

## CHAPTER FIVE – PART ONE

### SECTION 2 — DAVID TO ECCLESIASTES

#### *Example 14) David and Saul*

##### **1 Samuel 16:1**

The prophet Samuel was from the tribe of Ephraim and ministered before the Lord as a child, wearing a linen ephod -- a garment worn by priests. He later had two sons whom he made judges over Israel, but they were dishonest and took bribes. Therefore, the people of Israel refused to listen to Samuel or to God's word. Rather, they preferred a king to rule over them, one like the other nations. Although God had given the people of Israel His word, the prophets and the judges to guide them, the people wanted to follow the practices of their neighbors instead of the living God. God eventually gave them a king like those of the other nations.

God chose Saul, a man from the tribe of Benjamin, to be the first king of Israel. He was very tall and handsome and was pleasing in the eyes of the people of Israel. God told Samuel to anoint Saul and proclaim him king in the presence of the people. And Samuel did as the Lord commanded.

*Samuel also said to Saul, “The Lord sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. Now therefore, heed the voice of the words of the Lord.” (1 Samuel 15:1)*

Saul, a type of Satan, fell into disobedience and chose to do his own will instead of God's will. Saul's sinful choices resulted in tragedy each time. In the beginning of his reign, he chose to offer his own sacrifices before the Lord, instead of obeying the Lord's commandments in preparing for battle. He made a foolish oath to his army which also caused him to go against his own son, Jonathon. He disobeyed God's instructions by not completely destroying King Agag, king of the Amalekites (an evil people in the sight of the Lord — a tribe of Nephilim). Therefore, God was displeased with Saul and disqualified him as king. Samuel informed Saul of his replacement and that he was rejected as king by the Lord.

*So Samuel said: “Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to*

*obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king.” (1 Samuel 15:22, 23)*

Saul confessed his sins and pleaded that Samuel would return to him, but Samuel (a type of the Holy Spirit) did not return. It was too late for Saul. God’s judgment was already in place and there was no room for repentance. The Lord had already chosen another king to lead Israel.

God chose David to replace Saul as king, one who would walk right and obey His commandments. But Saul, though disqualified, remained on the throne until God had prepared David, son of Jesse, as the replacement. In this we see a principle of Biblical government whereby even a rejected ruler is allowed to continue his rule until God’s allotted time, as only God can appoint and replace crowned rulers. The account of David and Saul is a pictorial representation, a type of the circumstances that exist with regards to Christ and Satan. Satan was God’s anointed ruler over the earth— *“You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones” (Ezekiel 28:14).*

However, after Satan’s fall, God made manifest His plan for the redemption of man by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, declaring Him incumbent ruler over Satan. However, Christ is not exercising this rule yet, not until God’s allotted time, the 7th Day, the Millennial reign of Christ, a time patterned after the six days of work, followed by a seventh day of rest in the **Genesis** account. At the end of this age, Christ will redeem the inheritance and will take the crown from Satan. It will be then that Christ will wear the crown and ascend the throne as Ruler of all people. When the time came for David to take the scepter he was anointed king by Samuel, and Saul was removed from the place of rulership.

In the intervening period we see David exiled from the kingdom of Saul and while in a distant place many who were dissatisfied with conditions in Saul’s kingdom left all they had to join David.

*David therefore departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. And when his brothers and all his father’s house heard*

*it, they went down there to him. And everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him. (1 Samuel 22:1, 2)*

These were Jews who had aligned themselves with David, making life choices with a view to David one day taking the crown from Saul, exercising the kingly authority he was given, and they by his side also in positions of authority. They lived their lives by faith based upon what God had said concerning the future rule of the son of Jesse.

In the antitype, between the time of Satan's rejection and Christ redeeming the inheritance, Christ remains in a distant place. Those Christians who are faithful are the ones who are distressed and dissatisfied with affairs in Satan's kingdom, who are leaving all they have to join Christ as outcasts of this world.

*“If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.” (John 15:19)*

Faithful, mature Christians are looking to the time when Christ shall ascend His throne and when they as coheirs shall ascend the throne with Him.

*“To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I sat with My Father on His throne.” (Revelation 3:21)*

And just as David became the captain of those drawn to him so we find this of Christ—

*For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. (Hebrews 2:10)*

After David began his kingship position, Saul continued on his path of unrighteousness by personally trying to kill David. God sent a distressing spirit against Saul, yet he again tried to kill David, attempting to get his son Jonathan to assist. After Samuel died, Saul cried out to the Lord, but

He no longer answered him. So Saul consulted a witch to awaken Samuel for help. But Samuel told him that his days were over and that the Lord had departed from him. The following day when the Philistines attacked and killed his sons, Saul committed suicide by falling on his sword.

David began his reign in Judah for three years, and then he became king over all Israel. David ruled a total of 40 years, a period of completeness. As a type of Christ, David acted as prophet (**Acts 2:29-34**), priest (**2 Samuel 6:14**) and king (**2 Samuel 5**). He fully obeyed the Lord. Therefore, God made a covenant with David, a promise that God would establish a throne for David's seed, a kingdom that shall be established forever.

*When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. (2 Samuel 7:12-14)*

*And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever. (2 Samuel 7:16)*

We can see this covenant being fulfilled in **Matthew** chapter **one**, which names all the seed of David beginning with his son, Solomon and ending with Jesus, the Christ.

Satan, though disqualified, presently holds the scepter. However, the Day will come when Christ with His bride will take over Satan's position as ruler. God has given man an allotted time to show himself worthy, and when the time is up, God will replace Satan with His first-born Sons: Christ, the bride (Church) and Israel. And in that Day, God will have fulfilled the Davidic covenant, and His kingdom will be established forever. Knowing this, Satan continues on his path of thwarting God's plan for man by deceiving man to bring about his disobedience, thereby disqualifying him. But in the end, Satan will be put down and Christ with His co-heirs will reign forever.

