

# Be Free

(From Anxiety, Hate and Hopelessness)

# Be Filled

(With Love, peace and joy)

By  
Knowing  
God

**Joas Natan\***



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**Do you sometimes feel deceived by the lies and deceptions of:**

**Politicians**

**Tv, social media**

**Religion**

**Fake news?**

Do you sometimes wish you knew the **real truth**, to **Be Free** from **lies and deceptions**?

**Then this book is for you**

**The reading of this book will guide you into the only real truth: The truth of knowing God.**

- It will set you free from all that accompany deceptions like **hate, anxiety** and **hopelessness**.
- It will fill you with the only **real Truth** worth knowing.

You will discover real **joy, peace** and **Love**

## **Be Free-Be Filled**

### **Joas Natan**

- The nickname **Joas Natan** was chosen to give full honours for the writing of this book to God alone. **Joas** means *God gave*. **Natan** means *God has given*.
- This book is a low-cost E-book. It was freely received by the author from God. As such it is placed in your hands. The royalties belong to God. You may use it as Holy Spirit leads you. Jesus did everything free for our redemption. Let us freely give Him to other readers.
- This book is written in honour of God. Therefore we chose not to give any credit to satan by starting his name with a capital letter.
- The majority of readers of my e-books might be senior citizens. I, therefore, decided to write in a slightly bigger letter type than the usual.

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## Chapter 1

### Introduction

#### In the beginning

#### Opening thoughts

God can only reveal Himself to you when you disregard yourself and wait on Him, trusting Him and be expectant of Him to reveal Himself to you.

1. The context of this writing will always be to let God`s love and His redemption encircle the writing.
2. God`s plan for your life is your acceptance of the Message of Good Hope, the message of His salvation; to share His plan of redemption from all sin, lies and misleading of satan. This message is for all people.
3. **“God is in charge. At the same time, He has given us the freedom to obey or disobey Him, and there are some things that God does only in answer to prayer (James 4:2).**

**God has a plan for our lives, which include our joy and His glory in this world and the world to come. Those who accept Christ as Saviour have accepted God`s plan for us. (John 14:6). From then on, it`s a step-by-step following of God`s best for us, praying for His will to be done (Matt.6:10) and avoiding the side-track of sin (Ps.32:1-11). (Got questions. JOY mag.p.36. Jan. 2021)**

#### 4. My Prayer:

*“Use me Lord to share your plan of redemption to free people from the hellish misleading of satan. Lord, please open the eyes that read this message and take the veil away from the mind so that the reader will be free to experience Your Joy, Love and Peace by knowing You better.*

*Thank you, Lord, that your Word shall do what you destined it for.*

*Thank you, Lord. Here I am. Use me as You please.”*

#### 5. Thoughts on knowing God

##### 5.1 The five ways God reveals Himself:

General revelation refers to the things we know of God, through:

*1. Nature*

*2. Humanity*

**3. History**

The specific revelation of God is specific manifestations of God, through:

1. God`s words and acts as recorded in the **Bible**,

2. And demonstrated in the life of **Jesus**.

##### 5.2 For our purpose, we are going to look at specific revelations of

God through **His Word, acts, and manifestation in Jesus**, His Son.

##### 5.3 We will mainly try to know God better through His Word, the

Bible.

##### 5.4 God is making Himself known through His Word. Hundreds of facts

about God is disclosed in the Bible. The facts that will speak to me is not

necessarily the facts that will speak to you. Therefore I can highlight the facts that

are standing out for me. There-in lies a danger because I might cloud facts God

wishes to bring to your attention. It will be best if you can do your study of God`s Word and let Him reveal whatever is necessary for you to know about Him at this stage of your life.

5.5 I am never- the- less sharing things He revealed to me about Himself in the hope that it will serve as an inspiration to you to find your jewels when seeking a better understanding of God in His Word.

### **Background of Author**

The author wrote a previous book about the deception of Christians. He became so absorbed in writing the book that knowledge of the evil overtook him, much like what happened to Eve in the Garden of Eden.

In Psalm 94: 18 and 19 we find these words:

*When I said, my foot is slipping, Your mercy and loving-kindness, O Lord, held me up.*

*In the multitude of my (anxious) thoughts, within me, Your comforts cheer and delight my soul!*

Like Eve I was on the brink of succumbing to the lies of satan. I was so absorbed in the knowledge of the evil that I forgot about the Tree of Good, the fruit of which God so freely supplies (Gen.3). True to the character of satan he lied to me and let me believe I can gain knowledge of the good by studying the bad, the corrupt and the lies. The result was that anxious thoughts almost overwhelmed me. I became very critical and judgemental and lost the peace I had in God, His love and redemption in Christ. He, my God, comforted me and delighted my soul by revealing the truth that He is the fountain of all knowledge worth knowing. He opened my eyes to the deception of satan who drew me closer to him in my



quest to know more about his morbid works in this world. I decided to follow Jesus instead, step-by-step, as He directed me and led me. May I take you on this journey with me while we discover more of the truth about our Lord and Saviour?

## **Knowledge of Evil**

Let`s look for a brief moment at the intriguing piece of history about how man fell into sin, recorded in Gen. 3. For a brief moment, we will return to the knowledge of the evil to contrast it with the light where we will spend the rest of the book.

Adam and Eve were walking in God`s light and truth after creation before they fell into sin. God expressly forbade them from eating from the Tree of knowledge of Good and Evil, lest they would die. At this time man and his wife knew only about the goodness of God. They did not know sin.

Satan was previously cast out of heaven because he tried to be god himself. He confronted Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and persuaded them by lies and half-truths to disobey God. In a very clever way, he engaged Eve in an argument about eating from the tree of knowledge of Good and Evil. He was not interested in the Good but knew he had to persuade man and his wife to know more about Evil. The only way he could do it was to persuade them to disobey God`s instruction not to eat of the tree of knowledge of Good and Evil. Satan made God a liar and said Eve can become like God by knowing everything if she only eats from the tree of all knowledge. According to satan, Eve needed to know about evil if she wanted to be like God. She eventually succumbed to satan`s lies and ate from the tree. She also gave the fruit to her husband, Adam. Both of them thus fell into sin and God cast them out of the Garden of Eden. Instead of becoming their gods as satan promised they fell into misery, fear, sickness, suffering and death.

Today man is still believing satan`s lie that he can be his god through knowing evil. With the coming of the internet, in modern times, the temptation of knowing evil increased many thousand times. Many Christians get stuck in this trap of satan. The media is a mighty force used by satan in different ways to achieve his plan of misleading man. He aims to take as many people as he can with him to everlasting hell. In this book, we are going to look at ways we can become free from satan`s lies and seek ways of following our Lord on the path of truth, life, redemption, peace and love. Our knowledge of God will guide us in this endeavour.

## Chapter 2

### Knowing self

Before a man can know God, he must know himself. Before he can know himself the Holy Spirit will have to reveal him to himself. For the natural man, it is almost impossible to see himself as he truly is. Man is, since the fall of himself into sin, not able to see himself objectively. If you do not believe these words have a look around you. What do you see? Do you see the arrogance, do you see all the self-love, all the egotism, the self-idolisation, the narcissism, the self-glorification? Do you see the one, utmost wish of man namely to be independent, to do his own thing? Do you see how he indulges in his own needs, fancies, wishes and pleasures? Do you see how seldom man considers the needs of others? Do you see how seldom he thinks about God and what God's wishes in a situation would have been? Do you ever hear people around you ask: "*What would Jesus do?*"

When you had a good look at the world around you, you might turn your focus to your inward self. Perhaps you will be willing to ask the same questions as the previous paragraph to yourself. I must warn you, your natural man will not do this inward search willingly.

**At this point, satan would try to dissuade you to carry on reading because he knows he is about to be revealed for who he is.**

If you are still reading you are a very privileged person. The Holy Spirit is busy with you. Perhaps you found special favour with God and most probably someone is earnestly praying for your soul.

If you are experiencing negative feelings about what you saw inside of yourself, things you do not like, things that made you feel guilty, Holy Spirit is working in you. He is convincing you about your true sinful state before God. In other words how God sees you.

Again I must warn you! You are now moving into satan`s battle grounds. He is not going to easily give up your soul. Hitherto he did not have to fight for your soul but you are about to move out of his clutches, out of his sphere of influence, he is losing you. As his hold on you is slipping he is going to try to hold on even harder. He will put everything he knows about you to work, to keep a hold on you. I urge you; keep on reading, you are about to break satan`s bondage, his grip on you. Holy Spirit is fighting for your soul. Keep on reading. Do not listen to satan`s lies. Most probably he is trying to influence you to think thoughts he knows will make it difficult for you to break with him. He might at this moment try to use some of the bad things you saw in yourself against you, things you learned to love; like fornication, addictions, lust, love of money, love of self, the urge to be someone of importance, the urge to be independent, even from God, love for the technology, idols you cherish more than God, to distract you, to fill your thoughts, to keep you from choosing God above him. Keep on focusing on Him, Holy Spirit, who is working in you and through you.

**Remember God broke satan`s power over you on the cross at Calvary when Jesus died for your sins and set you free from the power of satan when He defeated satan and broke the bondage of death and evil over you.**

You are so close to breaking free from the lies of satan. Just keep on reading. Stay open for Holy Spirit. He is convincing you now of the truth about yourself. You are lost, you are a sinner, you have no hope to achieve any good through your efforts, you are doomed, and you are on your way to everlasting hell. Satan is laughing all the way. He thinks you won`t be able to break free from him and hell. Remember Holy Spirit is at this moment fighting for your soul. Satan is a defeated foe. He is the master of lies and he is now trying to convince

you to stop reading. Do not give in. Keep your focus on the fact that you, as a sinner, are doomed to hell. Pray that God will open your eyes so that you can know yourself, your ugly sinful self, and your terrible future in hell.

**Ponder this truth..... Holy Spirit will tell you when to move on:**

When you become disgusted with yourself, when you become tired of the old sinful life you used to live, when you become ashamed of all the filth in your life, when you wish you could repent somewhere to someone, just to tell someone you are sorry for all the bad you did in your life, I want you to pray to Holy Spirit that He will open your eyes so that you can see Jesus. There is nothing you can do for your salvation. Do not try to be good to earn anything. Do not try to impress God. Just let go. Just let the Holy Spirit light up the face of Jesus. He, Jesus, did everything for your salvation. Let Holy Spirit convince you that you can trust Jesus. Jesus said on the cross before He died:

**Tetelestai**

Meaning: **It is finished**

Yes, He finished it all for you, for your redemption.

**All?      Yes, all.**

You need to do nothing more. Jesus paid the full price for your sins. He carried your cross for your sins on His bruised back. His blood cleansed you from all your sins. He paid the penalty in full.

**Accept now what He is giving you. Rest in Him. Trust Him.**

**Start your new life in Him. He paid a high price for you. You now belong to Him. Praise Him.**

**See you in heaven!**

## Chapter 3

### Who is God?

Now that you are a child of God you have an urge to know more about this wonderful God. The rest of the book will try to introduce you to some of the things you can know about God; the Father, Jesus, God`s Son and God`s Holy Spirit.

#### 1. God`s origin

The Bible does not teach us about God`s origin. We know a little about what happened before Genesis 1. Genesis 1 starts with these words: *“In the beginning, God created heaven and earth”*. Hereby we know that God lived in heaven before He made the earth. We also know that with God there was, in heaven, angels. The head angel was Lucifer, a beautiful creature with many musical talents. He was head of the praise team. Lucifer became so aware of his talents that he became proud to such an extent, that he believed he could challenge Gods supremacy. Eventually, God cast him and his followers, a third of the angels, out of heaven. We read again about satan when he came in the guise of a snake to Eve and mislead her and Adam into sin. Not only did Eve and Adam received what God promised would follow their disobedience, namely bodily death, but God also cast them out of the Garden of Eden. God`s promise of death also included spiritual death. In God`s loving kindness He also made a promise of the eventual fall of satan when He said in Gen.3:15:

*And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and her **Offspring; He** will bruise and tread your head underfoot, --- The Amplified Bible give the following commentary on the capitalizing of **Offspring** and **He**: “Christ fulfils through His victory over satan the wonderful promise spoken here”.*

Thus the scene was set for what will happen in the next 4000 years until this prophecy will be fulfilled by the coming of Christ.

We learn that God is just. He not only does what He promises but He let Himself be known as a merciful, loving God. He promised man redemption and deliverance from the oppression of satan to which man will be subjected till the Redeemer comes.

So even from the little we know about the beginning of man`s history, we know these wonderful attributes of God and His Son. We also know something about the third Person of the Trinity namely the Holy Ghost. In Gen.1:2 we find these words:

*The Spirit of God was moving( hovering, brooding) over the face of the waters.*

So we know that when we speak about God we are speaking about a Holy Trinity. In these first references about God, we also see that the Trinity can operate individually but also in unison.

The origin of God is a mystery to man but God reveals enough about Himself in these early verses of the Bible to leave us in awe and wonder.

## **2. God the Creator**

In the first 2 Chapters of the Bible, we learn a lot about God the Creator. Many of the traits we will discover will be taught again as we progress through the Bible seeking knowledge about this wonderful God of ours. Let`s see what we can discover:

1. It is clear from what we read in these two chapters that God is **omnipotent and omniscient**. He can do anything and He knows everything. It is also clear that God is not bound by time. He is everlasting. It is hard for us human beings to grasp this concept as we are bound by time. The power of God becomes evident when we see how He created the earth, the celestial wonders, the plants, animals and eventually man.



2. **God is perfect** and what He created he judged to be very good. The only flaw in God`s creation was man`s misuse of his power to choose between good and bad. That was not God`s mistake but the result of man`s bad choices.
3. **God is Good.** Everything about God is good. He can not tolerate evil. His whole being is holy and good. He can not be anything else; He is the ultimate goodness.
4. **God is just.** Because of His goodness, He cannot tolerate sin and will judge it. The whole history of man centres around this single fact.
5. Because God being a perfect Being, He is also **dependable, trustworthy and reliable.**
6. God **never lies.**
7. God **knows the future**, He controls it and he is **perfectly in control** of everything.
8. The more complex an issue becomes the more you will discover God. Look at the **ecology** for instance. Man is in awe because of what God created but the wonder of how the creation interacts and balances itself is not so obvious to man. Here in lies the greater wonder of God`s creation.
9. God is a **God of order.** Look at the wonderful way God created from the first to the sixth day in perfect order the whole of creation. Satan decided to copy the order of creation for his deceit of man. He fitted his plan of deception on the order of God`s creation and named it evolution.
10. God is **holy and cannot bear sin.**

God **creates from nothing.** He is not a man who merely manipulates what is created.

11. God is the **source of all life.**
12. God is **love.**

13. God is **forever**; without beginning or end.
14. God is **wise** above all man can think. God even **created wisdom** before He created anything.
15. God is **logical** according to human reasoning. He is also un- logical when His reasoning surpasses what man can grasp.
16. God **loves diversity**. Look at creation. Pick one and see how many different forms can be distinguished.
17. Everything God created is **aesthetical superb**.
18. God **cannot be boxed into** the parameters of human thinking.
19. God created in such a way that the creation can function according to **build-  
in programs**, to continue, to multiply and to subject to **boundaries created  
by God** according to His will.
20. God **loves abundance**. Therefore He gave man the command to multiply and fill the earth. The universe is forever expanding with more and more galaxies coming into being.
21. God **blesses and curses** according to His will. God also **punishes and  
rewards**.
22. In God is found **perpetual life**. It will never stop. It cannot be challenged, not by satan and even less by man.
23. God is **longsuffering**. His love for man always makes a way for His grace.
24. God is **humble**.
25. God **shares** His creative powers with man.
26. God **provides rules** for living.
27. God is **always in control**.
28. God **cares** especially about the crown of his creation namely man.

29. God **extends His holiness to mankind** and expects man to choose what is to God`s honour.
30. **God is God. He alone is God and He does not share His honour with satan or man.**
31. God has a **super plan** for earth and mankind and He is constantly **interacting** with His creation which He controls and guides.
32. God **honours man** by making him His representative on earth.
33. God created a **self-sustaining system**.
34. God has **emotions**. He can get disappointed.
35. God **judges** His handiwork.
36. God chooses to **rest** also.
37. God can **create time in a human dimension**. One day can be like a thousand to Him.
38. God is **constantly providing** what is needed in His creation according to His will.
39. **God works** and would like mankind to do likewise, striving to work to the standard that will bring honour to God.
40. As God creates life He can also **extinguish life**.
41. God **clothes** the flowers beautifully. He also clothes His children when they depend on Him.
42. As God **provides** for His creation He also provides for man.

### 3. God`s Redemption.

Very early in the Bible, in the third and fourth chapters, we are already taught about God`s redemption of man from sin.

1. God covered man`s nakedness by providing clothing. He did this after man fell into sin and discovered his shame by coming aware of the fact that he was naked. To **cover man`s sinful nakedness** God used the skin of an animal. So an animal would have been killed and blood was shed. This death and blood pointed to the coming Messiah who would shed His blood to cover all the sin of mankind who believed in Him. Jesus the Son of God not only shed His blood to wash away man`s sin, but He also hangs naked on the cross to identify fully with the sin of man.
2. God promised that Eve`s Offspring will crush the serpent`s (satan`s) head. **Offspring** is written with a capital O indicating the Messiah. It is also written in a singular form indicating one Person.
3. In the beginning, with only two persons created, it would have been very easy for God to wipe man and woman out and start afresh with new human beings. However, God, knowing everything, stuck to His plan. Even at this very early stage, it was evident that God was fully in control and everything was going according to His wonderful plan of redemption of mankind of sin through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Many books can be written about the first chapters of the Bible. We want to learn more about God from different angles and therefore we are now moving on to the rest of Genesis.

## Chapter 4

### Moving from God to man

Even in **God`s disappointment** with man`s conduct we still see **God`s love and mercy for man**. By the time we get to Genesis 6 we see that God was so disappointed in man`s conduct that **He decided to wipe them out** (Gen.6:6):

*And the Lord regretted that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved at heart.*

Only Noah and his close family **found favour with God** and He decided to start fresh with these eight persons. **God is kind and full of compassion for man**. As in this case, **there were always people finding grace with God even when the majority disappointed God**. This is the one thing giving hope even in today`s time. **God must be very disappointed with the human race in the year 2021** as we can see around us the total disregard for God, no respect for God and no willingness to live according to God`s plan. In contrast, satan has a very active and loyal following. With Noah, we see the beginning of the **gradual withdrawal of God and His increasing use of man to carry on** with His work when He gave Noah instructions about building the Ark. God is **very prominent** in the very first chapters of the Bible. With the history of Noah, it seems as if a slight shift is occurring. Perhaps it was **because God was bent on destroying the evil man created on earth**. Even Noah disappointed God when he planted a vineyard when he came out of the ark, then made wine and got drunk. Again **God showed His mercy- side and forgave Noah**. He even blessed Noah with a long life of another 350 years after the flood. We see the **authority God bestowed** upon Noah when Noah cursed his son Ham and blessed his sons Shem and Japheth.

Because of **God`s loving-kindness** towards man, He is always **trying to help man to trust Him**. He does this often by **making a covenant** with man. It is like a contract between God and man whereby **God promises** to do something, usually a kind of blessing if a man keeps his side of the agreement between God and man. Usually, man has to **serve God as the only god and honour Him by obeying Him**. An example of a covenant is the covenant between God and Noah recorded in Genesis 9:10.

One of the many dark chapters in man`s quest to become his god is found in Genesis 11. It is found in the account of a man building the city of Babel with the bad intention to build a tower so high that they will make a name for themselves, honour themselves instead of God. God then **showed His power** when He **created thousands of new languages** for the people and thus with the ensuing chaos **scattered the people over the face of the earth**.

## **Abraham**

In the history of Abraham, we see a further continuance of **God using man to be His representative**. In more ways than one Abraham was representing God.

Most of Chapters 12 to 25 of Genesis is used to increase our knowledge of God. These chapters record the history of Abraham. Abraham was singled out by God to be a special representative of Him. Long conversations between God and Abraham are represented in this part of the Bible. God even revealed information about Himself on these pages.

Let us look in more detail at what we can learn about God in these special passages. This will by no means be a comprehensive and detailed expounding of what we can learn. At best it will give the reader highlights to explore further as the Holy Ghost will guide the reader.

In Genesis 12: 1 to 3 we find these words of God (*Amplified Bible*):

*Now in Haran the Lord said to Abram, Go for yourself (for your advantage) away from your country, from your relatives and your father`s house to the land I will show you. And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you (with abundant increase of favours) and make your name famous and distinguished and you will be a blessing (dispensing good to others). And I will bless those who bless you (who confer prosperity or happiness upon you) and curse him who curses you or uses insolent language toward you; in you will all the families and kindred of the earth be blessed (and by you, they will bless themselves).*

It is clear from these verses that when you find favour with God, and abundant blessings will be yours. There are however conditions for these blessings as in the case of Abraham. The first condition is trust in God; to believe what He said to be true. Never question God. Know that He will stretch your faith in Him by giving you demands above your natural competencies and abilities. He will test you. He will expect you to obey Him even if you don't understand where He is going with you and what His intentions with you are. Many times you won't understand what God's purpose is. You will have to trust God without knowing what is waiting for you in future. Expect circumstances to be trying and scary. Know that He is preparing you for more and better outcomes in future. Know that God is with you and that He is looking out for your good. Expect God to bless you as long as you follow Him on His way for you. Reverent fear will be a good attitude to motivate you to trust and obey:

**There is no other way!** Don't delay, act promptly and start moving.

God is pleased when we act promptly when He gives us directions. Look at the ways Abraham reacted when God spoke to him. Even when God told Abraham to offer Isaac, his son, Abraham obeyed God immediately. The way Abraham obeyed was by actively doing. How is it possible not to start moving when the God of the universe directs you to? The only explanation might be that you do not know God. The more you know God the more you will be able to react to Him in a way that will honour Him. You will obey Him as soon as it is humanly possible. Just remember this one Fact: **God is infinite.** *He is boundless, endless, not limited by person or number (Oxford Dictionary).* For a finite human being, it is not possible to grasp this one fact about God. If God in His goodness reveals only a fraction of this amazing fact about Himself you will in awe and wonder never again doubt God's abilities. Dr Victor Kuligin expound this insight in *Joy Magazine*, April 2021, p. 50) with the following remarks:

1. *The need for sleep is a limitation that does not apply to God Ps.121:3-4).*
2. *God is without limit in terms of time, space, power and knowledge.*
3. *God has always existed; from everlasting to everlasting Psalm 90.*
4. *Just as time is a dimension of creation, so too is space. God exists everywhere; everywhere there is a place, God exists. That is Gods omnipresence. God exists outside of time and space. He is above and beyond it.*
5. *The more we understand God, the better we can trust in His promises.*

Now let's get on with knowing God better through the study of Abraham:

In Genesis 12 we see how Abraham made a mistake by not trusting God to provide for his safety. He took matters into his own hands when he lied about Sarah being his sister for fear of death by heathen men, men he thought would try to get hold of his beautiful wife. When God is on your side and is finding favour with you, He will protect you even if you make



mistakes as Abraham did in this case. The Pharaoh was very interested in Sarah but God sent plagues on Pharaoh's house till he discovered the real truth about Abraham's and Sarah's relationship. God even blessed Abraham in these circumstances with wealth bestowed upon Abraham by Pharaoh.

God also bless you even if you make wrong decisions as long as your intentions are above reproach, like when Abraham gave Lot the choice for where he wanted to farm and Lot chose the very fertile Jordan- valley with lots of water. Abraham had then to take the mountainous area (Gen.13). With the fertile land, Lot chose, also came a lot of temptations which almost led to Lot's downfall.

We find in Genesis 15 a wonderful example of the saying:

*God's delay is not necessarily God's denial.*

Abraham was almost 100 years old and his wife 90. They were still waiting for God's promise to be fulfilled about a child of their own. God made a promise to Abraham that He will make him a great nation. Abraham trusted God and God fulfilled His promise. God is trustworthy.

