A Christian
and
Consecration and Dedication

A noble act in Christianity

Fredrick G. Omondi

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INTRODUCTION

There is a subject that if one reads the Old Testament in the holy Bible one finds that it has been mentioned in many books and hence it must be of importance to Christians and should be practiced even in our generation as it is also mentioned in the New Testament although not as much as in the Old Testament. The subject am talking about is consecration and dedication of people and things to God and for God. The language now being used for consecration is ordination.

In the Old Testament we find that some class of people were to be consecrated to serve God and there are many things that were being dedicated to God as well for religious activities and so on.

We do find also that those who were going to a battle were being told if they had built a new house to go and dedicate it first if they had not

done so (Deuteronomy 20:1-5) and that practice you can now find that some people call God's ministers or church members to come to their new house and be part of a dedication service. Yet others call a minister of God to come and pray and dedicate his or her new car, or a new posho mill or a new boat, or any other thing. It follows therefore that it is an important event that need not be ignored in life.

In this book you are going to find some of the reasons for doing so and the many examples of those who participated in the practice and so on. I do believe it will be worth reading the information provided therein in this book.

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Chapter 1

A glance at consecration and dedication

In this chapter I am going to touch on the meaning of consecration and dedication which in a way are synonyms of each other as they touch on one denominator, that is, God. The only difference is that one is commonly used on people and the other on things but at some point, the word consecration is used interchangeably as dedication, especially in the New Testament of the Holy Bible. In simple language to consecrate is to devote oneself in serving God or to officially declare a person to serve God.

On the other hand to dedicate is to officially set apart a thing or things to be used for religious purposes, that is, to be used when serving God. Such things include pieces of furniture, musical instruments, offering basket among others that are specifically to be used for holy purposes either

in a church building or in the field e.g. in crusades. At this juncture let me say that there is a total difference between that which is consecrated or dedicated and that which is not and they must be treated differently. The former is to be treated as clean and holy and therefore not common but special unlike the latter which are to be treated as unclean and unholy and therefore are common and not special. In consecration or in dedication, one is involving the presence of God in a person or a thing in one or more ways for example for protection and so on and so forth. Now there are laws governing the former as we are going to see in this scripture.

But the priests the Levites, the sons of Za'-dok, that kept the charge of my sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from me, they shall come near to me to minister unto me, and they shall stand before me to offer unto me the fat and the blood, saith the Lord GOD:

They shall enter into my sanctuary, and they shall come near to my table, to minister unto me, and they shall keep my charge.

And it shall come to pass, that when they enter in at the gates of the inner court, they shall be clothed with linen garments; and no wool shall come upon them, whiles they minister in the gates of the inner court, and within.

They shall have linen bonnets upon their heads, and shall have linen breeches upon their loins; they shall not gird themselves with anything that causeth sweat.

And when they go forth into the utter court, even into the utter court to the people, they shall put off their garments wherein they ministered, and lay them in the holy chambers, and they shall put on other garments; and they shall not sanctify the people with their garments.

Neither shall they shave their heads, nor suffer their locks to grow long; they shall only poll their heads.

Neither shall any priest drink wine, when they enter into the inner court.

Neither shall they take for their wives a widow, nor her that is put away: but they shall take maidens of the seed of the house of Israel, or a widow that had a priest before.

And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and the profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.

Ezekiel 44:15-23

The above scripture has clearly shown to us the right conduct required by those who go to serve the Lord in his house and that calls for great care

lest one is judged by God as it happened with the children of Israel.

Let us now look at other scriptures and see what they have to say.

O GIVE thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people.

Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works.

Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord.

Seek the Lord, and his strength: seek his face evermore.

Remember his marvelous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth:

O ye seed of Abraham his servant, ye children of Jacob his chosen.

He is the Lord our God: his judgments are in all the earth.

He hath remembered his covenant forever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations.

Which covenant he made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac;

And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant:

Saying, Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan, the Lot of your inheritance:

When they were but a few men in number; yea, very few, and strangers in it.

When they went from one nation to another, from one kingdom to another people;

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

Psalm 105:1-15

The children of Israel as we see in the scripture were a special lot and God gave them protection. It is the same today with born again Christians who are priests of the Lord. God for sure will intervene for them and judge those that harm them. But they also have a responsibility before God as we are going to see below.

WHEN the Lord thy God shall bring thee into the land whither thou goest to possess it, and hath cast out many nations before thee, the Hittites, and the Girgashites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations greater and mightier than thou;

And when the Lord the God shall deliver them before thee; thou shall smite them, and utterly

destroy them; thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor show mercy unto them:

Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son.

For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the Lord be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly.

But thus shall ye deal with them; ye shall destroy their altars, and break down their images, and cut down their groves, and burn their graven images with fire.

For thou art a holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.

The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people:

But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

And repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face.

Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which I command thee this day, to do them.

Wherefore it shall come to pass, if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep, and do them, that the LORD thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy which he sware unto thy fathers:

And he will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: he will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which he sware unto thy fathers to give thee.

Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle.

And the LORD will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases of

Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee; but will lay them upon all them that hate thee.

Deuteronomy 7:1-15

The Lord God expects all born again Christians to live a separated life living out of sin and not in sin and not to live a compromised life but to shun all evil (2 Corinthians 6:14-18, 1 Thessalonians 5:22). As it was with the children of Israel so it is with the saints today as God never changes (Hebrews 13:8). We have become too a special people before the people of the world (1 Peter 2:1-12) and need to live differently in obedience to the Lord our Master (1 Peter 1:13-15). God is faithful to those who are faithful to him and we can only show our love to him by our obedience (Matthew 7:21, John 14:15). Just as the children of Israel were delivered from the king of Egypt so we too have been delivered from Satan and the bondage of sin and need to love God and serve and worship him. When we were saved, we entered

into God's covenant of salvation which has laws that govern it and we should not expect much from God if we are disobedient and unfaithful as God is not mocked (Galatians 6:7-8). To do so is to hate God and one end up in exposing one's life to the enemy.

It should be known that as Christians and therefore by virtue of salvation God consecrated us just as he did to Samson and John the Baptist of whom he consecrated from the womb filling them with his spirit. We too have received the Holy Spirit who has separated us for God and sealed us (Ephesians 1:13-14, Galatians 4:4-7, Joel 2:28-29, John 16:5-7, Acts 2:1-4; 36-39). Therefore it is equally important for us as individuals to personally dedicate our lives to the Lord by living a separated life (2 Corinthians 6:14-18, Romans 12:1-2) as we are not of our own but of God bought at a heavy price (1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 1 Peter 1:13-17). Our salvation is not

something common but special as we have a higher calling from God in Christ Jesus to live a holy life and be with the Lord in heaven eternally (1 John 3:1-3, Philippians 3:20-21). Now let me turn to the reasons for consecration and dedication.

Get to know that those who have been consecrated by virtue of their calling or office to serve God (being born again of course) and those things that have been dedicated for godly use they belong to him and are holy before him and he is ready to protect and preserve his own and as you know, Satan hates God and the things of God more over the servants of God who are the children of God are continually in spiritual warfare and need God's help all the time. If one has not consecrated himself or herself then there is a loophole and the enemy has a free way to attack such a person.

It is a dangerous thing to mock God by touching those who are holy by any mistreatment or mockery. It is equally so by touching the dedicated things by mishandling or misusing them and all such can earn a curse and be judged thereby accordingly. Also it is dangerous to dishonor a place of worship by doing anything ungodly like for example quarrelling fighting, murmuring or reading a secular article among other unbecoming behavior. A place of worship is not a place for doing politics or doing anything one wants or likes as it is a holy place or ground (a church or a field crusade). Such abominations may be equated to idolatry as was told and shown to the prophet Ezekiel done by the Israelites (Ezekiel 8). At such holy places or grounds, the focus should be on God and nothing else if one is to be safe and away from God's anger and wrath.

Those who steal things called by God's name are literally digging their own graves. I do recall many,

many years back in some church where I was and then we raised some funds for church project and one brother who was entrusted with safe keeping of the funds used part of it and when it became known he kept on promising to return back those funds and he failed to honor his promises and the end result he became ill and died. History repeats itself (Ecclesiastes 1:9-10)), it is so because Judas Iscariot was also entrusted with the treasury of the saints and he used to steal from it (John 12:1-8) and he died a cursed death for he later hanged himself after betraying Jesus his Master (Deuteronomy 21:22-23, Matthew 27:1-5). The money he took must have been tithes and other offerings which belonged to God and earned a curse thereby (Malachi 3:8-10).

