A Christian
and
long life, riches and wealth

Fredrick G. Omondi

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

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Fredrick G. Omondi

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INTRODUCTION

It is common knowledge that all would want to live a long life and also to be rich and wealthy but there is hardly a person who would wish to live a short life or to be associated with poverty in life. But what most people don't know is that there is a way for long life and also a way for riches and wealth.

This book comes handy to those who have not been enlightened on the above.

One thing we all need to know is that we were created by God for good works (Titus 2:11-14) but unfortunately man fell into sin by disobedience to God (Genesis 2:8-17; 3:1-6) and as a result our lives were distorted on many fronts. But God the Creator of heaven and earth has good plans to the obedient who will trust in Him fully (Deuteronomy 28:1-14).

The book is an eye opener to those who were in the dark over these matters. Have a pleasant time as you peruse the pages earnestly.

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Chapter 1

The creation of man

The everlasting God created us and had in mind that we live for ever as he created us in a special way distinct from the rest of other creations. God expected to relate closely with man that he created- a life long relationship.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.
So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.
And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Genesis 1:26-28

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

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

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

The name of the first is Pi'-son: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Hav'-i-lah, where there is gold;

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

And the name of the second river is Gi'-hon: the same is it that compasseth the whole land of E-thi-o'-pi-a.

And the name of the third river is Hid'-de-kel: that is it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is Eu-phra'-tes.

And the LORD God took the man, and put him in to the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.
And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:
But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Genesis 2:8-17

Man was given a lot of freedom and was provided with abundance for sustainance but was given a responsibility. Man lived where there was enough to eat and was living where there was riches and wealth with good gold and precious stones!
But man is man as he was made out of the dust of the ground save for the breath of life (Genesis 2:7). So, what happened? Read on.

NOW the serpent was more subtile than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?
And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

And the serpent said unto the woman, ye shall not surely die:

For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the tree thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Genesis 3:1-6

The serpent (Satan in disguise) was truly subtile going by how he approached the woman and crafted his question on to her (verse 1) and subverting the truth (verse 4) and the result of his efforts ended with man falling into sin as a result of disobeying God's commandment (Genesis 2:17).

Now sin shortens life and as we are going to see from the scriptures the life of man continued to be

shortened slowly by slowly as the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23a, Ezekiel 18:4, 20).

THIS is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him;

Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.

And Adam lived a hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:

And the days of Adam after he had begotten Seth were eight hundred years: and he begat sons and daughters:

And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and five years, and begat E'-nos:

And Seth lived after he begat E'-nos eight hundred and seven years, and begat sons and daughters:

And all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve years: and he died.

And E'-nos lived ninety years, and begat Ca-i'-nan:

And E’-nos lived after he begat Ca-i’-nan eight hundred and fifteen years, and begat sons and daughters:

And all the days of E’-nos were nine hundred and five years: and he died.

And Ca-i’-nan lived seventy years, and begat Ma-hal’-a-leel:

And Ca-i’-nan lived after he begat Ma-hal’-a-leel eight hundred and forty years, and begat sons and daughters:

And all the days of Ca-i’-nan were nine hundred and ten years: and he died.

And Ma-hal’-a-leel lived sixty and five years, and begat Jar’-ed:

And Ma-hal’-a-leel lived after he begat Jar’-ed eight hundred and thirty years, and begat sons and daughters:

And all the days of Ma-hal’-a-leel were eight hundred ninety and five years: and he died.

And Jar’-ed lived a hundred sixty and two years, and he begat E’-noch:

And Jar’-ed lived after he begat E’-noch eight hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:

And all the days of Jar'-ed were nine hundred sixty and two years: and he died.

And E'-noch lived sixty and five years, and begat Me-thu'-se-lah:

And E'-noch walked with God after he begat Me-thu'-se-lah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters:

And all the days of E'-noch were three hundred sixty and five years:

And E'-noch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.

And Me-thu'-se-lah lived a hundred eighty and seven years, and begat La'-mech:

And Me-thu'-se-lah lived after he begat La'-mech seven hundred eighty and two years, and begat sons and daughters:

And all the days of Me-thu'-se-lah were nine hundred sixty and nine years: and he died.

And La-mech lived a hundred and eighty and two years and begat a son:

And he called his name Noah, saying, This same shall comfort us concerning our work and toil of

our hands, because of the ground which the LORD hath cursed.

And La'-mech lived after he begat Noah five hundred and ninety and five years, and begat sons and daughters:

And all the days of La'-mech were seven hundred seventy and seven years: and he died.

And Noah was five hundred years old: and Noah begat Shem, Ham, and Ja'-pheth.

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

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

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

Genesis 5:1-6:3

From the above scriptures it is quite evident that the life of man kept on decreasing from Adam who lived 930 years to Lamech who lived 777 years (an average decline of 153 years in between them) save

for Enoch who lived 365 (verse 23) and pleased God so much in his walk/relationship with him such that God took him away from the earth (verse 24 and Hebrews 11:5). As for Enoch's son Methuselah God seemed to have shown him favor because of his father and lived even longer than Adam the first man God created as he lived 969 years against Adam's 930 years.

It seems that when Adam fell into sin in the garden of Eden God cursed the ground as it was the dust of the ground that man was made of (Genesis 3:6-19) no wonder God said his spirit shall not always strive with man for that he also is flesh (he is physical and not spiritual - dust of the ground) and if therefore continue abusing God's grace by living in the flesh in self-will, God's spirit will leave him alone to his desire and suffer the consequences (Genesis 6:1-3, Romans 1:18-32). God was not amused by man's behavior and passed a verdict on him: That the maximum age has been reduced to 120 years for him to live on earth (Genesis 6:3c).

Man has continued in doing more and more evil since that time (Genesis 6:5-13) and later God

reduced the maximum period man should live on earth as is recorded below.

Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.
For all our days are passed away in thy wrath; we spend our years as a tale that is told.
The days of our years are the threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off; and we fly away.

Psalm 90:8-10

Yes, it is true, as many do not reach the 70 years or 80 years recorded above in the scripture.

Chapter 2

Conditions for long life

Just as there was a condition for life when God created the first man Adam and put him in the garden of Eden (Genesis 2:8-17) even today it has not changed as God Himself changes not (Hebrews 13:8, 1:12, James 1:17, Psalm 102:27, Malachi 3:6) and so is his word (Psalms 119:89, 152, 1 Peter 1:25, Isaiah 40:8, Matthew 24:35). The main condition is obedience to God.

MY son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:
For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.
Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

Proverbs 3:1-3

Obedience is required for one to live a long life. If one forsakes doing what the word of God says for sure life may be shortened.

Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of life shall be many.

Proverbs 4:10

Receiving the sayings (the words) of God is to obey them and thereby have long life (many years to live).

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the Holy is understanding.
For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased

Proverbs 9:10-11

Wisdom simply put is to believe what God says and to obey it. By that one can have a long life.

The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

Proverbs 10:27

It is as clear as crystal. To shun evil prolongs life but to do evil is to shorten life.

In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death.

Proverbs 12: 28

The way of righteousness is the way of obedience to God and there is no shortening / cutting off of life with death.

He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live.

Proverbs 15:27

Those who go for bribes ("gifts") because of greediness trouble their own heart and risk death; which is equated to lack of life.

The fear of the LORD tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.

Proverbs 19:23

To shun evil in fearing God only lead to life/is profitable. All evils are losses in one's life as impact negatively.

Let us now look at a few scriptures that touch on some individuals who had their lives prolonged because of walking in righteousness.

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

Job 1:1

That man Job shunned evil in fearing God and he lived long as follows hereunder.

After this lived Job a hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, even four generations.

So Job died, being old and full of days.

Job 42:10-17

Job died old and full of days (and not short) even four generations!

IN those days was Hez-e-ki'-ah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live.

Then Hez-e-ki'-ah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed unto the LORD,

And said, Remember now, O LORD I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a

perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hez-e-ki'-ah wept sore.

Then came the word of the LORD to Isaiah, saying, Go, and say to Hez-e-ki'-ah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years.

Isaiah 38:1-5

Now that is great to be added fifteen more years to live when one was supposed to have expired by death! Let us look further at other scriptures as well on the need for obedience for one to live a long life.

NOW therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers giveth you.

Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Your eyes have seen what the LORD did because of Ba'-al-pe'-or: for all the men that followed Ba'-al-pe'-or, the LORD thy God hath destroyed them from among you.

But ye that did cleave unto the LORD your God are alive every one of you this day.

Deuteronomy 4:1-4

To obey God's commandments is to live and to disobey them spells death. The children of Israel were God's people and as a Christian you are a child of God who he calls as his hence the need to obey his commandments just as those Israelites were required to do. The same commandment has been repeated in chapter 6 below.

NOW these are the commandments, the statutes and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it:

That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's

son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.

Deuteronomy 6:1-2

For one's days to be prolonged, obedience is required by the Lord God.

