The
Servanthood
Vol. 2

By Fredrick G. Omondi

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

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INTRODUCTION

This is a sequel to the first volume where I dwelt on the requirement for servanthood, those who were God's servants, qualities of God's servants and how to serve.

In this second volume I have dwelt on how God's servants are trained, the necessity of hard work in serving and to be ready to sacrifice and to be persecuted.

Also, in this volume included are consequences for those who refuse to serve the Lord and how God's servants need to be treated as well as the rewards for servanthood. I do believe by you reading this volume you will be challenged to take seriously the work of the Lord and be ready even to sacrifice as well as to accept persecution for Christ's sake (1 Peter 4:12-16).

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Chapter 1

Training of God's Servants

Coming to the training of God's servants you will realize that the training is an in-service training in that much of the skills one acquires while in the service of the Lord. It is not mandatory that a servant of the Lord must pass through a Theological College to qualify one to be a servant, a big no. It is not sin to join a Theological College just as it is not sin to join School to acquire Education. But what one gets from all these Institutions of learning cannot be compared with what one gets from the person of the Holy Spirit, who happens to be the most skilled being both in heaven and on earth. So the Holy Spirit is the Instructor helping and guiding the servants of the Lord.

I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall be speak: and he will show you things to come.

He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you.

All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show unto you.

John 16:12-15

If you are a servant of God, begin to be very close to the Holy Spirit in prayer, fasting and in reading the word of God coupled with obedience to him. That way, together with being quiet in the spirit you will get to learn a lot.

And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

And he saith unto them, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zeb'-e-dee and John his brother, in a ship with Zeb'-e-dee their father, mending their nets; and he called them.

And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him.

Matthew 4:18-22

I like very much the above Scripture, which the Lord later gave me in a dream many, many years ago together with something else later on, which I can't share with you. We need to leave things and people even close relatives or members of our families to follow Jesus.

You can see clearly James and John leaving their ship and their father to follow Christ. Remember what the Lord told his disciples- very important (Matthew 12:46-50; 19:21-29)

Now the point I wanted to make on the above four who were called by Jesus and they immediately responded in following him is this, on the subject matter at hand: only Jesus Christ can make one to become a servant of God as you can see from his statement- 'Follow me and I will make you'. Now look at this other case in the calling of Apostle Paul by the Lord (who then was called Saul of Tarsus).

Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests,

At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.

And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, **I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.**

But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,

To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Acts 26:12-18

The apostle Paul was narrating to King Agrippa how he received his conversion and calling on his way to

Damascus. So, it is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself who saves and also gives a calling to one, enabling him or her to be able to do his divine purpose by anointing him or her for the same. Unfortunately, many have done self - appointment and claim to be a prophet, an apostle, a pastor an evangelist or a teacher - those are but doomed.

Now when they had gone throughout Phryg'-i-a and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,

After they were come to Mys'-i-a, they assayed to go into Bi-thyn'-ia: but the Spirit suffered them not.

And they passing by Mys'-i-a, came down to Tro'-as.

And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Mac-e-do'-ni-a, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Mac-e-do'-ni-a, and help us.And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Mac-e-do'-ni-a, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for the preach the gospel unto them.

Acts 16:6-10

Yes, that is how our Instructor helps and guides us the servants of the Lord while in God's service. Prayers are a

must for the servants of the Lord and is not negotiable, as we will see further, otherwise we can end up doing zero work.

THEN they told David, saying, behold, the Phil'-is'-tines fight against Kei'-lah, and they rob the threshing floors.
Therefore David 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'-tine?

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.

1 Samuel 23:1-5

But when the Phil-is'-tines heard that they had appointed David king over Israel, all the Phil-is'-tines came up to seek David; and David heard of it, and went down to the hold.

The Phil-is'-tines also came and spread themselves in the valley of Reph'-a-im.

And David inquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up to the Phil-is'-tines? Wilt thou deliver them into mine hand? And the LORD said unto David, Go up: for I will doubtless deliver the Phil-is'-tines into thine hand.

And David came to Ba-al-per'-a-zim, and David smote them there, and said, The LORD hath broken forth upon mine enemies before me, as the breach of waters. Therefore he called the name of that place Ba'-al-per'-a-zim.

And there they left their images and David and his men burned them.

And the Phil-is'-tines came up yet again, and spread themselves in the valley of Reph'-a-im.

And when David inquired of the LORD, he said, Thou shalt not go up; but fetch a compass behind them, and come upon them over against the mulberry trees.

And let it be, when thou hearest the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees, that then thou shalt bestir thyself: for then shall the LORD go out before thee, to smite the host of the Phil-is'-tines.

And David did so, as the LORD had commanded him; and smote the Phil-is'-tines from Ge'-ba until thou come to Ga'-zer.

2 Samuel 5:17-25

And that is how king David triumphed over his enemies the Philistines whom God enabled him to defend his people against. If David did not inquire (pray) from the Lord, he could as well have been minced meat in the hands of his enemies. Prayer is the means that leads to our success in whatever venture.

AND all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the LORD, and pitched in Reph'-i-dim: and these was no water for the people to drink.

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

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

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

And the LORD said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go.

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

Exodus 17:1-6

Now there Moses was in a fix, a big fix as a leader. Even me I would have been overwhelmed in such a situation, same to you. But crying to the Lord made the difference

between dying for thirst of water to drink and living having water to drink. Surely prayer moves mountains.

And it came to pass, that, when I was come again to Jerusalem, even while I prayed in the temple, I was in a trance;

And saw him saying unto me, Make haste, and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem: for they will not receive thy testimony concerning me.

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

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

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

Acts 22:17-21

And there arose a great cry: and the scribes that were of the Pharisees part arose, and strove, saying, We find no evil in this man: but if a spirit or angel hath spoken to him, let us not fight against God.

And when there arose a great dissension, the chief captain, fearing lest Paul should have been pulled in pieces of them, commanded the soldiers to go down, and to take him by force from among them, and to bring him into the castle.
And the night following the Lord stood to him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.

Acts 23:9-11

On the marrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour:
And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell in a trace,
And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:
Wherein were all manner of four - footed beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.
And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter kill and eat.

But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean.

And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleaned, that call not thou common.

This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.

Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate,

And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there.

While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee.

Arise, therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.

Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore ye are come?

And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all nation of the

Jews, was warned from God by a holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.

Then called he them in, and lodged them. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him.

Acts 10:9-23

You can see the two cases of Apostle Paul and this one of apostle. Peter how God instructed them how to go about in serving him. A servant of the Lord must be a very prayerful man or woman because through prayer and also in fasting can the Lord reveal a lot and one learn a lot as God has a thousand and one ways of having things done. So keep on seeking the Lord in prayer and don't be complacent with the only way you know in serving the Lord. Some divine direction is only given by the Lord that way.