Let me say here that those who have taken lightly the issue of tithing will be in for a big surprise on the judgment day as hell shall be their final residence as thieves shall not inherit the kingdom

of God in heaven (1 Corinthians 6:10) it is because they mocked by using it personally yet it is not theirs by God's and which has been paid and offered in the house of God for the right purpose.

David was a wise man for he feared God and spared the life of Saul twice yet Saul was after David's life most of the time out of jealous (1 Samuel 24:1-13; 26:1-18). Now the following individuals were not spared judgment after mocking God by their useless and bad talk and by feasting using vessels gotten from God's temple. Please do take note that David and Elisha were devoted to God and served him - hence God's wrath on the mockers. The same case applies to Moses as well and whom also his sister and brother God judged too (2 Samuel 6, 2 Kings 2:19-25, Daniel 5:1-9, Numbers 12). Samson too despised his consecration by not living a totally separated life and it ended with his death (Judges 13, 14, 15 &16).

Nadab and Abihu also messed up their lives by offering strange fire on the incense in their censers most likely because of intoxication from taking wine which was forbidden when going in the temple to serve God (Leviticus 10:1-11) and Korah, Dathan and Abihu rose up against Moses by talking to him badly and in essence rebelling and had their share (Numbers 16:1-33).

Chapter 2

Example of calls for consecration and dedication

In this chapter I am going to touch on some scriptures calling for the need of consecration and dedication and later in the subsequent chapters to touch on case studies on the same to the end.

AND the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When either man or woman shall separate themselves to vow a vow of a Nazarite, to separate themselves unto the Lord:

He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried.

All the days of his separation shall he eat nothing that is made of the vine tree, from the kernels even to the husk.

All the days of the vow of his separation there shall no razor come upon his head: until the days be fulfilled, in the which he separateth himself unto the Lord, he shall be holy, and shall let the locks of the hairs of his head grow.

All the days that he separateth himself unto the Lord he shall come at no dead body.

He shall not make himself unclean for his father, or for his mother, for his brother, or for his sister, when they die: because the consecration of his God is upon his head.

All the days of his separation he is holy unto the Lord.

And if any man die very suddenly by him, and he hath defiled the head of his consecration; then he

shall shave his head in the day of his cleansing, on the seventh day shall he shave it.

And on the eighth day he shall bring two turtles, or two young pigeons, to the priest, to the door of the tabernacle of the congregation:

And the priest shall offer the one for a sin offering, and the other for a burnt offering, and make an atonement for him, for that he sinned by the dead, and shall hallow his head that same day.

And he shall consecrate unto the Lord the days of his separation, and shall bring a lamb of the first year for a trespass offering: but the days that were before shall be lost, because his separation was defiled.

And this is the law of the Nazarite, when the days of his separation are fulfilled: he shall be brought unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation:

And he shall offer his offering unto the Lord, one he lamb of the first year without blemish for a burnt offering, and one ewe lamb of the first year without blemish for a sin offering, and one ram without blemish for peace offerings.

And a basket of unleavened bread, cakes of fine flour mingled with oil, and wafers of unleavened bread anointed with oil, and their meat offering, and their drink offerings.

And the priest shall bring them before the Lord, and shall offer his sin offering, and his burnt offering:

And he shall offer the ram for a sacrifice of peace offerings unto the Lord, with the basket of unleavened bread: the priest shall offer also his meat offering, and his drink offering.

And the Nazarite shall shave the head of his separation at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation and shall take the hair of his

separation, and put it in the fire which is under the sacrifice of the peace offerings.

And the priest shall take the sodden shoulder of the ram, and one unleavened cake out of the basket, and one unleavened wafer, and shall put them upon the hands of the Nazarite, after the hair of his separation is shaven:

And the priest shall wave them for a wave offering before the Lord: this is holy for the priest, with the wave breast and heave shoulder: and after the Nazarite may drink wine.

This is the law of the Nazarite who hath vowed, and of his offering unto the Lord for his separation, beside that that his hand shall get: according to the vow which he vowed, so he must do after the law of his separation.

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Speak unto Aaron and unto his sons, saying, On this wise ye shall bless the children of Israel, saying unto them,

The LORD bless thee, and keep thee. The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee:

The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

And they shall put my name upon the children of Israel; and I will bless them.

Numbers 6

The above are the conditions for one's consecration before the Lord on how to go about it to be a Nazarite (one separated for the Lord's service).

And Moses said unto Aaron, what did this people unto thee, that thou hast brought so great a sin upon them?

And Aaron said, Not let the anger of my lord wax hot: thou knowest the people, that they are set for mischief.

For they said unto me, make us gods, which shall go before us: for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

And I said unto them, Whosoever hath any gold, let them break it off. So they gave it me: then I cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf.

And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:)

Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the Lord's side? Let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.

And he said unto them, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbor.

And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men.

For Moses had said, consecrate yourselves today to the Lord, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day.

Exodus 32:21-29

In the sin of idolatry the people had literally deconsecrated themselves and were naked before their enemies (exposed and vulnerable) and something had to be done to consecrate them again and which Moses instructed them on how to go about it. It proved to be quite an

expensive procedure and remedy, but it was to be followed in trying to put things right once again. That shows us how serious it is to be converted to Christ and then to backslide as separation (being set part) to be used of God is a serious issue and not a joke or a laughing matter!

AND the Lord said unto Aaron, Thou and thy sons and thy father's house with thee shall bear the iniquities of the sanctuary: and thou and thy sons with thee shall bear the iniquity of your priesthood.

And thy brethren also of the tribe of Levi, the tribe of thy father, bring thou with thee, that they may be joined unto thee, and minister unto thee: but thou and thy sons with thee shall minister before the tabernacle of witness.

And they shall keep my charge, and the charge of all the tabernacle: only they shall not come nigh

the vessels of the sanctuary and the altar, that neither they nor ye also, die.

And they shall be joined unto thee, and keep the charge of the tabernacle of the congregation, for all the service of the tabernacle: and a stranger shall not come nigh unto you.

And ye shall keep the charge of the sanctuary, and the charge of the altar: that there be no wrath any more upon the children of Israel.

And I, behold, I have taken your brethren the Levites from among the children of Israel: to you they are given as a gift for the Lord, to do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.

Therefore thou and thy sons with thee shall keep your priest's office for everything of the altar, and within the veil; and ye shall serve: I have given your priest's office unto you as a service of gift: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.

Numbers 18:1-7

I find that during the period in the Old Testament there was much order in the house of the Lord as God is a God of order and there were clear instructions on how things were to be conducted and any breach would be a disaster in waiting.

No stranger was allowed to be near the servants of God as woe to him or her. But what do we see today in the churches? A total disregard of godly instructions and you find in the front row near God's minister are either the rich and eloquently dressed or the politicians is their preserve!

It brings to mind what James the brother of Jesus told the church in his epistle that they need to be impartial in treating people and not show any partiality which is wrong before the Lord (James 2:1-10).

WHEN thou goest out to battle against thine enemies, and seest horses, and chariots, and people more than thou, be not afraid of them: for the Lord thy God is with thee, which brought thee up out the land of Egypt.

And it shall be, when ye are come nigh unto the battle, that the priest shall approach and speak unto the people.

And shall say unto them, Hear, O Israel, ye approach this day unto battle against your enemies: let not your hearts faint, fear not, and do not tremble, neither be ye terrified because of them;

For the Lord your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.

And the officers shall speak to the people, saying, what man is there that hath built a new house, and hath not dedicated it? Let him go and return

to his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man dedicate it.

Deuteronomy 20:1-5

Now in that scripture comes out a very important point which is the need to dedicate our property. So it seems it is serious not to have dedicated your possession! You can see that one is obligated to come out of battle to return back to his new house to dedicate it first. It seems to me that there is a spiritual catch there. I do remember a brother in the Lord once told me 'When you leave your house to go out in ministry you need to pray and cover your family and house with the blood of the Lamb of God'. Why is it so? Because you yourself may be equipped for ministry work yes, but behind you your family is not equipped as are not going to battle. But the enemy knows and as they are exposed (not prepared for any battle) he can easily attack your family so that you win out there and he wins behind you attacking your

unsuspecting family, so you see the point? So in the end it is like a draw situation in say, a football game. That brings us to the fact that as Christians we need to take very seriously ministry work and not to be casual in it (it is not a business as usual thing) it must be taken with the seriousness it deserves taking all the precautions.