### **Abraham and God**

God also tests His children to see if they honour Him above everything this life can offer. To Abraham, his son Isaac was the ultimate fulfilment of all his aspirations. God already blessed him with land, livestock, slaves, status and peace. Now he also had a son of his own the crown on his relationship with his beautiful wife Sarah. In Abraham, we find one of the best examples for handling tests of God. In Genesis 22 we find an account of one of the severest tests any man can encounter on this earth. Genesis 22: 2:

*God said ( to Abraham), Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah; and offer him there as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains of which I will tell you.*

Abraham's reaction to this demand of God is humanly speaking amazing. Gen.22:3:

*So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and then began the trip to the place of which God had told him.*

In Gen.22:6 we find these words:

*Then Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering, and laid it on the shoulders of Isaac his son.....*

*Gen.22:7:*

*And Isaac said to Abraham, my father! And he said, Here I am, my son. Isaac said, See here are the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt sacrifice?*

*Gen. 22:8:*

*Abraham said, My son, God Himself will provide a lamb for the burnt offering.*

Many books have been written about these three scriptures. We will conclude this part about what to know about God out of the history of Abraham with a few comments about these scriptures:

1. *There was a long build-up to these astonishing happenings. A tension line was created stretching over more than a hundred years since Abraham left Ur. The whole story is culminating in these astonishing happenings now; Abraham is at the height of*

*his life. He received more than what he needed, he achieved everything he hoped for, his posterity is secure, he can die and know everything was accomplished. **But:** God is now testing him with this severe test to see if God is really above everything in Abraham`s life. If Abraham now lost his son he won`t have, humanly speaking, time left to see his posterity in this life. Abraham was a remarkable person. There was no logic in what he was doing, there was no good outcome if he was to obey God but he kept on trusting God. God always honours man`s trust in Him and He provides wondrous solutions to those who trust Him. No wonder He stopped Abraham`s hand with the knife in mid-air, just before he was to plunge it into Isaac's throat for the death blow. Then God uttered these remarkable words:*

***Do not lay your hand on the lad or do anything to him; for now, I know that you fear and revere God since you have not held back from Me or begrudged giving Me your son, your only son.***

In this piece of history, God is also revealing something about His love for the people He created. We know Abraham was a very special person to God. God referred in the Bible many times to Abraham as being the father of all people believing in Him.

Without believing in God it is impossible to please God. Many a time we find in the history of Abraham similarities to God and God`s Son, Jesus. Let us look at some of these similarities.

1. God only had one son. The same as Abraham. God also have other children like Abraham; we are those children.
2. Abraham had to wait 100 years for his son to be born. God waited more than 4000 years before His Son, Jesus, was born in Bethlehem.

3. Was God testing Himself? Could He give up His only Son to save the world? Yes, He was not only willing, like Abraham, but He also went all the way in giving Jesus as an offering for our sins, even into the death of His Son.
4. Abraham prepared the wood for the offering of Isaac. He placed the wood on Isaac to carry. Jesus also had to carry the wood of his offering, His cross, to His place of execution.
5. Abraham had to go to Mount Moriah to offer his son. In 2 Cron.3:1 we find reference to mount Moriah where Solomon built the temple of God in Jerusalem.
6. Abraham took 3 days to get to Moriah after seeing it. The whole procedure from the moment Jesus entered Jerusalem till His resurrection from the grave also took 3 days.
7. Reference to Isaac as *Your son, your only son* sounds so familiar as if God is speaking about *His Son, His only Son*. We find the same compassion in God`s voice when He spoke to Abraham about Isaac as we find in the references to Jesus as God`s only Son in the Bible.
8. The words of Isaac is so prophetic when he asks: *where is the lamb for the burnt offering?* It sounds like the cry of mankind through the ages while they were waiting for the Messiah to come: *Where is the Lamb, the Son of God, when is He coming?*
9. The words that Abraham used to answer his son`s question could easily be the answer of God to mankind`s longing questions during the ages about the coming of the Messiah. Some of the most hopeful words in the Bible are:  
***My son, God will provide a lamb for the burnt offering.***  
 God does not lie and He fulfilled His promise when He sent His own Son, our Jesus, as the offer for man`s sin.

## Chapter 5

### From Isaac to the Exodus

Although God is in control of His people, Israel, and is gradually forming them into a mighty nation we find interesting facts about God, new or confirmed, in this piece of history. The history of Israel becoming a nation is so compelling that one can easily fall into the trap of reading the history with an emphasis on what the people did and forgetting that God is in control of Israel`s history. We will in this chapter attempt to let the emphasis fall on God as the One in control of the outcome of the history of Israel.

#### Isaac

God used Abraham to make certain Isaac got a wife from Abraham`s family and not from the heathen nations where Abraham was living (Gen.24). God directed the steps of Abraham`s slave to Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel, son of Milka, who was the wife of Nahor the brother of Abraham. The slave gave this wonderful testimony about God leading him to the land of Nahor and choosing Rebekah as a future wife for Isaac:

*And I bowed down my head and worshipped the Lord and blesses the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, Who had led me in the right way to take my master`s daughter to his son (Gen.24:48).*

The wonderful intimate dealing of God with his children is evident when we read the last comments in Chapter 24:

*And Isaac brought her (Rebekah) into his mother Sarah`s tent, and she became his wife, and he loved her; **thus Isaac was comforted after his mother`s death.***

The intimate relationship between God and Isaac and Rebecca is evident in the following verses:

*And Isaac prayed much to the Lord for his wife because she was unable to bear children, and the Lord granted his prayer and Rebekah his wife became pregnant.*

Gen.25:22:

*Two children struggled together within her; and she said if it is so that the Lord has heard our prayer, why am I like this? And she went to inquire of the Lord. The Lord said to her, the founders of two nations are in your womb and the separation of two peoples has begun in your body; one people shall be stronger than the other, and the elder shall serve the younger.*

Needless to say but that is the history of Israel predicted thousands of years ago. Even today this prediction is true when we see the hate and fighting between Israel and her neighbours.

God can be depended on to keep His word.

God knows the man He made so well. He knows man will easily lose his faith and fear his circumstances. Therefore He strengthens man`s faith as He deems necessary as in the case of Isaac when He spoke the following words:

*I am the God of Abraham your father. Fear not for I am with you and will favour you with blessings and multiply your descendants for the sake of My servant Abraham.*

As history continues we find in Genesis 30:31 the loving, just God when it is accounted how He decided to bless Jacob`s wife Leah with children and not his other wife, Rachel:

*And when the Lord saw that Leah was despised, He made her able to bear children. But Rachel was barren.*

Leah`s blessing continued. One of Leah`s sons, Judah, was one of the forefathers of our Jesus.

Because God loves His children he shows compassion when there is suffering as in the case of Rachel (Gen.30:22).

*Then God remembered Rachel and answered her pleading and made it possible for her to have children.*

Rachel had only two boys and one of them was Joseph, later second in command of Egypt and saviour of millions of people who would otherwise have died because of the drought in the Middle East. So God also blessed Rachel but she died with the birth of her second son, Benjamin.

We can see how God runs the world according to His plan in the history of Joseph. God placed enmity and hatred in the hearts of Joseph`s brothers because of Joseph`s dreams and the fact that Israel favoured him above his brothers. It was all part of God`s plan to lead Joseph to Egypt, to mould him with characteristics he will need for his role as second in command of Egypt. Even the Pharaoh admitted the omnipotence of God when he said the following:

*And Pharaoh said to Joseph, forasmuch as your God has shown you all this, there is nobody as intelligent and discreet and understanding and wise as you are. You shall have charge over my house, and all my people shall be governed according to your word with reverence, submission and obedience. Only in matters of the throne will I be greater than you are.*

Thus Joseph was placed in control of most of the Middle East as part of God`s plan to make a nation out of Jacob`s descendants.

Joseph confirmed God`s control over events when he revealed himself to his brothers with these words:

Genesis 45:5

*But now, do not be distressed and disheartened or vexed and angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me ahead of you to preserve life.*

God reaffirmed His previous promises to Jacob when Jacob as an old man had to relocate to Egypt, he and his 70 strong families:

Genesis 46: 2-4:

God is good and dependable. We see it again in His reassurance of Jacob before Jacob went to Egypt in the following words:

*And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night, and said, Jacob! Jacob! And he said, Here am I.*

*And He said, I am God, the God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will there make of you a great nation.*

*I will go down with you to Egypt and I will surely bring you up again, and Joseph will put his hand upon your eyes when they are about to close in death.*

As we will see later God was faithful to His promise and brought the nation of Israel, of 2 to 4 million people, out of slavery in Egypt, to the Promised Land, 430 years later.



## Chapter 6

### Exodus

At the beginning of the Book Exodus we find as a footnote in the Amplified Bible, the following remarkable account concerning God`s greatness:

*Is there in all human history a more amazing spectacle than the exodus? A family of 70 immigrants grows into a race of slaves. Suddenly, according to God`s detailed and preannounced plan, they are seen flinging away the shackles of generations of slavery and emigrating to a new country and a new life, with miraculous deliverances rescuing them from destruction again and again. The marvel of the exodus grows in wonder, when after more than 3000 years, we see that same race, often persecuted almost to extinction, carrying out in startling detail God`s prediction for the amazing national revitalization and prominence “in the last days”*

Let`s look in more detail at the wondrous work of God in this regard:

God`s blessings were so abundant that the Israelites increased in numbers to such an extent that they became a threat to the Egyptians. The new Pharaoh, 400 years after Abraham arrives in Egypt, did not know the history of Israel and how Joseph saved the Egyptians from starvation. To him, the sheer number of the Israelites was a threat. He gave the midwives orders to kill the Israelite`s male babies after birth. The midwives refused and when confronted explained their actions by blaming the strength of the Hebrew women and the quick delivery of the babies. For this God blessed the midwives with families of their own.

On the surface, the forming of the nation of Israel, might look like human plans and human interventions, but God was carrying out His plan; He was increasing Israel`s numbers. Allowing them to become slaves created in the Israelites the need for liberation. This was especially the case when they had to endure hardship in building the new cities. During the time of slavery, the Israelites worked very hard. They became strong and learned to survive in difficult circumstances. God was preparing them for the hard times to come in the 40 years in the desert. God strengthened the Israelite`s faith when they had to depend on Him to survive the cruel slave masters. As slaves, they could not associate with the oppressors and they stayed pure as a nation without intermarriage with the Egyptians. The Israelites got the opportunity to take note of the newest technology in Egypt like Maths and Science when they had to build the massive constructions of the new cities. God was preparing them also for material richness. He also increased their secular knowledge. They also learned the oppressor`s language whilst preserving their language. When the time was right God called Moses to take Israel out of bondage. God arranged a palace upbringing for Moses, as the son of the Pharaoh`s daughter. In this way, God prepared Moses for dealings with the highest echelons of the elite of the Egyptians. To Moses, it was not an issue to speak to the Pharaoh as he was Moses`s stepfather. Thus he was prepared to negotiate with the Pharaoh in the Pharaoh`s mother tongue when the time for negotiating came. After his stay in the palace, he had to look after sheep for 40 years while exiled into the wilderness. So Moses experienced a taste of being a prince as well as the suffering of a sheep herder. An intimate bond was formed between God and Moses while Moses was tending sheep. Even with all the preparation, Moses resisted the calling of God when the time came to lead Israel out of bondage. God had to strengthen Moses`s faith by providing Aaron to help Moses. God is so faithful and will provide what is needed to accomplish His goals.

There is also a deeper meaning to the suffering of Israel in Egypt. Freedom will mean a lot more to a person who was a slave in comparison to a person being a free person all his life. Later the whole experience of being a slave will find a special meaning in Jesus. Jesus delivered people out of the bondage of being a slave of the law. He came to set the sin-prisoners, free from sin. He fulfilled the Law. This happened when He, Jesus, was crucified for the sin of mankind.

God does not only provide a calling in a person`s life. He also provides the equipment to fulfil the calling. Moses`s calling as leader of Israel to set them free from slavery in Egypt is an example. God is always faithful when He calls someone. However, it is usually required of the person called, to be obedient to God. When God chooses a person for a specific task, He also shows leniency to the unwilling person called. Moses was adamant that he was not the right person for the job God had for him but God did not give up on him. God is so patient with man`s infirmities, even man`s distrust of God when doubting God`s ability to provide in trying circumstances. In the case of Moses, God`s choice of a leader remained Moses. However, God provided Aaron by appointing him as Moses`s spoke person.

### **The contest with Pharaoh**

Few places in the Bible can compete with this part (Exodus 5:1 to 13:19) for the direct intervention of God using wonders. God sent 10 plagues to the Egyptians to force them to let His people, the Israelites, go. The wonder is further that God not only sent the plagues but at the same time hardened Pharaohs` heart, refusing the Israelites their freedom. God intensified the plagues up to the final plague, namely the death of all the first born of the Egyptians and their animals.

The killing of the firstborn of Egypt has a significant meaning. Let us stay for a moment with this particular event and discover one of the greatest wonders God did for mankind.

## The Passover

We are now getting to the heart of the Father, the heart of the Bible and the heart of every man living on this earth. In Exodus 12 God is revealing His heart of compassion to all who are called to understand His message of redemption.

Exodus 12, starts with God speaking these words to Moses and Aaron in Egypt:

*This month shall be to you the beginning of months, the first month of the year to you.*

Then God continued with a detailed explanation of what He required of His people during Passover night. Every detail of His instructions was full of meaning as it referred not only to the Passover lamb but also indirectly to God`s Passover Lamb, our Jesus. Let us look at a few of God`s instructions in this regard:

1. *Every household must take a lamb. The lamb or kid must be without blemish, a male of the first year (Ex.12:3).*

Jesus is also referred to as the Lamb of God. *Without blemish* is also true of our Jesus, *sinless without blemish* (1 Pet.1:19)

2. *The whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall each kill his lamb in the evening (Ex.12:6).* Jesus`s offering of Himself for the sins of mankind was for every person on this earth. When you accept Jesus as your Saviour you become part of His flock, His people, His redeemed Israel. Jesus`s suffering, leading to His death the next day on the cross, started the previous night.

3. *They shall take of the blood and put it on the two side posts and on the lintel above the door space of the house in which they shall eat the Passover lamb (Matt.26:28, Ex.12:7).* Jesus is the only way to the Father. Besides Him, there is no other. The only way we get entrance to God our Father is through this one door, Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Only His blood given in His death on the cross can give us this

entrance to the Father`s forgiveness of sins. Only the atonement of Jesus, only His suffering as the only innocent, sinless man, in our place for our sins, was good enough for our just, loving, Father. God demanded the highest, the best, and the sinless as an offering for our sins. Only Jesus could stand in our place. Only He could wash our sins away with the spilling of His blood.

4. *They shall eat the flesh that night roasted; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs, they shall eat it.-roasted-its head, its legs and its inner parts (Ex.12:9).*

Hundreds of years will pass between the establishment of Passover and the offering of Jesus on the cross at Calvary. Offerings for sins committed were offered with the expectation of redemption of sin. Every offering pointed to the offer of the Messiah that would come in future. These offerings would be done by placing the offering on the fire altar. The whole lamb or offering would be placed on the altar. Jesus as the Lamb of God to be offered on Calvary would, in His whole being, be offered, his body, soul and spirit. Unleavened bread pointed to the sinless Jesus. Bitter herbs reminded us of the bitter suffering of our Lord.

5. *And you shall eat it thus: As fully prepared for a journey, your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lords` Passover (Ex.12:11).* To Israel it indeed will be a pass over, a pass over from a nation in bondage to becoming a free nation; not slaves any longer, but free from being oppressed. With the coming of Jesus, the freedom of sinners will also start. The sinner will, when he or she accepts Jesus as Saviour, be set free from the bondage of the Law, being a slave to sin, to living the new life of continual cleansing by the blood of Jesus, free from sin. We, the sinners, the slaves to sin, many years later, will also pass over from death to life through Jesus who died for our sins but was also resurrected to life.

6. *For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment, proving their helplessness. I am the Lord (Ex.12:12).*

Unmistakeably God is reaffirming His Superiority over all the idols of Egypt. The emphasis is placed by God on the First born. This position of honour is pointing to God's only Son, Jesus, who passed from life to death to everlasting life. By keeping this festival according to God's instructions, honour is bestowed upon God for giving His Son as an offering for man's sins. At Passover, we as Christians are reminded of our pass over from death to life in Jesus. Faith in Jesus makes us one with Him.

7. *The blood shall be a token or sign to you upon the doorposts of the houses where you are, that when I see the blood, I will pass over you and no plague shall be upon you to destroy you when I smite the land of Egypt (1 Cor.5:7)*

Some believe these words to be the heart, the epicentre of the whole Bible? Maybe these words for the newborn Christian can be translated as follows?

*You are the house, the dwelling of My Spirit, says the Lord. When I see the blood of My Son, Jesus, on the doorposts of your hearts, I will pass you by and not condemn you to everlasting death in hell. None of the plagues and suffering of hell will be your part and it will not destroy your peace and redemption with me. I will take you in, into the Promised Land of heaven to be with Me forever.*

**Will eternity be long enough to thank and honour our God for such a gift?**

## Chapter 7

### From Egypt to Mount Sinai; the Omnipotent God

The omnipotence of God is above what man can ever understand. Look for instance at the following where God explains some of His actions:

*I will harden (make stubborn, strong) Pharaoh`s heart, that he will pursue them (that is after Israel left Egypt), and I will gain honour and glory over Pharaoh and all his host, and the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord. And they did so (Ex.14:4).*

God can, and He does, influence man`s thinking. Pharaoh is a case in hand. It is inconceivable that Pharaoh will do such a stupid thing as pursuing Israel after God showed His power by killing all the first born in Egypt. In this case, God explained His influence on the thinking processes of Pharaoh (Ex.14:4). We must remember that the Egyptians mistreated God`s chosen people, they killed many of them, subjected Israel to slavery and misused them to build cities for them. God has a long memory. Never treat God`s children with contempt. God is in control and He is looking after His children. He will avenge them. This was one reason for the way God acted. God was also looking at His interests. Pharaoh and the Egyptians had their gods they worshipped and trusted in. God was going to show them how futile it can be to depend on, honour and bow before lifeless objects as if they can do anything. God ripped the core of Pharaoh`s army out and drowned the crown of Pharaoh`s army in the Red Sea when they tried to follow Israel. This was one of the mightiest wonders of God; creating a dry path through the sea by letting a strong wind blow a pathway for His

children. When Israel arrived safely on the opposite shore God closed the sea again and so drowned Egypt's army. This whole incident might also have a deeper prophetic meaning. Going through the sea is a similar process to a birth process; the opening of the sea with the walls of water on both sides and Israel going through resembles a birth process. The water of a woman must first break before the birth process begins. After birth, the baby is delivered onto the dry ground as the Israelites going through the sea onto dry land on the opposite shore. At birth, the baby is delivered from the bondage of the womb as the Israelites were from the bondage of slavery in Egypt. During baptism the new Christian is also subjected to a water bath, symbolizing the washing away of sin. The traces of the old life of slavery for the Israelites has washed away in the Red Sea when the sea returned to normal and the Israelites saw the corpses of the mighty Egyptian army drifting in the sea. In the same way, the new Christian is also washed clean from the traces of sin when he or she goes through the water of baptism, and the water is released from the baptismal font carrying symbolically the uncleanness of sin away.

*Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord saying, I will sing to the Lord, for He has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider has He thrown into the sea.....( Ex.15).*

Is there anything too hard for God? In chapter 16, Israel is doubting God's ability to provide bread and meat for them in the desert. God then started to provide meat in the form of quails at the twilight time and bread as Manna in the morning. God faithfully provided for His people the next forty years. To get an idea of the wonder God was performing see the following statistics provided for feeding the Israelites:

*According to the Quartermaster General in the United States Army, Moses would have needed 1500 tons of food each day to feed three and a half million people.*



*That much food would fill two freight trains, each 1, 6 kilometres long. They would also need 38 million litres of water each day, enough water to fill a freight train 2800 km long.*

Speaking of wonders, think about the trillions of animals on earth that do not sow or reap but are provided for by our wonderful God.

### **At Mount Sinai**

Mount Sinai was the place where Israel received the Ten Commandments from God. God made man and He knows best how man`s life should be conducted. He made ten rules for man to guide him through life. These ten rules form the basis of all morality rules over the world. These rules are the core from which most of the laws over the world were deduced. Whenever man chose to make his own rules, the order in the society started to crumble. One example is the adoption of moral relativity in the present liberal world. According to this moral law, everything is acceptable to man as long as it works for him. To see what the outcome of such a demonic way of thinking is leading to one only has to go into the world to see what became of morality: total depravity, gender violence, divorce, disregard for marriage as the core of the upbringing of children, homosexuality, pornography, sexual deviation etc., are at the order of the day. To refresh our memories let us look again at The Ten Commandments given by God to Moses at Mount Sinai (Ex. 20):

*Then God spoke all these words:*

- 1. I am the Lord your God, Who has brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before or beside me.*

Man chose to ignore this fundamental law of God by choosing to be his god. Out of this longing to be his god, Humanism was born. Humanism still is one of the leading apostasies of

our time. Humanism leads to other deviations like Communism, Evolutionism, Psychology, Liberalism and moral relativism.

2. *You shall not make yourself any graven image to worship it or any likeness of anything that is in the heavens above, or that is in the earth beneath or that is in the water under the earth.*

3. *You shall not bow down yourself to them ( other gods);*

Man became so fascinated with the creation of his own hands that he is willing to spend far more time in front of his creation than before God on his knees. To prove this point to yourself make an inventory of how much time you spend before a screen of any kind and compare it to the time spent in God`s presence.

4. *You shall not use or repeat the name of the Lord your God in vain (that is lightly or frivolously, in false affirmations or profanely); for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.*

Apart from open blasphemy, God`s name is constantly misused. Very seldom do we find a video or media presentation without the open or subdued misuse of God`s name. The reverent fear of God is absent in today`s human communication.

5. *Earnestly remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy (withdrawn from common employment and dedicated to God.* This command was unique because God gave it before He gave the Ten Commandments, just after He created man. It happened when He rested after the six days He took to create everything. If God found it necessary to rest on the seventh day surely man will also need a day to rest. A further reason for keeping the seventh day as a day of rest we find in Ex, 20:11:

*For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it (set it apart for His purpose).*

One aspect of this command many people miss is the following:

*Six days you shall labour and do all your work.*

Nowadays we seldom find people willing to adhere to this command. Few people are willing to work on our Saturdays, the sixth day of the week. Many people are unwilling to spend the seventh day in God`s presence, they prefer to indulge on the sixth day in sport, eating and drinking, watching television or indulge in other forms of self-gratification.

*The first 4 commandments have to do with God, the honour of God and the worship of God.*

6. *Regard (treat with honour, due obedience, and courtesy) your father and mother that your days may be long in the land the Lord gives you.*

The world became so corrupt that half of the marriages fall apart long before the children have the opportunity to find something in their parents to *treat* with honour. We indeed are living in a sick society. Nevertheless, God`s command still stands as the perfect way to live.

7. *You shall not commit murder.*

Jesus teaches us to love our neighbour not kill him. The golden thread throughout the Ten Commandments is God`s love. The summary of His commandments is found in the words:

*Love God above everything and your neighbour as yourself.*

8. *You shall not commit adultery (John 15:9).*

Apart from *love*, God`s being is characterized by the word *faith*. He is faithful. He is dependable. He is the groom and His children are the bride. The relationship between us and God is characterized by faithfulness. God intended man and wife to be faithful to each other, something holy coming from Him in His relationship with us. Therefore not to commit adultery, being faithful to your spouse, is a holy relationship.

We find the following footnote in the Amplified Bible on this commandment (p.92):

*Observe here the expansion of the meaning of the seventh commandment in many catechisms to include whoredom in all its forms, as well as premarital relations, sexual impurity and lustful desire under whatever name.*

9. *You shall not steal.*

Even in the most primitive of societies, we find an adherence to this command even when people have never heard about God and His commands. It just is not right to steal, to wilfully harm another for your benefit. To steal is the opposite to love and to give of another person.

10. *You shall not covet your neighbour`s house, your neighbour`s wife.....or anything that is your neighbour`s.*

When you covet you give in your mind consent to the urge to steal what is not yours, to take in your self-centred attitude possession of what is not yours, to enrich yourself without concern for your neighbour.

*The last six commandments have to do with the relationship between you and your neighbour. God`s love for your neighbour should also be the foundation of how you treat your neighbour.*

## **Chapter 8**

### **God, the Master Planner**

We find the groundwork for God`s plan for the organizing of human life on planet earth in the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20. These commandments are further expounded in fine detail in the rest of Exodus and Leviticus. We also find in these books detailed descriptions of how God wanted the people to organize His worship, the offerings, and the building of the ark, the tabernacle, and the clothes of the priesthood, the altar and the handling of the objects used in His worship.

In God`s detailed instructions we learn a lot about God. Let us look at some of these insights about God.