Jesus Christ trained his disciples both in theory through his teachings (Matthew 5:1-7:28 and in other scriptures in the same book and in the other three gospels and also trained them as well in practice through his ministry (Matthew 8:1-9:38 and other scriptures in the same book and in the other three gospels) and then he sent them into the mission field (Matthew 10:1-15; 28:16-20, Acts 1:6-8).

Chapter 2

Necessity of hard work

There is just so much work to be done in serving the Lord here on earth and therefore hard work is required in addition to the fact that only hard work pays and is required both by God and same to our earthly employers or our own as well, to bring any good gain/profit.

Let us go to our golden guide book the Holy Scriptures in the Holy Bible, what it says.

AND the Spirit of God came upon Az-a-ri'-ah the son of O'-ded:

And he went out to meet A'-sa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, A'-sa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.

Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law.

But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them.

And in those times there was no peace to him that went out, nor to him that came in, but great vexations were upon all the inhabitants of the countries.

And nation was destroyed of nation, and city of city: for God did vex them with all adversity.

Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded.

And when A'-sa heard these words, and the prophecy of O'-ded the prophet, he took courage, and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from mount E'phra-im, and renewed the altar of the LORD, that was before the porch of the LORD.

And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and the strangers with them out of E'phra-im and Ma-nas'-seh, and out of Simeon: for they fell to him out of Israel in abundance, when they saw that the LORD his God was with him.

So they gathered themselves together at Jerusalem in the third month, in the fifteenth year of the reign of A-sa.

And they offered unto the LORD the same time, of the spoil which they had brought, seven hundred oxen and seven thousand sheep.

And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul;
That whosoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman.
And they sware unto the LORD with a loud voice, and shouting, and with trumpets, and with cornets.
And all Judah rejoiced at the oath: for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought him with their whole desire; and he was found of them: and the LORD gave them rest round about.

2 Chronicles 15:1-15

The above is a lesson / advice to all the servants of the Lord not to have any idol in them lest they remain on their own without the presence of God and therefore ineffective in serving him. They must strive in seeking the Lord God in order for him to be found in them, completely separated from any idol

The king's favor is toward a wise servant: but his wrath is against him that causeth shame.

Proverbs 14:35

Only those that don't work or are sluggard in work cause shame. Are you one of them? If the answer is yes, God is not happy and may you change from today in Jesus' name.

Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another;
Not slothful in businesses; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

Romans 12:9-11

For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.
Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.
For this cause have I sent unto you Timothy, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.

1 Corinthians 4:15-17

For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.
This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation.
For therefore we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe.
These things command and teach.

1Timothy 4:8-11

Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his Lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?
Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when he cometh shall find so doing.
Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.
But and if that evil servant shall say in his hearts, My lord delayeth his coming;
And shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and eat and drink with the drunken;

The Lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,
And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 24:45-51

Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.
In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat.
But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of.
Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him aught to eat?
Jesus saith unto them, my meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.
Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you,
Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are while already to harvest.

And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.
And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth.

John 4:30-37

As servants of the Lord we need to work hard in order to be able to finish the work out there in the field which is so much! Look at how Apostle Paul labored and later admonished Timothy to likewise do the same in his ministry.

And from Mi-le'-tus he sent to Eph'-e-sus, and called the elders of the church.
And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons,
Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Acts 20:17-27

The apostle could not have done all the above without hard work. He was now confident to have done all that he needed to do to accomplish what the Lord called him to do. How about you and me, are we really working hard enough that we can be confident as the apostle was? For sure all of us Christians have work to do for the Lord.

I CHARGE thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;
Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine.
For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;
And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.
SBut watch out thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

2 Timothy 4:1-5

Are we really working hard to make full proof of our ministry given to us by the Lord Jesus Christ who called us to himself?
Apostle Paul went ahead and encouraged the church at Corinth to abound in the work of the Lord.

But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven neither the Son, but the Father.
Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.
For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.
Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:
Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.

Mark 13:32-36

Jesus Christ as the owner / master of the house / building which is the Church has given a task to each Christian / servant in his or her own area going by the gift he has given

to each one of them and the time of his coming is unknown and therefore it will be sudden and therefore Christians need to be watchful in prayer and fasting and busy working for the Lord with expectation for his return.
The Lord when he comes, he will be coming to take those who are working (who are awake) and not those who are sleeping (who are lazy).

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.
Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,
In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.
For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.
So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:50-58

While we are still in the body let us take the opportunity to serve the Lord with the help of the Holy Spirit in us before we are taken up into heaven to be with the Lord forever.

And, behold, I come quickly; and my rewards is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Revelation 22:12

Chapter 3

In readiness: persecution and sacrifice

A true servant of the Lord must be ready for persecutions and also it can reach a time one has to sacrifice one's life. The world hates the children of God who are walking in the light of the word of God, because it is corrupt and is all the time walking in total darkness. But do take heart as the Lord took time to really pray for his disciples who were God's servants and the prayer covered even you and me who have believed in our generation. In a short while we are going to read the Lord's Prayer and then go further to explore more in the Scriptures why all God's servants must be ready for all these.

THESE words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:
As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.
And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent

I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were. And thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.

Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee.

For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.

And all mine are thine and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.

And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

While I was with them in the world I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my Joy fulfilled in themselves.

I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.

And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

John 17

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

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

Matthew 10:21-22

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 5:11-12

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 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 instructed of her mother, she 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.

Matthew 14:1-12

And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

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 them 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.

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.

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 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.

Acts 6:8-15; 7:54-8:3

And when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews which were of Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up all the people, and laid hands on him,

Crying out, Men of Israel, help: This is the man, that teacheth all men everywhere against the people, and the law, and this place: and further brought Greeks also into the temple and hath polluted this holy place.

(For they had seen before him in the city. Troph'-i-mus an Eph-e'-sian, whom they supposed that Paul had brought into the temple)

And all the city was moved, and the people ran together: and they took Paul, and drew him out of the temple: and forthwith the doors were shut.

And as they went about to kill him, tidings came unto the chief captain of the band, that all Jerusalem was in an uproar.

Who immediately took soldiers and centurions, and ran down unto them: and when they saw the chief captain and the soldiers, they left beating Paul.

Then the chief captain came near, and took him; and commanded him to be bound with two chains; and demanded who he was, and what he had done.

And some cried one thing, some another, among the multitude: and when he could not know the certainty for the tumult, he commanded him to be carried into the castle.

And when he came upon the stairs, so it was, that he was borne of the soldiers for the violence of the people.

For the multitude of the people followed after crying, Away with him.

Acts 21:27-36

And when it was day, certain of the Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.

And they were more than forty which had made this conspiracy.

And they came to the chief priests and elders, and said,

We have bound ourselves under a great curse, that we will eat nothing until we have slain Paul.

