

**Satisfaction Without Guilt in Conscience
is Better Than Greed
That Cannot be Uprightly Justified.**

[Short Word Meditation (29)]

James Kim

Home gatekeeper, temple gatekeeper

Like Phinehas, who always had God with him,
there should be temple gatekeepers guarding the doors of the temple
from all directions—east, west, north, and south—continuously
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 9:20, 23-24).

Therefore, they must prevent heresies or the wickedness of the world
from entering into God's temple.

Similarly, we should be gatekeepers of our homes.

When you have a long way to go and your mind and body are already exhausted ...

When we have a long way to go and our minds and bodies are already exhausted,
the Lord comes to us and strengthens our hearts and bodies,
giving us strength and allowing us to continue walking on that path
(Ref.: 1 Kings 19:7-8).

They are those who hold a sacred office!

Pastors are people who worship God with all their heart, mind, and soul,
serve God at all times, and are in charge of the sacred office
of blessing the saints in the name of God
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 23:13)

False pastors and true pastors?

No matter how 400 false pastors please the ears of the congregation with their sermons, even if the congregation regards those sermons as "good sermons" or "graceful," the true pastor will preach only what God speaks to them, just as they solemnly swore by the living God, even if the congregation calls their sermon "bad preaching" (Ref.: 1 Kings 22:14; 2 Timothy 4:3).

The difference between false pastors and true pastors ...

The difference between false pastors and true pastors is that false pastors are lured by a lying spirit and preach false gospels and false sermons, but true pastors have the Holy Spirit with them and preach only the true gospel and word of God (Ref.: Kings 1 22:22, 24).

God will punish those who bear false witness and unjustly accuse innocent people.

The wicked Queen Jezebel persuaded the leaders and nobles living in Naboth's city to seat Naboth in a prominent place and to bring in two scoundrels who falsely accused Naboth of cursing God and King Ahab in front of the people (1 Kings 21:8-10).

God will punish those who bear false witness and unjustly accuse innocent people (Isaiah 29:21).

We must not listen to the lies of Satan.

We must not listen to the false words of Satan,
who tell us not to listen to the words of the Lord's true servant,
who says that God will deliver us in crisis
(Ref.: 2 Kings 18:31-32).

Church members who believe lies

No matter how true the true word of God is preached by a true pastor,
church members who believe the lie because they are tempted by the spirit of lies
do not listen to the true word of God
(Ref.: 1 Kings 22:16, 21-22).

Church members who have been tricked by lying spirits and become addicted to false sermons ...

Church members who have been tricked by a lying spirit and become addicted to false sermons
not only do not listen to the true word of God from a true pastor filled with the Holy Spirit,
but are also unable to hear it (Ref.: 1 Kings 22:28; Romans 8:7).

God will never ...!

God will never withhold His mercy and love
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 17:13).

It's never "by chance"!

The Shunammite woman went to the king to appeal for her house and land to be restored to her after the famine ended in Israel.

At that very moment,

(1) the king was talking with Gehazi, the servant of Elisha,

(2) and the king desired to know about the miracles performed by Elisha.

(3) So Gehazi recounted to the king how Elisha had revived the dead child of the Shunammite woman.

(4) Just then, the mother of the child, the Shunammite woman, came in to plead with the king for her house and land to be restored.

(5) Gehazi exclaimed, 'My lord the king, this is the woman, and this is her son whom Elisha restored to life!'

(6) The king then questioned the woman, confirmed the truth of the matter, and summoned an official to restore all her possessions.

He also instructed that the produce of her land during her absence of seven years be calculated and returned to her"

(2 Kings 8:1-6).

When I meditate on this passage,

I consider that from the perspective of the Shunammite woman, it might have seemed that all these events happened by chance.

How could it be that just as she went to appeal to the king,

the king happened to be curious about the miracles performed by the prophet Elisha?

And out of all the miracles that Elisha had performed, why did Gehazi, Elisha's servant, recount the specific miracle of Elisha reviving the Shunammite woman's dead son to the king?

Isn't it remarkable? Could all of this have happened merely by coincidence?

Similarly, the foreign woman Ruth was "coincidentally" gleaning in the field of Boaz, who was a relative of her father-in-law Elimelech, and "just then" Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and took notice of her among the workers (Ruth 2:3-5).

All these events may appear to have happened "by chance" from a human perspective, but I believe this is the sovereign God intricately working and guiding to fulfill His sovereign and good will.

Such amazing, sovereign, and detailed work and guidance from God are still happening in our lives today!

The humble, the proud

The Lord saves the humble and brings down the proud
(2 Samuel 22:28).

I wonder if my three children know

I wonder if my three children know
that the Lord has always shown great love to their father,
just as He did to King Solomon.

Can they tell the Lord that their father lived honestly and faithfully like King David,
and was devoted to Him? Do they know that the Lord has bestowed constant grace upon me?
(Ref.: 1 Kings 3:6)

What should we ask of the Lord?

Rather than asking the Lord for various things for myself,
I seek God's love, humility, and wisdom to know
how to serve the brothers and sisters, His beloved people (children).
(Ref.: 1 Kings 3:9-11).

Arrow of salvation, arrow of victory

I pray that God will enable us
to shoot the arrow of the Lord's victory,
an arrow of victory that fights and triumphs over ourselves,
the world, sin, Satan, and death
(Ref.: 2 Kings 12:17).

Therefore, I pray that God will enable us to sing
the song of salvation and victory,
"the song of Moses, the song of the Lamb"
(Revelation 15:3).

We will certainly pay the price for our sins.

God spoke to Jehu through one of the disciples of the prophet Elisha:
"This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says.
I anoint you king over Israel, my people.
You are to destroy the house of Ahab.
I will avenge the blood of my prophets and servants shed by Jezebel ..."
(2 Kings 9:6-7).
God ensured that the price for killing His servants was paid.
Though God has forbidden us to harm His anointed servants
(1 Samuel 24:6), if we do so, we will certainly pay the price for that sin.

We need to know how blessed we are.

We who are always in the presence of a wise leader
and hear his wise words should know how blessed we are
(Ref.: 1 Kings 10:8).

But the disciples of Jesus ...

Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, for the Lord has sent me to
(1) Bethel, (2) Jericho, (3) the Jordan River."

Each time, Elisha replied, "As surely as the Lord lives and as you live,
I will not leave you" (2 Kings 2:1-6).

When I reflect on this passage, I think of Ruth.

On the way back to Judah from Moab, Naomi, her mother-in-law, said to her,
"Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and her gods. Go back with her"
(Ruth 1:7, 15).

Ruth responded: "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you.

Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay.

Your people will be my people and your God my God.

Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried.

May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely,
if even death separates you and me" (vv. 16-17).

However, when Jesus was arrested, His disciples deserted Him and fled
(Matthew 26:56).

The travelers who stay for a while in a world like a shadow

We are only temporary travelers on this earth.

The days of our lives are like shadows, with no hope.

Our hope is only in our Lord Jesus Christ!

(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 29:15).

God who migrates us through “famine”

When I reflect on the words of the prophet Elisha to the Shunammite woman, whose son he had previously revived, “Take your family and move to another country, for the Lord has decreed a seven-year famine on Israel”

(2 Kings 8:1), I am reminded that God uses "famine" to relocate His people.

For example, God moved Jacob and his children and descendants to Egypt through a severe "famine" (Genesis 43:1; 46:7, 27).

Similarly, during the time of the judges, a "famine" in Judah caused Elimelech, his wife Naomi, and their two sons to leave their homeland and move to Moab (Ruth 1:1).

In the parable of the prodigal son, God brought about a "severe famine" in the distant country where the younger son, who had squandered his inheritance in wild living, was residing.

This famine compelled the son to return to his father's house (Luke 15:11-20).

Based on these passages, I believe that God may still use various types of "famines" or "hardships" in our lives

to bring us to a place of need and prompt us to relocate from one place to another.

I think that when God moves us, He is fulfilling His plans and purposes.

In other words, through "famine" (causing us to be in need),

God moves us to accomplish His good, pleasing, and perfect will

(Romans 12:2).

Let us rejoice and be glad in our hearts.

Let us all think of the grace God has bestowed upon us,
rejoice, and be glad in our hearts
(Ref.: 1 Kings 8:66).

Do I really have zeal for the Lord?

Do I really have zeal for the Lord?
Can I really say to those who are with me, 'Look at my zeal for the Lord'?
(Ref.: 2 Kings 10:16)

God who saves me

God is the God who saves me from my strong adversaries and enemies
who hate me, who are stronger than me
(Ref.: 2 Samuel 22:18).

I and my descendants will enjoy blessings forever.

God will give us great victory and show unfailing love to His anointed servants,
so I and my descendants will enjoy blessings forever
(Ref.: 2 Samuel 22:51).

Lord, my lamp

The Lord is my lamp and brightens my darkness.
(2 Samuel 22:29).

This is what I want to say to my children. (1)

I want to tell my children,
'Be strong, courageous, fear nothing'
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 22:13).

This is what I want to say to my children. (2)

I want to tell my children,
'Seek God with all your heart and soul,
and live for the kingdom of God and the church'
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 22:19).

When I'm in trouble ...

When I am in trouble, God protects me, guides me to a safe place,
and saves me because He delights in me
(Ref.: 2 Samuel 22:19-20).

When I did something very foolish ...

When I realize that I have done something very foolish
and have greatly sinned against God,
I must ask God to forgive my sin
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 21:8).

The groundwork I need to do for my three children before I die?

As the father of three children, I wonder what groundwork I need to do for them before I die, since each of them is still young and inexperienced in God's work (Ref.: 1 Chronicles 22:5).

What is the clear sign I ask from God?

When we ask God for a sure sign that He will fulfill His promises to us, we need to ask for a sign that is more difficult and even impossible than we think (Ref.: 2 Kings 20:9-10).

“Do not covet your neighbor’s house.”

King Ahab of Israel coveted Naboth's vineyard, which was near his palace (1 Kings 21:1-2). Similarly, King David, from the roof of his palace, saw Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah, bathing and coveted her because she was very beautiful (2 Samuel 11:2-4).

