



# Evangelical Global Outreach Church (House of Wonders)

GOD'S WORD  
FROM THE  
PULPIT

The  
Word of God  
is *alive* and  
*active!*  
Hebrews 4:12



A Compilation of  
2020 Summarised  
EGOC  
Messages

At EGOC we love  
the WORD of GOD.  
Read it, Study it,  
Learn it &  
Love it.

**JESUS  
SAVES**

2020 WATCHWORD - MY YEAR OF INCREDIBLE VICTORIES

For the Lord your God is the one who goes with you to fight for  
you against your enemies to give you victory. Deuteronomy 20:4

REV. DR. GIDEON BAKARE  
SENIOR PASTOR

REV. ADEBOLA ONI  
RESIDENT PASTOR



# Evangelical Global Outreach Church (EGOC) (House of Wonders)

We value a caring environment, community involvement, discipleship, every member ministry, Christ-centred homes, Biblical leadership, God pleasing worship, small group fellowships, Biblically based communication and stewardship of resources.

*You are invited to worship with us at*  
198, Ripple Road, Barking, Essex,  
London IG11 7PR

## *2019 Crossover Watchnight Service*

**Topic: Incredible Victories**

**Text: Deuteronomy 20:1-4**

**Introduction:** In a life time, all people experience opposition, challenges, battles, barriers and obstacles. Human strengths alone are insufficient to overcome opposition or give victories at all times. Hence the saying 'you win some you lose some'. 100% victories are achievable with God only who gives such incredible victories. In such a victory, the people of God do not suffer any loss or injury but profit from the enemies' defeat.

**Instructions for incredible victories:** Deuteronomy 20: 1a, 2, 3a

Do not base your battle assessment or strategies on the enemy's physical appearances, numbers, sizes, equipment, position / power. Do not be afraid of them. Know that you are in battle against opposition. Let not your heart faint. Do not fear or tremble. Do not be terrified because of them.

**Assurances of incredible victories:** Deuteronomy 20: 1b, 3b, 4; Rom 8:31

If God is with us, who can be against us. God delivered the Israelites from the bondage of Egypt. Jericho's wall fell down flat. David had victory over the raiders of Ziglax, Sennacherib, King of Assyria was defeated after laying siege on Jerusalem. Peter was delivered and released from Herod's prison.

The Lord thy God is with you. The God who saved you or delivered you from bondage is with you. The Lord your God goes with you. The Lord will fight against your enemies. The Lord will save you.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. Oni

*Theme for the year (2020): Deuteronomy 20:4*

For the Lord my God is on my side (x2)

To fight for me and give me victory, victory, victory.

This is my year of incredible victories.

Repeat with (For the Lord your God... & For the Lord our God...)



**Date:** 05 January 2020

**Topic:** The enemies of the cross

**Text:** Philippians 3:17-21, 4:1



### Introduction

Paul wants Christians to know and understand it not only those who oppose the church (outsiders) Acts 26:9-11 that are anti-Christ. We also have enemies of the cross (insiders) masquerading as friends or ambassadors of Christ in God's assembly, the Church. Paul laments that such people are many and present in the Church of the living God. Paul advises Christian believers to follow and emulate not only himself but other Christian apostles with exemplary lives like Jesus.

**Who are they?** Phil 3:19; Acts 1:18; 2 Pet 2:15; 2 Tim 4:10; Rom 1:18,21; 1 Tim 6:10 Paul describes them as those whose end is destruction/perdition. Judas one of the 12 disciples was a thief and betrayer. Balaam, the son of Beor loved gain for wrongdoing and perished with the reward of his wickedness. Those whose God is their belly. Their motive and belief are that godliness is gain. Money and its acquisition are their god. They covet money and what it can purchase. They "pervert the right ways of the Lord" - by abuse of position. Acts 13:10; Gal. 1:6-9; 2 John 9 Those whose glory is their shame. Those who subscribe to and accept same sex marriages and Gender Diversity celebrations. Rap and Drill music glorying violence, murders, extortion, drugs abuse and evil. Those who mind earthly things. 'Finite things cannot satisfy infinite beings'. Yet these enemies serve the lusts and passions of their flesh. Their fundamental preoccupation is amassing possessions, power, prestige and pleasure. These they preach and advance, not Jesus Christ. Acts 20:28-31

**Who are we?** Phil 3:20,21; Col 3:1-3 Paul explains that we are Christians. Our hope and lives are in heaven. We are expecting our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ. We shall be changed, the corruptible into incorruptible. Therefore, our affections should be set on things above and not on the things of the world. We are among those who can say: Acts 20:33,34 I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing, you yourselves know that these hands of mine have ministered to my own needs and those of my companions... 1 Sam 12:3 Here I am. Bear witness against me before the LORD and before His anointed: Whose ox or donkey have I taken? Whom have I wronged or oppressed? From whose hand have I accepted a bribe and closed my eyes? Testify against me, and I will restore it to you. 3 John 1:7 For they went out on behalf of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. 1 Thessalonians 2:5 As you know, we never used words of flattery or any pretext for greed. God is our witness!

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. Oni

**Date:** 12 January 2020

**Topic:** Incredible victories (Part 1)

**Text:** Deuteronomy 20:4



### Introduction

The prophetic message that God gave us this year is that it is our year of 'incredible victories.' In this passage, Moses addressed the Israelites about warfare. This verse tells us about five things that you need to guarantee your incredible victories this year.

**1. You need an incredible relationship with God (verse 4a).** 'For the Lord your God...' This is about your association or connection with God. You need an incredible God to guarantee your incredible victories. Who is your God? Do you have a relationship with God? Are you born again? Is your name written in the book of life?

**2. You need the incredible presence of God (verse 4b).** 'God is the One who goes with you...' All your concerns and griefs must disappear before God's glorious presence. You are safe if the Lord is with you in your journey of life. Moses understood this very well when he said to Yahweh in the wilderness, 'if your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here' (Exo. 33:15).

**3. You need an incredible firepower through God (verse 4c).** 'To fight for you.' In other words, you need an incredible fighter. God's firepower is unlimited. God has legions of angels at His disposal to fight your battles. God has more sophisticated weapons to destroy the powers of the enemies (cf. Psalm 20:7). The sling of David was more potent than the shield and helmet of Goliath when it became God's incredible firepower. The one little stone from David that hit Goliath on the forehead was more potent than Goliath's spear and his other weapons when it became God's incredible firepower.

**4. You need an incredible protection in God (verse d).** 'Against your enemies.' God is not only concentrating on fighting your enemies, he is also concentrating on you. God is watching and protecting you (cf. Psalm 121:4). Billy Graham was right when he said, 'God's angels often protect his servants from potential enemies.'

**5. You need an incredible victory from God (verse 4e).** 'To give you victory.' The verse lays emphasis on the person receiving the victory from God - it is you. Of course, the battle is huge; but God hands over the victory to you on a platter of gold. According to Watchman Nee 'long-lasting victory can never be separated from a long-lasting stand on the foundation of the cross.'

**Conclusion** One thing is very clear throughout the verse, our incredible victory is all about God. In other words, everything is well rooted in God. The implication is that only God can guarantee incredible victories.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



**Date:** 19 January 2020

**Topic:** Incredible Victories (Part 2)

**Text:** Deuteronomy 20:1-4



## Introduction

Anyone that is going to battlefield needs assurance. In this passage, Moses gave five assurances to the Israelites in the wilderness. We will reflect and rely on the same five assurances as we continue in our year of incredible victories.

**1. Assurance of inevitability of battles (verse 1a).** Moses told the Israelites that God has handed over the Promised Land to them, but they must be ready to fight. C.S. Lewis rightly notes, 'the enemy will not see you vanish into God's company without an effort to reclaim you.' The Christian life is a battle, get used to it. Inevitability of battles awareness should not scare us. We have assurances that the One living in us is greater than the one in the world.

**2. Assurance through your past testimonies (verse 1b).** God always remind the Israelites how He took them out of Egypt against all odds. Moses used the same testimony of deliverance from bondage in Egypt to reassure the Israelites. They should remember, how Yahweh delivered them from Pharaoh in Egypt and at the Red Sea, how He provided water and manna for them in the wilderness. Therefore, if God fought your battles in the past, healed you, provided and surprised you in the past, He can do it again.

**3. Assurance of a message from the Lord (verses 2-3).** The Israelites must get a message from the Lord through the priest before they go to battle. Today, we have the Bible (the word of God) and can rely on the Holy Spirit for revelation. You need a message from the Lord regarding the strategies that God wants you to use in your current battles. When you wait upon the Lord, He will speak to you.

**4. Assurance of God's presence (verse 4a).** Moses re-assured the people about God's presence in times of troubles. Yahweh reassured the people of Israel through prophet Isaiah many years later (Isaiah 43:2). It is the presence of God that makes the difference. The good news is that God is with you in the midst of your current battles.

**5. Assurance of new incredible victories (verse 4b).** This lays emphasis on God's incredible victories in the future. According to Randy Smith, 'our problem with Satan is not that he is too strong for us in Christ's power. Our problem with Satan is that he hates us because he has been defeated.' As Tony Evans rightly argues, 'you are not fighting for victory—you are fighting from victory.'

**Conclusion** Spiritual battles are real and life challenges are inevitable. But we have assurances that we can rely on God's faithfulness in the past, present and future.

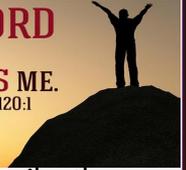
Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

**Date:** 26 January 2020

**Topic:** A Distress call to the Lord

**Text:** 2 Samuel 22:5-7

**I CALL ON THE LORD  
IN MY DISTRESS,  
AND HE ANSWERS ME.**  
-PSALM 120:1



### Introduction

David was employing the imagery of dangerous waters to describe the way his life was being threatened by his enemies. He was under great distress and this passage tells us how he cried out to God for deliverance, and from His dwelling place, God heard his cry.

**The sorrows of death compassed David (2 Sam 22:5; Ps 18)** - Before David was anointed as king. Prior to enthronement he was constantly in danger of being killed by king Saul. He expressed his fear to Jonathan in 1 Sam. 20:3 but his trust in God when afraid (Ps 56:3).

**And the floods of ungodly men made David afraid** - David was surrounded by danger physically, spiritually, emotionally and socially. He was on the brink of ruin when he cried out to God. David was outnumbered, his 600 (1 Sam. 23:13) against Saul's 3000 (1 Sam. 24:2) and he was very apprehensive of losing his life. The pangs of death surrounded David and the floods of ungodliness made him very fearful of suddenly losing his life.

**Saul attempted to kill David again (1 Sam 19:9-11)** - King Saul attempted to kill David with a spear on a previous occasion (1 Sam. 18:10-11) after he promised not to kill David (19:6) giving him a false hope that he was somewhat safe. Saul would have killed David in his own home if not for God's divine intervention. (1 Sam. 19:18-24).

**How God saved David from Saul at Maon (1 Sam 23:26-29)** – Just as Saul and his men were about to capture David; a messenger reported a Philistines' raid. Saul was forced to break off his pursuit to defend his country. The Lord's timing is exquisite, the hand of God was so evident that David and his men made a memorial of the spot: they called that place the *Sela Hammahlekoth* (Rock of Escape).

**Characteristics of Crying out to God** - Crying out to God expresses the following traits: (i) Personal helplessness Ps 108:12, Jn 15:5; (ii) Faith in God's power and resources Matt 8:25; (iii) Desperation Ps 18:6; (iv) A plea for mercy.

**Examples of God's Response to Crying Out** -The Righteous Ps 145:19; Moses Exod. 15:25; Elijah 1 Ki 17:21-22; Jehoshaphat 2 Chron. 18:31; Hezekiah 2 Chron. 32:20-21; Bartimaeus Luke 18:35-43.

**Conclusion** What are the "waves of death" surrounding you? What "floods of ungodliness" are making you afraid? The LORD hears and answers the cries/prayers of His people, in His own time.

Guest Preacher: Pastor Emmanuel Ofori



**Date:** 2 February 2020

**Topic:** Incredible Victories (Part 3)

**Text:** Psalms 124:1-8



## Introduction

This Psalm is a testimony of incredible victory on behalf of the nation of Israel. The nation of Israel experienced lots of incredible victories between their deliverance from bondage in Egypt and their ultimate settlement in the land of Canaan (Ps 135: 10-12). There are four key evidences of incredible victories in this passage.

**1. Evidence of divine presence (verses 1-2).** The Psalmist took some time to imagine what would have happened if God was not on the side of Israel. He imagined what would have happened if Yahweh did not deliver Israel from Egypt, at the Red Sea and in the wilderness and if Yahweh did not fight their battles. The good news is that the Lord is on your side, if you are on the Lord's side, if you are born again and you rely on him. Therefore, you are on your way to victory if the Lord is on your side.

**2. Evidence of divine protection (verses 3-6).** The Psalmist used six different metaphors to describe what would have happened if Yahweh was not on their side: (i) the enemies would have swallowed up Israel alive (V3a). (ii) the anger of the enemies would have flared against Israel (V3b). (iii) the flood would have engulfed Israel (V4a). (iv) the torrent would have swept over Israel (V4b). (v) the raging waters would have swept Israel away (V5). (vi) the enemies would have torn Israel apart with their teeth (V6). God is restraining the enemies through his divine protection over his children. God is not only present in your affairs; he is also fighting your battles.

**3. Evidence of divine escape (verse 7).** Escape means to 'break free from confinement or control,' to get away, break loose, take flight, make a run, disappear or sneak away. The Hebrew word *yoqesh* in this verse is a reference to a 'professional bird-catcher.' He does not make mistakes when it comes to bird hunting. He is ruthless. There are some powerful imageries here that only those who have the knowledge of hunting can understand. The Psalmist says, 'we escaped like a bird from the fowler's snare, the snare is broken, we have escaped. God will break the snare and you will escape.'

**4. Evidence of divine help (verse 8).** The Psalmist recognised that it can only be God's help for Israel to survive. David referred to God as 'our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble' Ps 46:1. John Newton rightly notes, 'we can fall of ourselves, but we cannot rise without His help.' We need divine assistance to accomplish many things in the physical and spiritual realm. Who is the source of your help? Who do you rely on when the going gets tough?

**Conclusion** Incredible victories must have incredible evidences.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

**Date:** 9 February 2020

**Topic:** Addressing the Menace of Knife Crime among Youths through

**Parental Instructions**

**Text:** Proverbs 1:8-19

*Listen to advice and accept instruction,  
that you may gain wisdom in the future.*

*(Proverbs 19:20)*

### Introduction

There have been series of knife and gun crimes in the City of London in the last few years (especially among Afro-Caribbean youths). This bloodshed appears to be unending. Reflecting on this unfortunate situation, we ask the question; How can the Bible help us to address the menace of knife crime among the youths? This message highlights the Bible's practical solutions to the problems of knife/gun crime. There are five important admonitions applicable to children and parents in this passage.

**1. Receive parental instructions (verses 8-9).** These verses highlight the importance of parental instructions and invite the child to receive godly counsel. The phrase 'my son' depicts the relationship between the parent and the child. The parental instruction implies that the parents are godly. This also admonishes parents to ensure they continue to give parental instructions.

**2. Reject gang invitation (verses 10, 15).** The evil men or women in verse 10 refer to gangs. This child must say NO to gang invitation and every appearance of evil. The only way a youth (or anybody else) can resist and overcome these pressures from outside is through what he/she has embedded inside; parental instructions which became personal conviction, faith in God and reverential fear, etc.

**3. Recognise the enticements of wicked gangs (verses 11-14).** The phrase 'cast thy lot among us' means that he would decide to go with them, he would trust his future and his outcome to their way of doing. Therefore, the child needs to recognise the enticements of the wicked. All their empty promises will not add up at the end.

**4. Remember the description of wicked gangs (verses 16)** Throughout the Scripture, wicked people, young or old have the same characteristics. First, they are quick to do evil. Second, they are quick to shed the blood of the innocent. Third, they are quick to recruit haters. What the father is saying here is that you should be able to recognise the wicked when you see them (cf. Isaiah 59:7, Romans 3: 15).

**5. Reflect on the self-destruction of gang membership (verses 17-19)** The father used powerful imagery here - those who live by the sword will die by the sword. Their intention would be to hurt others, and they do that for a while, but in time justice catches up with them, and they pay with their lives. The father wants his son to view the final outcome for the wicked and encouraged the son not to lose what is "important" (his own life) in an attempt to get what is "unimportant" (material gain).

**Conclusion** Parents should not shy away from their responsibility of instructing their children about the dangers of peer pressure, gang membership and carrying of dangerous weapons. Children should respond positively to the godly instructions of their parents.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr, G. O. Bakare



**Date:** 16 February 2020  
**Topic:** The called of Jesus  
**Text:** Romans 1:6



### Introduction

Believers of Jesus Christ are called or described by many names linking them to Jesus and what He has done for them. We are called children of God, born-again, saints, members of Christ's Body, branches in the Vine, priests, kings, peculiar people, beloved ones, Christians; and the name in this message; the called of Jesus Christ. John 1: 12, 13

**Called to be Separate** 2 Cor 6: 17, 18; 1 Pet 2:9, 3:9, 5:10

The called of Jesus Christ are not called to belong to anyone small or great but they are called by Almighty God to belong to Jesus Christ. This is evidence of God's grace that He is pleased to call us.