Now therefore ye with the council signify to the chief captain that he bring him down unto you tomorrow, as though ye would inquire something more perfectly concerning him: and we, or ever he come near, are ready to kill him.

And when Paul's sister's son heard of their lying in wait, he went and entered into the castle, and told Paul.

Then Paul called one of the centurions unto him, and said, Bring this young man unto the chief captain:" for he hath a certain thing to tell him".

So he took him, and brought him to the chief captain, and said, Paul the prisoner called me unto him, and prayed me to bring this young man unto thee, who hath something to say unto thee.

Acts 23:12-18

And there came thither certain Jews from An'-ti-och and I-co'-ni-um, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.

How beit, as the disciples stood around about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Der'-be.

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.

And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

Acts 14:19-23

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 gain by soothsaying:

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 so 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 in the stocks.

Acts 16:16-24

I thank the Lord who visited them and released them by using earthquake. Just the same happened when Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah were thrown into a burning fiery

furnace, the Lord delivered them unscathed from the fierce fire.

But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;
Partly, whilst ye were made a gazing- stock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used.
For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in a better and an enduring substance.
Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.
For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God ye might receive the promise.
For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.
Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.
But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

Hebrews 10:32-39

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

James 1:12

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 8:18

If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;
Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:
Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given me for you, to fulfil the word of God;

Even the mystery which hath been hid from the ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:
To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:
Whom we preach, warming every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:
Whereunto I also labor, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

Colossians 1: 23-29

Ar-is-tar'chus my fellow prisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;)

Colossians 4:10

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 us:

If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

2 Timothy 2:8-13

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.

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

2 Timothy 3:10-13

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 a crown of life.

Revelation 2:10

For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

Hebrews 12:3-4

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.

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 a 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.

1 Peter 1:12-16

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 Bel-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 our 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.

Matthew 10:24-33

AND it came to pass, when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples, he departed thence to teach and preach in their cities.
Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples,
And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?
Jesus answered and said unto them, Go show John again those things which ye do hear and see:
The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.
And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

Matthew 11:1-6

Maybe John the Baptist was wondering, if Jesus is the one doing all that I am hearing, why am I still in prison? he

could come and have me released!!? seems he was disturbed / offended. Same thing may be happening to you as things are not happening the way you expected while serving the Lord. The advice is be not offended but stay put, as the Lord knows and is still in control of everything both in heaven and on earth.

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.
And when they saw him, they worshiped him: but some doubted.
And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and on earth.
Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. A'-men.

Matthew 28:16-20

There it is, the Lord is with you always as you faithfully serve him. Even Apostle Paul and Silas were in prison and the Lord released them, same to apostle Peter. Life

sometimes can be quite rough in God's service. It will not always be like bread and butter.

Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

Psalm 34:19

Chapter 4

Consequences for not serving

There are some consequences for a servant of God staying idle and not working for the Lord as we are going to see here.

Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things; Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.

Deuteronomy 28:47-48

Even serving the Lord without joy and gladness is not pleasing to the Lord as we read the above passage. Although the Lord was speaking to the children of Israel, that can also apply to the servants of God today as well.

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire, and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15

Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My Lord delayeth his coming;

And shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;

The Lord of the servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,

And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him in his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 24:45-51

For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling to a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

And likewise he that had received two he also gained other two.

But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them,

And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me

five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art a hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strewed:

And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: Lo, there thou hast that is thine.

His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strewed:

Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Then shall the king say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

And the king shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.

For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat. I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

I was a stranger and ye took me not in; naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or a thirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?

Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Matthew 25:14-46

Look further at this scripture, and see how John the Baptist addressed the Pharisees and the Sadducees who were doing a lot of nothing and playing the hypocrite.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sad'-du-cees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able to these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

Matthew 3:7-11

As a child of God by faith, one is also become a descendant / child of Abraham by that same faith and need to live as Abraham lived in obedience otherwise being a descendant / child of Abraham alone is not enough as one in Christ has also become part of a royal priesthood and therefore a servant of God and must serve him as a commandment from God. (Galatians 3:1-9, 1 Peter 2:6-10, Matthew 28:16-20). As a Christian / a child of God one has received the Holy Spirit not for fun, but for Christian living and serving as well. If one does not serve, one is denying others not saved; the opportunity to be blessed / saved and therefore you can see how bad it is before the eyes of the Lord who gave his life for all to be saved. God will judge all who claim to be his children but do nothing, totally nothing in His house. Moreover, God can raise up stones to serve him or use any other creature as an ass for example, to serve him. (Matthew 3:9-12, Numbers 22:21-33).

As a Christian one need to continually be witnessing and preaching to the others.

Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

Matthew 5:13

May the lord help us to live right, tell others of the goodness of God and to testify about Christ Jesus as the Messiah, so that we don't become good for nothing to the world and also useless to our Master.

Chapter 5

Treating of God's servants

God's servants should not be treated any how but with a lot of caution. If one failed to do so, one will be doing it at one's own peril as experience has shown just that. I do remember in my personal experience in formal employment many have suffered and I am not happy in reporting this as it never brought anything of value to my life.

It is unfortunate to report that at least three people kicked the bucket and still at least three other people or more lost their jobs or were demoted from the positions they held. I do remember at one time or another they treated me badly or unfairly in one way or the other showing disrespect, frustrating me or ordering me to go against the will of God. So be careful when dealing with the servants of God, and I am serious when I talk that way. We are now going to confirm that it is the plain truth going by the Holy Scriptures.

And it fell on a day, that E-li'-sha passed to Shu'-nem, where was a great woman; and she constrained him to eat bread.

And so it was, that as oft as he passed by, he turned in thither to eat bread.

And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I perceive that this is a holy man of God, which passeth by us continually.

Let us make a little chamber, I pray thee, on the wall; and let us set for him there a bed, and a table, and stool, and a candlestick: and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither.

And it fell on a day, that he came thither, and he turned into the chamber, and lay there.

And he said to Ge-ha'-zi his servant, call this Shu'-nam-mite.

And when he had called her, she stood before him.

And he said unto him, say now unto her, Behold, thou hast been careful for us with all this care; what is to be done for thee? wouldest thou be spoken for to the king, or to the captain of the host? And she answered, I dwell among mine own people.

And he said, What then is to be done for her? And Ge-ha-zi answered, Verily she hath no child, and her husband is old.

And he said, Call her. And when he had called her, she stood in the door.

And he said, About this season, according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son. And she said, Nay, my lord, thou man of God, do not lie unto thine handmaid.

And the woman conceived, and bare a son at that season that Eli'-sha had said unto her, according to the time of life.

And when the child was grown, it fell on a day, that he went out to his father to the reapers.

And he said unto his father, My head, my head. And he said to a lad, Carry him to his mother.