This reminds me of the tenth commandment in Exodus 20:17:

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

It also brings to mind Colossians 3:5: "... and greed, which is idolatry."

“You shall not marry them.”

Certainly, God said, "The king must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray" (Deuteronomy 17:17). God had previously warned the Israelites, "Do not intermarry with them, because they will turn your hearts after their gods" (1 Kings 11:2). Yet, Solomon loved these women and had 700 wives and 300 concubines. As a result, they led wise King Solomon's heart away from God. As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and he did not remain fully devoted to the Lord like his father David (vv. 2-4). We must set clear boundaries and even distance ourselves from those who lead our hearts away from God. But what should one do if they've married someone who doesn't believe in Jesus and that spouse is leading them away from the Lord?

“Get rid of your evil lifestyle” and ‘keep my words and commandments that I have given you through my servants’!

God continually sends His servants to admonish us, disobedient sinners of this wicked world, who follow the sinful ways of unbelievers and transgress against God, saying, "Turn from your evil ways and obey the commands and decrees I have given through my servants" (2 Kings 17:13-15). Yet, despite this, like the ancestors of Israel who did not trust in God, we persist in stubbornness, rejecting God's commandments and disregarding His warnings. We idolize worthless worldly things, becoming useless idols ourselves, and we pursue the evil customs

'What are you doing here?'

Perhaps God is now asking us,
'Why are you here?' ('What are you doing here?')
(Ref.: 1 Kings 19:9, 13).

He has accomplished it all and he will accomplish it all!

Jehu knew that "not a word the Lord had spoken against the house of Ahab would fail"
(2 Kings 10:10).

Therefore, when Joram, the son of Ahab and Jezebel, died,
he had his body thrown into Naboth's field "according to the word of the Lord" (9:26).

When he heard of Jezebel's death, he said,
"This is the word of the Lord being fulfilled" (v. 36).

He then declared, "Now the Lord has done
what He promised through His servant Elijah" (v. 10).

When I meditate on this passage,
I receive the lesson that we must understand
that every word God has spoken about us,
the church, will be fulfilled without exception.

Additionally, as I reflect on Jehu's statement,
"Now the Lord has done what He promised,"
I am reminded of Jesus' words on the cross, "It is finished"
(John 19:30).

This also brings to mind Revelation 21:6, where our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, says, "It is done."

David truly repented.

King David, who committed adultery with the married woman Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11:4), confessed, "I have sinned against the Lord" (12:13).

Later, when he was old and could not keep warm even with many blankets, his servants had the beautiful young woman Abishag attend to him and take care of him, but King David did not have sexual relations with her (1 Kings 1:1-4).

I believe David truly repented.

Here is Proverbs 5:18-21:

"May your fountain be blessed,
and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth.

A loving doe, a graceful deer—may her breasts satisfy you always,
may you ever be intoxicated with her love.

Why, my son, be intoxicated with another man's wife?

Why embrace the bosom of a wayward woman?

For your ways are in full view of the Lord, and He examines all your paths."

Captivity in a money prison?

If we sin against God by serving wealth (money) rather than serving God, we will be consumed by the greed for wealth (money) and will have no choice but to live as prisoners in the prison of wealth (money)
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 9: One).

I hope there's someone out there who wants to listen.

I hope there are people who want to hear about the wisdom God has given us
(Ref.: 1 Kings 10:24).

Satisfaction with a clear conscience is better than greed that prevents you from doing things honestly.

The prophet Elisha refused Naaman's gifts, but Elisha's servant Gehazi
chased after Naaman to get something from him.

He lied, saying, "My master has sent me to say,
'Two young prophets from the hill country of Ephraim have just arrived.
Please give them 34 kilograms of silver and two sets of clothing.'"

So Naaman gave him 68 kilograms of silver and two sets of clothing,
and he sent two of his servants to carry the gifts for Gehazi.

"When they reached the hill near Elisha's house,
Gehazi took the gifts from the servants and sent them back.
Then he hid the items in his house" (2 Kings 5:16, 20-24).

When I reflect on this passage,
I am reminded of Achan during the time of Joshua.

After the Israelites conquered the city of Jericho,
Achan disobeyed God's command by hiding the spoils,
thereby sinning against God (Joshua 7:1).

Thinking of Achan and Gehazi brings to mind James 1:15:

"Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin;
and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."

Additionally, as I reflect on this passage,
I believe that greed leads to lying and hiding.

Contentment without a guilty conscience
is better than greed that cannot be conducted openly.

Just like washing a dish and turning it over ...

God's righteous loving discipline will sweep away
all evil and filth from our hearts,
like washing dishes clean and overturned
(Ref.: 2 Kings 21:13; Mark 7:20-24; Hebrews 12: 6).

What if not only the husband but also the wife in the family is foolish?

King Jeroboam of northern Israel, like Rehoboam, sinned against God
by consulting foolish advisors and setting up two golden calves,
leading the Israelites to worship idols.
Jeroboam did this because he feared that if the Israelites went to Jerusalem
in southern Judah to offer sacrifices to God,
they would once again serve Rehoboam,
the king of Judah, and kill him
(1 Kings 12:27-30).

Reflecting on this passage,
I think that if both the husband and wife in a family are foolish,
the family is likely to worship idols (such as money or wealth)
rather than God, thereby sinning against Him.

If we remain without preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ...

Should we, who are supposed to spread
the “good news” of the gospel, remain silent like this?
We must know that what we are doing is not right.
If we remain without preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ,
misfortune will befall us
(Ref.: 2 Kings 7:9; 1 Corinthians 9:16).

If we offer a prayer that pleases the Lord ...

If we pray in a way that pleases the Lord,
He will give us even what we have not asked for
(Ref.: 1 Kings 3:10-13).
This reminds me of Matthew 6:33:
"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness,
and all these things will be given to you as well."

If we are not true to God ...

If we are not faithful to God and instead idolize
and worship the things of this world, which God will destroy,
then He will allow the sinful things of this world to invade our hearts and homes
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 5:25-26; Romans 1:24, 26, 28).

If we do not listen to God's warnings and are disobedient ...

How could King Solomon, who was known for his wisdom,
disobey God's warning not to worship foreign gods,
despite God appearing to him twice to warn him?

The reason is that Solomon's heart had already turned away from God
(1 Kings 11:9).

His heart had gone after his many foreign wives and their detestable gods.

If we are not listening to and obeying God's warnings,
it may be because our hearts have already been captured
by the things of this sinful world and have turned away from God.

If we disobey the word of God ...

As heads of families and church leaders, if we disobey God's word and serve idols,
we will cause trouble to our families and church members
(Ref.: 1 Kings 18:18).

If the Lord allows my son to become a pastor too ...

If the Lord, who made me His servant and pastor following my father,
also makes my son Dillon (meaning: truthful and faithful)
[Korean name: Seung-Gwan (meaning: crown of victory)] a pastor after me,
I pray that the Lord will grant him great grace,
establishing him as a truthful and faithful servant of the Lord,
so that he may receive the crown of victory
(Ref.: 1 Kings 3:7).

I pray that the work of the Word will be doubled.

When Elijah asked Elisha,
"Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?"
Elisha replied, "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit."
Elijah said, "You have asked a difficult thing"
(2 Kings 2:9-10).

Likewise, I also want to ask God
for what may seem really difficult in the eyes of the pioneers of faith.
As I meditate on the Lord's word day and night (Psalms 1:2),
the word of the Lord who is the bread of life (John 6:48), and share it with people,
I pray to the Lord that the work of His word may appear in double measure,
just as Jesus fed 5,000 men with five loaves of bread and two fish,
with leftovers to spare (John 6:1-15).

First, as we live according to God's will...

First, as we live according to God's will,
we hope that our children and descendants will follow our example
and be blessed by God by living according to God's will
(Ref.: 1 Kings 8:25).

**We hope that you can provide us
with a room where we can rest for a few days.**

The Shunammite woman, who lived without any difficulties,
recognized that Elisha was a "holy man of God."
Whenever he came to Shunem, she would offer him a meal.
Eventually, she went as far as to prepare a small room for him on the roof
with a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp,
so that he could stay there whenever he visited Shunem
(2 Kings 4:8-10).

As I meditate on this passage,
I pray that when God's holy servants (pastors and missionaries)
travel from place to place for the sake of Jesus Christ and the gospel,
the Lord will provide them with people like the Shunammite woman,
who will offer them a room to rest for a few days.

Everything will work out according to God's will!

Believing that everything will happen according to God's will,
we must take courage and fight bravely in the spiritual battle
for God's people and the church
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 19:13).

They will be successful in everything!

If our children carefully keep all of God's commandments,
they will succeed in all they do
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 22:13).

A pastor must be a true servant of the Lord who proclaims the Word of God.

King Jehoshaphat of Judah referred to the prophet Elisha,
saying, "He is a true prophet who proclaims the word of the Lord"
(2 Kings 3:12).

A pastor must be a true servant of the Lord who proclaims God's word.

It doesn't matter whether the pastor's sermon is a 'good sermon' or a 'bad sermon'!

It is not important whether we think our pastor's sermon is a 'good sermon' or a 'bad sermon'.
The most important thing is whether the sermon is what God said
(Ref.: 1 Kings 22:8, 13-14, 18).

What should we do our best to prepare for?

My son Dillon is still young and inexperienced,
and the work he has to do for God in the future will be very significant.
As his father, what should I do to best prepare him for this?
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 29:1-2).

Rather than being punished by a ruthless person...

It is better to be punished directly
by a merciful God than by a merciless person
(Ref.: 2 Samuel 24:14).

The foolish president ...

The foolish president listens to the foolish words of his foolish aides
and responds to the citizens with cruel words exactly as the foolish aides told him
(Ref.: 1 Kings 12:13).

Rather than being exalted by a fool ...

When a foolish person who does not fear God elevates us (puts us in a high position),
we should be very cautious rather than pleased
(Ref.: 1 Kings 21:12).
It is better to be humbled by a foolish person than to be exalted by them.

A foolish wife?

Jezebel, the wife who should have wisely supported her husband Ahab in the Lord, instead urged him to satisfy his greed by acquiring Naboth's vineyard for King Ahab (1 Kings 21:7, 15). She was a foolish wife who did not fear God.