1. Systematic order is the one thing that stands out. God is a God of an exceptional order. The plan of everything is according to His wish of how He wants to be honoured and worshipped, remembered and perceived. For example, the tabernacle is constructed according to the principles of sanctification. There was space for ordinary people, places only accessible by priests and a special holy place where only the High Priest could enter.
2. Everything God does is for a purpose. Sometimes the purpose is not for practical purposes but to show the beauty of something. Many times God combines the practicality of something with the beauty of it like in a flower to attract bees and to beautify any place where it is kept.

3. God makes things durable, to last. He makes quality. He is the **UTMOST QUALITY**. Nothing can compare to Him. He functions perfectly **FOR EVER**. He is the **MOST BEAUTIFUL**. He creates and plans according to who and what He is. Our utmost hope is to see Him in all His splendour sometime in future.

4. God shares His omnipotence with people, equipping them with skills they normally lack, like when people had to build His tabernacle and utensils for use in the tabernacle (Ex.31).

*And the Lord said to Moses, See, I have called by name Bezalel, son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom and ability, in understanding and intelligence, and knowledge and all kinds of craftsmanship, to devise skilful works, to work in gold and silver, and bronze, and in the cutting of stones for setting and in carving of wood, to work in all kinds of craftsmanship.*

Even today God is filling people with His Spirit to equip them for His work on earth.

5. We know God is love. When we look at what God as Master Planner does we will find love in all His actions. All the rulings in the tabernacle, especially the rulings about the offering, always point to the great Offering of Jesus that would one day be fulfilled because of God`s love for us.

6. God has our well-being in mind with what he does. As stated in Rom.8:28:

*We are assured and know that God is a partner in their labour all things work together and are fitting into a plan for good to and for those who love God and are called according to His design and purpose.*

In the Old Testament, the rulings about the offers emphasised the offer of Jesus that will come in future. The blood of the animals killed in the offerings symbolized the

blood of Jesus washing our sins away. The offering of animals was to be repeated but the offering of Jesus was once and for all.

7. God knows the man He made so well that He constantly tries to help man to honour Him as God. The holiness of God was evident when Moses had to fetch the Ten Commandments from God at the top of Mount Sinai. God covered Himself in a cloud because He is so holy no man can see Him and survive. The Holiness of God so permeated the whole mountain and surrounding area that no living creature was allowed to touch the base of the mountain. Moses was so affected by the presence of God that his face shone so brilliant he had to cover it when he came down from the mountain. The presence of God sustained Moses for 40 days on the mountain (Ex.19).

8. God is a merciful God. When Moses came down from the mountain with the two tablets containing the Ten Commandments the Israelites were worshipping a golden calf Aaron made for them. Disgusted Moses threw the tablets onto the ground. It broke. God replaced them and He did not destroy Israel, only some of them,

9. God can do anything He wishes, through man as described in Ex.36:1:

*Bezalel and Aholiab and every wise hearted man in whom the Lord has put wisdom and understanding to know how to do all the work for the service of the sanctuary shall work according to all that the Lord has commanded. And Moses called Bezalel and Aholiab and every able and wise-hearted man in whose mind the Lord had put wisdom and ability, every one whose heart stirred him up to come to do the work.*

We stand in awe in front of such a God who can put wisdom and understanding in man to complete the work He wants them to do. God can even stir a man's heart to motivate him to work for Him. Look no further there is none other who can equal

our God. Exodus 37 to 39, makes for wonderful reading if you are interested in how God uses man to accomplish wonders.

We chose a few pages out of the Bible to illustrate God the Master Planner. The whole Bible is a record of God as Master Planner. When we are willing to look at the context of almost any incident in the Bible we will find something about the miraculous way God plans everything. If we are willing to open ourselves up for God, His honour and His will, He can easily put wisdom, understanding, intelligence, skill and motivation to our disposal. He can even help us to understand something of Him and the way He plans and executes our lives.

10. The Master Planner is also a just God. He promises the following blessings if we walk in His statutes and keep His commands and do them ( Lev.26:3):

*I will give you rain in season and the land shall yield her increase and the trees of the field yield their fruit.*

*You shall eat your bread to the full and dwell in your land securely.*

*I will give peace in the land.*

*And you shall chase your enemies and they shall fall before you by the sword.*

*I will render you fruitful, multiplying you,*

*I will set My dwelling in and among you and My soul shall not despise or reject or separate itself from you.*

**BUT**

*Lev. 26:14:*

*But if you will not hearken to Me and will not do all these commandments, but break My covenant, I will do this;*

(Terrible disasters are described. We only mention a few)



*I will appoint over you sudden terror (trembling, trouble) even consumption and fever.*

*You shall be defeated and slain before your enemies. They who hate you shall rule over you.*

*I will chasten and discipline you seven times more for your sins.*

*I will break and humble your pride in your power.*

*I will make your heavens as iron yielding no answer, no blessing, no rain and your earth as sterile as brass.*

*And your strength shall be spent in vain.*

*And I will bring a sword upon you, I will send the pestilence among you.*

*When I break your staff of bread and cut off your supply of food....*

*You shall eat the flesh of your sons and your daughters (Fulfilled in 2 Kings:6: 28-29)*

*I will lay your cities waste.....*

*I will scatter you among the nations. (Ps.44:11-14).*

*You shall perish among the nations: the land of your enemies shall eat you up.*

***But***

We serve a just, faithful God full of mercy and loving-kindness. He kept His promise to Abraham and again and again showed mercy to His chosen people.

As a footnote, the following appears in the Amplified Bible at Lev. 26:

*No greater evidence that God keeps His word is available than the fact of the existence of the Jews as a nation. Scattered for twenty-five centuries throughout the world with powerful forces determined to wipe them out, yet they are restored to their homeland because, despite their sins against Him, God refuses to break His covenant with their forefathers and with them.*

## Chapter 9

### God, owner of all

In the beginning, God created heaven and the earth. As such He is the owner of it all. God also created every living thing on earth and therefore He is also the owner of every living thing. A man might think he possesses things on this earth but that is only an illusion. He is merely the one being put into place to use and enjoy what is created on this earth. We find the very interesting words of God in this regard in Lev.25:23:

*The land shall not be sold into perpetual ownership, for the land is Mine; you are only strangers and temporary residents with Me.*

Humanism today teaches otherwise. We are brought to believe that we own the land. While we own nothing. Everything is entrusted to us temporarily. Soon we walk over into eternity and we can take nothing with us.

*A story is told of a very rich man who was about to die. They told him could take nothing with him. He was so persistent in his begging to bring something with him from the earth that he was granted the privilege to take one suitcase of earthly possessions with him into heaven. He filled his suitcase with gold bars. On his entrance, the contents had to be inspected. The person doing the inspection could only shake his head in disbelief. He cried out: Why did you bring all this paving stuff into heaven!*

Because God is the owner of all He can also give directions on how His possessions are to be used. One of the possessions of God He shares with people on earth is time. He, therefore,

has the fullest right to give indications on how time is to be used. The first law God gave to man has to do with time. God created everything in six days and on the seventh day He rested. He gave the man an example of what He expected of him. A man also had to rest on the seventh day. This commandment was also later included in the Ten Commandments. Numerous referrals are made to the keeping of the Rest day. In Leviticus 25 we get the six–one principle again. Now it is applied to the resting of the land. For six years the land can be worked but the seventh year the land had to rest. For this purpose, God blessed the crops of the six-year. The crops were so big they could provide food for three years. So not only was the seventh year covered but also the planting in the eight-year and up to the reaping of the crop in the ninth year. As long as the people adhered to God`s instructions God blessed them with abundant crops.

The six-one rule also applied to longer periods. In Leviticus 25: 1 we find the following:

*The Lord said to Moses on Mount Sinai, say to the Israelites, when you come into the land which I give you, then shall the land keep a Sabbath to the Lord.*

*For six years you shall sow your field and for six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in its fruits.*

*But in the seventh year, there shall be a Sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a Sabbath to the Lord; you shall neither sow your field nor prune your vineyard.*

The six-one rule was not only for the benefit of the land. Mainly it was a reminder of God`s greatness; if He the Almighty Creator found it necessary to rest for one day after a work week of 6 days His creation should follow suit. God further impressed the six – one- rule as far as clusters of years were concerned (Leviticus 25:8):

*And you shall number seven Sabbaths or weeks of years for you, seven times seven years, so the time of the seven weeks of years shall be forty-nine years.*

*And you shall hallow the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all the inhabitants.*

The fiftieth year, the year of jubilee will be very special. In this year all debt will be cancelled, land bought must be given back to the original owners, all slaves made during the previous years must be set free to return to their families.

If the people in the coming centuries would have kept these guidelines no depressions, economic setbacks, no slavery, no bankruptcies would have occurred. God is so wise and He devised the perfect economic system. Man chose to follow his mind and the mess the world finds itself in today is the result of man`s folly.

God introduced the principle of work and rest. As long as man adheres to the instruction manual of the Person who made man, everything will work fine. God is just and if a man chooses to follow his inclinations instead of God`s guidelines he will surely pay the price. The price is evident in all the mental sickness, stress, worries, physical calamities, agricultural collapse, bad weather patterns, and economic ruin the world is facing today.

Although God is longsuffering He is also highly dependable to do what he promised. We find a perfect example in the life of Israel. They ignored God`s instructions and He did as He promised He would do:

2 Chronicles 36:21:

*To fulfil the Lord's word by Jeremiah, till the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths; for as long as it lay desolate it kept Sabbath to fulfil seventy years.*

Israel did not keep to God`s instructions to let the land rest every seventh year. They ignored God and served other gods. God punished them by exiling them to Babylon. The land now had the chance to recover from the misuse of Israel. For every seventh year of not resting

God compensated the land with one year of rest. It took seventy years to compensate for the land. For these seventy years, Israel was in exile in Babylon. Seventy years represents seventy times seven years of exploitation and misuse of the land by Israel. It can therefore be deducted that Israel failed to keep to Gods instructions of letting the land rest every seven years, for four hundred and ninety years. God also allowed Jerusalem to be destroyed and the temple to be ruined.

God is just and dependable. He has a long memory. He is timeless and what may appear like a long time for humans can be like a second to God. Be sure God will do as He promised.

## Chapter 10

### The Just God

What do we mean by saying *God is a just God*? According to the *Oxford Dictionary*, *just* means: *Upright, fair, correct, proper, right, appreciate. Justify* is to show justice or truth.

When we speak about God`s justice it means all the above but far more. We will look for concepts like the following in God`s justice:

1. To be the supreme judge.
2. Never fail in judgement.
3. To be hundred per cent fair.
4. To deliver a verdict with implications for all eternity.
5. To bless and to praise for what is right.
6. To punish for what is wrong.
7. To show compassion.
8. To be merciful.
9. To know all to take into consideration the context and the circumstances of what was done.
10. To be true to promises made as far as judgement is concerned.
11. To deliver a judgement that will bring peace of mind because it is a perfect judgement.
12. To judge according to a perfect law of love.
13. To give judgement according to His holiness, what Jesus our Redeemer has done for us and according to God`s will.

14. Because He is God we are not to criticize His judgement, especially if we do not understand why He acted in a certain way.

15. We, humans, are not to judge. To judge is the privilege of God. We may help our brothers and sisters where they battle with issues, but not judge them.

The whole Bible is about God`s justice. A very small portion of the entire Bible is about a period in man`s existence where everything was perfect without sin or trespass. One can say the Bible is about the Perfect Judge and the sinful man and God`s endeavours to make man`s destination of eternal doom, hopeful. This can only be done by providing a way for the guilty man to be pronounced guiltless. God has a double function to perform; He has to be just but He also has to provide redemption for the accused. The only way it can be understood is to explain something about the Trinity of God; God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God the Father judges, the Son is the Redeemer and the Holy Spirit enables man to live according to God`s command of love. This is a very simplistic explanation but gives us something to work with.

Let us return to the Bible and put the theory discussed so far, into practice.

**1. God blesses ( Lev. 26:3)**

*If you walk in my statutes and keep My commandments and do them I will give you:*

Then follows all the blessings, the rewards for living a God-fearing life, like:

*1. Rain in due season,*

*2. The land shall yield her increase, you shall eat your bread to the full,*

*3. Dwell in the land securely,*

*4. Peace in the land,*

*5. Wild beasts will be cleared out of the land,*

6. *Enemies will be chased away,*
7. *Favour bestowed upon you,*
8. *Being fruitful,*
9. *God`s dwelling will be among you,*
10. *God will be your God,*
11. *You will no more be a slave.*

## **2. God punishes ( Lev. 26:14)**

*But if you will not hearken to Me and will not do all these commandments.....I will do this:*

1. *I will appoint over you sudden terror (trembling),*
2. *trouble, even consumption and fever that consume and waste the eyes and make the physical life pine away,*
3. *you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it,*
4. *The Lord will set His face against you and you shall be defeated and slain before your enemies.....*
5. *you shall flee when no one pursues you. ( In 1 Sam.4:10 and 31:1 we find the fulfilment of this prediction)*
6. *I will chastise and discipline you seven times more for your sins,*
7. *I will break and humble your pride,*
8. *I will make your heavens as iron( yielding no answer, no blessing, no rain and your earth as sterile brass. (Fulfilled in 1Kings 17:1)*
9. *Your strength shall be spent in vain,*
10. *I will lose the wild beasts of the field among you your roads will be desolate. (Fulfilled in 2 Kings 17:25-26).*



11. *I will walk contrary to you,*
12. *I will bring a sword upon you. (Fulfilled 1 Sam. 24:15).*
13. *Women shall ration bread (Fulfilled Hag. 1:6)*
14. *You shall eat the flesh of your sons and daughters ( In detail fulfilled in 2 Kings 6: 28, 29).*
15. *I will destroy your high places, cut down your sun-images ( 2 Kings 23:8 and 20).*
16. *I will lay your cities waste ( Fulfilled in 2 Kings 25:4-10).*
17. *I will scatter you amongst the nations ( Fulfilled in Ps.44: 11-14)*
18. *You shall perish amongst the nations.*

God is an amazing God. The fulfilling of His promises leaves one in awe. He knows the future in detail, He is just, He is in control, He has a wonderful plan, He not only blesses but He also punishes.

### **But**

God is also a God full of compassion and mercy. He never forgets the promises He made as in the case of the nation Israel, the promises God made to Abraham, Isaac, Israel and his descendants.

What a comfort and hope these words in Lev.26: 40 to 46 bring to us, the children of God, as we also fall under these wonderful hopeful promises of God.

*But if they confess their own and their fathers` iniquities- if then their uncircumcised hearts are humbled and they then accept the punishment for their iniquities (2 Kings 24:10-14, Dan. 9: 11-14) then I will earnestly remember My covenant with Jacob-----For I am the Lord, their God (Deut.4:31-35, Jer. 33:4-5, Rom. 11:2-5).*

*But I will for their sake earnestly remember the covenant.....*

*Thank you, God, for your covenant with us which You still keep today, 2000 years after our Redeemer made the covenant with us. Thank you that this is an everlasting covenant for us who confess our iniquities, humble ourselves, discard ourselves, take up our cross and follow you, our Lord Jesus to heaven to be with You forever ( Matt.10:38).*

## Chapter 11

### The long-suffering God

To be long-suffering means: *Bearing provocation patiently (Oxford Dict.)*

This is the one thing about God that gives us hope. Were it not for the long-suffering of our God, the human race would have been wiped out many times in the past. The examples of the patience of God with us, sinful people, recorded in the Bible are too numerous to record for our purpose to know God better. We will take note of some of the instances recorded in Genesis, Exodus, Numbers and Judges.

#### **Genesis 3:11**

Adam and Eve committed the first sin. God could easily start the creation of man all over again. He could make the human race robots programmed to obey Him hundred per cent at all times. But He chose not to. God loved the people He created and He pronounced His creation *very good (Gen. 1:31)*. To be very good in God`s sight the creation had to be exceptionally good. But man failed God. God did not wipe man out but chose in His long-suffering love another way, a perfect way, for the redemption of man`s mistakes. This redemption will come later when God sent His Son as the Redeemer of mankind.

#### **4:10**

Cain killed his brother Abel. God punished Cain but He did not destroy him. In fact, in His long-suffering towards man`s iniquities, He safeguarded Cain`s life by placing a mark upon Cain, *lest anyone finding him should kill him.*

#### **6:5**

*The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and He was grieved at heart. So the Lord said, I will destroy, blot out, and wipe away mankind.....*

***But***

*Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.*

**God`s patience with man is astounding.**

**11: 1-9**

In these verses, we find the account of the building of the Tower of Babel. The man tried to elevate himself to at least the level of God by building a very high tower. He tried to make a name for himself. Again God could have destroyed man but in His loving-kindness and patience, he only confounded their language and thus dispersed them over the earth.

**12: 1-20**

We find in this wonderful piece of history an account of how Abram trusted and obeyed God. Even this man, carefully selected by God to become the father of the nation of Israel, made a mistake. He mistrusted God`s provision for him and his wife and decided to take matters into his own hands. At this time Abram was in Egypt because of the terrible drought in the land of Israel. Abram was afraid that Pharaoh would kill him to acquire his beautiful wife Sarah. He made a plan to lie about Sarah and presented her as his sister. Because of this mistake, a great calamity almost overtook Pharaoh when he got interested in the beautiful Sarah. But God is long-suffering and so patient with His beloved. He saved Abram and Sarah and even blessed them with abundant richness.

**15: The whole chapter**

Abram was blessed with everything a man could desire except for one thing; he did not have an heir, he and Sarah were childless. God made promises about the abundance of Abram`s

offspring but as he was 90 years of age at this time and Sarah was 88 he could not believe what God told him. In his unbelief, he confronted God with these words:

*Lord God, what can You give me, since I am going on from this world, childless and he who shall be the owner and heir of my house is this steward, Eliezer of Damascus (v.2)*

**But** God is patient and full of loving-kindness. So God forgave Abram his unbelief and strengthened his trust in Him with these words:

*Look now toward heaven and count the stars- if you can number them. Then He said to him: So shall your descendants be. And Abram believed in (trusted in, relied on, remained steadfast) to the Lord and He counted it to him as righteousness (right standing with God) v.6. Confirmed in: Rom 4:3, 18:22, Gal.3:6, James 2:23.*

## **Whole chapter 18**

In this chapter, we find a human being reasoning with God and pleading for the preservation of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. In His long-suffering God allowed it. Abram started his bargaining with God for the preservation of Sodom and Gomorrah with the words:

*Will You destroy the righteous together with the wicked? Suppose there are in the city fifty righteous; will You destroy the place and not spare it for the sake of fifty righteous in it?*

We know that Abram kept on pleading for the preservation of the cities by the same argument with lowering the number of righteous people in the cities. He came down from 50 to 45 to 40, to 30, to 20, to 10. God heard him out. It must have been pleasing to God to find so much compassion in Abram even for wicked people. We know there were not 10 righteous people in the cities and that God destroyed all the people except for Lot and his two daughters.

As Abraham was, Jesus is today our intercessor. He is pleading for us before God while the devil is our accuser. But from here on the story changes; Jesus pleads for our redemption

based on one righteous person, only One without sin. God grants this request for redemption if there is One who can stand in the gap for the sinners. Jesus is the One, He gave Himself, His life to save the whole world from condemnation. But there are provisions to be met if one is to receive redemption. God in His love and patience with sinners is willing to help us comply with those provisions.

### **31. Whole chapter**

In this chapter, we learn a lot about the beautiful Rachel, the wife of Jacob. Rachel was childless. God was sorry for Leah, the first wife of Jacob because Jacob favoured Rachel above Leah. Therefore God blessed Leah with children. God also chose Leah to bear the son with the name Judah. Through Judah`s descendants the Messiah, Jesus, would be born. Marriage discord between Jacob and Rachel came about because of Rachel`s impatience about her barrenness. She blamed Jacob and Jacob rightfully said that God decides about having children or not. Rachel stole her father`s house gods and deceived him when she lied about her menstrual cycle as the reason for not getting up from the sack where she hid the idols. God is full of patience and love and He did not keep it against her. So He had mercy on Rachel and blessed her with a son, Joseph. Joseph was chosen by God for a very special purpose. He later became second in charge of Egypt and through him God saved Israel.

### **50: 20-21**

Joseph forgave his brothers for all the bad things they did against him. His mercy points to God, the Almighty, and the Giver of Mercy. The much-quoted words of Joseph about God`s patience are the following:

*As for you, you thought evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring about that many people should be kept alive, as they are this day.*

## Chapter 12

### God is a loving, patient, just God

#### Exodus

God's patience with Israel many years ago and His patience with us today comes from His love for mankind. His love urges Him to look with compassion on His children even when they misbehave. Like a loving earthly father, our God-Father tolerates us to a point even when we disappoint Him. Going back to the time of the exodus of Israel from Egypt we find instances of disappointment of God with His people. Each time He found reason to soften His punishment of His children. His love for Israel saved them from destruction. Let us look at some of these instances.

#### Exodus 16:2

*And the whole congregation of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. And said to them, Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate bread to the full.*

Because of Israel's ingratitude, one would expect God, who gave them so much to be thankful for, to punish them severely. But lovingly God did not. He supplied for them what they needed. He gave them meat and bread. The quails as meat and the manna as bread were provided for them as food for 40 years while they were travelling through the wilderness.

#### Joshua 6

In Joshua 6 we find an account of how God gave the first city in the Promised Land into the hands of Israel without the Israelites doing battle.

Joshua 6:2

*And the Lord said to Joshua, See I have given Jericho, its king and mighty men of valour, into your hands*

*You shall march around the enclosure, all the men of war going around the city once. This you shall do for six days.....on the seventh day you shall march around the enclosure seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.....all the people shall shout with a great shout, and the wall of the enclosure shall fall in the place and the people shall go up over it every man straight before him.*

Joshua 6:20:

*So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown. When the people heard the sound of the trumpet, they raised a great shout, and Jericho`s wall fell in its place so that the Israelites went up into the city....and they took the city.*

We see here our Almighty God, true to His promises, doing a mighty wonder for His people, giving a fortified city, armed to the teeth over to his people without the loss of a single soul amongst his people.

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

God taught Israel that He is God, the Omnipotent, and He can give the land to them as long as they stay in His will and do what He commands of them, even if it may look silly and illogical to them. Israel ignored the lesson God taught them when they got to the second city in Israel. It was a small city compared to Jericho and not as fortified. It was Ai. Israel did not learn their lessons from God very well. They just plunged into believing their strength lies in themselves. First Joshua sent out spies without consulting God about His will. Then he, on



the advice of the spies, decided to send only two or three thousand soldiers to take Ai. What a big mistake; he still had to learn without God you are nothing and you can do nothing.

*Joshua 7:4*

*So about three thousand Israelites went up there, but they fled before the men of Ai. And the men of Ai killed thirty-six of them, for they chased them from the gate as far as Shebarim, and slew them at the descent. And the hearts of the people melted and became as water.*

Like a typical human being, Joshua cried out to God, blaming God for the defeat of Israel. Then God revealed another dent in their armour, the fact that Israel disobeyed Him at Jericho. They were not allowed to take anything for themselves but Achan disobeyed and lied about his misconduct. One person`s sinning can lead to the downfall of a whole nation. God is pure and if you want God`s blessing you must be sincere and pure yourself. God`s wrath only subsided when Aachen and his household were stoned and burned. God is love and full of mercy but He is also just, holy and expects us to honour Him by obeying Him.

### **The Book Judges**

Let us move on to the book of Judges and look at examples of God`s compassion and forgiveness for His people`s sins. The Book Judges span the period between the death of Joshua and the ministry of Samuel. During this time a total of fifteen Judges are mentioned. Some heroically delivered the Israelites for a given period from oppressing nations. Others are only briefly noted as judges. We selected one judge to mention in this regard, namely Gideon because we can learn so much about our God in the recording of this judge`s actions. We find this illustrative narrative in Judges 6 to 8:

### **Judges 6-8**

The description of Gideon`s intervention started in this way:

*But the Israelites did evil in the sight of the Lord and the Lord gave them into the hand of Midian for seven years.*

We usually find the same pattern with all the judges described. First, the Israelites did evil in the sight of the Lord and then the Lord gave them over into the hands of their enemies. God is a just God. God disciplined His wayward children. When the Israelites showed remorse and turned to God, God saved them.

At some time, God, as in the case of Gideon, pitied His children and showed compassion for their suffering. He then sent a judge to save Israel from further destruction.

