

**A Christian
and
Persecution & Imprisonment**

Fredrick G. Omondi

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

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INTRODUCTION

Persecution and imprisonment for a Christian (a born-again) is inevitable just as day and night, although some have been startled by the fact; only that the degree / extent of persecution or imprisonment is going to be different from one individual to another individual.

Persecutions come from various people in life and also come in various ways / forms. Perseverance is needed for one to overcome these and to come out victorious in the Lord and later be able to enter heaven to everlasting life with the Lord. In persecutions and imprisonments God can rescue one and some times God can allow one to go all through it and the reasons are only best known by him and him alone.

Many Christians have backslidden when they undergo these experiences or may have shuddered when they saw their fellow brethren go through such experiences. This book is for such Christians to help them overcome such situations and to bear in mind what the Lord told his disciples in the book

of Matthew (Matthew 10:22) and also in the book of Mark (Mark 10:35-40).

In this book the reader is going to read in chapter 2 to 14 some samples of God's servants who suffered going through persecution and imprisonment and that such experience is not confined only to just a few Christians but to all Christians at one time or another, wherever they are (Philippians 1:27-30, 1 Peter 5:8-11).

Be encouraged of the fact that your sufferings for Christ's sake is not going to be in vain but you will be greatly rewarded in the end. (1 Peter 1:3-7, Romans 8:14-18).

Please do get to know that it is better to persevere through it all and come out with something plus eternal life in heaven with the Lord than to shy away and want it easy going and come out with nothing and end up eternally in hell with the Devil and his angels. (Hebrews 11:24-27; 12:2-4).

If you happen to read the record of the lives of the twelve Disciples of Christ save for Judas Iscariot who hanged himself, all the rest seems to have died not a natural death but by being beheaded, martyred

or crucified. Even other apostles that followed after like apostle Paul, was also beheaded. Now that is what happened to the early Church and Christians today are no exception, that is, the Church of Jesus today.

In this book and in all my other books, I have endeavoured to restrict myself in King James version of the Holy Bible in quotations and the subsequent texts, as it is the best ever translation in English and in case you are uncomfortable with of don't despair, as all is well and not lost. Whenever you find I have given a scripture quotation, just go to your Bible (whatever version it is) and read and you will be in the same page with me in your reading.

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Chapter 1

What the Scriptures Say

The scriptures have a lot to say on the persecution and imprisonment of the servants of God and we are going to look at some of them straight away before we move to the other chapters to see how it was fulfilled and will continue to be fulfilled even in our generation and any other generations if there will be any at all, as we are living in the last days.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man become.

The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant his lord.

It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Be-el'-ze-bub, how much more shall they call them of his household?

Matthew 10:16-25

That was Jesus Christ who was telling his disciples of what they should expect in their lives and how they should react. It was going to be persecutions

because of hatred by people who are not ready for the truth and righteous living as is expected by God from all men. The disciples were to persevere and endure to the end.

If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord.

If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

But all these things they will do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.

If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin.

He that hateth me hateth my Father also.

If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.

But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without cause.

John 15:18-25

Those who persecute Christians don't know God.

THESE things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended.

They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killed you will think that he doeth God service.

And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.

But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you.

John 16:1-4

Jesus Christ told his disciples those words so that when they happen they are not offended and that he did not tell them before when he called them, because he was still with them but now he was going back to his Father and they will meet with persecutions but nevertheless he would send them another, (a comforter) to be with them.

AND Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to show him the buildings of the temple.

And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another and shall hate one another.

And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Matthew 24:1-14

The disciple is not above his master, nor the servant above his lord.

It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord.

If they have called the master of the house Be-el'-ze-bub, how much more shall they call them of his household?

Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known.

What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.

But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men,
him will I confess also before my Father which is in
heaven.

But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will
I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I
come not to send peace, but a sword.

For I am come to set a man at variance against his
father, and the daughter against her mother, and the
daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.

And a man's foes shall be they of his own
household.

He that loveth father or mother more than me is not
worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter
more than me is not worthy of me.

And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after
me, is not worthy of me.

He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that
loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

Matthew 10:24-39

Now those are hard sayings by the Lord Jesus
Christ to his disciples but it is the plain truth of true
Christianity. Now that is not milk but meat.

Christians now must change their diet as a matter of urgency lest they suffer from spiritual kwashiorkor. They must be eating meat now to grow up and mature spiritually and be heaven product. Please do ponder on this as I need not elaborate the obvious.

And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lys'-tra, and to I-co'-ni-um, and An'-ti-och.

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

Acts 14:21-22

That was apostles Paul and Barnabas encouraging Christians to continue in their Christian Walk despite the many challenges facing them in life, which of course includes persecutions from the world.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed;
we are perplexed, but not in despair;
Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not
destroyed;

Always bearing about in the body the dying of the
Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be
made manifest in our body.

For we which live are always delivered unto death
for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be
made manifest in our mortal flesh.

So then death worketh in us, but life in you.

We having the spirit of faith, according as it is
written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we
also believe, and therefore speak;

Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus
shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us
with you.

2 Corinthians 4:7-14

Apostle Paul in writing to the church at Corinth a
second time led by the Holy Spirit said those
powerful words for he knew that God cares and
would see his children (Christians) triumph, only if
they cared to continue to hold on him.

WHEREFORE we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone;

And sent Timothy, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellow labourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:

That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.

For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.

For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.

But now when Timothy came unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you:

Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith:

For we now live, if ye stand fast in the Lord.

1Thessalonians 3:1-8

In the above scripture as well, it is clear that persecution is part and parcel in the walk of faith.

And **what shall I more say?** For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthah; and David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

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

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

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

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

Hebrews 11:32-36

Born again Christians pass through many hardships and that includes imprisonment but they need to persevere and wait for a better resurrection (the first resurrection, that is, the resurrection of the righteous), so as not to taste the second death but go into everlasting life in heaven to be with the Lord eternally (Revelation 2:8-11; 20:4-6; 21:1-7; 22:7-14).

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

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

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

Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

1 Peter 2:19-23

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

But rejoice, inasmuch as ye re partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

But let none of you suffer as murderer, or a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

For the time is come that judgement must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what

shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

1Peter 4:12-19

Apostle Peter also goes on to tell Christians to suffer for Christ's sake not for faults on their part; but for righteousness, which is acceptable to God. He acknowledges that Christians will suffer. Let it be known to us that the more one is anointed, the more persecutions in the world. But why? Because such a one is a threat to the kingdom of Satan and he must fight hard with his cohorts to safeguard it.

And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them

which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days; be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Revelation 2:8-11

Jesus Christ is still talking to the congregation of the saints that they will suffer and be jailed in prison too, but they need to stay put.

Apart from persecutions and imprisonments that faces every born-again Christian are other hardships / storms of life as you are going to see in this scripture.

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blow, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

Matthew 7:24-25

The storms of life come as floods and as winds and beat upon the life of a Christian and it will depend how a Christian has built his or her life (salvation) on the word of God (the doctrines of Christ) and therefore not fall - be not adversely affected by other things and fall. The storms surely will come at a certain point in time. Then, what do you and I do? The solution lies on the scripture that follows:

And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.

For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Colossians 2:4-8

Steadfastness of faith in Jesus Christ is required. We need to be rooted and built in Christ (the rock of our salvation) and not to heed to anything that is not from Christ. Those other things are what has been said as ‘sinking sand’, and are not helpful to us, as Christians.