Such a foolish woman destroys her own household (Proverbs 14:1).

A foolish leader, a foolish husband?

Rehoboam ignored the advice of the elders
and instead listened to the counsel of the young men
who had grown up with him:

"Tell them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist.

My father laid on you a heavy yoke; I will make it even heavier.

My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions'"

(1 Kings 12:10-11).

When I meditate on this passage,

I think that a foolish leader not only increases the burden
on his followers but also rules them harshly.

In a household, a foolish husband who is the head of the family
treats his wife harshly rather than loving her
(Colossians 3:19).

He responds to his wife's words with harsh words
instead of gentle answers, provoking her to anger
(Proverbs 15:1, NIV).

Because of nationalistic zeal ...

Because of nationalistic zeal, one may sin against God
by breaking promises made before Him
(Ref.: 2 Samuel 21:1-2).

It is not a desirable form of faith.

The prophets of Baal, following their rituals, slashed themselves
with swords and spears until their blood flowed
(1 Kings 18:28).

Likewise, serving the Lord by harming one's own body
according to rituals is not a desirable form of faith.

I pray that you will govern with integrity and righteousness.

I pray that God, who loves our country deeply, will choose wise individuals
to serve as presidents, guiding them to govern with integrity and righteousness
(Ref.: 1 Kings 10:9).

God will definitely fulfill His promises to us.

Aged King David, unaware that his ambitious son Adonijah was plotting to become king, was also unaware that Adonijah had already declared himself king. At that moment, Nathan the prophet went to Bathsheba, Solomon's mother, and instructed her to approach King David. He assured her that Solomon, her son, would be placed on the throne as king, fulfilling the promise made to her, despite Adonijah's actions. Nathan explained that all of Israel was waiting for David to declare who would succeed him as king. Bathsheba relayed this message to David, and Nathan approached David with a similar message. In response, David reaffirmed his promise to Bathsheba, stating, "As surely as the Lord lives, who has delivered me out of every trouble, I will fulfill this promise today before God" (1 Kings 1:5-40). True to his word, David fulfilled the promise before God. When meditating on this passage, I recalled the words from 2 Samuel 7:12: "I will establish one of your sons on your throne after you, and I will make his kingdom strong." As promised by God to David, his son Solomon was established as king. Despite Adonijah's plot in the process, it did not succeed. Instead, God fulfilled His promise. Even though there were challenges, God's promise prevailed. During this process, when God saw that David had committed evil in His sight by taking Bathsheba and having her husband Uriah killed (2 Samuel 11:27), He used Nathan the prophet (12:1-12) to rebuke him and ultimately establish Solomon, David's son, as king (1 Kings 1:43). In the same way, when God promises something to us, He will fulfill it, even if there are obstacles. He will accomplish His promise, perhaps using someone like Nathan the prophet in our lives, to ensure that His word is fulfilled.

He is a God who always protects.

Our Lord is a God who always keeps His promises to us
(Ref.: 1 Kings 8:15, 20, 24).

If we sin, misfortune will come upon us.

The reason that the northern kingdom of Israel fell
was that the people sinned against the Lord their God,
who had brought them up out of Egypt from under the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.
They worshiped other gods and followed the practices of the nations the
Lord had driven out before them, as well as the practices that the kings of Israel had introduced
(2 Kings 17:7-8).

If we love money or children more than God and worship idols,
or if we follow the evil practices of this sinful world,
we will sin against the God of salvation, who has rescued us
from the kingdom of Satan and transferred us into the kingdom of God.
In such a case, misfortune will come upon us
(Jude 1:11).

Never change.

May our love for You never change
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 29:18).

A gentle whisper

When God has called and anointed us as His servants,
giving us a sense of mission to work diligently for His people,
if we find ourselves in a situation where the covenant with God is being violated,
His sanctuary desecrated, and His servants persecuted,
even to the point of being killed, like the prophet Elijah, who said,
"I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too,"
what should we do? I pray that God will also speak to us in a gentle whisper
(Ref.: 1 Kings 19:10-12).

This is a cowardly silence.

‘How long will you waver between two opinions?
If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.’
Not answering this question is cowardly silence
(Ref.: 1 Kings 18:21; Matthew 6:24).

When people see our children ...

I pray that people will praise God when they see our children
and know that God has given us a wise son/daughter
(Ref.: 1 Kings 5:7).

Greed that goes so far as to kill a person?

Greed goes so far as to kill a faithful Christian like Naboth,
who obeys God's commands, even if it means falsely accusing him
(Reference: 1 Kings 21:13-15).

We must be wary of Satan's provocation.

In order to bring disaster on us, God's people,
Satan provokes our hearts to sin against God
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 21:1-3).

I feel like I need to refuse the gift itself.

Even though General Naaman forcibly insisted
that Elisha the prophet accept gifts, Elisha refused
(2 Kings 5:16).

It seems that a servant of the Lord should humbly receive the giver's heart to give a gift,
but there may be a need to refuse the gift itself.

The Bible says, ‘Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment’ (John 7:24).

Although the king of Samaria did not believe the news brought by the lepers,
one of his officials reasoned that even if they stayed within the city,
"there is nothing to be gained, but death" (2 Kings 7:4).

He suggested, "Let some men go and find out
what happened to those lepers and report back."

The king listened to his official and sent out scouts
to investigate the situation with the Aramean camp.

The scouts found that the Arameans had fled,
leaving behind their belongings scattered everywhere.

They returned and reported to the king, "It's just as the lepers said" (vv. 13-15).

Only then did the king believe the news brought by the lepers.

The statement highlights that while the king of Samaria
did not believe the truth when it was reported
by the lepers about what they saw at the Aramean camp,
he believed it when his own scouts reported the same facts.

The same truth was conveyed to the king
by two different groups of people: the lepers and his scouts.

He chose to believe the report of his scouts
while disregarding the report of the lepers.

This suggests that the king judged people
by their appearance and discriminated against them.

The Bible says, "Do not judge by appearances,
but judge with right judgment"

(John 7:24).

"But if you show favoritism,
you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers"

(James 2:9).

Biblical praise lyrics

We proclaim the word of God through song (praise).
Therefore, the lyrics of the song (praise) must be biblical
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 25:2, 3).

I hope they can do it successfully.

I hope that God will be with our children as He promised,
so that they can successfully carry out His work for the kingdom of God
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 22:11).

The Holy Spirit develops brotherly love by bringing truth into our relationships with deeper understanding and broader love.

The misunderstanding of the king of Israel could have led to a possible war with the king of Syria (Aram). However, what's interesting is that upon hearing that "the man of God Elisha" heard about the tearing of his clothes by the king of Israel and sent a message to him, ultimately, the misunderstanding of the king of Israel did not escalate into war with the king of Syria. Instead, through Elisha the prophet, General Naaman of Syria was healed of his leprosy, and as a result (2 Kings 5:7-8, 14), the relationship between the two kings was not only resolved from the misunderstanding but perhaps even improved. The false father, Satan's deceptive spirit, may create misunderstandings in our relationships through lies, but the Spirit of truth, the Holy Spirit, through truth, fosters deeper understanding and broader love in our relationships, thus advancing brotherly love.

When the temple was being built ...

When building a temple, one must work so honestly
that “there is no need for accounting
(Ref.: 2 Kings 12:15).

Haven't you become an object of laughter and ridicule to the world?

Are we Christians now, leaving God and idolizing money and fame,
not keeping God's word and commandments,
becoming objects of ridicule and mockery to all people in the world?
(Ref.: 2 Kings 9:7)

Even if there is a sign of answered prayer, such as a small cloud the size of a palm ...

Even if, after persistent prayer without giving up,
there is a sign of prayer response as small as a hand-sized cloud,
we must believe in faith that God has indeed answered our prayers and act in faith
(Ref.: 2 Kings 18:43-44).

Obedient heart

God, we ask that you give us an obedient heart
so that we can live according to your will
and keep all the commands you have given us
(Ref.: 1 Kings 8:58).

There will be victory!

Because our God is with us,
there will be victory for us and for those who help us
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 12:18).

May God gives us victory ...

May God give us victory wherever we go
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 18:6).

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, cursed King David of Shimei and died on the cross, the tree of the curse.

When King David was fleeing from Absalom, one of Saul's household servants named Shimei cursed David and threw stones at him, saying, "Get out, get out, you murderer, you scoundrel! The Lord has repaid you for all the blood you shed in the household of Saul, in whose place you have reigned. The Lord has given the kingdom into the hands of your son Absalom. You have come to ruin because you are a murderer!" (2 Samuel 16:5-7).

When I meditate on this passage:

- (1) I think of Shimei's curse against King David as being true. The reason I think so is that David had killed the loyal soldier Uriah and, after Uriah's funeral, took Uriah's wife Bathsheba into his palace and made her his wife. The Bible says, "The thing David had done displeased the Lord" (2 Samuel 11:27).
- (2) However, Shimei's curse against David, claiming, "The Lord has repaid you for all the blood you shed in the household of Saul," and "The Lord has given the kingdom into the hands of your son Absalom," are not agreeable because David did not kill Saul and his family, nor did he usurp Saul's throne. Saul and his family died in a battle with the Philistines (1 Samuel 31:1-6), and Saul lost the throne due to his disobedience to God's command, causing God to withdraw His favor (2 Samuel 7:15).
- (3) Furthermore, when Shimei cursed David, saying, "You have come to ruin because you are a murderer," although David faced God's discipline for his sin of adultery with Bathsheba and the intentional killing of her husband Uriah, he did not come to ruin. Therefore, Shimei's curse was unjustifiable. When I meditate on this unjust curse of Shimei, I am reminded of Jesus Christ, who was nailed to the cross, the symbol of curses (Deuteronomy 21:23; Galatians 3:13), even though He was without sin. Jesus Christ, who was "without sin," was crucified "for sinners" (1 Peter 3:18).

I pray that God gives wisdom and understanding to our children ...

I pray that God gives wisdom and understanding to our children
so that they may live faithfully according to all of God's commandments
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 22:12).

I pray that God will give us a sign ...