But if a man be just, and do that which is lawful and right,

And hath not eaten upon the mountains, neither hath lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, neither hath defiled his neighbor's wife, neither hath come near to a menstruous woman,

And hath not oppressed any, but hath restored to the debtor his pledge, hath given his bread to the hungry, and hath covered the naked with a garment;

He that hath not given forth upon usury, neither hath taken any increase, that hath withdrawn his hand from iniquity, hath executed true judgement between man and man.

Hath walked in my statutes, and hath kept my judgments, to deal truly; he is just, he shall surely live, saith the Lord God.

Ezekiel 18:5-9

A long list of dos and do nots but all the same it is God's word and only righteous deeds shall make one to live and not unrighteous deeds which tend to death and not life. Obedience is the common denominator for a prolonged life. Doing always what is both lawful and right before God who is the Holy one of Israel.

Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

But thou, O God, shalt bring them down into the pit of destruction: bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in thee.

Psalm 55:22-23

The righteous are not moved meaning they shall have long life. But the unrighteous shall be brought down and not live out half their days!

Chapter 3

The long lived

In this chapter I have the pleasure to bring to you some of the long lived. You will be surprised to find that they were people who had faith in God and get to know that those who are in the faith in Christ will live long twofold, first here on earth as these, and later eternally in the kingdom of heaven with God the Father.

1. Noah

AND God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.

And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.

Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things.

But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.

And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man's; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man.

Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.

And you, be ye fruitful, and multiply; bring forth abundantly in the earth, and multiply therein.

And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying,

And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you;

And with every living creature that is with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth.

And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.

And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations:

I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.

And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud:

And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.

And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.

And God said unto Noah, This is the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth.

And the sons of Noah, that went forth of the ark were Shem, and Ham, and Ja'-pheth: and Ham is the father of Canaan.

These are the three sons of Noah: and of them was the whole earth overspread.

And Noah began to be a husbandman, and he planted a vineyard:

And he drunk of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent.

And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without.

And Shem and Ja'-pheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness.

And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him.

And he said, cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren.

And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.

God shall enlarge Ja'-pheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.

And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years. And all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years.

And all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years: and he died.

Genesis 9

2. Abraham

Then again Abraham took a wife, and her name was Ke-tu'-rah.

And she bare him Zimran, and Jok'-shan, and Me'-dan, and Mid'-i-an, and Ish'-bak and Shu'-ah. And Jok'-shan begat She'-ba, and De'-dan. And the sons of De'-dan were Assh-u'-rim, and Let'-um-mim.

And the sons of Mid'-i-an; E'-phah and E'-pher, and Ha'-noch, and A-bi'-dah, and El-da'-ah.

All these were the children of Ke-tu'-rah

And Abraham gave all that he had unto Isaac.

But unto the sons of the concubines, which Abraham had, Abraham gave gifts and sent them away from Isaac his son, while he yet lived, eastward, unto the east country.

And these are the days of the years of Abraham's life which he lived, a hundred threescore and fifteen years.

Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people.

Genesis 25:1-8

3. Isaac

And Jacob came unto Isaac his father unto Mam'-re, unto the city of Ar'-bah which is He'-bron, where Abraham and Isaac sojourned.

And the days of Isaac were a hundred and fourscore years and Isaac gave up the ghost and died and was gathered unto his people, being old and full of days: and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

Genesis 35: 27- 29

4. Jacob

THEN Joseph came and told Pharaoh, and said, My father and my brethren, and their flocks, and their herds, and all that they have, are come out of the land of Canaan; and, behold, they are in the land of Go'-shen.

And he took some of his brethren, even five men, and presented them unto Pharaoh.

And Pharaoh said unto his brethren, what is your occupation? And they said unto Pharaoh, Thy servants are shepherds, both we, and also our fathers.

They said moreover unto Pharaoh, For to sojourn in the land are we come; for thy servants have no pasture for their flocks; for the famine is sore in the land of Canaan: now therefore, we pray thee, Let thy servants dwell in the land of Go'-shen.

And Pharaoh spake unto Joseph, saying, Thy father and thy brethren are come unto thee.

The land o f Egypt is before thee; in the best of the land make thy father and brethren dwell; in the land of Go'-shen let them dwell: and if thou knowest any man of activity among them, they make them rulers over my cattle.

And Joseph brought in Jacob his father, and set him before Pharaoh: and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.

And Pharaoh said unto Jacob, How old art thou?

And Jacob said unto Pharaoh,

The days of the years of my pilgrimage are a hundred and thirty years: few and evil have the days of the years of my life been, and have not attained unto the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage.

And Jacob blessed Pharaoh, and went out from before Pharaoh.

And Joseph placed his father and his brethren, and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Ram'-e-ses, as Pharaoh had commanded.

And Joseph nourished his father, and his brethren, and all his father's household, with bread, according to their families.

And there was no bread in all the land; for the famine was very sore, so that the land of Egypt and all the land of Canaan fainted by reason of the famine.

And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, for the corn which they bought: and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house.

And when money failed in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came unto the Joseph, and said, give us bread: for why should we die in thy presence? For the money faileth.

And Joseph said, Give your cattle; and I will give you for your cattle, if money fail. And they brought their cattle unto Joseph: and Joseph gave them bread in exchange for horses, and for the flocks,

and for the cattle of the herds, and for the asses: and he fed them with bread for all their cattle for that year.

When that year was ended, they came unto him the second year, and said unto him, we will not hide it from my lord, how that our money is spent; my lord also hath our herds of cattle; there is not aught left in the sight of my lord, but our bodies, and our lands:

Wherefore shall we die before thine eyes, both we and our land? Buy us and our land for bread; and we and our land will be servants unto Pharaoh: and give us seed, that we may live, and not die, that the land be desolate.

And Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for the Egyptians sold every man his field, because the famine prevailed over them: so the land became Pharaoh's.

And as for the people, he removed them to cities from one end of the borders of Egypt even to the other end thereof.

Only the land of the priests bought he not; for the priests had a portion assigned them of Pharaoh, and

did eat their portion which Pharaoh gave them: wherefore they sold not their lands.

Then Joseph said unto the people, Behold, I have bought you this day and your land for Pharaoh: lo, here is seed for you, and ye shall sow the land.

And it shall come to pass in the increase, that ye shall give the fifth part unto Pharaoh, and four parts shall be your own, for the seed of the field, and for your food, and for them of your households, and for food for your little ones.

And they said, Thou hast saved our lives: let us find grace in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's servants.

And Joseph made it a law over the land of Egypt unto this day, that Pharaoh should have the fifth part; except the land of the priests only, which became not Pharaoh's.

And Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the country of Go'-shen; and they had possessions therein, and grew, and multiplied exceedingly.

And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years: so the whole age of Jacob was a hundred forty and seven years.

And the time drew nigh that Israel must die: and he called his son Joseph, and said unto him, if now I have found grace in thy sight, put I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh, and deal kindly and truly with me; bury me not, I pray thee, in Egypt:

But I will lie with my fathers, and thou shalt carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burying place. And he said, I will do as thou hast said.

And he said, Swear unto me. And he sware unto him. And Israel bowed himself upon the bed's head.

Genesis 47

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

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

Reuben, thou art my first-born, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power:

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

Simeon and Levi are brethren; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations, O my soul, come not thou into their secret; unto their assembly, mine honor, be not thou united: for in their anger they slew a man and in their self-will they digged down a wall.

Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel.

Judah, that art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee.

Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up?

The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a law giver from between his feet, until Shi'-loh come, and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes:

His eyes shall be red with wine, and his teeth white with milk.

Zeb'-u-lun shall dwell at the haven of the sea; and he shall be for a haven of ships; and his border shall be unto Zi'-don.

Is'-sa-char is a strong ass couching down between two burdens:

And he saw that rest was good, and the land that it was pleasant; and he bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant unto tribute.

Dan shall judge his people, as one of the tribes of Israel.

Dan shall be a serpent by the way, an adder in the path, that biteth the horse heels, so that his rider shall fall backward.

I have waited for thy salvation, O LORD.

God, a troop shall overcome him: but he shall overcome at the last.

Out of Asher his bread shall be fat, and he shall yield royal dainties.

Naph'-tali is a hind let loose: he giveth goodly words.

Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall:

The archers have sorely grieved him, and shot at him, and hated him:

But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (From thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:)

Even by the God of thy father, who shall help thee; and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of heaven above, blessings of the deep that lieth under, blessings of the breasts, and of the womb:

The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separate from his brethren.

Benjamin shall raven as a wolf: in the morning he shall devour the prey, and at night he shall divide the spoil.

All these are the twelve tribes of Israel: and this is it that their father spake unto them, and blessed them; every one according to his blessing he blessed them.

And he charged them, and said unto them, I am to be gathered unto my people: bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of E'-phron the Hittite,

In the cave that is in the field of Mach-pe'-lah, which is before Mam'-re, in the land of Canaan, which Abraham bought with the field of E'-phron the Hittite for a possession of a burying place.