You can test your foundation if it is built right on a rock or not by checking your faith if it is intact after the storms are over - have beaten you. See if you still love the Lord as before and continue to trust in him or not. If you have grown cold to the Lord you can be sure your foundation is faulty and shaky.

In this walk of faith one must pass through the Red sea the Wilderness and River Jordan before one can finally enter the promised land of God in heaven as long as you live long on the earth save only those that go to be with the Lord very soon, after their conversion.

The enemy will always be bringing obstacles on one's way but God will see to it that such a one if continue to be firm and steadfast in the Lord trusting in him God will take the one safely through all those (2 Chronicles 15:1-2, John 6:37-40) as the one is in Christ, who is the way (John 14:6) and therefore a way will be always provided for escape (1 Corinthians 10:13).

The Disciples as the body of Christ were members of the household being the family of God and the church of Christ. Christ Jesus was their Lord and Master and the disciples were the servants in God's house. The Disciples (followers) of Jesus Christ had to expect worse and harsher treatment from the world and that applies to all who will ever be Christ's followers.

For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?

Luke 23:31

Jesus described Himself in that scripture as a green tree and his disciples as dry trees. Surely enough

Christ Jesus was very green being full of life as he is the giver of life (John 6:31-33, 51; 14:4-6)

If the world treated Christ the way they did, definitely they will do the same and even more to his Disciples.

WHO hath believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 53:1-5

The above was a prophecy given by the prophet Isaiah concerning the sufferings Jesus Christ was going to go through in life for mankind for the remission of their sins.

The kind of treatment Christ received in the world which was very cruel; is likely the kind of treatment the followers of Christ are going to receive in life as well, in one way or another being hatred, opposition, persecution, imprisonment and all forms of unfair treatment, as many in the world have not believed in the word of God although they have been preached to and their response by many is likely to be in the above mentioned ways but a Christian need to trust always in God and not on one's ability or strength (2 Corinthians 1:8-11).

Chapter 2

Case study # 1: The Lord Jesus Christ

Our Lord Jesus Christ had a nasty and most painful experience while here on earth in his body, human body which he took so as to show us the way and the truth and to experience the sufferings of the fallen man on earth and to give himself as a perfect sacrifice of God for man's redemption on earth.

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

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

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

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

And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and

struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear.

Then said Jesus unto him,

Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.

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

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

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

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

And they that had laid hold on Jesus led him away to Cai'-a-phas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Then did they spit on his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands, Saying, Prophecy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee?

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

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

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

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

And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech betrayeth thee.

Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew.

And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly. WHEN the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death:

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

Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

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

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

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

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

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

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

And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest.

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

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

And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.

Now at that feast the governor was wont to release unto the people a prisoner, whom they would.

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

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

For he knew that for envy they had delivered him.

When he was set down on the judgement seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.

But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Bar-ab'-bas, and destroy Jesus.

The governor answered and said unto them, whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Bar-ab'-bas.

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

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

When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am

innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.

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

Then released he Bar-ab'-bas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

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

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

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

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

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

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

And when they were come unto a place called Gol'-go-tha, that is to say, a place of the skull, They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall; and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink. And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, they parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.

And sitting down they watched him there; And set up over his head his accusation written, this is Jesus the King of the Jews.

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

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

And saying Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross.

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

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

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

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

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, E'-li, E'li, la'-ma-sa-bach'-tha-ni? That is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Some of them that stood there, when they heard that said, This man calleth for Eli'-jah.

And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink.

The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Eli'jah will come to save him.

Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice,
yielded up the ghost.

Matthew 26:47-27:50

Chapter 3

Case study # 2: David son of Jesse

Now David the son of Jesse and who was anointed by the prophet Samuel to be the king of Israel after king Saul, as instructed by God, had a real rough time with king Saul who persistently tried to take away his life.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.

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

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

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

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

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

Wherefore when Saul saw that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him.

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

And Saul said to David, Behold my elder daughter Mer'-ab, her will I give thee to wife: only be thou valiant for me, and fight the LORD's battles. For Saul said, Let not mine hand be upon him, but let the hand of the Phil-'is'-tines be upon him.

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

But it came to pass at the time when Mer'-ab Saul's daughter should have been given to David, that she was given unto A'-dri-el the Me-ho'-la-thite to wife.

And Michal Saul's daughter loved David: and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him.

And Saul said, I will give him her, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Phil-is'-tines may be against him. Wherefore Saul said to David, Thou shalt this day be my son-in-law in the one of the twain.

And Saul commanded his servant, saying, commune with David secretly, and say, Behold, the king hath delight in thee, and all his servants love thee: now therefore be the king's son-in-law.

And Saul's servants spake those words in the ears of David. And David said, Seemeth to you a light thing to be a king's son-in-law, seeing that I am a poor man, and lightly esteemed?

And the servants of Saul told him, saying, On this manner spake David.

And Saul said, Thus shall ye say to David, The king desireth not any dowry, but a hundred foreskins of

the Phil-is'-tines, to be avenged of the king's enemies.

But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Phil-is'-tines.

And when his servants told David of these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son-in-law: and the days were not expired.

Wherefore David arose and went he and his men, and slew of the Phil-is'-tines two hundred men; and David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full tale to the king, that he might be the king's son-in-law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife.

And Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal Saul's daughter loved him.

And Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually.

Then the princes of the Phil-is'-tines went forth: and it came to pass, after they went forth, that David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul, so that his name was much set by.

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

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

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

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

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

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

And Jonathan called David, and Jonathan showed him all those things. And Jonathan brought David to Saul, and he was in his presence, as in times past. And there was war again: and David went out, and fought with the Phil-is'-tines, and slew them with a great slaughter; and they fled from him.

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

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

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

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

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

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

And Saul sent the messengers again to see David, saying, Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may slay him.

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

And Saul said unto Michal, Why hast thou deceived me so, and sent away mine enemy, that he is escaped? And Michal answered Saul, He said unto me, Let me go; why should I kill thee?

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

And it was told Saul, saying, Behold, David is at Nai'-oth in Ra'-mah.

And Saul sent messengers to take David: and when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as appointed over them, the Spirit of God was upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied.

And when it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise. And Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they prophesied also.

Then went he also to Ra'-mah, and came to a great well that is in Se'-chu: and he asked and said, Where are Samuel and David? And one said, Behold, they be at Nai'-oth in Ra'-mah.

And he went thither to Nai'-oth in Ra'-mah: and the Spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on, and prophesied, until he came to Nai'-oth in Ra'-mah.

And he stripped off his clothes also, and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Wherefore they say, Is Saul also among the prophets?

David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adul'-lam: and when his brethren and all his father's house heard it, they went down thither to him.

And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he

became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men.

And David went thence to Miz'peh of Moab: and he said to the king of Moab, Let my father and my mother, I pray thee, come forth, and be with you, till I know what God will do for me.

And he brought them before the king of Moab: and they dwelt with him all the while that David was in the hold.

And the prophet Gad said unto David, Abide not in the hold; depart, and get thee into the land of Judah. Then David departed, and came into the forest of Har'-eth.

When Saul heard that David was discovered, and the men that were with him, (now Saul abode in Gib'-eah under a tree in Ra'-mah, having his spear in his hand, and all his servants were standing about him;)

Then Saul said unto his servants that stood about him, Hear now, ye Benjamites; will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, and make you all captains of thousands, and captains of hundreds;

That all of you have conspired against me, and there is none that showest me that my son hath made a league with the son of Jesse, and there is none of you that is sorry for me, or showeth unto me that my son hath stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?