As a type of Christ and His bride, we have revealed the relationship between David and his wife, Abigail. In **1 Samuel 25**, Abigail is presented as a wife to a lost man, Nabal, and is kept from the presence of David and of the sacrifices he offered. But Abigail was willing to listen to the servant as he told of David's sacrifices. So she left Nabal to go and meet David. When she met him, she fell at his feet, and confessed her sins.

In **1 Samuel 25:32-33**, Abigail's confession was acknowledged, her sins were forgiven and she was accepted by David. In **verse 37**, Nabal, the unfaithful believer, was struck by God and died. David then invited Abigail to be his bride. As she approached David, she offered to be his servant and wash his feet, but David made her queen instead. Abigail, as a type of the bride, represents individuals who become saved by grace through faith in Christ, who are faithfully obedient to God's word, performing good works through the Spirit, ultimately to be found worthy to be Christ's bride.

**Example 15) Solomon**  
**1 Kings 3:1**

Solomon, son of David and Bathsheba, was anointed king of Israel and Judah following David's death. Solomon loved the Lord just as his father David, and God appeared to Solomon twice. The first time He appeared to Solomon, God blessed him with a gift offering. This is what Solomon requested:

*Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil.*  
**(1 Kings 3:9)**

*The speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. Then God said to him: "Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked for long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, behold, I have done according to your words;*

*See, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you. And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days. So if you walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days." (1 Kings 3:10-14)*

God granted Solomon wisdom and prosperity. During his reign, all of Israel and Judah prospered and there was peace among them. It was during this time that God allowed Solomon to build the holy temple, following 480 years from the Exodus. The temple was built according to plans that David received from the Lord and passed on to Solomon.

In the future, God's plans for the Millennium will involve anointing His Son, Jesus Christ, as King of kings who will build a much bigger and better temple, one that will never be destroyed. God's example in Solomon was to give us a type of Christ, except that Christ would be the One to overcome.

*The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here. (Luke 11:31)*

All the earth sought the presence of King Solomon to hear him speak and he surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom. God had appeared to Solomon the second time, after he finished building the temple. And the Lord said to Solomon:

*"Now if you walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and My judgments, then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, 'You shall not fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.'*

*But if you or your sons at all turn from following Me, and do not keep my commandments and My statutes which I have set before*

*you, but go and serve other gods and worship them, then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them; and this house which I have consecrated for My name I will cast out of My sight."*  
**(1 Kings 9:4-7)**

Solomon made the crucial mistake of not heeding God's warning. Taking many wives violated the standard of monogamy established by God in the beginning (**Genesis 2:24, 25**). He marries many foreign women outside of the people of Israel, something that God had forbidden Israel to do. God had warned the people of Israel not to intermarry with the outside, since they would be enticed to follow their gods. And this is exactly what happened to Solomon, who went after Baal, Molech, and other gods of all his wives; and built altars, temples and made wooden images of them. Solomon worshiped these gods and fell completely away from the One and Only True God.

*And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart. For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David.*

*For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, and did not fully follow the Lord, as did his father David.*

*Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem. And for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon. And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.*  
**(1 Kings 11:3-8)**

The Lord became angry with Solomon and told him that He would take away most of the kingdom out of his hand, except one. God would keep one for the sake of his father David and it would be given to his son so that the Davidic line would continue to be a lamp to the nations until the Messiah comes. And so it happened that Israel later was divided into two kingdoms, the north and the south. The northern kingdom of Israel

collapsed in 722 BC when the Assyrians destroyed its capital, Samaria. The southern kingdom of Judah fell to the Babylonians in 586 BC.

The example of Solomon provides a great lesson for Christians. Faithful Christians are to assemble in fellowship with one another and not associate with the unfaithful, otherwise they also may turn away from the Lord. In time, because of their close association with the unfaithful, they may be enticed to follow their sinful ways. And there is serious consequence for living this way. Rather, Christians must heed God's commands just as He commanded Solomon in **1 Kings 9**. Despite all of his wisdom and possessions, Solomon made foolish and grave choices. In writing the Book of **Ecclesiastes**, Solomon gave both warning and encouragement so that his readers could avoid his mistakes.

### **Example 16) Elijah**

#### **1 Kings 17:1**

As a prophet similar to Moses, Elijah had a mission to fulfill for God. The first time he is mentioned in **1 Kings 17**, he is there to denounce the worship of the pagan god, Baal, to the evil King Ahab and the people of Israel. He performed signs and miracles to prove that there is only one true Living God. Elijah had no fear in man, for he knew the power of God. Because the Canaanite belief was that only the pagan god, Baal, could control the rain, Elijah announced to King Ahab that he would cause no dew or rain to fall on the earth, except by his command from God.

*And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, "As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word."*

**(1 Kings 17:1)**

Elijah performed another miracle in front of the Jewish people at Mount Carmel - challenging the prophets of the god, Baal, to cause fire to appear under the wood. If the pagan god could not perform this, then he would show them that the True God could.

*“Then you call on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord, and the God who answers by fire, He is God.”*  
**(1 Kings 18:24)**

And so it happened that the god, Baal, did not answer the people's call or perform the miracle of fire. So Elijah mocked the prophets of the god, Baal.

*And so it was, at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, “Cry aloud, for he is a god; either he is meditating, or he is busy, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened.”*

*So they cried aloud, and cut themselves, as was their custom, with knives and lances, until the blood gushed out on them. And when midday was past, they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice. But there was no voice; no one answered, no one paid attention. **(1 Kings 18:27-29)***

But when Elijah prayed to the Lord, the Lord heard him and answered his call.