Believers are called out of the world and therefore do not belong to any part of the world's thinking or living. They are the Church or ecclesia, "the called-out assembly." Jesus calls us the men which Thou gavest me out of the world..." (John 17:6). The called of Jesus Christ are in the world physically, but not of the world spiritually. God chose us, then God called us. God called you out of darkness into His marvellous light. We are called to inherit a blessing and to share His glory. Christ has delivered us from the wrath to come" (1 Thessalonians 1:10).

**Called to be Similar** Acts 11:26; Rom 13:14; Acts 2:42-44; Heb 13:1

The called of Jesus Christ are admonished to be similar to Him to whom they belong, even Jesus Christ. "But as He which has called you is holy, so be ye holy." (1 Pet 1:15). We must put on, wear the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof. The world must see Jesus Christ in us. The called of Jesus Christ are called to be united as one body with others of similar faith, love and obedience, together. There is great strength in unity. Satan is the divider and accuser; Christ is the One Who puts things back together again. The called of Jesus Christ are "spiritual magnets" drawn together by the unfeigned love of Jesus Christ to continue steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine (scripture teachings), fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." We are to be thankful and let brotherly love continue.

**Called to be Special** Rom 8:28; Col 4:17; Eph 4:11, 12; 6:10-19

The called of Jesus Christ have a generic ministry and also individually unique ministries with respective gifts. We are called or selected special forces and given special weapons to make our calling and election sure. The "whole armour of God" weapons we are armed with are not carnal but mighty to pull down strongholds. We have God's Spirit and gifts of the Holy Spirit. We are Christ's special ambassadors bearing the Truth, salvation by grace through Him, the I AM.

**Conclusion** We should not be silenced by threats or persecution or adversities, the captive Israelite maid in Syria was not, she ministered to Naaman's salvation "And say to Archippus, take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the LORD, that thou fulfil it." Col 4:17

**Date:** 23 February 2020

**Topic:** The Fear of God

or

**The Fear of the Lord**

**Text:** Proverbs 1:7



## Introduction

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline (Proverbs 1:7).

In the scripture above, the word “fear” is derived from Hebrew words such as yir’ah (Proverbs 1:7), yare’ (Psalm 33:8) and pachad (Job 23:15), which actually mean “fear,” “terror,” or “dread.

## Exhorted to Fear God

The focus here is on a sense of awe and respect for the majesty of God. We are invited to call Him Abba, Father, and to have the personal intimacy promised to us, still, and not to be flippant with God. We’re always to maintain a healthy respect and adoration for Him. We are exhorted to fear God, to have the fear of the Lord, to live in godly fear.

## Without Godly Fear

If we don’t fear God, we will not take sin seriously enough. The consequences of sin are enormous. We are not to use the grace of God to sin. We are not to forget that God is Holy (Rev 4:8) and He is a consuming fire (Heb 12:29). We will be judged by the Lord one day with perfect righteousness.

## Grace and Godly Fear

How can we learn about grace without learning about the fear of God and the holy wrath of God? When you fear the Lord, you hate evil. It is the fear of God that does not allow Christians to continue to sin. The fear of God leads to forgiving others and peacefulness instead of anger, grudges, slander and gossip. 1 Peter 1:17 admonishes that we are to live our entire lives on earth in fear of God.

## Choice to Make

Do you tremble at His Word? We have no self-righteousness and our only hope is in Jesus Christ. What choice are you going to make? Sin or God? As sinful people, we have every reason to fear God’s judgment; it is part of our motivation to be reconciled with God. Hebrews 12:28-29

**Conclusion** May we indeed serve God acceptably in fear and trembling so that on the day we meet HIM, we will indeed have the greatest victory over death and sin! Amen.

Preacher: Elder Edwin Ojemen

*Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord... Psalm 128*



**Date:** 1 March 2020

**Topic:** The dangers and consequences of secret sin (Part 1)

**Text:** Joshua 7:1-26



## Introduction

Secret sin is a sin that is committed in the solitary, secluded or private place. Let us look at the story of Achan and learn five lessons about the dangers and consequences of secret sin.

**1. Secret sin makes God angry (verses 1-2)** Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of the devoted things. So, the Lord's anger burned against Israel.' The secret sin of Achan made God angry. God is a person and He possesses intellect, will and emotion. God can be happy and God can be angry. It is a terrible thing to fall under God's anger.

**2. Secret sin leads to defeat (verses 3-5; 13b)** The Israelites could not defeat Ai a city with few people. They reduced their armies, but they met the greatest shock of their lives as Ai chased the Israelites from their city gate and killed many of them. The hearts of those who survived melted in fear and became like water. Joshua went back to God to find out what happened. The Lord told him to remove the 'devoted things' in the camp. Brethren, we cannot win any meaningful spiritual battle or experience incredible victories with secret sins in our lives.

**3. Secret sin affects the sinner and others negatively (verses 6-9)** Joshua tore his clothes and fell facedown to the ground before the ark of the Lord from morning till evening because of sorrow. The elders of Israel also did the same, and they sprinkled dust on their heads. The secret sin of Achan affected Joshua, the leaders/nation of Israel, the families who lost their fathers and friends in battle, Achan and his household. Hidden sin does not only affect the perpetrator, but also others. Can you think about the devastating effects of your secret sin in your life, family and community?

**4. Secret sin cannot be hidden forever (verses 10-13a, 14, 16-23)** Joshua requested that the people should appear before the Lord tribe by tribe. The tribe that the Lord chose came forward clan by clan; the clan the Lord chose came forward family by family; and the family that the Lord chose came forward man by man. Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was chosen. What Achan initially thought was hidden was exposed in the public before the nation of Israel. There is an expiry date for every hidden sin.

**5. Secret sin leads to total destruction (verses 15, 24-26)** Joshua and all of Israel, took Achan son of Zerah, together with all the items that he stole, his family and belongings to the Valley of Achor. They stoned them and burned their remains to ashes. Achan was not poor; but he was greedy. His hidden sin led to his destruction. He did not go down alone; the judgement affected his entire household and all his belongings.

**Conclusion** The main point of this message is that you should 'beware of hidden sins.' This is a divine warning for everyone. We must reflect on the story of Achan and the devastating effects of secret sin in his life.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

**Date:** 8 March 2020

**Topic:** The dangers and consequences of secret sin (Part 2)

**Text:** 2 Samuel 11:1-12:22



## Introduction

David 'a man after God's own heart' had a humble background and God eventually made him king over the nation of Israel. Unfortunately, David got himself involved in a secret sin with Bathsheba (2 Sam 11:1-4). Let us examine six more dangers and consequences of secret sin in this passage.

**1. Secret sin produces a negative outcome (2 Sam 11:5).** Bathsheba conceived and sent word to David. This was a devastating news for David. It should not be heard that the king impregnated the wife of one of his soldiers. Everything we do in life has its own outcomes. A secret sin promises immediate pleasure, but its outcome is always devastating.

**2. Secret sin encourages cover-up (2 Sam 11:6-13).** David instructed Joab (army general) to recall Uriah the Hittite (Bathsheba's husband) from battle. David made Uriah believe that he deserved a break and rest with his family. Uriah refused to go home to his wife on the two occasions David wanted him to. Hidden sin enhances more temptations and calculations to cover previous sin.

**3. Secret sin leads to more serious sins (2 Sam 11:14-25).** David devised another plan and wrote a letter to Joab (through Uriah) that he should put Uriah out there where the fighting is fierce. Joab carried out the instruction and Uriah the Hittite died. David moved from an adulterer to a murderer, a liar and a confiscator of another man's wife.

**4. Secret sin displeases God (2 Sam 11:26-27)** Because of the secret sin of David, Uriah died; Bathsheba became a widow and cried because of the loss of her husband; The children of Uriah (if any) became orphans; The family and friends of Uriah cried for their beloved brother or friend. David eventually brought Bathsheba to the palace to become his wife after the time of mourning. The Bible says, 'the thing David had done displeased the Lord'.

**5. Secret sin attracts God's judgement (2 Sam 12:1-14).** God sent prophet Nathan to David. Nathan delivered God's message and judgement to David. The judgement of God affected David, Bathsheba, the unborn baby, the wives and children of David as well as the nation of Israel. A secret sin always attracts God's judgement. Prov. 11:21

**6. Secret sin usually ends in tears (2 Sam 12:15-22).** The child that Bathsheba had for David became ill. David prayed and fasted lying in sackcloth on the ground for the recovery of the child. The elders of his household also joined him but the child eventually died. The initial pleasure of secret sin with Bathsheba eventually ended in tears for David.

**Conclusion** We are not immune to situations that can easily lead to secret sin as long as we are still in the flesh. However, we must learn from the mistakes of David and the pains and agonies that he went through because of hidden sin.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



**Date:** 15 March 2020

**Topic:** Do not Quit

**Text:** Proverbs 24:10; 2 Peter 3:9

*Don't quit!*  
Someone is praying  
for you and you will  
make it through this.  
God is on your side.

### Introduction

The Lord admonishes that we should not quit at times of trials and moments of challenges. We must be strong and persevere when challenges and hard times come. We must not quit but depend on God for strength and grace to help us in our time of need.

Examples of those that did not Quit;

**Abraham** was growing old and asked God for a child. God's response to him was that he should walk before Him and be perfect. God has an appointed time for things to happen, we have to wait for to receive His full blessings. Gen 15:2,3; 17:2

**Jesus** refused to quit even at different times in His agony but allowed God's will to be done. Jesus endured the cross, despised the shame and He's set down at the right hand of God's throne Heb12:2

**Jabez** did not quit even though his name means pain. He called on God of Israel for five specific changes in his life's circumstances and God granted all his requests 1 Chron 4:9,10.

**Deborah** refused to quit. She took up the challenge of Barak the army general and went with warriors to the battlefield Jud 4:8.

**Mordecai** did not give up even though there were legitimate reasons for Queen Esther not to appear before the king. He was able to encourage Esther to stand up for her people Est 4:13-14.

**Which area(s) of your life are you looking or thinking to quit?** Business, Marriage, Children, Church **Please refresh and don't quit.**

Are you sick or tired? **Please, I appeal to you, do not quit.**

**Elijah** wanted to quit but God was faithful to him and ensured he did not perish. He ran for his life after he was threatened by Jezebel. He left his servant at Beersheba and travelled another day's journey into the desert and collapsed under a juniper tree. He wished for death and compared himself as no better than his fathers. God almighty sent an angel to sustain him 1 King 19:1-21.

**Conclusion** There are assurances from God to those who decide not to quit. For all the promises of God in Him (Jesus Christ) are Yes and in Him Amen to the glory of God by us 2 Cor 1:20.

Guest Preacher: Pastor Bakare – RCCG. Citadel of Prayer



**Date:** 22 March 2020

**Topic:** The Anointed Mother

**Text:** Luke 1:26-38



## Introduction

There are two important words from today's topic – anointed and mother. **What is anointing? Or who can we refer to as anointed?** Exodus 40:9; 1 Corinthians 2.21-22; 1 Pet 2:9 Christians are anointed because we are chosen of God, filled with the spirit of God, have faith/put our trust in God. We are special, separate, priests, kings because God has put His seal on us. **Who is a mother?** A mother is someone who is capable of loving and caring for another human being. She plays significant roles in the lives of their, husbands, children, extended families and the community at large. There are five Important inspirations from 'Mary the anointed mother of Jesus'.

**1. Anointing brings good out of ordinary vs 26-27** "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" John 1.46. The angel came not to the religious center of the nation but to the obscure, a concealed little village of Nazareth with its bad reputation to announce to a young girl as God's human instrument choice to bring His Son into the world. What do you think of yourself, your social status, family, ability, disability? This is a great inspiration. Do you think you are forgotten, or written off, or you are of no use?

**2. Anointing helps to preserve wonderful gift vs 26,27,34** Virginity is a wonderful gift to future spouse. Mary grew up with sexual purity. She remained a virgin up until she came together with her husband, Joseph. While saving yourself for your future spouse might not be popular today, it is highly important to God.

**3. Anointing attract favour and allay fear vs 28-30** The first anointed mother was Mary. She was a favoured mother (Luke 1:28). She was graciously accepted in being chosen and singled out from all other women, to be the mother of the Messiah. People often live in fear and when fear lives in us, as opposed to be a momentary reaction to something new, just as it happened to Mary, we become stressed worried and distorted. 1 Tim1:7-10 Fear can hinder progress, fear can destroy confidence, fear is the opposite of faith. Phil 4.6

**4. Anointing attracts many blessings vs 31-33; 35-37** We can identify 3 blessings from each of these verses. The anointing that you carry will yield abundant blessings in Jesus name. As you separate yourself and put your trust in Him you will not be disappointed because with God all things are possible.

**5. Mary, the anointed Woman was available, bold and obedient vs 38** Mary's focus was on availability and not on ability. "I am the Lord's servant...May your word to me be fulfilled," what an inspiration from Mary, the anointed Mother. Mary's example teaches that if we make ourselves available to God, He will use us.

**Conclusion** There are many anointed mothers in the Bible, but we have chosen Mary the anointed mother of Jesus. ***May we remember to have hearts that are submissive and obedient to God's will for our lives.***

Preacher: Pastor Faith Bakare



**Date:** 29 March 2020

**Topic:** Finding God in the midst of a chaotic world

**Text:** Psalm 46:1-11

### Introduction

The recent trend of coronavirus ravaging our world has changed the perspective of many people about life altogether. We now acknowledge that our wealth as a nation, powerful politicians, scientists, philosophers, thinkers, health practitioners and technology cannot solve all our problems. What is happening right now is not new. There are many examples in the Bible.

Psalm 46 encourages us to find God in the mist of chaos. There are five things that we need to recognise in this passage as we continue to search for answers on the current situation in our land.

**1. Recognise who God is in your life (verses 1, 7, 11):** (i) God is our refuge. (ii) God is our strength. (iii) God is our ever-present help in trouble. (iv) the Lord Almighty is with us. (v) the God of Jacob is our fortress. God is our source of help. Who is God in your life?

**2. Recognise the chaotic situation around you, but don't be afraid (verses 2-3):** The Psalmist used some powerful metaphors to describe the chaotic situation in verses 2-3. Though the earth gives way, the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging, we shall not be afraid. Humanly speaking, the situation is frightening, humbling and unimaginable. If God indeed is our refuge, strength, and help, then we have no logical reason to be afraid.

**3. Recognise the peaceful provision of God (verses 4-6):** There is evidence of peaceful provision of God in these verses. We can see a picture of abundance, constant provision, life-giving river, perfect peace and ultimate solution. Have you recognised the peaceful provisions that God has made available for you this season?

**4. Recognise what the Lord has done (verses 8-9):** The Psalmist recognised what the Lord has done, and this gave him reassurance. There are many examples in the Scripture on how God rescued the nation of Israel from different pandemics and chaotic situations in the past. Can you also reflect on how God rescued you from different challenging situations in the past?

**5. Recognise the voice of the Lord in the midst of chaos (verse 10):** Here the Psalmist recognised the voice of God in the midst of the chaotic situation around him. 'Be still, and know that I am God...' What voice are you hearing at the moment? Are you hearing the voice of God or the voice of the enemies promoting fear/claiming where is God in the midst of this crisis? Many people have mentioned coronavirus more times than they have mentioned the name of Jesus in the last two weeks. We should glorify God and not coronavirus. God is speaking to us in the midst of this.

**Conclusion:** Be reminded that Jesus is coming soon. If people are unable to cope with just one plague, then they will not be able to cope with the coming great tribulation under the anti-Christ's reign. The reason why you should accept Jesus as your Lord and personal saviour.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



**Date:** 5 April 2020

**Topic:** Hosanna in the highest heaven

**Text:** Mark 11:9-10



## Introduction

The story of the first Palm Sunday can be found in Matt 21:1–11, Mk 11:1–11, Lk 19:28–44 and Jn 12:12–19. About 2000 years ago the 1st Palm Sunday was celebrated. Our focus is on the attitude and public confession of the crowd when they saw Jesus on the donkey, what hosanna meant for them at that time and what it means to us today.

**1. Hosanna was a plea for salvation (Mark 11:9a).** Hosanna has its root in the Hebrew word “hoshi’a na,” meaning “save now” or “save us, we pray.” (Psalm 118:25). The Bible says, ‘Please Lord, save us. Please, Lord, give us success.’ It was a desperate cry to a higher authority who has the capacity to help or quickly intervene. The Jews cried out for salvation in the midst of the oppression by Roman government. Hosanna is also a cry for salvation today because we need God’s intervention.

**2. Hosanna was a shout of praise and adoration (Mark 11:9b, 10b).** Hosanna is also a proclamation of salvation with the heart of thanksgiving. (Psalm 118:26). There was a shift from concern to confidence. The Bible says, ‘blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’ It was a joyful celebration. What we thought was impossible, Yahweh has made it possible. This is also a season for us to celebrate and give thanks.

**3. Hosanna was a proclamation of a new era (Mark 11:10).** There was a shift from plea to an affirmative pronouncement of faith in the salvation that was to come. In other words, this is the beginning of a new era. Hosanna exemplifies man’s transition from pleading with God for action to thanking Him for having taken the action. Jesus’ action on the cross of Calvary ushered in a new era when He said ‘it is finished.’