Then answered Do'-eg the E'-dom-ite, which was set over the servants of Saul, and said, I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob to A-him'-e-lech the son of A-hi'-tub.

And he inquired of the LORD for him, and gave him victuals, and gave him the sword of Go-li'-ath the Phi-is'-tine.

Then the king sent to call A-him'-e-lech the priest, the son of A-hi'-tub, and all his father's house, the priests that were in Nob: and they came all of them to the king.

And Saul said, Hear now, thou son of A-hi'-tub. And he answered, Here I am, my lord.

And Saul said unto him, Why have ye conspired against me, thou and the son of Jesse, in that thou hast given him bread, and a sword, and hast

inquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?

Then A-him'-e-lech answered the king, and said, And who is so faithful among all thy servants as David, which is the king's son-in-law, and goeth at thy bidding, and is honourable in thine house?

Did I then begin to inquire of God for him? Be it far from me: let not the king impute any thing unto his servant, nor to all the house of my father: for they servant knew nothing of all this, less or more.

And the king said, Thou shalt surely die, A-him'-e-lech, thou, and all thy father's house.

And the king said unto the footmen that stood about him, Turn, and slay the priests of the LORD; because their hand also is with David, and because they knew when he fled, and did not show it to me. But the servants of the king would not put forth their hand to fall upon the priests of the LORD.

And the king said to Do'-eg, Turn thou, and fall upon the priests. And Do'-eg the E'-dom-ite turned, and he fell upon the priests, and slew on that day fourscore and five persons that did wear a linen e'-phod.

And Nob, the city of priests, smote he with the edge of his sword, both men and women, children and sucklings, and oxen, and asses, and sheep, with the edge of the sword.

And one of the sons of A-him'-e-lech the son of A-hi'-tub, named A-bi'-a-thar, escaped, and fled after David.

And A-bi'-a-thar showed David that Saul had slain the LORD'S priests.

And David said unto A-bi'-a-thar, I knew it that day, when Do'-eg the E'-dom-ite was there, that he would surely tell Saul: I have occasioned the death of all persons of thy father's house.

Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou shalt be in safeguard.

Then they told David, saying, Behold, the Phil-is'-tines fight against Kei'-lah, and they rob the threshing floors.

Therefore inquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go and smite these Phil'-is-tines? And the LORD said unto David; Go, and smite the Phil-is'-tines, and save Kei'-lah.

And David's men said unto him, Behold, we be afraid here in Judah: how much more then if we come to Kei'-lah against the armies of the Phil-is'-tines?

Then David inquired of the LORD yet again. And the LORD answered him and said, Arise, go down to Kei'-lah; for I will deliver the Phil-is'-tines into thine hand.

So David and his men went to Kei'-lah, and fought with the Phil-is'-tines, and brought away their cattle, and smote them with a great slaughter. So David saved the inhabitants of Kei'-lah.

And it came to pass, when A-bi'-a-thar the son of A-him'-e-lech fled to David to Kei'-lah, that he came down with an e'-phod in his hand.

And it was told Saul that David was come to Kei'-lah. And Saul said, God hath delivered him into mine hand; for he is shut in, by entering into a town that hath gates and bars.

And Saul called all the people together to war, to go down to Kei'-lah, to besiege David and his men.

And David knew that Saul secretly practised mischief against him; and he said to A-bi'-a-thar the priest, Bring hither the e'-phod.

Then said David, O LORD God of Israel, thy servant hath certainly heard that Saul seeketh to come to Kei'-lah, to destroy the city for my sake.

Will the men of Kei'-lah deliver me up into his hand? Will Saul come down, as thy servant hath heard? O LORD GOD of Israel, I beseech thee, tell thy servant. And the LORD said, He will come down.

Then said David, Will the men of Kei'-lah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul?

And the LORD said, they will deliver thee up.

Then David and his men, which were about six hundred, arose and departed out of Kei'-lah, and went whithersoever they could go. And it was told Saul that David was escaped from Kei'-lah; and he for bare to go forth.

And David abode in the wilderness in strongholds, and remained in a mountain in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God delivered him not into his hand.

And David saw that Saul was come out to seek his life: and David was in the wilderness of Ziph in a wood.

And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God.

And he said unto him, Fear not the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knoweth.

And they two made a covenant before the LORD: And David abode in the wood, and Jonathan went to his house.

Then came up the Ziphites to Saul to Gib'e-ah, saying, Doth not David hide himself with us in strongholds in the wood, in the hill of Ha-chi'-lah, which is on the south of Je-shi'-mon?

Now therefore, O king, come down according to all the desire of thy soul to come down; and our part shall be to deliver him into the king's hand.

And Saul said, blessed be ye of the LORD; for ye have compassion on me.

Go, I pray you, prepare yet, and know and see his place where his haunt is, and who hath seen him

there: for it is told to me that he dealeth very subtilly.

See therefore, and take knowledge of all the lurking places where he hideth himself, and come ye again to me with the certainty, and I will go with you: and it shall come to pass, if he be in the land, that I will search him out throughout all the thousands of Judah.

And they arose, and went to Ziph before Saul: but David and his men were in the wilderness of Ma'-on, in the plain of the south of Je-shi'-mon.

Saul also and his men went to seek him. And they told David: wherefore he came down into a rock, and abode in the wilderness of Ma'-on. And when Saul heard that, he pursued after David in the wilderness of Ma'-on.

And Saul went on this side of the mountain, and David and his men on that side of the mountain: and David made haste to get away for fear of Saul; for Saul and his men compassed David and his men round about to take them.

But there came a messenger unto Saul, saying,
Haste thee, and come; for the Phil-is'-tines have
invaded the land.

Wherefore Saul returned from pursuing after
David, and went against the Phil'-is-tines: therefore
they called that place Se'-la-hammah'-lekoth.

And David went up from thence, and dwelt in
strongholds at En-ge'-di.

1 Samuel 18, 19, 22 & 23

David's prayers are in the book of Psalms. Read
Psalms 140:1-2; 121:1-8, 124:1-8 and may the
name of the Lord be praised for ever. A'-men.

Chapter 4

Case study # 3: Joseph son of Jacob

Here we are going to see how Joseph suffered in the hands of his brothers as well as in the hands of his master Potiphar in Egypt. Joseph loved righteousness and God visited him through dreams revealing to him his destiny in life in Egypt. Read on.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Then there passed by Mid'-i-a-nites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ish'-mae-lites for twenty pieces of silver; and they brought Joseph into Egypt.

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

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

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

And they sent the coat of many colours, and they brought it to their father; and said, this have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or no.

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

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

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

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

AND Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Pot'-i-phar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ish'-mae-lites, which brought him down thither.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Genesis 37 & 39

Details of how Joseph rose to more prominence you can read from the same book of Genesis in the Bible from chapter 40 onwards and towards the end of the book you will see how Joseph's dreams came to pass just as he had dreamt.

Chapter 5

Case study # 4: Job

Now this man Job suffered many misfortunes in the hands of Satan who was allowed by God to test his life, and Satan had a field day in tempting Job in various ways unsuccessfully, as he never made Job to lose his faith and trust in God.

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

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

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

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

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

Thus did Job continually.

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

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

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

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

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

But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

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

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

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

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

Whole he was yet speaking there came also another, and said, The Chal-de'-ans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the

edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

And the LORD said unto Satan, from whence comest thou?