Many a time God chose an unlikely person, someone without natural leadership or courage, usually a humble person who was conscious of his inabilities, to be the vessel through which God chose to work. God was the only person worthy of praise for the deliverance He performed. Let us now look at the history of Gideon and see in which wonderful way God let Himself be known in the history of Gideon.

Gideon was not very brave. We find the first mention of him in a description of where he was hiding in a wine press, beating wheat, to hide from the oppressors, the Midianites. This fearful man, hiding but working, was confronted by an Angel of the Lord with these words:

*The Lord is with you, you mighty man of fearless courage (Judges 6:12)*

Many a time God also treats us as He sees us and not necessarily as we perceive ourselves. He might treat us according to the potential He wants to disclose in us as in the case of Gideon.

No wonder the humble Gideon protested. He made a case for his inadequacies by pointing out that his clan was the poorest in Manasseh and he, Gideon, is the least in his father`s

house. Gideon`s attitude made him great in God`s sight. God honoured Gideon for reminding Him that He is the same God that brought them out of Egypt through many wonders He performed. He also gave God the recognition as the One who was punishing them for the wrong they did. This is what God wanted to hear and He blessed Gideon with these words:

*Go in this your might and you shall save Israel from the hand of Midian (Judges 6:14).*

The might of Gideon lay in his trust in God as the One directing the fortunes of Israel and in the fact that God is a just God who did what He promised to do. His trust in God made him a hero, a mighty man in God`s sight because God could now perform His miracles without the intervention of human inadequacies.

Gideon still had some way to go before he could become the mighty man of God but God was patient with him and helped him to trust in God. So, when Gideon asked God for a sign to strengthen his trust in God, God was very willing. God touched the offering Gideon brought Him:

*Then the Angel of the Lord reached out the tip of the staff that was in His hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes, and there flared up fire from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes (Judges 6:21).*

Gideon`s trust in God was thus strengthened and he was ready for his first assignment. He had to take his father`s bull and offer it at the place where he broke down the altar for Baal and Asherah. Gideon was still a young believer and was so afraid of what the people might do to him that he performed this task at night when nobody could see him. But he did what God told him to do. That was all God required of him.

A very nice twist in this historical account is the role Gideon`s father played in protecting his son when the people wanted to kill him. He told the followers of Baal that Baal should be

content for himself if he was a god. As expected nothing happened and Gideon`s influence increased. The next test was about to begin. This will be the real test for Gideon`s faith in God.

*Then all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the east came together and, crossing the Jordan, encamped in the Valley of Jezreel.*

***But***

*The Spirit of the Lord clothed Gideon with Himself and took possession of him, and blew a trumpet....*

Gideon did the next logical thing according to man`s reasoning; he sent for all the help from other clans he could get. Still, he lacked the faith to take on the massive armies gathering against him. He again went to God for confirmation of God`s will to take down the massive armies of his enemies. He did this by putting out a fleece and asking God to confirm His will by letting it dew on the fleece but not on the surrounding ground. God confirmed but Gideon still needed some more certainty. God`s patience is amazing and if He wants to use a person He will go to great lengths to do so. So when Gideon asked for confirmation if God would reverse the request and let it dew on the ground around the fleece and not on the fleece, God again complied. Surely Gideon now had to trust God but God was still at work creating a mighty man of great power from this humble servant of His.

Gideon gathered his troops of 32,000. God was going to do a great miracle and He said:

*The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel boast about themselves against Me, saying, My hand has delivered me (Judges 7:2)*

All the fearful soldiers were allowed to go home. Of the 32,000, 22,000 went home. This must have been a severe blow to Gideon`s trust in numbers. Then God said the following:

*The men are still too many;* God selected out of the 10,000 left only 300 men to fight against the thousands of enemies. This was the final blow to anything else apart from complete trust in God alone to perform a wonder.

God was still working on Gideon`s faith. He told him to go down to the camp of the Midianites and if he was afraid to go alone he might take his servant Purah with him. It is not difficult to guess if Gideon did take his servant with him.

The enemy lay like *locusts for multitude (Judges7:12)*. Gideon went to the outskirts of the camp. When they got to the camp God strengthened Gideon`s faith by letting him hear how one of the enemies recounted a dream he had about how Israel was going to destroy the Midianites. Gideon thanked God and returned full of faith in God and demanded his army of 300 soldiers to rise for battle.

He divided his army into three groups of 100 each. In one hand a soldier had to hold a trumpet and in the other hand a pitcher with torches inside the pitcher. They had no weapons with them except their trust in God. They came from different directions onto the camp and on Gideon`s demand:

*..... they blew the trumpets and smashed the pitchers that were in their hands.....holding the torches in their left hands and in their right hands the trumpets to blow, leaving no chance to use the sword, and they cried, The sword for the Lord and Gideon ( Judges 7:20).....and all the Midianite army ran- they cried out and fled.*

Gideon pursued the fleeing armies and he and his men killed those that did not kill each other. About 130,000 enemies of Israel perished and Israel was again rid of oppression by their enemies.

Out of this wonderful history of God`s restoration of Israel many lessons can be learned.

Perhaps you would like to go through this story again and see for yourself if you can identify similar workings of God in you.

## Chapter 13

### God, the Provider of Links, the Moulder of Israel,

#### (and of our lives)

Sometimes God prefers not to provide a link between generations and a nation will be wiped out with no mention of it again in future. God provided, according to His covenants, for the survival of Israel for thousands of years. During this time He moulded and formed them into a nation according to His plan. Many a time Israel was on the brink of extinction but God always provided a link from one generation to the next. God even thought about wiping out Israel when He was disappointed with their conduct. Every time there was someone who could remind God about His covenant with Israel to make them a great nation. When God wanted to wipe out Israel in the desert when they were on their way to the Promised Land, Moses interceded for them. Many times the link God provided for the continuation of Israel was down to one person, as in the case of Abraham who had to wait to the age of 100 years before Isaac was born, his only son with Sarah. Isaac had only the twins Jacob and Esau. Esau wanted to kill his brother and Jacob had to flee to another country so the link to Abraham's descendants was almost broken.

In a very interesting way, God provided links for the genealogy of Jesus, especially through the female side. Let us look at three instances in this regard:

#### **1. Rahab.**

She was a prostitute living in Jericho when the Israelites invaded the Promised Land.

So she was not an Israelite. She saved the spies Joshua sent to Jericho to spy out the land. For this kind deed, she and her family were spared when the rest of Jericho

perished. We later read that Rahab married Salmon one of the forefathers of Jesus, the Messiah

## 2. **Ruth.**

Salmon was the father of Boaz who married Ruth, a Moabite woman, whose mother-in-law was Naomi, an Israelite woman, who went to Moab with her husband and two sons because of a drought in Israel. In Moab, Naomi`s husband and sons died and Ruth decided to go with her mother in law back to Israel when conditions improved in Israel. In Israel, Ruth, the Moabite woman, married Boaz, the father of Obed, the father of Jesse, the father of King David, an ancestor of Jesus Christ.

## 3. **Bathsheba**

She was the wife of Uriah, a faithful servant of King David. Instead of fighting with his men against Israel`s enemies, David loitered around the palace, from where he could see Bathsheba bathing. He lusted after her, slept with her, later married her and out of their relationship Solomon was born, an ancestor of Jesus.

One may ask why God chose to include women like these in the ancestral lineage of His Son, our Jesus; a prostitute from a different nation, a Moabite woman, a woman who had an out of wedlock relation with King David. What we do know is that God provided a link for the lineage of His Son. We have in the case of Ruth an interesting history. She was a Moabite.

Lot was the son of Abraham`s deceased brother. Lot travelled with Abram to Israel and eventually stayed in Sodom until God destroyed Sodom and saved Lot and his two daughters.

When Lot had intercourse with one of his daughters while he was drunk his eldest daughter became pregnant. She named her son, Moab, and he was the ancestral father of the Moabites.



Later the Moabite nation developed out of the descendants of Moab (Gen. 19:37). Ruth was one of these descendants.

Our God is so faithful in His planning of everything. He is so orderly and organized. When one looks back at the construction of the lineage of Jesus, God's work is amazing:

*So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen, from David to the Babylonian exile or deportation fourteen generations, from the Babylonian exile to Christ fourteen generations ( Matt.1:17). Never was the lineage broken.*

The holy numbers 3 and 7 is very prominent in Gods choice of construction of the genealogy of Jesus. From Abraham to Jesus we find 42 generations. 42 is 3 times 14, which is 2 times 7. Through all these generations God provided a linkage. Never was God's covenant with Abram threatened, it was tested but never broken. Even today, 2000 years after Jesus's ascension to heaven, God is still keeping His covenant with the Jewish people. They are still a nation, still surviving, still coming back to Israel, still in God's plan for the future. Many times their existence was threatened e.g. when the Germans killed 6 million Jews during the Second World War, but God was and still is providing the continuance of Israel as a nation.

For us, as Christians, the most significant link in God's plan is Jesus Christ. If the history of Israel stopped when Israel was dispersed during the Babylonian dispersion, none of God's promises for our redemption could have been fulfilled. According to the prophecies God had to bring Israel back to their country where Christ would have to be born from a virgin girl of Jewish descent in Bethlehem. During the time of Ezra and Nehemiah God brought Israel back to their Promised Land and the temple was rebuilt in Jerusalem. According to God's plan and predictions, Israel was again dispersed in 70 A.D. when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Jews were scattered throughout the whole world. God will not forsake His beloved Israel

and in 1948 He started bringing them back to Israel when they miraculously acquired Israel again as their independent home land.

And yet the history is not fulfilled. The last chapter must still be written. God will supply the last missing piece in history when He links the present dispensation with the everlasting dispensation, to come after Christ`s return to this world. The final moulding of the world and people in the world would be accomplished to God`s plan and perfect will.

### **Our God, the Provider of a soft link**

Usually, a link is associated with something hard like iron from which the links in a chain are made. Many of God`s links were soft, emotional, loving, kind and devoted. I am referring to women. Apart from the women already mentioned, another two out of the many examples needs mentioning. I am referring to Esther and Abigail

### **Abigail**

In 1 Samuel 25, we find one of the most heart-warming stories of the Bible. To abbreviate the account would do a lot of damage to the narrative. It is therefore recommended that the whole story be read. Abigail was honoured by God when these words, spoken by her, were taken up in the Bible:

*And when the Lord (God) has dealt with my lord (referring to David), **earnestly remember** your handmaid (referring to herself), 1Sam. 25:31.*

Whenever God`s inspired Word says *earnestly remember* one is certain to miss something if special attention is not given to the words. In Abigail`s case her demeanour, her attitude, her wisdom and her humbleness can serve as an example of how many marriages could have been saved in this world if the woman would have behaved in a way similar to Abigail`s.

## **Esther**

The Book Esther needs to be read in its entirety. It is so compelling and heart-warming one can hardly stop when you start reading it. It is a jewel in the Bible. Esther was a vital link in God's provision for the survival of Israel as a nation. Only a woman with the special attributes of a woman could fill this vital role. The question arises if God created a special type of human being with softness, with the capacity to understand emotionally, to have beauty and a special kind of reasoning and logic, not found in men, for the very special instances, to serve as a vital link in the history of Israel?

## Chapter 14

### Our God, the Allowing God

Since Israel's inception with the covenant God made with Abram, God guided and directed the fortunes of Israel. God was not only the God of Israel, He was also their Strength, the Guide of their fortunes, and the Director of their paths. He was their King, the sole Provider. He was also the One who was leading them along a path of His choice according to His will. They, the Israelite nation, was part and still is part of His bigger plan of redemption of the people from everlasting hell, where man deserves to be. Only the Substitute, Jesus, can save mankind from an eternity of doom. His suffering in our place for our sins can be reckoned as full payment, for our debt created by our inability to keep God's laws.

#### **But**

Israel chose to reject their God. They wanted a king out of their people. This choice was a big blow to Samuel, who dearly loved and respected God Who called him since childhood as a special messenger to His people. Samuel took the blame for Israel's folly on himself but God absconded him from any blame with these words:

*Hearken to the voice of the people in all they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not be King over them.*

*According to all the works which they have done since I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day forsaking Me and serving other gods, so they also do to you ( 1 Samuel 8:8).*

In this piece of history, we discover another aspect of our God. His patience has limits. It is evident out of these words of God that He had enough of Israel's disobedience. He will allow

them to have what they asked for. In His loving-kindness, He warned Israel of what they can expect from a king. He named the following ( 1 Sam. 8:9)

1. *The king will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and be his horseman and run before his chariots.*
2. *He will appoint them as soldiers, and to plough his ground, reap his harvest and see to his instruments for war.*
3. *He will take your daughters to be his cooks and bakers.*
4. *He will take your vineyards and give them to his servants.*
5. *He will take the best of your animals and put them to his work.*
6. *He will take a tenth of your income.*
7. ***On that day you will cry out because of the king you have chosen for yourselves, but the Lord will not hear you then (1 Sam.8:18).***

### **Nevertheless**

The people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel and they said:

***No, we will have a king over us (1 Sam.8:19).***

Then God hearkened to their voices and said to Samuel that he must do as the people asked; appoint them a king. Our God is also an allowing God. He will try to point out our human mistakes but if we insist on following our ways He will let us, but He will also allow us to experience the consequences of our choices.

God allowed the people to have their wish but in the following millenniums, they had to pay a dear price for their rejection of God. No man is perfect and because of the many mistakes the kings made, Israel had to suffer. There were also good, God-fearing kings to come but there never was a perfect king. Even Solomon, the wisest of kings to have ever lived made mistakes. He chose to serve idols in his old age.

One other king deserves mention because of his impeccable record. This king was Hezekiah (2 Kings 18-21). Even he begged God to fulfil his wishes. God knew better but He granted Hezekiah his wish.

Hezekiah`s conduct as king was impeccable. The Bible says the following about him (2 Kings 18:3):

*Hezekiah did right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that David his forefather had done.*

He did things like the following to honour God:

*He removed the high places, broke down the images, cut down the Asherim and broke in pieces the bronze serpent Moses had made.*

*Hezekiah trusted in, leaned on and was confident in the Lord, the God of Israel; so that neither after him nor before him was any one of all the kings of Juda like him.*

## **But**

God warned Israel about the dangers of having a king. Even this king, the best king, was about to make a mistake that will cost Israel dearly:

At the end of Hezekiah`s life, he got sick. God sent Isaiah to tell Hezekiah that he was about to die and that he must get everything in order. God, the all-knowing God, knew that this was the best time for this wonderful king to step into eternity with a blameless record. But Hezekiah made his one big mistake in life, he wanted to live a longer life and begged God to prolong his life. God is an allowing God and decided to grant Hezekiah his wish, although God knew what will come out of it. God granted Hezekiah another 15 years of life. During these 15 years, Hezekiah became selfish and arrogant. When the son of the king of Babel, Merodach-Balaban, requested a sightseeing tour of Hezekiah`s kingdom, Hezekiah was

happy to oblige and showed the king's son in a show-off fashion all the wealth he and his forefathers accumulated. God was very displeased with the arrogance and bragging attitude of Hezekiah. He sent Isaiah to tell Hezekiah that everything he bragged about will be taken away from him and will be carried to Babel. Because of Hezekiah's previous faithful life, God promised that this calamity will happen after Hezekiah's death.

An even bigger problem befell Hezekiah in his prolonged life namely the birth of Manasseh, his son, 3 years into his prolonged life. Where Hezekiah was one of the best kings, Manasseh was one of the worst kings. He did a lot of terrible things and Israel had to suffer because they chose a king instead of serving God. Some of Manasseh's bad conduct were the following ( 2 Kings 21):

*He built up the high places which his father Hezekiah had destroyed.*

*He reared up altars for Baal and Asherah.*

*He built heathen altars in the house of the Lord.*

*He made his son pass through the fire and burned him as an offering to Molech.*

*He practised soothsaying and augury and dealt with mediums and wizards.*

*He did much wickedness in the sight of the Lord, provoking Him to anger.*

To think that all these terrible things would not have happened if Hezekiah died at his appointed time and thus could not have fathered Manasseh. Listen to the terrible consequences Manasseh's kingship brought over Israel (2 Kings 21: 12-16):

*Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Behold, I am bringing such evil upon Jerusalem and Judah that whoever hears of it, both his ears shall tingle!*

*I will wipe Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down.*

*And I will cast off the rest of My inheritance and deliver them into the hands of their enemies, and they shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies.*

*Manasseh made Israel sin by doing evil in the sight of the Lord.*

Not long after Manasseh`s reign over Israel all God`s predictions were fulfilled. What a terrible price to pay for one`s selfish wishes against what God had planned.

Yes, God is an allowing God.



## Chapter 15

### Our God allows suffering.

#### He gives insights into why we are suffering.

We now get to a more difficult aspect of our beloved God. It entails a part of God`s character that we do not usually associate with God`s love, and that is when He lets one of His dear and beloved children suffer. To understand something about the complexity of our God we have to turn to the **book of Job** and see what we can learn about God when He wilfully lets one of His children suffer.

The **Book Job** is an insightful revelation about our God. We as humans tend to think about ourselves as the core of the universe. We think about life and the creation as if everything was made for man and his enjoyment. In the Book of Job we are made aware of the fact that there is another more important reality than the one we are experiencing. It feels as if God is allowing us a bit of an insight into His domain, what is happening there, how decisions over man`s fortunes are made and what factors may play a role. In general, man`s occupation with himself and his importance is challenged.

Man is forever trying to discover the reasons for what is going on in the world. Ever since Eve, man is trying to rise above God in his quest to understand and influence the universe and the conduct of mankind to explain and direct man`s fate and destiny. Is man trying to understand the coherence of life on earth? Does he think he can conduct and influence the outcomes in this life if he can understand what is happening and what is going on in the world?

When we look at the life of Job we can find some answers to these questions.

Job was a God-fearing man. He loved, honoured and obeyed God. Job intervened for his children and asked God to forgive his children`s sins. God also loved Job and blessed him abundantly with material possessions, ten children, health, status and all a man could desire. Job was the showpiece of God. When one day, God was discussing the fortunes of man on earth with the angels, satan was also present. God asked satan if he considered Job and said:

*There is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who reverently fears God and abstains from and shuns evil (Job. 1:8).*

True to his nature as the accuser of man, satan challenged God with these words:

*You have conferred prosperity and happiness upon him in the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. Put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has, and he will curse You to Your face (Job.1:10).*

God took up satan`s challenge and gave him the right to take away all that Job possessed even his children. Satan failed as Job remained loyal to God. Job then spoke these wise words:

*Naked without possessions came I into this world from my mother`s womb, and naked shall I depart. The Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord (Job. 1:21).*

Then satan tried another angle and said if God let him take away Job`s health Job will fail God. Again God took up the challenge. Again Satan failed.

Job then corrected his wife, when she told Job to curse God and die after satan took Job`s health away and he sat among the ashes scraping himself with a piece of broken pottery. He then spoke these wise words to her:

*You speak as one of the impious and foolish women would speak. What?*

*Shall we accept only good at the hand of God and shall we not accept also misfortune and what is bad? (Job 2:10).*

**Comment:**

The book of Job is so rich and deep that multiple methods on how to understand this book were suggested by different theologians. Our interpretation is therefore according to the insight God is providing in this time, to us, in these circumstances. The following insights are standing out at this stage about this book:

- 1. God`s thoughts are much higher and more complex than anything man can understand.*
- 2. God`s dimension in which He primarily functions is quite different from man`s; God`s dimension is mainly spiritual and man is mainly physical.*
- 3. Man`s understanding of the cosmos, the earth, humans, ecology and science is basically from the perspective of his own life on earth. It is very small, simplistic, narrow, and by no means comprehensive.*
- 4. God`s knowledge of the creation is complex, all-inclusive and perfect because He created everything. He has a plan with His creation. Everything is happening according to His plan. His plan is above the comprehension of man.*
- 5. God is the centre of His creation. He made everything for His pleasure, including man. The only purpose of creation can be found in God alone, in His love, in His whole holy being.*
- 6. Man is not God. God loves man so much He tolerates stupidities of man, even when a man insults Him with his minimal understanding of the intricacies of the coherence of the creation.*

7. *Since man`s living in the Garden of Eden he tried to be god himself by trying to know everything. The natural man never gave up his hunger for knowledge which in itself is not wrong, as long as the motivation for the acquiring of knowledge is according to God`s will. Seldom have we found this noble motivation to be present with man. Usually, man wants to know to become less dependent on God and to further his selfish ambitions.*
8. *Job was in many instances a man after God`s heart. He did most of what he did, right, but he was not perfect. He reasoned wrongly that he was blameless and did not deserve the punishment he thought God was bestowing upon him. God blessed us with the whole background to the story of Job. Therefore is it possible to see all the wrong reasoning`s of Job and his friends? They did not know what was going on, why things happened to Job and what the outcome would be.*
9. *Man has limited insights and explanations of what is happening on earth. In the Book of Job, we get an excellent example. Job thought God was punishing him for something he did wrong. He believed he was blameless and blamed God for what he wrongly thought was a punishment from God. So also his friends believed every calamity happening to man was a punishment from God for the wrongdoings of man. Man`s limited insight into the world of God is thus evident.*
10. *We know that God was in a dispute with satan about the integrity of Job. God allowed satan to do terrible things to Job to test him and see if he would remain faithful to God. Job easily passed these tests but he failed another test. He did not understand what God was doing and he blamed God for his misfortunes.*
11. *God is not compelled to let man understand what and why He is doing. Many times God is even strengthening man`s faith when a man does not understand what is going*

*on and when a man can only carry on in the belief God knows best and God can be trusted.*

*12. On all the many questions Job had for God, God answered with questions of His own.*

*When Job heard these questions he began to understand something about the greatness of God and decided to keep quiet.*

*13. Relax, God is at all times in control and He may be depended on.*

## Chapter 16

### Our God – the only true wisdom

#### The Book Proverbs

Before God created anything, He created wisdom. So, wisdom was the first thing God created (Prov.8:22-23). Surely wisdom must be very important in God's sight. It seems as if wisdom was the tool by which God chose to create. If one looks at creation it is evident that only with exceptional wisdom it would have been possible to create. God not only used wisdom but He also used His ability to perform what we would call wonders. Wonders to us is anything we cannot explain with our human insight and knowledge. How is it possible to revive a corpse of a man 4 days dead, a corpse smelling because of decomposing? (John 11:1) Too high for our comprehension! But to Him, Who made man, it is as easy as for a man to fix a car he designed and built.

There were men created by God who were endowed with special abilities, like Solomon who chose wisdom when God gave him a choice as to what he would like to have in life. Much of the favour bestowed upon Solomon was because of the favour his father, King David, had with God. Let's have a closer look at the wisdom of King Solomon and see if it can match the wisdom of God.

Solomon wrote over 3000 proverbs of which about 900 can be found in Proverbs in the Bible. God created Solomon's brain with which he made the proverbs. Most of what Solomon wrote was under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit of God. The Proverbs was God's work and Solomon wrote it down or dictated it to his scribes.

Solomon was not very consistent in his wise sayings compared to his conduct. Take for instance the fact that he wrote he could not find one wise woman in 1000, but he had 700

wives and 300 concubines. He chose those women. Why did he not choose a woman for a wife, even if it was only once, on behalf of her wisdom?

One of the most astonishing mistakes of Solomon, the wisest man that ever lived, was the fact that he chose to make idols, to honour them and to bow before them. It was because of his arrogance when he perceived himself as wiser than God, who explicitly demanded Israel not to take wives from the heathen nations around them. He liked women from the heathen nations and as God predicted it was to be his downfall. For this mistake of Solomon, Israel paid dearly. Not long after Solomon died, Israel as a nation was torn in two; the ten tribes of Israel and the one tribe of Juda, the only descendants of King David and Solomon.

### **The Book Ecclesiastes**

The biggest part of the Book Ecclesiastes was also written by Solomon. You may wonder why this book was written. The introduction to Ecclesiastes gives us somewhat of a clue.

*The purpose of this book is to investigate life as a whole and to teach that in the final analysis life is meaningless without proper respect and reverence for God (Amplified Bible p.734).*

The writer observed what man was doing on earth. He was an observer but also a partaker in life's endeavours. What he observed he judged as folly and described it as *vanity*. This judgement was from the standpoint of the secular man. He tried to observe scientifically by trying to stay objective. Nothing made any sense; it seemed as if a man was in mad pursuit of one thing and then another. Solomon looked at the different aspects of life like education, knowledge, pleasure, happiness, power, influence and religion. All these and more were considered. He concluded that these aspects of life have only temporary meaning and in the end do not account for lasting values (Amplified Bible, p 734).