**4. Hosanna was a shout in recognition of the Messiahship of Jesus (John 12:13).** The people saw Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem and captured the imagery of His Messiahship. They correctly called Jesus the King of Israel. Hosanna was the recognition of the Kingship of Jesus. Today, we must also declare the Lordship and Messiahship of Jesus over our lives.

**5. Hosanna was a contagious song (Matt 21:12-16).** Shouting hosanna started from an individual and then filled the whole of Jerusalem. It became so contagious that even the children joined and shouted hosanna. This song is contagious today. sing it joyfully and wholeheartedly, and others will join you.

**Conclusion:** Sing songs of praise to the triune God in the highest heavens; sing about the grace, goodness and faithfulness of God; appreciate God for giving us His one and only son, Jesus Christ. Shout hosanna! Let this cry fill the earth and reach the highest heavens.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



**Date:** 12 April 2020

**Topic:** The One who conquered death

**Text:** Isaiah 25:8



### **Introduction**

When sin entered into our world by the disobedience of Adam & Eve, death came with it. The result of sin is death. The Devil is the author of sin and death. The coming of Christ destroyed the Devil's works in the sense that death no longer holds the fear that it once had. In Jn 2: 18, 19 the Jews asked Jesus for a sign and He replied, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it". Jesus died and rose on the third day, never to die again. By this He truly conquered death. Jesus is alive forevermore, Rev 1:17–18.

**Life** John 10:10, Job 14:1; James 3:11

The saying is that 'life is good', but not everyone agrees. In life, there are good times but also pains, troubles, sicknesses, trials, disappointments, regrets and sorrows that are contrary to what is good and to remind us of death. Life's springs produce both sweet and bitter waters. Paul explains that the sting of death is sin and the strength of sin is the law. There are varieties of laws, rules, edicts, decrees or codes which when broken provide evidence of transgressions. The upholders of laws are also law breakers, 'he who is without sin let him throw the first stone'. How can humans truly enjoy living in the minefields of life? Only through Him who has conquered death do we have and enjoy fullness of life. Sometimes we are in voluntary or involuntary lock downs. By faith in Jesus Christ, we have been given power to become the children of God. We also find grace in Him to help in times of need.

**Death** Hebrews 9:27; John 19:38-42; 20:1-7; Acts 2:24

Death is a characteristic of all living things, plants and animals. In humans, the old, young, rich, poor, learned, skilled or unskilled, good or bad. all die. Whether buried in the ground, sea or cremated, death becomes a lockdown. Jesus, Son of God and Son of man also tasted death on the cross at Calvary. He was buried in a tomb but death could not hold Him captive. Christ conquered death by His resurrection. The key to His conquering death lies in the word "forevermore." Other people have died and been resurrected, but they all ended up dying again (Zarephath widow's son, 1 Kgs 17:17–24; Shunamite woman's son, 2 Kgs 4:32–37; Jairus' daughter Mk 5:39–43; Widow's son at Nain, Lk 7:11-17, Lazarus, Jn 11:38–44, Dorcas, Ac 9:36-42, Eutychus Ac 20:9).

Only Jesus was resurrected, never to die again, forevermore.

**Judgement** Hebrews 9:27, 28, John 3:14-16; Romans 8:1

God offers forgiveness of sin by grace, through faith. God's justice requires the penalty for sin to be paid with a blood sacrifice. Jesus Christ became the perfect and final sacrifice by His death on the cross. Just as Moses lifted up the bronze serpent in the wilderness for the healing of the serpent bitten Israelites, Jesus Christ has also been lifted up for Adam and Eve's descendants' sins. So that everyone who believes can have eternal life in Him.

**Conclusion** Neither death, nor life, nor any other creature can separate us from the love of Christ, Romans 8:38-39.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. Oni

**Date:** 19 April 2020

**Topic:** Weapons of spiritual warfare (Part 1)

**Text:** 2 Corinthians 10:4-6



## Introduction

Spiritual warfare is the Christian concept of fighting against the work of evil forces and household wickedness. Weapons of spiritual warfare are the means and methods we use to convert evil into good. Weapons of spiritual warfare are, in short, those behaviours we employ in the face of evil. Apostle Paul mentioned six things about the nature of the weapons of our spiritual warfare in this passage.

**1. Our weapons are not carnal (verse 4a).** This means that the weapons of our warfare are not of this world. They are not by human strength and strategy. The weapons of our spiritual warfare are not physical, temporal, natural or of the flesh. The battle we are fighting is not against flesh and blood, it is against powers, principalities and rulers in high places.

**2. Our weapons are mighty in God (verse 4b).** Our weapons are mighty in God because they possess great and impressive power or strength. The triune God is the source of the weapons of our spiritual warfare. The weapons of our spiritual warfare are superior because they are well rooted in God. They are prescribed by God. They are more sophisticated than the weapons of Satan, demons, powers and principalities.

**3. Our weapons are effective to pull down strongholds (verse 4b).** A stronghold can be defined as 'a place that has been fortified so as to protect it against attack.' Here we are talking about the strongholds of the enemies. Remember the story of the Israelites when they got to Jericho. The people of Jericho shut the gates of their fortified city, but by spiritual weapon their strongholds were pulled down. The weapon of your spiritual warfare can also bring down the wall of Jericho in your life.

**4. Our weapons are strong enough to cast down arguments against the knowledge of God (verse 5a).** The weapons of our spiritual warfare are strong enough to withstand human arguments and philosophies. The weapons of our spiritual warfare are strong enough to silent and cast down false doctrines, arrogant ideologies, wisdom of the world and anything anti-God.

**5. Our weapons are stronger than the human mind and imagination (verse 5b).** The weapons of our spiritual warfare can reveal the thoughts of human mind even before they come out as words or actions (cf. 2 Kings 6:12). There is nothing hidden that the weapons of our spiritual warfare cannot bring out.

**6. Our weapons are instruments of punishment (verse 6).** The weapons of our spiritual warfare bring judgement on Satan, demons, the ungodly, personal enemies and household wickedness.

**Conclusion** Now you understand the significance of the spiritual weapons that God has given to you. Feel free to deploy the weapons of spiritual warfare against all opposition by evil forces.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



**Date:** 26 April 2020

**Topic:** Weapons of spiritual warfare (Part 2)

**Text:** Ephesians 6:14-17



## Introduction

Generally, spiritual weapons are used for two purposes. First is for defensive warfare. Second, is for offensive warfare. Defensive warfare is a reference to the battle you fight to defend your territory. We must think back to reflect on what a Roman soldier looked like in the first century. Let us examine six defensive weapons for spiritual warfare:

**1. The weapon of truth (Eph. 6:14a).** The first defensive armour is the girdle or belt of truth. In spiritual warfare, the truth of God's word is the belt that all other pieces of our spiritual armour are attached. The first thing that Satan wants to attack in your life is the truth. This truth will protect you from the lies of the enemy, doctrinal errors and false beliefs.

**2. The weapon of righteousness (Eph. 6:14b).** In the real world of a first century Roman soldier, the breastplate covered the upper body of the warrior to protect his vital organs such as his heart, lungs, etc. In spiritual warfare, this breastplate of righteousness also protects our vital spiritual organs from attacks of Satan and every form of unrighteousness. The breastplate of righteousness here is a reference to the righteousness of Christ. You cannot stand before God on your own merit.

**3. The weapon of the gospel of peace (Eph. 6:15).** The battlefield may be on the water, air or ground. A soldier cannot advance successfully on the battlefield wearing the wrong shoes. In spiritual warfare, your feet must be 'fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.' This is an indication that you are ready to advance in the spiritual realm. The spiritual shoes protect your will from the temptation to follow the wrong paths and motivates you to spread the Gospel.

**4. The weapon of the shield of faith (Eph. 6:16).** The Roman soldier in the first century used his shield for protection of the entire body. In spiritual warfare, faith (firm trust and confidence in God) is our shield. This shield of faith enables you to overcome all the forces of darkness in the world (1 John 5:4).

**5. The weapon of renewed mind (Eph. 6:17a).** This helmet of salvation is a spiritual armour that you put on after you have accepted Jesus as Lord and personal saviour; after you have been enlisted in the Lord's army. It refers to a regenerated mind or a renewed thought life (Romans 12:2).

**6. The weapon of the word of God (Eph. 6:17b).** The sword of the Spirit (the word of God) is both a defensive and offensive weapon. Jesus used the Scripture as a weapon against the devil when He was tempted after 40 days of prayer and fasting (Matt. 4:1-11). You and I should be able to say to the devil or life challenges all the time that 'it is written.'

**Conclusion** Christians have stronger and better weapons for spiritual warfare. All these spiritual weapons will work for you when you use them, in Jesus name.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

**Date:** 3 May 2020

**Topic:** Weapons of spiritual warfare (Part 3)

**Text:** 2 Corinthians 10:4-6



## Introduction

In the real world, if you fight a battle with the right weapons or firepower, you have a great chance to win. But wrong weapons will lead to defeat. Therefore, knowing your offensive weapons can give you the ability to fight with purpose instead of uncertainty in spiritual warfare. Let us examine five among the offensive weapons that you can use in spiritual warfare.

**1. The weapon of praise (2 Chron. 20:22).** We can see from this passage that praise is a weapon. Jehoshaphat and the whole of Israel used this weapon and it worked for them. Whenever you are troubled in your heart or feel surrounded by the enemies, use the weapon of praise. Satanic forces cannot stand someone who is offering genuine praises to God. Paul and Silas also used the weapon of praise and it worked for them (Acts 16:16-40).

**2. The weapon of prayer and fasting (Eph. 6:18).** When you use the weapon of prayer and fasting to wage offensive warfare, you should not just pray for your own personal needs and problems but also intercede for people, leaders, and nations, pulling down strongholds of Satan and his demonic forces (Romans 12:12). Jesus laid a very good example for us about prayer throughout His earthly ministry by using this weapon (Luke 6:12). Therefore, you must pull down the strongholds of the enemies in your life, marriage, finances, church and nation through prayer.

**3. The weapon of the name of Jesus (Mark 16:17; Phil. 2:9-11).** Jesus gave us an assurance before He departed this world about the efficacy of His name. Jesus said, 'in my name you will cast out demons, heal the sick, and overcome all the power of the enemy' (Mark 16:17). Apostle Peter, Paul & John understood it and wrote extensively about the power of the name of Christ. They reminded us that no one can put the devil and demons under subjection without the name of Jesus (Philippians 2:9-11). The name of Jesus is a symbol of authority and power. The name of Jesus is so powerful that Satan, demons and household wickedness cannot withstand it.

**4. The weapon of the blood of Jesus (Rev. 12:11a).** Every time you use the blood of Jesus in a spiritual warfare, you are appealing to the finished works of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. The blood of Jesus is potent all the time (yesterday, today and in the future). There is victory, healing, deliverance, blessing, breakthrough in the blood of Jesus.

**5. The weapon of testimony (Rev. 12:11a & b).** As you testify to the power of God in your life, you are waging an offensive spiritual warfare. There is a guarantee that we can overcome through the words of our testimony. Are you confessing victory or defeat? Are you confessing deliverance or bondage?

**Conclusion** The essence of this message is to establish the fact that the weapons of our spiritual warfare are not carnal. You should use your spiritual weapons effectively.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



**Date:** 10 May 2020

**Topic:** The Authority of the Spoken Word

**Text:** Matt 8:5-34; 9:1-25;  
Matt 28:18; John 1:1-4

The words which  
I have spoken to  
you are **spirit**  
and are **life.** *John 6:63*

### **Introduction**

In Matthew, we are presented with case after case of events in which Jesus Christ demonstrated His authority, authority over disease, authority over nature, authority over demons, authority over sin and authority over death. The emphasis is on the power of the word of the Lord, Jesus Christ, that by His command He was able to accomplish all things. Our Lord and Saviour is humble, caring and compassionate, He deals with human needs at all levels. Jesus Christ responds willingly and personally to appeals that the afflicted make.

### **His authority over disease** Matt 8:5-16

The manifestations of Christ's power over disease is seen in the healing of the centurion's servant, the cleansing of the leper and the health restoration to Peter's mother-in-law. The Roman centurion understood the power of authoritative commands, and recognised that Jesus has that power to heal.

### **His authority over nature** Matt 8:23-27

The manifestations of Christ's power are beyond the realm of the physical. Jesus showed His authority over the elements by stilling the storm to the utter amazement of the disciples who thought they were going to perish, but they witnessed a great calm.

Jesus used five loaves and two fish to feed 5000 men besides women and children. Jesus has the power to change life's unfavourable circumstances.

### **His authority over demons** Matt 8: 28-34; 8:18

Jesus showed His authority over the spirit world by casting out demons. At the country of the Gergesenes, the devils besought Him, And He said unto them, Go. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters. Jesus has the power to deliver from all demonic oppression. He cast out the spirits with His word, and healed all.

### **His authority over sin** Matt 9:1-7

Jesus showed His authority over sin by healing the paralytic man.

Jesus seeing their faith said son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. And to silence the doubters about the power to forgive sins, then He said, Arise, take up your bed, and go unto your house. And he arose, and departed to his house. Jesus has the power to save from sin and all its consequences.

### **His authority over death** Matt 9: 18-25

The manifestations of Christ's power over death and other hopeless cases is seen in the raising to life of Jairus' daughter. Jesus healed the woman diseased with an issue of blood for 12 years. Jesus touched blind men's eyes and their eyes were opened. He has authority over death and other hopeless cases. Jesus said with authority the things that would be fulfilled after death or in future.

**Conclusion:** Jesus spoke words of authority. We must demonstrate this authority of the spoken word in life and all its challenges.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. Oni

**Date:** 17 May 2020

**Topic:** The God of Hope

**Text:** Micah 2:13



### Introduction

We serve a God of restoration and Hope. The God of hope restored Adam and Eve when they disobeyed Him and fell. They were put out of the garden of Eden (Gen. 3). The God of hope worked again in the life of Cain; He gave grace to protect him (Gen. 4). The God of hope and love does not reject us (Gen. 12). God made covenants with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and God promised them redemption (Gen. 17). God also made a covenant with Moses and Joshua (Exo. 19). God made a covenant with David and his descendants to walk upright before Him that they may receive His blessings (2 Sam. 7). God made a way even after the captivity and deportation of Israelites to exile.

**Who is Micah?** He was God's prophet called to warn His people. God is also warning us today. Micah warned Israel/Judah about invasions by the Assyrians and Babylonians. God is a God of hope, every time He gave a warning, He also gave His people hope to gather, protect and shepherd but the Israelites did not listen. God wants us to be at peace with Him and wants our souls to prosper but our sins are always the barrier to His blessings.

**How would they come out of trouble?** (Micah 2:13) The Breaker will come and lead them out. Once you know the revelation of God before any evil happens, you know there is hope for you. The Breaker will make a way whether you are in the valley or on top of the mountain. The Breaker made a way in the Red sea. provided manna and water for the Israelites in the wilderness. The Breaker was the healer when serpents bit them, He broke out water from the rock. The Breaker will come to break barriers.

**What were the barriers in Micah's time?** (i) Sin – injustice, greed and jealousy (Micah 1:5) (ii) The false prophets – every time Micah warned them, false prophets came and preached false grace and mercies to deceive them. (iii) The evil leadership (iv) Assyrian and Babylonians forces, these barriers prevented breakthrough. We must not allow barriers in our lives and ministry. God is the Breaker. The devil is no longer outside the Church, he is in the Church, in the choir, on the pulpit giving false teachings and we must not allow it. The Church is divided today and pastors have become brand names. The Church is to provoke Israel to jealousy. The Church must follow and teach Jesus Christ only. The Breaker's objective is to sacrifice Himself so that others may come in.

**Who is the Breaker?** Micah told us that He will be born in Bethlehem Judah (house of bread). He came as a lamb though He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah. Jesus revealed Himself (John 2:19). Jesus' ministry is revealed (Isaiah9:6-7). The Breaker is introduced to us as King (Luke 1:30-33). The Breaker is Jesus Christ. No matter what is coming against you Jesus Christ is the Breaker.

**Conclusion:** God is looking to us to speak the truth no matter what. The Breaker, Jesus is coming again to rapture His Church. We must be a Micah today, warning about His second coming.

Guest Preacher: Bishop Dr. Patrick Mubobo



**Date:** 24 May 2020

**Topic:** Mental Health Q & A Seminar

**Introduction**

Mental health (depression, anxiety, etc.) is the sickness of the mind and physical health (diabetes, blood pressure, etc.) is the sickness of the body. We need to seek professional help for both our mental and physical health.

**Q:** How can we distinguish between mental and spiritual attack?

**A:** By the symptom's sufferers manifest.

**Q:** Please give Biblical examples of those with mental illnesses?

**A:** Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4), King Saul (1 Samuel 18), Elijah (1 Kings 19:4), Man of Gadara (Luke 8:26-39), Jonah (Jonah 2), Job (Job 3), Judas (Matt 26, 27), etc.

**Q:** Loneliness, unanswered prayers, lack etc. can lead to mental health issues, how can we cope when others are succeeding? (i.e. how can we cope in the midst of others success stories?).