There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife; there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife; and there I buried Leah.

The purchase of the field and of the cave therein was from the children of Heth.

And when Jacob had made an end of commanding his sons, he gathered up his feet into the bed, and yielded up the ghost, and was gathered unto his people.

Genesis 49

5. Joseph

And Joseph returned into Egypt, he, and his brethren, and all that went up with him to bury his father, after he had buried his father.

And when Joseph's brethren saw that their father was dead, they said, Joseph will peradventure hate us, and will certainly requite us all the evil which we did unto him.

And they sent a messenger unto Joseph, saying, Thy father did command before he died, saying,

So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father. And Joseph wept when they spake unto him.

And his brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said, Behold, we be thy servants.

And Joseph said unto them,

Fear not: for am I in the place of God?

But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

Now therefore fear not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them.

And Joseph dwelt in Egypt, he, and his father's house: and Joseph lived a hundred and ten years.

And Joseph saw E'-phra-im's children of the third generation: the children also of Ma'-chir the son of Ma-nas'-seh were brought up upon Joseph's knees.

And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying God will surely visit you and ye shall carry up my bones from hence.

So Joseph died, being a hundred and ten years old: and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.

Genesis 50: 14- 26

6. Moses

AND Moses went up from the plains of Moab unto the mountain of Ne'-bo to the top of Pis'-gah, that is over against Jericho. And the LORD showed him all the land of Gilead, unto Dan,

And all Naph'-ta-li, and the land of E'-phra-im, and Ma-nas'-seh, and all the land of Judah unto the utmost sea,

And the south, and the plain of the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, unto Zo'-ar.

And the LORD said unto him, This is the land which I sware unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed: I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes but thou shalt not go over thither.

So Moses the servant of the LORD died there is the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD.

And he buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, over against Beth-pe'-or: but no man knoweth of his sepulcher unto this day.

And Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.

Deuteronomy 34:1-7

7. Joshua

AND Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to She'-chem, and called for the elders of Israel, and for their heads, and for their judges, and for their officers; and they presented themselves before God.

And Joshua said unto all the people, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Your fathers dwelt on the other side of the flood in old time, even Te'-rah, the father of Na'-chor: and they served other gods.

And I took your father Abraham from the other side of the flood, and led him throughout all the land of Canaan, and multiplied his seed, and gave him Isaac.

And I gave unto Isaac Jacob and Esau: and I gave unto Esau mount Se'-ir, to possess it; but Jacob and his children went down into Egypt.

I sent Moses also and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt, according to that which I did among them: and afterward I brought you out.

And I brought your fathers out of Egypt: and ye came unto the sea; and the Egyptians' pursued after your fathers with chariots and horsemen unto the Red sea

And when they cried unto the LORD, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians, and brought the sea upon them, a covered them; and your eyes have seen what I have done in Egypt: and ye dwelt in the wilderness a long season.

And I brought you into the land of the Am'-o-rites, which dwelt on the other side Jordan; and they fought with you: and I gave them into your hand that ye might posses their land; and I destroyed them from before you.

Then Balak the son of Zip'-por, king of Moab, arose and warred against Israel, and sent and called Ba'-laam the son of Be'-or to curse you:

But I would not hearken unto Ba'-laam; therefore he blessed you still: so I delivered you out of his hand.

And ye went over Jordan, and came unto Jericho: and the men of Jericho fought against you, the Am'-o-rites, and the Per'-iz-zites, and the Ca'-na-an-ites, and the Hit'-tites, and the Gir'-ga-shites, the Hi'-vites, and the Jeb'-u-sites; and I delivered them into your hand.

And I sent the hornet before you, which drove them out from before you, even the two kings of the Am'-o-rites; but not with thy sword, nor with thy bow.

And I have given you a land for which ye did not labor, and cities which ye built not, and ye dwell in them; of the vineyards and olive yards which ye planted not do ye eat.

Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Am'-o-

rites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods;

For the LORD our God, he it is that brought us up and our fathers out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, and which did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way wherein we went, and among all the people through whom we passed:

And the LORD drove out from before us all the people, even the Am'-o-rites which dwelt in the land: therefore will we also serve the LORD; for he is our God;

And Joshua said unto the people, ye cannot serve the LORD: for he is a holy God; he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins.

If ye forsake the LORD, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good.

And the people said unto Joshua, Nay; but we will serve the LORD.

And Joshua said unto the people, ye are witnesses against yourselves that ye have chosen you the LORD, to serve him. And they said, we are witnesses.

Now therefore put away, said he, the strange gods which are among you, and incline your heart unto the LORD God of Israel.

And the people said unto Joshua, The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.

So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and set them a statute and an ordinance in She'-chem.

And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God and took a great stone, and set it up there under an oak, that was by the sanctuary of the LORD.

And Joshua said unto all the people, Behold, this stone shall be a witness unto us; for it hath heard all the words of the LORD which he spake unto us: it shall be therefore a witness unto you, lest ye deny your God.

So Joshua let the people depart, every man unto his inheritance.

And it came to pass after these things, that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being a hundred and ten years old.

Joshua 24

8. David

FURTHERMORE David the king said unto all the congregation, Solomon my son, whom alone God hath chosen, is yet young and tender, and the work is great: for the palace is not for man, but for the LORD God.

Now I have prepared with all my might for the house of my God the gold for things to be made of gold, and silver for things of silver and the brass for things of brass, the iron for things of iron, and wood for things of wood; onyx stones, and of divers colors, and all manner of precious stones, and marble stones in abundance.

Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, which I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I prepared for the holy house;

Even three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of O'-phir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the houses withal:

The gold for things of gold, and the silver for things of silver, and for all manner of work to be made by the hands of artificers. And who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the LORD?

Then the chief of the fathers and princes of the tribes of Israel, and the captains of thousands and of hundreds, with the rulers of the king's work, offered willingly,

And gave for the service of the house of God of gold five thousand talents and ten thousand drams, and of silver ten thousand talents, and of brass eighteen thousand talents, and one hundred thousand talents of iron.

And they with whom precious stones were found gave them to the treasure of the house of the LORD, by the hand of Je-hi'-el the Ger'-shon-ite.

Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy.

Wherefore David blessed the LORD before all the congregation: and David said, blessed be thou, LORD God of Israel our father, for ever and ever.

Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.

Both riches and honor come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.

Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.

But whom am I and what is my people that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort for all come of thee and of their own have we given thee.

For we are strangers before thee and sojourners as were all our fathers; our days on the earth are as shadow, and there is none abiding.

O LORD our God, all this store that we have prepared to build thee a house for thine holy name cometh of thine hand, and is all thine own.

I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee.

O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, our fathers, keep this forever in the imagination of the thoughts of the hearts of thy people, and prepare their heart unto thee.

And give unto Solomon my son a perfect heart, to keep thy commandments, thy testimonies, and thy statutes, and to do all these things, and to build the palace, for the which I have made provision.

And David said to all the congregation, now bless the LORD your God. And all the congregation blessed the LORD God of their fathers, and bowed down their heads, and worshiped the LORD, and the king.

And they sacrificed sacrifices unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings unto the LORD, on the morrow after that day, even a thousand bullocks, a thousand rams, and a thousand lambs, with their drink offerings and sacrifices in abundance for all Israel:

And did eat and drink before the LORD that day with great gladness. And they made Solomon the son of David king the second time, and anointed him unto the LORD to be the chief governor, and Za'-dok to be priest.

Then Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king instead of David his father, and prospered; and all Israel obeyed him.

And all the princes and the mighty men, and all the sons likewise of king David, submitted themselves unto Solomon the king.

And the LORD magnified Solomon exceedingly in the sight of all Israel, and bestowed upon him such royal majesty as had not been on any king before him in Israel.

Thus David the son of Jesse reigned over all Israel.

And the time that he reigned over Israel was forty years; seven years reigned he is He'-bron, and thirty and three years reigned he in Jerusalem.
And he died in a good old age, full of days, riches, and honor and Solomon his son reigned in his stead.

1 Chronicles 29:1-28

9. Job

And it was so, that after the LORD had spoken these words unto Job, the LORD said to El'-i-phaz the Te'-man-ite, my wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath.
Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept: lest I deal with you after your folly, in that ye have not spoken of me the thing which is right, like my servant Job.
So El'-i-phaz the Te'-man-ite, and Bildad the Shu'-hite and Zo'-phar the Na'-am-a-thite went, and did

according as the LORD commanded them: the LORD also accepted Job.

And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.

Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and everyone an earring of gold.

So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses.

He had also seven sons and three daughters.

And he called the name of the first, Je-mi'-ma; and the name of the second, Ke-zi'-a; and the name of the third, Ker'-en-hap'-puch.

And in all the land were no woman found so fair as the daughters of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren.

After this lived Job a hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, even four generations.

So Job died, being old and full of days.