The scientific way of a man observing objectively, empirically and not letting emotions or preconceived ideas play a role, brings him to false conclusions like life is vanity (emptiness, falsity and futility). It needs mentioning that we here have the wisest man who ever lived on this earth, doing his scientific investigations out of a secular perspective. Solomon had all human wisdom, the best education, excellent knowledge, he sought pleasure, happiness, power, influence, he had all the material richness, and he could have and choose what he wanted. He was in the very best position to represent the best human verdicts man could arrive at regarding man and the meaning of life. His verdict:

***All is vanity!***

We now have a dilemma. God made all and God declared that his creation was excellent. We have on the opposite side the wisest man declaring God`s creation as a vain effort.

The only explanation for this seeming incongruence is the fact that Solomon was trying to reason, observe and explain from a human standpoint, objectively, not influenced by religion or emotion, what we would call today a scientific, empirical investigation. The result of Solomon`s investigation and his conclusion is excellently described in the Amplified Bible p. 734 in the following way:

***All is vanity!***

But, we know everything is not vanity. God is not vanity, God created everything, God declared it good, in fact excellent. What did Solomon miss? What was the one ingredient he did not bring into the equation that led to his wrong reasoning and wrong conclusions? The answer lies in the absence of God when he tried to look objectively, not considering God, concentrating only on the secular, the view of man, the reasoning of man. How could Solomon look at creation and try to take the Creator of the creation out of his efforts to understand?



The moment Solomon, through the grace of God, began to see through the eyes of God, he discovered the truth about man, God`s creation, the sense of it all.

*In the end, faith teaches him that God has ordered all things according to His purpose, and that man`s role is to accept these, including his limitations, as God appointments. Man therefore should be patient and enjoy life as God gives it (Amplified Bible, p.734)*

To remind us about the fallibility of man, the downfall of Solomon is also recorded in the Bible. The downfall came about when Solomon through the influence of his many wives turned to idol worship. It is almost inconceivable but in the end, it is the expression of human fallibility.

**Man is not God. Only God is the absolute Wisdom!**

## **Chapter 17**

### **Our God, the Supplier of our needs**

#### **(Found in the Psalms)**

Turning the pages of the Bible one is struck with awe at the wondrous God we serve. You will find it hard to single out some aspects of the excellence of our God. I think the writers of the Bible also found themselves faced with this dilemma. Perhaps that was the reason for the creation of the Book of Psalms in the Bible to get an opportunity to list various aspects of our Creator. God, in His wisdom, concentrated on the needs of people and not so much their wants. He, the Creator God, knew man would need a place to look for help, encouragement, wisdom and love during his struggles in life. Therefore He placed the Book of Psalms in the middle of the Bible. Perhaps God intervened in the composition of knowledge of His greatness by giving us the Book Psalms. The Book of Psalms is a never-ending source and inspiration and knowledge of the greatness of God. We find many ways in which God presents Himself to man through the Psalms. It always serves as an indication of God's knowledge of man's many needs in life. Many times we are comforted in times of trouble by one or more of the Psalms. One can always find a Psalm to match your mood, your need, your sorrow or your joy. There is no easy way to survey the Psalms. Take for instance one Psalm like Ps 23. So many books have been written about this Psalm. How can you write a survey of over 150 Psalms if one book can keep you busy for a lifetime? For this reason, we decided to stick to the discussion of the central theme of 30 Psalms to illustrate aspects of God's greatness in meeting man's needs in life.

## **Psalm 1**

One of the great needs of man is to have prosperity and to shun calamity. In this, the first Psalm, God gives clear leading to man as to what he must avoid in life if he wants to have a blessed and good life. It also advises about what man must pursue to live a blessed life.

### **The blessed man**

Psalm 1 warns against, walking, standing and eventually sitting with sinners. The Psalm warns against the counsel of the ungodly; following their advice, their plans and purposes. It also warns against being submissive to the influence of sinners. To be blessed, happy and fortunate one must not relax and rest with the scornful and the mockers.

It will be beneficial to man to delight himself in the Law of God, to meditate habitually on God's instructions.

### **The man who comes to ruin**

The man who is wicked, disobedient, trying to live without God, will not be blessed by God. He can expect to perish, come to ruin and to be nothing in life.

God is so good. He wants man, whom He loves, to have clear instructions when a man makes his choices in life.

## **Psalm 3**

Because of man's infirmities, he is mostly living in fear. He is so frail and fragile he must constantly be on the lookout for dangers. He is constantly looking for security and safety. Security is one of his big needs. God placed this Psalm about David and his fears in the Bible for us to identify with. As with David, it is also possible for us to find peace in the knowledge that we serve a dependable God. We can declare with David:

*I will not be afraid of ten thousand people who have set themselves against me.....*

*I lay down and slept: I wakened again for the Lord sustains me.* ( Especially written for us who toss around all night because of fear of the unknown).

We thank You, Lord, for Your love and kindness.

### **Psalm 8**

Rarely will you find a person without feelings of gratitude? Even more so when one reads through the Psalms where you will find several occasions where the writers expressed their gratitude, their appreciation and honour towards God for what He had done for man. Psalm 8, is one of those Psalms. Look at these words recorded in verses 3-5:

*When I view and consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained and established,*

*What is the man that You are mindful of him, and the son of earthborn man that You care for him?*

*You have made him but a little lower than God and You have crowned him with glory and honour.*

*Verse 9: O Lord, our God, how excellent, majestic and glorious is Your Name in all the earth!*

### **Psalm 16**

Because man is such a frail creature he is forever looking for security and protection. God provides in these needs as David so vividly tells us in Psalm 16:

*In You, I have found refuge,*

*In You do I put my trust and hide,*

*The Lord is my chosen and assigned portion, my cup; You hold and maintain my lot.*

*The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; yes, I have a good heritage.*

*I will bless the Lord,*

*Who had given me counsel;*

*You will not abandon me to Sheol, the place of the dead.*

*In Your presence is fullness of joy.*

## **Psalm 22**

One of man`s strongest needs is something or someone trustworthy. Maybe it is because of the very uncertainty of life and the fact that so few people are trustworthy. In God, man will never be disappointed. God showed His trustworthiness, His dependability in the fact that prophetic announcements are made in the Bible that would prove to be true a thousand years later. In this Psalm, we find the following prophecies about our Jesus that would come to pass a thousand years later. The following are examples: (Fulfilled= Fu.)

6. *I am no worm, and no man; I am the scorn of men, and despised by the people.*

*(Ful. Matt. 27: 39-43)*

7. *All who see me laugh at me and mock me; they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, (Ful. Matt.27:43)*

8. *He trusted and rolled himself on the Lord, that He would deliver him. Let Him deliver him, seeing that He delights in him (Ful. Matt. 27:39).*

15. *My strength is dried up like a fragment of clay pottery; with thirst.*

*My tongue cleaves to my jaws, and You have brought me into the*

*dust of death. (Ful. John 19:28).*

*16. They pierced my hands and my feet. (Isa 53:7)*

*17. They part my clothing among them and cast lots for my raiment (Ful. John 19:23).*

These predictions could only have been made by our All-knowing God. We may trust Him with all our hearts. How uplifting it is to know a God like our God.

### **Psalm 23**

Surely this must be one of the most well-known Psalms out of all 150 Psalms, recorded in the Bible. Many books have been written about this Psalm. Perhaps it is because it covers so much of the needs of a puny man, a man so dependent on God. Take for instance the peace so many people found on their death beds in these words: (Ps.23:4):

*4. Yes, though I walk through the deep sunless valley of the shadow of death, I will fear or dread no evil, for You are with me.*

Perhaps another reason for the big impact of Psalm 23 on men is the depiction of man as sheep and God as the Shepherd. In man`s innermost being he is so conscious of his inadequacy to face the challenges of life that he can easily identify with the sheep so dependent on the shepherd for everything for their survival.

### **Psalm 34**

One of the first emotions Adam and Eve felt after they fell into sin, in the Garden of Eden, was fear. They hid from God`s sight. Ever since then man has struggled with fear. Many of man`s sufferings have to do with fear. Therefore Psalm 34 had been such a blessing to people through the ages. Even today we cast our fears on Him when we read verse 4 of this psalm:

*I sought, inquired of the Lord and required Him, of necessity and on the authority of His Word, and He heard me and delivered me from all my fears.*

### **Psalm 37**

Man is constantly looking for guidance on how to live. This Psalm is full of guidelines for life and therefore is much quoted and read. It covers aspects of life like the following:

1. *How not to be upset by evildoers (v 1-2).*
2. *How to dwell in your land and feed on God`s faithfulness (v.3)*
3. *How to get the desires of your heart (v.4).*
4. *Why commit your way to the Lord (v.5).*
5. *How to be still and restful in the Lord (v.7).*
6. *How to avoid evildoing (v.8).*
7. *How to be content with little (v.16).*
8. *How to leave a heritage (v.18).*
9. *How to get God to direct your steps (v.23).*
10. *How to get up when you fall (v.24).*
11. *How to dwell forever securely (v.27).*
12. *How to let God exalt you (v.34).*

We serve a faithful God who is intimately acquainted with all our needs.

### **Ps. 62**

Most people are well acquainted with the disappointments people you trust cause you in this life. God also knows about our needs in our daily association with our fellow human beings. God guided how to deal with these disappointments. Only God is to be trusted in full.

*Verse 5:*

*My soul, wait **only** upon the Lord and silently submit to Him; for my hope and expectation are from Him.*

### **Psalm 71**

God loves all people but He also has special dearness for the lost, the dependent, the weak and the person in need. Therefore it is no wonder that He shows so much compassion for the needs of the elderly. The writer of this Psalm declares in this regard:

*Yes, even when I am old and grey-headed, O God, forsake me not but keep me alive until I have declared Your mighty strength to this generation, and Your might and power to all that are to come (v.18)*

### **Ps 91**

Many of man`s needs are addressed by God in this Psalm. He knows us so well. He knew man would long for someone to trust, to rely on, someone who will be with him in trouble. For all these and many more reasons, God declared Him willing to sustain man throughout his life (verse 15).

*He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honour him.*

*With long life will I satisfy him and show him My salvation.*



### **Psalm 103**

This Psalm addresses one of man`s most pressing needs some or other time in his life; the need to recover from sickness: (verse 3).

*Who (refers to God), heals each one of your diseases.*

### **Psalm 119**

In this, the longest Psalm in the Bible many needs are addressed. One of these is the need to know why I am suffering. In verse 71 we get one reason:

*It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I might learn Your statutes. The law from Your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.*

### **Psalm 127**

Only a person who attempted to build a house will appreciate these comforting and wise words of our Lord: (verse 1):

*Except the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain who build it.*

### **Psalm 131**

This, one of the shortest Psalms in the Bible addresses one of man`s most pressing needs; the need for peace and rest,

*Lord, my heart is not haughty, nor my eyes lofty; neither do I exercise myself in matters too great or in things too wonderful for me.*

*Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul; like a weaned child with his mother, like a weaned child is my soul within me (ceased from fretting). Verse 1-2.*

**One thing we learned from these Psalms is that God, Who created man, knows man so well that He spent the longest book in the Bible to address some of the man`s needs.**

**Thank you, Lord, for knowing this about You.**

## Chapter 18

### God knows the Future

Yes, God knows the future, only God. In the beginning, He created everything. He set a timespan to His plan for His creation. He planned all that must happen in this timespan. There is a definite sequence in these events. As such, God is in control and everything is working out according to His plan and His wish. It is a comforting thought to those who know and love Him. It must be a real irritating thought to those who ignore God and believe themselves to be in control.

A big part of the Old Testament is devoted to the writings of the Prophets, in my Bible 320 pages out of 1073, almost a third (Amplified Bible). Apart from these predictions, many predictions come from the writers of the Psalms. The prophets wrote about many things. But for us, Christians, it is of great importance what they wrote and predicted about the coming of the Messiah, our Jesus. Estimates differ about how many references there are in the Old Testament about Jesus. Some researchers put it as high as 351 references. Most researchers estimate the main references about Jesus at 40 to 45. Amazingly many of these predictions are made hundreds of years before the coming of our Messiah, even as far back as Exodus.

Just one amazing prophecy worth mentioning, out of the many more not mentioned, is the description of the execution of Christ's crucifixion hundreds of years before crucifixion was introduced by the Romans.

Not one of these prophets had the knowledge or the insight to foresee these events coming into being in the future. Everyone was revealed by God through His Holy Spirit.

We, the generation living in 2021, have the privilege of reading about these predictions in the Old Testament but not only about the predictions, we have in the New Testament the fulfilment of these prophecies. We can see how they came to pass. Even more astonishing

about God's goodness in the revealing of His omniscience to us, is the building of our faith in Him that comes from these revelations. We do not have to argue about faithfulness, we can observe it, believe Him and trust in Him. With this knowledge about His faithfulness, it is easy to trust Him for the prophecies, not fulfilled at this stage, to be fulfilled. We for sure know that as certain as the previous prophecies were fulfilled the ones we are waiting for, shall be fulfilled.

We chose one of many researchers who compiled prophecies about the coming of the Messiah and who showed how these predictions came to pass. It might seem like too much information but for the serious student about the trustworthiness of God, **every fulfilment of a promise of God is a wonder. Only He, Who is in charge of the future, would have been able to make all these predictions come true.**

Let us now look at 44 prophecies, Jesus Christ, the Messiah, fulfilled. This information is available at: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk> compiled in 2014:

Fu. = Fulfilled.

1. *Prophecy: Messiah would be born of a woman. Gen.3:15.*

*Fulfilled: Matt.1:20 and Gal.4:4.*

2. *Pr. Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. Micah 5:2.*

*Fu. Matt. 2:1 and Luke 2: 4-6.*

3. *Messiah would be born by a virgin. Isaiah 7:14.*

*Fu. Matt.1: 22-23, Luke 1: 26-31.*

4. *Messiah will come from the line of Abraham. Gen.12:3, 22:18. Ful. Matt.1:1,*

*Rom.9:5*

5. *Messiah would be a descendant of Isaac. Gen.17:9, 21:12.*

*Fu. Luke 3:34.*

6. **Messiah will be a descendant of Jacob.** Num.24:17.  
*Fu. Matt.1:2*
7. **Messiah would come from the tribe of Juda.** Gen.49:10. *Fu. Luk.3:33, Heb. 7:14.*
8. **Messiah would be heir to King David`s throne.** 2 Sam.7:12-13, Isaiah 9:7.  
*Fu. Luke. 1:32-33, Romans 1:3.*
9. **Messiah`s throne will be anointed and eternal.** Ps.45:6-7, Dan. 2:44.  
*Fu. Luke 1:33, Hebr. 1:8-12.*
10. **Messiah would be called Immanuel.** Isaiah 7:14.  
*Fu Matt.1: 23.*
11. **Messiah would spend a season in Egypt.** Hosea 11: 1.  
*Fu. Matt 2: 14-15.*
12. **A massacre of children would happen at Messiah`s birthplace.** Jer.31:15.  
*Fu.Matt.2:16-18*
13. **A messenger would prepare the way for Messiah.** Isaiah 40:3-5.  
*Fu. Luke 3; 3-6.*
14. **Messiah would be rejected by His people.** Ps. 69:8, Isaiah 53:3  
*Fu. John 1:11, John 7:5.*
15. **Messiah would be a prophet.** Deut. 18:15.  
*Fu. Acts 3:20-22.*
16. **Messiah would be preceded by Elijah.** Malachi 4:5-6.  
*Fu. Matt. 11: 13-14.*
17. **Messiah would be declared the Son of God.** Ps.2:7.  
*Fu. Matt.3:16-17.*
18. **Messiah would be called a Nazarene.** Isaiah 11:1.  
*Fu. Matt.2:23.*

19. **Messiah would bring light to Galilee.** *Isaiah 9: 1-2.*  
*Fu.4: 13-16.*
20. **Messiah would speak in parables.** *Psalm 78: 2-4.*  
*Fu.Matt.13:10-15, 34-35.*
21. **Messiah would be sent to heal the broken-hearted.** *Isaiah 61:1-2.*  
*Fu. Luke 4:18-19.*
22. **Messiah would be a priest after the order of Melchizedek.** *Psalm 110:4. Fu. Hebr. 5: 5-6.*
23. **Messiah would be called King.** *Psalm 2:6, Zachariah 9:9.*  
*Fu. Matt. 27:37, Mark 11: 7-11.*
24. **Messiah would be praised by little children.** *Ps. 8:2.*  
*Fu.Matt.21:16.*
25. **Messiah would be betrayed.** *Psalm 41:9, Zachar. 11: 12-13.*  
*Fu. Luke 22: 47-48, Matt. 26:14-16.*
26. **Messiah`s price money would be used to buy a potter`s field.** *Zach.11:12.*  
*Fu.Matt.27: 9-10*
27. **Messiah would be falsely accused.** *Ps.35:11.*  
*Fu. Mark 14:57-58.*
28. **Messiah would be silent before His accusers.** *Isaiah 53:7.*  
*Ful. Mark 15:4-5.*
29. **Messiah would be spat upon and struck.** *Isaiah 50:6.*  
*Fu. Mat. 26:67.*
30. **Messiah would be hated without a cause.** *Psalm 35:19, Psalm69:4.*  
*Fu. John 15:24-25.*
31. **Messiah would be crucified with criminals.** *Isaiah 53:12.*

- Fu. Matt. 27:38, Mark 15:27-28.*
32. **Messiah would be given vinegar to drink.** *Psalm 69:21.*
- Fu. Matt. 27:34, John: 19:28-30*
33. **Messiah`s hands and feet would be pierced.** *Ps. 22:16, Zar.12:10.*
- Fu. John 20: 25-27.*
34. **Messiah would be mocked and ridiculed.** *Psalm22:7-8.*
- Fu. Luke, 23:35.*
35. **Soldiers would gamble for Messiah`s garment.** *Psalm 22:18.*
- Fu. Luke 23: 34, Matt. 27:35-36.*
36. **Messiah`s bones would not be broken.** *Ex.12:46, Ps.34:20.*
- Fu. John 19:33-36.*
37. **Messiah would be forsaken by God.** *Psalm 22: 1*
- Fu. Matt 27:46.*
38. **Messiah would pray for his enemies.** *Psalm 109:4.*
- Fu. Luke 23:34.*
39. **Soldiers would pierce Messiah`s side.** *Zach.12:10.*
- Ful. John. 19:34.*
40. **Messiah would be buried with the rich.** *Isaiah 53:9.*
- Ful. Matt. 27: 57-60.*
41. **Messiah would be resurrected from the dead.** *Ps.16:10, 49:15.*
- Matt. 28:2-7, Act. 2:22-32.*
42. **Messiah would ascent to heaven.** *Psalm 24: 7-10.*
- Fu. Mark 16:19, Luke 24: 51.*
43. **Messiah would be seated at God`s right hand.** *Ps.68:18,110: 1.*
- Fu. Mark 16:19, Matt.22:44.*

*44. Messiah would be a sacrifice for sin. Isaiah 53: 5-12.*

*Ful. Romans 5: 6-8.*

Our God is all-knowing, He is in control, His will is being done, He is above all, His will shall be done in future and He is trustworthy.

**We chose a few illustrations of what can be known of God in the Old Testament. This is only to whet the appetite of the reader to dig deeper and discover more about this Wonderful God we serve.**



## Chapter 19

### Crossing over from the old to the new

#### (Moving between the Old and New Testament)

##### *A Historical path from Bondage to Freedom*

In the beginning, Adam and Eve were placed by God into the Garden of Eden. The first people were perfectly created and they resided in a perfect place. They were unaware of sin and did not know anything about evil

God gave man instructions not to eat from the tree of Good and Evil lest they would die.

For some time everything went well and Adam and Eve obeyed God`s command. Satan, the angel who was thrown out of heaven because he challenged God`s Supremacy was not satisfied by this blissful state of affairs. He seduced Eve and Adam by letting them believe they can be a god unto themselves if they were willing to eat from the tree God forbade them.

The moment man succumbed to satan`s temptation, misleading and lies he fell into sin and their eyes opened to evil. They now knew they were naked. They experienced shame and fear and tried to hide from God. God chased a man and his wife out of the Garden of Eden.

Then sin quickly accumulated and soon Cain killed his brother Abel. Gradually man became more and more sinful until God decided to eliminate man from the earth. Noah and his family found favour with God and God decided to save them. He let Noah built a big ship, called the Ark to God`s dimensions and plans. For the next 100 years, Noah built this ark while he warned the people to convert themselves from sin. His warnings were in vain and God went through with His plan to eradicate man. For this purpose, God sent a big flood. Noah, his family and the animals God selected, were allowed into the arc. Thus they were saved from drowning. The Big Flood washed the earth clean from the sins man committed by killing all

the people who were responsible for the sins. Only Noah and his family survived the Big Flood.

But it was not long before mankind again buried themselves in sin. Their sins escalated to a point where they again challenged God by trying to build a tower higher than where they believed God resided. For their punishment, God dispersed man over the world by confusing their common language into many different languages.

Later one man found special favour with God. His name was Abram. He trusted God completely. God promised Abram that he will be the father of many nations. We now know Abram, whose name was changed to Abraham (father of many nations), became the father of all people that would trust in God for their salvation, regardless of their nationality.

After many years, more than 500 years, Abraham`s descendants increased from 70 when Abraham arrived in Egypt, to more than 3 million. At the end of Israel`s stay in Egypt, their status was reduced to slaves for the Egyptians. But God still had a plan for his people. He heard their cries because of their oppression and had compassion for them. After subjecting the Egyptians to several plagues and suffering God still had one plague left for Egypt, namely the death of the first born of the people and animals. God in His wisdom chose this plague for a very special reason. It had to go with the introduction of the Passover Feast for Israel. The Israelites had to prepare to leave Egypt by slaying a lamb and putting the blood of the slain lamb on the doorposts of their dwellings. When the angel of death came to a house and did not find the blood on the doorposts all first born were killed in that house. The blood of the lamb indemnified that house from the death of the firstborn. Those that believed and did as they were told were saved from the terrible calamity that befalls Egypt. After the death of the firstborn, the Pharaoh permitted Israel to go. On their way to their Promised Land, Israel crossed the Red Sea. God parted the sea and the Israelites went on dry ground through the

sea. When the Egyptians tried to follow suit because they realised the mistake they made by letting Israel go, they all drowned by God`s intervention when He let the sea close on them. Thus the Israelites were finally free from the slave drivers of Egypt.

On their way to the Promised Land, Israel came to Mount Sinai. Here God gave Israel the Ten Commandments to guide them. Later these 10 commandments were extended to over 500. These commandments taught Israel that they were sinners and that it was almost impossible to keep all God`s commandments. By knowing these commandments Israel knew they were forlorn and lost. Through the commandments, Israel was condemned. This fate of condemnation started in the Garden of Eden when man ate of the forbidden fruit of the tree of knowledge of evil. Man`s nature became corrupted and man couldn't live a sinless life. However, God gave them the hope of redemption in future by introducing the offers which got their meaning with the introduction of the Passover Feast. The offers on the altar had a very special meaning, in that it was pointing to the most significant occurrence that will ever happen to mankind namely the coming of Jesus, the Lamb of God, as an offering for the sins of man.

Israel took 40 years of wandering through the wilderness to reach the Promised Land, a journey that could have been completed in 14 days if they were willing to trust God to give them the Promised Land. Eventually, they crossed the Jordan River and entered the Promised Land.

Then there follows a history of Israel`s fortunes and misfortunes in the Promised Land. The history is marked by periods of prosperity, when Israel adhered to God`s guidance, followed by periods of misfortune when Israel chose to follow after the idols. During these times God even allowed Israel to be exiled to countries of their enemies.

All forms of governance over Israel failed. They were a stubborn nation. Israel rejected God as their Leader and insisted on a human king like the heathen nations around them had. The kings were introduced after the judges failed to govern Israel. Even the prophets God gave to help Israel had mixed successes. It might seem as if nothing worked out for Israel but our All-knowing God was busy bringing His plan for Israel's redemption into fulfilment.

On the appointed time, when God knew it was the best time, He sent His Son, our Jesus, to this earth. All the offerings, the Passover Feast, the going through the Red Sea, Israel's wandering through the wilderness, rejecting of God, the coming back to Him, Israel's despondency, their inability to keep God's law, everything suddenly started to make sense in the coming of Jesus to this earth as the Redeemer of Israel and all the blessed ones that will be saved, even sinners from the heathen nations.

Jesus was the One Offer Lamb, He is the One without sin, absolutely holy. He never broke any command, He was blameless. He alone could be good enough for God's requirements of a blameless, holy Lamb without any blemish.