*“Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that You are the Lord God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again.”*

*Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench.*

*Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, “The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!”*

*And Elijah said to them, “Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!” So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there.*

**(1 Kings 18:37-40)**

Following this great victory over paganism, Elijah told his servant to go check for rain seven times (denoting completion; the 7th day) and after the

seventh time, heavy rain appeared. When King Ahab's evil wife, Jezebel (who had previously massacred the prophets of the Lord) heard of this, she responded with revenge and sought to kill him.

Jezebel was a powerful person and exceedingly evil. She could influence King Ahab to be wicked, to follow her beliefs and pagan ways; to follow her god, Baal. Her father was both king and priest of Baal in Sidon; similarly, she was princess and priestess of Baal. King Ahab became a full-fledged worshiper of Baal, the Canaanite (Phoenician) deity, in which he established an altar, a temple and a wooden image. In this, King Ahab went a considerable distance in establishing the Baal cult as the state religion of Israel. The sin that King Ahab and his wife Jezebel brought into the nation of Israel was great -- a total rejection of the Living God.

Elijah escaped from Jezebel and it was at this time that God told him to go to the mountain before Him. God gave Elijah instructions to anoint kings for Israel and anoint a successor, Elisha in his place as Israel's prophet. Elijah had done all that the Lord commanded, completing his mission. In the Lord's time, He raptured Elijah to heaven, as recorded in **2 Kings 2:11**,

*Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.*

In the Old Testament, the only other prophet ever to be raptured to heaven alive besides Elijah was Enoch.

The Book of **Matthew** mentions Elijah again. The context of **Matthew 17:1-13** is with a view to the second coming of Christ. Jesus wanted the disciples to know that after six days, or six thousand years, He will come back in glory. Before Peter, James and John, Jesus was transfigured in glory just as He will be when He returns:

*Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves, and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. (Matthew 17:1-2)*

This vision of Christ transfigured in glory revealed Him as King of kings at His second coming and was for the disciple's testimony after Jesus' death and resurrection. Jesus told them not to mention the vision until after His resurrection, so that believers would understand their purpose in Christ --- a picture of their resurrection when Christ returns in glory for all believers. If they told the vision before His death and resurrection, then the people would not understand because the mission had not yet been accomplished. Immediately after His transfiguration, Moses and Elijah, two of the firstfruits that have already been resurrected with Christ, appeared talking with Him.

*And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.  
(Matthew 17:3)*

Then, the voice of God came out of the cloud from heaven to recognize Jesus, God's beloved Son. When the disciples heard the voice, they were terrified and fainted. But Jesus touched them and told them to "*Arise, and do not be afraid*" (a picture of the rapture and resurrection of the saints).

Jesus gave Peter, James, and John an eyewitness view of the end of the age — Christ's return in glory, Moses and Elijah present with Him and their own resurrection. In his Epistle, Peter confirms the vision, being an eyewitness to it, that it was a preview of the power and coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in glory:

*For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.*

*For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.*

*And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the Day dawns and the Morning Star rises in your hearts... (2 Peter 1:16-19)*

The disciples thought that the vision of Elijah appearing to them was the sign of the end of the age. When Jesus commanded them to tell no one of the vision until after His death and resurrection, the disciples were confused. They asked Him why the scribes say that Elijah must come first.

*Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands." Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist. (Matthew 17:11-13)*

John the Baptist was the one who ministered "in the Spirit and power of Elijah" in preparing the way for Christ. John was the anti-type of Elijah, yet the religious leaders of Israel not only rejected him, but also murdered him and their Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus affirmed to the disciples that Elijah *is* coming first and *will* restore all things. And because the restoration of the people of Israel has not yet happened, we could understand this to mean that Elijah will appear once again during the Tribulation and will be one of the two witnesses. The two witnesses are mentioned in **Revelation 11:3-6**,

*These have power to shut heaven, so that no rain falls in the days of their prophecy; and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth will all the plagues, as often as they desire. (Revelation 11:6)*

These two witnesses will have the authority to prevent rain during the days of their prophecy, identifying them with Elijah, whose prayer caused it not to rain for three and a half years (**1 Kings 17:1; James 5:17**). Turning the waters into blood (**Exodus 7:17-21**) and striking the earth with plagues (**Exodus 7-11**) is reminiscent of Moses.

*Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit. (James 5:17, 18)*

Elijah was truly an overcomer; one who was faithfully obedient to God's commands. When he finished the race and completed his mission, God raptured him to heaven. We also, who are faithful to the end, should look forward to our rapture and reward.

**Example 17) Ezra and Nehemiah**  
**Ezra 7:1/Nehemiah 1:1**

The Books of **Ezra** and **Nehemiah** go hand in hand, two people God sent to exhort the remnant of Israel to obey His law. The remnant returned to the ruins of Jerusalem with the hope of rebuilding the nation. God brought His people back from Babylon, rebuilt the temple, and restored the conduct of true worship.

Both Ezra and Nehemiah were commissioned by King Artaxerxes. Ezra led the group of returning Israelites in 458 B.C. as priest, scribe and reformer. Nehemiah led the group afterwards in 444 B.C. as appointed governor. Both worked in restoring worship and dedicating the newly rebuilt wall in Jerusalem.

The Book of **Ezra** and the Book of **Nehemiah** reveals the restoration of the nation of Israel and their subsequent falling away. The prophets, Jeremiah and Daniel among others had prophesied the restorations of Israel and the desolations that would follow throughout the generations, all due to Israel's disobedience towards God. At the end of this age, Israel's final restoration will take place.

*For thus says the Lord: "After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good work toward you, and cause you to return to this place.*

*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

*Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you*

*from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive." (Jeremiah 29:10-14)*

**Jeremiah 29:10** relates to Israel at the end of Man's Day, when God will once again deal with Israel unto repentance, to restore them back to their land. Israel will finally be established in their land as a nation, within a theocracy, ruling with Christ, and they will finally have peace.