And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,

Sanctify unto me all the first-born, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and beast: it is mine.

Exodus 13:1-2

In the above scripture God was talking to Moses his servant and instructing him to sanctify (set apart) the first-born among the children of Israel most likely to use them in serving him and was

essentially instructing Moses to consecrate them for service.

And when ye shall come into the land, and shall have planted all manner of trees for food, then ye shall count the fruit there of as uncircumcised: three years shall it be uncircumcised unto you: it shall not be eaten.

But in the fourth all the fruit thereof shall be holy to praise the Lord withal

And in the fifth year shall ye eat of the fruit thereof, that it may yield unto you the increase thereof: I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 19:23-25

It is quite interesting in that in the fourth year the fruit of the trees are to be dedicated to the Lord and not to be eaten and after doing so then it is okay to begin eating the fruit thereof in the fifth

year. It is a phenomenon attested to tithing where one has to tithe what he or she has received first (as God has opened door of heaven or him or her) and only after doing so do God now bring an increase (by opening the windows of heaven). God the Creator is the most principled being ever as he is unequalled in nature.

And thou shalt take up the anointing oil, and anoint the tabernacle, and all that is therein, and shalt hallow it, and all the vessels thereof: and it shall be holy.

And thou shalt anoint the altar of the burnt offering, and all his vessels, and sanctify the altar: and it shall be an altar most holy.

And thou shalt anoint the laver and his foot, and sanctify it.

Exodus 40:9-11

In that scripture too God instructed Moses his servant to go and dedicate those items listed to be used in serving him.

AND in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.

Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.

Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

But we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.

And the saying pleased all he whole multitudes; and they chose Stephen a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte of Antioch:

Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.

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

Acts 6:1-7

The early Church quite orderly being full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. The apostles had consecrated themselves and now they

consecrated (ordained) more disciples (a division of labor) and things went on very smoothly.

I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable sacrifice.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Romans 12:1-2

The Apostle Paul too being led by the Holy Spirit advised the church in Rome to consecrate themselves to be in a position to serve the Lord well which was the reasonable thing to do for the Lord and that it involves not conforming to the world but being renewed in the mind by the Holy

Spirit (having a transformation take place) to achieve it. It is through the renewed mind one can surely prove the perfect will of God for one.

MOREOVER, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia:

How that in great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves;

Praying us with much entreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

2 Corinthians 8:1-5

The churches of Macedonia were classic in their conduct for they consecrated themselves first to the Lord and then dedicated their belonging (gift) to the Lord by giving it out to the apostles for their needs.

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honor, and some to dishonor.

If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

2 Timothy 2:19-21

That is yet a call for individual sanctification / consecration and which involves purging out sin and departing from it so as to be of good use to the Lord, being as gold or silver. Now let me come to the wrong way of consecration.

After this thing Jeroboam returned not from his evil way, but made again of the lowest of the people priests of the high places: whosoever would, he consecrated him, and he became one of the priests of the high places.

And this thing became sin unto the house of Jeroboam, even to cut it off, and to destroy it from off the face of the earth.

1 Kings 13:33-34

Quite a tragic affair! Consecration is purely for a selected class or group of people during that time

as only the people of Israel from the tribe of Levi were to be consecrated to serve the God of Israel and not any other people from the eleven other tribes. The same is true today as it was with the early church, that only those who have come to a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ were to be ordained as God's ministers to serve him and all the rest are strangers. So it was totally out of order for Jeroboam to do what he did as it was mockery to God.

Unfortunately it has happened in this generation with some churches who ordain people by outside appearance unlike God who looks in the inside (1 Samuel 16:1-7). Such churches if they see that you look like a respectable person (not that truly he or she is), or they know or think you are a rich person (going by your contributions to the church) or you hold a high position in the Government in a private Organization and so on, they ordain you as " a minister of God". The work

of God requires those who profess Christ and live holy and righteous lives as it is a higher calling and cannot be compared to any profession here on earth.

One must be filled with the Holy Spirit as well. For more on this topic of service to the Lord try and get my book 'The Servanthood' as well as the second volume of the same. Now let us look at this scripture and see what it has to say:

AND the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Sanctify unto me all the first-born, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and best: it is mine.

Exodus 13:1-2

Don't be surprised as we find that the following were all consecrated to serve the LORD and they

all were first-borns: Samson, Samuel, John the Baptist and Jesus.

Chapter 3

Case study #1. The consecration of Aaron and his sons

AND take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office, even Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons.

And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty.

And thou shalt speak unto all that are wise hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.

And these are the garments which they shall make; a breast plate, and an ephod, and a robe, and a broidered coat, a mitre, and a girdle: they

shall make holy garments for Aaron thy brother, and his sons, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.

And they shall take gold, and blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twine linen.

And they shall make the ephod of gold, of blue, and purple, of scarlet, and fine twined linen, with cunning work.

It shall have the two shoulder pieces thereof joined at the two edges thereof; and so it shall be joined together.

And the curious girdle of the ephod, which is upon it, shall be of the same, according to the work thereof; even of gold, and blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen.

And thou shalt take two onyx stones, and grave on them the names of the children of Israel: and

the other six names of the rest on the other stone, according to their birth.

With the work of an engraver in stone, like the engravings of a signet, shalt thou engrave the two stones with the names of the children of Israel: thou shalt make them to be set in ounches of gold.

And thou shalt put the two stones upon the shoulders of the ephod for stones of memorial unto the children of Israel: and Aaron shall bear their names before the Lord upon his two shoulders for a memorial.

And thou shalt make ouches of gold;

And two chains of pure gold at the ends; of wreathen work shalt thou make them, and fasten the wreathen chains to the ouches.

And thou shalt make the breastplate of judgment with cunning work; after the work of the ephod

thou shalt make it; of gold, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, shalt thou make it.

Foursquare it shall be being doubled; a span shall be the breadth thereof.

And thou shalt set in it settings of stones, even four rows of stones: the first row shall be a sardius, a topaz, and a carbuncle: this shall be the first row.

And the second row shall be an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond.

And the third row a ligure, an agate, and an amethyst.

And the fourth row a beryl, and an onyx, and a jasper: they shall be set in gold in their inclosings.

And the stones shall be with the name of the children of Israel, twelve, according to their names, like the engravings of a signet: every one

with his name shall be according to the twelve tribes.

And thou shalt make upon the breastplate two rings of gold, and shalt put the two rings on the two ends of the breastplate.

And thou shalt put the two wreathen chains of gold in the two rings which are on the ends of the breastplate.

And the other two ends of the two wreathen chains thou shalt fasten in the two ouches, and put them on the shoulder pieces of the ephod before it.

And thou shalt make two rings of gold, and thou shalt put them upon the two ends of the breastplate in the border thereof, which is in the side of the ephod inward.

And the two other rings of gold thou shalt make, and put them on the two sides of the ephod

underneath, toward the forepart thereof, above the curious girdle of the ephod.

And they shall bind the breastplate by the rings thereof unto the rings of the ephod with a lace of blue, that it may be above the curious girdle of the ephod, and that the breastplate be not loosed from the ephod.

And Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the breastplate of judgement upon his heart, when he goeth in unto the holy place, for a memorial before the Lord continually.

And thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgement the Urim and the thummim; and they shall be upon Aaron's heart, when he goeth in before the Lord: and Aaron shall bear the judgement of the children of Israel upon his heart before the Lord continually.

And thou shalt make the robe of the ephod all of blue.

And there shall be an hole in the top of it, in the midst thereof: it shall have a binding of woven work round about the hole in it, as it were the hole of an habergeon, that it be not rent.

And beneath upon the hem of it thou shalt make pomegranates of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, round about the hem thereof; and bells of gold between them round about:

A golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, upon the hem of the robe round about.

And it shall be upon Aaron to minister: and his sound shall be heard when he goeth in unto the holy place before the Lord, and when he cometh out, that he die not.

And thou shalt make a plate of pure gold, and grave upon it, like the engravings of a signet, HOLINESS TO THE LORD.