At the age of 33, Jesus was offered on Golgotha for the sins of man. He was nailed to a cross. This cross was made of the wood of a tree. The thorns of a tree were used to make Him a crown, pressed onto His head. The crowds thought they were mocking Him by doing this but they did not realise they were fulfilling the prophecies made a thousand years before. Jesus bled, He sweat blood. He died with these words

*It is finished!*

After three days He came back to life, later ascended to heaven and is still seated next to God from where we expect to see Him coming back to earth soon.

He did not leave mankind as orphans but sent His Holy Ghost as Comforter, Helper and so strengthen mankind to help them until He returns for them again in future.

### *A Spiritual path from bondage to Freedom*

Adam and Eve lived in sinless holiness in the Garden of Eden before they ate from the Tree of Evil. They only knew God and all that is good. The tree of knowledge of goodness could teach them nothing about living a pure life. Adam and Eve knew God, the Best, the Holy, and the Personification of all that is good. They knew nothing about lusting, fear, coveting, being naked, hate and murder. They only knew God in His perfect sinless Being.

Man chose to disobey God and was thus introduced to a sinful life. This came to pass when they ate from the tree of knowledge of evil. The fruit of the forbidden tree looked so desirable, but the same fruit became the fruit of sin. Eve longed after the fruit and she received it and with it also condemnation and hell. To covet after the evil will in the future rule man`s life.

When mankind chose to disobey God, sin began to rule in their lives. They opened the book of knowledge of evil when they ate from the tree of all knowledge. Eve longed to be God`s equal, a lie told to her by satan. By knowing all about good and especially evil, she plunged future mankind into an abyss of lies that will rule natural man`s life for the next 6000 years, even unto the present time. The first results of falling into sin brought man knowledge about his nakedness which he tried to hide by taking leaves from a tree to cover him. Thus a product of a tree was man`s own selfish effort for a solution to his sin problem. Man`s own effort to cover his sin was not very successful. That which caused his downfall, the selfish effort to equal God by trying to know evil, now led to a manmade solution of trying to get out of his predicament by making himself clothes. The clothes he made were made from the leaves of a tree. This was a bad idea. Man used the very same thing that caused his downfall, to save him from the consequences of his selfish sins. He tried by his efforts to equal God by eating from the tree of knowledge of evil and then he tried to save himself by making his

clothes from leaves from a tree. In the future man will try by self-efforts to save himself from the consequences of sin he were responsible for. Man used the thing that caused his downfall, namely the quest for knowledge to equal God. Man would in the thousands of years to follow try to be his god and own saviour by increasing his knowledge, especially his knowledge of evil. In today`s technological age, where the internet opened the world`s knowledge to anyone who knows how to push a button, the knowledge of evil, of the worst kind, is available to anyone who is looking for knowledge of evil. So man is still not only eating from the tree of knowledge of the evil but he is also trying to save himself by increasing his knowledge by his efforts to save himself from the consequences of sin.

To further man`s folly his latest attempts to better God`s creation of man, are using transhumanism where technology is used to improve man`s capacity.

When Israel left Egypt, after a stay of 430 years, Passover was introduced. This feast was a Passover in the real sense of the word. The house which had the blood of the sacrificial lamb painted onto the doorposts would be passed over by the Angel of death. All those households who did not have the blood over the doorposts were destined to lose the firstborn, human and animal. Not even Pharaoh was exempt. The only qualification for Passover was the blood of the lamb. For Israel, the sacrificial lamb represented God`s Son, the Messiah, Who would set Israel in the future free from sin. Passover was introduced as a constant reminder of God`s mercy. God will show mercy to a sinner when the sinner accepts the Messiah`s offer as full payment for the sins he committed. The offering of animals could never completely compensate for the sins of man. It was a mere reminder of the perfect offer that one day would come with the coming of the Messiah, the Son of God. The Israelites in Egypt were slaves of the Egyptians. In the same way, they were slaves to sin, since the first sin was committed. Israel was saved from being slaves by the death of the firstborn in Egypt when Pharaoh set them free and allowed them to go to their promised land. In this case, Pharaoh

represented satan and the bondage he brought to man by enticing him to sin. This made man a slave to sin. During Passover, Israel was also saved and set free from slavery to sin by the blood of the Lamb, the Messiah that would come in future.

Water washes clean. Water can cleanse. The water of the Red sea served as a symbol of a cleansing agent. Going through the water of the Red sea was a baptism, a washing off of the slavery bondage of sin of Egypt. It was the stepping into redemption, the first steps into the Promised Land of freedom, also freedom of sin. Pharaoh with all his army represents satan and all his demons. They tried to follow Israel through the water of the Red sea but God closed the waters over them and they all perished. This indicates that when Jesus cleanses a sinner, satan has no more influence over him. The sinner is set free. As long as he follows Jesus he will remain free. Man did nothing to save himself. He only trusted God when God told him to go through the sea and man`s trust in what God promised him, saved him. The man was saved by what God did. Only his trust in God would in future save him and no effort on his own would contribute to his salvation.

To teach Israel about their own inability to save themselves by being good and keeping God`s laws, God gave them the Ten Commandments. Later these were expanded to over 500. The Law was mainly given to teach Israel about their inability to save themselves by keeping the law. To help the people with feelings of guilt they were given many ways to offer. The offer will serve to remind them that the Big Offering of God for their sins would come in the future. The offer usually was a lamb without blemish. The lamb was bled and then it was burned on a wood fire. Jesus would suffer the same fate. He would bleed on the cross and would suffer terrible thirst maybe because of burning fever to such an extent that he would cry out: *I am thirsty!*

The altar, used for the offering, before Christ was crucified, was constructed with wood, wood coming from a tree. The wood reminds us of the tree of knowledge of evil. The wood of the tree would burn to ash and in the process, the offering would be cremated. The offering pointed to what would happen later to Jesus on the cross at Calvary. The wood of the cross was like the wood of the offering. The wood of the offering was burnt up. The wooden cross had no more power over the sinner as Jesus was taken from the cross and it stood forlorn and empty on the hill with no further purpose. It was like wood burned to ash. Jesus took the power of the cross away when He died, was taken from the cross and came back to life. It stood forlorn on the hill at Calvary, without any power over Jesus. Thus the sacrifice of Jesus on the altar of wood on the hill at Calvary took the power of the knowledge of evil away for all who believe in Him, in the same way as the law lost its power over the sinner who came to God and accepted that Jesus paid for all his sins. As such the saved sinner lives under the grace of God because Jesus did everything to save him. His efforts could not save him. Only the blood of Jesus could save him. The sinner, saved, no longer believe satan, that man can be his god by knowing evil. One of the purposes of the redeemed child of God is to know as much as he can about God and not evil, as stated in Phil.4:8:

*For the rest brethren, whatever is true, whatever is worthy of reverence and is honourable and seemly, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely and lovable, whatever is kind and winsome and gracious, if there is any virtue and excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think on and weigh and take account of these things (fix your minds on them)*

This saving knowledge is to know the truth, the truth about God and His Son, our Redeemer. The quest to know evil was brought about by the lies of satan. The tree of the knowledge of evil is, after Jesus` death and resurrection, a forlorn and empty cross on a hill called



Golgotha. Knowledge of evil was defeated by the knowledge of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, what He did for our redemption and the acceptance of this new covenant by faith. Only the knowledge of the Tree of good, the cross of Jesus, can save us.

With the death of Jesus, He broke the power of the law that forbids man to eat the fruit of the tree of all knowledge. Jesus broke the power of the law over a man because He, the One without sin, Who never broke the law, submitted Himself to the will of God. He was punished as if He was the sinner, the worst sinner as if He broke the law. He acted as the replacement for a man who had to be punished for all the evil he did. Through this offering of the sinless Jesus, we were, by His replacement for us, declared sinless as if we did not break any law. Thus, in Jesus, when we believe Him and accept what He did for us, we are declared without sinless as if we did not break any law. God, when he looks at us as Christians, looks at us through Jesus. He sees Jesus`s redemptive offering on the cross in our place. Because He is a just and fair God, He will not punish us again for something His Son had already been punished for.

***Praise You, Lord!***

Paul reminds us about the dangers of the Law for the newborn child of God when he says the following: (2 Cor. 3:14-17)

*Their minds were grown hard and calloused (they had become dull and had lost the power of understanding); for until this present day, when the Old Testament (the old covenant) is being read, the same veil still lies on their hearts, not being lifted to reveal that in Christ it is made void and done away*

*But when a person turns in repentance to the Lord, the veil is stripped off and taken away.*

*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty,  
emancipation from bondage, freedom.*

The dangers of the knowledge of the evil increase by the knowledge of the law. The law serves one big purpose; it reminds us of our punishment for breaking the law. It also reminds us of our inability to save ourselves by keeping the law. The knowledge of sin opens our eyes to the urgent need for repentance, pointing to the Only One who in our place was punished for the sin we committed. Only by trusting in Jesus and what He did, we shall be saved, not by keeping God`s law.

Satan is not giving up easily on our souls. As he did in the Garden of Eden, when he deceived Adam and Eve by pointing to the merits of knowing about evil, he is today trying to keep us busy with petty questions about what sin is and what sin is not. The dangers of the influence of the old sinful nature of man are evident in the preference man shows for knowledge of evil. Just look at the massive influence of the filth the modern media is pumping into the world and the eager way in which this filth is being assimilated by man.

We now completed the bridging of the old to the new, the old covenant to the new covenant, the Spiritual path from bondage to freedom. In the previous chapters, we concentrated mainly on God **the Father** as we got to know Him better in the Old Testament. In the next part of the book, we will concentrate on **God`s Son, our Jesus Christ**, God in human form. The last part of the book will be spent on **God, the Holy Spirit**, God, living in us.

## ***Part 2: Jesus***

### **Chapter 20**

#### **Knowing Jesus, Son of God**

##### **(God living in human form amongst us)**

The Name Jesus, coming from the Hebrew *Joshuah*, means *Saviour, Redeemer and the One Who lets us prosper*. Jesus is all of this to us, and much more. As with God, in the Old Testament, we will try to know Jesus better by emphasizing some aspects of our Jesus, revealed to us in the New Testament. In the Old Testament God, as Holy Father was revealed to us as God, so holy, no man could live after seeing Him eye to eye. In the New Testament God is revealing Himself to us in the form of Jesus, fully God but also human. Thus we could identify with Him, listen to Him, learn to trust Him and accept Him as our Saviour

We know Jesus is the Son of God. To help us identify with Jesus as a human person God gave us the genealogy of Jesus through human ancestors. Some of Jesus`s ancestors were: *David, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Boas, Solomon, Hezekiah and Joseph*, the earthly father of Jesus although not Jesus`s biological father. Mary, Jesus`s mother fell pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. All the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen, from David to the Babylonian exile fourteen generations, from the Babylonian exile to the Christ fourteen generations. The holiness of genealogy in the birth of Jesus is evident, even the numerology found in these numbers with the emphasis on 3 and 7. These numbers are closely associated with God.

*Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place under these circumstances: When His mother, Mary had been promised in marriage to Joseph before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit (Matt.1:18)*

Never before had a virgin`s hymen been torn from inside. Only the Holy Son of Jesus had this privilege to open his mother`s hymen from the inside without her having had intercourse before.

In Matthew 1: 22 we find these words regarding the birth of Jesus:

*All this took place that it might be fulfilled which the Lord had spoken through the prophet, behold the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a Son, and they shall call His Name Emmanuel- which translated means God with us. (Predicted by Isaiah, in Isaiah 7:14, 700 years previously)*

### **Marriage in the time of Jesus**

Marriage plays an important part in the early history of Jesus. To know Jesus, the Son of God, better, it is necessary to take a closer look at the marriage customs in the time Jesus lived.

Most of the time He taught in Galilee, Jesus lived in Galilee. Most of His disciples came from Galilee, many of His sermons used the customs of the people of Galilee as background and context for His sermons. Therefore it was no exception when He used the marriage and marriage customs of His day in Galilee to explain the role of God the Father and God the Son, our Jesus. With this explanation, Jesus also explained the role of the converted Christian and their relationship to God. The very important teaching of the rapture is also included in His use of the marriage to explain kingdom principles. Now let us look at the typical marriage and customs in this regard in the time of Jesus found in Matt.22:2, Matt.25:1 and Luke 12:35,36, Rev. 19:7 and the book of Dr Hennie Prinsloo: *Die Boek Openbaring* p,102, and what we know of customs in traditional marriage recorded in other resources. It is recommended that the reader read the indicated passages about marriage customs. We will

indicate an analogy between God and His Son and the customs of the wedding especially in the light of getting to know Jesus better.

1. The return of Christ in the New Testament must be read against the background of Jewish marriage customs in Galilea in the time of Jesus.
2. Jesus, our heavenly Bridegroom, came to earth to pay the price for His bride just as the custom was when the bridegroom proposed to the bride with the following three things at hand: Money to pay to the father of the bride and for the necessary expenses of the bride in her preparation for the wedding. It also served as security for the bride to be. He also took a marriage contract with him and wine to seal the deal. (1 Peter 1:18). The marriage contract of Jesus to His bride, His elected, to go with Him to heaven, was sealed by His blood, represented by the wine of the actual wedding. What could have motivated Jesus to do something like that? Surely it must have been love, love for the lost world and love for His Father.
3. Like the bridegroom returning to the house of the father after he proposed to his bride, Jesus returned to the house of the Father in heaven after his resurrection to prepare a place for his selected people. From here He would return for His bride one day. We believe His coming is near as everything He predicted to happen before His coming back is being fulfilled in the time we are living now.
4. As there was a time of separation after the marriage contract was affirmed by the drinking of the wine as the acceptance of the contract by both parties, Jesus departed to heaven with His bride to be, staying on the earth. Jesus went to heaven to prepare a place for His bride and the bride on earth had to prepare for the coming back of her husband to be, by getting everything ready e.g. making her wedding gown. She made her wedding gown herself. No one will enter heaven without the proper clothing, fitting for the marriage feast in heaven. We know from Revelation 19 that this

wedding gown will be the good deeds of the people going to heaven with Jesus. The process of separation and preparation for the wedding has been going on for more than 2000 years and is about to end.

5. One of these days the trumpet will sound as it was with the traditional wedding, indicating that the bridegroom is coming for his bride to carry her away to the father's house. The following verses in 1Thess.4:16 and 17 give an account of what will happen:

*For the Lord, Himself will descend from heaven with a loud cry of summons, with the shout of an archangel, and with the blast of the trumpet of God. And those who have departed this life in Christ will rise first.*

*Then we, the living ones who remain on the earth, shall simultaneously be **caught up** along with the resurrected dead in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so always through the eternity of the eternities, we shall be with the Lord.*

The words *caught up* is another way of saying raptured. The rapture is imminent and the children of God is looking forward to this important event.

6. As was the custom with the traditional wedding when the wedding was celebrated in the house of the father of the bridegroom, it will be with the coming of Jesus for His bride. There will be a big wedding feast in heaven when the bride and bridegroom arrives.
7. At the traditional wedding, the bride remained hidden for seven days in the bride chamber before the wedding guests could see her. In the same way, the bride of Christ, the church, will remain hidden for seven years from the earth while satan will have a field day misleading the people on earth and let them suffer immense sorrows.
8. After seven days the bridegroom with his bride came out of the wedding chamber and the bridegroom showed his bride to the guests. In the same way, Christ will, after

seven years, during the second phase of His returning to earth, come with His wife, His bride so that all can see her. An account of this mighty occurrence can be found in Col.3:4:

*When Christ, who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in the splendour of His glory.*

### **Commentary**

Jesus usually taught through parables. The uniqueness of the comparison of Jesus and his coming back to earth to fetch His church, with a traditional Jewish wedding, lies in the fact that this is a parable but not a story. It was a real-life event, one, the people hearing were quite familiar with. They could easily identify with what Jesus told them about His coming again because they were part of the living parable and could recognise themselves in this story.

People listening to this comparison Jesus was making must surely be amazed by the **uniqueness** of the bridegroom, the **love** for the bride, the **price he paid** for his bride, the **efforts** he put into place to ensure everything was ready for his bride, his **willingness to wait** on His father for the right moment to fetch his bride, the pureness of the bride, the **love** bestowed upon the bride, the **loving-kindness** they could expect from this Bridegroom, their Jesus, as they discovered Him in this story.

It is not difficult to learn from this narrative that our Jesus is amongst many other things:

**\*Unique**

**\*Loving**

**\*That He paid a very high price for our salvation**

**\*He put a lot of effort into preparing a place for us in heaven**

**\*He is waiting for us now for 2000 years to prepare our wedding gowns. He created everything on earth in 6 days. So it is fair to believe the building of a single home for Him and his bride is by now long completed. He is in his loving-kindness giving us time to do our part before He comes back for us.**

**\*He is so dependable and He will come back.**

**\* The Father, our God is pleased with His son and God is waiting for us with His Son so that the wedding feast in heaven may begin.**



## **Chapter 21**

### **Jesus in the Book of Hebrews**

The narrative of Jesus living on this earth and especially the last 3 years before He was crucified is of utmost importance. When the Bible repeats something it is an indication that the incident or word spoken had a special meaning. At the beginning of the New Testament, the account of Jesus is repeated 4 times, by 4 different writers. The 4 repetitions recorded in the Bible is an indication that this part of the Bible is double, double important and that the reader must take special notice of this account. It is therefore important to read one of these accounts personally, study it and make it your own. Four different people wrote these accounts. Their personalities differed. They wrote in different styles and their accounts will speak to different people in different ways. When you start reading these accounts you will find that you favour one or more of these accounts. It will be the one that is better suited to your personality. Not only your personality will determine your preference but your circumstances will also play a role. As you develop as a Christian you will find that at different stages of your life different accounts will speak more directly to your spiritual needs. God in His wisdom wanted to make certain that every one of us will have a chance to know His Son through these four accounts. The best way to get to know Jesus is to start reading the accounts of Jesus, written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These are the most fascinating accounts of what any person did on this earth in 3 years. Only Jesus, the son of God, could do it.

We will need an eternity to know God. He knows our mental restrictions and helped us in this regard. Everyone can know enough about God, His Son and the Holy Spirit to get saved, to get free from the bondage of sin. The good news about Jesus, as our Redeemer, can be summed up in a few easily understandable words. If you remain open, and teachable, longing

to know more about Jesus, I am sure God will speak the words, specially created for your redemption, to you. It is the wish of our loving Father that all of mankind must come to the knowledge of Him and faith in Him.

It is almost impossible to highlight the essential facts about Jesus and what He did and said in a small narrative as this book. We will follow a guideline given to us by the writer of the Letter of Hebrews. He mentions numerous facts about Jesus, which he deemed necessary for the reader to know. We will in the framework of these highlights, offered by Hebrews, expand our knowledge of Jesus, Son of God. Some of the aspects of Jesus covered by the Book of Hebrews are the following:

1. Jesus reveals God to us.
2. Jesus is elevated above the angels and prophets.
3. Jesus is the real High priest.
4. Jesus is the Mediator between God and man.
5. Jesus was the sufficient offering.
6. Jesus may be trusted
7. The Christian way of life must be patterned according to the example Jesus set for us.
8. And many more

Let us now take a closer look at what can be known of Jesus by studying the book of Hebrews.

## Chapter 22

### Jesus Christ the final revelation of God

In the first 2 chapters of the Book of Hebrews, 31 critical important facts about Jesus is mentioned. Let us try and list them all.

1. God is speaking in these latter days to us through His Son (Hebr. 1:2).
2. God made Him whom He chose to create all, also heir and owner of all things (1:2).
3. God created the world and even the celestial bodies through His Son. He also created time through Jesus (1:2).
4. Jesus is the sole expression of the glory of God (1:3).
5. Jesus is the perfect imprint or counterpart of God`s nature,
6. upholding, and maintaining and guiding and propelling the universe by His mighty word of power (1:3).
7. Jesus offered Himself and thus cleansed us of all our sins and guilt (1:3).
8. He is seated at the right hand of God (1:3).
9. He is superior to angels (1:4).
10. God said of Jesus: *You are My Son (1:5)*.
11. God demanded the angels to worship Jesus (1:6).
12. God said of His Son, Jesus: *Your throne is forever (1:8), Your sceptre is absolute righteousness (1:8), You have loved righteousness (1:9), You have delighted in integrity, virtue and uprightness, You have hated lawlessness (1:9), you laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning and the heavens are the work of Your hands (1:10), You remain the same and Your years will never end nor come to failure (1:12), sit at My right hand till I make your enemies a stool for Your feet (1:13)*.
13. Jesus is offering us salvation (2:3).

14. The signs and wonders Jesus did confirm that Jesus is God`s Son (2:4).
15. Through Jesus, God imparted the gifts of the Holy Spirit to believers (2:4).
16. Jesus is mindful of His children and cares about them, visits them and look after them (2:6).
17. Jesus crowned his children with honour and glory (2:7).
18. He appointed His children to look after His creation (2:7).
19. Jesus left nothing outside of man`s control (2:8).
20. A man at present is not seeing everything subjected to his control but he can see Jesus (2:9).
21. Jesus is crowned with honour and glory because He suffered death so that by the grace of God to us sinners He might experience death for every person (2:9).
22. Jesus sanctifies men and makes them His brothers (2:11).
23. Jesus declares God`s Name to His brethren (2:12).
24. Jesus sings praise to God (2:12).
25. Jesus shares a physical nature like the people He came to save (2:14).
26. Jesus conquered satan (2:14).
27. Jesus delivered and completely set us, who feared death, free (2:15).
28. Jesus is our merciful and faithful High Priest (2:17).
29. He makes atonement and propitiation for the people`s sins (2:17).
30. Jesus was tested and tried on our behalf (2:18),
31. Jesus runs to assist us when we are tested and tried (2:18).

**Praise You, Jesus.**

In the preceding text, 31 points about our Jesus were raised. Each one of them is in itself a wonder of God. To get to know Jesus it is necessary to contemplate each one. The 31 points suggest that we might make one our own each day of a month.

## Chapter 23

### Jesus our High Priest

Very few people do not battle to understand the part about Jesus being the High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek as found in the Book of Hebrews from chapters 4 to 8. Even the writer, most probably Paul, admitted that some of the things he is explaining are hard to understand (Hebr.5:11). The depth of what is to know about Jesus in this regard is so compelling that it hardly can be ignored. The writer is thus going to try to explain some of the truths about Jesus out of this part of the Bible.

#### The High Priest in the Old Testament

The writer of Hebrews explains the role of the High Priest in the Old Testament in Hebrew 5: 1-4:

*For every high priest is **chosen from among men** is appointed to act on behalf of **men** in things relating to God, to offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.*

*He can exercise gentleness and forbearance toward the ignorant and erring since he also is liable to moral weakness and physical infirmity.*

*And because of this, he is obliged to offer sacrifices for his sins as well as for those of the people.*

*Besides, one does not appropriate for himself the honour of being a high priest, but he is called by God and receives it of Him.*

Some of the attributes of the human high priest are highlighted.

In Hebrews 3 it is explained that Jesus is our High Priest. He differs from the human high priest and is also similar to our human high priest. Let us look at some of the differences and some of the similarities between the two high priests.

**Similarities:**

1. Both had empathy with our human infirmities because both went through the trials of human existence.
2. Both were tempted by sin.
3. Both were called by God and did not appoint themselves.
4. Both called out to God, Who could save them from death.
5. Both person`s prayers were heard by God.

**Differences:**

1. The human high priest sinned. Jesus never sinned.
2. Of Jesus God said: *You are My Son*. This was never said about n human high priest.
3. Jesus as High Priest paid in full for the sins of mankind with His blood. The high priest offered the blood of animals as an incomplete offer pointing to the offer Jesus would eventually bring for sin.
4. Jesus was the offer for sin. The human high priest was a sinner.
5. Jesus did not have to bring an offer for His sins while the high priest had to.
6. Jesus was the High Priest forever, forever interceding for the sinner with the wages of His offering on the cross. Never could an earthly high priest come near such an offering.
7. Jesus was the High Priest according to the order of Melchizedec. The human high priest could never be it.

## **The order of Melchizedec**

Melchizedec means *king of justice* and *king of Salem* (Jerusalem), or *king of peace*. When it is mentioned in the Book of Hebrews that Jesus was of a higher order, the order of Melchizedec may be understood by considering the following about Melchizedec:

No mention is made of Melchizedec`s father or mother. He was above human beings.