And when he had taken him, and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died.

And she went up, and laid him on the bed of the man of God, and shut the door upon him, and went out.

And she called unto her husband, and said, Send me, I pray thee, one of the young men and one of the asses, that I may run to the man of God, and come again.

And he said, Wherefore wilt thou go to him today? It is neither new moon, nor Sabbath. And she said, It shall be well.

Then she saddled an ass, and said to her servant, Drive, and go forward; slack not thy riding for me, except I bid thee.

So she went and came unto the man of God to Mount Carmel. And it came to pass, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to Ge-ha'-zi his servant, Behold, yender is that Shu'-nam-mite:

Run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say unto her, Is it well with thee? is it well with the child? And she answered, It is well.

And when she came to the man of God to the hill, she caught him by the feet: but Ge-ha'-zi came near to thrust her away. And the man of God said, Let her alone; for her soul is vexed within her: and the LORD hath hid it from me, and hath not told me.

Then she said, Did I desire a son of my lord? did I not say, Do not deceive me?

Then he said to Ge-ha'-zi, Gird up thy loins, and take my staff in thine hand, and go thy way: if thou meet any man,

salute him not; and if any salute thee, answer him not again: and lay my staff upon the face of the child.

And the mother of the child said, As the LORD liveth and as my soul liveth, I will not leave thee. and he arose and followed her.

And Ge-ha'-zi passed on before them, and laid the staff upon the face of the child; but there was neither voice nor hearing. Wherefore he went again to meet him, and told him, saying, The child is not awaked.

And when E-li'-sha was come into the house, behold, the child was dead, and laid upon his bed.

He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the LORD.

And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and he stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm.

Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.

And he called Ge-ha'-zi, and said, Call this Shu'-nam-mite.

So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son.

Then she went in, and fell at his feet, and bowed herself to the ground, and took up her son, and went out.

2 Kings 4:8-38

The Shunammite realized that Elisha was a man of God and needed special care and therefore went ahead and informed her husband that they make a little chamber on the wall and set a bed, a table, a stool and a candlestick for the man of God's use. Her hospitality paid dividends as she bore a son (a possible joy and a heir in that family) as they had no child and were an affluent lot.

Although the child later died, Elisha the prophet of God resurrected him after praying to the Lord who gave out the child to the family (Proverbs 10:22)

AND E-li'-jah the Tish'-bite, who was of the inhabitants of Gil'-e-ad, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying,

Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Che'-rith, that is before Jordan.

And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there.

So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Che'-rith, that is before Jordan.

And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook.

And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land.

And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying,

Arise, get thee to Zar'-e-phath, which belongeth to Zi'-don, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.

So he arose and went to Zar'-e-phath. And, when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.

And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.

And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but a handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat, and die.
And E-li'-jah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.
For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.
And she went and did according to the saying of E-li'-jah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days.

And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by E-li'-jah.

1 Kings 17:1-16

The widow of Zarephath prospered when there was famine in the land because she treated well the man of God Elijah who he believed in what he said and both her and her household as well as Elijah the prophet of God their lives were preserved by God. Here too God was faithful to the

letter (2 Chronicles 20:20, Proverbs 15:25, Psalms 146:9; 10:14, Deuteronomy 10:18).

Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Hebrews 13:2

Abraham and Lot entertained angels unawares. Treating people well generally is a righteous act which God encourages us to do.

A similar scripture touching on how people treat each other and what they are likely to get in the end is as follows.

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee.

Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison and came unto thee?

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.

For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.
Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or a thirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?
Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.
And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Matthew 25:31-46

A very important lesson is contained therein in the above scripture. It matters a lot on how you treat others. Your attitude towards others will show whether you truly fear and love God or not (1 John 3:15-18; 4:19-21).

THEN Moab rebelled against Israel after the death of Ahab. And A-ha-zi'-ah fell down through a lattice in his upper chamber that was in Sa-mar'-i-a, and was sick: and he sent messengers, and said unto them, Go, inquire of Ba'-al-ze'-bub the god of Ek'-ron whether I shall recover of this disease.

But the angel of the LORD said to E-li'-jah the Tish'-bite, Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Sa-mar'-i-a, and say unto them, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that ye go to inquire of Ba'-al-ze'-bub the god of Ek'-ron?

Now therefore thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die. And E-li'-jah departed.

And when the messengers turned back unto him, he said unto them, why are ye now turned back?

And they said unto him, There came a man up to meet us, and said unto us, Go, turn again unto the king that sent you, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that thou sendest to inquire of Ba'-al-ze'-bub the god of Ek'-ron? Therefore thou shall not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die.

And he said unto them, what manner of man was he which came up to meet you, and told you these words?

And they answered him, He was a hairy man, and girt with a girdle of leather about his loins. And he said, It is Eli'-jah the Tish'-bite.

Then the king sent unto him a captain of fifty-with his fifty. And he went up to him: and, behold, he sat on top of a hill. And he spake unto him, Thou man of God, the king hath said, Come down.

And Eli'-jah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and the fifty. And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.

Again also he sent unto him another captain of fifty with his fifty. And he answered and said unto him, O man of God, thus hath the king said. Come down quickly.

And Eli'-jah answered and said unto them, If I be a man of God, let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And the fire of God came down from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty.

And he sent again a captain of the third fifty with his fifty. And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Eli'-jah**,** and besought him, and said unto him, O man of God, I pray thee, let my life, and the life of these fifty thy servants, be precious in thy sight.

Behold, there came fire down from heaven, and burnt up the two captains of the former fifties with their fifties: therefore let my life now be precious in thy sight.

And the angel of the LORD said unto E-li'-jah, Go down with him: be not afraid of him. And he arose, and went down with him unto the king.

And he said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast sent messengers to inquire of Ba-al-ze'-bub the god of Ek'-ron, Is it not because there is no God in Israel to inquire of his word? Therefore thou shalt not come down off that bed on which thou art gone up, but shall surely die.

So he died according to the word of the LORD which E-li'-jah had spoken. And Je-ho'ram reigned in his stead in the second year of Je-ho'-ram the son of Jo-hosh'-a-phat king of Judah; because he had no son.

2 Kings 1:1-17

True to the letter. People must stop joking around with the men of God or else they can be no more, it doesn't matter who you are, you must humble before a servant of God (Who is actually representing God as an Ambassador)

AND Samuel died; and all the Israelites were gathered together, and lamented him, and buried him in his house at Ra'-mah.

And David arose, and went down to the wilderness of Par'-an.

And there was a man in Ma'-on, whose possessions were in Carmel; and the man was very great, and he had three thousand sheep, and a thousand goats: and he was shearing his sheep in Carmel.