**A:** **Loneliness** is a slow killer and the best way to combat it is by being accountable to trusted people and express one's feelings/concerns to them. **Unanswered prayers** we have to trust God and keep busy with meaningful things. Anything we **lack** is not the end of life. To cope with **others successes** is simply to be content with one's success. **Scriptural Perspective:** Humans are relational beings and need to work with others. God hears the prayers of all believers, He may say yes, no or not yet, wait (Matt 6:8). It is God who grants us good success and assures us of being more than conquerors (Rom 8:37). God assigns roles to believers and gives the increase, growth and success (1 Corinthians 4:7).

**Q:** Crisis, challenges, guilt, disappointments, social isolation etc. can lead to mental health issues, how can we cope in time of crisis?

**A:** **Crisis:** The best way to is simply to evaluate each situation and process them thoroughly. **Guilt:** Some people are guilty genuinely; some feel guilty for no good reason the issues can be addressed in therapy. **Social isolation** is when a person/group/culture cut off from social networks and it leads to loneliness and other issues. **Scriptural Perspective:** Christians are not immune against crisis, challenges, disappointments and failures. What differentiates believers in difficult circumstances is that God is with us at all times (1 Corinthians 10:13). Greater is the One that is in us (1 John 4:4).

**Q:** Why do people commit suicide in Churches?

**A:** When we allow unconfessed sins and guilt in our lives. You can lose your mental health which can lead to suicide. You must go back to God and trusted leaders of the Church (James 5:16).

**Q:** Can someone that work with people with mental illness contract the illness?

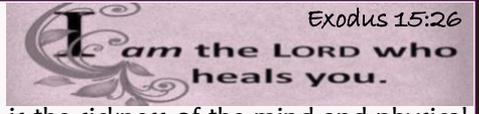
**A:** No as it is not contractable but sometimes yes if they ascribe it to themselves.

**Scriptural Perspective:** No, it is not contagious.

**Q:** How can I help a family member or friends who show symptoms of mental illness?

**A:** Talk to them and never judge them. Assist them to seek professional help. Refer them to the Pastor/Church leadership who will pray for them and offer them good advice (James 5:14).

Facilitators: Sister A. Ojemen & Rev. A. Oni



**Date:** 31 May 2020

**Topic:** Prayer an inevitable solution in a time like this

**Text:** James 5:13-16

**Introduction:**

Prayer is communicating with God. God speaks to us through His word and we respond by prayers and obedience. A relationship that does not communicate is dead. God told Jeremiah that He is the God of all mankind and He will answer our prayers if we call onto Him (Jeremiah 32:27; 33:3). Man's extremity is God's opportunity. What is unsearchable to man is at God's fingertips (Phil 4:6,7), nothing is difficult for God to do. We are in a COVID-19 pandemic world today; national leaders and medical practitioners of countries are looking for solution. We are grateful for all their efforts but only God can replace the pandemic with peace. How? By prayer. Prayer is the inevitable solution at this time. There is lockdown, fear, death, grief and sorrow everywhere but God will definitely help us if we call on Him. The epidemic does not discriminate between rich, poor or race or gender. Prayers should be sought for two categories of people:

The **troubled** people who are worried, anxious, distressed and the **sick**, those that are unhealthy, helpless, suffering and weak (James 5: 13-16). Prayers offered in faith are needed in today's situations and challenges; little prayer is little faith and big prayer is mighty faith (John 14:12-14). Prayer is the solution to the lockdown of today. For those that are sick, the prayer of the faithful will make them well.

**How should we pray?**

**Pray in the name of Jesus:** Intercessory prayers by leaders in the name of the Lord Jesus will make the sick well (Matt 18:18-20). You can do nothing without Jesus Christ our redeemer.

**Prayer must be offered in faith:** Faith is trusting God for the impossible and believing that you have an answer to your requests (Hebrews 11:1,6). Prayer of faith will make the sick person well. Their sins will also be forgiven by faith when confessed. If sin is not dealt with, there can be no healing. (2 Chronicles 7: 13-14).

**Anoint with oil:** Oil is used to bless, sanctify and bound wounds (Isaiah 61:3; Lk 10:34). Physicians care but the Lord cures. Jesus' disciples anointed the sick with oil and healed them (Mark 6:13). Elders must anoint with oil along with prayers in the name of Jesus.

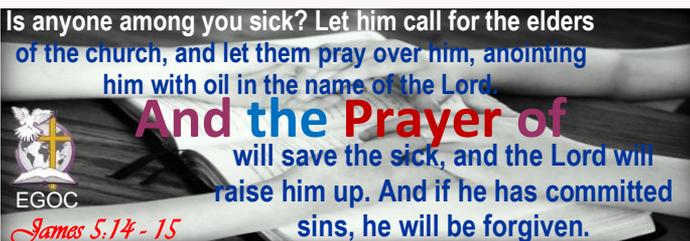
**Conclusion:** Advisory efforts like social distancing, facial masks, hand gloves, washing of hands with soap and shielding are vital for COVID-19 prevention but this will not amount to anything if we neglect to seek the face of God in prayer. We pray that the Lord will have mercy on us and heal us in Jesus name.

Guest Preacher: Revd. (Dr.) M. D. Adeboye

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.

**And the Prayer of**  
will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

EGOC  
*James 5:14-15*




**Date:** 7 June 2020

**Topic:** Breaking the barriers and limitations in your life

**Text:** Micah 2:12-13



### Introduction

The book of Micah is an interesting book. Micah means 'who is like the Lord?' He prophesied to the people of Israel and Judah during the 8th century BC. Micah challenged the political and spiritual leaders of that time for their wickedness and oppression of God's people. He pronounced God's judgement over their lives because they refused to repent. Micah gave a message of hope to God's people in the midst of that crisis (Micah 2:12-13). This is the same message that God is giving to you today. Are you being oppressed by wicked political leaders? Are you being suppressed by wicked spiritual leaders? Are you being tied down by other forms of limitations? Let us examine four steps to breaking the barriers and limitations in your life.

**Step 1. Believe and rely on God's promise of restoration (Micah 2:12a).** The personal pronoun 'I' appeared three times in this part of the verse. The word 'surely or certainly' also appeared twice. The one that is speaking here is Yahweh. These are direct words from God. The mouth of the Lord has spoken, please believe it. Whenever God says He will do something, He will surely do it. Can you think about some of the promises of God about your life, family, finances, health, your church and this nation?

**Step 2. Make a loud noise to the Lord (Micah 2:12b).** In my view, the loud noise you are expected to make can be summarised into two categories: First, make a loud noise by asking God for help in times of challenges. This is about fervent prayers when the problem still persists. This is about inviting God to break the barriers and limitations. Second, make a loud noise of praise during and after the challenge. This is about praising God in advance for your miracle and praising God after you have received the miracle. Therefore, prepare to celebrate your victory.

**Step 3. Allow the Lord to go before you (Micah 2:13a).** Our Lord Jesus Christ is the breaker. He is the bondage breaker and removal of limits. You should allow the mighty warrior in battle to lead you out to that battle in your life. You should allow the Lord to lead the procession in your march to victory. This is about being still before the Lord. It is about handing over all your battles to the Lord. Let the Lord go before, behind and beside you wherever you go.

**Step 4. Take a radical step of faith (Micah 2:13bc).** Breaking out through the gate means following the right path to freedom. It is about getting your solution in a legitimate way. God has accomplished the most difficult aspect of the battle by sending His son Jesus Christ to die on the cross of Calvary. All you need to do now is to walk into your victory, freedom and solution.

**Conclusion:** Arise and break the barriers in your life by relying on God's promise of restoration. Through prayer and praise, take a radical step of faith and allow the Lord to go before you in all your endeavours.

**Date:** 14 June 2020

**Topic: Health Seminar: Medical Awareness on COVID-19**

**Why are we here?** To discuss about COVID-19. COVID is a disease spectrum caused by a virus. Viruses can do nothing on their own but they need a host and once the host is found they attack the DNA and RNA of their host and then they mutate and multiply. The virus is called Corona because of its crown-like shape.

**How did it get here?** Their origins can be traced to animals. It then targets human beings more potently than other animal species. The virus attacks human body immune systems (our bodies' soldiers). The spread of infection is driven by human-to-human transmission.

**Why is it important to us?** To enlighten us on prevention and offer recommendations on personal hygiene, healthy lifestyles and diet.

**How does it spread?** It attacks the lungs and brings the cells down. When the infected person talks, sneezes or coughs the virus is passed on through the excretion of liquid respiratory droplets.

**What are the signs and symptoms?** Fever, continuous cough, high temperature, fatigue, shortness of breath, loss of smell and taste.

**Treatment:** Viruses does not have treatment. Scientist are trying to find a treatment.

**How can we prevent ourselves from getting it?** Wash your hands, clean your mobile phone. **Masks and gloves, what is the use?** Use your gloves and dispose of it. The masks should not be reused nor removed from the face and be pulled up and down.

**How do we move on from here?** Update yourself by using reliable websites like the WHO and Public Health England websites. Follow the government advice on social Isolation, social distancing, shielding and tack & trace.

**Effect of COVID-19:** It is affecting us in different forms- physically, emotionally, spiritually, financially, professionally etc. However, there are opportunities. Look after yourself, eat well – the more colourful your plate is the better. Enjoy the sun which is a good source of Vitamin D. Eat a lot of mushrooms & sardines!

**The assurances of God** – 2 Thessalonians 3:3; Deuteronomy 31:6; Isaiah 41:10; Proverbs 2:11. God will watch over us.

**Conclusion:** We have a responsibility to take care of ourselves and others. Help others, check on them and share what we have.

**Questions and Answers:**

**Q** How long does the virus survive on surfaces?

**A** Science says they survive on surfaces for a day or 2.

**Q** If we receive the letter for random testing, should we honour the invitation?

**A** Yes.

**Q** It is reported that COVID is affecting BAME people more than others, why?

**A** The research is ongoing. My personal opinion is that some of us are guilty because we are not going for health checks and we self-medicate a lot. A lot of BAME people missed the letter for shielding because our GPs (if we have one) have no record of our underlying health conditions. We must also eat well and as Christians we must pray and trust God for our health.

Facilitator: Sister Yemi



WE HAVE THIS HOPE  
AS AN ANCHOR  
FOR THE SOUL.  
FIRM AND SECURE.  
Hebrews 6:19



**Date:** 21 June 2020

**Topic:** What manner of man is this?

**Text:** Mark 4:35-41



### Introduction

Terms like "the sea", "waters," and occasionally "a river" in the Bible are used symbolically (Psalm 18:16-17;69:14; Isaiah 8:7). The “**sea**” connoted chaotic and life-threatening powers (Van Gemeren). Israel, knew that the Lord created everything and established His rule over the ‘roaring’ seas and their waves.” In spite of the great strength of the waves of the sea, God can and does **still the noise of the seas and the noise of their waves.**

**Jesus was in the tempest-tossed boat:** Jesus Christ was in the boat with His disciples, sleeping! Just as the disciples found themselves in the midst of this terrible storm, Christians often face various stormy trials and tribulations in life. The purpose for prophet Jonah’s storm was to bring him back to the LORD; apostle Paul’s storm was to provide witnessing opportunities and this particular storm was to build the disciples’ faith. The storm brought anxiety, "Master, Master, we are perishing!". Likewise, the various storms that we face in life have the potential of causing anxiety/distress.

**Apostle Paul in his own storm:** Paul had a perilous journey by ship on his way to Rome (Acts 27:20-26). He had learned through the many experiences of his life that God can be trusted. Jesus said, “I am with you always, even to the end of the age (Matt. 28:20)”. It means that God’s watchful eye and active care is present even in the kind of calamity Paul found himself. His confident word to the troubled sailors on a storm-tossed ship express the essence of what it means to put our faith in God and His Word.

**Old Testament Connections:** From the passages of the OT, it is clear that YHWH is the only One who controls the elements of nature by His powerful Word (Gen. 1:6-8; Job 8:8-11; Psalm 93). So, in the Old Testament God alone has the authority to command and control nature, especially the chaotic element of nature like this huge storm in Psalm 29.

**Jesus made the wind and the waves stop:** Rebuking the raging sea and saving those on the boat forges a theological connection between Christ Jesus and the mighty acts of YHWH in the OT. The disciples put it well: “**What manner of Man is this?**” The disciples knew Jesus well enough to turn to Him for help (Matthew 8:25, “Lord, save us!”).

**They were afraid:** Why were Jesus' disciples so wiggled out when He stilled the sea and now seem to be perplexed about their master's identity? When Jesus woke up, He asks them why they are being so ‘*deilos*’, so fearful, so cowardly. When He had commanded the storm to be silent, they are ‘*fovos*’, they are awestruck. Being filled with fear is a fitting response, as is marveling (Matthew 8:27). Their Christ Jesus is YHWH Himself, the One who still the seas.

**Conclusion:** YHWH alone has the ability to tread upon the storms of our lives and repress them (Psalm 65:7; 89:9;93:3-4). The storm still subsides at His command, and the sea is stilled at His Word.

Guest Speaker: Pastor Emmanuel Ofori

**Date:** 28 June 2020

**Topic:** The vanity of life under the sun (Part 1)

**Text:** Ecclesiastes 1:1-11



## Introduction

We lost a family friend recently and I attended the burial ceremony. Since then, I have continued to ask myself what is the true meaning of life? I suddenly remembered that this was the same question that preoccupied the mind of the writer of Ecclesiastes some thousands of years before now. There are two important clues from verses 1 and 2. There is clear information about the author and his main message of the book. Let us look at the vanity of life under the sun, as we examine five reflective questions from this passage.

**Question 1. What do people gain from all their labours under the sun? (verse 3).** This rhetorical but genuine question is something for us to reflect about critically. We all work hard every day toiling throughout our human existence under the sun. At the end of it all what is the gain for the hard worker? This is a reflective question that we must answer individually.

**Question 2. What pattern can you see about humans under the sun? (verses 4, 11).** The writer of Ecclesiastes observed a pattern under the sun. One generation passes away, and the next takes over. He observed that life continues. Those who used different means to perpetuate their influence on earth are suddenly forgotten. We should always remember that we were not created to last forever under the sun. Our generation came and our generation will go one day.

**Question 3. What pattern can you see about the natural world under the sun? (verses 5-7).** The writer of Ecclesiastes also reported his observations of the natural world under the sun. The first observation was about the sun rising and setting. The second observation was about the winds moving from the south back to the north. The third observation was about the rivers running into the sea and sea supplying water to the river. It is constant. The implication of all these is that God is speaking to us every day about his existence, omnipotence and omniscience.

**Question 4. Can humans ever be satisfied under the sun? (verse 8).** Humans can never be satisfied under the sun. They want more of whatever comes their way. The implication is that without God, we can never find satisfaction under the sun.

**Question 5. Is anything really new under the sun? (verses 9-10).** The writer of Ecclesiastes observed that nothing is really new under the sun. We are only rebranding, recycling and repackaging. In other words, whatever you are doing now, someone has done it before.

**Conclusion:** The more we think about life, the more we realise that we don't have all the power or the answers. The more we think about life, the more we realise that we are limited. May we be conscious of all that we are doing under the sun in Jesus name.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



**Date:** 5 July 2020

**Topic:** Open my eyes, Oh Lord

**Text:** Jeremiah 33:3



And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see." 2 Kings 6:17

### Introduction

God gave Prophet Jeremiah revelation insight which is essential for a victorious spiritual warfare. To get the positive results we want in prayer, we must understand God and His Word. This will enable us to pray effectively and understand what we are dealing with in the spiritual realm.

**Example of Elisha and his servant (2 Kings 6:15-17):** Elisha had revelation knowledge of the King of Syria's movements without leaving the comfort of his home. When they were surrounded by the Syrian soldiers and his servant was afraid, he asked the Lord to open his servant's eyes. When Elisha's servant eyes were open, he had no more reason to be afraid because he was able to see the invisible. Elisha prayed and the answer came immediately.

**There are different types of rain:** A small rain will only wet the ground but a powerful rain will produce flood. A small prayer will produce a small result but for a prayer rain, we need revelation knowledge and prayers that will move mountains. With revelation knowledge, our prayers are more effective. Intensive and persistent prayers will produce powerful results (Luke 18:1; Colossians 4:2). We must labour in prayer; prayer is hard work that is why we always teach it. Prayer is the key to discover what is going on in the realm of the spirit (2 Ki 6:17). We must see the invisible to believe the impossible. When our eyes are opened, heaven will respond with immediate effect. We must see the invisible to receive our miracles. Seeing into the invisible and into the dimension of the spirit is your key to victorious prayers and you will enjoy what the Lord has in store for you (Matthew 7:7; Hebrews 5:7).

**Conclusion:** We must exhibit godliness and righteousness in our lives (James 5:16). We must be clean to offer prayers that will be answered. Our eyes will be opened to see the invisible.

**Prayer points:** Pray that as you offer prayers your answer will come immediately; Heaven will respond to your prayers immediately.

Pray that God will open your eyes so you can see into the dimension of the spirit. Pray that God will reveal to you the things of the past so you will be able to pray for the things of the present.

Pray that the promises of God will come to pass in your life.

Pray that there will be heavenly intervention for the best in all matters pertaining to our lives.

Pray that God will intervene in the situation you are facing now.

Pray that what looks like a victory for the devil will become a triumph and testimony for you.

Pray that in this second part of the year, there will be divine revelation into things previously hidden and unknown to you.

Pray that God will reveal Himself to you as He did for Jeremiah, you will call and the Lord will answer you speedily. Pray that your miracle will not be delayed.