I pray that God will give us a sign
that He will go ahead of us and strike down our enemies
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 14:15).

A foolish husband who does not listen to his wife?

God accomplishes His good, pleasing, and perfect will for the family
even through a foolish husband who does not listen to his wife
(Ref.: 1 Kings 12:15; Romans 12:2).

We were nothing ...

In the eyes of God, we were nothing (our nothingness)

(Psalms 8:4).

However, through the atoning death of Jesus Christ,
we have become everything to God (God's everything).

Therefore, instead of arrogantly thinking of ourselves as something before God,
we should always remember that “I was nothing”

and be thankful for the sacrificial death on the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who made us everything to God.

Even if the danger of death surrounds us ...

Even if the danger of death surrounds us,

when we cry out to God in our distress,

He will hear our voice from His sanctuary

and incline His ear to the sound of our cry

(Ref.: 2 Samuel 22:6-7).

God will bring disaster on a president like Ahab.

God will bring disaster upon a president like Ahab,

who devotes himself entirely to doing evil in the sight of the Lord

(Ref.: 1 Kings 21:20-21).

A couple like Ahab and Jezebel

If the husband is preoccupied with doing evil before God,
and his wife is inciting him to do all kinds of evil,
God will surely bring disaster on a couple like Ahab and Jezebel
(Ref.: 1 Kings 21:21, 25).

Ambition and plot

Adonijah, David's son and Absalom's younger brother, harbored the ambition
to become king in place of his aging father David.

He plotted and eventually confided in General Joab and Priest Abiathar,
involving them in his conspiracy
(1 Kings 1:5-8).

Similarly, in the ministry of spreading the gospel,
there can be people who preach Christ out of selfish ambition,
intending to trouble the Lord's servants
(Philippians 1:17).

Though they may plot to harm the Lord's servant,
they will not succeed
(Psalms 21:11).

God always keeps the promises he made to us.

God always keeps the promises he made to us.

The problem is that we fail to live honestly and truthfully before God
and keep all His commandments
(Ref.: 1 Kings 9:4-5).

May You fulfill Your promises ...

Lord, may You fulfill Your promise to me in John 6:1-15
and to our Victory Presbyterian Church in Matthew 16:28
(Ref.: 2 Chronicles 1:9).

We must long for the blessing of having a troubled conscience.

When Satan incited David to take a census of Israel,
bringing disaster upon the people (1 Chronicles 21:1),
David felt a pang of conscience after the census and cried out to God,
"I have sinned greatly in what I have done.
Now, Lord, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant.
I have done a very foolish thing" (2 Samuel 24:10).
Reflecting on this passage,
I believe we must be vigilant against Satan's incitement in our hearts.
And if we fall into his incitement and commit very foolish acts,
thereby sinning against God, we should desire the blessing of a troubled conscience.
Let us ensure our conscience does not become numb.

Maybe that's why we were robbed of what was ours ...

God saw that Solomon's heart had turned away from Him and became angry.

He declared that He would surely tear the kingdom of Israel away from Solomon and give it to one of his subordinates.

However, for the sake of Solomon's father David,

God said He would not do this during Solomon's lifetime but would take the kingdom from his son.

Yet, God promised that He would not take away the entire kingdom from Solomon's son.

Instead, He would allow him to rule over one tribe for the sake of His servant David and the city of Jerusalem, which He had chosen

(1 Kings 11:9-13).

Perhaps the reason we have lost our possessions is that we have disobeyed God's commands.

How can God not fulfill all my salvation and desires?

God will bless our family.

God has made an eternal covenant with me that will not be broken or changed.

How can He not fulfill all my salvation and desires?

(Reference: 2 Samuel 23:5)

He is a God who keeps the covenant and gives love.

Our Lord is a God who keeps His covenant
and gives love to all who obey Him with a perfect heart
and try to live according to His will
(Ref.: 1 Kings 8:23).

The person who deserved to die forever ...

The person who deserved to die forever
was instead given the honor by the Lord
to participate in the wedding feast of the Lamb
in the kingdom of heaven.
With what face could I possibly ask the Lord for anything more?"
(Ref.: 2 Samuel 18:28; Revelation 19:9)

God the Father, who saw all the sufferings of Jesus Christ and blessed us because of this curse of today

When Abishai wanted to immediately go and cut off the head of Shimei,
a dead dog who cursed King David, King David said to him,

'This is not your concern. If the Lord has told him to curse me,
who can say to him, why do you do this?

Even my own son, who came from my own body, seeks my life.

How much more, then, this Benjamite?

Leave him alone; let him curse, for the Lord has told him to do so.

Perhaps the Lord will look upon my affliction
and repay me with good for the cursing I receive today.'

So, David and his men continued on their way in silence,
while Shimei followed along the hillside, cursing,
throwing stones, and showering them with dirt" (2 Samuel 16:10-13).

When I meditate on the fact that David and his men
continued on their way in silence despite Shimei following them along the hillside,
cursing, throwing stones, and showering them with dirt,

I am reminded of Isaiah 53:7:

"He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers
is silent, so he did not open his mouth."

And when I meditate on the words 'even my own son,
who came from my own body, seeks my life...',

I am reminded of the words about Jesus Christ, whom God the Father said,
'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased' (Matthew 3:17),
yet 'it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer' (Isaiah 53:10).

And when I meditate on the words 'perhaps the Lord will look upon my affliction
and repay me with good for the cursing I receive today,'

I am reminded that God the Father saw the suffering of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ,
who cried out on the cross, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' (Matthew 27:46),
and 'for the curse of today,' He blessed us, 'For he has blessed us in the heavenly realms
with every spiritual blessing in Christ' (Ephesians 1:3).

In order to enjoy the blessing of having the Lord's servants continue to appear among our family's descendants until Jesus comes again ...

In order for us, our children, and our descendants to enjoy the blessing of having servants of the Lord continue to emerge among our family's descendants until Jesus comes again, we, our children, and our descendants must be careful in everything, do our best to live truthfully before God, and obey God's word
(Ref.: 1 Kings 2:4)

Jesus came for me, who was as insignificant as a dead dog ...

The servant of Ben-Hadad, king of Aram, Hazael, who saw himself as a mere dog, was informed by the prophet Elisha that he would succeed Ben-Hadad as king of Aram
(2 Kings 8:13).

When I meditate on this passage, I am reminded of the words of David, who referred to himself as 'a dead dog, a flea' when speaking to King Saul, who was pursuing him to kill him (1 Samuel 24:14).

I also recall the words of Mephibosheth, son of Jonathan, who said to King David, 'What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?'
(2 Samuel 9:8)

Jesus endured all suffering and was crucified in my place, despite my being as insignificant as a dead dog.

As a result, I have become a precious and honored child of God
(Isaiah 43:4; 1 John 3:1).

I have become one of God's chosen royal priests
(1 Peter 2:9).

We can't follow Jesus!

We cannot follow Jesus without paying any price
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 21:24).

It is to believe that it exists only in the Lord and to look only to the Lord.

One of the wives of the sons of the prophets, who told the prophet Elisha,
'I have nothing in my house except a small jar of oil,'
went to her neighbors to borrow empty jars as Elisha had instructed.
She then went inside with her two sons and shut the door.
As she poured oil into all the jars her sons brought to her,
every jar was quickly filled with oil.
When she told her sons to bring more jars, they replied,
'There are no more jars left.'
Then the oil stopped flowing
(2 Kings 4:1-6).

When I meditate on this passage,
I am reminded that even if we have 'nothing in the house except a small jar of oil,'
the Lord can perform the miracle of the five loaves and two fish, feeding 5,000 men
(John 6:1-15).

The important thing is that when we face great difficulties and crises,
we should not be under the illusion that we have the resources,
abilities, or means to overcome them ourselves.

We must believe that everything is in the Lord's hands and look only to Him.

Only God is the rock.

Only God is the rock.

God is my strong fortress and leads me to a safe place

(2 Samuel 22:32-33).

Only with a consistent heart!

We must serve God with a single heart and do what is right in God's eyes

(Ref.: 2 Kings 22:2).

Misunderstandings and false confidence

The prophet Elisha told Joram, the king of Israel,

'The Lord will also deliver the Moabites into your hands' (2 Kings 3:18).

The way this happened was that the Moabites saw the sun shining on the water,

and it looked like blood to them. So they exclaimed, 'This is blood! The kings

(the king of Israel, the king of Judah, and the king of Edom) must have fought and killed each other!

Now, to the plunder, Moab!' But when they reached the camp of Israel,

the Israelites rose up and attacked them, and the Moabites fled.

The Israelites pursued them into Moab and continued

to strike them down as they went (vv. 22-24).

When I meditate on this passage, what I find interesting is

that although the sun was merely shining on the water,

it appeared as blood to the Moabites, leading to their misunderstanding.

Because of this misunderstanding, the Moabites had a false confidence

and went to the camp of Israel, Judah, and Edom.

God's way of working is fascinating.

Even now, I believe that God works in interesting ways

to give us victory in spiritual battles.

Let the whole world know!

Because of the wonderful things God has done for us,
We must give thanks to God, praise Him, proclaim His name,
and let the whole world know what He has done
(1 Chronicles 16:8-9).

With a whole heart and a joyful heart!

God searches every heart and knows every thought.
Therefore, we must acknowledge God
and serve Him with a whole heart and a joyful heart
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 28:9).

Right choice

I pray that we make the right choice in the eyes of God
(Ref.: 2 Chronicles 1:11).

I hope we get rid of it completely.

I pray that we will completely remove all traces of idolatry
from my heart, my family, and our church
(Ref.: 2 Kings 10:28).

Why did she lay her dead son on the bed in Prophet Elisha's room?

As the prophet Elisha had predicted,
the Shunammite woman indeed bore a son the following year.
However, one day the boy suddenly cried out, 'My head! My head!'
and eventually died while lying on his mother's lap.
Strangely, the mother carried her dead son to the room of the prophet Elisha,
laid him on the bed, closed the door, and then went out to quickly find Elisha,
the man of God, at Mount Carmel
(2 Kings 4:17-25).

Why did the Shunammite woman do this?