Job 42:7-17

Chapter 4

Conditions for riches and wealth

For one to be rich and wealthy often calls for one to be close to God relating with him which is only possible by being born of the spirit of God, that is, being born-again. If not, many who seem to be rich and wealthy and are not yet children of God have but ill-gotten riches and wealth got by crooked ways such as smuggling, gambling, money laundering, poaching, land grabbing, kickbacks tax evasion and many, many other ungodly ways and means. I may rightly say that only a minority of people who are unregenerate have acquired their riches and wealth lawfully through hard work and God had blessed the work of their hands as God expects all to toil to earn a living from their sweat (Deuteronomy 8:18, Genesis 3:17-19).

For those who are far from God cannot obey the commandments of God (Romans 8:5-8). People's priority must be right for God's blessing to begin to flow.

Although the condition for getting riches and wealth is first hard work followed by one being

close to God, that should not make one to rush to be saved as that would be missing the point in what salvation is, that is, it's purpose in one's life.
The seventy that Jesus sent forth missed the point simply being fascinated by the now and not the future. They were surprised by the power they had over the devils and Jesus corrected that misconception as indicated below.

And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Ched-or-la-o'mer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Sha'-veh, which is the king's dale.
And Mel-chiz'-ed-ek king of Sa'-lem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.
And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:
And blessed be the Most High God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.
And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself.

And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most High God, the possessor of heaven and earth,

That I will not take from a thread even to a shoe latchet, and that I will not take anything that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich:

Genesis 14:17-23

From the above scripture we can see that Abram had faith in God for blessing just as God had earlier promised him (Genesis 12:1-3) and which God had begun to do (Genesis 13:1-2) and continued to do in the above scripture. Therefore, even when the time of testing came (Genesis 22:1-14). Abraham continued steadfast in the faith and for sure God who is faithful provided a ram to be sacrificed as a burnt offering instead of Isaac his son whom he loved. How about you, do you believe God to bless you and provide for you or other people!? God is the source of everything he being the Creator of heaven and earth.

And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lighting fall from heaven.

Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

Luke 10:17-20

Those disciples were rejoicing for the wrong reason. For the spirits to be subject to them by the power they had in the name of Jesus was not an end in itself (that was not all in their lives as believers), as they had a destiny which is heaven and which counts most, that is, eternity with God in heaven. That, is the main purpose for one to be saved so as to have a way of reaching heaven to be with the Lord forever in his glorious kingdom. Riches and wealth are just by the ways in one's salvation (Matthew 6:31-33) it should be clear to all of us

that Jesus Christ did not die on the cross for us to be rich and wealthy but for us to be reconciled back to God and to have a chance to be with him forever if we repent of our sins and believe in Christ's atonement for our sins on the cross for our redemption (Galatians 3:6-11, Romans 3:23-25; 10:8-13, John 3:16-17, Acts 4:11-12).

It is quite evident even in the Scriptures that there were God fearing men who were rich and wealthy even before Jesus Christ came to the earth to bring the redemption of mankind some of which you can read in the next chapter and the bottom line is that we are saved to inherit the kingdom of God after this life and NOT saved to be rich and wealthy only. After all eternity in heaven totally surpasses all riches and wealth of this world (Matthew 6:25-30; 16:21-26, Luke 12:13-15).

As a Christian do not be greedy for anything as it can lead to your death as it happened to Judas Iscariot one of the disciples of Jesus as is recorded in the following scriptures.

THEN Jesus six days before the Passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead.

There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him.

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

Then saith one of the disciples Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him,

Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?

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

John 12:1-6

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

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

And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.

Now the first day of the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the Passover?

And he said, Go into the city of such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith,

My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at thy house with my disciples.

And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them; and they made ready the Passover.

Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve.

And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.

And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I?

And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me.

The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man whom the Son of man is betrayed! It had been good for that man if he had not been born.

Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come?

Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him.

Matthew 26:14-16, 44-50

To be foretold is to be forewarned, now there you are if you don't take heed and come out of any greed. Read on

Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.

For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.

Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out.

Acts 1:16-17

That was the end of Judas Iscariot who had a greed (lust) for money and which did not help him in life.

He hanged himself in the same field he purchased (Matthew 27:1-5. Money (or rather riches and wealth) therefore is not good enough, but holiness and righteousness is the best in God.

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and Mammon.

Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body more than raiment?

Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat, or, What shall we drink? Or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Matthew 6:24-33

Many people the world over put their trust in money or property than in God and lust after money and are ready to do anything to get it and have no time to seek God, as their priorities are wrong. Before God the first priority should be to

seek Him who is all rich and the one that blesses people and to get him and to obey him in order to get all that one may need in life.
Salvation and the life of obedience to God is key for virtually everything.
What does the scriptures say on God and what he has in store?

THE earth is the LORD'S and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

Psalm 24:1

The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts.

Haggai 2:8

Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.
Both riches and honor come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and

might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.

Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.

1 Chronicles 29:11-13

Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it is his portion.

Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labor; this is the gift of God.

Ecclesiastes 5:18-19

For she did not know that I gave her corn, and wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold, which they prepared for Bal'-al.

Therefore will I return, and take away my corn in the time thereof, and my wine in the season thereof,

and will recover my wool and my flax given to cover her nakedness.

Hosea 2:8-9

But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odor of sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well-pleasing to God.
But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Philippians 4:18-20

All the above scriptures tell us how God is rich and wealthy as well. God's other name is Jehovah-Jire meaning the provider for our needs.

For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.
For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.

Psalm 84:10-12

It is better to serve God than men. Walking uprightly has to do with walking in righteousness- to be obedient to God in life. As I said earlier, that is possible if one is in the Lord (has been born of God's spirit through genuine repentance and faith in Christ Jesus).

O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.
O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.
The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.

Psalm 34:8-10

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make

thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success

Joshua 1:8

Behold, God is mighty, and despiseth not any: he is mighty in strength and wisdom.

He preserveth not the life of the wicked: but giveth right to the poor.

He withdraweth not his eyes from the righteous: but with kings are they on the throne; yea, he doth establish them forever, and they are exalted.

And if they be bound in fetters, and be holden in cords of affliction;

Then he sheweth them their work, and their transgressions that they have exceeded.

He openeth also their ear to discipline, and commandeth that they return from iniquity.

If they obey and serve him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures.

Job 36: 5-11

True prosperity is as a result of observing to do what God commands.

AND it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

And all those blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field.

Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store.

Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.

The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.

The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine

hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

The LORD shall establish thee a holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways.

And all the people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of thee.

And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers to give thee.

The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.

And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath, if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them:

And thou shalt not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

Deuteronomy 28:1-14

Very detailed with great, great blessings all hinged on one thing only, and that is, obedience to the Lord and it does not matter which nation you are in. Just obey God's commandments and his blessings, will come flowing to you and overtake you. Thanks be to the most high God. In case you are still doubting read the following accounts as examples.

HEZ-E-KI'-AH began to reign when he was five and twenty years old, and he reigned nine and twenty years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was A-bi'-jah, the daughter of Zech-a-ri'-ah.

And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father had done.

2 Chronicles 29:1-2

If you continue from verse 3 onwards you will see the reforms he brought during his reign. Let us read now how he faired.

And Hez-e-ki'-ah had exceeding much riches and honor: and he made himself treasures for silver, and for gold, and for precious stones, and for spices, and for shields, and for all manner of pleasant jewels; Storehouses also for the increase of corn, and wine, and oil; and stalls for all manner of beasts, and cotes for flocks.

Moreover he provided him cities, and possessions of flocks and herds in abundance: for God had given him substance very much.

2 Chronicles 32:27-29

It is all to do with walking uprightly with a perfect heart before God.

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

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

His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great

household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

Job 1:1-3

Job was the greatest of all the men of the east going by his wealth. God is not a liar as he had earlier told the children of Israel that if they obeyed his commandments, by observing to do them, blessings shall come on them, and overtake them (Deuteronomy 28:1-2) and they will be made the head and not the tail and will be above only and not beneath (Deuteronomy 28:13) praise be to God and our Father.

Chapter 5

Riches and wealth

It is quite evident from the onset as recorded in the holy scriptures that riches and wealth belong to God as the source of all things and he is the one that can make one rich or wealthy or both. But before I do that let me point to you the following.

TRULY God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart.
But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped.
For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm.
They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men.
Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment.
Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish.

They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily.

They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth.

Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them. And they say, How doth God know? And is there knowledge in the most High?

Behold, these are the ungodly who prosper in the world; they increase in riches.

Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency.

For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning.

If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children.

When I thought to know this it was too painful for me;

Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.

Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction.

How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors.

As a dream when one awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image.

Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins.

So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee.

Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand.

Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.

My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever.

For lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee.

But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works.

Psalm 73

The above scripture point to the fact that there is a need to view this life on earth with eternal perspective in mind and which has more weight with far reaching consequences in the end, just as the Psalmist later came to find out. It should be appreciated that real riches and wealth sis associated with being with the Lord in one's life.