Both Nehemiah and Ezra describe the events leading to the return of the Judeans from captivity in Babylon. Both Books describe the restoration process of the people and the city --- a prophecy revealing how the restoration will take place at the end of this age. God will build His temple and His kingdom where Christ will rule and reign for one thousand years on the Holy Mountain Zion, and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Worship will be restored and all the nations will come to see Him (**Jeremiah 30, 31; Isaiah 11:11-15**). Most of the prophets, beginning with Isaiah, speak of Israel's final restoration and Christ's earthly kingdom to be set up in Jerusalem in the coming age.

The extraordinary prophecy of God's promised restoration of His people is recorded in detail in the Books of **Ezra** and **Nehemiah**. It is a realization of how awesome and powerful God is, when He will gather together a multitude of His people from all over the globe and bring them back to their Promised Land. The message in Ezra's and Nehemiah's day, as well as for today, is that the God of Israel is faithful to His promises. He will completely restore His people when they seek and call upon Him. And we can be rest assured this extends to Christians as well.

### *Example 18) Esther*

#### **Esther 1:1**

The Book of **Esther** presents a complete history of God's dealings with the nation of Israel — past, present and future. It provides detailed information pertaining to events that will take place in the future, during the Tribulation — that which coincides with Daniel's Seventieth Week and with events in the Book of **Revelation**. The Book of **Esther** begins

during a time when the Israelites were once again under Gentile subjection. King Ahasuerus of Medo-Persia (modern day Iran) ruled during the years 486-465 B.C. He made a great feast to make mention of his power and riches in his kingdom. Those in positions of power in the kingdom were invited to the feast and it was proclaimed on the *third* year of his reign to those both small and great (**Esther 1:4**).

The feast lasted for *seven* days. On the seventh day (the number “seven” showing “completeness for that which is in view”), the command was given to bring Queen Vashti to him, but she refused to come at the king’s command, so the king became very angry. Because of the actions of the queen, a decree was issued to set aside her position and replace it with another.

*...that Vashti shall come no more before King Ahasuerus; and let the king give her royal position to another who is better than she.*  
(**Esther 1:19**)

Then the king’s servants suggested that a search be done to replace Vashti—*...a woman who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti.*  
(**Esther 2:4**)

In the Book of **Esther**, King Ahasuerus is presented as a type of God the Father and Queen Vashti as a type of Israel. **Esther** chapter **one** has to do with 1) God and a province in His kingdom, 2) with Israel’s calling relative to this province, 3) with Israel’s refusal to come at the King’s command, 4) and that which the King did about the matter.

The reference to the *third year* and the *seventh year* in **Esther** chapter **one** and **two** is associated with the foundational framework in the beginning of Genesis. From **Genesis 1:1**, God’s dealing with man involved six days (6,000 years) of restorative work followed by a seventh day (7th 1000 year period) of rest (Messianic era). Since Adam’s fall, God began his work of restoring man back to the position for which he was originally created --- to rule and reign. Throughout this course of restoration, God called Abraham to be the one through whom all nations would be blessed. But God called Israel a “*disobedient people*,” a people who had rejected Him and His Word through the sin of unbelief. Though God sent Moses to bring them out of Egypt and into the land of Canaan as an inheritance, the

nation of Israel fell into disobedience. This disobedience was brought to a climax at Christ's first coming, when they rejected and crucified their Messiah. Since Israel's invitation from Jesus to "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand*" was refused, God punished Israel by setting her aside as a nation and scattering her among the Gentiles. This is what **Esther** chapter **one** typifies when Vashti refused to come at the king's command.

Because of Queen Vashti's refusal to come, she was rejected as queen. On the *third* year, her royal standing was taken from her and *given to another that is better than she*. And this account typifies Israel, who, because of disobedience to God during the time of Christ's first coming, was rejected as queen. Israel's royal standing in the *heavenly* kingdom was taken away and given to another nation who would bear fruit — the Church. God's dealings with Israel had been set aside temporarily and the Church was now in view until the end of the sixth year.

*"Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it."* (**Matthew 21:43**)

*"Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!"* (**Acts 28:28**)

Israel was called into existence to occupy *a particular position at a particular time*. Israel refused, and the nation was set aside. This is what **Esther** chapter **one** is about.

However, the day is coming when God will once again turn to Israel and complete His dealings with this nation, establishing Israel in *the position to which the nation was called, during a time that God has established*. This is what **Esther** chapter **two** is about.

The appointed times given in the Book of **Esther** — the third year on the seventh day (Queen Vashti) and the seventh year on the tenth day (Queen Esther) are all appointed times set by God that coincide with Man's Day to the Millennium, for Israel and the Church. This is the reason why the Book of **Esther** (type of Israel) and the Book of **Ruth** (type of the Church) had appointed times for the women to prepare for their redeemer:

*Each young woman's turn came to go in to King Ahasuerus after she had completed twelve month's preparation, according to the regulations for the women, for thus were the days of their preparation apportioned: six months with oil of Myrrh, and six months with perfumes and preparations for beautifying women.*  
**(Esther 2:12)**

**Esther** chapter **two** is about the search for a new queen and placing that queen in a royal position in the kingdom. Proper preparations had to be made for meeting the king for a period of twelve months. This typifies God's wife, Israel. At the close of this age, God will once again deal with the nation of Israel, to complete their restoration and place them in a position in God's earthly kingdom. This will be the seventh one-thousandth year from Adam, on the tenth day (the number "ten" showing "completeness; all.")

During the search for a new queen, Esther had properly prepared for her meeting with the king and therefore was chosen above the other maidens.

**Esther** chapters **three** through **ten** provide further commentary to the events leading to Israel's restoration at the end of this age. Mordecai, who raised Esther, was seated in the king's gate outside the palace. Both he and Esther typify Israel in regards to future regality. They both had royal positions awarded to them, but they were not yet exercising regal power. At the appointed time both positions of Esther and Mordecai are then exercised. And the same thing applies to Israel.