Why did she lay her dead son on the bed in Elisha's room?

When I meditate on this passage, I am reminded of the story in the Bible
where four friends carried their paralyzed friend on a mat to bring him before Jesus,
who could heal with God's power.

They couldn't get inside because of the crowd,
so they made an opening in the roof and lowered the man on his mat in front of Jesus
(Luke 5:17-26).

At that time, Jesus, seeing their faith, said to their friend, the paralyzed man,
'Your sins are forgiven,' rather than 'Get up and walk' (v. 20).

When I meditate on this passage,
I am reminded of the widow of Zarephath,
who said to the prophet Elijah when her son died,
'O man of God, what have you done to me?
Have you come here to point out my sins and kill my son?'
(1 Kings 17:18).

In the furnace-like kingdom of Satan

We are the people of the Lord whom the Lord Himself has led out directly
from the furnace-like kingdom of Satan
(Ref.: 1 Kings 8:51).

By giving our hearts completely to God

Let us all give our hearts completely to God
and obey all of God's commands, as we do today, always!
(Ref.: 1 Kings 8:61).

If there is an excessive desire within us to achieve our ambitions ...

Adonijah, who exalted himself (1 Kings 1:5) with ambition to become king of Israel, after hearing Solomon's kingship as God's will (2:15) from Solomon's mother Bathsheba, requested her to arrange for him to marry Abishag, the Shunammite woman, as his wife (vv. 16-17). Here, "Abishag, the Shunammite woman," was a woman whom King David's servants found to keep the aging King David warm in bed when he was old and cold, even though he did not have sexual relations with her (1:1-4). However, Adonijah wanted to marry the woman who had cared for his father, King David, during his old age. When I meditate on this passage, I am reminded of Reuben, Jacob's firstborn son, who had sexual relations with Bilhah, his father Jacob's concubine (Genesis 35:22). So, when Jacob called his sons and spoke about Reuben, his firstborn, he said, 'You went up to your father's bed; you defiled it. You went up to my couch and dishonored it' (49:4). I believe that like Reuben, David's son Adonijah also wanted to dishonor his father by wanting to marry Abishag, the Shunammite woman. Adonijah, who harbored ambition and desired to exalt himself to become the king of Israel, saw his plan to be king fail. As a result, he now sought to marry even his father David's concubine. If there is an excessive desire within us to achieve our ambitions, we may end up making reckless plans and attempting reckless actions, ultimately facing the consequences of those ambitions.

**I hope that our children will also be able
to serve God faithfully until the end.**

Solomon did not completely devote his heart to the Lord
but committed sins against God by worshiping idols.
He did not serve the Lord faithfully like his father David
(1 Kings 11:4-6).

We pray that as our fathers served the Lord faithfully,
our children will also serve the Lord faithfully to the end.

Our children ...

We hope that our children
will love God and live as a mirror
to all our teachings
(Ref.: 1 Kings 3:3).

If we have a hunger and urgency for our own needs ...

Naaman listened to the words of his wife's servant girl and went to his king, telling him the girl's story.

At that time, the king of Syria said to Naaman, 'Go, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel.'

The letter stated, 'With this letter, I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy.'

When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, 'Am I God, to kill and make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Look, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me.'

He misunderstood and thought that the king of Syria was seeking an opportunity against him (2 Kings 5:4-7).

When I reflect on the fact that Naaman listened to the words of his wife's servant girl, I believe that while Naaman surely had a desire to be healed of his leprosy, more importantly, I think God allowed Naaman to hear even the words of the servant girl to ultimately bring salvation to his soul.

In the end, Naaman went and, through the prophet Elisha, received healing for his leprosy. Furthermore, I think he came to realize that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel (vv. 14-15).

If we also have a sense of urgency and longing for our own needs, I believe that in our poverty of spirit and humility, we will be more inclined to listen to the words of those around us.

The reason is that we may think that God may speak to us through the people around us.

When contemplating the response of the king of Israel upon receiving the letter from the king of Syria, I think he could easily have misunderstood.

The reason for his misunderstanding might be that instead of relying solely on God, the king of Israel thought he had to cure Naaman's leprosy, even though he was not God himself.

So, reading the letter from the king of Syria in that mindset, he may well have misunderstood that the king of Syria was seeking an opportunity against him.

Perhaps the reason we misunderstand more than we understand is that we rely not only on God but also on our own understanding

(Ref.: Proverbs 3:5).

When we earnestly seek the grace of restoration from the God of grace ...

Naaman, the Syrian general who came to the prophet Elisha after hearing the words of his wife's servant girl from Israel, was furious and intended to leave after hearing Elisha's message delivered through his servant. However, after listening to his own servants, he went to the Jordan River and dipped himself seven times as Elisha had instructed.

Then, as Elisha had said, his leprosy was healed, and his skin became like that of a young boy (2 Kings 5:3-4, 12-14).

Naaman, in his pride, had expected the prophet Elisha to come out personally, touch his wounds, and pray to the Lord his God to heal his disease.

When Elisha merely sent a message telling him to wash in the Jordan River seven times to be cured, Naaman became furious. Interestingly, not only did he listen to the words of the servant girl from Israel, but he also heeded the advice of his own servants.

Was it that Naaman had humility, or was it that he so desperately wanted to be cured of his leprosy?

In the end, Naaman was healed of his leprosy by obeying the words of the prophet Elisha.

He received the grace of 'restoration' from God (v. 14).

When we earnestly seek the grace of restoration from our gracious God, He will hear our pleas in His own way and surely accomplish His good, pleasing, and perfect will (Ref.: Romans 12:2).

We must not be afraid.

We must not be afraid.

The reason is that the army of God with us is greater than the army of our enemies (Ref.: 2 Kings 6:16, Genesis 32:2).

We cannot help but be deeply distressed.

In a world full of sexual immorality and idolatry,
how can we have peace?

(Ref.: 2 Kings 9:22)

Rather, in a world like Sodom and Gomorrah,
witnessing and hearing the depravity
and wicked deeds of the evildoers daily,
we cannot help but be deeply distressed

(Ref.: 2 Peter 2:7-8).

We must be careful not to indulge in any greed.

King Ahab became sullen and angry when he heard the words of Naboth,
who faithfully obeyed God's command.

He went back to his palace, lay on his bed, turned his face away,
and refused to eat anything

(1 Kings 21:3-4).

Likewise, those who harbor greed can become upset
when they are unable to obtain what they desire from Christians
who faithfully follow God's commands.

Therefore, we must be careful not to fall into any form of greed
(Luke 12:15).

We are repeating this sin.

However, we do not listen to God's word and continue to serve God while still worshiping our idol, wealth.

We keep repeating this sin
(Ref.: 2 Kings 17:40-41).

After we pray to God ...

After we pray to God, there are times when we are tested to prove that our prayers were answered by God
(Ref.: 1 Kings 3:16-28).

We must serve only God.

We must serve and worship only God, who has led us out of Satan's kingdom, like Egypt," with great miracles and mighty power.

And we must obey all of God's words and commandments written for us, not worship other gods, remember the covenant God made with us, and serve our God
(Ref.: 2 Kings 17:36-39).

We can win the spiritual war only with God's help.

Naaman, the commander of the Syrian (Aramean) army, who was a great general given victory by God over the Syrian army, was a leper (2 Kings 5:1).

We can only achieve victory in spiritual warfare with God's help.

We must become excellent soldiers of the cross of Jesus Christ.

Nevertheless, like Naaman, we too may have various illnesses or personal hardships.

Like King Josiah ...

Like King Josiah, we must serve God with all our heart, soul, and strength and strictly keep all of God's commandments

(Ref.: 2 Kings 23:25).

Lord, who restores and revives us.

When we are in extreme fear and deep discouragement, feeling like we want to die, we, like Elijah, may fall asleep exhausted in mind and body after crying out to God.

At that very moment, the Lord, with the hands that bear the marks of the nails, touches us and speaks to us, restoring and reviving us

(Ref.: 1 Kings 19:4-7; Psalms 71:20; 80:18; Isaiah 57:15; Jeremiah 30:17).

God sees that we have no helper

God, who sees that there is no one to help us
(2 Kings 14:26),
is our helper (Hebrews 13:6).
Therefore, we can confidently say,
"I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?"
(Hebrews 13:6)

We are the only ones who don't know.

Even people of the world know that because we Christians have abandoned God
and worshiped other gods, He has brought "all these disasters" upon us.
We are the only ones who don't know
(Ref.: 1 Kings 9:9).

God who is our shield

The deeds of God are perfect, and the words of God are true.
God is a shield for all who take refuge in Him
(2 Samuel 22:31).

**I believe that Emmanuel God, who is with us, said,
“I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”**

The Shunammite woman, who went to Mount Carmel
to meet the prophet Elisha because of her dead son,
said to Elisha the prophet,
"As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you"
(2 Kings 4:30).

She deeply desired Elisha the prophet to return with her to her house.

When reflecting on these words,
I thought of what Ruth said to her mother-in-law Naomi:
"Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you.
Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay.
Your people will be my people and your God my God.
Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried.
May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely,
if even death separates you and me!"
(Ruth 1:16-17)

Finally, seeing that Ruth was determined to go with her,
Naomi could no longer persuade her,
so they left together for Bethlehem (vv. 18-19).

The prophet Elisha also had to follow her (the Shunammite woman)
(2 Kings 4:30).

We believe in Emmanuel, God with us, who said,
"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age"
(Matthew 28:20).

Our pride creates false expectations.

Naaman, the commander who had leprosy, thought that Elisha the prophet would come out to him and personally touch his wounds and pray to his God, the Lord, to heal his disease.

However, Elisha sent a messenger to him and instructed him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed" (2 Kings 5:10-12).

This made Naaman furious, and he stormed away from Elisha's house, saying, "Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel?

Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" (vv. 10-12)

If we rely on our own understanding instead of trusting in God (Proverbs 3:5), we will also not heed the words of God spoken through God's man (2 Kings 5:8), just like Naaman. Our lack of humility leads to futile expectations.

Our enemies?

When God lovingly disciplines us for disobeying and sinning against Him, He may raise up people to become our enemies and cause them to hate us for the rest of their lives (Ref.: 1 Kings 11:14, 25).