And Satan answered the LORD, and said, from going to and from in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Then said his wife unto him, dost thou still retain thy integrity? Curse God, and die.

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

Job 1:1-2: 10

True, one can suffer afflictions through the hands of Satan as Satan can cause many bad things to happen in one's life and is ready to use any human being to accomplish that, especially those without God, as his instruments / agents, to try to stop one from trusting in God as Job's wife in the above case.

Chapter 6

Case study # 5: Prophet Jeremiah

The prophet Jeremiah was not spared sufferings because of the prophecies he gave out to the people as we are going to see below.

AND king Zed-e-ki'-ah the son of Jo-si'-ah reigned instead of Co-ni'-ah the son of Je-hoi'-a-kim, whom Neb-u-chad-rez'-zar king of Babylon made king in the land of Judah.

But neither he, nor his servants, nor the people of the land, did hearken unto the words of the LORD, which he spake by the prophet Jeremiah.

And Zed-e-ki'-ah the king sent Je-hu'-cal the son of Shel-e-mi'-ah and Zeph-a-ni'-ah the son of Ma-a-sei'-ah the priest to the prophet Jeremiah, saying, Pray now unto the LORD our God for us.

Now Jeremiah came in and went out among the people: for they had not put him into prison.

Then Pharaoh's army was come forth out of Egypt: and whether Chal-de'-ans that besieged Jerusalem heard tidings of them, they departed from Jerusalem.

Then came the word of the LORD unto the prophet Jeremiah, saying,

Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel; Thus shall ye say to the king of Judah, that sent you unto me to inquire of me; Behold, Pharaoh's army, which is come forth to help you, shall return to Egypt into their own land.

And the Chal-de'-ans shall come again, and fight against this city, and take it, and burn it with fire.

Thus saith the LORD; deceive not yourselves, saying, The Chal-de'-ans shall surely depart from us: for they shall not depart.

For though ye had smitten the whole army of the Chal-de'-ans that fight against you, and there remained but wounded men among them, yet should they rise up every man in his tent, and burn this city with fire.

And it came to pass, that when the army of the Chal-de'-ans was broken up from Jerusalem for fear of Pharaoh's army,

Then Jeremiah went forth out of Jerusalem to go into the land of Benjamin, to separate himself thence in the midst of the people.

And when he was in the gate of Benjamin, a captain of the ward was there, whose name was I-ri'-jah, the son of Shel-e-mi'-ah, the son of Han-a-ni'-ah; and he took Jeremiah the prophet, saying, Thou fallest away to the Chal-de'-ans.

Then said Jeremiah, It is false; I fall not away to the Chal-de'-ans. But he hearkened not to him: so I-ri'-jah took Jeremiah and brought him to the princes. Wherefore the princes were wroth with Jeremiah, and smote him, and put him in prison in the house of Jonathan the scribe: for they had made that the prison.

When Jeremiah was entered into the dungeon, and into the cabins, Jeremiah had remained there many days;

Then Zed-e-ki'-ah the king sent, and took him out: and the king asked him secretly in his house, and said, Is there any word from the LORD? And Jeremiah said, there is: for, said he, thou shalt be delived into the hand of the king of Babylon.

Moreover Jeremiah said unto king Zed-e-ki'-ah, what have I offended against thee, or against thy

servants, or against this people, that, ye have put me in prison?

Where are now your prophets which prophesied unto you, saying, the king of Babylon shall not come against you, nor against this land?

Therefore hear now, I pray thee, O my lord the king: Let my supplication, I pray thee, be accepted before thee; that thou cause me not to return to the house of Jonathan the scribe, lest I die there.

Then Zed-e-ki'-ah, the king commanded that they should commit Jeremiah into the court of the prison, and that they should give him daily a piece of bread out of the baker's street, until all the bread in the city were spent.

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

Thus saith the LORD, He that remaineth in this city shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence: but he that goeth forth to the Chal-de'-

ans shall live; for he shall have his life for a prey,
and shall live.

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

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

The Zed-e-ki'-ah the king said, Behold, he is in
your hand: for the king is not he that can do any
thing against you.

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

Now when E'-bed-mel'-ech the E-thi-o'-pi-an, one
of the eunuchs which was in the king's house,

heard that they had put Jeremiah in the dungeon;
the king then sitting in the gate of Benjamin;
E'-bed-mel'-ech went forth out of the king's house,
and spake to the king, saying,

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

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

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

So E'-bed-mel'-ech took the men with him, and
went into the house of the king under the treasury,
and took thence old cast clouts and old rotten rags,
and let them down by cords into the dungeon to
Jeremiah.

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

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

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

Then Zed-e-ki'-ah the king sent, and took Jeremiah the prophet unto him into the third entry that is in the house of the LORD: and the king said unto Jeremiah, I will ask thee a thing; hide nothing from me.

Then Jeremiah said unto Zed-e-ki'-ah, If I declare it unto thee, wilt thou not surely put me to death? And if I give thee counsel, wilt thou not hearken unto me?

So Zed-e-ki'-ah the king sware secretly unto Jeremiah, saying, As the LORD liveth, that made us this soul, I will not put thee to death, neither will I give thee into the hand of these men that seek thy life.

Then said Jeremiah to Zed-e-ki'-ah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel; If thou wilt assuredly go forth unto the king of Babylon's princes, then thy soul shall live, and this city shall not be burned with fire; and thou shalt live, and thine house:

But if thou wilt not go forth to the king of Babylon's princes, then shall this city be given into the hand of the Chal-de'-ans, and they shall burn it with fire, and thou shalt not escape out of their hand.

And Zed-e-ki'-ah the king said unto Jeremiah, I am afraid of the Jews that are fallen to the Chal-de'-ans, lest they deliver me into their hand, and they mock me.

But Jeremiah said, they shall not deliver thee. Obey, I beseech thee, the voice of the LORD, which I speak unto thee: so it shall be well unto thee, and thy soul shall live.

But if thou refuse to go forth, this is the word that the LORD hath showed me:

And, behold, all the women that are left in the king of Judah's house shall be brought forth to the king

of Babylon's princes, and those women shall say,
Thy friends have set thee on, and have prevailed
against thee: thy feet are sunk in the mire, and they
are turned away back.

So they shall bring out all thy wives and thy
children to the Chal-de'-ans: and thou shalt not
escape out of their hand, but shalt be taken by the
hand of the king of Babylon: and thou shalt cause
this city to be burned with fire.

Then said Zed-e-ki'-ah to Jeremiah, Let no man
know these words, and thou shalt not die.

But if the princes hear that I have talked with thee,
and they come unto thee, and say unto thee,
Declare unto us now what thou hast said unto the
king, hide it not from us, and we will not put thee to
death; also what the king said unto thee:

Then thou shalt say unto them, I presented my
supplication before the king, that he would not
cause me to return to Jonathan's house, to die there.

Then came all the princes unto Jeremiah, and asked
him: and he told them according to all the words
that the king had commanded. So they left off

speaking with him; for the matter was not perceived.

So Jeremiah abode in the court of the prison until the day that Jerusalem was taken: and he was there when Jerusalem was taken.

Jeremiah 37 & 38

Chapter 7

Case study#6: Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah

The trio, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah who were Hebrews and in exile in the land of Babylon faced the toughest test in their lives but they stood their ground on the matter of their faith.

NEB-U-CHAD-NEZ'-ZAR the king made an image of Gold, whose height was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Du'-ra, in the province of Babylon.