Now the name of the man was Na'-bal; and the name of his wife Ab'-i-gail: and she was a woman of good understanding, and of a beautiful countenance: but the man was churlish and evil in his doings; and he was of the house of Caleb.

And David heard in the wilderness that Na'-bal did shear his sheep.

And David sent out ten young men, and David said unto the young men, Get you up to Carmel, and go to Na'-bal, and greet him in my name:

And thus shall ye say to him that liveth in prosperity, Peace be both to thee, and peace be to thine house, and peace be unto all that thou hast.

And now I have heard that thou hast shearers: now thy shepherds which were with us, we hurt them not, neither was there aught missing unto them, all the while they were in Carmel.

Ask thy young men, and they will show thee. Wherefore let the young men find favor in thine eyes: for we come in a good day: give, I pray thee, whatsoever cometh to thine hand unto thy servants, and to thy son David.

And when David's young men came, they spake to Na'-bal according to all those words in the name of David, and ceased.

And Na'-bal answered David's servants, and said, Who is David? And who is the son of Jesse? There be many servants nowadays that break away every man from his master.

Shall I then take my bread, and my water, and my flesh that I have killed for my shearers, and give it unto men, whom I know not whence they be?

So David's young men turned their way, and went again, and came and told him all those sayings.

And David said unto his men, Gird ye on every man his sword. And they girded on every man his sword; and David

also girded on his sword: and there went up after David about four hundred men; and two hundred abode by the stuff.

But one of the young men told Ab'-i-gail, Na'-bal's wife, saying, Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to salute our master; and he railed on them.

But the men were very good to us, and we were not hurt, neither missed we anything, as long as we were conversant with them, when we were in the fields: They were a wall unto us both by night and day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep.

Now therefore know and consider what thou wilt do; for evil is determined against our master, and against all his household: for he is such a son of Be'-li-al, that a man cannot speak to him.

Then Ab'-i-gail made haste, and took two hundred loaves, and two bottles of wine, and five sheep ready dressed, and five measures of patched corn, and a hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on asses.

And she said unto her servants, Go on before me; behold, I come after you. But she told not her husband Na'-bal.

And it was so, as she rode on the ass, that she came down by the covert of the hill, and, behold, David and his men came down against her, and she met them.

Now David had said, Surely in vain have I kept all that this fellow hath in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that pertained unto him: and he hath requited me evil for good.

So and more also do God unto the enemies of David, if I leave of all that pertain to him by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall.

And when Ab'-i-gail saw David, she hasted, and lighted off the ass, and fell before David on her face, and bowed herself to the ground.

And fell at his feet, and said, Upon me, my lord, upon me let this iniquity be: and let thine handmaid, I pray thee, speak in thine audience, and hear the words of thine handmaid.

Let not my lord, I pray thee, regard this man of Be'-li-al, even Na'-bal: for as his name is, so is he; Na'-bal is his name and folly is with him: but I thy handmaid saw not the young men of my lord, whom thou didst send.

Now therefore, my lord, as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, seeing the LORD hath withholden thee from coming to shed blood, and from avenging thyself with thine own hand, now let thine enemies, and they that seek evil to my lord, be as Na'-bal**.**

And now this blessing which thine handmaid hath brought unto my lord, let it even be given unto the young men that follow my lord.

I pray thee, forgive the trespass of thine handmaid: for the LORD will certainly make my lord a sure house; because my lord fighteth the battles of the LORD, and evil hath not been found in thee all thy days.

Yet a man is risen to pursue thee, and to seek thy soul: but the soul of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of life with the LORD thy God; and the souls of thine enemies, them shall he sling out, as out of the middle of a sling.

And it shall come to pass, when the LORD shall have done to my lord according to all the good that he hath spoken concerning thee, and shall have appointed thee ruler over Israel;

That this shall be no grief unto thee, nor offense of heart unto my lord, either that thou hast shed blood causeless, or

that my lord hath avenged himself: but when the LORD shall have dealt well with my lord, then remember thine handmaid.

And David said to Ab'-i-gail, Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, which sent thee this day to meet me:

And blessed be thy advice, and blessed be thou, which hast kept me back from hurting thee, except thou hadst hasted and come to meet me, surely there had not been left unto Na'-bal by the morning light any that pisseth against the wall.

So David received of her hand that which she had brought him, and said unto her, Go up in peace to thine house; see, I have hearkened to thy voice, and have accepted thy person.

1 Samuel 25:1-35

Had it not been for Abigail's wisdom and quick response, Nabal's household would have been no more just as David was determined to do. By Abigail's action David stopped from avenging himself, as Abigail's wise words persuaded him fully and believed that it was God who sent her to him.

AND Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the E-thi-o'-pi-an woman whom he had married: for he had married an E-thi-o'-pi-an woman.

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

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

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

Numbers 12:1-2, 9-10

The two who happened to be the brother and sister (Aaron and Miriam) of Moses could not escape God's judgment. They were quickly summoned by God after their careless talk. I don't know if God left Aaron to deal with at a later date. The point is, do not treat a servant badly even if he or she is your sister, brother or spouse or whatever and not talk ill of what they may have done.

NOW Kor'-ah, the son of Iz'-har the son of Ko'-hath, the son of Levi, and Da'-than and A-bi'-ram, and sons of E-li'-ab, and On, the son of Pe'-leth, sons of Reuben, took men:
And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown:
And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, everyone of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?
And when Moses heard it, he fell upon his face:
And he spake unto Kor'-ah and his company, saying, Even tomorrow the LORD will show who are his, and who is holy; and will cause him to come near unto him: even him whom he hath chosen will he cause to come near unto him.
This do; Take your censers, Kor'-ah, and all his company;
And put fire therein, and put incense in them before the LORD tomorrow: and it shall be that the man whom the LORD doth choose, he shall be holy: ye take too much upon you, ye sons of Levi.

And Moses said unto Kor'-ah, Hear, I pray you, ye sons of Levi:

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

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

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

And Moses sent to call Da'-than and A-bi'-ram, the sons of E-li'-ab: which said, We will not come up:

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

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

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

And Moses said unto Kor'-ah,

Be thou and all thy company before the LORD, thou, and they, and Aaron, tomorrow:

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

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

And Kor'-ah gathered all the congregation against them unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the congregation.

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

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

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

And the LORD spake unto Moses saying,

Speak unto the congregation, saying, Get you up from about the tabernacle of Kor'-ah, Da'-than, and A-bi'-ram.

And Moses rose up and went unto Da'-than, and A-bi'-ram; and the elders of Israel followed him.

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

So they gat up from the tabernacle of Kor'-ah, Da'-than, and A-bi'-ram, on every side: and Da'-than, and A-bi'-ram came out and stood in the door of their tents, and their wives, and their sons, and their little children.

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

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

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

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

And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained to Kor'-ah, and all their goods.