After Israel calls upon the Lord and after Christ returns, then they will be restored, exercising regal positions in the King's gate over the Gentile nations of the earth. It will happen at God's appointed time --- the 7th day.

By comparing the woman in **Revelation 12** to Israel, we can see that she was wearing a crown, like Esther, specifically, a "*Stephanos*" crown, which means "a prize, a symbol of honor." This type of crown will be worn by the nation of Israel on earth and the bride of Christ in heaven. A "*Diadem*" crown, which means "to bound permanently about the head, to succeed, to come after ---- exercising regal power," will be taken by force from Satan and be worn by Christ (**Revelation 19:12**).

Haman is mentioned beginning in **Esther** chapter **three**, who is said to have been promoted to the seat above other princes in the king's palace. He is identified as an "Agagite," which associates him with Agag, the Amalekite king who lived during Saul's day and sought to destroy the Israelites. The Amalekites were the first of the nations to war against Israel after the Exodus. Both the Amalekites and Haman were enemies of the Jewish people and sought to destroy them. Therefore, Haman in the Book of **Esther** typifies the Antichrist, who also will be in a ruling position during the Tribulation. And just as King Ahasuerus appointed Haman, so also God the Father had appointed Satan in the beginning to his position of power in His kingdom, therefore he will be wearing a diadem crown and will give power and authority to the Antichrist who will seek to destroy the Jews.

The Gentile nations openly exalted Haman by bowing down to him, but Mordecai refused to bow down. For Mordecai to bow down to Haman would have meant an open display of worship to Haman, resulting in an open denial of his faith in the One and Only True God. This is the reason Haman sought to slay not only Mordecai but all of the Jews as well, since they refused to worship him. And this same exact occurrence is seen in the Book of **Revelation** with the Antichrist seeking to destroy the Jewish people. The 144,000 Jews who will be sent by God to preach His message over all the earth will also refuse to bow down and worship Antichrist.

*And the dragon was enraged with the woman and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. (Revelation 12:17)*

*When Haman saw that Mordecai did not bow or pay him homage, Haman was filled with wrath. But he disdained to lay hands on Mordecai alone, for they had told him of the people of Mordecai.*

*Instead, Haman sought to destroy all the Jews who were throughout the whole kingdom of Ahasuerus--the people of Mordecai. (Esther 3:5, 6)*

Haman is able to get the king to sign off on a decree for the annihilation of all the Jews throughout all the land. This decree brought the Jews into a terrified state — they fasted, wept and wailed. Esther commanded a three

day fast among the Jews (**Esther 4**). Their fasting denotes a strong but veiled appeal to God to intervene in a time of severe crisis.

This account typifies Israel's suffering during the Tribulation when God will finally bring them to a place of repentance and they will cry out calling upon the Lord.

On the third day, Esther goes before the king unannounced. Although this is going against the law bringing her life in jeopardy, she calls upon the king in order to save the Jewish people, since she is also a Jew. The king finds favor in her sight and asks her,

*"What is your request? It shall be given to you—up to half the kingdom!"* (**Esther 5:3**)

Like Esther, Israel will have the same call to the Lord in the future and He will deliver them. The things having to do with the Antichrist's reign will occur so that God's purpose for Israel may be fulfilled. God will deliver the Jewish people into Antichrist's hands for a period of time, so that Israel may repent and realize their calling.

Haman was put down and Antichrist will also be put down when Christ returns the second time. Following this, Esther and Mordecai were given authority to exercise rulership in place of Haman. In the antitype, Israel will replace Antichrist and will exercise power and authority over the Gentile nations. Haman was hanged by the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai, and likewise, the Antichrist will be thrown in the lake of fire burning with brimstone forever.

After Haman was put down, the Jews assembled together and celebrated. In the antitype, during the Messianic kingdom, Israel will also enjoy rest and feasting with the Lord:

*And Mordecai wrote these things and sent letters to all the Jews, near and far, who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, to establish among them that they should celebrate yearly the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar,*

*as the days on which the Jews had rest from their enemies, as the month which was turned from sorrow to joy for them, and from mourning to a holiday, that they should make them days of feasting and joy, of sending presents to one another and gifts to the poor.*  
**(Esther 10:20-22)**

And, in keeping with the preceding, Scripture clearly reveals when God will restore His people, Israel and their land ---- that is, not until Antichrist is revealed, is reigning and is brought down at the second coming of Christ at the end of Man's Day --- a time that still remains yet future.

### **Example 19) Job**

We have covered the history and spiritual content of the nation of Israel from the Book of **Genesis** through **Esther**, and now we begin to view the personal experiences of God's people from the Book of **Job**.

*There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.* **(Job 1:1)**

Job was strong in the Lord and was faithfully obedient to His Word. He knew God's plan and purpose; therefore, he feared God, for he knew one day he would have to account for his works before Him.

*There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.* **(Job 1:1, 2)**

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,  
 And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*  
**(Proverbs 9:10)**

Job was blessed with a large family, prosperity, and wealth. He was known as "*the greatest of all the people of the East*" **(Job 1:3)**. Yet he stayed faithful to God, gave offerings to God for all he had, and lived righteously.

The Book of **Job** begins with a description of Job's character and his possessions. Then it directs the reader to the throne of God in heaven. The angels, including Satan, came before the Lord to present themselves. Satan, although a rebel ruler, still had access to God's court. Presently, Satan continues to rule the earth directly under God, with the power and authority to rule coming from God's throne. But the time will come when Satan will be thrown out of heaven forever, will be defeated on earth by Christ and ultimately be cast into the lake of fire.