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

Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image the Neb-u-chad-nez-zar the king had set up; and they stood

before the image that Neb-u-chad-nez-zar had set up.

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

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

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

Therefore at that time, when all the people heard
the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut,
psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of music, all the
people, the nations, and the languages, fell down
and worshiped the golden image that Neb-u-chad-
nez-zar the king hath set up.

Wherefore at that time certain Chalde'-ans came
near, and accused the Jews.

They spake and said to the king Neb-u-chad-nez-
zar, O king, live for ever.

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

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

There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Sha'-drach, Me'-shach, and A'-bed'-ne-go; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

Then Neb-u-chad-nez-zar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Sha'-drach, Me'-shach, and A'-bed'-ne-go. Then they brought these men before the king.

Neb-u-chad-nez-zar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Sha'-drach, Me'-shach, and A'-bed'-ne-go, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?

Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and

worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

Sha'-drach, Me'-shach, and A'-bed'-ne-go, answered and said to the king, O Neb-u-chad-nez-zar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Then Neb-u-chad-nez-zar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?

They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

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

Then Neb-u-chad-nez-zar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said,

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

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

Then Neb-u-chad-nez-zar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Sha'-drach, Me'-shach, and A'-bed'-ne-go, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

Therefore I make a decree, that every people, nation, and language, which speak anything amiss against the God of Sha'-drach, Me'-shach, and A'-bed'-ne-go, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.

Then the king promoted Sha'-drach, Me'-shach, and A'-bed'-ne-go, in the province of Babylon.

Daniel 3

Nebuchadnezzar did not know the God of the Jews and he saw him live, live, a terrible and a mighty God indeed, and he acknowledged him and worshipped him. I love this God, a no nonsense God, a very serious God, a most caring God indeed. His name will be praised for ever and ever. From the above account it is evident that God gives us grace just as he gave to Apostle Paul (2 Corinthians 12:7-10) and does not sneak away from us only to come back after our bitter experience. Remember the case of Stephen who was stoned to death (Acts 7:51-60).

Chapter 8

Case study # 7: Daniel

Now this man Daniel was a compatriot of Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah and he too did face the toughest trial in his life and he too because of the faithful of God, the God of all mercies, he came out victorious.

IT pleased Da-ri'-us to set over the kingdom a hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom;

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

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

Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

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

Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king and said thus unto him, king Da-ri'-us, live for ever.

All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for the neither was there any error or fault found in him.

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

Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, king Da-ri'-us, live for ever.

All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask

a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

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

Wherefore king Da-ri'us signed the writing and the decree.

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did afore time.

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

Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king shall be case into the den of lions?

The king answered and said,

The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

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

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

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

Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions.

Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee. And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

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

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

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

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

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

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

And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den.

Then king Da-ri'-us wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.

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

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

So Daniel prospered in the reign of Da-ri'-us, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Daniel 6

Now Nebuchadnezzar was a dictatorial king unlike Darius who was a liberal king. Darius was a king with a difference unlike Nebuchadnezzar. Darius had a humanitarian heart and it pained him what was to befall Daniel and he even fasted and abstained from leisure (instruments of music) and had at least some how a mustard seed faith to say what he told Daniel who was now in the lions den and to fast, refuse to listen to music, and rose up early to go to the lions den (expectant/hopeful) and cried and spoke to Daniel as he did and did command Daniel's accusers to also test what Daniel went through and to make a decree (new decree) to the people and to speak those powerful words (the truth).

Chapter 9

Case study # 8: John the Baptist

John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus Christ suffered death because he stood for the truth and rebuked sin.

AT that time Herod the te'-trarch heard of the fame of Jesus,

And said unto his servants, this is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead; and therefore mighty works do show forth themselves in him.

For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for He-ro'-di-as' sake, his brother Philip's wife.

For John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee to have her.

And when he would have put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet.

But when Herod's birthday was kept, the daughter of He-ro'-di-as danced before them, and pleased Herod.

Whereupon he promised with an oath to give her whatsoever she would ask.

And she, being before instructed of her mother, said, give me here John Baptist's head in a charger.

And the king was sorry: nevertheless for the oath's sake, and them which sat with him at meat, he commanded it to be given her.

And he sent, and beheaded John in the prison. And his head was brought in a charger, and given to the damsel: and she brought it to her mother.

And his disciples came, and took up the body, and buried it, and went and told Jesus. When Jesus heard of it he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart: and when the people had heard thereof, they followed him on foot out of the cities.

And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.

Matthew 14:1-14

Chapter 10

Case study# 9: Apostle Peter and John

Apostles Peter and John were imprisoned because they preached Christ Jesus crucified and resurrected.

AND as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sad'-du-ceeds, came upon them. Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide.

Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes,

And Annas the high priest and Cai'-a-phas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.

And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, by what power, or by what name, have ye done this?

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, If we be this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;

Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become, the head of the corner.

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled, and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

And beholding the man which was healed standing with them they could say nothing against it.

But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves,

Saying, what shall we do to these men? For that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them in manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it.

But that it spread no further, among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name.

And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

But Peter and John answered and said unto them, whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.

For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish

them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done.

Acts 4:1-21

Persecutions will surely come to truly born again Christians for Satan is not happy to see the enhancing of the kingdom of God in any way be it in preaching, teaching, manifestations of the power of God through: healings, miracles, signs and wonders and therefore will do all that he can to try to thwart all that and if possible to stop them.

But that should not make us bitter and regretful in life but rather make us better and radical standing up for the Lord (verses 13 to 20). We only need one thing from the Lord – more infilling with the Holy Spirit to do even more exploits for the Lord. We need pray to the Lord who is ready to grant us with the necessary as the apostles prayed; for our help is from the Lord (Acts 4:21-31, Psalm 121:1-2).

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

for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

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

Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and what thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Eph'-e-sus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Per'-ga-mos, and unto Thy-a-ti'-ra, and unto Sar'-dis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto La-od-i-ce'-a.

And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

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

And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last.

I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, A'-men; and have the keys of hell and of death.

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

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

Revelation 1:9-20

Chapter 11

Case study # 10: Christ's apostles

In this chapter we are going to see quite interesting events unfolding one by one as we move on.

THE former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

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

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

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

Acts 1:1-8

In the above scripture Jesus Christ reminded his disciples about the promise of his Father which they were to wait for at Jerusalem before embarking on the Great Commission (Luke 24:44-49, John 14:14-17; 16:13-15, Matthew 28:16-20, Mark 16:9-19).

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

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

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

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

Acts 2:1-4

The disciples obeyed Jesus by waiting for the promise of the Father by assembling together at Jerusalem and on the fiftieth day from the day that Christ rose from the dead, they received the promise being filled with the Holy Spirit and straight away they begun to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.

AND as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sad'-du-ce-es, came upon them,

Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide.

Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes,

And Annas the high priest, and Cai'-a-phas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.

And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, If we be this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;

Be it known unto you, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the

dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves,

Saying, what shall we do to these men? For that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it.

But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name.

And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

But Peter and John answered and said unto them, whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.

For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for what which was done.

For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed.

And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God, with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?

The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.

For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,

For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak your word,

By stretching forth thy hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Acts 4:1-31

We can see from that scripture that persecution made the apostles to be hard cores in Christ and they were not deterred in their endeavour but were

provoked into prayer after which they went on with the gospel of Jesus Christ their Teacher and Master.

And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.

And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them. And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women)

Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.

There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sad'-du-cees,) and were filled with indignation,

And laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison.

But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.