THE earth is the LORD'S and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.
For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

Psalm 24:1-2

Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, and I will testify against thee: I am God even thy God.
I will not reprove thee for thy sacrifices or thy burnt offerings, to have been continually before me.
I will take no bullock out of thy house, nor he goats out of thy folds.
For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.

I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine.
If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fullness thereof.

Psalm 50:7-12

For thus saith the LORD of hosts; yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land;
And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.
The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts.

Haggai 2:6-8

But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of E-p-phroditus the things which were sent from you, an odor of sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well-pleasing to God.
But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Philippians 4:18-20

Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted:
But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away.
For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.

James 1:9-11

Charge them that are rich in this world that they may not be high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

1 Timothy 6:17

Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that thou have need of all these things.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6:31-33

Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes which I command thee this day:

Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein;

And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied;

Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint;

Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;

And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.

But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

Deuteronomy 8:11-18

And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.

Job 42:10

And Hez-e-ki'-ah had exceeding much riches and honor: and he made himself treasures for silver, and for gold, and for precious stones, and for spices, and for shields, and for all manner of pleasant jewels; Storehouses also for the increase of corn, and wine, and oil; and stalls for all manner of beasts, and cotes for flocks.

Moreover he provided him cities, and possessions of flocks and herds in abundance: for God had given him substance very much.

2 Chronicles 32:27-29

All the above scriptures are obvious touching on the source of riches and wealth. Read further how God has made his dwelling place in great splendor and cannot be compared at all with any of the palaces of the kings and presidents of the world (Revelation 21:9-21) as he owns all the riches and wealth both in heaven and on earth.

When it comes to riches and wealth, we do find from the scriptures that it was more of a preserve of those who had put their faith in God and whom I do now present below.

1. Abraham

AND Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south.

And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.

And he went on his journeys from the south even to Beth-el, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Beth-el and Ha'-i;

Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the LORD.

Genesis 13:1-4

2. Lot

And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents.

And the land was not able to bear them that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together.

Genesis 13:5-6

3. Isaac

AND there was famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto A-bim'-e-lech king of the Phil'-is'-tines unto Ge'-rar.

And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of:

Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swear unto Abraham thy father;

And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;

Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.

And Isaac dwelt in Ge'-rar:

And the men of the place asked him of his wife; and he said, She is my sister: for he feared to say, She is my wife; lest, said he, the men of the place

should kill me for Rebekah; because she was fair to look upon.

And it came to pass, when he had been there for a long time, that A-bim'-e-lech king of the Phil'-is'-tines looked out at a window, and saw, and, behold, Isaac was sporting with Rebekah his wife.

And A-bim'-e-lech called Isaac, and said, Behold, of a surety she is thy wife: and how saidst thou, she is my sister? And Isaac said unto him, because I said, lest I die for her.

And A-bim'-e-lech said, what is this thou hast done unto us? One of the people might lightly have lain with thy wife, and thou shouldest have brought guiltiness upon us.

And Abimelech charged all his people, saying, He that toucheth this man or his wife shall surely be put to death.

Then Isaac sowed in the land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him.

And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great:

For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines envied him.

Genesis 26:1-14

4. Jacob

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

And when Jacob saw them, he said, this is God's host: and he called the name of that place Ma-ha-na'-im.

And Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother unto the land of Se'-ir, the country of E'-dom.

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

And I have oxen, and asses, flocks, and menservants, and women servants: and I have set to tell my lord, that I may find grace in thy sight.

Genesis 32:1-5

5. Job

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

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

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

Job 1:1-3

6. David

FURTHERMORE David the king said unto all the congregation, Solomon my son, whom alone God hath chosen, is yet young and tender, and the work is great: for the palace is not for man, but for the LORD God.

Now I have prepared with all my might for the house of my God the gold for things to be made of

gold, and silver for things of silver and the brass for things of brass, the iron for things of iron, and wood for things of wood; onyx stones, and stones to be set, glistering stones, and of divers colors, and all manner of precious stones, and marble stones in abundance.

Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, which I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I prepared for the holy house;

Even three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of O'-phir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the houses withal:

The gold for things of gold, and the silver for things of silver, and for all manner of work to be made by the hands of artificers. And who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the LORD?

1 Chronicles 29:1-5

The above was the contribution of king David for the building of a house for God by his son Solomon. For him to have done so shows that he was so rich and wealthy. He then extended an

invitation to the people, that those who were willing to support the building of the holy temple for the Lord to do so.

7. Solomon

Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred threescore and six talents of gold,

Beside that he had of the merchantmen, and of the traffic of the spice merchants and of all the kings of Arabia, and of governors of the country

And king Solomon made two hundred targets of beaten gold: six hundred shekels of gold went to one target.

And he made three hundred shields of beaten gold; three pounds of gold went to one shield: and the king put them in the house of the forest of Lebanon.

Moreover the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with the best gold.

The throne had six steps, and the top of the throne was round behind: and there were stays on either side on the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the stays.

And twelve lions stood there on the one side and on the other upon the six steps: there was not the like made in any kingdom.

And all king Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the house of the forest of Lebanon of pure gold; none were of silver: it was nothing accounted of in the days of Solomon.

For the king had at sea a navy of Thar'-shish with the navy of Hiram: once in three years came the navy of Thar'-shish, bringing gold, and silver, ivory, and apes, and peacocks.

So king Solomon exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and for wisdom.

1 Kings 10:14-23

8. Hezekiah

And Hez'-e-ki'-ah had exceeding much riches and honor: and he made himself treasures for silver, and for gold, and for precious stones, and for spices, and for shields, and for all manner of pleasant jewels;

Storehouses also for the increase of corn, and wine, and oil; and stalls for all manner of beasts, and cotes for flocks.

Moreover he provided him cities, and possessions of flocks and herds in abundance: for God had given him substance very much.

2 Chronicles 32:27-29

Also, riches and wealth by the unrighteous are gotten through the backdoor given by Satan at a high cost (paying for it by human sacrifices to Satan whom they worship). Look at this scripture.

Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them;

And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Matthew 4:8-10

Just as Satan tempted Jesus with riches and wealth of the world, he is busy doing the same to people

and many have accepted the offer and swim in "riches and wealth", but for a Christian say a big No and worship and serve only God your Creator.

Many people have high esteem on riches and wealth and think that those are what the true blessings from God not knowing that those are blessings of lesser weight as they are superficial and temporal (Job 1) and the true blessing and that matters most is eternal life in heaven with God the Creator (Revelation 19:1-9). In heaven life is at its peak as everything is perfect and cannot be marched or compared with the life of riches and wealth here on earth. Therefore, we need not be contented with riches and wealth of this world only, but strive to live holy and righteous life in order to be in heaven at the appointed time to be with the Lord forever where there are no worries for anything. In concluding, riches and wealth are not everything in life as life is more than that with God.

The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.

1 Samuel 2:7

I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause:

Which doeth great things and unsearchable, marvelous things without number:

Who giveth rain upon the earth, and sendeth water upon the fields.

To set up on high those that be low; that those which mourn may be exalted to safety.

Job 5:8-11

Chapter 6

What to do with long life, riches and wealth.

When it comes to the issue of what to do with the long life, riches and wealth that a Christian has been given by God's grace, as citizens of the kingdom of heaven; one need to invest heavily in that kingdom where one is to have his or her eternity with the Lord.

For more detailed information on investment you need to get and read my book which is entitled 'A Christian and Kingdom Investments'.

Let us now look at our position in Christ Jesus and examples of some of the things we need to do as bona fide citizens of God's kingdom.

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

In whom all the building fitly, framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord:

In whom ye also are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19-22

If we remain in the faith of Jesus Christ we are fellow citizens with those Christians who have slept in the Lord (Colossians 1:20-23, Hebrews 10:36-39, 1 Peter 1:3-9, 13-19).

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ:
Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Philippians 3:20-21

As we wait for our Savior the Lord Jesus Christ to take us home (John 14:1-3, 1 Corinthians 15:50-54, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18), meanwhile we have some work to do for the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58, Revelation 22:12-14).

Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but

in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Be ready to distribute some of what God has blessed you with thereby laying a good foundation for the future and not being as that young man (Matthew 19:21-22).

Mind you God does not make you rich and wealthy just for fun, but with a reason. He wants you to be his distributor here on earth; he to be supplying your riches and wealth and you to be distributing to those around you who lack and are really in need (John 12:1-8).

Indeed, you are at liberty to enjoy life with your riches and wealth but not to forget the needy around.

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

James 1:27

The big question is whether we care at all for the widows and the orphans and make effort to improve their livelihood. That kind of faith that cares for the less fortunate in the society is a genuine faith in the Christian Walk.

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:
But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:
For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matthew 6:19-21

Our heart needs to be in heaven where eternity awaits us, hence the need to invest heavily in the kingdom of God as sooner or later we will have to

leave all that we have here on the earth (Job 1:1-22). Even the rich man when he died, he left all his riches on the earth (Luke 16:19-24).