*"But the court shall be seated,  
And they shall take away his dominion,  
To consume and destroy it forever.*

*Then the kingdom and dominion,  
And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven,  
Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High.*

*His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
And all dominions shall serve and obey Him."*

**(Daniel 7:26, 27)**

Though the Lord knew Satan's whereabouts, He proceeded to ask Satan where he came from, so that Satan could give an account of his actions to the Lord.

*And the Lord said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." (Job 1:7)*

A similar function of the question was posed to Adam after the fall:

*Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9)*

Ever since his rebellion against God, Satan accuses, deceives and tempts believers to stray them away from God and from their calling. Satan is indeed the enemy of our soul. In fact, the Hebrew word for Satan means "Adversary." God warns us to be strong in the Lord in order to resist him. Satan's main focus has been to walk the earth seeking to disqualify

Christians from their high calling, which is to rule and reign with Christ. This present world is Satan's territory, and he does not want to give it up.

*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. (1 Peter 5:8, 9)*

God proceeded to tell Satan about His servant Job and how faithful he was. Satan questioned Job's motives for fearing and serving God; since God had protected him and his household, what did Job have to fear? Satan asserted that Job would surely curse God if his prosperity and blessings were removed. Since Satan holds the scepter, he had the power under God's authority to test Job, but his power was limited to God's sovereign control. God allowed him to test Job, but he could not harm him.

Job loses his property, his servants and his children-- all in one day. Job showed intense grief for his loss, and then he acknowledged God's all-powerful control over all circumstances.

*Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. And he said:*

*"Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there.*

*The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord." In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong. (Job 1:20-22)*

The tearing of his robe signified that Job was in deep grief, yet in a voluntary act of humility, he fell to the floor to acknowledge God's sovereign control. He did not blame God for his tragedies but humbly accepted God's will.

Job is an excellent example of one who is faithful under trials and suffering. God's aim for testing Job's faith and that of every believer is to refine and mature. Trials are for the purpose of preparing children for the

Millennial Kingdom as firstborn sons. Part of this preparation involves our sanctification, separating ourselves as pilgrims of this world. It is also the realization that all that we have, whether material possessions or family, belongs to God our Creator and we must trust in Him in all things.

*In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love.*

*Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith--the salvation of your souls. (1 Peter 1:6-9)*

Peter tells us to greatly rejoice when we have been stricken with trials, as it is another opportunity for us to mature in the faith and overcome. At the end of our faith we will receive the salvation of our soul.

James also knew this mystery of rejoicing in trials, for he looked forward to his reward in the future kingdom of heaven:

*My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. (James 1:2, 3)*

The word “*patience*” means “to stand fast.” The more we learn to stand fast during affliction, the more we become perfect (mature) thereby making us complete (whole). How we handle the trials in this life will determine our fate at the Judgment seat of Christ --- for our faith, or lack of, will be tested by fire. If our works pass the test then we will be found worthy to enter the kingdom. If we do not endure with good works, we will not be able to enter the kingdom of heaven for 1000 years.

Satan incited God against Job the second time by attacking his health. And the Lord allowed Satan this test, but he was to spare Job's life. So Satan struck Job with painful boils from head to toe, but Job remained

faithful to God and did not sin. Even his wife rebelled against him for holding on to his faith. But Job answered:

*"Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" (Job 2:10a)*

When Job's three friends came to visit and comfort him, they tore their clothes and wept when they saw him for they could not recognize him. Because of his pain, Job cursed the day he was born and wished God would let him die.

Though Job's three friends cared for Job, they judged him wrongly by implying that his suffering was a result of his sins and therefore God was punishing him. Job then calls them, "*miserable comforters*," but Job maintains his integrity and prays to God for relief. After being accused from his 'friends,' Job ends his conversation with them.

Then Elihu, another friend comes into the scene and accuses both Job and his three friends. He is angry at the friends for condemning Job, however he also accused Job of having only justified himself. In addition, Elihu feels that the problem with Job is that he had been treating God as though he were God's equal, for Job had questioned God's motives.

*"How long? Will you not look away from me, and let me alone till I swallow my saliva? Have I sinned? What have I done to You, O watcher of men? Why have You set me as Your target, so that I am a burden to myself? Why then do You not pardon my transgression, and take away my iniquity?" (Job 7:19-21)*

Christians also tend to question God when they are stricken with trials and tribulations. They tend to treat God as though they are equal to Him. Instead, they should humble themselves under the mighty hand of God, asking for strength, endurance and patience to overcome. God is in control and He cares for us. When we overcome adversity by faith, He will exalt us in due time.

After Elihu had finished speaking, the Lord gives His answer to Job. God overwhelms Job into submission in order to restore him as the Lord's

servant. By revealing His omnipotence, God seeks to build Job's trust and security in Him. God asks him many questions, among which are:

*"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?"  
 "Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him?  
 Would you condemn Me that you may be justified?" (Job 38:4)*

After hearing what the Lord had to say, Job repents to God for questioning Him. And after he repented, God spoke to Eliphaz and told him that he and the others had not done right with their false accusations against Job and that Job was right in maintaining his innocence. God restored Job as His faithful servant and rewarded him by restoring his prosperity with more wealth than he had before.

*Now the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning... (Job 42:12)*

Job, as a type of Christ, overcame his trials and tribulations just as Christ overcame His sufferings, thereby being able to inherit more blessings in the *latter days* than His beginning. The "latter days" symbolizes the "Seventh Day."

God gave Job a total of *ten* children (*three* daughters and *seven* sons), a number showing completeness. The number "three" refers to "resurrection," revealing the daughters as the bride of Christ; and the number "seven" showing completeness, revealing the brothers as the nation of Israel. Their "father" gave an "inheritance" to the daughters and among their brothers. This typifies the redemption of the inheritance amongst the bride of Christ and the Father's wife, Israel, in the latter days, the Seventh Day, the Messianic Era.