Abraham offered a tenth of the spoil of war to Melchizedec even before tithes were introduced. This was voluntarily done because of the high standing of Melchizedec.

Melchizedec blessed Abraham. The person of higher standing always blessed the one of lower standing. So Abraham was of lower standing than Melchizedec. In Abraham was the seed, the genes, out of which many years later Aaron, the first high priest would be born. So, in a certain sense the high priest, latent in Abraham to be born long after Abraham died, was blessed by the higher standing and order of Melchizedec. Melchizedec indirectly blessed Aaron a high priest of lower standing. In this sense Melchizedec was the king of justice and the king of peace as our Jesus, our High Priest would be. So it is not hard to understand the fact that Jesus was of a higher order, the order of Melchizedec.



## Chapter 24

### Christ the Mediator: The new Covenant

#### What is a mediator?

According to the Oxford Dictionary, *a mediator is a go-between or peacemaker.*

If we say Jesus is our Mediator we must have an idea for whom He is *a go-between* or for which parties He is a *peacemaker*

In the case of Jesus, He is the Mediator between God and man. He is the One bringing peace between God, the total sinless, and man, the completely total sinful.

To be this Mediator, Jesus had to be in a special position between God and man. His position is aptly described in Hebrews 8: 1:

*Now the main point of what we have to say is this: We have such a High Priest, One Who is seated at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven, as officiating Priest, a Minister in the holy places and in the true tabernacle which is erected not by man but by the Lord*

#### What must Jesus as Mediator mediate?

Man in his initial state was sinless during his stay in the Garden of Eden before he fell into sin. He had a perfect relationship with God. After man sinned he lost this special relationship with God. There was now a big divide between God and man. Sin took man further and further away from God. God stayed holy and sinless whilst man fell further and further into sin creating a bigger and bigger divide between himself and God. God needed someone to punish for the wrong man was committing as a man already was condemned to death and hell

for the sin he did. The Person, the only person who could take the punishment of sin onto Himself was Jesus because He was sinless and holy just as His Father, God. We know Jesus came for this purpose to earth as a man like us but sinless because He also was God. He was the only one good enough for God as a perfect offer for the sin of man. Jesus eventually suffered the sinner`s death, with horrible consequences for Himself; rusted nails hammered through His hands and feet, a thorn crown hammered onto His head, spit of the soldiers drooping from His face, a back shred to pieces by the whipping, hanging naked next to a highway on a cross, humiliated, rejected by his friends and family and fellow Jews, suffering the highest form of injustice as innocent suffering for the guilty, the terrible thirst, the loneliness of even His Father God Who turned His back on His Son.

### **The offering for your sins and mine!**

He was the offering in our place, so that we, the guilty, could be treated by God as if we never had sinned. Thus Jesus earned the place of Mediator. Whenever satan accused us before God, Jesus our Defender, our substitute offer for sins, can plead on our behalf with God showing His hands and feet and the wound in His side where the Roman soldier`s sword pierced His body. So his enemies made double sure He was dead, Yes, He paid the full ransom for our relief from hell. How much He and His Father love us! One feels like putting a big sign on your forehead with the words:

### **REDEEMED**

by our Mediator, who is pleading for us because He paid the full penalty in our place for our sins.

He is mediating between us the sinners and God the sinless Father. We have nothing to bring to the negotiating table, we have no merits to offer on our behalf; even our best deeds are like

filthy rags before God. Our only hope is in what our Mediator, Jesus, did for our salvation and acquittal as He pleads for us.

The background to the history of how Jesus became our Mediator is the story of the Bible. The Book of Hebrews gives an in-depth summary of the process by referring to the Old and New Covenant. Let us stick for a while with these and see what the role of our Mediator was in this regard.

According to the old Covenant given by God to Moses with the leading of Israel out of the slavery of Egypt and later with the Ten Commandments, God would bless Israel if they kept His commandments and remembered the Passover Feast, and He would reject them if they did not keep His Law and trusted Him as their Saviour and God. Because of man`s inability to keep the law God instituted the offerings. The high priest was to bring an offering in the temple for his sins as well as the sins of the people. This ritual served as a *pattern and foreshadowing of what has its true existence and reality in the heavenly sanctuary Hebrews 8:5.*

Moses had to erect a tabernacle on earth according to the model God showed him of the heavenly tabernacle. In this tabernacle, the high priest had to perform certain actions to bring an offering of animals and animal blood for the cleansing of the people from sin. This offering was insufficient as it was only a model, a foreshadowing of what was to come.

Chapter 8:6 explains the role Jesus, our Mediator, played in this regard:

*As it now is, He, Christ as acquired a priestly ministry which is as much superior and more excellent than the old as the covenant, the agreement of which He is the Mediator, the Arbiter, The Agent, is superior and more excellent because it is enacted and rests upon more important, sublime, higher and nobler promises.*

Without deviating too much from our purpose to get to know Jesus better we at this point must explore the covenants referred to so much.

There are many covenants mentioned in the Bible. A covenant is a contract as we would understand it. It is a contract between God and His people.

*Each covenant establishes the basis of a relationship, conditions for that relationship, promises and conditions of the relationship and consequences if those conditions were unmet (Grand Canyon University: Theology Thursday: Google Search) What are the Biblical Covenants?), as the marriage contract for us.*

*Most theologians agree on five main covenants in the Bible. These Covenants are the following:*

1. *The Noahic Covenant ( Gen. 9)*

*In this covenant God resets and renews the blessings of creation, reaffirming God's image in humanity. This covenant promises the preservation of humanity and provides for the restraint of human evil and violence.*

2. *The Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 12 and 15)*

*This is the most central to the biblical story. In it, God promises Abraham a land, descendants and blessing. It is extended through him to all the people of the earth. In this covenant, we find among others references to the Promised Land, the People of God and inheritance.*

3. *The Mosaic Covenant (Ex.19 and 24)*

*With this God supplies the Law meant to govern the people and shape them for the Promised Land. The covenant was conditional and defined blessings and curses based on obedience and disobedience. The teachings of the Bible regarding law and grace found a foundation in this covenant.*

4. *The Davidic Covenant (2 Sam.7)*

*This is the covenant where God promises a descendant of David to reign on the throne over the people of God. It is a continuation of earlier covenants in that it promises a Davidic King as the figure through whom God would secure the promises of land, descendants and blessing. This covenant becomes the basis for the hope of a Messiah and makes sense of the Gospel's concern to show Jesus was the rightful King of the Jews.*

5. *The New Covenant (Jer.31:31 and Luke 22:14)*

*It covers the rescue and renewal of the exiled people of God in Babylon. It promises a coming day when God would make a new covenant, unlike the one which Israel had broken. The coming day would bring forgiveness of sin, internal renewal of the heart, and intimate knowledge of God. On the night of Jesus's Last Supper, Jesus takes the cup and declares that His death would be the inauguration of this new covenant. (Grand Canyon University: Theology Thursday, Google Search).*

The five covenants provide the framework for the whole Bible. The Old Testament covenants establish promises to look forward to for fulfilment. **Much of the New Testament is concerned to show Jesus Christ fulfils these covenant promises and what life should look like for a people living in the New Covenant inaugurated by His death and resurrection.**

## Chapter 25

### Jesus, the Law, the Grace and Baptism

For this chapter, we are, for the time, moving away from the Book of Hebrews and will concentrate on Romans 6.

Somebody told me he was a member of a traditional church and during a sermon, the preacher read Romans 6. Now this person was baptized as a baby by the sprinkling of water on his forehead. During the sermon on Romans 6, he said one realization stayed with him namely that these things Paul was talking about, happening during baptism, could not happen to a baby. He realized that he would like to be baptized as an adult which he eventually did. Since his new baptism, he experienced peace and understood the Bible much better.

For many people, Rom.6: 3 to 14 is one of the most inspiring, most hopeful, the most beautiful verses in the Bible. In the centre of these verses, you will find Jesus. I pray that the Holy Spirit will lift your spirit to become one with Him and that you will stay in this unity forever. These verses in Romans 6 are so inspiring, the message is so pure, the thought so holy, one is reluctant to give commentary or interpretation. Therefore the whole piece will be duplicated here as it is recorded in the Amplified Bible:

3. *Are you ignorant of the fact that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?*
4. *We were buried therefore with Him by the baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, so we too might habitually live and behave in newness of life*
5. *For if we have become one with Him by sharing a death like His, we shall also be one with Him in sharing His resurrection by a new life lived for God.*

6. *We know that our old unrenewed self was nailed to the cross with Him so that our body which is the instrument of sin might be made ineffective and inactive for evil, that we might no longer be the slaves of sin.*
7. *For when a man dies, he is freed, loosed, delivered from the power of sin among men.*
8. *Now if we have died with Christ we believe that we shall also live with Him.*
9. *Because we know that Christ, the Anointed One, being once raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has power over Him.*
10. *For by the death He died, He died to sin, ending His relation to it, once for all: and the life that He lives, He is living to God, in unbroken fellowship with Him.*
11. *Even so consider yourselves also dead to sin and your relation to it broken, but alive to God, living in unbroken fellowship with Him in Christ Jesus.*
12. *Let not sin therefore rule as king in your mortal, short-lived, perishable bodies, to make you yield to its cravings and be subject to its lusts and evil passions.*
13. *Do not continue offering you or yielding your bodily members and faculties to sin as instruments, tools of wickedness. But offer and yield yourselves to God as though you have been raised from the dead to perpetual life, and your bodily members and faculties to God, presenting them as implements of righteousness.*
14. *For sin shall not any longer exert dominion over you, since now you are not under Law, as slaves, but under grace, as subjects of God`s grace and mercy.*

After this friend of mine went through the water of baptism he understood the baptism to mean the following:

*Jesus said that you can only become His follower if you are willingly crucifying yourself, taking up your cross and follow after Him. This also means following after Him through the water of Baptism. Being submerged under the water it is impossible*

*to breathe. This equals death to the old sinful man. Under the water you are fully washed, all the sins and longings after sin die with the old man under the water. You become one with Jesus in His death on the cross.*

*When you come out of the water you take a deep breath, a breath of life as God blew life-giving breath into the first man, Adam. The difference is that this breath, the newly baptized receives, is an everlasting breath of life because the newly baptized receives the Holy Spirit in God's breath of life. He now becomes one with Jesus in His resurrection when He came back to life. The old man with His old nature died under the baptismal water and the newly born man came to life when he breathed the new life of God in his unison through trusting in Jesus.*

## **The Promises of Jesus**

Jesus cannot lie. What He says is true and is highly dependable. We can learn about what important is for Jesus by looking at the promises He made in the Bible. Thus, we can get to know the heart of Jesus, what He wants for us, how to get it and how we can honour Him by doing His will. For this Chapter, we chose to use the Book of Luke. Not all the promises will be covered but those selected by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. My prayer is that you will also be inspired by one or more of these promises.

## **Promises about Jesus according to Luke**

Before the birth of Jesus, promises were made about the coming of the Messiah, Jesus. In this regard, John the Baptist played an important role. Of John, the following was predicted:

*And he (John) will himself go before Him (Jesus) in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn back the hearts of the fathers to the children and the incredulous and unpersuadable to the wisdom and the upright which is the knowledge and holy love of*



*the will of God- to make ready for the Lord a people perfectly prepared in spirit, adjusted and disposed and placed in the right moral state (Luke 1:17).*

To Mary, the mother of Jesus, the following promise was given:

*And the angel said to her, Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found grace, free spontaneous, absolute favour and loving-kindness with God. And listen! You will become pregnant and will give birth to a Son, and you shall call His Name Jesus (1:20).*

Joseph, Mary`s husband to be, was not the biological father of Jesus. Jesus was conceived through to working of the Holy Spirit. In this regard we find the promise of God regarding His Son:

*Then the angel said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you like a shining cloud; and so the holy pure sinless Thing (offspring) which shall be born of you will be called the Son of God ( Luke 1:35).*

The father of John, Zachariah, sang a song to the honour of God when he made inter alia, a prophetic announcement regarding Jesus in the following words:

*And He has raised a Horn of salvation, a mighty and valiant Helper, the Author of salvation, for us in the house of David, His servant-This is as He promised by the mouth of His holy prophets from the most ancient of times in the memory of man. That we should have deliverance and be saved ..... (Luke 1:69)*

To the shepherds near Bethlehem the following promise was made regarding Jesus:

*For to you is born this day in the town of David a Saviour, Who is the Christ, the Messiah, the Lord! (Luke 2:11).*

An old, God-fearing man, Simeon, was waiting for a promise to be fulfilled that he will see the Messiah before he died. On the day the offering for the new Baby was brought to the temple, Simeon took the young Jesus in his arms and said:

*And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, Behold this Child is appointed and destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against. And a sword will pierce through your soul also so that the secret thoughts and purposes of many hearts may be brought out and disclosed (Luke 2:34).*

An old prophetess, Anna, also, on the same occasion, promised that the baby Jesus would redeem and deliver Jerusalem (Luke 2:38).

### **Promises made by Jesus**

Some of the promises made by Jesus, as recorded by Luke, are the following:

When Jesus took the scroll of Isaiah while He was preaching in Nazareth, where he grew up, he read the following predicted about Him 600 years previously:

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me because He has anointed Me, the Anointed One, the Messiah to preach the good news, the Gospel, to the poor. He has sent Me to announce the release of the captives and recovery of sight of the blind, to send forth as delivered those who are oppressed, who are downtrodden, bruised, crushed and broken down by calamity ( Luke 4:18).*

Jesus promised to Peter, when He called Peter as a disciple, the following:

*Have no fear; from now on you will be catching men (instead of fish) (Luke 5:10).*

This promise is for every believer who wishes to appropriate this promise for him- or herself.

In Luke 5:24 Jesus made the promise to show the people that He has the power to forgive sins. He said at this occasion:

*But that you may know that the Son of Man has the power of authority and right on earth to forgive sins, He said to the paralyzed man, I say to you arise, pick up your stretcher and go to your own house!*

Even today the miracle Jesus did may remind us of the miracles performed in our own lives daily by Jesus if we will only let Him.

Jesus made a promise about the lives of His followers on earth after He ascended to heaven:

*Can you make the wedding guests fast as long as the Bridegroom is with them? But the days will come when the Bridegroom will be taken away from them and then they will fast in those days (Luke 5:34)*

Jesus had a special promise for the destitute, the poor and the needy in Luke 6:20:

*Blessed, happy-with life –joy and satisfaction in God`s favour and salvation, apart from outward condition- and to be envied, are you poor and lowly and afflicted, destitute of wealth, influence, position and honour, for the kingdom of God is yours!*

In Luke. 6:35 Jesus made a promise to people who are willing to forgive other people who wronged them:

*But love your enemies and be kind and good so that someone derives benefit from them and lend, expecting and hoping for nothing in return but considering nothing as lost and despairing of no one; and then your compense, your reward will be great and you will be sons of the Most High,*

*for He is kind and charitable and good to the ungrateful and the selfish and wicked.*

Jesus made a promise to those people who were willing to listen to Him but He also gave warnings to those who were not willing to listen and obey Him:

*Be careful therefore how you listen. For to him who has spiritual knowledge will more be given; and he who does not have spiritual knowledge, even what he thinks and guesses and suppose that he has will be taken away (Luke 8:18).*

The way you follow Jesus will determine what your life will be like. Jesus promises the following in Luke 9: 23:

*And He said to all, If any person wills to come after Me, let him deny himself, disown himself, forget, lose sight of himself and his interests, refuse, give and give up on himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me, cleave steadfastly to Me, conform wholly to My example in living, and if need be, in dying also.*

*Whoever would preserve his life and save it will lose and destroy it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he will preserve and save it from the penalty of death.*

Never be ashamed of Jesus. Listen to what He promises in this regard:

*Whoever is ashamed of Me and My teachings, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in the glory of Himself and the Father and the holy angels (Luke 9:26).*

Jesus promises good things to those who are willing to ask Him for them. We find these promises in Luke 11:9:

*So I say unto you, Ask and keep on asking and it shall be given to you; seek and keep on seeking and you shall find; knock and keep on knocking and the door shall be opened to you.*

In Luke 12:2 Jesus promises become warnings:

*Be on your guard against the leaven, ferment, of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy, producing unrest and violent agitation.*

*Nothing is so closely covered up that it will not be revealed, or hidden that it will not be known*

*Whatever you have spoken in the darkness shall be heard and listened to in the light, and what you have whispered in people`s ears and behind closed doors will be proclaimed upon the housetops.*

In Luke 12:29 Jesus made promises regarding the things we need every day :

*Only aim at and strive for and seek His kingdom and all these things, (food and clothing) shall be supplied to you also.*

The promise of Jesus regarding our responsibilities to handle respectfully what He gives us is recorded in Luke 12:48:

*For everyone to whom much is given, of him shall much be required; and of him to whom men entrust much, they will require and demand all the more.*

Jesus promised that the life of a Christian will not always be plain sailing:

*Strive to enter by the narrow door, force yourself through it, for many, I tell you will try to enter and will not be able (Luke 13:24).*

In Luke 14:11 Jesus made a promise to the humble person:

*For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, ranked below others who are honoured and rewarded, and he who humbles himself keeps a modest opinion of himself and behaves accordingly, will be exalted, elevated in rank.*

Regarding the coming rapture of all persons expecting Jesus to return to take them with Him to heaven, Jesus has the following promise Luke 17:34:

*I tell you in that night there will be two men in one bed; one will be taken and the other will be left.*

*There will be two women grinding together; one will be taken and one will be left.*

*Two men will be in the field, one will be taken and the other will be left.*

If you are poor and suffer to get through each month, Jesus has a special promise for you in Luke 18: 24:

*How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to enter through a needle`s eye than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.*

Just to help the rich folk Jesus replied to His disciples, on their question on how men can be saved, the following:

*What is impossible with man is possible with God.*

Jesus made a promise about Jerusalem which was fulfilled 37 years after He made it in Luke 19:43:

*For a time is coming upon you when your enemies will throw up a bank with pointed stakes about you and surround you and shut you in on every side.*

*And they will dash you down to the ground, you, Jerusalem, and your children within you; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another .....*

This is one promise already fulfilled to the letter in 70 AD. Let it serve as a warning to us that all the other promises are also to be fulfilled to the letter.

In Luke 22: 28 there is a special promise for those people who remain faithful to Jesus:

*And you are those who remained throughout and persevered with Me in My trials;  
And as My Father has appointed a kingdom and conferred it on Me, so do I confer on you the privilege and decree, That you eat and drink at My table in My kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

In Luke 24: 46 Jesus concluded His promises according to Luke with these words:

***Thus it is written that the Christ, the Messiah, should suffer and on the third day rise from among the dead,***

***And that repentance with a view to and as the condition of forgiveness of sins should be preached in His Name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.***

## Chapter 26

### **Knowing God, the Father and God, the Son.**

How do you determine the essentials about God? He is infinitely more than you can think.

That which you think is essential about Him is only according to your position, your spiritual development, what He deems necessary for you to know about Him at this stage of your life, your needs, what you perceive to be the spiritual needs of other humans who are to read your narrative in future and what the Holy Spirit chooses to put into your mind.

For this reason, you can never say these are the essentials about what is to be known about Jesus. Remember He is God and you are only His creation. How can a cupboard determine the essentials of the carpenter who made it? How can the clay on the Potter`s wheel determine what is to be known of the Potter when the clay is a human and the Potter is our God?

Not even a summary will be in the order of what God discloses about Himself in His Son to you. From moment to moment the order of importance of what He is disclosing about Himself to you may change. He is not to report to you. You are to trust Him for His wisdom to give you insight into what He pleases to reveal to you.

On the one hand, it is disturbing to try to do His will in revealing about Him what He places on your heart with only blind trust in Him to do His will. On the other hand, you cannot go wrong when you act and write fully trusting Him for His will.

There is one comforting verse, amongst many other verses in the Bible in this regard. One that comes to mind is the following when you believe, that what you are writing, is coming from Him, that it is His word to whoever will read it:



**Isaiah 55:11**

*So shall My Word be that goes out forth out of my mouth: It shall not return to Me void, without producing any effect, useless, but it shall accomplish that which I please and purpose, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*

The next part of the book will try to cover the knowledge of the Holy Spirit as the third part of God`s Trinity.

## Part 3: Holy Spirit

### Knowledge of Holy Spirit

#### Chapter 27

The first part of this book revealed some knowledge about God, the Father, Who is in **Heaven.**

The second part of this book revealed some knowledge about Jesus, God`s Son, Who as a human person came to this **earth**

The third part of this book will endeavour to reveal something about God`s Holy Spirit Who is **inside us.**

In the Book of Acts, we find mention of the promise of Jesus that He will send the Holy Spirit to His people and that they must wait for the Holy Spirit that will come upon them to baptize them (Acts 1:5). In Acts 2:4 we find the account of the coming of the Holy Spirit and how He filled their souls:

*When suddenly there came a sound from heaven like the rushing of a violent tempest blast, and it filled the whole house in which they were sitting.*

*And there appeared to them tongues, resembling fire, which were separated and distributed and which settled on each one of them.*

*And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages*

*Verse 6:*

*And when this sound was heard, the multitude came together and they were astonished and bewildered, because each one heard them, the apostles, speaking in his particular dialect.*

Another important occasion, having to do with language, is recorded in the Bible in Gen. 11:1 where we are told that only one language was used on the earth. The population moved to the east in the direction of Babylon. The old problem of humans again surfaced. That is, to be their god. This time mankind decided to outdo God and built a tower higher than the place where God is living. They did this to consolidate their power in their unity. God said of this endeavour the following:

*Behold, they are one people and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do, and now nothing they have imagined they can do will be impossible for them*

*Come let Us go down there and confound, mix up, confuse their language, that they may not understand one another`s speech (Gen.11:7)*

Remarkable, with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, God was giving man back the ability to converse with each other across language barriers. God`s time came for this wonder with the sole purpose to enable His message of salvation to be shared amongst mankind. And to give man the ability to speak in a very special language, unknown to other persons, to God, Himself. This time it was not man`s wish to consolidate his power as it was at the Tower of Babel where they challenge God`s sovereign power. Now it was God giving man the power of unity, destroying satan`s power when he unified mankind for an evil purpose.

For 2000 years since that occurrence, satan battled to undo God`s work by creating unity amongst those not accepting God by giving man the ability to communicate over the

language barrier. Through the internet, he succeeded in 2021. Translation facilities are now available between most languages. In this way, satan is again consolidating his onslaught on the supreme power of God not through the medium of the Holy Spirit but using demonic powers. The consolidation of the non-Christian populace is part of satan`s strategy to once and for all push God from His throne. The crossing of the language barriers is part of the plan of satan for globalisation, for a one-world government, one global economy and one secular world government to facilitate the taking over of the world by the antichrist.

As we move into a better understanding of God, the Holy Spirit, one might expect a lot of opposition from satan, who has an agenda for this world not conducive to the expansion of Christianity.

### **The Holy Spirit is a Person**

It is of the utmost importance to recognise the Holy Spirit as a Person. He is part of God, as Jesus is part of God. The following are indications of the importance of recognizing the Holy Spirit as a person:

1. The Holy Spirit as a Person can be worshipped.

Without acknowledging Holy Spirit as a person it is impossible to worship Him. How can we eliminate Holy Spirit from worship because of wrong perceptions about Him?

2. Consider Holy Spirit as a person in a practical way. If you perceive Holy Spirit as a force or power or abstract entity it can easily lead to thoughts like:” *how can I get the Holy Spirit and how can I use It?* ” To see Holy Spirit as a person leads to the correct practical attitude; then you may ask:” *How can Holy Spirit get hold of me and use me?*”

When we think about Holy Spirit as a person we think about Him as a Godly Person, Who came into our hearts, to own us and to use us as He chooses. Such a perception leads to denying self and not to self-deification.

3. A third advantage of seeing the Holy Spirit as a person is to be found in the relational experience of seeing Him as a Person. When seeing Holy Spirit as a person you can speak to Him, relate to Him, trust Him, honour Him and worship Him.

According to R.A. Torrey (*Die Heilige Gees; Wie Hy is en wat Hy done. P. 12*), there are 4 types of proof in the Bible that the Holy Spirit is a person. Let us consider some of these pieces of evidence:

1. The first proof in this regard is the fact that the Bible distinguishes character traits in Holy Spirit like Knowledge, feelings and will.
  - 2.1 **Knowledge** is attributed to Holy Spirit in 1 Cor. 2:11.
  - 2.2 In 1 Cor. 12:11 we read about Holy Spirit giving according to His **will**.
  - 2.3 In Rom. 8:27 we learn that Holy Spirit has a purpose of His own. The Greek word for the purpose used in this context indicates knowledge, emotion and will.
  - 2.4. In Rom. 15: 30 the Bible speaks about Holy Spirit having **love**.
  - 2.5. In Neh. 9.20 we learn about Holy Spirit the **Teacher**.
  - 2.6 In Ephes. 4:30 we learn that Holy Spirit **grieves**.
3. The second proof of the Holy Spirit being a person is that Holy Spirit does only what can be done by a person.