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

Numbers 16:1-33

Those people were truly wicked and despised the authority of Moses and Aaron the servants of God and rebelled against them and they got what they deserved. If you treat a true servant of God badly get to know that you are but provoking God and anything can happen to you unexpectedly. Moses was a true servant of God called to the prophetic ministry in addition to the pastoral (priesthood) ministry. The words he spoke against those wicked men (rebels) were prophetic and they came to pass exactly as he had spoken them confirming he was a true prophet of God (Deuteronomy 18:20-22).

SAMUEL also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD.

Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Am'-a-lek did to Israel, how he had laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt.

Now go and smite Am'-a-lek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.

1 Samuel 15:1-3

You cannot go unpunished for treating badly God's servants. Now here we see how God remembered what the Amalekites did to his servants, the children of Israel who had come up from slavery in Egypt and now were headed to Canaan the promised land and these Amalekites did not allow them to pass through their land, only the Amalekites were too ignorant and could not know that the LORD Sabaoth, the Commander in Chief was with them on their journey. They were now to be punished as the Lord instructed his prophet Samuel to inform king Saul what he need do now.

He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reproved kings for their sakes;
Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.

Psalm 105:14-15

And he went up from thence unto Beth-el: and as he was going up by the way, there came forth little children out of the city, and mocked him, and said unto him, Go up, thou bald head; go up, thou bald head.
And he turned back, and looked on them, and cursed them in the name of the LORD. And there came forth two she bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two children of them.

2 Kings 2:23-24

Even children, little children should not play fun with the servants of the Lord. That is why the Lord instructed that parents expose the word of God to them early and keep on doing so every day. That is why, we must have in all the churches Sunday school classes and teachers to busy them

in the word of the Lord. They must be introduced and inducted at an early age and not at youthful age.

And it was told king David, saying, The LORD hath blessed the house of O'-bed-e'-dom, and all that pertaineth unto him, because of the ark of God. So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of O'-bed-e'-dom into the city of David with gladness.

And it was so, that when they that bare the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed oxen and fatlings.

And David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen e'-phod.

So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

And they brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in his place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.

And as soon as David had made an end of offerings burnt offering and peace offerings, the blessed he people in the name of the LORD of hosts.

And he dealt among all the people, even among the whole multitude of Israel, as well to the women as men, to everyone a cake of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine. So all the people departed everyone to his house.

Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said,

How glorious was the king of Israel today, who uncovered himself today in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself!

And David said unto Michal,

It was before the LORD, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: therefore will I play before the LORD.

And I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base than thus, and will be base in mine own sight: and of the maidservants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honor.

Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death.

2 Samuel 6:12-23

How tragic that was for Michal Saul's daughter!!! She had it coming by what she uttered in disrespect to king David (whom she dishonored treating him as merely a husband). But even if David was not a king, assuring so, she needed to give him respect and submit to his leadership in the home (Ephesians 5:22-24, Colossians 3:18, 1 Peter 3:5-6). Poor Michal ended her life living under a mockery curse and never saw the fruit of her womb!! The bottom line in all these is that the servants of the Lord need to be honored / respected.

BUT a certain man named An-a-ni'-as, with Sapph-i'-ra his wife, sold a possession,

And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

But Peter said, An-a-ni'-as, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

While it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

And An-a-ni'-as hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him.

And it was a about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.

And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much.

The Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.

Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in and found her dead, and carried her forth, buried her by her husband.

And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

The lesson here is that one need not take the servants of the Lord as mere men (ordinary men) but as a special / extra-ordinary men, peculiar men, as they have the Spirit of God in them (1 Peter 2:7-10, John 14:15-17, Acts 1:8; 2:1-4).

The duo thought they could play games with the servants of the Lord (the apostles) only to be judged on the spot.

If you do something to a servant of God be it good or bad, you have done it to the Lord God and expect a good or a bad result from your action (a blessing or a curse) (Matthew 25:31-46, Galatians 6:7-10).

Let this truth sink in us 'A true servant of the Lord has the Holy Spirit and for that matter has God in him or her! (he or she is no longer an ordinary man or woman but a spiritual man or a spiritual woman). One can treat such a one carelessly at one's own downfall / misfortune.

And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, inquire who in it is worthy; and there abode till ye go thence.

And when ye come into a house, salute it.

And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you.

And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet.

Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Go-mor'-rha in the day of judgment, than for that city.

Matthew 10:11-15

He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

Matthew 10:40-42

God there has a special promise for you and me that on whatever may seem to be small or big in our eyes which is good before him will for sure be rewarded accordingly and

that good treatment to God's servants is highly recommended as it can be equated to serving God Himself. Remember that Christians are the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-14, Ephesians 4:4-6).

But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.
Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offenses come; but woe to that man by whom the offences cometh!

Matthew 18:6-7

AND they continued three years without war between Syria and Israel.
And it came to pass in the third year, that Jehoshaphat the king of Judah came down to the king of Israel.
And the king of Israel said unto his servants, know ye that Ramoth in Gilead is ours and we be still, and take it not out of the hand of the king of Syria?
And he said unto Jehoshaphat,

Wilt thou go with me to battle Ramoth-gilead? And Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, I am as thou art, my people as thy people, my horses as thy horses.

And Jehoshaphat said unto the king of Israel, inquire, I pray thee, at the word of the Lord today.

Then the king of Israel gathered the prophets together, about four hundred men, and said unto them, Shall I go against Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall for bear? And they said, Go up; for the Lord shall deliver it into the hand of the king.

And Jehoshaphat said, is there not here a prophet of the Lord besides,that we might inquire of him?

And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may inquire of the Lord: but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so.

Then the king of Israel called an officer, and said, Hasten hither Micaiah the son of Imlah.

And the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah sat each on his throne, having put on their robes, in a void

place in the entrance of the gate of Samaria: and all the prophets prophesied before them.

And Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah made him horns of iron: and he said, Thus said the Lord,

With these shalt thou push the Syrians, until thou have consumed them.

And all the prophets prophesied so, saying, Go up to Ramoth-gilead, and prosper: for the Lord shall deliver it into the king's hand.

And the messenger that was gone to call spake unto him, saying, Behold now, the words of the prophets declare good unto the king with one mouth: let thy word, I pray thee, be like the word of one of them and speak that which is good.

And Micaiah said, As the Lord liveth, what the Lord saith unto me, that will I speak.

So he came to the king. And the king said unto him, Micaiah, shall we go against Ramoth-gilead to battle, or shall we forbear?

And he answered him, Go, and prosper: for the Lord shall deliver it into the hand of the king.

And the king said unto him, how many times shall I adjure thee that thou tell me nothing but that which is true in the name of the Lord?

And he said, I saw all Israel scattered upon the hills, as sheep that have not a shepherd: and the Lord said, These have no master: let them return every man to his house in peace.