*In all the land were found no women so beautiful as the daughters of Job, and their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers. (Job 42:15)*

The trials of Job are examples set forth for our admonition. *All* Christians will encounter suffering and trials. Under the authority of God, Satan tempts. God allows His children to have their faith tested for the purpose

of qualifying them for the Millennial kingdom. God allows it for good. Satan does it for evil.

*And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*  
**(Romans 8:28)**

Another example can be seen with the temptations of Jesus. Jesus encountered trials of His faith, as God allowed Satan to tempt Him to prove that Jesus was indeed the Son of God, absolutely incapable of sin. God the Father permitted this to happen to His only begotten Son and again to Job, for the reason that He could prove that they would remain faithful under these temptations from the hand of Satan. And God knew that Job would prevail, just as He knew Christ would. Job suffered tremendously for the fight of his faith --- for the saving of his soul. Christ also suffered greatly and died for us all.

Two factors determine that God knew Job's outcome. First, God is omniscient; therefore He knows everything before it happens. Second, God will not allow Christians to be tempted beyond what they can handle. He will make a way of escape from their trials so that they are able to bear it. When trials do come, He wants to see our faith in Him fully.

*God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. (1 Corinthians 10:13a)*

*Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy...*

*Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.*  
**(1 Peter 4:12-19)**

Christ cannot sin when tempted or tested. Jesus Christ is God the Father manifested in the flesh. Jesus Christ, begotten by God, has within Him no lust nor tendency or possibility to sin. But man does. Since the fall of Adam, man is born in sin and therefore when he is tempted by Satan, he is drawn away by his own lust and when lust has conceived, it brings forth sin (**James 1:14, 15**). For this reason, God instructs all Christians to put on the whole armor of God, so that they will be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

*Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

*Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

**(Ephesians 6:11-13)**

Satan is the one who tempts with evil intentions. However, when Christians sin, God may chasten them afterwards, just as a father disciplines his son, in order to teach them to live righteously. And He does this for the salvation of their souls in that future Day.

*Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God;" for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.*

*But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. (James 1:12-15)*

In **Matthew 4:1**, Satan is revealed as the tempter:

*Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.*

Again in **Matthew 6:13**, the prayer reveals Satan as the tempter:

*And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.*

Many Christians have a difficult time with the Book of **Job**. Why did God allow Job, a righteous and holy man, to suffer the loss of his family and all of his possessions if he was serving and pleasing God? How could God allow Satan to destroy all that Job had? In order to properly understand the Book of **Job**, we must first have a deep understanding of God's Word and know God's purpose for man in *this* age. Many Church leaders give the false belief that God will *always* reward the righteous in *this* age. But the Word says otherwise. Christians will be allowed to be tested with various trials to determine their faith until the end. If they endure, they will be rewarded during the *next* age -- the Kingdom Age, when Christ returns for His bride.

The testing of our faith is essential for Christian maturity and necessary to be found approved at the Judgment seat of Christ. A Christian who endures trials is mature and has been promised the crown of life in the age to come. How does one endure trials? He overcomes by faith in God. He asks God for strength and wisdom through them. The wisdom God gives provides the means to overcome them. Trials are tools which refine and purify our faith, producing patient endurance. For this reason we are to consider them opportunities for rejoicing, for when we pass the test, we will be glorified in that future Day. Like Christ, Job was faithful to the end even under such devastating circumstances, because of the hope that was set before him.

*For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth. (Job 19:25)*

### **Example 20) Book of Psalms**

Though the Book of Psalms leads us through the lows and highs of human experience, primarily Israel's experience, it is mainly *prophetic*. **Psalms 2:8, 9** tells of the day when Christ Jesus shall rule with a rod of iron. A companion Scripture can be seen in **Revelation 19:11-21**, which tells of the day when “*Christ rules with a rod of iron and treads the winepress of the fierceness of the wrath of Almighty God.*” **Psalms 24** speaks prophetically of the Lord Jesus Christ and **Psalms 2** and **Psalms 110** share a focus on the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to establish His kingdom. **Psalms 50** speaks of the return of the Lord and His righteous judgment upon His people.

In addition, the Book of **Psalms** gives instructions on how to attain the salvation of the soul. King David wrote most of the Psalms, which was used for songs, prayers and worship in ancient Israel. Today, the Psalms continue to be used in worship as they provide guidance for the Christian. Many of the Psalms can be identified as certain types by their theme:

- 1) The royal Psalms often point forward to the coming rule of the Savior King, Christ Jesus.
- 2) The Psalms of Zion focus on the prophecies of Jerusalem. They emphasize Jerusalem as God's choice for the site of His holy temple during the Millennium.
- 3) The penitential Psalms are confessions of sin and requests for forgiveness to the Lord.
- 4) The wisdom Psalms, also found in the Book of **Proverbs**, present instructions on soul salvation, providing sharp contrasts between the righteous and the wicked.
- 5) The imprecatory Psalms contain prayers for guidance, asking God to protect from the wicked. A subcategory would be a lament Psalms, which is in a time of distress, usually asking God for protection from enemies.

6) The Passover Psalms, also prophetic, celebrate the great acts of the Lord in delivering His people from Egypt and points forward to the deliverance that will come through the second coming of Christ Jesus.

7) The Hallel Psalms, named from the Hebrew word "praise," form the final group of Psalms at the end of the Book. These Psalms praise God Almighty for His works, His Word, His salvation and judgment.

Overall, the Psalms cover Christ's second return, the establishment of His kingdom and how to attain the salvation of the soul.

**Psalms 1**, a wisdom Psalm, distinguishes between an overcomer and one who is overcome -- the way of the righteous and the way of the wicked:

*Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,  
Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the  
scornful;*

*But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he  
meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree, Planted by the  
rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf  
also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.*

*The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind  
drives away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the  
judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.*

*For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the  
ungodly shall perish.*

In the same manner of introduction in the Beatitudes of **Matthew** chapter **five**, this first Psalm begins with the word *blessed*, which means "fortunate" and is linked to receiving divine favor in Christ's future kingdom. Likewise, the Beatitudes provide instruction on how to inherit Christ's kingdom.