And thou shalt put it on a blue lace, that it may be upon the mitre upon the forefront of the mitre it shall be.

And it shall be upon Aaron's forehead, that Aaron may bear the iniquity of the holy things, which the children of Israel shall hallow in all their holy gifts; and it shall be always upon his forehead, that may be accepted before the Lord.

And thou shalt embroider the coat of fine linen, and thou shalt make the mitre of fine linen, and thou shalt make the girdle of needlework.

And for Aaron's sons thou shalt make coats, and thou shalt make for them girdles, and bonnets shalt thou make for them, for glory and for beauty.

And thou shalt put them upon Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him; and shalt anoint them, and consecrate them, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office.

And thou shalt make them linen breeches to cover their nakedness; from the loins even unto the thighs shall they reach:

And they shall be upon Aaron, and upon his sons, when they come in unto the tabernacle of the congregation, or when they come near unto the altar to minister in the holy place; that they may bear not iniquity, and die: it shall be a statute forever unto him and his seed after him.

Exodus 28

In the above scripture God himself took the initiative to consecrate Aaron and his sons to serve him and he summoned Moses to do it giving him instructions how to go about it.

Chapter 4

Case study #2. The consecration of Aaron, his sons and the Levites

AND the Lord said unto Aaron, Thou and thy sons and thy father's house with thee shall bear the iniquities of the sanctuary: and thou and thy sons with thee shall bear the iniquity of your priesthood.

And thy brethren also of the tribe of Levi, the tribe of thy father, bring thou with thee, that they may be joined unto thee, and minister unto thee: but thou and thy sons with thee shall minister before the tabernacle of witness.

And they shall keep my charge, and the charge of all the tabernacle: only they shall not come nigh the vessels of the sanctuary and the altar, that neither they nor ye also, die.

And they shall be joined unto thee, and keep the charge of the tabernacle of the congregation, for all the service of the tabernacle: and a stranger shall not come nigh unto you.

And ye shall keep the charge of the sanctuary, and the charge of the altar: that there be no wrath any more upon the children of Israel.

And I, behold, I have taken your brethren the Levites from among the children of Israel: to you they are given as a gift for the Lord, to do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.

Therefore thou and thy sons with thee shall keep your priest's office for everything of the altar, and within the veil; and ye shall serve: I have given your priest's office unto you as a service of gift: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.

And the Lord spake unto Aaron,

Behold, I also have given thee the charge of mine heave offerings of all the hallowed things of the children of Israel; unto thee have I given them by reason of the anointing, and to thy sons by an ordinance forever.

This shall be thine of the most holy things, reserved from the fire: every oblation of their's every sin offering of their's and every trespass offering of their's, which they shall render unto me, shall be most holy for thee and for thy sons.

In the most holy place shalt thou eat it; every male shall eat it: it shall be holy unto thee.

Numbers 18:1-10

Aaron and his sons and the Levites were separated for the Lord to be serving in his house.

Chapter 5

Case study #3. The consecration of Caleb and Joshua

Now the children of Reuben and the children of Gad had a very great multitude of cattle: and when they saw the land of Jazer, and the land of Gilead, that, behold, the place was a place for cattle;

The children of Gad and the children of Reuben came and spake unto Moses, and to Eleazar the priest, and unto the prices of the congregation, saying,

Atoroth and Dibon, and Jazer and Nimrah, and Heshbon, and Elealeh, and Shebam, and Nebo, and Beon,

Even the country which the Lord smote before the congregation of Israel, is a land for cattle, and thy servants have cattle:

Wherefore, said they, if we have found grace in your sight, let this land be given unto thy servants for a possession, and bring us not over Jordan.

And Moses said unto the children of Reuben, Shall your brethren go to war, and shall ye sit here?

And wherefore discourage ye the heart of the children of Israel from going over unto the land which the Lord hath given them?

Thus did your fathers, when I sent them from Kadesh-barnea to see the land.

For when they went up unto the valley of Eshcol, and saw the land, they discouraged the heart of the children of Israel, that they should not go into the land which the Lord had given them.

And the Lord's anger was kindled the same time, and he sware, saying,

Surely none of the men that came up out of Egypt, from twenty years old and upwards, shall

see the land which I sware unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob; because they have not wholly followed me:

Save Caleb the son of Jephuneh the Kenezite, and Joshua the son of Nun: for they have wholly followed the Lord.

Numbers 32:1-12

In the above scripture we do see clearly that only Caleb and Joshua had actually consecrated themselves as they devoted themselves wholly to serve the Lord come what may.

Chapter 6

Case study #4. The consecration of Samson

AND the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years.

And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Ma-no'-ah; and his wife was barren, and bare not.

And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shall conceive, and bear a son.

Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing:

For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he

shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.

Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, A man of God came unto me, and his countenance was like the countenance of an angel of God, very terrible: but I asked him not whence he was, neither told he me his name:

But he said unto me, Behold, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and now drink no wine nor strong drink, neither eat any unclean thing: for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death.

Then Manoah entreated the LORD, and said, O my Lord, let the man of God which thou didst send come again unto us, and teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born.

And God hearkened to the voice of Manoah; and the angel of God came again unto the woman as

she sat in the field: but Manoah her husband was not with her.

And the woman made haste, and ran, and showed her husband, and said unto him, behold, the man hath appeared unto me, that came unto the other day.

And Manoah arose, and went after his wife, and came to the man, and said unto him,

Art thou the man that spakest unto the woman? And he said, I am.

And Manoah said, Now let thy word come to pass. How shall we order the child, and how shall we do unto him?

And the angel of the Lord said unto Manoah, Of all that I said unto the woman let her beware.

She may not eat of anything that cometh of the vine, neither let her drink wine or strong drink,

nor eat any unclean thing: all that commanded her let her observe.

Judges 13:1-14

In the above case God himself announced the consecration of Samson to his parents and gave instructions on how to conduct themselves especially the wife of Manoah so as not to deconsecrate/defile the son child in her womb prior to his birth.

Chapter 7

Case study #5. The consecration of Samuel

NOW there was a certain man of Ramathaim-zophim, of mount Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephrathite:

And he had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninah: and Peninah had children, but Hannah had no children.

And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and sacrifice unto the Lord of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the Lord, were there.

And when the time was that Elkanah offered, he gave to Peninah his wife, and to all her sons and her daughters, portions:

But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion: for he loved Hannah: but the Lord had shut up her womb.

And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the Lord had shut up her womb.

And as he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the Lord, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat.

Then said Elkanah her husband to her, Hannah, why weepest thou? And why eatest thou not? And why is thy heart grieved? Am not I better to thee than ten sons?

So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the Lord.

And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the Lord, and wept sore.

And she vowed a vow, and said, O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine hand-maid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the Lord, that Eli marked her mouth.

Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken.

And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? Put away thy wine from thee.

And Hannah answered and said, No, my Lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunken neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the Lord.

Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto.

Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him.

And she said, Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight. So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad.

And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the Lord, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the Lord remembered her.

Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the Lord.

And the man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer unto the Lord the yearly sacrifice, and his vow.

But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, I will not go up until the child be weaned, and then I will bring him, that he may appear before the Lord, and there abide forever.

And Elkanah her husband said unto her, Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the Lord establish his word. So the woman abode, and gave her son suck until she weaned him.

And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the Lord in Shiloh: and the child was young.

And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli.

And she said, Oh my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the Lord.

For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him:

Therefore also I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord. And he worshiped the Lord there.

1 Samuel 1

Now the woman Hannah went through quite a tough life because of Peninah the other wife of her husband. She prayed to God not only to give her a male child but that she would hand her over back to God to serve God (She determined to consecrate her child to God). And when God granted her request she went ahead to fulfil her part which she vowed and took the child to the house of God to dedicate him to the Lord totally for the rest of his life. Hannah literally broke the

record in the Bible as the only woman who did so as others only took their children to the house of the Lord for dedication but came back home with them. But as for Hannah she left her son there to be a servant of God the rest of his life. The child proved to be one of the most faithful servant of God ever had, save for Moses and of course Jesus God's only Son and probably a few others (1 Samuel 12:1-5, Numbers 12:1-10, Hebrews 3:1-2).

Now read the following on those so consecrated how they ought to conduct themselves.

And he brought the other ram, the ram of consecration: and Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the head of the ram.