And when they heard that, they entered into the temple early in the morning, and taught. But the high priest came, and they that were with him, and called the council together, and all the senate of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought.

But when the officers came, and found them not in the prison, they returned, and told,

Saying, the prison truly found we shut with all safety, and the keepers standing without before the doors: but when we had opened, we found no man within.

Now when the high priest and the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these things, they doubted of them whereunto this would grow.

Then came one and told them, saying, Behold, the men whom ye put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people.

Then went the captain with the officers, and brought them without violence: for they feared the people, lest they should have been stoned.

And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, Saying, did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? And, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.

Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, we ought to obey God rather than men.

The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.

Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

Acts 5:12-32

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

But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up
steadfastly into heaven and saw the glory of God,
and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,
And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the
Son of man standing on the right hand of God.
Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped
their ears, and ran upon him with once accord,
And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and
the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young
man's feet, whose name was Saul.
And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and
saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.
And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice,
Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he
had said this, he fell asleep.
AND Saul was consenting unto his death. And at
that time there was a great persecution against the
church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all
scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea
and Sa-mar'-i-a, except the apostles.
And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and
made great lamentation over him.

As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.

Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

Acts 7:54--8:4

In the above case we find that the church was persecuted so much at the time that Stephen a deacon was stoned to death and Saul a young man then, and not yet born-again but a religionist, consented Stephen's death. Persecution of Christians was more directed to the new converts leaving the twelve Disciples/Apostles then. I do thank the Lord for giving them the grace not to shy away from the Great commission wherever they were scattered but rather continued to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ preaching and teaching people, surely their reward awaits them at the appearance of our Lord and Saviour in the rapture of the holy Church of Christ. They did emulate the Apostles lifestyle, walking after their footsteps.

It seems that the apostles had overstayed at Jerusalem after the Pentecost probably they had found comfort there and God had to scatter them abroad as they had not fully followed the Lord's instructions that Jerusalem be only the starting point of their mission (Acts 1:8). Therefore, the great persecution and imprisonment led them out of Jerusalem to other areas as well as were instructed above.

Chapter 12

Case study # 11: Stephen

And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Li'-ber-tines, and Cy-re'-ni-ans, and Al-ex-an'-dri-ans, and of then of Ci-li'-ci-a and of Asia, disputing with Stephen.

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

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

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

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

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

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

THEN said the high priest, Are these things so?

And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mes-o-po-ta'-mi-a, before he dwelt in Har'-an,

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

Then came he out of the land of the Chal-de'-ans, and dwelt in Har'-an: and from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell.

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

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

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

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

And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him,

And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favour and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.

Now there came a dearth over all the land of Egypt and Ca'-na-an, and great affliction: and our fathers found no sustenance.

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

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

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

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

And were carried over into She'-chem, and laid in the sepulcher that Abraham bought for a sum of money of the sons of Em'mor the father of She'-chem.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Will thou kill me, as thou didst the Egyptian yesterday? Then fled Moses at this saying, and was a stranger in the land of mi'-di-an, where he begat two sons.

And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Si'-nai an angel of the lord in a flame of fire in a bush.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as he had appointed, speaking unto Moses, that he should make it according to the fashion that he had seen.

Which also our fathers that came after brought in with Joshua into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drove out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David;

Who found favour before God, and desired to find a tabernacle for the God of Jacob.

But Solomon built him a house.

Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest? Hath not my hand made all these things?

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

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

whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Acts 6:8 7:60

What an account that was! Another true witness of Jesus Christ, bold and up to the challenge. The only one recorded in the Holy Bible that prayed a prayer of forgiveness for his persecutors like the Lord did on the cross at Calvary. The only one that is recorded that Jesus Christ was standing at the right hand of God, when he faced martyrdom. I salute him for his bravery and prayer at such a time!

Chapter 13

Case study #12: Apostles James and Peter

The enemy had declared total war on the church of Christ and many of Christ's twelve disciples (the first he called) faced much persecution and even death as you are going to see in the following account.

NOW about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church.

And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two

soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.

And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.

And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.

When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forth with the angel departed from him.

And when Peter was come to himself, he said, now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.

Acts 12:1-12

Chapter 14

Case study # 13: Apostles Paul and Silas

The two apostles, Paul and Silas also faced persecutions and imprisonment in serving the Lord by preaching the gospel. Let me begin by apostle Paul then I will go to another scripture covering both of them.

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

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

Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeying often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by my own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

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

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

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

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

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

In Damascus the governor under Ar'-e-tas the king kept the city of Dam'-as-cenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me:

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

2 Corinthians 11:23-33

That is a list of what apostle Paul went through as a Christian. Remember before his conversion, and known as Saul then, he greatly persecuted the Church of Christ and at his conversion (Read the book of Acts chapter 9 and verses 1 to 18), The

Lord told him how greatly he will suffer for his sake, when the Lord was sending a disciple known as Ananias to go and pray for Saul who was later baptized and given the name Paul. It seems God wanted him to test what his fellow brethren in the Lord had gone through as a lesson to him. The apostle himself wrote to the church in Galatia telling them that they should not be deceived, God is not mocked. What a man sows is what he will reap (Galatians 6:7) and God gave a golden rule in the book of Matthew that one should do to others what one would like others to do to one (Matthew 7:12).

Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:

Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.

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

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

If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: If we deny him, he also will deny him, he also will deny us: If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

2 Timothy 2:8-13

Apostle Paul served the Lord the most going by the scriptures, if you read through the book of Acts, from the time of his conversion to his death.

And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much again by sooth saying:

The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, these men are the servants of the most High God, which show unto us the way of salvation. And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas and drew them into the market place unto the rulers,

And brought them to the magistrates, saying, these men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city, And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive neither to observe, being Romans.

And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them.

And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely:

Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

And the keeper of the prison awaking out his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.

But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.

Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.

Acts 16:16-34

Glory, glory, glory, glory to the most high God, the Creator of the Universe. When there are signs and wonders, preaching the gospel becomes that easy. No wonder the Lord told his disciples that signs will follow those who believe and surely, he went further to do it by confirming his word preached by them (Mark 16:17-20).

Chapter 15

Cast study #14: Hanani

Hanani who was a prophet (before the prophets were called Seers) ended up in prison because he rebuked Asa the king of Judah, for wrong doing.

IN the six and thirtieth year of the reign of A'-sa Ba'-ash-a king of Israel came up against Judah, and built Ra'-mah, to the intent that he might let none go out or come in to A'-sa king of Judah.

Then A'-sa brought out silver and gold out of the treasures of the house of the LORD and of the king's house, and sent to Ben-ha'-dad king of Syria, that dwelt at Damascus, saying,

There is a league between me and thee, as there was between my father and thy father: behold, I have sent thee silver and gold; go, break thy league with Ba'-ash-a king of Israel, that he may depart from me?

And Ben-ha'-dad hearkened unto king A'-sa, and sent the captains of his armies against the cities of Israel; and they smote I'-jon, and Dan, and A'-bel-ma'-im, and all the store cities of Naph'-ta-li.

And it came to pass, when Ba'-ash-a heard it, that he left off building of Ra'-mah, and let his work cease.

The A'-sa the king took all Judah; and they carried away stones of Ra'-mah, and the timber thereof, wherewith Ba'-ash-a was building; and he built therewith Ge'-ba and Miz-pah.

And at that time Ha-na'-ni the seer came to A'-sa king of Judah, and said unto him, Because thou hast relied on the king of Syria, and not relied on the LORD thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thine hand.