Guest Preacher: Pastor (Dr.) Sam Akande

**Date:** 12 July 2020

**Topic:** The Father's Counsel

**Text:** Proverbs 3:11,12; Hebrews 12:5-11

**DISCIPLINE**

Hebrews 12:11

*Yields the Peaceable  
Fruit of righteousness*

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN TRAINED BY IT.

## Introduction

This is one of the many 'My Son' counsels in the scriptures from a loving, caring and concerned father. It is an exhortation that speaks to us as God's children (Heb. 12:5). We are made to understand a father's love for his child in that, if a son asks for bread or a fish, the father will not give him a stone or a snake (Luke 11:11). God loves us so much that He will not leave us alone to our own devices. He will chastise and correct His children because He really loves them and delights in them. God's reproof includes instruction, correction and discipline which will prevent us from doing wrong things and will train us to do right thing.

**Chastisement** (Prov. 3:11a; Heb. 12:5-8): Do not despise the God's discipline. Chastisement is not the wrath or judgement of God. The fundamental meaning of the word 'chastise' is to train. It is the training through which a child is put to higher levels of characters, to the best conditions of usefulness, to strengthen our faith. Despise not - Either by making light of it, or not being duly affected with it; or by accounting it an unnecessary thing; but rather esteem it a privilege and favour from God. Chastening is a mark of sonship. If we endure it or accept it God deals with us as children who have accepted His instructions and counsels. If we despise it then we are not God's children but bastards. **Examples:** Jesus chastised His disciples in Matt 8:26; 14:31; 18:3; John 21:15; Mark 10:40; Luke 9:54. For parents, when there is no love, there is usually little or no discipline, and the consequences are tragic or disastrous.

**Correction** (Prov. 3:11b; Heb. 12:9): Do not resent God's rebuke. We all like to be right, but are not always right because we do not have all knowledge. And to have someone correct us can make us feel uncomfortable and even angry. Weary - Neither think it tedious or hard, but endure it with patience and cheerfulness. We have had our earthly fathers correct us and we still give them reverence, even though sometimes our earthly fathers make erroneous judgements of events. How much more our Heavenly Father of spirits who can see our inner minds and motives who does not make mistakes. Corrections will not do God's children any hurt, rather by the grace of God, they will promote their holiness. Bible heroes were corrected Abraham, Moses, Jacob, etc.

**Compliment** (Prov. 3:12; Heb. 12:10,11): The father corrects the son whom he loves, because he loves him, and desires that he may be wise and good. God chastises and corrects us for our profit and good that we may be partakers of His holiness. God does not expect His children to like or enjoy His - 1. Rebuke, 2. Punishment, 3. Discipline, or 4. Correction because they may be painful. God expects His children to be totally submissive, accept and learn lessons for all these. Proverbs 13:24.

**Conclusion:** Chastisements and corrections from God our Heavenly Father will not do God's children any hurt, rather, by the grace of God, they will promote their holiness.

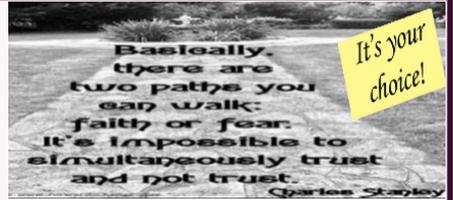
Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. Oni



**Date:** 19 July 2020

**Topic:** Faith or Fear

**Text:** Numbers 13:16-30



### Introduction

I have observed that after the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, people are afraid to physically attend church services. The twelve chosen from each tribe of Israel gave Moses & Aaron and the Israelites an accurate account of what happened during their 40 days of exploring the land of Canaan. They even came with evidence of the fruit from the land. Ten of them however based their assessment on the people of Canaan. They chose fear and not faith and their collapsed faith sowed the seed of rebellion in the people of Israel. This set them up for destruction.

**Who are we?** (1 Pet 2:9) If you know who you are, you will always give an accurate assessment and be guided by the Holy Spirit to make a good conclusion. We must not forget who we are if we are to please the Lord. We are people of faith, a chosen people of God, set apart as a holy nation and royal priesthood.

**The wrong assessment** When we forget who we are, we subject ourselves to fear. The ten Israelites wrong assessment based on the people of the land physical appearances, their nature, cities and weapons resulted in fear, then their destruction. This Israelites generation wandered in the wilderness for 40 years and never reached the promised land.

**The right assessment** (1 John 4:16) Caleb and Joshua on the other hand made a right assessment of the situation by faith and were rewarded. They knew who their God is and their report was different. They saw the giants like the other ten but knew God is greater! The ten forgot the God that brought them out of Egypt with mighty hands. The people who give in to fear became grasshoppers, the people of faith became giants. Caleb confessed their defence is God and God is with them. Faith or Fear? When fear sets in, we forget who we are and we give in to the demands of the enemy. Faith is not the absence of logic but the assessment that God is in charge therefore we will not fear. Faith is the trust in God who is bigger and greater than situations and circumstances.

**Why choose faith?** The love of God in our heart and knowledge of the plans that He has for us will make our actions to be different from those who are ruled by fear (1John 4:18; Jer. 29:11). David chose faith over fear (1 Sam. 17:42-45), when he affirmed that he will defeat Goliath in the name of the Lord. Choosing faith pleases the Lord and He will fight our battles for us and give us victory. God's ultimate plan for His chosen people is to take them to the promised land. Do not miss heaven by choosing fear. Faith is the path that leads to the promised land. Do not allow fear to truncate your blessings. Is your faith strong enough to stand and believe that God is able? Are you ready for the coming of the Lord?

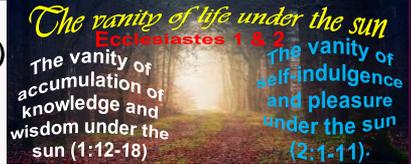
**Conclusion:** (Hebrews 11) Our faith must rule over fear. We must choose faith over fear to become giants and not grasshoppers. In this time of COVID-19, choose faith, believe the Word of God and do not fear.

Guest Preacher: Rev. J. O. Ibidokun

**Date:** 26 July 2020

**Topic:** The vanity of life under the sun (Part 2)

**Text:** Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:26



### Introduction

The Hebrew word 'Hebel' is the most common keyword in the book of Ecclesiastes. Biblical scholars have struggled to grapple with the ambiguity of this word and the history of its interpretation. They have translated it as transitory, breath, emptiness and vanity, enigma and mystery. In the passage before us we can see four important vanities about life under the sun.

1. **The vanity of accumulation of knowledge and wisdom under the sun (Eccl. 1:12-18).** The writer claimed to be king over Israel in Jerusalem. He claimed that he became the most knowledgeable and wisest man in Israel. His conclusion in verse 17 is powerful: 'And I applied my heart to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is but a striving after wind'. This imagery of humans chasing after the wind infers futile efforts.

2. **The vanity of self-indulgence and pleasure under the sun (Eccl. 2:1-11).** The writer also turned to pleasure and enjoyed himself to the maximum level. He called on jesters and comedians to make him laugh. He indulged himself with wine and assorted drinks. He indulged himself with all sorts of women. In verse 10, he acknowledged he got whatever his eyes desired. He pursued pleasure and found it. He came to the same conclusion in verse 11: 'Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.'

3. **The vanity of living wisely under the sun (Eccl. 2:12-17).** The writer of Ecclesiastes then turned to living wisely. He was able to recognise the difference madness and folly. He was so satisfied that he put in place a record that those who would come after him as king cannot break. He discovered that there is more gain in wisdom than in folly and there is more gain in light than in darkness. Suddenly, he realised that what happens to the fool will also happen to him. The fool and the wise will die and be forgotten after some time. He became so frustrated and came to the same conclusion in verse 17: 'So I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me, for all is vanity and a striving after wind'.

4. **The vanity of toil and hard work under the sun (Eccl. 2:18-23).** The writer of Ecclesiastes became so frustrated that he could not get the answer he was looking for. He suddenly realised that he was not in charge of anything including all that he has gathered through his toil under the sun. So, he gave in to despair and hopelessness about life all together. He came to the same conclusion that this also is vanity.

**Conclusion:** (Eccl. 2:24-26). The writer of Ecclesiastes upon his reflections concluded that there is nothing better for a person than to eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. He claimed that being able to do this is also by God's will and power.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



**Date:** 2 August 2020

**Topic:** Let your light shine

**Text:** Matthew 5:14-16



## Introduction

Christianity is first and foremost to become before doing. Jesus is interested in who we become before what we do. Humans are products of what they are, by their fruits you shall know them. A goat can never become a man, the best it can become is a better or reformed goat (Acts 1:8; Matt 5:14-16). Until you have become what Christ wants you to be, you cannot produce good works. Therefore, what we become in Christ is far more important. He gives us the power not to do but to become (Jn 1:12). A believer becomes far more productive when he becomes transformed by God. Jesus began His ministry by transforming the lives of people and bringing them into personal relationship with God. We must understand the purpose of God which is about Jesus Christ and not about us. We must follow suit and follow His ordinances. That is when the Church can make impact in this world. Knowing who we are i.e. self-realisation defines what we can do. If you are not a pilot, you cannot fly a plane. If you are not a believer, there are places you cannot reach.

**Light: Believers identification and responsibilities** (Matthew 5:14-16) Three things happen when we talk about light – (1) It makes clear and reveals things that are hidden (Genesis 1:1-3). The Hebrew word 'ORE' used here is the same as the Greek word 'PHOS' used in Matt. 5:14-16. Darkness represents sin and all manner of evil - the absence of God. The presence of light brings revelation of the mind, beauty and benevolence of God. That is why our light must shine.

(2) It guarantees direction. Where is the Church in times like this? With light, the Church will know the direction, what to say and what to do. The Church must produce solutions (Acts 12:7).

(3) It frees from all encumbrances, helps make accurate and timely decisions. It engenders speed. Jesus Christ is the source of light (John 8:12; 1 John 1:5).

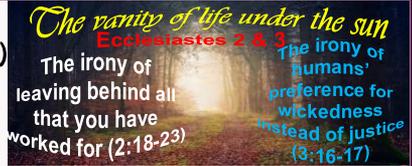
**How can we make our light shine?** It is the work of faith that makes the light of God shine through us. We can make our impact felt in Christ: (1) We must become Christ witness (Acts 1:8). We must exhibit and transmit God's grace, power, light, benevolence and faith onto the whole world. We must live like Christ and behave like Him. (2) We must render a quality service wherever we go (Matt 5:16). We are representatives of Christ. (3) We must live an exemplary family life (Gen 18:19). (4) We must be generous givers. We must generously give our time, resources and services to the Lord (Acts 9:42). (5) We must be kingdom minded (Jn 4:34; 5:17; 17:4). All Christians are on full time ministry work. Do the work of the Lord while it is yet day (Jn 9:4). Our minds must be set on things above, where Christ is seated on the right hand of God and not on earthly things.

**Conclusion:** (Romans 3:2). The connection the moon has with the sun is what makes it shine. Jesus Christ is the source of the kingdom light; we have to be connected to Him to shine.

Date: 9 August 2020

Topic: The vanity of life under the sun (Part 3)

Text: Ecclesiastes 2:18-3:22



## Introduction

We want to examine the ironies of life under the sun. The Cambridge Dictionary defines an irony 'a state of affairs or an event that seems deliberately contrary to what one expects and is often wryly amusing as a result.' There are five ironies about life under the sun in this passage.

### 1. The irony of leaving behind all that you have worked for (Ecclesiastes 2:18-23).

There is frustration here because of the harsh reality of what will happen after him. He observed the lives of people who died and what happened to their wealth and estate. They toiled and worked very hard throughout their lifetime to gather wealth. They left everything to the next generation who have no clue on the hard work and toil of the one who departed. It is an irony.

### 2. The irony of a fixed time for everything under the sun (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8).

The Bible confirms that there is a fixed time and season for everything under the sun. There is a time to be born and there is a time to die. There is a time to start and a time to finish. The time allotted to us under the sun is short. This is the irony.

### 3. The irony of the burden that God has laid on human's heart (Ecclesiastes 3:9-15).

The writer observed that human activities are unprofitable under the sun. He noticed that this is the God-given task. We pursue everything within our range, yet we are not satisfied. Another thing is that humans do not know the right time and season despite their level of intelligence. No amount of effort can change the time that God had determined.

### 4. The irony of humans' preference for wickedness instead of justice (Ecclesiastes 3:16-17).

It is noticed here that even though God has given us conscience, the Bible, and the Holy Spirit; injustice still continues to prevail over justice under the sun. Humans want to be deceived and they are deceived. It is an irony that humans tend to embrace evil instead of righteousness (John 3:19).

### 5. The irony of humans returning to the dust where they came from (Ecclesiastes 3:18-22).

The observation here is that both animals and humans return to the same place when they die. The fact that this precious body that we esteem and pamper so much will become dust one day is an irony. The fact that the bodies of the rich and powerful of the world will become dust one day just like the bodies of the poor and commoners is an irony.

**Conclusion:** Alexander the Great when he got to the stage of near-death experience made three wishes. First, that his physicians alone should carry his coffin as a reminder that the best doctors are powerless and cannot cure you at the point of death. Second, they should scatter the path leading to his graveyard with the gold, silver, and precious stones that he had collected to tell people that not even a fraction of gold will come with him. Third, his both hands should be kept dangling out of his coffin as a reminder that he came empty handed into this world and departed empty handed. This is a lesson for us today.

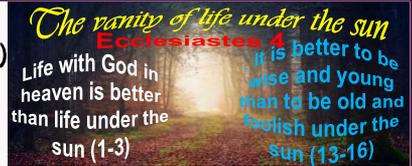
Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 16 August 2020

Topic: The vanity of life under the sun (Part 4)

Text: Ecclesiastes 4:1-16



## Introduction

There are many 'better than' sayings in the book of Ecclesiastes. Let us consider the six things that are better under the sun as highlighted in this passage.

1. **Life with God in heaven is better than life under the sun (verses 1-3).** The writer observed that there are lots of oppression and evil under the sun. He saw the tears of the oppressed and the fact that they have no comforter. He concluded that those who are dead are better than those who are still living. Apostle Paul echoed the same view after his conversion when he said, 'for to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain' (Philippians 1:21).

2. **It is better to support people than to envy them under the sun (verse 4).** In my view, one of the most dangerous people on earth are those who envy you. They may pretend to be your friend, but their ultimate desire is to see your downfall. As Jerry Bridges rightly notes, 'the cure for the sin of envy and jealousy is to find our contentment in God.'

3. **A handful with quietness is better than both hands full with toil under the sun (verses 5-6).** That is, small with righteousness is better than much with unrighteousness. Small with peace is better than much with toil, pain, and sleepless nights (cf. Psalm 37:16-17).

4. **A considerable life of enjoyment is better than a life of toil under the sun (verses 7-8).** The writer saw another vanity under the sun. He saw someone living alone without companion. Yet that person is working and toiling every day without rest and considerable enjoyment. He concludes that a considerable life of enjoyment is better than a whole life of toil under the sun.

5. **Two are better than one under the sun (verses 9-12).** It was observed (for friendship or marriage) that two are better than one for four reasons. (i) they achieve more and have a good reward for their efforts. (ii) they are able to lift up each other. (iii) they are able to keep warm together and overcome loneliness. (iv) they cannot be defeated by external forces.

6. **It is better to be wise and young than to be old and foolish under the sun (verses 13-16).** It was observed that a poor and wise youth is better than an old and foolish king without admonition. It is better to have a poor beginning and have a royal ending than to have a royal background and end it in a disaster. The fact that the popularity of both the wise and foolish kings passes away so quickly with the next generation is also vanity and chasing after the wind.

**Conclusion:** Focus your life on what is better. Your existence under the sun must profit the kingdom of God. We must be joyous with the achievements of others and not be envious. You must continue to live a contented life; discover the secret of looking after yourself and eating from the fruit of your labour. May you find great friendship and a fulfilling marriage under the sun. May you live your life wisely and shun every form of foolishness in Jesus name.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

**Date:** 23 August 2020

**Topic:** How to receive double portion of the anointing

**Text:** 2 Kings 2:1-16



## Introduction

Elijah was a great prophet and had a remarkable ministry serving in ancient Israel. Elisha was a faithful servant of prophet Elijah. We focus on Elisha and how he received double portion of prophet Elijah's anointing. Elisha applied seven strategies to achieve both physical and spiritual successes.