And he slew it; and Moses took of the blood of it, and put it upon the tip of Aaron's right ear, and upon the thumb of his right hand, and upon great toe of his right foot. And he brought Aaron's sons,

and Moses put of the blood upon the tip of their right ear, and upon the thumbs of their right hands, and upon the great toes of their right feet; and Moses sprinkled the blood upon the altar round about.

Leviticus 8:22-24

What was done to Aaron and his sons depicted in God's service to be hearkening to his voice in obedience to him and serving while walking right with him. Now that should be how the Church of Christ need to be conducting itself today as God never changes as he is completely principled in his ways.

Chapter 8

Case study #6. The dedication of things by David

AND after this is came to pass, that David smote the Philistines, and subdued them: and David took Metheg-ammah out of the land of the Philistines.

And he smote Moab, and measured them with a line, casting them down to the ground; even with two lines measured he to put to death, and with one full line to keep alive. And so the Moabites became David's servants, and brought gifts.

David smote also Hadadezer, the son of Rehob, king of Zobah, as he went to recover his border at the river Euphrates.

And David took from him a thousand chariots, and seven hundred horsemen, and twenty thousand footmen: and David houghed all the

chariot horses, but reserved of them for an hundred chariots.

And when the Syrians of Damascus came to succor Hadadezer king of Zobah, David slew of the Syrians two and twenty thousand men.

Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus: and the Syrians became servants to David, and brought gifts. And the LORD preserved David whithersoever he went.

And David took the shields of gold that were on the servants of Hadadezer, and brought them to Jerusalem.

And from Betah, and from Berothai, cities of Hazadezer, king David took exceeding much brass.

When Toi king of Hamath heard that David had smitten all the host of Hazadezer,

Then Toi sent Joram his son unto king David, to salute him, and to bless him, because he had

fought against Hadadezer, and smitten him: for Hadadezer had wars with Toi. And Joram brought with him vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and vessels of brass.

Which also king David did dedicate unto the LORD, with the silver and gold that he had dedicated of all nations which he subdued;

Of Syria, and of Moab, and of the children of Ammon, and of the Philistines, and of Amelek, and of the spoil of Hadadezer, son of Rehob, king of Zobah.

2 Samuel 8:1-12

Here we found that David did dedicate a lot of vessels of silver and gold to the Lord and he himself he had dedicated his life in serving the Lord and that is why God used him mightily to fight and subdue his enemies and to preserve him as he was a special vessel himself before the Lord.

For further reading in the dedication of things to God you can read the book of Leviticus (Leviticus 27).

Chapter 9

Case study #7. The consecration of Josiah and the people

AND the king sent, and they gathered unto him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem.

And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD.

And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in the book. And all the people stood to the covenant.

And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest and the priests of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth out of the temple of the Lord all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven: and he burned them without Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them unto Beth-el,

And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven.

And he brought out the grove from the house of the Lord, without Jerusalem, unto the brook Kidron, and stamped it small to powder, and cast the powder thereof upon the graves of the children of the people.

And he brake down the houses of the sodomites, that were by the house of the Lord, where the women wove hangings for the grove.

And he brought all the priests out of the cities of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had burned incense, from Geba to Beer-sheba, and brake down the high places of the gates that were in the entering in the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which were on a man's left hand at the gate of the city.

Nevertheless the priests of the high places came not up to the altar of the Lord in Jerusalem, but they did eat of the unleavened bread among their brethren.

And he defiled Topheth, which is in the valley of the children of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the fire to Molech.

And he took away the horses that the kings of Judah had given to the sun, at the entering of the house of the Lord, by the chamber of Nathan-melech the chamberlain, which was in the suburbs, and burned the chariots of the sun with fire.

And the altars that were on the top of the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the Lord, did the king beat down and brake them from thence, and cast the dust of them into the brook Kidron.

And the high places that were before Jerusalem, which were on the right hand of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had builded for Ashtoreth the abomination of the Zidonians, and for Chemosh the abomination of the Moabites, and for Milcom the abomination of the children of Ammon, did the king defile.

And he brake in pieces the images, and cut down the groves, and filled their places with the bones of men.

Moreover the altar that was at Be-thel, and the high place which Jer-o-bo'-am the son of Ne'-bat, who made Israel to sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he brake down, and burned the high place, and stamped it small to powder, and burned the grove.

And as Jo-si'-ah turned himself, he spied the sepulchers that were there in the mount, and sent, and took the bones out of the sepulchres, and burned them upon the altar, and polluted it, according to the word of the LORD which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words.

Then he said, what title is that that I see? And the men of the city told him, It is the sepulchre of the man of God, which came from Judah, and

proclaimed these things that thou hast done against the altar of Beth-el.

And he said, let him alone; let no man remove his bones. So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet that came out of Samaria.

And all the houses also of the high places that were in the cities of Samaria, which the kings of Israel had made to provoke the Lord to anger, Josiah took away, and did to them according to all the acts that he had done in Beth-el.

And he slew all the priests of the high places that were there upon the altars, and burned men's bones upon them, and returned to Jerusalem.

And the king commanded all the people, saying, Keep the Passover unto the Lord your God, as it is written in the book of this covenant.

Surely there was not holden such a Passover from the days of the judges that judged Israel, nor in all

the days of the kings of Israel, nor of the kings of Judah;

But in the eighteenth year of king Josiah, wherein this Passover was holden to the Lord in Jerusalem.

Moreover the workers with familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the Lord.

And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the Lord with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him.

2 Kings 23:1-25

Josiah was so aggressive in his quest to remove all abominations in Judah and Jerusalem with unparalleled zeal and consecrated the people he himself being an example to them by his very conduct in his office as king. How I long we had such leaders now in the countries of the world as the world would be quite different. In this age many leaders have left their countries in a worse situation than when they began to rule.

Chapter 10

Case study #8. The consecration of Asa and the people

AND the spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded:

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

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

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

And in those times there was no peace to him that went out, nor to him that came in, but great

vexations were upon all the inhabitants of the countries.

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

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

And when Asa heard these words, and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from mount Ephraim, and renewed the altar of the Lord, that was before the porch of the Lord.

And he gathered all Judah and Benjamin, and the strangers with them out of Ephraim and Manasseh, and out of Simeon: for they fell to him out of Israel in abundance, when they saw that the Lord his God was with him.

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

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

And they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul;

That whosoever would not seek the Lord God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman.

And they sware unto the Lord with a loud voice, and shouting, and with trumpets, and with cornets.

And all Judah rejoiced at the oath: for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought him with

their whole desire; and he was found of them: and the Lord gave them rest round about.

2 Chronicles 15:1-15

That was another classical example of consecration and that is why God was found with them and gave them the rest they badly needed. Please note that it was begun by Asa putting away all the abominable idols followed by the people being gathered together and offering to the Lord mightily and seeking for him and taking an oath swearing and shouting – a real process of consecration.

Chapter 11

Case study #9. The consecration of Hezekiah and the people

HEZEKIAH 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 Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah.

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

He in the first year of his reign, in the first month, opened the doors of the house of the Lord, and repaired them.

And he brought in the priests and the Levites, and gathered them together into the east street.

And said unto them, Hear me, ye Levites, sanctify now yourselves, and sanctify the house of the

Lord God of your fathers, and carry forth the filthiness out of the holy place.

For our fathers have trespassed, and done that which was evil in the eyes of the Lord our God and have forsaken him, and have turned away their faces from the habitation of the Lord, and turned their backs.

Also they have shut up the doors of the porch, and put out the lamps, and have not burned incense nor offered burnt offerings in the holy place unto the God of Israel.

Wherefore the wrath of the Lord was upon Judah and Jerusalem, and he hath delivered them to trouble, to astonishment, and to hissing, as ye see with your eyes.

For, lo, our fathers have fallen by the sword, and our sons and daughters and our wives are in captivity for this.

Now it is in mine heart to make a covenant with the Lord God of Israel, that his fierce wrath may turn away from us.

My sons, be not now negligent: for the Lord hath chosen you to stand before him, to serve him, and that ye should minister unto him, and burn incense.

Then the Levites arose, Mahath the son of Amasai, and Joel the son of Azariah, of the sons of the Kohathites: and of the sons of Merari, Kish the son of Abdi, and Azariah the son of Jehalelel: and of the Gershonites; Joan the son of Zimmah, and Eden the son of Joah:

And the sons of Elizaphan; Shimri, and Jeiel: and the sons of Asaph; Zechariah, and Mataniah:

And the sons of Heman; Jehiel, and Shimei: and the sons of Jeduthun; Shemaiah, and Uzziel.