The following 3 instances need mentioning:

- 3.1 In 1 Cor. 2:10 the following is written:

*Yet to us God has unveiled and revealed them (benefits) by and through His Spirit for the Holy Spirit searches diligently, exploring and examining everything, even sounding the profound and bottomless things of God, the divine counsel and things hidden and beyond man`s scrutiny.*

3.2 In Rom. 8:26 we find Holy Spirit as the Intercessor praying for us.

3.3 In John 14: 26 we find the promise that the Holy Spirit will teach us all we need to know but He will also remind us of all Jesus taught us.

4. The third type of proof we have about the Holy Spirit is a person we find in John. 14: 16, 17:

*And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, Counsellor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener and Standby that He may remain with you forever.*

Holy Spirit can thus also be seen as a person in the performing of different roles only a person can do.

Holy Spirit is not a person aloof of us and our daily problems. He is intimately relating to us, living in us, helping us, comforting us, and interceding for us. He is not only in us but He is also near to us as only a true friend can be.

## Chapter 28

### The Function of the Holy Spirit

#### The Holy Spirit: His work

Now that we know Holy Spirit is a person who is intimately related to us we may ask the question: **What function does Holy Spirit perform in our lives?**

In John 16: 7-11 we find the first important function Holy Spirit performs in our lives:

*However, I am telling you nothing but the truth when I say it is profitable, good, expedient, and advantageous, for you that I (Jesus) go away. Because if I do not go away, the Comforter, Counsellor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengtheners and Standby, will not come to you, but if I go away, I will send Him to you, to be in close fellowship with you.*

*And when He comes, He will convict and convince the world and bring demonstration to it about sin and righteousness and judgement.*

One of the big needs of our time in 2021, is the conviction of sin. Without a deep feeling of guilt and an utter feeling of being lost, without any hope for eternity, nobody will turn to a Saviour for redemption. Satan is doing his utmost to convince a man that he, man, is not that bad, that he can achieve being good on his own with his efforts. He is trying to take Jesus out of the redemption of mankind. The result is a world being misled by believing that mankind is in his core good and not sinful. Humanism, the deification of self, is also trying its utmost to mislead mankind. Thus Satan is gathering many to accompany him on his one way trip to hell for eternity.

When Holy Spirit starts convincing a person of his utter forlornness before our Holy God, a hunger for something better is created inside of a man. Many people carry on through life with this hunger inside themselves without ever finding relief and fulfilment. They seek all over but never come to rest. Many people are trying to make sense of life by trying out the richness, fame, power, drugs and sex become disillusioned and bitter and end their lives. Some commit suicide not instantaneously but gradually over time by eating, drinking and worrying themselves to death. Trying to be your saviour is not the way to go. Rather listen to the quiet voice of the Holy Spirit, whispering into your soul the truths about God. Jesus is waiting and He is so willing to come to your rescue if you will only let Him. Holy Spirit is revealing, perhaps at this moment to you the utter hopelessness of all your wrong efforts in living a purposeful life. I beg of you do not to discard this one opportunity. Listen to Holy Spirit when He is convincing you of your sins. Do not rationalize by intellectualizing the truth of the fact that you are forlorn, lost, that you are the prodigal son, the one choosing his way. Remember Holy Spirit is giving you a chance now to accept the redemptive love and forgiveness of Jesus. He is speaking to your heart. Come in now and spend the rest of eternity near God. You will forever be thankful to Holy Spirit for the conviction He brought into your life.

Sometimes the man in his arrogance believes he can do the work of the Holy Spirit by convincing other people about sin. Seldom will this lead to any lasting positive outcome. Do not try to do the work of the Holy Spirit. This is His terrain. Be yourself with a willingness to accept your limited abilities and give Holy Spirit freedom to work as He pleases and to work according to His timetable. Your function is to be willing to let Holy Spirit work through you, to accept that God is in control, that He is doing His work and that He may use you in a way you did not anticipate. Trust Him and be willing and available for Him. He is God. He made



man and He knows how best to convince man and save Him. Pray to God for a lost soul and willingly wait for His direction and the way He wants to work through you.

The process of redemption of man may be summarized as follows:

The first thing man must do is to come to utter despair about his efforts to save himself from sin and to be good by himself. Holy Spirit will do it. Pray for persons who battle in this regard.

1. This will, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit lead to Jesus as the only solution to the problem. Holy Spirit may use you in this regard if He chooses to do so. If you know the way to Jesus and you have the Holy Spirit as a guide in your life; if He prompts you to get involved let Him guide you and let Him do the conviction.
2. If you want to be of use to Holy Spirit you must look up to Him and ask Him to do His will in your life.
3. Without trusting Holy Spirit as God and in a deep conviction that He is in control, doing His work by using you, you won't see the breakthrough in another soul you are hoping for.
4. You may reckon on Holy Spirit. He is even more eager than you to bring in the lost soul.
5. Keep on trusting. Remember, God's delay is not necessarily God's denial.

## Chapter 29

### Holy Spirit convices of Justice

As mentioned in Chapter 2, two things are of utmost importance if you want to know Holy Spirit. The first thing is to know yourself; the sinful nature of your natural soul, all the evil that is lurking inside of you. When you become convinced about your inability to be good and your inability to save yourself from everlasting doom, you are ready for the next step. You will cry out for the next step. Holy Spirit will meet your needs and He will show you Jesus and teach you how Jesus is the answer to all you need for your redemption. Sincerity is the only requisition to set all in motion. That is all you can offer from your side. You have nothing else; you deserve nothing. Jesus did it all. When you come and sincerely give your whole life over to God to do as He pleases, ask for His forgiveness of your sins. Accept that Jesus paid in full with His blood on the cross for your sins, let yourself be baptized and give over to the ruling of the Holy Spirit in your life, you can start living the life of a child of God. Prompted by Holy Spirit you will now live the life of a Holy Spirit-filled person meaning you will let the Holy Spirit bear His fruit in your life.

The first doings when Holy Spirit starts working in your life will be the recognition of the desires of the flesh in your life, namely:

*Immorality, impurity, indecency, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, ill-temper, selfishness, divisions, party spirit (like factions, sects with peculiar opinions and heresies), envy, drunkenness and carousing ( Gal. 5).*

The second thing after accepting Jesus as your Saviour will be the fruit of the Holy Spirit's indwelling in your life. Nine aspects of the fruit, mentioned in Gal. 5, will become evident in

your life. As you give your life over to Holy Spirit and allow Him to do as He pleases in your life you will find the manifestation of the following:

*Love, joy (gladness), peace,*

*Patience (an even temper), forbearance, kindness,*

*Goodness (benevolence, faithfulness, gentleness (meekness, humility),*

*Self-control (self-restraint, continence.*

### **Holy Spirit convices of punishment**

This is the third important thing we may know about Holy Spirit. In our time it is one of the very important things to know. Many times this is the one thing the church ignores and chooses not to remind the congregation about. It is as if the church is sending the message that there is nothing to worry about, that the congregation may carry on as usual, that everything is fine and that they are all saved by a loving Jesus; that they may do as they please because a loving Jesus will never be so cruel as to cast a human being into hell forever. Man is in this case made the idol. God is reduced to an object to serve man. The natural man may choose how he wants to live and everything is right as long as it works for the individual. Today it is called: **Relative Morality**.

Only Holy Spirit can challenge this lie, satan is spreading throughout the world. Only Holy Spirit can expose this lie to a person`s mind. The natural, unredeemed mind is comfortable with the lies many churches are teaching. One wonders why a preacher can wilfully let a congregation go to hell: why he is not bringing them the true message of salvation. The only reason one can think of is that the preacher himself is living under the lies of satan, that he was never convinced of sin by Holy Spirit. Many a time the church, the position as leader, the

money, the big crowd on a Sunday, the popularity, the praise, the prosperity are the idols taking God's place. There are churches where a sermon on hell, on doom, on an eternity of suffering, is never preached. This while the Bible refers more to hell than heaven.

Time is running out. I urge you, do not to be misled. There is a hell and there are many on their way to hell as the Bible teaches us: Beware, there are many on the broad road to hell and on the way to the wide gates of hell. O, am praying that Holy Spirit will open your eyes at this moment to see the terrible inside of hell waiting for those who choose their way to salvation.

Please do not turn away from the truth. Holy Spirit is now ready to convince you with the truth if only you will let him. Close the book for a while, shut your eyes, focus your mind on Jesus and let Holy Spirit show you what He wants to show you to convince you of the truth. Only He knows you so intimately well that He will know what and who will convince you. Just give Him a chance. Only He can do it.

### **Holy Spirit works through people to convince people**

Only Holy Spirit can convince a person of sin, redemption and justice. But He does it through people. Look at the example of how the Holy Spirit used Peter to bring Cornelius to salvation in Acts 10 and 11. All the preceding work of preparing Cornelius's heart had already been done by Holy Spirit. God chose to honour the man by making him part of bringing in a soul into His kingdom. If Holy Spirit is now speaking to you, bringing someone's future salvation to your mind, do not resist, go with Him, let Him do through you what He needs to do.

## Chapter 30

### Born, and born again by the Holy Spirit

A young virgin girl, by the name of Mary, had an outstanding experience; a unique experience, a once in a lifetime experience. Never will this experience be repeated in human history. She became pregnant without the seed of a man entering her body. Look at these words recorded in Luke 1:35:

*Then the angel said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you (like a shining cloud); and so the holy ( pure, sinless) Thing (Offspring) which shall be born of you will be called the Son of God.*

Seven hundred years previously Isaiah predicted this birth in Isaiah 7:14:

*Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold the young woman who is unmarried and a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel (God with us).*

Thus Jesus, Son of God, was born into this world. The working of the Holy Spirit in this regard cannot be denied. One must remember that the human race was condemned after Adam and Eve fell into sin in the Garden of Eden. God promised the man that if he disobeys God and eats of the *Tree of All knowledge*, he will die. God never lies and thus mankind was doomed not only to physical death but also to spiritual death. The moment a man comes to the realization of this truth and accept that he is doomed to eternal hell, he accepts his death because of sin. Out of this death, he can be born again, not only spiritual by the working of the Holy Spirit but also physical with a new body when Jesus returns, He the Bridegroom for us, His bride. Out of himself, no man can so be borne again. We are here made aware of the

workings of Powers beyond our understanding. God in His loving-kindness pulled the curtain justly slightly open for us so that we could get a glimpse of His Holy workings. If He were to reveal the full spectrum of what He was doing for our rebirth, to be acceptable to Him, we would be destroyed by awe. However, we still get somewhat of an understanding of what is going on. Let us trust Holy Spirit to reveal some of His inner workings in our souls to bring us to new birth and new life.

### **Holy Spirit testifies to the truth about Jesus**

In John 15: 26 and 27 we find this testimony about what Holy Spirit is doing:

*But when the Comforter (Counsellor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengtheners, and Standby) comes, Whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth Who comes (proceeds) from the Father, He (Himself) will testify regarding Me.*

Alone through the testimony of the Holy Spirit will a man`s inner eyes be opened to perceive Jesus as the Son of God, our Messiah and Redeemer. You may read all you like, you may study a hundred books, and you may listen to as many preachers there are in this world, but if Holy Spirit is not revealing the Living Christ to you, you will never be saved from self and sin.

Why are some people convinced by Holy Spirit and see Jesus for whom He truly is and why are some not convinced by Holy Spirit? According to Torrey: *die Heilig Gees; p. 51*) there is one main reason:

*The willingness of man to surrender his own will to the will of God.*

Remember the main reason for man`s expulsion from the Garden of Eden and the curse of God; man`s unwillingness to adhere to God`s command and man`s longing to do as his self-willed ego pleases. You can never please God, honour Him and seek after His kingdom if you

are not willing to lay down your self-will on the altar. The main blockage to the working of the Holy Spirit is your unwillingness to surrender fully your will to the will of God. This must be done even in the things we consider not that important. The moment we rely on our insights, try to comprehend ourselves, make our own decisions without inviting Holy Spirit to reveal His will, we are moving to the loneliness of self. In self and the will of self, you are on the playground of satan. This is where he wants you to be. This is where his deception of mankind started. What is easier for a man than to decide what he wants to eat? The decision made in this regard leads to the downfall of mankind, for millions of people for thousands of years. Even men of God made this mistake to rely on themselves and doing their own will like in the case of Joshua when he decided to send a few soldiers to defeat the small city of Ai. What a disaster when he chose to follow his own will. The Israelites were defeated and humiliated. Pray first before reading. Open yourself to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Let Him open God`s word for you. Expect Him to open your heart for what He wants to teach you. Thank Him and do as He told you to.

A good attitude when expecting Holy Spirit to work in your soul is to cast yourself onto Holy Spirit with a living expectation in full realisation of your own inability to achieve anything. Look up to Holy Spirit to give His testimony about Jesus the Redeemer. Alone when you fully surrender your will to the working of the Holy Spirit will He reborn you with a new intellect, a new love towards their neighbours and God. Trust Holy Spirit to make you willing to carry your cross of self-denial. Trust Him to open God`s word and speak into your own will with His will.

The moment you surrender your will, Holy Spirit is willing and able to let God`s nature be born into you.

### **Illustration**

To give an example of how the choice to do your own will can influence your life, I want to tell you a story of what happened to a dear friend of mine:

*My friend is a born again Christian. I doubt if he is baptized with the Holy Spirit. The reason I doubt it is because of his inability to control the urge of self-will in his life. The bad part of this story is that my friend was not aware of what was going on in his life. He is quite old and time is running out for him. As we saw in the previous paragraphs self-will can be the one big blockage in a person's surrender to the working of the Holy Spirit to perform what God wills in his life.*

*Where my friend's problem becomes very evident is in his relation to his wife. I believe God sent this woman into his life to test him, to make him aware of his problem as she is very self-willed herself. For a person like my friend, this is a bad situation. But as promised by God in Rom.8, He lets everything turn out for good for those who trust in Him. My friend trust in God and I am sure God is working in his life in showing him where his problem lies.*

*So it happened on one occasion that the tempers flared up between the couple about the above-mentioned problem; both wanting their ways over quite a simple problem. My friend lost his cool and said nasty things to his wife, for which he felt sorry later and apologized. Light began to dawn in his soul and he realised that he was even more self-willed than his wife and that God is working with him, testing him, showing him himself and in doing so showing him the big blockage in his life in receiving the baptizing of Holy Spirit. When he began realizing the essence of his problem he went to God and repented. My friend realized that this problem was coming with him for a long time and that bad habits cannot be unlearned easily. **He took his problem to God and asked Holy Spirit to help him to give his will over to what God's will is for***



*his life. He forgave his wife and gave everything, including self, over to Holy Spirit to conduct his life in future. One nagging question remained namely of how must he respond to his wife`s self-willed attitude in future. Must he relinquish in every decision? Must he give in to her wishes no matter what? It dawned on him that he will have to stand up to her when she is expecting things from him, not in line with the will of God. For the rest, he is going to submit to her and her will. He believes that he has to crucify self, and the will of self if he wants to remain in God`s will.*

*It is still early days for my friend but I believe he is in God`s will and as such God will strengthen him and bless him with the baptism of the Holy Spirit to make better use of him in future.*

### **More to be known about Holy Spirit**

There are many important things to be known about Holy Spirit. Let us have a look at some more things that have to do with the baptizing with Holy Spirit.

1. To be baptized with Holy Spirit is such an awesome experience that it is impossible for a person to be baptized, without knowing it.
2. Every born-again person has an indwelling part of the Holy Spirit because without Holy Spirit it is impossible to enter heaven. The problem is that the indwelling Holy Spirit might have been relegated to one back room of your soul-house where it is kept without letting it have its way of controlling all of your soul.
3. Holy Spirit is always the Baptizer with the purpose to equip a person for service, and to give a testimony regarding God, Jesus and Himself.
4. In Acts 1:8 we find the main result of being equipped with the Holy Spirit:  
*But you shall receive **power** (ability, efficiency and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.....*

This power will equip a person to do the work God called him for; it will individually shape him to be that specific person God created him to be. The power God is giving through Holy Spirit can be found in 1Cor. 12: 8 Living Bible):

*To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice, to another is given the ability to speak with knowledge, and this comes from the same Spirit. He gives special faith to another and someone else the power to heal the sick.*

*He gives power for doing miracles to some and to others power to prophesy and preach with inspiration. He gives someone else the power to know whether evil spirits are speaking through those who claim to be giving God`s messages- or whether it is the Spirit of God Who is speaking. Still another person can speak in languages he never learned; and others, who do not know the language either, are given the power to understand what he is saying.*

*It is the same and only Holy Spirit Who gives all gifts and powers, deciding which each one of us should have.*

## Chapter 31

### How to give over to the Holy Spirit-

#### Baptism by the Holy Spirit.

There remains one important thing about the Holy Spirit to be known. After reading all the wonderful things about the Holy Spirit most people would now find a longing in their souls to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. Certain things must be in place before the Holy Spirit baptizes which are the following: (Acts 2:38:

*And Peter answered them, Repent (change your views and purpose to accept the will of God in your inner selves instead of rejecting it) and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness and release from your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

We will now look in greater detail at the steps to be followed to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit:

#### 1. Repent

You must turn away from your selfish, egocentric life-orientation where you believe you are the master of your fate that you are in control that you must be independent of a god if there is a god. You must be stirred by Holy Spirit. You must become indifferent to the things of this life; to own as much as possible, to enjoy yourself as the priority in life, to set your moral codes. You must be willing to let Holy Spirit show you, the old dirty self, of the natural man and to feel the need, created deep in yourself by Holy Spirit, to crucify yourself. Only Holy Spirit can bring you to repentance. Only He can convince you of sins and give you a deep aversion to the things you used to cherish, longed for as long as it only excluded God and the needs of fellow human beings.

When your soul becomes weary of self and sin, a need for something better will surface. The only Person able to satisfy this need is Jesus, the Son of God. When you accept Jesus as your Saviour and give your soul, body and spirit over to Him, Who purchased you with His blood when He suffered hell on your behalf, will the peace of the redemptive soul come into your life. When you do not come to the peace you are most probably still clinging to one or another sin in your life; it may be small according to your estimates but it is a stumbling block and Holy Spirit will show it to you if you are willing to trust Him in this regard.

## **2. Let yourself be baptized in the Name of Jesus to remission of sins**

The second aspect mentioned in Acts 2:38 is to be baptized. We will not be going into the merits of baby baptism with the sprinkling of drops of water on the forehead or by full submerging into the water as an adult after accepting Jesus as Saviour.

It is however by almost all commentators stated that after the acceptance of Jesus as Saviour the act of baptism was performed as a sign of the washing away of sins. The meaning of baptism can hardly be associated with baby baptism as confirmed by Romans 6. Acts 22:16 states:

*And now what are you waiting for? **Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on His Name (Gills exposition of the Entire Bible, and Acts 22;16 according to Bible Hub, internet commentary).***

At the water baptism, many people are baptized by Holy Spirit. Some people have to wait for this baptism like the disciples of Jesus when Jesus ascended to heaven.

## **3. Obey God**

It is impossible to obey God without the submission of your will to the will of God.

Like Torrey puts it in his book: *Die Heilige Gees; Wie Hy is en wat Hy doen (p.128):*

*To do God`s will is like coming to God and say: O God, here I am. You bought me at a high price. I acknowledge that You own me. Send me where You please, do with me as You please, use me according to Your will.*

Without the unconditional surrender of your will to what God wills, it is impossible to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. You have to surrender all without keeping back anything.

When you feel reluctant to give all of your wills over to God because you are afraid of what He might do with you according to His will for your life you may keep the following in mind: God loves you dearly. When you give over to Him you are giving over to love. What is there to fear when you give over to the God of love?

Sometimes people find it impossible to surrender their will to God`s will. Then it is best to go to Father and tell Him about your problem. He is waiting for you to come to Him and declare your inability to give your will over to Him. He promised that He will answer you if you ask something within His will (1John 5:14,15). We know He wants to give us the blessing of His Spirit. So trust Him to do as He promised.

#### **4. Thirst after Him**

In John 7:37 Jesus declared:

*If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.*

*He who believes in Me (who cleaves to and trust in and relies on Me) as the Scriptures has said, From his innermost being shall flow (continuously) springs and rivers of living water.*

*But He was speaking here of the Spirit, Whom those who believed (trusted, had faith) in Him were afterwards to receive.*

Without a deep need after Holy Spirit, like a person in a desert dying of thirst longs for a drop of water, Holy Spirit will not come to you to be the Living Water of God flowing out of you to satisfy the thirst of people around you and in doing so, satisfy your thirst.

**Alone if you thirst after Holy Spirit`s indwelling, at all costs, for the sake of God, will you receive Him.**

#### **5. Ask and you will receive**

To ask is, for a Christian, a holy act, especially if he is asking God for something. To ask is to place yourself in a position of submitting to the one you are asking from, or to deny yourself, to show your dependence on another person, to humble yourself, to show trust in the one you are asking something from. Surely you are expecting something when you ask. There must be faith in your request, otherwise what is the use of asking? All of the above is true when we approach God and ask Him something. When we ask according to His will we know He will respond positively. This might have the practical implication that we will have to wait for God`s timing, that He might grant our request in another way as what we expected Him to answer, and it might even be that God in His omniscience will not grant our request because He knows what is best for us and what His will for our lives is.

When we ask God for the baptizing with Holy Spirit the above is also true. He surely will grant our request, providing we trust Him, we are asking in sincerity and we ask it to honour Him and to serve our neighbours with the fruit of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

In Luke 11:13 we find these inspiring words of God:

*If you then, evil as you are, know how to give good gifts that are to their advantage to your children, how much more will your **heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask and continue to ask Him!***

Many times God grants the prayer but he who prayed did not appropriate the Holy Spirit and therefore remained without any fruit and power.

We also need a continuous asking for a new awareness of His power.

## **6. Trust and believe**

The last step in receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit is to some persons the most difficult of all the steps. This is where a person denies himself and put all his hope and trust in God as Father to do as He pleases, with the life He gave man, knowing that it is God`s will to baptize him in His Holy Spirit when He is asked.

To trust is to believe that you received what you were asking for. Start thanking Him for what you are about to receive. Appropriate the gift He is giving you. He is standing in front of you with the baptism of the Holy Spirit in His hands to hand it over to you.

You asked for it and He is giving it to you. But you must appropriate it, you must become the owner of it, you must accept it. Stretch out your hands, open your heart, let Him in, surrender, let go of self and self-will. Let God do with you as He wishes according to His will for your life.

What you expect from God will eventually manifest itself in your daily experience.

Just keep on trusting Him.

## Chapter 32

### Conclusion

Never will we be able to conclude on this topic of knowing God, His Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Perhaps one day after a million years with Him in heaven will we know something about Him, our God. We, however, thank Him for what He reveals to us about Himself, knowing that He knows every person, seeking more knowledge about Him, what the persons needs are, what the person can handle, what the persons spiritual capacity is, what his needs are, what and how and when He, God, can give a person according to His intimate knowledge of that person. How nice to give over to God, to trust Him, our Father, **to let go, to let Him.**

Dr Victor Kuligin gives a summary of a few basic essential reasons for knowing God. We conclude this book with these thoughts knowing that this book can only serve one purpose and that is to direct us to the Bible, the only true source of knowledge about God and that we must trust Holy Spirit to open our eyes, hearts and minds to what He deems necessary for us to know about our wonderful God.

1. All we need to know about God is in His Word, the Bible.
2. What you believe about God is going to influence your relationship with God, so you better make sure you are building your knowledge about Him on a sound foundation.
3. Knowledge about God brings gladness and joy.
4. It changes our minds to be receptive to God`s will.
5. Knowledge about God teaches us that He loves us.
6. It teaches us to turn away from sin and to be holy to God as God is holy.
7. Our everlasting destiny depends on our knowledge of God:



**And this is eternal life; it means to know (to perceive, recognize, become acquainted with and to understand) You, the only and real God, and likewise to know Him, Jesus as the Christ, the Anointed One, the Messiah, whom You have sent. (*Joy Magazine April 2020 p.14*)**

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