardless of all the bad things the king planned against him. If you read the epistle to the Hebrews (Hebrews 11:32-40) you will see the names of prophets and kings and judges but the name of Saul is not mentioned and mind you those are some of those to inherit the kingdom of God as well as others. Let us see finally when David is finally installed as king to begin to rule over the people of Israel.

THEN came all the tribes of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh.

Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel.

So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a league with them in Hebron before the LORD: and they anointed David king over Israel.

David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.

In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months: and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty and three years over all Israel and Judah.

2 Samuel 5:1-5

From the above scripture we can see that David was not in a hurry to rule over Israel after being anointed with oil with the prophet Samuel to be king over Israel, but rather he

persevered waiting patiently for the opportune time (God's time) to come.

From all the foregoing, it is quite clear to us that as Christians perseverance is a must for us to reach our final destination in heaven. We also need to note that if by the careless lives of Esau, Reuben and Saul they lost what they had which was earthly, how about the heavenly which has a higher standard set? For sure it is easier to miss the latter so let us all be careful.

Notes to the reader

I take this opportunity to congratulate you for having read this book for your eternity and do hope we meet each other in the holy city of Jerusalem in heaven.

If you have any comment do not hesitate to communicate to us using the address given.

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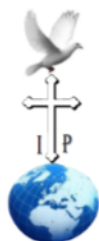
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The Glory in Perseverance

The cardinal duty of carrying the cross (Matthew 10:38-39)

There are a myriad of challenges in being a Christian and which can only be overcome by persevering unto the end of one's walk with the Lord. Therefore perseverance is neither optional nor negotiable in the Christian walk. This book is there to equip a Christian in that noble task leading to eternal life in heaven. You will never regret to have read this book but only to thank God.

The Author Fredrick G. Omondi is a Christian aged 68 years old, married and are blessed with 4 children. He is a preacher and teacher of the word of God and holds a Diploma in Biblical Studies from Emmaus Bible School and Voice of Prophecy. He is a life member of the Scripture Union of Kenya and fellowship in an altar in the Ministry of Repentance and Holiness.



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