And their gathered their brethren, and sanctified themselves, and came, according to the commandment of the king, by the words of the Lord, to cleanse the house of the Lord.

And the priests went into the inner part of the house of the Lord, to cleanse it, and brought out all the uncleanness that they found in the temple of the Lord into the court of the house of the Lord. And the Levites took it, to carry it out abroad into the brook Kidron.

Now they began on the first day of the first month to sanctify, and on the eighth day of the month came they to the porch of the Lord: so they sanctified the house of the Lord in eight days; and in the sixteenth day of the first month they made an end.

Then they went into Hezekiah the king and said, We have cleansed all the house of the Lord, and the altar of burnt offering with all the vessels

thereof, and the shewbread table, with all the vessels thereof.

Moreover all the vessels, which king Ahab in his reign did cast away in his transgression, have we prepared and sanctified, and behold, they are before the altar of the Lord.

Then Hezekiah the king rose early, and gathered the rulers of the city, and went up to the house of the Lord.

And they brought seven bullocks, and seven rams, and seven lambs, and seven he goats, for a sin offering for the kingdom, and for the sanctuary, and for Judah. And he commanded the priests the sons of Aaron to offer them on the altar of the Lord.

So they killed the bullocks, and the priests received the blood, and sprinkled it on the altar: likewise, when they had killed the rams, they sprinkled the blood upon the altar.

And they brought forth the he goats for the sin offering before the king and the congregation; and there laid their hands upon them:

And the priests killed them, and they made reconciliation with their blood upon the altar, to make an atonement for all Israel: for the king commanded that the burnt offering and the sin offering should be made for all Israel.

And he set the Levites in the house of the Lord with cymbals with psalteries, and with harps, according to the commandment of David, and of Gad the king's seer, and Nathan the prophet: for so was the commandment of the Lord by his prophets.

And the Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets

And Hezekieh commanded to offer the burnt offering upon the altar.

And when the burnt offering began, the song of the Lord began also with the trumpets, and with the instruments ordained by David king of Israel.

And all the congregation worshipped, and singers sang, and the trumpets sounded: and all this continued until the burnt offering was finished.

And when they had made an end of offering, the king and all that were present with him bowed themselves, and worshipped.

Moreover Hezekiah the king and the princes commanded the Levites to sing praises unto the Lord with the words of David, and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed their heads and worshiped.

Then Hezekiah answered and said, Now ye have consecrated yourselves unto the Lord, come near and bring sacrifices and thank offerings into the house of the Lord. And the congregation brought

in sacrifices and thank offerings; and as many as were of a free heart burnt offerings.

And the number of the burnt offerings, which the congregation brought, was threescore and ten bullocks, an hundred rams, and two hundred lambs: all these were for a burnt offering to the Lord.

And the consecrated things were six hundred oxen and three thousand sheep.

But the priests were too few, so that they could not flay all the burnt offerings: wherefore their brethren the Levites did help them, till the work was ended, and until the other priests had sanctified themselves: for the Levites were more upright in heart to sanctify themselves than the priests.

And also the burnt offerings were in abundance, with the fat offerings for every burnt offering.

So the service of the house of the Lord was set in order.

And Hezekiah rejoiced, and all the people, that God had prepared the people: for the thing was done suddenly.

2 Chronicles 29

Just as Josiah was a real reformer Hezekiah also followed suit by calling for consecration, he himself being an example to them.

Chapter 12

Case study #10. The dedication of the temple by Solomon.

Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the house.

And the priests could not enter into the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord's house.

And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the Lord upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the Lord, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.

Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before the Lord.

And king Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty and two thousand oxen, and an hundred and twenty thousand sheep: so the king and all the people dedicated the house of God.

And the priests waited on their offices: the Levites also with instruments of music of the Lord, which David the king had made to praise the Lord, because his mercy endureth forever, when David praised by their ministry; and the priests sounded trumpets before them, and all Israel stood.

Moreover Solomon hallowed the middle of the court that was before the house of the Lord: for there he offered burnt offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings, because the brazen altar which Solomon had made was not able to receive the burnt offerings, and the meat offerings, and the fat.

Also at the same time Solomon kept the feast seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great congregation, from the entering in of Hamath unto the river of Egypt.

And in the eighth day they made a solemn assembly: for they kept the dedication of the altar seven days, and the feast seven days.

And on the three and twentieth day of the seventh month he sent the people away into their tents, glad and merry in heart for the goodness that the Lord had shewed unto David, and to Solomon, and to Israel his people.

Thus Solomon finished the house of the Lord, and the king's house: and all that came into Solomon's heart to make in the house of the Lord, and in his own house, he prosperously effected.

2 Chronicles 7:1-11

Solomon after building a magnificent temple for the Lord God he dedicated it and he and the people offered a lot of sacrifices before the Lord which was historic in the history of the Bible and even God approved it by filling the temple with his glory such that even the priests were unable to enter into it.

Chapter 13

Case study #11. The dedication of the temple by the children of Israel

THEN Darius the king made a decree, and search was made in the house of the rolls, where the treasures were laid up in Babylon.

And there was found at Achmetha, in the palace that is in the province of the Medes, a roll, and therein was a record thus written:

In the first year of Cyrus the king the same Cyrus the king made a decree concerning the house of God at Jerusalem, Let the house be buided, the place where they offered sacrifices, and let the foundations thereof be strongly laid; the height thereof threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof threescore cubits;

With three rows of great stones, and a row of new timber: and let the expenses be given out of the king's house:

And also let the golden and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took forth out of the temple which is at Jerusalem, and brought unto Babylon, be restored, and brought again unto the temple which is at Jerusalem, everyone to his place, and place them in the house of God.

Now therefore, Tatnai governor beyond the river, Shethar-boznai, and your companions the Apharsachites, which are beyond the river, be ye far from thence:

Let the work of this house of God alone; let the governor of the Jews and the elders of the Jews build this house of God in his place.

Moreover I make a decree what ye shall do to the elders of these Jews for the building of this house

of God: that of the kings goods, even of the tribute beyond the river, forth with expenses be given unto these men, that they may be not hindered.

And that which they have need of, both young bullocks, and rams, and lambs, for the burnt offerings of the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, and oil, according to the appointment of the priests which are at Jerusalem, let it be given them day by day without fail:

That they may offer sacrifices of sweet savors unto the God of heaven, and pray for the life of the king, and of his sons.

Also I have made a decree, that whosoever shall alter this word, let timber be pulled down from his house, and being set up, let be hanged thereon; and let his house be made a dunghill for this.

And the God that hath caused his name to dwell there destroy all kings and people, that shall put to their hand to alter and to destroy this house of God which is at Jerusalem. I Darius have made a decree; let it be done with speed.

Then Tatnai, governor on this side the river, Shethar-boznai, and their companions, according to that which Darius the king had sent, so they did speedily.

And the elders of the Jews builded, and they prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo.

And they builded, and finished it, according to the commandment of the God of Israel, and according to the commandment of Cyrus, and Darius, and Artaxerxes king of Persia.

And this house was finished on the third day of the month Adar, which was in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.

And the children of Israel, the priests, and the Levites, and the rest of the children of the captivity, kept the dedication of this house of God with joy,

And offered at the dedication of this house of God a hundred bullocks, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs; and for a sin offering for all Israel twelve he goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel.

And they set the priests in their divisions, and the Levites in their courses, for the service of God, which is at Jerusalem; as it is written in the book of Moses.

And the children of captivity kept the Passover upon the fourteenth day of the first month.

For the priests and the Levites were purified together, all of them were pure, and killed the Passover for all the children of the captivity, and for their brethren the priests, and for themselves.

And the children of Israel, which were come against out of captivity, and all such as had separated themselves unto them from the filthiness of the heathen of the land, to seek the LORD God of Israel, did eat,

And kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with joy: for the LORD had made them joyful, and turned the heart of the king of Assyria unto them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.

Ezra 6

In that scripture we do have the children of Israel dedicating the house of the Lord after having built it again and as usual they did offer sacrifices and were joyful and also had separated themselves to be pure.