Moreover God at creation invested heavily on man on the earth and made him the centre of all his creation (Genesis 1:26-28) and therefore it is wise for man also to reciprocate by heavily investing in heaven where his Creator is for his own benefit when he will finally go there to be with Him.

AND Na-o'-mi had a kinsman of her husband's a mighty man of wealth, of the family of E-lim'-e-lech; and his name was Bo'-az.

And Ruth the Mo'-ab-i-tess said unto Na-o'-mi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter.

And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Bo'-az, who was of the kindred of E-lim'-e-lech.

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

Then said Bo’-az unto his servant that was set over the reapers, Whose damsel is this?

And the servant that was set over the reapers answered and said, It is the Mo’-abitesh damsel that came back with Na-o’-mi out of the country of Moab:

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

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

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

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

And Bo'-az answered and said unto her, It hath fully been showed me all that thou hast done unto thy mother-in-law since the death of thine husband: and how thou hast left thy father and thy mother, and the land of thy nativity, and art come unto a people which thou knewest not heretofore.

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

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

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

Ruth 2:1-14

When one is wealthy it is quite a good thing to be kind to others, more so to the widows, the orphans and the poor in the society.

Boaz was such a person who showed kindness to this widow whose name was Ruth. Boaz must have been a God-fearing man, believing in the God of israel as he did what was right in the sight of God (Leviticus 19:9-10, Deuteronomy 24:19).

AND David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?

And there was one of the house of Saul a servant whose name was Zi'-ba. And when they had called him unto David, the king said unto him, Art thou Zi'-ba? And he said, Thy servant is he.

And the king said, is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of God unto him? And Zi'-ba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.

And the king said unto him, Where is he? And Zi'-ba said unto the king, Behold, he is in the house of Ma'-chir, the son of Am'-mi-el, in Lo-de'-bar.

Then king David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Ma'-chir, the son of Am'-mi-el, from Lo-de'-bar.

Now when Me-phib'-o-sheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And David said, Me-phib'-o-sheth. And he answered, Behold thy servant!

And David said unto him, Fear not; for I will surely show thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy grandfather; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.

And he bowed himself, and said, What is thy servant, that thou shouldest look upon such a dead dog as I am?

Then the king called to Zi'-ba, Saul's servant, and said unto him, I have given unto thy master's son all that pertained to Saul and to all his house.

Thou therefore, and thy sons, and thy servants, shall till the land for him, and thou shalt bring in the fruits, that thy master's son may have food to eat: but Me-phib'-o-sheth thy master's son shall eat bread always at my table. Now Zi'-ba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

Then said Zi'-ba unto the king, according to all that my lord the king hath commanded his servant, so shall thy servant do. As for Me-phib'-o-sheth, said the king, he shall eat at my table, as one of the king's sons.

And Me-phib'-o-sheth had a young son, whose name was Mi'-cha.

And all that dwelt in the house of Zi'-ba were servants unto Me-phib'-o-sheth.

So Me-phib'-o-sheth dwelt in Jerusalem: for he did eat continually at the king's table; and was lame on both his feet.

2 Samuel 9

David too was a God-fearing man who had faith in God and showed God's kindness to Jonathan's son Mephibosheth. During Jonathan's life, David had entered into a covenant relationship with Jonathan

(1 Samuel 18:1-4) and therefore even after Jonathan's death David extended that relationship to Jonathan's seed Mephibosheth.

We born again Christians need to remind ourselves that when we were saved we literally entered into a covenant relationship with the Lord and therefore as the Lord God is very kind, merciful and gracious, we too need to show those virtues to the others amongst us and in the society as well, where we live in.

We need to ensure that all the resources God has bestowed on us are well utilized being put in good use as we are going to be accountable to Him (Romans 14:11-12, 1 Corinthians 3:11-15). If we fail to do so we are not better than the Pharisees, the Sadducees and the scribes (Matthew 5:20) and we are heading nowhere near God. For that reason, let us examine our walk at all time (2 Corinthians 13:5) as faith without good works /righteousness is dead faith (James 2:14-26).

Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the

good of all his labor that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it is his portion.

Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labor; this is the gift of God.

Ecclesiastes 5:18-19

Because the life on earth is short and also we cannot carry away with us the riches and wealth that God has given us (verses 15-16 of the above chapter) we need to enjoy/make use of them and not to live like a miser or a pauper but enjoying them to the fullest possible.

In conclusion on the matter of long life, riches and wealth being provided by God he expects the following from us- 1 do believe so.

Long life

God expects us to propagate his agenda on the earth of winning souls to Christ by preaching in love the gospel of Jesus to the world (people) of all nations

for them to have entry into eternity in God's kingdom (the kingdom of heaven)

I know for sure that many of us would wish to live a long life. But as Christians we need not to yearn much for a long life here on earth as it is not our home. We are all destined for heaven from the beginning of creation (Exodus 32:32-33, Psalm 69:18, Revelation 3:5) and that is why Abraham just lived in a tent as he was expecting to live a better life elsewhere in a city prepared by God (Hebrews 11:8-16).

Apostle Paul must have seen that fact and he had something to tell the church at Philippi (Philippians 1:21-23).

Jesus Christ when he was with his disciples, he told them of the new residence / the true home for them where he was going to (John 14:1-3).

It follows therefore that we need to live here on earth just to glorify the Lord; living a life of faith and in holiness and righteousness (Hebrews 12:14). We need to live as sojourners / pilgrims / strangers preparing and being ready for eternity with the

Lord in heaven (Matthew 24:36-44) as life here is but vanity (Ecclesiastes 5:15) as the time is coming when we must leave for our home (2 Corinthians 5:1-6, 1 Corinthians 15:50-54, Philippians 3:20-21, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

We need to yearn for the life to come up there in heaven – God's dwelling place where there is absolute righteousness, love, peace, joy, name it.

Riches and wealth

God expects us to be helping the needy who are in our midst and who are many by providing them with what they lack in the love of God (willingly) and also to promote God's kingdom by supporting the work of God by contributing financial and material resources to the cause.

Chapter 7

What not to do in life

When one has become rich and wealthy there are certain things that one need not to do as they are not beneficial as such in life. In this chapter we are going to look at some of them which are as follows:

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 sher 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?

1 Samuel 25:1-11

David and the young men with him in the wilderness were in need of provision and he politely and humbly requested assistance from Nabal but he was rude to the young men David sent to him, and he was paying evil for the good David and the young men had done to his sheep and shepherds. Nabal was just being too stingy holding back what he had.

It is of no use hoarding up substance in abundance to oneself and not ready to share with one who is really in need and has come to you to be helped.

BUT king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Mo'-abites, Am'-mon-ites and Hit'-tites.

Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for

surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love.

And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.

For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father.

For Solomon went after Ash'-to-reth the goddess of the Zi-do'-ni-ans, and after Mil'-com the abomination of the Am'-monites.

And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father.

Then did Solomon build a high place for Che'-mosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon.

And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods.

And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the Lord God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice.

And had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods: but he kept not that which the LORD commanded.

Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant.

1 Kings 11: 1-11

The above equally is not a good thing to do when one is rich and wealthy, getting of more wives. It is not only sin but a waste of time as well. Unfortunately, such tradition has gained prominence with some men although it can be avoided with contentment as it is immoral to be a womanizer, be satisfied with your wife as it is the norm.

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, honor 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.

Matthew 19:16-22

Now in the above scripture we do find a replica of sort of the man by the name Nabal in the Old Testament.

This young man too found it quite difficult to part with his possession for the sake of a needy soul, too bad for him.

What comes out clear from the above scripture is that we should not allow to be obsessed with the riches and wealth that we have as that definitely will make us to lose our focus on God and heaven altogether. So let us be careful. The young man was so obsessed with what he had and giving more value to it than anything else and therefore could not part with it and he lost before God.

For him he was not as wise and focused as Job who had gone through a painful experience in the book of Job (Job 1:1-2:10) and had to say the following:

For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

And thou after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.

Job 19:25-27

That is the words of a man who is not earthly focused but is heavenly focused and therefore values more the things in heaven that are eternal than the things on earth that are temporal (2 Corinthians 4:17-18). Jesus Christ the Son of the living God was heavenly focused in the kingdom of his Father and could not be convinced or persuaded by Satan to lose focus when the temper came to tempt him (Luke 4:1-8) so let us examine and weigh our value system in life so as to live wisely to the glory of our Father.

Satan tempted the first man in the garden of Eden by showing and directing them to the things of the earth and diverting their attention from the things of heaven which requires obedience to God and he succeeded with the first Adam and went ahead to tempt the second Adam and failed miserably.

Nonetheless, he keeps on trying to tempt man to lose focus on God and eternity in heaven by diverting their attention to the earthly (worldly) so that they are busy engaged in them and abandon or forget the things of God. But we need to remind

ourselves of what counts most (1 John 2:17). If we are not heavenly focused, then we stop living a godly life fearing God and shunning evil and slide back into the life in the flesh which is deadly as it leads to death (Romans 6:23a; 8:1,12-13).
By having a heavenly vision in mind always is to have a sound / right focus and which is healthy in our Christian walk.