1. **Develop a discerning spirit (verses 1-2).** On the day the Lord took Elijah up to heaven, they were on the way from Gilgal. Elijah persuaded Elisha to stay behind at Gilgal, but he refused. Elisha said, 'I will not leave you.' Many Christians miss God's purpose and plan for their lives because they lack the spirit of discernment.
2. **Persevere to the end (verses 3-8).** Elisha's perseverance and loyalty towards prophet Elijah is highlighted. It was not easy for Elisha to walk with Elijah from Gilgal to Bethel, from Bethel to Jericho and from Jericho across the Jordan. The company of prophets at Bethel and Jericho could not discourage Elisha in his pursuit of double portion anointing. He persevered to the end.
3. **Make a bold request (verses 9-10).** Elijah saw the seriousness and determination of Elisha after they had crossed the Jordan. He asked Elisha, 'what can I do for you before I am taken from you?' Elisha replied, let me inherit a double portion of your spirit'. Elisha made an ambitious request and got it fully granted.
4. **Stay focused in the midst of distractions (verses 11-12).** Elisha understood what was at stake and stayed focused. The Bible says, 'As they were walking and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw this, cried out and saw Elijah no more. This spiritual journey is full of satanic distractions and you need undivided attention.
5. **Put what you have been taught into practice (verses 13-14).** Elisha picked up the piece of Elijah's fallen cloak and went back to the bank of river Jordan. He used the cloak to strike the water, the water divided, and he crossed to the other side. Elisha practiced what he learnt from Elijah. Practice biblical principles.
6. **Wait for the confirmation (verses 14-15).** First was personal confirmation (verse 14a) - Elisha took the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and struck the water. Second was divine (heavenly) confirmation - Elisha experienced the miraculous when River Jordan gave way for him to cross (verse 14b). Third was human confirmation - the company of prophets testified that the spirit of Elijah had rested on Elisha, they welcomed him and bowed.
7. **Maintain your conviction (verses 16-18).** Elisha was convinced that his master had been taken to heaven when some people doubted. Fifty men volunteered to look for the remains of Elijah on the field. The men came back after some days to confirm Elisha's conviction.

**Conclusion:** It is possible to get double portion anointing like Elisha. It is possible for you to fulfil your dream.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



**Date:** 30 August 2020

**Topic:** The Voice from Heaven

**Text:** John 12: 28-30; Hebrews 1:1,2



**Introduction:** God Almighty speaks to His creation at different times and in divers' manners. God can speak to us by His prophets, through signs and wonders, mitigating circumstances, visions, dreams, His word the Bible or even directly from heaven. God has in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds.

**The voice from heaven is attributable** John 12:28; Matthew 3:17

The voice can be attributed to God the Father. The heaven is God's throne, and the earth is His footstool (Isaiah 66:1). There was a request from Jesus that the Father should glorify His name. Subsequently, God the father answered in assurance that He has glorified His name and will glorify it again. In Matthew 3:17, the Bible states there came a voice from heaven which said, 'This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased'. He (God) that sits in the heavens shall laugh: (Psalm 2:4).

**The voice from heaven is audible** John 12: 29; Acts 9:3-7. We are made aware that the people who stood by heard the voice from heaven from these passages. When Saul the Pharisee journeyed to Damascus, he heard a voice from heaven. The voice of Jesus that Saul who later became Apostle Paul heard was also audible to those who accompanied him on the journey. The voice is audible for all to hear, believers, unbelievers, men, women, children. Hearers cannot say that they have not heard.

**The voice is understandable** John 12:28

The voice is intelligent, simple, and easy to understand. It is always in a language spoken and understood by the hearers. The voice from heaven speaks Hebrew to Hebrews, Greek to Greeks, Latin, English, French, Yoruba, Edo, Ashanti, all languages. Hearers of the voice from heaven cannot say they do not understand what God has said. It is regrettable that after hearing the voice from heaven, people give different interpretations and meanings to it. Some claimed it was thunder, others said an angel spoke, some were speechless and unresponsive. Misinterpretation by the hearers is not the fault of the speaker. Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation (2 Pet 1:20,21).

**The voice from heaven is purposeful** John 12:30, 11:42

The purpose of the voice of Heaven is to give instructions or advice to the hearers. Jesus told them that 'this voice came not because of Me, but for your sakes' - 'That you may believe that God has sent Jesus Christ to you. Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, "Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your heart as in the rebellion (Hebrews 3:7,15). This is the time to accept Jesus and receive instruction for salvation, reconciliation, healing, deliverance, blessing, comfort, love, provision, and peace.

**Conclusion:** The voice from heaven is for your sake and my sake. The thoughts of God towards us are thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give us an expected end (Jeremiah 29:11).

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A, Oni

### EGOC GLOBAL NIGHT OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP

**Date:** 30 August 2020

**Topic:** Jericho Praise

**Text:** Joshua 6:1-20

The wall of Jericho fell by God's strategy and not men's method. The power of God is supernatural beyond any man's comprehension – Jericho wall fell instantly by the power of God. By faith and obedience to God's instructions, Jericho wall fell down. God keeps His promises.

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. J. B. Odofin

**Date:** 6 September 2020

**Topic:** The chariot of fire that took Elijah to heaven

**Text:** 2 Kings 2:11-12



### Introduction

This teaching explores the story of how prophet Elijah was taken to heaven. The Bible mentioned three things that collaborated to facilitate Elijah's transition to heaven - the chariot of fire, the horses of fire and the whirlwind. What is the significance of these things and how can we apply them to our lives today? We can see five important things about the chariot of fire in this passage.

#### 1. The chariot of fire was timely (verse 11a)

The biblical narrator did not tell us more about the details of their conversation. It surely would have included the request for the double portion of the anointing and the opportunity for Elijah to give Elisha final instruction and advice. The chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared in the middle of that discussion. The time was not set by prophet Elijah or Elisha. It was set by God. In the same vein, the rapture of the Christians will happen at God's appointed time.

2. **The chariot of fire appeared suddenly (verse 11b).** The appearance of the chariot of fire was sudden and unexpected. The chariot of fire appeared suddenly, but it did not meet Elijah unprepared. Apostle Paul confirmed that the rapture of the believers will happen suddenly (1 Thess. 4:16-17). We must be ready because the rapture can take place anytime and death can knock at our doors anytime.

#### 3. The chariot of fire separated Elijah and Elisha (verse 11c)

The chariot of fire and horses of fire went in between Elijah and Elisha to separate them. Elijah was taken and Elisha was left behind. It is necessary for you to think about the implication of the rapture for those that will be taken and those that will be left behind. The rapture will separate the sheep from the goats, the righteous from the wicked and the believers from the unbelievers (cf. Matthew 24:40-42 cf. Luke 17:34-37).

#### 4. The chariot of fire facilitated Elijah's transition to heaven (verse 11d)

The chariot of fire was the vehicle that kickstarted the process, then the whirlwind took Elijah to heaven. God can use anything that he created as a tool to serve His purpose. God used the chariot of fire, the chariot of horses and the whirlwind to transport Elijah home. In the same vein, God has arranged the rapture as the vehicle that will transport us back to Himself.

#### 5. The chariot of fire was visible (verse 12)

The emphasis is 'Elisha saw this and cried out.' Elisha and other people in the area saw the chariot of fire. Our generation will not see the chariot of fire, horses of fire and whirlwind, we shall see the Lord Jesus Christ Himself during the rapture and second coming (Rev. 1:7).

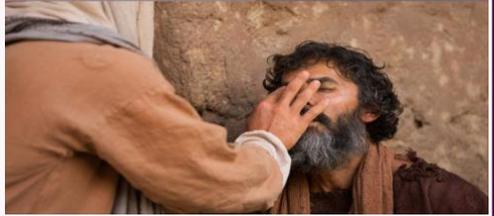
**Conclusion:** The main point of this message is that something better than the chariot of fire will happen to believers in Christ in the future. Jesus is coming very soon. The rapture can take place anytime. Prophet Elijah was ready for the arrival of the chariot of fire and the whirlwind that took him to heaven. Are you ready?



**Date:** 13 September 2020

**Topic:** The Two-Stage Restoration

**Text:** Mark 8:22-26



### Introduction

We read in Job that man's life is of a few days and full of trouble (Job 14:1). Due to the troubles, difficulties and challenges we experience in our lifetimes we are referred to specialists. The sick must seek physicians, those in trouble need the assistance of lawyers. We need counsellors for matters, bankers to invest, teachers for careers, employers for jobs, ministers for spiritual needs. We need Jesus for a resolution to physical and spiritual needs.

**Jesus the Receiver:** Mark 8:22

They brought this blind man to Jesus and requested a touch from Him. Jesus received the blind man referred to Him. Jesus did not ask any question about this referred man. The people who brought the blind man did not state why Jesus should touch him. Jesus receives our requests and referrals.

**Jesus the Leader:** Mark 8:23a

Jesus is the good Shepherd; He leads and provides guidance to His followers. What was the physical appearance of this blind man, dirty, smelling or in rags? He held the blind man's hand to assure him of His love and friendship. He gave him hope and comfort. He led him away from his comfort zone of friends/family but in assurance of something much better.

**Jesus the Healer:** Mark 8:23b

Jesus is the Healer of our infirmities and diseases. He is our great High Priest (Hebrews 4:15). Some diseases are so contagious that is advisable not to touch the sick person but Jesus touches, holds and embraces the sick. Just come to Him.

**Jesus the Carer:** Mark 8:23c, 24

Jesus cares about us and shares our concerns. He asks those who receive Him or believe Him deep questions about their needs or concerns. Jesus expects us to be truthful about our circumstance or situation when He asks the questions.

**Jesus the Restorer:** Mark 8:25

Jesus makes all things perfect, fully restores and makes whole. Usually, when Jesus heals people, the restoration is instantaneous. However, it took two stages for this blind man in Bethsaida. It is no exception but unique. God will not heal you halfway or leave you marginally better off.

**Jesus the instructor:** Mark 8:26

Jesus ends His ministrations to a resolved need with an instruction or command. Jesus expects us to be obedient.

**Conclusion:** Mark 8:27

Who do people say Jesus is? Who do you say Jesus is?

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. O. Oni

**Date:** 20 September 2020

**Topic:** If it had not been the Lord on our side

**Text:** Psalm 124: 1-8



## Introduction

Psalm 124 describes God's wonderful deliverance of His people when their demise seems so certain and imminent. It points entirely to YHWH, His ability to help and the people's conscious effort to ascribe all the glory to Him. The Israelites escaped certain destruction because God intervened to help.

**When men rose up against us:** Laban pursued Jacob, but God intervened (Genesis 31:22-24). When Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed about Esau God stepped in (Genesis 32:6-7). David had men rising up against him. God's people are compared to sheep and lambs. The wicked are compared to beasts of prey. There is no defence against wicked men. Only God can restrain it.

**Then the waters would have overwhelmed us:** A striking flood imagery used here highlights the difference God's deliverance makes. The whole force of the enemy is like a stream which flows in with great strength and rapidity when a breach is made and spreads itself are very destructive and terrible (Revelation 17:15). God being on our side makes all the difference.

**Then the proud waters had gone over our soul:** The wicked, for their number, force, and strength, and especially for their pride and haughtiness, are likened to strong, boisterous, and swelling waves of the sea (Job 38:11). Had not God been with us our enemies would have made nothing of us and dashed us over as a mountain torrent sweeps down the side of a hill, washing away everything before it (Isaiah 59:19).

**The LORD has not given us as a prey to their teeth:** David was praising the LORD for "breaking the teeth of the ungodly" and this evokes the image of landing a crushing blow on an enemy in combat. Amos 3:12 talks about "a shepherd taking from the mouth of a lion two legs or a piece of an ear" and that would have been our portion had it not been the LORD on our side.

**The fowler's trap:** (Psalm 124:6-7). Our adversaries embody the cruelty of wild beasts; the destruction of a raging torrent, and the subtle wily skill of someone who traps wild birds. Once trapped, the bird has no hope of freeing itself. Unless someone breaks the snare for it and sets it free. God foiled the fowler's trap. The Lord will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence (Psalm 91:3).

**The Name of the LORD helped us:** (Psalm 124:8) "Our help is in the Name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. God reveals Himself to us through His Names. God's covenant Name, "I AM" speaks of His character, His faithfulness, His presence, His power, His attributes (Psalm 20:7). The Name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe (Proverbs 18:10).

**Conclusion:** The Psalm teaches that we can depend on God and must depend on Him to make it safely to the other side. It also encourages us to affirm the difference God makes in our life, praise Him for His protection/deliverance and tell others how He has helped us.

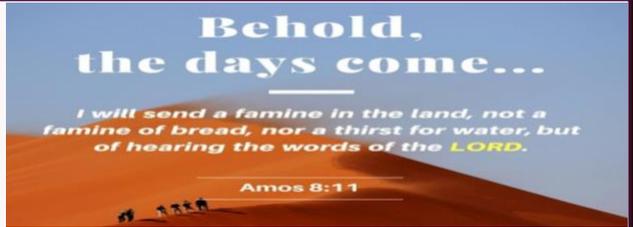
Guest Preacher: Pastor Emmanuel Ofori



**Date:** 27 September 2020

**Topic:** The Day Cometh!

**Text:** Amos 8:11-12



## Introduction

The book of Amos is about judgement and restoration. The Lord showed Amos some visions about Israel and other nations and His pronounced judgement on the ungodly nations and on Israel. Chapter 8 was judgement on Israel as a nation. Now, the DAY COMETH says the Lord through His servant – Amos, that He will send a famine of hearing the words of the Lord and that the people will run to and fro to seek the Word of God to no avail. This DAY THAT COMETH is not about TRIBULATION AT ALL.

The famine of the Word of God (Amos 8:11) was NOT because the Lord did not wish to talk to/with the people but because they had rejected their Maker – the God of the universe.

## Firstly, FOR BELIEVERS

For you not to partake of that day that cometh when hearing the word of God will not be available, you must continue on that narrow path. Remember that song that says Christian seek not yet repose and Hold the fort.

Don't be like those who hear and refuse to do as admonished in the book of James 1:22. Do not be as Lot's wife, who lingered on her way out of Sodom but looked back and turned into a pillar of salt.

Don't let God's word in the book of Isaiah 6:9 come to you which says keep hearing but never understanding and ever seeing but never perceiving.

Lastly, where will you be when the Lord shall come as a thief in the night? That day shall come. THAT DAY COMETH!!!

## Lastly, FOR UNBELIEVERS

The day cometh when the words of the Lord shall not be available. In so much that people will long or yarn for it but will not get it and when that happens, captivity awaits such souls.

Our Lord Jesus told us in Luke 17:26-33 that "As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be". The day I'm talking about is the day that seven women shall cleave to one man saying let us be called by your name, so we are not reproached (Isaiah 4:1).

The day that cometh is the day that those judged during Sodom and Gomorrah will speak against unbelievers and wonder why they didn't learn from them and accept Jesus.

**Conclusion:** My brothers and sisters, that day that cometh will not be unbearable for you.

The question is, how long will you reject God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ? Hell has enlarged its mouth and the broad road to damnation is getting broader by the day. Where would you be when the Lord of the harvest shall come for His children? Is your soul at peace?

Preacher: Sister Adenike Ojemen

**Date:** 4 October 2020

**Topic:** Searching for divine answer (Part 1)

**Text:** Psalm 10:1-4

**WHERE WERE YOU  
WHEN I LAID THE EARTH'S  
FOUNDATION?  
TELL ME, IF YOU UNDERSTAND.**  
JOB 38:4



### Introduction

The Bible is full of different people who asked for divine answer at crucial times. Today, we want to look at five instances in the Old Testament when people requested for divine answers and apply that to our lives.

#### 1. Request for divine answer when God is silent (Psalm 10:1-4; Habakkuk 1:2).

In this passage, David expressed his frustration that the wicked are living well, but the righteous are suffering. He expected a divine intervention, but God did not intervene immediately. Similarly, Habakkuk found himself in a situation when he felt God was silent (Habakkuk 1:2-3). God is not silent. God is working for your good. It will manifest at the appointed time.

#### 2. Request for divine answer when a promise is delayed (Genesis 15:1-7).

God promised Abraham that He would bless him and make him the father of many nations (Genesis 12:1-3). In Genesis 15:1-7, Abraham requested for answers when the promised child did not arrive on time. He reminded God about His promises. The Lord eventually reiterated His promise to Abraham.

#### 3. Request for divine answer when you are cornered (Exodus 14:5-14).

God raised Moses to deliver His people from bondage. Pharaoh reluctantly allowed them to go after many plagues over Egypt. Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds and pursued them with chariots and horses. The Israelites looked and saw the Red Sea and Egyptians coming from different directions. Moses went before the Lord to request for a divine answer. God gave them victory and the host of Pharaoh perished in the Red Sea.

#### 4. Request for divine answer in a national crisis (Joshua 7:1-13; Daniel 9:1-19).

Joshua successfully led the Israelites to conquer the city of Jericho. However, the Israelites suffered a heavy defeat at Ai. Joshua and the Israelites were devastated because it was a national crisis. He went before the Lord to request for divine answer. Similarly, Daniel became uncomfortable after many years in Babylon. Yahweh had promised not to abandon His people in a strange land. During this national crisis, Daniel requested for a divine answer about the prolonged exile of the Jews. God eventually answered him with eschatological revelation of the end time and the restoration of his people.

#### 5. Request for divine answer when your world turns upside down (Job 38:1-41).

Job could not believe what happened to him on the day he lost his wealth, health, and children. Moreover, his friends (Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar) did not help the situation through their judgement and condemnation of Job. Job maintained his innocence and insisted on talking to God face to face. In Job 38:1-41, the Lord eventually spoke to Job out of the storm and answered all his questions with a longer list of questions.

**Conclusion:** Are you currently at a point in your life when you have drawn your questions and asking God for divine answers? The Lord will grant you total peace this season of your life.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



**Date:** 11 October 2020

**Topic:** Searching for divine answer (Part 2)

**Text:** Psalm 10:1-4

“My grace is  
sufficient for you,  
for my power is made  
perfect in weakness.”