Chapter 14

Case study #12. The dedication of the wall by Nehemiah

Now these are the priests and the Levites that went up with Zerubbabel the son of Sheltiel, and Joshua: Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra,

Amariah, Malluch, Hattush,

Shechaniah, Rehum, Meremoth,

Iddo, Ginnetho, Abijah, Miamin, Maadiah, Bilgah, Shemaiah, and Joiarib, Jedaiah,

Sallu, Amok, Hilkiah, Jedaiah: These were the chief of the priests and of their brethren in the days of Jeshua.

Moreover the Levites: Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and Mattaniah, which was over the thanksgiving, he had his brethren.

Also Bakbukiah and Unni, their brethren, were over against them in the watches.

And Jeshua began Joiakim, Joiakim also begat Eliashib, and Eliashib begat Joiada.

And Joiada begat Jonathan, and Jonathan begat Jaddua.

And in the days of Joiakim were priests, the chief of the fathers: of Seraiah, Meraiah; of Jeremiah, Hananiah;

Of Ezra, Meshullam; of Amariah, Jehohanam;

Of Melicu, Jonathan; of Shebaniah, Joseph;

Of Harim, Adna; of Meraioth, Helkai;

Of Iddo, Zechariah; of Ginnethon, Meshullam;

Of Abijah, Zichri; of Miniamin, of Moadiah, Piltai;

Of Bilgah, Shammua; of Jedaiah, Uzzi, Shemaiah,Jonathan

And of Joiarib,Mattenai, of Jedaiah, Uzzi;

Of Sallai, Kallai; of Amok, Eber;

Of Hilkiah, Hashabiah; of Jedaiah, Nethaneel.

The Levites in the days of Eliashib, Joiada, and Johanan, and Jaddua, were recorded chief of the fathers, also the priests, to the reign of Darius the Persian.

The sons of Levi, the chief of the fathers, were written in the book of Chronicles, even until the days of Johanan the son of Eliashib.

And the chief of the Levites: Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua the son of Kadmiel, with their brethren over against them, to praise and to give thanks, according to the commandment of David the man of God, ward over against ward.

Mattaniah, and Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon, Akkub, were porters keeping the ward at the thresholds of the gates.

These were in the days of Joiakim the son of Jeshua, the son of Jozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah the governor, and Ezra the priest, the scribe.

And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites out of all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem, to keep the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings, and with singing, with cymbals, psalteries, and with harps.

And the sons of the singers gathered themselves together both out of the plain country round about Jerusalem, and from the villages of Netophathi;

Also from the house of Gilgal, and out of the field of Geba and Azmaveth: for the singers had builded them villages round about Jerusalem.

And the priests and the Levites purified themselves, and purified the people, and the gates, and the wall.

Then I brought up the princes of Judah upon the wall, and appointed two great companies of them that gave thanks, whereof one went on the right hand upon the wall toward the dung gate:

And after them went Hoshaiah, and half of the princes of Judah,

And Azariah, Ezra, and Meshullam, Judah, and Benjamin, and Shemaiah and Jeremiah.

And certain of the priests' sons with trumpets; namely, Zechariah the son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaih, the son of Mattaiah, the son of Michaiah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph:

And his brethren, Shemaiah, and Azarael, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethaneel, and Judah, Hanani, with the musical instruments of David the man of God, and Ezra the scribe before them.

And at the fountain gate which was over against them, they went up by the stairs of the city of

David, at the going up of the wall, above the house of David, even unto the water gate eastward.

And the other company of them that gave thanks went over against them, and I after them, and the half of the people upon the wall, from beyond the tower of the furnaces even unto the brodad wall:

And from above the gate Ephraim, and above the old gate, and above the fish gate, and the tower of Hananeel, and the tower of Meah, even unto the sheep gate: and they stood in the prison gate.

So stood the two companies of them that gave thanks in the house of God, and I, and the half of the rulers with me:

And the priests, Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Michaiah, Elionai, Zechariah, and Hananiah, with trumpets.

And Maaseiah, and Shemaiah, and Eleazar, and Uzzi, and Jehohanan, and Malchijah, and Elam, and Ezer. And the singers sang loud with Jezrahiah their overseer.

Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced: for God had made them rejoice with great joy:

The wives also and the children rejoiced: so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off.

And at that time were some appointed over the chambers for the treasures, for the offerings, for the first fruits, and for the tithes, to gather into them out of the fields of the cities the portions of the law for the priests and the Levites: for Judah rejoiced for the priests and for the Levites that waited.

And both the singers and the porters kept the ward of their God, and the ward of the

purification, according to the commandment of David, and Solomon his son.

For in the days of David and Asaph of old there were chief of the singers, and songs of praise and thanksgiving unto God.

And all Israel in the days of Zerubbabel, and in the days of Nehemiah, gave the portions of the singers and the porters, every day his portion: and they sanctified holy things unto the Levites; and the Levites sanctified them unto the children of Aaron.

Nehemiah 12

The dedication of the wall of Jerusalem after it had been rebuilt by Nehemiah and the people was great indeed and they sacrificed and sang and rejoiced with gladness such that it could be heard far away from the city of Jerusalem. Thanks to God for Nehemiah who took the burden to rebuilt the broken walls and the burnt gates. Nehemiah

did more by bringing order again in the house of God in Jerusalem.

Chapter 15

Case study #13. The consecration of John the Baptist

THERE was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zechariah, of the course of Abijah: and his wife was Elisabeth.

And they were all righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.

And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course,

According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.

And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

And Zechariah saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

But the angel said unto him, Fear not Zechariah: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.

For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine or strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him in

the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

And Zechariah said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years.

And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to show thee these glad tidings.

And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

Luke 1:5-20

John the Baptist who was then to be the forerunner of Jesus Christ had to be consecrated

by God himself from his mother's womb by being filled with the Holy Spirit to prepare him for the task of preparing the hearts of people for the Lord Jesus Christ who was to come to bring them salvation of the soul and he John would prepare the people by having them repent of their sins and be baptized in much water by complete immersion and awaiting for the Lord Jesus Christ who they were to believe in for their salvation and for them to be then baptized with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:1-11, John 1:29-34). But the instructions the Arch angel Gabriel gave him was to inform the child John when he is still young not to drink wine or strong drink as he had been chosen by God and dedicated (set apart) for him to be his servant with a particular task. That was so, so as not to spoil it for the Lord by indulging in those drinks which would defile his life totally and not able to do the work God intended him to do. The case of John the Baptist is a replica of Samson only the tasks were different as the former's was

only to prepare the hearts of the people for the coming Messiah and the latter's, was to begin delivering the people of Israel from the hands of their enemy the Philistines. All of them were prepared before (in advance) by being filled with the Holy Spirit for each one's task and all of them the message to their parents were delivered by an angel from God on their conception, birth and task. God did confine them into a Nazarite role in life.

Chapter 16

Case study #14. The dedication of Jesus Christ

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, name Nazareth,

To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

And the angel said unto her,

Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God.

And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Luke 1:26-35

Jesus Christ too was consecrated by God himself right at his conception for the task ahead- the

redemption of the world (mankind). Surely, surely her biological mother Mary was a virgin just as she told the angel by the following words: 'How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?' Now that is the true meaning of virgin, that is, a female who has not been slept on by any male (a female who has never experienced any sexual intercourse). Now let me give you another narrative by Saint Matthew.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother **Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.**

Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream,

saying, **Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.**

And **she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.**

Now all this was done, **that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,**

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Then **Joseph** being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and **took unto him his wife:**

And knew her not till she had brought forth her first-born son: and he called his name JESUS.

As I said earlier in the book of Saint Luke, the mission of Jesus Christ was to bring to the world the redemption of mankind from sin. The Holy Spirit is one and cannot contradict himself in all the three scriptures or let me call them books, Jesus came into the world through a human being who was pure (a virgin) (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:26-35) and even his biological father Joseph (who was also a just man) and lived with Mary the biological mother was never involved in his conception but the Holy Spirit filled the mother and later formed into a human (the baby Jesus) who was then born. Later we find Jesus Christ being dedicated to the Lord when their parents took him to the temple of God in Jerusalem (Luke 2:21-35).

Chapter 17

The consecration and ordination of marriages

Right from the outset before going to why marriages require to be consecrated and or ordained we need to know what marriage is and its source or foundation.

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.

And the Lord God took the man, and put him into 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.

And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him.