Talented people

I hope that many talented people will be produced among our family and relatives (Ref.: 1 Chronicles 25:6).

**I pray that you will blind our physical eyes
so that we cannot see the fearful situations we have encountered.**

Elisha the prophet prayed to God to open the eyes of his servant so that he could see the hills filled with horses and chariots of fire surrounding Elisha, while at the same time, when the Syrian (Aramean) army came to attack, he prayed for their eyes to be blinded (2 Kings 6:17-18).

We pray that God opens the eyes of our spiritual insight or faith so that we may look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2), and that He blinds the eyes of our flesh so that we do not see the fearful situations we encounter.

We must not fall for this temptation of Satan.

We must not give in to Satan's temptation not to give in to the persuasion of the Lord's servant who tells us to rely on God (Ref.: 2 Kings 18:30).

"If they spare us, that's good, but if not, we'll die anyway."

The four lepers who were sitting at the entrance of the gate of Samaria were unable to enter the city because of their leprosy. Even if they could enter the city, they would have starved to death inside, and if they remained at the gate, they would die anyway. So, they decided that they might as well surrender to the Syrian army. Their attitude was, "If they spare us, that's good, but if not, we'll die anyway." Interestingly, while their attitude was one of "we might as well die," the Syrian soldiers had already fled, abandoning their tents, horses, and donkeys, in a desperate attempt to save their lives (2 Kings 7:3-7). When reflecting on this, I thought of Jesus' words: "For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it" (Matthew 16:25).

The temple should be built when ...

The temple should be built when God gives peace to the church,
so that there are no enemies (conflicts)
and no danger of disaster (difficulties)
(Ref.: 1 Kings 5:4).

I hope we can leave a will to our children like this.

As David's death approached, he gave this charge to his son Solomon:

(1) "Be strong and show yourself a man,"

(2) "And observe what the Lord your God requires: Walk in obedience to him,
and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and regulations, as written in the Law of Moses.

Do this so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go"

(1 Kings 2:1-3).

We should learn from our parents.

For our children to prosper in all they do and wherever they go,
they must obey God's word (commands, statutes).

To achieve this, our parents must first set an example of faith
by living in obedience to God's word at home.

As we live by example, when our death approaches,
we hope to be able to charge our children,
like David did, with similar instructions.

Naaman, helped by the servant girl from Israel

Through God's help, Naaman, the commander of the Aramean army who was given victory, received healing from his leprosy with the assistance of the Israelite servant girl who served his wife.

This Israelite girl said to her master Naaman,

"If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria!

He would cure him of his leprosy"

(2 Kings 5:2-3).

As we achieve victory in spiritual battles with God's help, our troubles may be resolved either through God making them known in our lives or through the help sent by others.

Regressive behavior that cannot be understood by human reason?

Elijah the prophet, who declared that the God who answers by fire is indeed the true God, slaughtered a bull, cut it into pieces, and laid it on the wood.

Then he prayed and had water poured over the offering and the wood three times.

As a result, the water overflowed around the altar and even filled the trench

(1 Kings 18:24, 33-35).

This action was contrary to conventional practices of using wood or a bull to start a fire.

It was behavior that defied human reasoning.

Acting in obedience to God's word or will, relying completely on God's trust, can sometimes appear as actions contrary to reason in the eyes of people.

A brief meditation on God's word about children

May God protect our children from all enemies and grant them peace and security,
so that they may become people of peace
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 22:9).

I pray that God will be with our children as He has promised,
enabling them to successfully carry out God's work for His kingdom
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 22:11).

May God give our children wisdom and understanding
to live faithfully according to all of God's commandments
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 22:12).

If our children carefully keep all of God's commandments,
they will succeed in everything they do.
I want to tell my children, "Be strong and courageous.
Do not be afraid or discouraged"
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 22:13).

I want to tell my children, "Seek God with all your heart and soul,
and live for God's kingdom and His church"
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 22:19).

As I meditated on God's brief word about children this morning,
I recalled a conversation I had with a couple yesterday afternoon.
The reason is that our conversation primarily revolved around our children.
So, this morning, I want to reflect again on yesterday's conversation
and jot down my personal thoughts about children one by one:

1. As a father of three children, there have been many times when I didn't know how to raise them.
Therefore, I deeply empathize with Manoah, Samson's father in the Bible, who prayed to God for

guidance on how to raise his children (Judges 13:8, 12).

2. I cannot deny before God and people that I am greatly lacking in wisdom when it comes to parenting. Therefore, I cling to the words from James 1:5: "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."
3. I am gradually learning, through numerous mistakes, how to raise my children. Therefore, I say to my beloved three children, "It's okay for you to make mistakes or even to fail, as long as you can learn from them."
4. When I think of my children, I pray to God like this: "Lord, may You establish beloved Dillon, Yeri, and Karis as Christ-centered visionary workers who contribute to expanding the Kingdom of God."
5. When I pray specifically for my children to God, I pray as follows:
(Dillon) "God, reveal Your truth and faithfulness to Dillon, making him truthful and faithful to You."
(Yeri) "God, accomplish the work of Ephraim through Yeri, making her twice fruitful."
(Karis) "God, enlighten Karis with Your grace, enabling her to live a life of sharing Your grace with others."
6. I am watching how God works in the lives of my three children. It cannot be anything but God's grace. Despite not having done things right as a father and still feeling the same, I believe that God loves them more than anyone else and is personally involved in raising them.
7. I want to be a father who reminds my beloved three children of Jesus in small ways. Therefore, when my children remember (mourn) me after I die, I hope they can say, "My father loved Jesus and showed Jesus to me" (Reference: Hebrews 11:4).

so that they can willingly and joyfully do the work of the Lord.

So that they can willingly and joyfully do the work of the Lord ...

When a leader compulsively assigns a task to their followers,
the followers will inevitably find themselves unable to avoid doing that task
(Ref.: 2 Samuel 24:4).

Leaders should support and assist their followers
so that they can willingly and joyfully do the work of the Lord.

Elite troops well trained and ready to fight

We need elite soldiers who understand the currents of this age,
who know what we must do, who are fully equipped with all weapons
(put on the whole armor of God),
and who are committed to complete loyalty to the Lord,
like those trained and prepared for battle under the cross of Jesus Christ
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 12:32-36).

Because Almighty God is with us ...

Because Almighty God is with us,
we will become stronger and stronger
(Reference: 1 Chronicles 11:9).

It must be done carefully and well.

We must be determined and carefully carry out
the work God has entrusted to us
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 28:10).

Good people, good news

Good people bring good news

(Ref.: 2 Samuel 18:27).

When we live as a positive influence and stand before the Lord ...

Father David's testament to his son Solomon included the names of three individuals:

(1) Joab, (2) Barzillai, (3) Shimei.

David instructed Solomon that among these three,

Joab and Shimei should be wisely handled by Solomon,

dealing wisely with their guilt and bringing punishment upon them.

As for the remaining one, Barzillai, David instructed Solomon

to show kindness to his sons and provide them with a reward,

allowing them to eat at Solomon's table

(Ref.: 1 Kings 2:5-9).

When reflecting on David's testament,

I think he did not forget these three individuals until his death.

I believe these three individuals had a significant impact on David's life.

Of course, two of them had a negative influence,

while the other had a positive influence.

David seemed to desire that his wise son Solomon

would act justly towards these three individuals:

David wanted Solomon to punish Joab and Shimei,

who had negatively influenced him,

and to reward Barzillai, who had shown him kindness.

Like Barzillai, we should live our lives influencing others positively,

so that when the Lord calls us to His kingdom,

we may receive praise and reward from Him.

“I am the one who sinned and I who did evil.”

When I meditate on David's words to God,
"I have sinned greatly in what I have done.
Now, Lord, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant.
I have done a very foolish thing"
(2 Samuel 24:10),
I am reminded of the importance of humility before God.

“There is no one who does not sin.”

"There is no one who does not sin"
(1 Kings 8:46).
When we sin and God disciplines us in love,
if we acknowledge our wrongdoing and cry out to the Lord saying,
"We have sinned; we have done wrong,"
and sincerely turn back to God in repentance,
then the Lord will hear from heaven, forgive our sins and restore us.
May we pray that He grants us mercy in response to our repentance
(Ref.: vv. 47-50).

**“Blessed is the woman who believed that
what the Lord had spoken would come to pass” (Luke 1:45).**

When contemplating the prophecy of the Shunammite woman spoken by the prophet Elisha,
"At this time next year you will hold a son in your arms" (2 Kings 4:16),

I recalled the words spoken by God to Abraham,

"I will surely return to you about this time next year,
and Sarah your wife will have a son" (Genesis 18:10).

The Shunammite woman's response upon hearing Elisha's prophecy was,
"No, my lord. Don't deceive your servant, O man of God" (2 Kings 4:16).

In contrast, Sarah, who heard God's words at the entrance to the tent,
laughed to herself and thought, "After I am worn out and my lord is old,
will I now have this pleasure?" (Genesis 18:10-12)

When I contemplate these words, I am reminded of what Elizabeth,
the mother of John the Baptist, said to Mary, the mother of Jesus,
when she was filled with the Holy Spirit:

"Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"
(Luke 1:41, 45)

How should we answer the Lord?

If the Lord were to say to us, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you,"
what would we reply to the Lord? (Ref.: 1 Kings 3:5)

The Lord gave me everything as a gift ...

I actually have no power to give anything to the Lord,
but the Lord has given everything as a gift,
so I am only giving back to the Lord
what I have received from Him
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 29:14).

Only the Lord knows the heart of a person.

The Lord alone knows the hearts of all people
(1 Kings 8:39).

I am reminded of Jesus' words:

"But the things that come out of the mouth
come from the heart, and these defile a person.

For out of the heart come evil thoughts—
murder, adultery, sexual immorality,
theft, false testimony, slander.

These are what defile a person..."

(Matthew 15:18-20).

The Lord is the Maker of the Way!

When Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up, and struck the water,
the water divided to the right and to the left,
and Elijah and Elisha crossed over on dry ground
(2 Kings 2:8; see also v. 14),

I am reminded of when Moses stretched out his hand over the sea with his staff,
causing the waters to part so that the Israelites could cross through the sea on dry ground
(Exodus 14:16, 21-22).

Additionally, I think of the time during Joshua's leadership
when the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant stepped into the Jordan River,
and the waters upstream stopped flowing,
piling up in a heap at a town called Adam near Zarethan,
while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (the Dead Sea) was completely cut off.

The people crossed over opposite Jericho on dry ground (Joshua 3:14-17).

This brings to mind the chorus of the gospel song "Way Maker":

"You are the Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Promise Keeper, Light in the darkness.

My God, that is who You are" (Internet).

<https://youtu.be/VxRZDqbDoMk>

Are we doing our best to keep the Lord's commandments?

Are we truly devoting ourselves to keeping Jesus' twofold commandment
of loving God and loving our neighbors?

Or are we, by disobeying Jesus' commandment, sinning against God
by hating our neighbors instead?

(Ref.: 2 Kings 10:31)

A person whom the Lord likes

We must know that the Lord searches the heart and favors the upright
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 29:17).

I am the one who deserves to die ...

The wise King Solomon commanded Benaiah
to strike down Adonijah with a sword after Adonijah requested,
through his mother Bathsheba, to marry Abishag the Shunammite.

Solomon then summoned the priest Abiathar
and told him to return to his hometown of Anathoth.

Although, in Solomon's view, Abiathar deserved to die
for supporting Adonijah during David's succession,
Solomon spared him because he had carried the Ark of the Covenant
for David and had shared in David's sufferings.

Solomon removed Abiathar from the priesthood and exiled him.

This fulfilled the prophecy that the Lord had spoken at Shiloh concerning Eli's family
(1 Kings 2:23-27).

As I meditate on this passage, I am reminded that, in the eyes of the holy and just God,
we were enemies deserving of death (Romans 5:10).

Yet, God chose to spare us, grant us new (eternal) life, and make us His children.

To bestow upon us this incredible love, grace, and blessing,

God made "Him who knew no sin" (2 Corinthians 5:21),

His eternal life (1 John 1:2), His eternal only begotten Son, Jesus Christ,
become the one who deserved to die on the cross in our place.

That is why the people at that time shouted, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

(Luke 23:21)

Jesus Christ, who offered His body once for all on the cursed tree, the cross, for someone as unworthy as a dead dog.

When Shimei cursed King David, Abishai said to the king,

"Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king?

Let me go over and cut off his head"

(2 Samuel 16:9).

As I meditate on this passage, I think of the following:

- (1) Abishai referred to Shimei as "this dead dog" for cursing King David, which reminds me of David's words to King Saul: "Why does my lord pursue his servant? What have I done, and what wrong am I guilty of? Why should the king of Israel come out to search for a dead dog or a flea?" (1 Samuel 24:14). King Saul pursued "a dead dog or a flea" like David to kill him, but Jesus, the King of kings, came to this low and humble world to save someone like me, as unworthy as a "dead dog or a flea," by dying on the cursed tree, the cross.
- (2) I also recall when Abishai and David went into King Saul's camp, and Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hands. Now let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of the spear; I won't strike him twice" (1 Samuel 26:8). Abishai seemed to have been incredibly loyal to David. He wanted to eliminate David's enemies "in one go" and also desired to "immediately" behead anyone who cursed David.
- (3) However, Abishai was not able to "take down" King Saul, whom he saw as David's enemy, "in one go." This was because David said, "Don't destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the Lord's anointed and be guiltless? As surely as the Lord lives, the Lord himself will strike him, or his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish. But the Lord forbid that I should lay a hand on the Lord's anointed" (1 Samuel 26:9-11).
- (4) In contrast, Jesus Christ, the Son of God and King of kings, gave His body "once for all" for the forgiveness of our sins and our salvation, we who were 'enemies of God' (Romans 5:10). By this one sacrifice, we have been made holy (Hebrews 10:10; see also Romans 6:10; Hebrews 7:27; 9:12, 26, 28; 1 Peter 3:18).

The extreme fear of death is ...

An intense fear of death can isolate us,
leading us to pray to God to take our lives,
saying, "I am no better than my ancestors in the faith"
(Ref.: 1 Kings 19:3-4).

At the risk of being killed

Obadiah took the risk of possible death and went to King Ahab
as Elijah the prophet instructed, telling him that Elijah had come
(1 Kings 18:8-9, 14-16).

May we live a life of obedience to God's word,
even at the cost of our lives.

There is joy!

There is joy for those who seek God!
(1 Chronicles 16:10).

Even today, there are many people who hear the true gospel of Jesus Christ and yet do not believe.

When the four lepers repented of their wrongdoing and turned back,
they went from the Syrian camp to Samaria.

There, they told the gatekeepers about what they had seen at the Syrian camp.

The gatekeepers relayed this news to the palace, but the king did not believe them.

Instead, the king thought that the Syrians had left their camp and hidden in the fields,
waiting to ambush them if they came out of the city to surrender and capture them and enter the city.

As I reflect on this passage, I recall when the apostle Peter, imprisoned,
miraculously escaped with the help of an angel and went to the house of Mary, the
mother of John, also called Mark.

When Peter knocked at the outer entrance, a servant girl named Rhoda recognized his voice
and was so overjoyed that she ran back without opening the door
and announced that Peter was at the gate.

The people praying inside, however, did not believe her and said,
"You are out of your mind." When she kept insisting that it was true,
they said, "It must be his angel"

(References: 2 Kings 7:9-12; Acts 12:11-15).

The commonality between King of Samaria,
who did not believe the news of the four lepers,
and the many people gathered in prayer at the house of Mary,
the mother of John (also called Mark),
who did not believe the words of the servant girl Rhoda,
is that they did not believe the facts they heard.

Even now, there are many people who hear the gospel of Jesus Christ,
which is the fact, but do not have faith in it.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves,
it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast"

(Ephesians 2:8).

"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message,
and the message is heard through the word about Christ"

(Romans 10:17).

Is now the time for our pastors to accept money or gifts from church members?

The prophet Elisha rebuked his servant Gehazi, saying,
"Was it a time to accept money or clothes, olive groves or vineyards,
flocks or herds, or male and female slaves?"

(2 Kings 5:26)

Is it now the time for our pastors to receive money or gifts from the congregation,
or is it rather the time to faithfully preach God's gospel,
which is the gift of eternal life from God?

How can leaders make their followers serve faithfully at all times?

When Rehoboam disregarded the advice of the elderly counselors
who had served his wise father Solomon as advisors, saying,
"If you will be kind to these people and please them
and give them a favorable answer, they will always be your loyal subjects"
(1 Chronicles 10:8), I pondered how leaders can make their followers serve faithfully at all times.

The principle is that a leader should

- (1) govern those who follow with humility,
- (2) treat them warmly, and
- (3) gladly respond to their requests to please their hearts.

I reflect on myself according to this principle as a leader in my family and in the church.

The reason is that I sometimes have a proud heart rather than humility,
and I can be cold instead of warm, which means I may not understand their requests well.

I seek God's mercy, compassion, and grace.

A wise person listens to both sides and makes a fair judgment between them.

When King David was fleeing from Absalom,
Shiba, a servant of Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan and grandson of Saul,
pursued him with two donkeys loaded with 200 loaves of bread,
100 bunches of raisins, 100 fresh fruits, and a skin of wine.

When David asked Shiba, "Where is Mephibosheth?"
Shiba answered, "He remains in Jerusalem, for he thinks the Israelites
will restore to him his grandfather's kingdom."

However, Shiba's words were not true; they were lies.

He betrayed his master Mephibosheth and slandered him before King David with lies.
Even though Mephibosheth, who was crippled,
asked his servant Ziba to saddle a donkey so he could accompany King David,
Ziba betrayed him, causing Mephibosheth not to go with David
(2 Samuel 19:26-27).

As I reflect on this passage, I think King David, lacking wisdom,
was deceived by Ziba's falsehoods.

That's why he promised Ziba all that belonged to Mephibosheth (16:4).

Later, upon hearing Mephibosheth's side of the story,

King David changed his decision, saying,

"I will divide equally the land of Saul between you and Ziba" (19:29).

A wise person listens to both sides and makes a fair judgment
(Deuteronomy 1:13, 15, 16).

Wise woman, foolish woman

‘A wise woman makes her family happy,
but a foolish woman destroys her family’
(Proverbs 14:1).

We must try to learn wisdom.

We should try to learn
wisdom from wise men like Solomon
(Ref.: 1 Kings 4:30, 34).

We must listen
to words of wisdom and seek to understand them
(Proverbs 2:2).

Lord, give me the wisdom and knowledge ...

Lord, give me the wisdom and knowledge
to lead my family and church well
(Ref.: 2 Chronicles 1:10).

People who truly serve God.

I hope that we too, like Obadiah, become people who truly serve God
(Ref.: 1 Kings 18:3).

**Even if the disease is not cured,
we must long for God's grace to come to know the true God.**

General Naaman, having received God's grace of restoration and being completely healed of his leprosy, went to the prophet Elisha and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel" (2 Kings 5:14-15).

The grace Naaman received from God was not only the healing of his leprosy but also the knowledge of the true God.

We should long for God's grace that allows us to know the true God, not only through the healing of our diseases but also even if our diseases are not healed.

I can't help but offer praise to God!

We must offer praise of thanks to God for His unfailing love and mercy (Reference: 1 Chronicles 16:41).

A gift of God's blessing

Our children who serve God are a gift of blessing from God to us (Ref.: 1 Chronicles 26:5).

Sufficient capacity

We must have sufficient capacity to perform our duties

(Reference: 1 Chronicles 25:8, Mo

The words, “He did not turn away from his sins during his entire reign.”

The Bible says that King Menahem of Israel "did evil in the eyes of the Lord.

During his entire reign, he did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat,
which he had caused Israel to commit"

(2 Kings 15:17-18).

We often hear people say, "People never change."

We also say that gambling addicts and drug addicts cannot quit gambling and drugs, respectively.

What is the reason for this? We cannot help but think of the phrase,

"He did not turn away from his sins during his entire reign."