2 Corinthians 12:9

## Introduction

The Bible is full of people who asked for divine answer at crucial times. What do you do when you need an answer from the Lord? Let us look at five instances when people requested for divine answer and apply that to our lives.

1. **Searching for divine answer after a prophetic message (Luke 1:5-20, 26-38).** Zachariah and his wife trusted the Lord for the blessing of the fruit of the womb for many years. The angel of the Lord appeared to him with a prophetic message that his wife, Elizabeth will bear him a son. He questioned the possibility. Similarly, angel Gabriel gave a prophetic message to Mary that she would conceive through the Holy Spirit and give birth to Jesus. Mary asked the angel, ‘how will this be since I am a virgin?’ The Lord eventually answered the questions of Zachariah and Mary in a special way.

2. **Searching for divine answer when expectations are cut short (Matthew 11:1-6).** Herod arrested and imprisoned John the Baptist because he condemned the king’s marriage to Herodias as illegal (Matthew 14:1-12; Mark 6:14-29). In Matthew 11:1-6, John was frustrated in the prison because he expected a quick action from Jesus, but nothing happened. John sent his disciples to Jesus, ‘are you the one or should we wait for another?’

3. **Searching for divine answer in the midst of persecution (Acts 4:23-31).** Jesus gave the disciples the Great Commission to go and make disciples. (Matthew 28:18-20). He also gave them the power to cast out demons and heal the sick. Peter and John went up to the temple to pray and healed a man at the beautiful gate. They were arrested, beaten and the chief priest and the elders instructed them not to preach in the name of Jesus again. They cried out to heaven and requested for a divine answer. The place where they met was shaken and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

4. **Searching for divine answer when bereavement strikes (John 11:17-37).** Lazarus was sick and they sent for Jesus to come and heal him, but he died before Jesus arrived. Lazarus at the point of death may have felt disappointed that Jesus his friend had refused to show up when he needed him most. Moreover, Mary and Martha may have questioned the essence of their service for the Lord when Lazarus, their brother died. Jesus eventually answered their questions by raising Lazarus back to life.

5. **Searching for divine answer in an uncomfortable situation (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).** Apostle Paul had a dramatic salvation experience on his way to Damascus. He had a powerful teaching/preaching ministry which was confirmed by many miraculous signs and wonders. However, he confirmed that he was given a thorn in the flesh and pleaded with the Lord that it might depart from him. The only divine answer he got was ‘my grace is sufficient for you.’

**Conclusion:** Are you asking God for divine answers for your life, marriage, finances, career, and future? The Lord will answer in the middle of your long list of questions and reveal himself to you.

**Date:** 18 October 2020

**Topic:** The Boast in Weaknesses and Limitations

**Text:** 2 Corinthians 12:1-10



## Introduction

Humans want other people to hear about and see their strengths, achievements, and victories. They boast, brag, broadcast themselves and exaggerate or lie. They portray being better, self-reliant, and super. They become nervous their inadequacies, weaknesses or shortcomings are discovered. Believers in Christ, however, should not be afraid of being vulnerable about their frailties and inadequacies.

**God's hand is not shortened** 2 Corinthians 12:8; Isaiah 59:1; Judges 15:18, 16:28; Jonah 2:1; Acts 16:25, 12:5

God knows and sees our every condition and situation. The Lord is not weak to save or deaf to hear. God listens to pleas in weaknesses and limitations. Believers pray more at times of troubles and challenges. Strong Samson prayed when captured by Philistines. Jonah prayed in the fish's belly. Paul and Silas prayed in Philippi's inner dungeon. Peter in Herod's execution row needed the Church's prayers. Nothing is too small or too big that we cannot ask our God.

**God's grace is sufficient** 2 Corinthians 12: 9a; 3:5; 9:9; John 15:1-7.

God has promised that His grace will be sufficient in our weaknesses and limitations. God's grace is available because of His great love. We cannot earn God's approval, favour or forgiveness by our righteousness, it is by God's grace. Grace is the reason for every good thing that God gives. We are deserving of none of it. God's grace covers all inadequacies and abounds for every good work. We are nothing without the Vine. God will not always remove the thorn in our flesh, but his grace will be all we need, thorn or no thorn.

**God's power is made perfect** 2 Corinthians 12:9b/c; Exodus 3:6-12; Judges 7:7; Daniel 3:8-30; 6; 1 Samuel 17:34-50; Acts 12:3-19; 16:16-40.

God's word is that His power is made perfect in our weaknesses and limitations. Moses before mighty Pharaoh. Gideon's 300 men against the Midianite multitudes. Shadrack, Meshach and Abednego defy Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel in the lions' den. David versus champion Goliath. God's power is greatest when we are at our weakest. Christ's power rests upon us when we glory and boast in our infirmities, weaknesses, and limitations.

**God's righteousness is impacted** 2 Corinthians 12:2 Romans 3:21-23

Only those who acknowledge their weaknesses as sinners and accept God's saving grace by faith receive His righteousness. God's grace delivers, saves, and sustains through all life's trials.

**Conclusion:** Salvation is by grace through Jesus Christ, and Him alone.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. Oni



**Date:** 25 October 2020

**Topic:** When you Pray

**Text:** Psalm 42:6-8

when life  
gives  
you more  
than you  
can stand...  
**kneel.**

### Introduction

When you pray, know that God is all you have, and God's Will is all you need. Nations and people are always looking for interventions. Christians are always looking for God's intervention. Amid darkness, children of God will shine and must continue to shine, Desperate and unprecedented times call for desperate and unprecedented actions. As believers this calls for desperate and unprecedented prayers, belief, faith, and deeper relationship with the Lord. We will however focus on prayer in this message. In Psalm 42, we are encouraged that when the twists and turns of life are beyond our controls, then deep must call to the deep. In uncertain times like this we must be on our knees and seek the face of God with prayers (Jeremiah 33:3; Psalm 121:1).

### Examples of people who prayed and God's response

**Hannah** (1 Samuel 1:10-15) was in a position of insecurity. She thought she will never have children and her husband had sorted himself out through another woman. She was mocked and looked down upon and every year they went to worship the Lord in Shiloh, she was not happy, and her husband was not able to comfort her. Eli, the prophet misunderstood her but in all of this she was not distracted from God. God was everything to her. Our business is with God and not with men. Hannah focused on God and was not distracted. She wanted a child and a child she can give to God. She changed her perspective from her wants or desires to what can be useful to God almighty.

**Lessons:** (i) Our motive must be the right one. What does God want? (ii) Our desperation must make us surrender our will to God. (iii) In our desperation, our prayers must be the will of God. (iv) Our prayers must be less about us and all about God (Philippians 4:6:1 Peter 5:7). When we are anxious, we must go to God, everything we need is in the Word of God. Hannah's prayer was in faith. She was confident of the presence of God with her. Hannah may not have what she wanted but she had God. She was lifted because she aligned her need to the will of God, and she was no longer sad. We must ask for a change of heart when we pray, and the peace of God will be our guard.

**Jesus Christ** (Matthew 26:36-39) was sorrowful and troubled. In desperation, He prayed and asked for God's will. We must not freak out but must pray. A closed mouth is a closed destiny. We must follow the example of Jesus Christ. When we are desperate, we must ask for God's will like Jesus and be honest with God.

**Questions:** Why should God always have His way? Why not our ways? God's way is perfect. Hannah's child became a great prophet because she prayed for the mind of God. Jesus Christ became our restorer because He followed the will of the Father. We must not procrastinate; we must surrender our will to God.

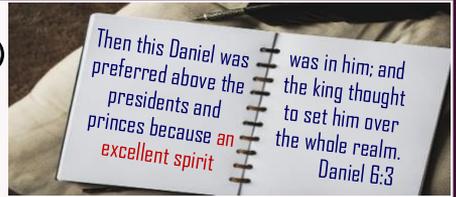
**Conclusion:** Through Jesus Christ, we are restored into God's glory and we can then become what God wants us to be.

Guest Preacher: Pastor Oladeji Ricketts

**Date:** 1 November 2020

**Topic:** Exhibiting an excellent spirit (Part 1)

**Text:** Daniel 6:1-5



## Introduction

It is God's will for His children to shine wherever they find themselves. This message suggests that one of the things that can help us to shine brighter in life is an excellent spirit. The Cambridge dictionary defines excellence as 'the quality of being outstanding or extremely good.' We can observe four things about excellent spirit in this passage.

**Observation 1.** An excellent spirit distinguishes us from others (verses 1-3a). King Darius set 120 satraps over the kingdom. Satraps were provincial governors or rulers in the ancient Persian empire. You can imagine the tedious process that they went through before they were selected to occupy those 120 positions. Then, the king selected three outstanding satraps (Daniel inclusive) to supervise the work of the 120 leaders. Verse 3a confirmed that Daniel stood out among the three administrators that King Darius appointed. In other words, he was exceptional. As Kent Hughes rightly notes, 'Christians should always do good work. Christians ought to be the best workers wherever they are. They ought to have the best attitude, the best integrity, and be the best in dependability.'

**Observation 2.** An excellent spirit attracts favour and promotion (verse 3b). Another thing that we can see here is that an excellent spirit is irresistible. Daniel did not engage in eye service as some people do today in the presence of their managers and superiors. Daniel was real. What you see is what you get. The excellent spirit in him helped him to display consistent diligence with or without supervision. Then, the excellent spirit in Daniel attracted the king's favour and promotion. Of course, Daniel did not have a godfather as some would do today, but he had a father in heaven.

**Observation 3.** An excellent spirit provokes jealousy from others (verses 4a). The excellent spirit in Daniel attracted jealousy and envy from others. The governors and satraps felt intimidated by the success and achievements of Daniel. They misinterpreted his good deeds for something else. They became so deadly in their evil plans, but Daniel remained friendly. You are a child of God. You are meant to be envied and not pitied.

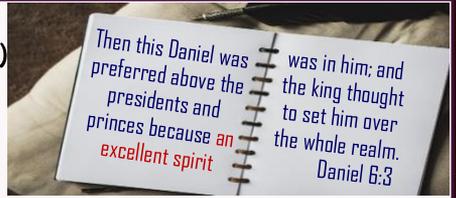
**Observation 4.** An excellent spirit makes us faultless (verses 4b-5). The enemies were busy looking for mistakes, but Daniel continued to live his normal life of excellence. They could not find any fault or basis to accuse him of any wrongdoing in the kingdom. They concluded that they cannot find any charge against Daniel except for something relating to his worship of Yahweh. They surrendered after a long period of searching for faults.

**Conclusion:** How do you get this excellent spirit? You can get this excellent spirit when your spirit joins with the Spirit of God and allow the Holy Spirit to take the leadership role over your flesh.

**Date:** 8 November 2020

**Topic:** Exhibiting an excellent spirit (Part 2)

**Text:** Daniel 6:6-28



## Introduction

We started this series last week on 'exhibiting an excellent spirit.' We are focusing our attention on the remaining verses of this chapter and will examine six more things about exhibiting an excellent spirit.

**1. An excellent spirit draws us closer to God (verses 6-11).** The governors and satraps had a meeting with king Darius and claimed that they have consulted among themselves and resolved that no one should make petitions to any god or man for thirty days except the king. They proposed that the king should cast anyone who violates this decree into the lions' den. Daniel went to his upper room and prayed after the decree was signed into law.

**2. An excellent spirit speaks on our behalf when we are absent (verses 12-14).** The enemies of Daniel reported to king Darius that Daniel had violated the king's decree because they found him praying to Yahweh in his house. They reminded the king that the law of the Medes and Persians cannot be altered and about the agreed punishment. The king looked for different constitutional loopholes to save Daniel but found none.

**3. An excellent spirit rescues us from troubles and afflictions (verses 15-23).** The enemies of Daniel mounted pressure on king Darius to execute the agreed judgement on Daniel. They brought Daniel before the king and cast him into the den of lions. They went home that night with jubilation that they got rid of him. The king went in haste earlier in the morning to the lions' den and found out that God had delivered Daniel. He then commanded that they should take Daniel out of the den. He came out with no injury.

**4. An excellent spirit vindicates us against the enemies (verse 24).** The king commanded that the accusers of Daniel should be thrown into the lions' den along with their wives and children. The Bible confirms that 'the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces before they ever came to the bottom of the den' (verse 24). It was a payback time for the enemies of Daniel to have a taste of their wicked plans.

**5. An excellent spirit draws others to our God (verses 25-27).** The excellent spirit in Daniel and his victory at the lion's den caused the king to believe in the God of Daniel. He issued a decree throughout his empire that everyone should fear and reference the God of Daniel.

**6. An excellent spirit brings prosperity (verse 28).** 'So, this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.' An excellent spirit brought prosperity, popularity, honour, prestige, success and progress to Daniel. I want to reassure you today that it may seem delayed, but an excellent spirit most often yields great dividends.

**Conclusion:** God is looking for people like Daniel who will continue to exhibit an excellent spirit in the family, at work, church level and the nation.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

**Date:** 15 November 2020

**Topic:** Characteristics of a true life of Faith

**Text:** Hebrews 11:1-40

**FAITH SEES THE  
INVISIBLE,  
BELIEVES THE  
UNBELIEVABLE,  
AND RECEIVES THE  
IMPOSSIBLE.**

### Introduction

Periodically, we need to check if we are still in faith or not. And is that “Faith” in God or something else –government, NHS, education achievement? As Christians, there should be times we need to check ourselves if our faith measures up to God’s examples of people of faith. The question should be, “would our faith have been mentioned in the book of Hebrews 11?” Faith is both the fruit and gift of the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5:23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 1 Corinthians 12:9 - To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; The greatest grace in this our Christian journey is Faith. Galatians 3:11, Romans 1:17, Hebrews 10:38 – “...The just shall live by faith”. Without faith you cannot please God (Hebrews 11:6).

1. **An assurance of God’s promise (Heb. 11:1).** Faith is that firm confidence and inherent trust in God and His promises to us. You are convinced yourself. Do you still have this firm assurance of confidence in God?
2. **A sacrificial lifestyle (Heb. 11:4).** Faith gives God our first and our best belief and commitment. How committed are you to the things of God?
3. **A life that continuously seeks God (Heb. 11:6).** Faith seeks to please God in all things. Faith chooses to believe God and follow Him each day. Do you seek God always?
4. **A life that obeys God in hard things (Heb. 11:7-10).** A life of faith is rarely “easy”. Obedience to God often runs contrary to our culture, maybe even your family.
5. **A life that trust God when we don’t understand (Heb. 11:8,17).** We don’t often see God’s big picture. Usually, we just see the next step, then the next. Sometimes the next step doesn’t even make sense to us, but faith trusts God has a plan and the power to carry it out.
6. **Keeps an eternal focus (Heb. 11:10,13).** The best of God’s promises to us are eternal, they won’t be fully realised in this life.
7. **Trust God to do the impossible (Heb. 11:11,19).** Circumstances may feel insurmountable, but faith knows God is all-powerful.
8. **Fear God rather than man (Heb. 11:23,27).** Faith doesn’t allow threats by man to keep it from obeying God.
9. **Does not run after temporal pleasures (Heb. 11:25,26).** Faith chooses God over the pleasure of sin and love of money.
10. **Endures persecution for the sake of Christ (Heb. 11:35-38).** Although faith doesn’t seek persecution, it stands firm when it comes.

Guest Preacher: Pastor E.A. Bamgbola



**Date:** 22 November 2020

**Topic:** The Human Ritual of Sacrifices

**Text:** Leviticus 17:11



## Introduction

Sacrifice is the most primary and basic form of all human rituals. African traditional sacrificial ritual involves giving gifts (food, objects or animals) to gods to win their favour or to appease their wrath. In Greco-Roman religion, the principle of sacrificial ritual is 'do ut des' (I give that you might give). Sacrificial rituals are not things of the past or our ancestors. Modern humans too have rituals of sacrifice. They sacrifice sweat and blood in physical exercises for sex appeal. They sacrifice time and their families for money or worldly possessions or power or position.

### **Blood is a requirement for atonement: Lev 17:11c; Heb 9:22**

The life (blood) of the animal sacrifice was to be offered up as a gift, to make atonement. It is life for life, a gift of life to substitute for the life of the sinner. In principle, the gift is a substitute for the life of the trespasser who owes it to God for a ransom from death, which is the wages or penalty for sin. Human beings have not been able to make or create blood. They have been able to manufacture water and other essential substances but not blood

### **Man, the offender and imitator: Lev 17:11; Gen 4:3,4; 8:40**

The Bible does not record that God asked Cain, Abel or Noah for offerings. To humans ancient and modern, sacrifice is a bargain. Humans as spiritual beings are conscious of the supernatural and attribute circumstances to physical or spiritual forces. Those who continue with the human ritual of sacrificing, do their sacrifices to devils, and not to God (1 Cor 10:20). Mesha of Moab sacrificed his son to avert a military defeat (2 Kings 3:27). Ahaz and Manasseh of Judah sacrificed their sons. Salvation is of the Lord (Jonah 2:9).

### **God is the author and provider: Lev 17:11b; Gen 3:7, 21; 22:13, 14**

Scriptural sacrifice is different in that it is a gift of God and not a human gift. "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls" This is the principle at work throughout the Scriptures. God, Himself is the One who provides the means of sacrifice we need to make atonement for our souls before Him. In the case of Abraham and Isaac, God provided the sacrifice. That is why on that day Abraham called the place "The Lord Will Provide".