And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, Did I not tell thee that he would prophesy no good concerning me, but evil?

And he said, Hear thou the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left.

And the Lord said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?

And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner.

And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him.

And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.

And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so.

Now therefore, behold, the Lord hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the Lord hath spoken evil concerning thee.

But Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah went near, and smote Micaiah in the cheek, and said, Which way went the spirit of the Lord from me to speak unto thee?

And Micaiah said, Behold, thou shalt see in that day, when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself.

And the king of Israel, said, Take Micaiah, and carry him back unto Amon the governor of the city, and to Joash 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 came in peace.

And Micaiah said, If thou return at all in peace, the Lord hath not spoken by me. And he said, Hearken, O People, every one of you.

So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah went up to Ramoth-gilead.

And the king of Israel said, unto Jehoshaphat, I will disguise myself, and enter into the battle; but put on thou on thy robes. And the king of Israel disguised himself, and went into the battle.

But the king of Syria commanded his thirty and two captains that had rule over his chariots, saying, Fight neither with small nor great, save only with the king of Israel.

And it came to pass, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, Surely it is the king of Israel. And they turned aside to fight against him: and Jehoshaphat cried out.

And it came to pass, when the captain of the chariots perceived that it was not the king of Israel, that they turned back from pursuing him.

And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness: wherefore he said unto the driver of his chariot, Turn thine hand, and carry me out of the host; for I am wounded.

And the battle increased that day: and the king was stayed up in his chariot against the Syrians, and died at even: and the blood ran out of the wound into the midst of the chariot.

And there went a proclamation throughout the host about the going down of the sun, saying, Every man to his city, and every man to his own country.

So the king died, and was brought to Samaria; and they buried the king in Samaria.

And one washed the chariot in the pool of Samaria; and the dogs licked up his blood; and they washed his armor; according unto the word of the Lord which he spake.

1 Kings 22: 1-38

From the above account you can see that king Ahab the king of Israel treated badly the servants of God and God judged him harshly and ended dying in a battle between him and the Syrians.

He hated God's servants for no good reason as he was a wicked king (1 Kings 16:29-33; 21:1-25; 18:1-18). Ahab touched those who were holy and he could not get away with it (Psalm 105:14-15). It is a dangerous thing to touch that is holy to the Lord.

AND Joshua the son of Nun sent out of shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land even Jericho. And they went and came into a harlot's house named Rahab,

and lodged there. And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, Behold, there came men in thither tonight of the children of Israel to search out the country.

And it was told the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house: for they are come to search out all the country.

And the woman took the two men, and hid them, and said thus, There came men unto me but I wist not whence they were.

And it came to pass about the time of shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that the men went out: whither the men went I wot not : pursue after them quickly ; for ye shall overtake them. But she had brought them up to the roof of the house and hid them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof.

And the men pursued after them the way to Jordan unto the fords: and as soon as they which pursued after them were gone out, they shut the gate.

And before they were laid down, she came up unto them upon the roof;

And she said unto the men, I know that the Lord hath given you the land , and that your terror is fallen upon us and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.

For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.

And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man because of you: for the Lord your God, he is God in the heaven above and in the earth beneath.

Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the Lord since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house and give me a true token:

And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters and all that they have and deliver our lives from death.

And the men answered her, Our life for yours, if ye utter not this our business.

And it shall be, when the Lord hath given as the land that we will deal kindly and truly with thee.

Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house was upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall.

And she said unto them, Get you to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you: and hide yourselves there three days, until the pursuers be returned: and afterwards may ye go your way.

And the men said unto her, we will be blameless of this thine oath which thou hast made us swear.

Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: thou shalt bring thy father and thy mother and thy brethren and thy father's household, home unto thee.

And it shall be that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street his blood shall be upon his head, and we will be guiltless and whosoever shall be with thee in the house his blood shall be on our head, if hand be upon him.

And if thou utter this our business, then we will be quit of thine oath which thou hast made us to swear.

And she said, according unto your words, so be it. And she sent them away, and they departed: and she bound the scarlet line in the window.

And they went, and came unto the mountain, and abode there three days, until the pursuers were returned: and the pursuers sought them throughout all the way, but found them not.

So the two men returned, and descended from the mountain, and passed over and came to Joshua the son of Nun, and told them all things that befell them.

And they said unto Joshua, Truly the Lord hath delivered into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint because of us.

NOW Jericho was staitly shut up because of the children of Israel.

And the Lord said unto Joshua, See, I have given unto thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valor.

And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go around the city once.

Thus shalt thou six days.

And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets.

And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat and people shall ascend up every man strait before him.

And Joshua the son of Nun called the priests, and said unto them, Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the Lord.

And he said unto the people, Pass on, and compass the city, and let him that is armed pass on before the ark of the Lord.

And it came to pass, when Joshua had spoken unto the people that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns passed on before the Lord and blew with the trumpets: and the ark of the covenant of the Lord followed them.

And the armed men went before the priests that blew with the trumpets, and the rearward came after the ark, the priests on, and blowing with the trumpets.

And Joshua had commanded the people, saying, Ye shall not shout nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout.

So the ark of the Lord compassed the city, going about it once: and they came into the camp, and lodged in the camp.

And Joshua rose up early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the Lord.

And seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the Lord went on

continually, and blew with the trumpets: and the armed men went before them; but the rearward

came after the ark of the Lord, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets.

And the second day they compassed the city once, and returned into the camp: so they did six days.

And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after

the same manner seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times.

And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout, for the Lord hath given you the city.

And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the Lord: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.

And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.

But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the Lord: they shall come into the treasury of the Lord.

So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword.

But Joshua had said unto the two men that had spied out the country, Go into the harlot's house, and bring out thence the woman, and all that she hath, as ye sware unto her.

And the young men that were spies went in, and brought out Rahab, and her father, and her mother, and her brethren, and all that she had; and they brought out all her kindred, and left them without the camp of Israel.

And they burnt the city with fire, and all that *was therein;* only the silver, and gold, and the vessels of brass and iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the Lord.

And saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's household, and all that she had. So she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

Joshua 2:1-24, 6:1-25

From the above scriptures we also find big lessons as born-again Christians to learn from:

-That we must live by faith by our action as Rahab the harlot showed on the two spies sent by Joshua and hid them and therefore assisted in the accomplishment of God's agenda on the children of Israel.

-That she obeyed God's commandment in the book of Matthew (Mathew 7:12**)** and it was accorded her as well, at an opportune time.

-That she feared God more than the men as is recorded in the Scripture **(**Exodus 1:1-21, Acts 4:1-20, Daniel 3:1-18, 6:1-10) and therefore went ahead to preserve the lives of the spies being not bothered by the king of Jericho.

-That she obeyed fully the instructions of the spies in order to be delivered by them.