People of peace

I pray that God protects our children from all enemies

and gives them peace and stability, so that they become people of peace.

(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 22:9).

A harvest makes them return to their hometown.

The Shunammite woman took her family
and went to live in the land of the Philistines for seven years.

After the famine ended, she returned to Israel
(2 Kings 8:2-3).

Similarly, Naomi left her hometown
and went to live in the land of Moab
because of a famine.

After her husband died and about ten years had passed,
her two sons also died, leaving her alone.

Some time later,
she heard that God had blessed His people (the people of Judah)
with a harvest, prompting her to leave Moab
and return to the land of Judah
(Ruth 1:1-7, 19).

Reflecting on these passages,
I think that although famine or drought
forced them to leave their homeland and migrate to another country,
a harvest compelled them to return to their homeland.

I believe that God allows us to experience
various famines and harvests in our lives,
so that during the famine of life,
we are compelled to earnestly seek God and sometimes relocate.

During the harvest of life,
we are moved to return and offer thanks and praise to God.

This is easy thing in the eyes of the Lord.

When the king of Israel, the king of Judah,
and the king of Edom marched on the roundabout route for seven days to attack Moab,
they found themselves and their armies and livestock without water
(2 Kings 3:9).

The prophet Elisha told them,
“This valley will be filled with water, so you and your animals will drink,”
and “This is an easy thing in the eyes of the Lord” (vv. 17-18).

Not only is filling a waterless desert with water easy for God,
but so is turning a sea full of water into dry land.

The reason is that our God is the Almighty God
(Genesis 48:3; Joshua 22:22; Isaiah 9:6; 2 Corinthians 6:18).

When we do evil in the sight of God and do not turn away from sin ...

When we do evil in the eyes of God and do not turn away from our sins,
it seems that God becomes angry with us
and allows us to experience the bitter consequences of our sins.

Only then do we cry out to God,
and He, seeing our suffering, responds to our prayers.

God delivers us from our distress and restores our peace.

However, when we are at peace,
I wonder if we continue to sin against God again
(Ref.: 2 Kings 12:2-6).

True repentance in the eyes of God is ...

True repentance in the eyes of God is realizing, even slightly, how much we have angered God by not obeying the words of the Bible and failing to do everything recorded in it for us.

This realization leads us to humble ourselves before God, rend our hearts, and weep before Him.

I long for the grace of this repentance

(Ref.: 2 Kings 22:13-19; Joel 2:13).

Open the Bible before God and pray?

We need to open the Bible before God and pray to Him.

In other words, we must pray centered on the word of God

(Ref.: 2 Kings 19:14-15).

A believer who lives righteously before God ...

A believer who lives righteously before God

keeps all of God's commandments,

does not turn away to do evil,

lives blamelessly before God,

and guards themselves from sinning

(Ref.: 2 Samuel 22:22-24).

The habit of asking God in prayer

Before going to war with the Arameans (Syrians) at Ramoth Gilead alongside King Ahab of Israel, King Jehoshaphat of Judah asked, "Isn't there a prophet of the Lord here whom we can inquire of?" apart from the 400 false prophets who were with Ahab (1 Kings 22:6-7). Similarly, before going to war with Moab alongside King Joram of Israel and the king of Edom, Jehoshaphat again asked, "Isn't there a prophet of the Lord here whom we can inquire of?" (2 Kings 3:11).

Reflecting on this, it seems that at least King Jehoshaphat had a habit of inquiring of God's prophet before going to battle against enemies. From this, we learn the lesson that before undertaking any task, we should develop the habit of seeking God through prayer, holding fast to the promises of God given through His word, and advancing in accordance with His guidance.

God declared disaster upon those false pastors and false church members.

The false pastors, deceived by the spirit of lies,
are spreading false gospels and false words to false believers.

This is God's declaration of disaster upon those false pastors and false believers
(Ref.: 1 Kings 22:21-23).

Unless God helps us.

We can't help anyone unless God helps us
(Ref.: 2 Kings 6:27).

May God grant us and our descendants ...

May God grant us and our descendants the extraordinary wisdom and understanding given to Solomon, and a heart as vast as the sand on the seashore
(Ref.: 1 Kings 4:29).

I pray that God will ensure that Korea will never again ...

I pray that God will ensure that Korea will never again suffer much from invasion by an evil nation
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 17:9).

I thought that God might begin to reduce the "territory" in our lives (for example, our finances).

Jehu did not devote himself to keeping God's law but instead followed the example of Jeroboam, who led Israel into sin. As a result, God began to reduce the territory of Israel
(2 Kings 10:31-32).

As I meditated on this passage, I thought that if we do not devote ourselves to keeping the Lord's commandments and instead disobey them, God may begin to reduce the "territory" in our lives (for example, our finances).

God lives!

God lives! I praise God who is my rock.
I exalt God who is the rock of my salvation
(Ref.: 2 Samuel 22:47).

God trains me for spiritual warfare ...

God trains me for spiritual warfare and ‘arms me with strength
so that my enemies bow down at my feet’
(Ref.: 2 Samuel 22:35, 40).

God listens to all the prayers we say to Him.

God listens to all the prayers we say to Him.
God's heart and eyes are always on us
(Reference: 1 Kings 9:3, Mod

God's purpose in giving us "great suffering" is ...

God's purpose in giving us "great suffering" is
to lead us to repent of "all our sins,"
so that He may cast all our sins behind His back and grant us "peace"
(Ref.: Isaiah 38:2-3, 5, 17).

We who trust God

We must trust God and seek His help
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 5:20).

A servant of God who trusts in God

A servant of God who trusts in Him
follows God in all things and obeys His commands,
doing what is right in God's sight.
Because God is with him, he succeeds in whatever he does
(Ref.: 2 Kings 18:3, 5-7).

If we don't fasten the first button with God's word, what will happen to the remaining buttons?

King Solomon built high places for the vile god Chemosh of the Moabites and the vile god Molek of the Ammonites on the hill east of Jerusalem. He even built temples for his foreign wives so they could burn incense and offer sacrifices to their gods (1 Kings 11:7-8).

As the head of his household, Solomon should have led his wives with God's word so they would worship only God. Instead, he was led by them and built temples for them to continue worshiping idols. How did it come to this? I believe it happened because Solomon disobeyed God's command, "You must not marry them, for they will turn your hearts to their gods" (v. 2). If we don't fasten the first button with God's word, what will happen to the remaining buttons?

When it comes to obeying God's commands, shouldn't we reject anyone's suggestion otherwise?

King Ahab wanted to use Naboth's vineyard, an inheritance passed down from his ancestors, merely as a vegetable garden. He offered Naboth a better vineyard in exchange or, if Naboth preferred, he offered to pay him generously for it. However, Naboth refused because "the Lord forbade selling or transferring such an inheritance to others," and so he rejected Ahab's proposal (1 Kings 21:1-6).

If we must reject even the president's proposal in order to obey God's commands, shouldn't we reject anyone's suggestion otherwise?

God's glory will be revealed!

Not only did God choose and save me, who was wandering in this sinful world,
but He also made me a pastor and is with me wherever I am,
defeating all my adversaries before me.

In the future, God will fulfill His promise
of the two fish and five loaves miracle in my life, revealing His glory
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 17:7-8).

Until God's work is finished ...

God will always be with us until we complete His work,
so we must be steadfast and courageous in doing God's work
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 28:20).

How to stop disasters from God ...

The way to stop the “disaster” from God is to obey God’s word.
And that obedience requires a commitment that costs us
(Ref.: 2 Samuel 24:18-25).

He will accomplish everything without leaving anything behind.

God will fulfill every word He spoke through Jesus
(Ref.: 1 Kings 8:56).

We must remain silent and not respond even a single word.

We must remain silent and not respond even a single word
to the false and deceptive words of proud people
(Ref.: 2 Kings 18:36).

We must always look to God!

We must seek God, seek His power,
and always look to God
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 16:11).

How to use the offering?

Offerings must be used for a need and with a clear purpose

(Ref.: 2 Kings 12:12, 14).

Could it be that we who call ourselves Christians now ...?

Could it be that we who call ourselves Christians serve God
and also serve wealth according to the customs of this world?

(Ref.: 2 Kings 17:33; Matthew 6:24).

Is it okay to ask God for forgiveness and offer a sacrifice?

When General Naaman said to the prophet Elisha, "May the Lord forgive me for one thing.

When my master enters the temple of Rimmon to bow down, and he is leaning on my arm,

I also have to bow there. May the Lord forgive your servant for this"

(2 Kings 5:18),

I had this thought: Is it acceptable for us to seek God's forgiveness

and participate in ancestral rites during holidays with family members

who do not believe in Jesus, for the purpose of their spiritual salvation (evangelism)?

Let us rejoice even in tribulation, praise God, and declare His glory!

When I received the message, "We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God" (Romans 5:2),

it reminded me of "We also rejoice in our sufferings" (v. 3).

The reason we rejoice in our sufferings is

because we hope for the glory when God returns

(1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; Philippians 3:21).

Additionally, we rejoice in our sufferings because Christ is being preached (Philippians 1:18).

Therefore, even if we are locked in the deep prison,

we pray and sing hymns to God (Acts 16:24-25).

We proclaim to our own souls, "Why are you downcast, O my soul?

Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God" as we seek God,

and through His presence and help, we continue to praise Him

(Psalms 42:5, 11; 43:5).

The reason is that the Lamb

who was slain is worthy to receive glory and praise

(Revelation 5:12-13).

God loved us and chose us in Christ before the creation of the world,

predestining us to be His children so that we might praise the grace

and glory He has freely given us in the One He loves, Jesus Christ

(Ephesians 1:4-6).

"Therefore, I will praise You all day long and proclaim Your glory"

(Psalms 71:8).

An honest person who doesn't even need to do accounting

When using the church's finances,
there should be no need to even account for the cost of using the finances
since they are used honestly in the eyes of God
(Ref.: 2 Kings 22:7).

Famine?

As a consequence of sin, a famine may occur
(Ref.: 2 Samuel 21:1).

We must diligently keep ...

We must diligently keep all the commands of our God
(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 28:8).