And he said, A certain man had two sons:
And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.
And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.
And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in the land; and he began to be in want.
And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

Luke 15:11-16

If there is a group of people needing more prayers it is the youth as they are short sighted when it comes to life and are in a hurry for things and therefore more vulnerable in life.

Whether one is rich and wealthy or not one advice is to be prudent in life.

Another free advice- there is time for everything under the sun and no need to rush or try to force things in life (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8).

There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

And there was a certain beggar name Laz'-a-rus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

Abraham saith unto him, they have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

And he said, nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

And he said unto him, if they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

Luke 16:19-31

Here on earth is a place for doing what is right before God and not later or anywhere else. It is a do or die situation and no joking around in life. Remember what Jesus told his disciples after talking to the young man (Matthew 19:23-24) - Now that is exactly what happened to the rich man.

He that diligently seeketh good procureth favor: but he that seeketh mischief, it shall come unto him.

He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.

He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool shall be servant to the wise of heart.

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.

Proverbs 11:27-30

With riches and wealth one needs to do good things and not use them to do any evil act as it will backfire on one. One need to adequately cater for the welfare of one's household with the riches and wealth (1 Timothy 5:8). Let no one trust in riches and wealth as they are vanity in some way. What is at stake is to live a righteous life beefing up the riches and wealth and thereby making it possible to inherit the kingdom of Heaven (Revelation 22:12-14; 19:6-8). It is quite clear as crystal that only righteousness can make one to inherit the kingdom of God (Philippians 1:9-11, 2 Peter 1:5-8) and nothing else, not even riches or wealth.

Woe unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong; that useth his neighbor's service without wages, and giveth him not for his work;

That saith, I will build me a wide house and large chambers, and cutteth him out windows; and it is ceiled with cedar, and painted with vermilion.

Shalt thou reign, because thou closest thyself in cedar? did not thy father eat and drink, and do judgment and justice, and then it was well with him?

He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well with him: was not this to know me? saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 22:13-16

Now to build a wide house and large chambers is good in itself but to do so by unrighteousness by not paying the workers who do it for you is bad as it is sin (James 5:1-6). Also to eat and drink is not bad at all whether you are rich and wealthy or poor, only that you need to be just to all other people and it will be well with you, as king Josiah did in verse 15 and 16. God wants justice which is righteousness from us and nothing less. So even in riches and wealth we must strive to live a righteous life before God the Almighty lest we are judged (Romans 2:5-11). Simply because one is rich and

wealthy we one need not forget that judgment awaits all people after this life. So let us tread carefully by not living oppressing others and so forth.

By the way to be rich and wealthy in itself is not greatness by God's standards but only by being righteous before him.

Abraham was great because he believed in God and was faithful to him so was king David for he loved righteousness, same to Job who feared God and shunned evil and many others such as Noah. If one wants to live "high class" as the world calls it, let him or her live in the fear of the Lord hating sin and such a one the Bible calls him or her a wise person (Job 28:28) and without that kind of life for sure one has no understanding in him or her.

In the world we have lived calling those in leadership as honorable, but in God's view only those who are living a honest life in righteousness are honorable before him and not necessarily those in high positions in life as well as status such as the rich and wealthy or leaders/rulers of the people. So let us sober up and not be happy and satisfied when

we are called honorable by mortal men, instead let us look and examine our lives with all sincerity of heart if truly we deserve to be called/addressed so. Merely by calling somebody honorable does not at all make him or her so, if he or she has unbecoming behavior and is not well mannered in life in all aspects.

Chapter 8

Pitfalls in riches and wealth

There are many potential risks in having riches and wealth some of which I would like to present here as follows:

i. Pride

Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.

And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good.

Ezekiel 16:49-50

God saw that the inhabitants of Jerusalem had a lot of material prosperity (wealth) and it made them to be proud and were immoral and God dealt with them accordingly- he judged them.

This dream I King Neb-u-chad-nez'-zar have seen. Now thou,

O Bel-te-shaz'-zar, declare the interpretation thereof, forasmuch as all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known unto me the interpretation: but thou art able; for the spirit of the holy gods is in thee.

Then Daniel, whose name was Bel-te-shaz'-zar, was astonished for one hour, and his thoughts troubled him. The king spake, and said, Bel-te-shaz'-zar, let not the dream, or the interpretation thereof, trouble thee. Bel-te-shaz'-zar, answered and said, My Lord, the dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation thereof to thine enemies.

The tree that thou sawest, which grew, and was strong, whose height reached unto the heaven, and the sight thereof to all the earth;

Whose leaves were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all; under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and upon whose branches the fowls of the heaven had their habitation:

It is thou, O King, that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth

unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth.

And whereas the king saw a watcher and a holy one coming down from heaven, and saying, Hew the tree down, and destroy roots thereof in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass in the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him;

This is the interpretation, O King, and this is the decree of the Most High, which come upon my lord the king:

That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; they kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule.

Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by showing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquility.

All this came upon the king Neb-u-chad-nez'-zah.

At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon.

The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honor of my majesty?

While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, O king Neb-u-chad-nez'-zah, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee.

And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou knows that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Neb-u-chad-nez'-zar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.

Daniel 4:19-33

Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon also became proud in heart and boasted to have built the house of the kingdom by the might of his power and for the honor of his majesty. Moreover he had not shown mercy to the poor just as Jerusalem's inhabitants. The prophet Daniel advised him to repent of sins committed and to do righteousness in the kingdom.

From these accounts we can see clearly that pride is very bad as it leads to other sins looking down upon people and not being humane/merciful. Nebuchadnezzar too just as the inhabitants of Jerusalem, he too, God judged and he suffered for some period of time which the scriptures call seven times which means to me, a long time enough to teach him a lasting lesson / to bring him down to

size/to total humility (out of pride). Read also on pride 1 Timothy 6:17.

THEN all the people of Judah took Uz-zi'-ah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in the room of his father Am-a-zi-ah.
He built E'-loth and restored it to Judah, after that the king slept with his fathers.
Sixteen years old was Uz-zi'-ah when he began to reign, and he reigned fifty and two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Jec-o-li'-ah of Jerusalem.
And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Am-a-zi'-ah did.
And he sought God in the days of Zech-a-ri-ah, who had understanding in the visions of God: and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him to prosper.
And he went forth and warred against the Phil-is'-tines, and brake down the wall of Gath, and the wall of Jab'- neh, and the wall of Ash'-dod, and

built cities about Ash'-dod, and among the Phil-is'-tines.

And God helped him against the Phil-is'-tines, and against the Arabians that dwelt in Gur'-ba'-al, and the Me'-hu-nim.

And the Am'-mon-ites gave gifts to Uz-zi'-ah: and his name spread abroad even to the entering in of Egypt; for he strengthened himself exceedingly.

Moreover Uz-zi'-ah built towers in Jerusalem at the corner gate, and at the valley gate, and at the turning of the wall, and fortified them.

Also he built towers in the desert, and digged many wells: for he had much cattle, both in the low country, and in the plains: husbandmen also, and vine dressers in the mountains and in Carmel: for he loved husbandry.

Moreover Uz-zi'-ah had a host of fighting men, that went out to war by bands, according to the number of their account by the hand of Jei'-el the scribe and Ma-a-sei'-ah the ruler, under the hand of Han-a-ni'-ah, one of the king's captains.

The whole number of the chief of the fathers of the mighty men of valor were two thousand and six hundred.

And under their hand was an army, three hundred thousand and seven thousand and five hundred, that made war with mighty power, to help the king against the enemy.

And Uz-zi'-ah prepared for them throughout all the host shields, and spear, and helmets, and habergeons, and bows, and slings to cast stones.

And he made in Jerusalem engines, invented by cunning men, to be on the towers and upon the bulwarks, to shoot arrows and great stones withal. And his name spread far abroad; for he was marvelously helped, till he was strong.

But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense.

And Az-a-ri'-ah the priest went in after him, and with him fourscore priests of the LORD, that were valiant men:

And they withstood Uz-zi'-ah the king, and said unto him, it pertaineth not unto thee, Uz-zi'-ah, to burn incense unto the LORD, but to the priests the sons of Aaron, that are consecrated to burn incense: go out of the sanctuary; for thou hast trespassed; neither shall it be for thine honor from the LORD God.

Then Uz-zi'-ah was wroth, and had a censer in his hand to burn incense: and while he was wroth with the priests, the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD, from beside the incense altar.

And Az-a-ri'-ah the chief priest, and all the priests, looked upon him, and, behold, he was leprous in his forehead, and they thrust him out from thence; yea, himself hasted also to go out, because the LORD had smitten him.

And Uz-zi'-ah the king was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several house, being a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the LORD: and Jo'-tham his son was over the king's house, judging the people of the land.