### **God the presenter and finisher: Rom 3:23-25; Heb. 9:14**

In the gospel, it is not humans who offered the sacrifice but God is the one who offers the sacrifice. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of His blood. We did not give so that He will give to us in return. He gave first. Even more, in Christ, the God-man, he gives himself. His is the blood that ransoms our souls and purifies our uneasy consciences "from dead works to serve the living God". He liberates us to offer our whole lives as living sacrifices, motivated by God's mercy and grace.

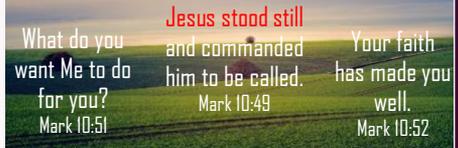
**Conclusion:** Jesus Christ is that solid rock foundation and perfect sacrifice. The sand is human sacrificial rituals, though uncountable, they cannot and will never save (Matthew 7:24-27).

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. Oni

**Date:** 29 November 2020

**Topic:** Becoming a candidate for miracle

**Text:** Mark 10:46–52



## Introduction

The Cambridge Dictionary defines candidate as ‘a person or thing regarded as suitable for or likely to receive a particular fate, treatment, or position.’ John MacArthur said ‘a miracle is an extraordinary event wrought by God through human agency, an event that cannot be explained by natural forces.’ We will see seven things that made Bartimaeus a candidate for miracle.

1. **Bartimaeus positioned himself for miracle (verse 46).** Bartimaeus understood the significance of miracle. He did not hide himself away in his room or other secluded places. He positioned himself by the roadside so those who were entering or leaving the city could see him.

2. **Bartimaeus heard that Jesus the miracle worker was passing by (verse 47a).** Bartimaeus was a blind man, but he heard about Jesus. He opened his ears to listen to the good news about Jesus. Hearing about Jesus triggered something special in him.

3. **Bartimaeus believed in Jesus for miracle (verse 52a).** The name ‘Jesus’ meant so much for Bartimaeus. He exercised faith in Jesus’s capacity to perform miracle and believed that Jesus is the messiah, miracle worker and help for the helpless.

4. **Bartimaeus asked for mercy and miracle (verses 47b, 48c, 51).** Bartimaeus was down to earth in this passage. He recognised his limitation and asked Jesus for help. He asked for mercy. Then, Jesus asked him ‘what do you want me to do for you?’ He answered, ‘Rabbi, I want to see.’ Brethren, if you get to a point in your life and you don’t know what to pray for, I encourage you to begin to pray for mercy and miracle.

5. **Bartimaeus removed the hinderances to his miracle (verses 48a, 50a).** There are two hinderances for Bartimaeus in this passage. The first hinderance was ‘human hinderance.’ The people told Bartimaeus to keep quiet because they thought that he did not qualify for Jesus’ attention. Bartimaeus ignored them and cried out louder to Jesus. The second hinderance was ‘physical hinderance.’ He threw his cloak aside and jumped to his feet immediately. Bartimaeus removed all the hinderances.

6. **Bartimaeus responded to the call of Jesus for miracle (verse 49).** It is one thing to get an invitation from Jesus, it is another thing to respond to it. It would have been a disaster for Bartimaeus if he did not respond to the call of Jesus on that day. He would have lost a lifetime opportunity for miracle.

7. **Bartimaeus followed Jesus after receiving the miracle (verse 52b).** The essence of the miracle that you receive from Jesus is for you to become a witness for his kingdom in the world. Are you ready to follow Jesus before and after you have received your miracle?

**Conclusion:** I came across this quote recently and I found it very intriguing, ‘miracles happen to those who believe in them, ask for them, expect them, and receive them.’

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



**Date:** 6 December 2020

**Topic:** Prepare the Way

**Text:** Mark 1:1-8



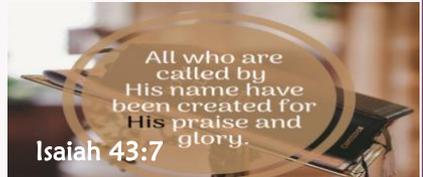
**Introduction:** His name was John also known as the Baptist. He was a messenger and ushered in the news of the Messiah's coming. He was of a priestly family of Zechariah and Mary but his religion was not orthodox, it was eccentric. He had his critics yet people could not dismiss him as being a fake. He practised what he preached. Five things we learn about him:

1. **John was not worldly. Matthew 3:3** John's dress was rough and his diet was very basic. His raiment was camel's hair and his meat was locusts and wild honey.
2. **John lived a godly life. Mark 6:20** John was a just and holy man. People observed him do many things, and heard him gladly.
3. **John challenged people's sins. Mark 1:4, 5; 6:18; Luke 3:10** The people, publicans, soldiers, Pharisees and Sadducees, King Herod were challenged by him. John preached the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.
4. **John pointed the Way to Christ. Mark 1: 7, 8 John 1:29** John's message was simple - Behold Jesus the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.
5. **John was commended by God. Matthew 11:11. Luke 7:28** Truly I say to you, among them that are born of women there has not risen a greater than John the Baptist.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. Oni

**Topic:** God inhabits the praises of men

**Text:** Isaiah 43:7



### Introduction

Everything made by God was made to give Him praise. Living and non-living things are to exalt, praise, honour and magnify God – this please God (Psalm 22:3). God enjoys praises, He is everywhere and we enjoy His presence when He is praised.

There is power in praises, the Israelites passed through the Red Sea and expressed their praises because of God's power, might, preservation. God is glorious in holiness and fearful in praises.

Praises can preserve, multiply, destroy yokes, repair damages, bring about restorations and open doors of recovery.

**Places and Effects of praises** John 11:41-44, Psalm 67:5,6

Jesus gave praise and credit to God for answered prayers and for God's deeds. God recomposed the decomposed body of Lazarus. The dried bones received strength to live and testify about Him.

When people praise God, the ground will yield its increase. God will do what men cannot do in blessings, miracles, signs and wonders. He will change His peoples' stories for the better, give keys to open doors, recover whatever is lost, grant abundant grace to receive life and make barriers to come down.

Guest Preacher: Rev. Robert Adeagbo

**Date:** 13 December 2020

**Topic:** What will you give Jesus this Christmas?

**Text:** Matthew 2:1-12

Wise Men  
Seek Him Still



### Introduction

This is the question that God is putting before us as we celebrate this Christmas. Let us travel back with our sense of imagination to the first century when the first Christmas was celebrated. Let us scrutinise the actions of the wise men and learn six important lessons from them.

1. **The wise men gave Jesus their time (verse 1).** The Bible confirmed that they travelled from the east to Jerusalem. There are different views on the distance between their location and Jerusalem. Some scholars have suggested that this would be a total one-way trip of 1,773 km (1,102 miles). Therefore, if they rode continuously, making about 30 miles a day, they would have done it in six weeks or more. Today, wise men and women are still giving Jesus their time.

2. **The wise men gave Jesus their talent (verse 2).** They were astronomers or experts in reading stars. They recognised the star of Jesus. They used their talents to the glory of God during the first Christmas. What talent do you have to give Jesus Christ? Today, wise men and women are still giving Jesus their talent.

3. **The wise men gave Jesus their perseverance (verses 3-10).** The wise men went to the palace of Herod and other beautiful places looking for Jesus in Jerusalem. They persevered when king Herod called on the chief priests, scribes and researchers to find out about the newly born king. The wise men followed the star until it came to rest over the place where the child was born. They did not give up on the search for baby Jesus until they saw Him. Today, wise men and women are still persevering for Jesus.

4. **The wise men gave Jesus their worship (verse 11a).** They bowed down and worshipped Jesus the Messiah. They fell down before the King of kings and Lord of lords. Are you worshipping God or humans? Who is the object of your worship this Christmas? Today, wise men and women are still worshipping Jesus.

5. **The wise men gave Jesus their treasures (verse 11b).** It cost the wise men lots of fortune to travel from the far east to Jerusalem in the first century. When they saw baby Jesus, they opened their treasures and offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Are you willing to open your treasures for Jesus this Christmas? Today, wise men and women are still giving Jesus their treasures.

6. **The wise men gave Jesus their loyalty (verse 12).** The Bible confirmed that they did not go back to King Herod. They travelled back to their country through another way. They gave their loyalty to Jesus (the King of kings) instead of king Herod (a mortal king). Today, wise men and women are still giving their loyalty to Jesus.

**Conclusion:** All of us have one thing or the other to give Jesus this Christmas. Therefore, give your heart, intellect, will, emotion, time, talents, treasures, perseverance, worship and loyalty to Jesus this Christmas.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



**Date:** 20 December 2020

**Topic:** The significance of the manger at the first Christmas

**Text:** Luke 2:6-7



## Introduction

Let us reflect critically on the imagery of the manger where Jesus Christ was laid after His birth. The Collins English Dictionary defines a manger as ‘a low open container which cows, horses, and other animals feed from.’ Let us explore four aspects among the significance of the manger at the first Christmas:

1. **The theological significance of the manger (verses 6-7b).** The idea of Mary placing Jesus in a manger at Bethlehem of Judea in the first century was a theological statement. It confirmed that Jesus was the long-awaited messiah. Theologically, God planned the work of salvation and it was executed when Jesus was born in a manger during the first Christmas. As John Piper suggests, ‘the manger was step one on the Calvary road.’

2. **The spiritual significance of the manger (verse 7b).** As farmers were sure to keep their mangers well-supplied with food so the animals would never go hungry. I can reassure you that God is willing to be the source of your supply this Christmas. Christmas is a season of abundance. It reminds us that God has provided all we need for righteousness and godliness. It reminds us that God is able to meet all our needs (Philippians 4:19). Spiritually, we should rejoice that Jesus was born in a manger (a dirty place) so that we can be made clean.

3. **The practical and moral significance of the manger (verse 7b).** Throughout history, no other king anywhere in the world was born and placed in a manger. Yet that was where we found the King of kings. As the manger was a sign for the people in the first century, it is also a sign for us today. Christmas is a season for us to express humility before God and humans. Another moral lesson for us is to concentrate on what we can afford at Christmas. Mary and Joseph focused on what they could afford during the first Christmas. The manger reminds us that we should not spend extravagantly this Christmas.

4. **The sociological significance of the manger (verse 7c).** As Pope John Paul II rightly notes, ‘Jesus was born in a stable, in an inhospitable – one might even say unworthy space, which nevertheless provided the necessary privacy for the sacred event’. Jesus was born at the most unlikely place during the first Christmas. But that was not the end of the story. Are you currently at the most unlikely place in your life, marriage, with your children, finances and career? I can assure you that you will not be in that manger forever.

**Conclusion:** Today, Jesus Christ is no longer in a manger, he now sits at the right hand of the father far above principalities and powers and rulers in high places (Ephesians 1:20-23). The manger was a preparation for Jesus’ glory. Therefore, prepare for the next level of your glory, elevation, promotion as you celebrate this Christmas.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

**Date:** 25 December 2020

**Topic:** I know whom I have believed

**Text:** 2 Timothy 1:12; Matthew 2:1-10



### Introduction

Paul's suffering and persecution was due to his work as a Christian. He was a preacher, an apostle, teacher, writer and miracle worker (2 Timothy 1:11). Yet, he was "not ashamed" of the good news and suffering persecution (Romans 1:16). Paul provides reasons to explain why he was not ashamed of the gospel and was not reluctant to suffer for Christ. The gospel is the power of God to salvation. Another, Paul could suffer for Jesus' sake as Jesus' suffering gave Paul power to endure all things (Philippians 4:13). The wise men were not afraid of the journey perils in their search for the Messiah, King of Jews after seeing His star in the east. They obeyed heavenly counsel rather than Herod's advice.

### Knowledge of the Messiah

Paul testified that he knew Jesus, the Messiah whom he believed. His encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus made him a convert (Acts 9:4, 20). He preached Jesus the crucified and risen Saviour. He received revelations and teachings directly from heaven (Galatians 1:13; 1 John 1:3). The wise men followed the Star of Jesus to Jerusalem and consulted with the king, priests and scribes on the scriptural prophesy. They searched diligently and found Him in Bethlehem and worshipped Him. The records of their deeds of faith are available to us today. Paul's witness and the witnesses of other apostles of Christ to believers are still available in the Scriptures today. Ignorant and unstable people distort these, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction (2 Peter 3:16). The power of the risen Christ was manifested in Paul's ministry as was with other disciples of Jesus. Paul believed that all that he had was God given and what he attained was by God's grace (1 Corinthians 15:10).

### Commitment to the Messiah

Paul committed his life and talents to the Messiah. He was certain that Christ is able to guard, keep and reward his commitments and investments on that Day. Paul believed that he would give account of his work before Christ (1 Corinthians 3:13; 2 Corinthians 5:9,10). Paul made reference to the moment where every believer will stand before the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul knew the Messiah is more profitable than shares in stock markets, more secure than banks and dependable than legions of soldiers, and that heaven's citizenship is much better than what any worldly empire or kingdom can offer.

**Conclusion:** Like the wise men from the east at the first Christmas, wiseman Paul gave to Jesus his time, talent, perseverance, worship, treasures and loyalty. He entrusted all to Christ, was rewarded here on earth and in heaven. Accept and entrust to Jesus – be wise.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. Oni



**Date:** 27 December 2020

**Topic:** When the enemies pursue you

**Text:** Psalm 27:1-14

## Introduction

We live in a world where we are being pursued by seen and unseen enemies. We are being pursued today by pestilence, financial meltdown, spiritual forces of darkness and different life challenges. From a spiritual perspective, you have drawn a big battle line against the kingdom of darkness the day you accept Jesus as your Lord and personal saviour. Most biblical scholars have suggested that David composed this Psalm when he was pursued by king Saul. Are you currently in a situation where you are being pursued physically, spiritually and emotionally by the enemies? I encourage you to take the following five important steps that David took.

**1. Refuse to fear (verses 1 and 3a).** David mentioned three reasons why he will not fear: (i) the Lord is the light to every darkness around him. (ii) the Lord is his salvation. (iii) the Lord is his stronghold of peace. Fear is false evidence appearing real. It is one of the tools that devil often use to stop, discourage, confuse and stagnate Christians. Therefore, you should refuse to fear even when the tide is against you.

**2. Praise and worship God in the midst of the pursuit (verses 4 and 6b).** David expressed a grateful heart despite the fact that he was being pursued by the enemies. One of the things that can confuse your enemies and the kingdom of darkness is to see you praising God in the midst of challenges. In the middle of the darkness in your life, give thanks to God.

**3. Pray about the situation (verses 7-9 and 11-12).** Prayer means asking God for help and invoking a power that is above and beyond you for help. David prayed some powerful prayers in verses 7-9 and 11-12. David: - (i) asked the Lord to hear his voice. (ii) requested for God's mercy. (iii) asked the Lord to answer his prayers. David prayed that God: - (iv) will not hide his face from him. (v) will not turn him away in anger. (vi) David prayed for God's help. (vii) prayed that God will not reject or forsake him.

**4. Confess your victory in God with confidence (verses 2, 3b, 5-6a, 10, 13).** David made lots of positive confessions in these verses. You also have a responsibility to make positive pronouncements about your life, family, community and His name. There is power in confessing victory and not defeat; life and not death; success and not failure; healing and not sickness. David probably recalled confessed victory over Goliath in the past. He confessed the same victory over Saul and his soldiers.

**5. Wait upon the Lord no matter how long it takes (verse 14).** David concluded with an admonition for himself and his reader. What probably began as a self-talk within David and has become a great message to for us all today.

**Conclusion:** As long as we live, we shall be pursued by one challenge or the other. But be assured that the lion of the tribe of Judah is able to secure our incredible victory on the basis of His finished work on the cross of Calvary.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



**Date:** 31 December 2020

## 2020 Crossover Watchnight Service

**Topic:** The covenant of recovery and compensation

**Text:** Joel 2:25

*“And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten...”*

**A. What is a covenant?** "covenant" is of Latin origin (con venire), meaning a coming together. It presupposes two or more parties coming together to make a contract, agreement on promises, privileges, and responsibilities. From a biblical perspective, a covenant is essentially about relationship. This relationship when formalised has sanctions attached to it. Therefore, there are blessings if the relationship is kept, and penalties if the relationship is broken.

**B. Summary of the year 2020:** 2020 was a year of massive loss of lives, money, investments, jobs, businesses, opportunities and relationship breakdowns. It defined our lives in many areas through national lockdowns, restricted travels, virtual church services, unusual graduation ceremonies, restricted weddings and funeral services.

**C. The prophetic message for 2021:** The prophetic message that God gave to us this coming year is that it is our year of RECOVERY and DIVINE COMPENSATION. Joel 2:25 says: 'So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust, my great army which I sent among you'. We should reflect on the capacity of the promiser. He is the superior Person in the covenant. He is the I Am that I Am, the omnipotent God, the El-Shaddai, the unchanging changer and a faithful promiser. There are two important things about this prophetic message. The Lord has promised us recovery and divine compensation.

**Conclusion:** Decree what you do not want to experience in 2021 and what you want God to do for you in 2021.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



For the Lord your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory! Deut. 20:4

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**Sunday Worship Service** 8am – 9:30am

Night of Wonders Telephone **Prayer Conferencing**

(Every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month, 7:00pm–8:00pm)

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