Were not the E-thi-o'-pi-ans and the Lu'-bim a huge host, with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet, because thou didst rely on the LORD, he delivered them into thine hand.

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

Then A'-sa was wroth with the seer, and put him in a prison house; for he was in a rage with him

because of this thing. And A'-sa oppressed some of the people the same time.

And, behold, the acts of A'-sa, first and last, lo, they are written in the Book of the kings of Judah and Israel.

And A'-sa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians.

And A'-sa slept with his fathers, and died in one and fortieth year of his reign.

2 Chronicles 16:1-13

Chapter 16

Case study # 15: Urijah

Urijah who was a prophet was killed because of the prophecy he gave.

And there was also a man that prophesied in the name of the LORD, U-ri'-jah the son of Shem-ai'-ah of Kir'-jath-je'-a-rim, who prophesied against this city and against this land according to all the words of Jeremiah:

And when Je-hoi'-a-kim the king, with all his mighty men, and all the princes, heard his words, the king sought to put him to death: but when U-ri'-jah heard it, he was afraid, and fled, and went into Egypt;

And Je-hoi'-a-kim the king sent men into Egypt, namely, El-na'-than the son of Ach'-bor, and certain men with him into Egypt.

And they fetched forth U-ri'-jah out of Egypt, and brought him, unto Je-hoi'-a-kim the king; who slew him with the sword, and cast his dead body into the graves of the common people.

Nevertheless the hand of A-hi'-kam the son of Sha'-phan was with Jeremiah, that they should not give him into the hand of the people to put him to death.

Jeremiah 26:20-24

Chapter 17

Case study # 16: Priests of Nob

The priests of Nob were killed by the instruction of king Saul who thought they were in sympathy with David the son of Jesse and who he was pursuing.

THEN came David to Nob to A-him'-e-lech the priest: and A-him'-e-lech was afraid at the meeting of David, and said unto him, Why art thou alone, and no man with thee?

And David said unto A-him'-e-lech the priest, The king hath commanded me a business, and hath said unto me, Let no man know anything of the business where about I send thee, and what I have commanded thee: and I have appointed my servants to such and such a place.

Now therefore what is under thine hand? Give me five loaves of bread in mine hand, or what there is present.

And the priest answered David, and said, there is no common bread under mine hand, but there is hallowed bread; if the young men have kept themselves at least from women.

And David answered the priest, and said unto him,
Of a truth women have been kept from us about
these three days, since I came out, and the vessels
of the young men are holy, and the bread is in a
manner common, yea, though it were sanctified this
day in the vessel.

So the priest gave him hallowed bread: for there
was no bread there but the show-bread, that was
taken from before the LORD, to put hot bread in
the day when it was taken away.

Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there
that day, detained before the LORD; and his name
was Do'-eg, an E'-dom-ite, the chiefest of the
herdmen that belonged to Saul.

And David said to A-him'-e-lech,

And is there not here under thine hand spear or
sword? For I have neither brought my sword nor
my weapons with me, because the king's business
required haste.

And the priest said, the sword of Go-li'-ath the
Phil-is'-tine, whom thou slewest in the valley of E'-
lah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the
e'-phod: if thou wilt take that, take it: for there is no

other save that here. And David said, there is none like that; give it me.

And David arose, and fled that day for fear of Saul, and went to A'-chish the king of Gath.

And the servants of A'-chish said unto him, Is not this David the king of the land? Did they not sing one to another of him in dances, saying, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands?

And David laid up these words in his heart, and was sore afraid of A'-chish the king of Gath.

And he changed his behaviour before them, and feigned himself mad in their hands, and scrapped on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle fall down upon his beard.

Then said A'-chish unto his servants, Lo, ye see the man is mad: wherefore then have ye brought him to me?

Have I need of mad men, that ye have brought this fellow to play the mad in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?

David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adul'-lam: and when his brethren and all his

father's house heard it, they went down thither to him.

And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and everyone that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men.

And David went thence to Miz'-peh of Moab: and he said unto the king of Moab, let my father and my mother, I pray thee, come forth, and be with you, till I know what God will do for me.

And he brought them before the king of Moab: and they dwelt with him all the while that David was in the hold.

And the prophet Gad said unto David, Abide not in the hold; depart and get thee into the land of Judah. Then David departed, and came into the forest of Har'-eth.

When Saul heard that David was discovered, and the men that were with him, (now Saul abode in Gib'-e-ah under a tree in Ra'-mah, having his spear in his hand, and all his servants were standing about him;)

Then Saul said unto his servants that stood about him, Hear now, ye Benjamites; will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, and make you all captains of thousands, and captains of hundreds;

That all of you have conspired against me, and there is none that showeth me that my son hath made a league with the son of Jesse, and there is none of you that is sorry for me, or showeth unto me that my son hath stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?

Then answered Do'-eg the E'-dom-ite, which was set over the servants of Saul, and said, I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to A-him'-e-lech the son of A-hi'-tub.

And he inquired of the LORD for him, and gave him victuals, and gave him the sword of Go-li'-ath the Phil-is'-tine.

Then the king sent to call A-him'-e-lech the priest, the son of A-hi'-tub, and all his father's house, the priests that were in Nob: and they came all of them to the king.

And Saul said, Hear now, thou son of A-hi'-tub.

And he answered, here I am my Lord.

And Saul said unto him, Why have ye conspired against me, thou and the son of Jesse, in that thou hast given him bread, and a sword, and has inquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?

Then A-him'-e-lech answered the king, and said, and who is so faithful among all thy servants as David, which is the king's son-in-law, and goeth at thy bidding, and is honourable in thine house?

Did I then begin to inquire of God for him? Be it far from me: let not the king impute anything unto his servant, nor to all the house of my father: for thy servant knew nothing of all this, less or more.

And the king said, Thou shalt surely die, A-him'-e-lech, thou, and all thy father's house.

And the king said unto the footmen that stood about him, Turn, and slay the priests of the LORD; because their hand also is with David, and because they knew when he fled, and did not show it to me. But the servants of the king would not put forth their hand to fall upon the priests of the LORD.

And the king said to Do'-eg, Turn thou, and fall upon the priests.

And Do'-eg the E'-dom-ite turned, and he fell upon the priests, and slew on that day fourscore and five persons that did wear a linen e'-phod.

1 Samuel 21:1-22:18

Chapter 18

Case study #17: Elijah

The prophet Elijah had to flee for his life which was in danger after he slew 450 prophets of Baal at the brook Kishon (1 Kings 18:36-40)

AND Ahab told Jez'-e-bel all that E-li'-jah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword.

Then Jez'-e-bel sent a messenger unto E-li'-jah, saying, so let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time.

And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beer-she'-ba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there.

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.

And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, arise and eat.

And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baked on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again.

And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee.

And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Hor'-eb the mount of God.

And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, what doest thou here, E-li'-jah?

And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

1 Kings 19:1-10

Chapter 19

Case study #18: Micaiah

Micaiah a prophet was put in prison for the prophecy he gave which was not pleasing to the king of Israel, Ahab.

And the messenger that went to call Mi-cai'-ah spake to him, saying, Behold, the words of the prophets declare good to the king with one assent; let thy word therefore, I pray thee, be like one of theirs, and speak thou good.

And Mi-cai'-ah said, As the LORD liveth, even what my God saith, that will I speak.

And when he was come to the king, the king said unto him, Mi-cai'-ah, shall we go to Ra'-moth-gil'-e-ad to battle, or shall I forbear?