2 Chronicles 26:1-21

If you think the sin of pride affects only kings, you are badly mistaken. It can affect you and I as well, as long as God blesses us with earthly things and we become “great” on earth and therefore famous and we are not careful and sober enough to have the fear of the Lord in us.

Probably king Uzziah was mistaken in his judgment and thought God’s laws are as earthly laws which some kings / presidents keep on breaking with impunity as they are in power and nobody can question them. But God’s commands are supreme and are above all other laws, moreover God is not a respecter of persons.

Uzziah mocked God by touching that which is holy and God instantly judged him on the spot. Let us all fear God and give him reverence.

ii. Temptation and snare

But godliness with contentment is great gain.

For we brought nothing into this would, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

1 Timothy 6:6-9

Riches make one to be more tempted by encouraging foolish and hurtful desires which can lead one to his or her destruction. So let us beware and take notice of that.

iii. Idolatry

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand?

Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people.

Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it forever.

And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.

Exodus 32:1-14

The jewels of gold which the children of Israel had they got from the Egyptians when they were coming up out of that land and now they used the same to make a golden molten calf and made an altar before it and sacrificed unto it and ate and drank, and danced / played before it which all amounted to idolatry and God was in a wrath and disowned them (verse 7) calling them as Moses ' people and not his people, as for sure they had deserted him as now worshipped an idol. God wanted to judge them but Moses interceded for them and God relented. Surely Moses was humbly enough to intervene for a stiff-necked people as these!! It would have been easier for him to let God alone as God requested him and God to punish the people and later make Moses of great nation, but Moses who God chose as a leader to lead the people, was truly a leader and turned down the request as he cared. All leaders ideally must care for those he or she leads for their well fare.

iv. Security concern

Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Matthew 6:19

When you are rich and wealthy you will obviously be concerned of the safety of your possessions and that involves worrying as well and to some, no peace of mind and probably some sleepless nights. It is common knowledge that thieves break into homes and steal property. Robbers also break into banks and steal the money there. Robbers also can rob you of your hard-earned money which you were going to bank or had withdrawn from your account be it from a bank teller or from an ATM.

As for the home one will need to spend a lot investing/putting a lot of security gadgets in the home even in one's car as, well as employing security personnel to man it (unfortunately some become unfaithful and collude with thieves or robbers) and you end up a loser.

v. Misplaced trust

Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, set not your heart upon them.

Psalm 62:10

And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother that he divide the inheritance with me.

And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?

And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

And he spake a parable unto them, saying, the ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

And he said, This I will do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

Luke 12:13-21

We need not be satisfied with our self-sufficiency by putting our trust in them but rather to only trust in the living God. It is so because all these can vanish away. Remember the case of Job who was the greatest of the men of the east when it came to riches and wealth but alas, in a short period he had nothing left (Job 1:1-19). God is ever there and has everything and moreover he will not forsake us (Ezekiel 48:35, Hebrews 13:5) Therefore we need to think about God and what he can do to us as for sure he cares for us and let us continue to have trust in him and not on temporal things.

vi. Wastefulness

AFTER these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Ti-be'-ri-as.

And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.

And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples.

And the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh.

When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?

And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.

Philip answered him, Two hundred penny worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him,

There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.

Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.

John 6:1-13

From the above scripture we do see that a lot of food would have gone to waste had Jesus not intervened by telling his disciples to gather the fragments together – something that seemed obvious. But to the disciples it was not and they had to be told by their Master. What we learn there is that people tend to be careless with what they have as long as it is in abundance. No wonder it is

not uncommon for many households to be throwing away some left (uneaten) food more so if it was cooked some other day.

vii. Missing heaven

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,

Honor 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 the 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

Matthew 19:16-24

That young man because he kept the commandments of God, he was confident of going to heaven but how mistaken he was!!! Heaven is not a place for partially righteous people. It is the home of the righteous as God who dwells there is all righteous (Revelation 19:6-8, Psalms 119:137, 145:17).

What many fail to understand, is that giving is an act of obedience to God and is righteous in itself. But do get it right from me that giving alone cannot take one to heaven as one must be a believer in Christ Jesus (verse 21 above) mark the words of Jesus- come and follow me. It tells us that the young man was not a follower of Jesus, and

therefore to him the saying of Jesus of giving was strange to him and for sure he missed eternal life which he yearned for.

An angel God sent to Cornelius to go look for Simon Peter (who would preach to him the gospel of Christ Jesus) - although he was a giver but not a believer in Christ Jesus. We all need to be saved (all mankind) and to be in Christ and to do things by faith assisted by the Holy Spirit to do them right. Therefore it is not works of the flesh but fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 3:6-11, Romans 10:1-4).

The fact that Jesus addressed this issue to the disciples shows that they too are in danger of missing entry into heaven just as the young ruler, if they are not careful by being partial in keeping the Lord's commandments. Read on this matter the following: James 1:27, Malachi 3:7-9

viii. Partiality

MY brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.

For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

James 2:1-6

The rich and wealthy are more likely to behave partially as they are likely to look down on people who are not in their class and to treat them differently. But God is not a respecter of persons (1 Peter 1:17).

ix. Impunity

Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you.

Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth eaten.

Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.

Behold, the hire of the laborers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.

Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.

Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you.

James 5:1-6

The life of impunity is a common thing with the rich who reason that they cannot be arrested and

prosecuted as they can bribe their way out and so on, as they have resources to do it.

Many have cried for justice not only the poor, widows and orphans who have been treated badly for instance, their land being grabbed by the "mighty" and so on and even laborers who have worked and claim to be paid. Yet in one way of the other they remain scot-free (unpunished). Many have been killed who stood for the truth. The list goes on and on. There is a song which I believe people have gotten tired of and the song is: 'No stone will be left unturned: It is common after an occurrence (usually a bad occurrence). But God will judge all evils.

x. Irreverance

BEL-SHAZ'-ZAR the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand.

Bel-shaz'-zar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels

which his father Neb-u-chad-nez'-zar had taken out of the temple which was at Jerusalem; and that the king, and is princes, his wives, and his concubines, might drink therein.

Then they brought the golden vessels that were taken out of the temple of the house of God which was at Jerusalem; and the king, and his princes, his wives and his concubines, drank in them.

They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood and of stone.

In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaster of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.

Then the king's countenance was changed; and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another.

Daniel 5:1-6

It all begun in merry-making and ended badly with sorrow as the king was slain (verse 30). The reason is a simple one - irreverence for God and the things of God. Those vessels were consecrated vessels

from the temple of a holy God (The Holy One of Israel)

How dare for that king to misuse them drinking wine therein. Simply put, he had mocked God by touching that which is holy. He was a heathen king and for sure he was not taking the Holy Communion, him and all the rest. As the head of them God judged him squarely.

xi. Deserting God

And it shall be, when the LORD thy God shall have brought thee into the land which he sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildest not,

And houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full;

Then beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name.

Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you; (For the LORD thy God is a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the LORD thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth.

Deuteronomy 6:10-15

You can read also Deuteronomy chapter 8 verse 10 through 20 on the same message. God knows that men are very forgetful and easily desert him hence that warning. It is more common with the rich and wealthy some who think they don't need God. But those physical things are not enough in life. We need many, many, many things from God-health, protection, name it. Moreover, he is our Creator who we must serve and worship. Many who become well off forget God and even use most or all of their riches and wealth on other things-pleasure, and many other things.

xii. Deceitfulness

And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word,

And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

Mark 4:18-19

Riches is deceitful as it can cheat you that you can do anything and everything with it which is not true. Riches brings to a person some false power which in reality one does not hold.

xiii. Vainlessness

Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.

Proverbs 11:4

He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.

Ecclesiastes 5:10

Riches and wealth can be vanity. The only thing that matters most and need to be practiced is righteousness before God and men. Riches and

wealth should never be put in high esteem. All the same riches and wealth are not bad per se but how we use it and how we consider it in our lives matters.

If now riches and wealth is that tricky how do we handle it? I think the problem may be solved by not having them not buy to one's heart such that one treats them as things too special but as normal things in life (1 Corinthians 7:29-31).

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 6:24

Riches (mammon) has been known to master people and drive them crazy so one must learn fast to master it before it masters one (as it is a bad master) and be able therefore to serve only God who gives us to enjoy (1 Timothy 6:17-19). Please do note that riches and wealth can make one to be comfortable and complacent and think has reached the peak in life and forget that there is a far better

place to live eternally in heaven as life here is quite temporary and to make little effort to be there after death or make no effort at all and end up in hell realizing it too late as it happened to the rich man (Luke 16:19-31) so let us be very, very, careful.

Notes to the reader

I take this humble opportunity to thank you for having time to read this book and do hope it has been of help to you. If you happen to have any comments please feel free to do so using the address given down here.

Inspirational Publications
P.O Box 14500 – 00400 Nairobi
Kenya. East Africa
E-mail: inspirepublicly@gmail.com
Mobile phone: +254722505468 / +254736140970

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