And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he

would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found a help meet for him.

And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

And Adam said, this is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

From the above scripture it is quite clear that God is the source of marriage as he is the founder. Therefore marriage is an institution of God just as salvation is and both of them are covenantal in nature and therefore both need the seriousness they deserve and ought not to be taken in a casual way. We also saw that God gave instructions to Adam in the Garden of Eden. It follows therefore that in a marriage the couples need not live just anyhow, as there are instructions on how to live (Ephesians 5:22-6:1-4, Colossians 3:18-21, 1 Peter 3:1-9). The Lord God had instructed Adam and Eve that they be fruitful and replenish the earth but God wants a godly seed out of them (Ezra 10:1-12, Nehemiah 13:23-27, Genesis 24:1-4, Malachi 2:10-15) but a godly seed can only come from godly couples as we have seen from the above scriptures and therefore it tells us that one need to have a

personal knowledge of God through salvation to be fit to get into marriage and live in a godly way. I touched a bit on this in my other book 'Christian Marital Life' under the chapter on parenting. Where I said you cannot parent your children on godly virtues if you as a parent don't have God in life and is therefore not living a godly life. God requires parents to teach their children godly living not by mouth only but by action (Deuteronomy 6:1-9, Proverbs 29:15, 17).

God is love (1 John 4:7-8) and marriages are founded on God's love which is pure (Agape in Greek). It is love that draws a boy to girl and therefore without God in one's life the love that can draw one cannot be the Agape love but (Phileo or Eros in Greek) which is earthly and sensual and therefore misleading altogether.

But if one is born again one has a deposit of the Holy Spirit to guide and lead to the right marriage partner.

Marriage is a life covenant between a man and woman (husband and wife) which is legally binding and is separated only by the death of one of the marriage partner (Matthew 19:1-6, 1 Corinthians 7:39). One of the reasons why many marriages are on the rocks is because they were not ordained or because those ordained were never devoted to God (not born again by water and by the Holy Spirit) and therefore no Holy Spirit to spearhead and guide the marriage. By consecrating (ordaining) a marriage is to involve God in the marriage from the beginning the saints and God being witnesses as God's minister officiate in its administration as God's representative (Matthew 18:19-20).

Marriage is a holy and a honorable thing before the Lord and must be ordained and the marriage partners live a holy life and come up with a holy seed that is useful to be used by God in worshipping and serving him, the same to the

couples. It follows therefore that people need to devote their lives through repentance and faith in Christ Jesus (to get saved) so as to be in a position to get into a holy marriage led not by the flesh but the spirit of God and thereby ordained and be able to live a holy life helped by God's spirit and when blessed with children to raise them in a godly way for the glory of God. Marriage as God's Institution forms family units which forms the church and in the big picture forms a Nation. So if it is founded wrongly we end up with a rotten society.

Therefore marriage must be entered into with the right foot as I stated earlier for it to stand and give God glory - the foundation need be Christ (Matthew 7:24-27).

Now let me say one of the reason why marriages need to be consecrated. It is because the enemy Satan is against the family unit and on many occasions attacks it as he knows that by

destroying it he has destroyed the Church and by extension the whole society (the Nation). You can read my book 'Christian Marital life' and see the chart touching on the Family, the Church and the Nation.

Satan began to attack the family unit right from the Garden of Eden and is still busy attacking it to date (Genesis 3). He attacked the family of King David (2 Samuel 13 and 15) and attacked the family of Elkanah (1 Samuel 1) and attacked the family of Job (Job1 and 2). Satan loves to bring hatred, disharmony and many other ills in families which is totally the opposite of God's will which is love, peace, joy and unity (Psalm 133, Romans 12:9-10, 17-18; 13:8; 14:19, 1 Corinthians 13:13, Philippians 2:1-4, John 13:34-35, James 3:14-17, Hebrews 12:14). But we know that our Lord and God is the Prince of Peace and he is love and the trinity lives in perfect harmony (Isaiah 9:6, Matthew 3:13-17, John 10:30; 14:7-10; 17:21;

John 4:7-8). So we can see that families badly need help from God the Creator and they therefore must be dedicated to him. He must be involved as the Author of marriage to protect it and intervene as is necessary as he is the one who can keep it intact (Psalm 127).

Chapter 18

The consecration and ordination of the Passover feast

It was in God's wisdom to consecrate the Passover feast which he initiated for the Israelites as a way of bringing their deliverance from the house of bondage in Egypt. He did that because of its importance as it depicted the redemption of mankind from sin and which was later prophesied by the Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 53). Let us now go to the scripture on this historic event.

AND the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying,

This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.

Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for a house:

And if the household be too little for the lamb, let him, and his neighbor next unto his house take it according to the number of the souls; every man according to his eating shall make your count for the lamb.

Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year: ye shall take it out from the sheep, or from the goats:

And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it.

And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it.

Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the purtenance thereof.

And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire.

And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the Lord's Passover.

For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the first born in the land of Egypt, both of man and beast; and against the gods of Egypt, I will execute judgment: I am the Lord.

And the blood shall be to you a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.

And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the Lord throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance forever.

Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread; even the first day ye shall put away leaven out of your houses: for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel.

And in the first day there shall be a holy convocation, and in the seventh day there shall be a holy convocation to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, save that which every man must eat, that only may be done of you.

And ye shall observe the feast of unleavened bread; for in this selfsame day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt: therefore shall ye observe this day in your generations by an ordinance forever.

In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at even, ye shall eat unleavened bread, until the one and twentieth day of the month at even.

Seven days shall there be no leaven found in your houses: for whosoever eateth that which is leavened, even that soul shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, whether he be a stranger, or born in the land.

Ye shall eat nothing leavened; in all your habitations shall ye eat unleavened bread.

Exodus 12:1-20

And the LORD said unto Moses and Aaron, This is the ordinance of the Passover: There shall no stranger eat thereof:

But every man's servant that is bought for money, when though hast circumcised him, then shall he eat thereof.

A foreigner and an hired servant shall not eat thereof.

In one house shall it be eaten; though shalt not carry forth aught of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall ye break a bone thereof.

Exodus 12:43-46

The Passover feast or the Lord's feast is such a serious event as it is an ordinance to be observed by the Israelites throughout all generations (forever) and that is why it still being observed in our generation by the children of God including the Israelites of course.

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 to 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 by 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 as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples and said, Take eat; this is my body.

And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it, For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth, of the fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

Matthew 26:17-29

Even Jesus Christ and his followers were observing this ordinance of God and the born again Christians are doing the same to date. What the Prophet Isaiah prophesied was about to come to pass and for sure it came to pass (Matthew 26:30-27:1-60, Mark 15:1-47, Luke 23:1-55, John 19:1-42).

What happened in Israel at the Passover feast was a shadow of the above Jesus' crucifixion and death.

The Lambs killed on the days of the Passover feast were to be without any blemish and also the flesh so killed was all to be eaten and any that remained to the next day was to be burned with fire. Jesus too was totally without any blemish

when he was crucified as he was the Son of God and still is the Son of the God of Israel who is most holy (Isaiah 6:1-3, John 8:42-47, 1 Peter 2:20-24; 3:17-18) and Jesus' body too was removed from the cross and taken for burial the same day he was crucified just as the flesh of the lambs killed were not to stay until the next day and also the bone of the lamb so slaughtered was not to be broken as the Jesus' was not going to be broken at his crucifixion (John 19:31-36).

The reason why God consecrated that historic event is because it was forever (an everlasting ordinance) and more so because Jesus Christ paid a very heavy price for the redemption of mankind (Isaiah 53:1-6, 1 Peter 1:18-19, 2 Corinthians 5:20-21, Revelation 5:1-10). For further reading on the Lord's Supper you can read my other book 'A Christian and the Holy Communion'.

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 use to you.

For any comments you are encouraged to contact us using the address given below.

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A Christian and consecration and dedication

It is of utmost importance that one forgets not the issue of dedicating people and things to the Lord God who is both the Creator and possessor of all things. Those things include those given for religious use and for personal use as well. The practice is immemorial in usage and in this book you will get to know why it is necessary to practice the doctrine and also have an opportunity to see examples of those who experienced it in life.

The Author Fredrick Geoffrey Omondi is a born again Christian aged 66 years. He is married and are blessed with 4 children. He is a preacher and teacher of the word of God and holds a



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