And he said, Go ye up, and prosper, and they shall be delivered into your hand.

And the king said to him, how many times shall I adjure thee that thou say nothing but the truth to me in the name of the LORD?

Then he said, I did see all Israel scattered upon the mountains, as sheep that have no shepherd: and the

LORD said, these have no master; let them return therefore every man to his house in peace. And the king of Israel said to Je-hosh'-a-phat, did I not tell thee that he would not prophesy good unto me, but evil?

Again he said, Therefore hear the word of the LORD; I saw the LORD sitting upon his throne, and all the host of heaven standing on his right hand and on his left.

And the LORD said, who shall entice Ahab king of Israel, that he may go up and fall at Ra'-moth-gil'-e-ad? And one spake saying after this manner, and another saying after this manner.

Then there came out a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will entice him. And the LORD said unto him, wherewith?

And he said, I will go out, and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And the LORD said, Thou shalt entice him, and thou shalt also prevail: go out, and do even so.

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

Then Zed-e-ki'-ah the son of Che-nai'-a-nah came near, and smote Mi-cai'-ah upon the cheek, and said, which way went the Spirit of the LORD from me to speak unto thee?

And Mi-cai'-ah said, Behold, thou shalt see on that day when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself.

Then the king of Israel said, Take ye Mi-cai'-ah, and carry him back to Amon the governor of the city, and to Jo'-ash the king's son;

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

And Mi-cai'-ah said, If thou certainly return in peace, then hath not the LORD spoken by me.

And he said, Hearken, all ye people.

2 Chronicles 18:12-27

Chapter 20

Joyful persecutions and perseverance.

Now that we have found out how rough this journey by Christians is what do we do? Apostle Paul in writing to Timothy he narrated to him in his epistle how some of his colleagues ran away when they realized that the going was tough and tough (2 Timothy 1:11-15; 4:9-10) God forbid. The scriptures have hope for you and I and we need to take heart as apostle Paul did, only we must be filled with the Holy Spirit to be able to endure to the end. Even the apostles had to pray to God for more infilling of the Holy Spirit (they asked for boldness). But that can only come by being full of the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:23-30; 6:3-10).

Now let me take you to some of the encouragements the scriptures have for us and that we must persevere or fall out on the way, which is a waste of Christian Walk by you and me.

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

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

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

Matthew 5:10-12

What a big promise by the Lord himself, that heaven is yours plus rewards if only you remain in righteousness despite all the challenges in life. What can be better than those? More over, the Lord is saying you are not alone as others have passed that way. So, we need persevere persecutions and it will be joyful in the end, we can as well begin to be so now as the scripture says, I believe it is possible, otherwise the Lord cannot tell us to do the impossible.

And Jesus looking upon them saith, with men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible:

Then Peter began to say unto him, lo, we have left all, and have followed thee.

And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

Mark 10:27-30

By our own strength brother and sister, we cannot make it to heaven but by God.

God is a spirit and therefore the Holy Spirit is paramount for you and me (John 4:24) also read Zechariah 4:1-6.

When one decides to follow Jesus, one must leave some things and not hold to them dear but to walk right before God despite the many obstacles and be rewarded now in this life and the life to come (in eternity). The Lord told his disciples to seek the kingdom of God and its righteousness and the rest (others) will follow (be added) to them- all truth go hand in hand (Matthew 6:31-33).

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

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

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

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

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

Romans 8:14-18

If Apostle Paul led by the Holy Spirit viewed it that way and informed the church at Rome in that epistle, how about you? Do you see it to be different?

And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were worthy to suffer shame for his name.

And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

Acts 5:40-42

The council in Jerusalem agreed with Gamaliel's advice to have the apostles freed and after some beating and commanded that they let the apostles to go. Now the apostles rejoiced for suffering for Christ's sake and further continued with teaching and preaching Jesus Christ, the Messiah unabated, glory to the Lord of hosts.

And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?

But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Having a good conscience; that where as they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

1 Peter 3:13-17

Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God.

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

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

Philippians 1:27-30

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

Casting all your cares upon him; for he careth for you.

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

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

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

To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever.
A'-men.

1 Peter 5:6-11

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

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

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

2 Timothy 4:6-8

And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judea a certain prophet, named Ag'-abus.

And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.

And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place besought him not to go up to Jerusalem.

Then Paul answered, what mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? For I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.

And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, the will of the Lord be done.

Acts 21:10-14

Why on earth did Apostle Paul speak the way he did in the above two scriptures? It is because he had made his mind that he will serve the Lord without reservation unto the end regardless of what happens in order to enter the kingdom of God in heaven which he valued more than his own life. How about you and I? The apostle was ready to pay the cost of being a Christian if need be and he truly qualified to be called Jesus' disciple / follower by denying the self in him (Luke 14:25-33) for he loved the Lord so much as to be ready to die for the cause of the gospel of Jesus Christ (Matthew 10:37-39; 22:34-40). He was ready as the saints mentioned in the Scripture during the Tribulation period (Revelation 6:9-11) and just as the Lord had advised earlier to the church at Smyrna (Revelation 2:8-11).

Those saints who persevered in their sufferings on the earth had done so because they chose to follow the footsteps of Jesus as apostle Peter explained in his epistle (1 Peter 2:17-23)

By faith Moses, when he was come to years,
refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;
Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people
of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a
season;

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

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

Hebrews 11:24-27

PAUL, and Sil-va'-nus, and Timothy, unto the
church of the Thess-a-lo'-ni-ans in God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are bound to thank God always for you,
brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith
groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one
of you all toward each other aboundeth;

So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgement of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:

Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels;

In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and

fulfil all good pleasures of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:

That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1

But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, long-suffering, charity, patience,

Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at An'-ti-och, at I-co'-ni-um, at Lys'-tra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.

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

2 Timothy 3:10-12

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

Philippians 4:4

That was apostle Paul addressing the church at Philippi in that epistle while at the same time he was in prison.

Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

Romans 12:12

Apostle Paul exhorted the church in Rome to rejoice in the Lord even in hard times but continue in prayer as in Christ Jesus there is hope. (1 Peter 1:3-5)

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

John 16:33

That was Christ Jesus encouraging his disciples prior to his arrest. If Christ Jesus overcame the world, we too who are his followers can also overcome as we are more than conquerors and Christ Jesus is our Master and the Commander-in-

Chief. (Romans 8: 35-39, 1 John 5:4-5) and for that reason, we too can rejoice.

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

1 Peter 4:12-13

Apostle Peter in addressing Christians who were now scattered throughout Asia and so on was encouraging them to rejoice in sufferings and not to take them as something strange in their lives and that they were being partakers in what the Lord also went through and that they will rejoice the more when the Lord finally comes to take us home.

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

Romans 8: 28

Apostle Paul knew that if one loves God, things will work out to one's own good and especially when one has been called by God to do his will, as he himself he knew he was called to purposely do God's will.

Let me now give you a living testimony of Romans 8: 28. Now here is a case of Joseph the son of Jacob who his brothers sold after first throwing him into a pit and he ended later in Egypt in Potiphar's house and later was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife and he was put in prison and later interpreted king Pharaoh's dream and he was promoted to the level of a Prime Minister and later saved all their family from famine. You can read for yourself the whole incidence in the book of Genesis (Genesis 37; 39-50).

Notes to the reader

It is encouraging on my part for you to have read this book and believed you have been encouraged and exhorted at the same time. If you happen to have something to share please do so using the address below:

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