-That she believed the God of Israel to be truly powerful and mighty as the God in heaven and on earth.

-That she ended living in Israel and we too by our obedience will end up living eternally in heaven with God.

-That total obedience is required from us in order to benefit before God as Naaman by partial obedience going to the prophet of God Elisha received no healing; until he obeyed fully **(**2 kings 5:1-14) and we find that Achan partially obeyed God going by the instructions of God but at the

same time disobeyed by taking that thing which was consecrated to the Lord and he and his household all perished (Joshua 7**).** King Saul also obeyed God partially and he lost his reign **(**1 Samuel 15:1-23). All the above point to one thing: That as born again Christians, we need not to take our salvation lightly but to work it out in fear and trembling as Apostle Paul advised the church at Philippi **(**Philippians 2:12) and not to take life for granted but to be always sober in all godliness. The harlot Rahab is a classical challenge to the born-again Christians, let us not therefore live less but more than her (Matthew 5:17-20).

-That Christianity demands faithfulness, truthfulness and justice in all dealings with humanity as was seen in the lives of the trio (the two spies and Joshua) on Rahab and her father's household.

Chapter 6

Rewards for Servanthood

The servants of the Lord have rewards awaiting them in heaven and at the right time when they will be finally there; will have something to smile for, in addition to having eternal life.

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.
He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

Psalm 126:5-6

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 4:7-8

Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee?

Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?

And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered.

Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

Malachi 3:13-18

I can say that those who truly fear the Lord and serve him faithfully are the righteous and we know that heaven is a home of the righteous as God Himself is Righteous.

Therefore they will be spared eternal judgment as they are not condemned. On the book of remembrance I cannot see any other more important book than the Lamb's book of life.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:58

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.
For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.
And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.
As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Galatians 6:7-10

And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?
And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.
He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, thou shalt not commit adultery, thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not bear false witness,
honour thy father and thy mother: and, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.
The young man saith unto him,
All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?
Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.
But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.
Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.

And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved?

But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?

And Jesus said unto them;

Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive a hundred -fold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

Matthew 19:16-29

In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master eat.

But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of.

Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him aught to eat?

Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then comest harvest? behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.

John 4:31-36

AND at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.
And they that were wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

Daniel 12:1-3

But that ye have already hold fast till I come.
And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:
And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.
And I will give him the morning star.
He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 2:25-29

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Then shall the king say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Matthew 25:31-40

According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay or stubble;

Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

Apostle Paul was given the grace of God at his conversion to serve just as any other believer such as the believers at Corinth and Jesus Christ became the foundation of their faith. The apostle considered himself to be a wise master

builder (mind you he had planted very many churches wherever he went) and he advises the Church at Corinth to heed how they build on the foundation that is Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:5-6, Psalm 62:1-2) and not building just any howly but with much care. The apostle goes on to enumerate the different materials for building first listing gold, silver and precious stones all which are not only valuable but durable as well and can withstand fire to some extent and goes further to list wood, hay and stubble which are almost worthless and not durable and cannot withstand any fire. Therefore in building, wisdom is required in order to build right.

Let us not forget that Jesus Christ is also referred to as the Word of God (John 1:1-4, 14, Revelation 19:11-13). It follows therefore that Christians must build their faith solely on the word of God which is essentially the doctrines of Christ (Acts 2:40-42, Ephesians 2:19-22).

Therefore whoever 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 winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

And the rain descended, and the floods came and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Matthew 7:24-27

If we fail to use the word of God in our lives or use it but with ill motives, we will not stand the test but are doomed to fail and receive no reward or crown from the Lord on that great day of reckoning. We have Jesus Christ the wisdom of God so let us live wisely and serve wisely in order to benefit more.

For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art a hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strewed:

And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strewed:

Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

Take therefore the talent from him, give it unto him which hath ten talents.

For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

Matthew 25:14-29

Some Christians are going to miss getting a reward because they are sluggard in serving the Lord and it will be easy for someone else to snatch it from them. Look at a good example that we just read about a servant who was given one talent and instead of trading with it and get profit hid the talent in the earth and his lord was not amused and directed that talent to be given to another servant who brought a profit of five talents, from the five he was given by his lord.

Equally, God is not happy with sluggards. Your talent can be taken away and you remain poor with nothing as you cannot be rewarded for just doing nothing.

And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast:

The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.

Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus.

And Jesus answered them, saying,

The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.
Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.
He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.
If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honor.

John 12:20-26

So, to speak it is good, very good indeed to serve the Lord by following his footsteps as one will eventually be in heaven with him and to receive honor as well (John 14:1-3, 1 Peter 1:3-9). Now I love that and I hope you too love it. It is a trillion times better than all that one can get on the world, be it education, riches, wealth, fame and honor etc. all combined.

The king's favor is towards a wise servant: but his wrath is against him that causeth shame.

Proverbs 14:35

He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

Proverbs 10:14

Rewards are there in heaven kept for those who work well here on earth for the Lord in His vineyard. (Revelation 22:12).

And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Revelation 22:12

Me I don't know how your work will be but I am considering mine on a serious note and hope you are doing the same.

The scriptures keep on talking on crowns, crowns, crowns. They are there for God's servants who are distinguished in their service to the Lord. God's servants are soldiers in the army of the Lord and just as we see some soldiers with different medals here on earth, in heaven Christians that had distinguished service here will put on crowns there given to them by the Commander-in-Chief Himself. But we need to watch out being careful in everything while here on earth. (Revelation 3:11, 1 Corinthians 9:24-25).

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

Revelation 3:11

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.
And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

1 Corinthians 9:24-25

Now Let us look at some of the crowns mentioned in the Scripture for God's servants.

1. Crown of life

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is, he shall receive **the crown of life,** which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

James 1:12

Fear none of these 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**

Revelation 2:10

2. Crown of glory

THE elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly, not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock.

And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive **a crown of glory** that fadeth not.

1 Peter 5:1-4

3. Crown of righteousness

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

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

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

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

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

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 4:1-8

4. Crown of victory

THOU therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

No man warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not **crowned,** except he strive lawfully

2 Timothy 2:1-5

5. Crown of rejoicing.

For what is our hope, or joy, or **crown of rejoicing?** Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

For ye are our glory and joy.

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

Other rewards to the Church

1. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; **To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.**

Revelation 2:7

2. 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 2:11

3. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; **To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden Man'na, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.**

Revelation 2:17

4. And **he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:**

And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

And I will give him the morning star.

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

Revelation 2:26-29

5. **He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.** He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3:5-6

6. **Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.**

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

Revelation 3:12-13

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

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

   Revelation 3:21-22

Notes to the reader

I take this opportunity to thank you for reading this second volume of 'The Servanthood' and believe it has been of good use to you. In case you have any comments to make please do so using the address given below.

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