A person who *walks* means to "walk beside" or "behave." Instructions are given *not* to behave or become deeply involved in the counsel of the

ungodly or in wickedness. Therefore, an overcomer should not behave like sinners and the scornful.

The only consistent way to overcome the sinful desires of our human nature (the flesh) is to live in the power of the Holy Spirit as He works through our spirit. Walking each moment by faith in God's Word under the Spirit's control assures absolute victory over our sinful nature.

*I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. (Galatians 5:16)*

Rather than finding enjoyment in associations with wicked persons or in wickedness, the godly Christian finds deep enjoyment in associations with godly people and with the Word of God. This means that the godly person continually seeks maturity in the Word on a daily basis. And as the person matures in the Word (to include the Word of the kingdom, the whole counsel of God) he allows the Spirit to produce works which are pleasing to God and productive to His plan and purpose.

But ungodly Christians are unstable, who are easily affected by the world and the sinful desires of the flesh. When judgment comes, the ungodly will not stand; they will be cast out of the kingdom to outer darkness. They will be separated from the righteous overcomers who inherit the kingdom. God *knows* (has an intimate, personal knowledge) the righteous, but He has no intimate connection with carnal Christians.

Recorded in **Matthew 7:21-23**, a word-picture is presented of carnal Christians as they stand before Christ at His judgment seat:

*“Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*

*Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'*

*And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you (had an intimate, personal relationship), depart from Me (out of the kingdom), you who practice lawlessness!'* "

This is typical of Christians who did not walk (behave continually) according to the Spirit, but according to the flesh. They attempt to do works according to their own desires and not according to the will of God. God never knew them or had an intimate, personal relationship with them because they did not seek Him from the Word of God.

Other wisdom Psalms that provide instructions for the salvation of the soul are: **Psalms 14, 15, 27, 31, 34, 36, 37, 39, 41, 49, 52, 62, 63, 71, 73, 103, 104, 107, 111, 112, 119, 127, 128, 139, and 145.**

**Psalms 15** provides the characteristics required to obtain the salvation of the soul in that future Day:

***The Character of Those Who May Dwell with the Lord:***

*Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill?*

*He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart; He who does not backbite with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor,*

*Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend; In whose eyes a vile person is despised, But he honors those who fear the Lord;*

*He who swears to his own hurt and does not change, He who does not put out his money at usury,*

*Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved. (Psalms 15)*

**Psalm 15** begins with two questions: Who is qualified to assemble with the Lord in His tabernacle? Who is qualified to reside with the Lord in Mount Zion, the Messianic Kingdom?

Only those who are spiritually saved are entered into this race and considered for qualification. For when one believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Spirit of the Lord entered into his spirit. It is now up to the believer to allow the Spirit to work through him for good works, works done in accordance to the Word of God, thereby qualifying him for the salvation of his soul and entrance into the kingdom to rule with Him in that future Day.

What are the qualifications? **Psalms 15** reveals the qualifications:

1) *He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart.*

As we allow the Spirit to teach us the Word, our will faith grow and in time it will change our character. Walking in the Spirit is walking uprightly. This means going against the flesh. **Galatians 5:19** distinguishes between the works of the flesh and the works of the Spirit:

*Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like;*

*of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. (Galatians 5:19-21)*

*But the fruit (works) of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-25)*

As one receives with meekness the Word of God and implants the Word in his heart and mind, then he will have a renewed character. He will be strong in the faith and produce the fruit of the Spirit which will be able to save his soul. But if he chooses a life without the Word, walking in the flesh, then he will produce works of “hay, wood, and straw,” and sin will engulf his days so that his outcome will be the loss of his soul.

2) *He who does not backbite with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbor, nor does he take up a reproach against his friend.*

The sinful nature that inspires evil words is beyond our control. Only through the work of the Holy Spirit within us can we bring this destructive force under control.

*But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of dead poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. (James 3:8-10)*

The Christian who possesses godly wisdom will meekly show it with works, not just words. They will be slow to speak and quick to act, in love and care to all fellow believers. An evil tongue produces strife and turmoil. Bitterness, envy, jealousy and selfish behavior thoroughly corrupt a person, but a godly character is peaceable and pure. When we look to godly wisdom, our character becomes like Christ, and we no longer fall into the falsehood and wickedness of the world and the sinful motivations of the flesh. Instead, we treat our friends and neighbors as God treats His faithful friends --- with mercy, grace, care, gentleness, love and blessings.

3) *In whose eyes a vile person is despised, but he honors those who fear the Lord.*

A Christian who is mature in the faith and lives holy will hate the actions and tongues of evildoers. In today's evil world, the wicked tongue and immoral actions are so prevalent in television, theatre, radio, and the internet. Satan's evil works through the media entices Christians to live an ungodly life. And children are exposed to these sorts of evil as well. Christians are to hate evil actions and words, just as God does. They are to assemble themselves with other fellow believers, those who fear the Lord. Christians who associate with others of like-mind will exhort each other and live holy.

4) *He who swears to his own hurt and does not change.*

When a faithful Christian takes an oath, it must be honored even if it requires suffering. When we are persecuted for standing by the Word of God, we will be rewarded at Christ's judgment seat.

*But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled."*

*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear...For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil."*

**(1 Peter 3:14-17)**

5) *He does not put out his money at usury, nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.*

Christians should deal fairly at all times, helping the needy and the poor without reservation. Christians are never to take advantage of others or act in greediness, but give to others freely and sincerely.

6) *He who does these things shall never be moved.*

God's promise for the righteous, i.e. the overcomers, will not be awarded in this age, but in the age to come. Christians who overcome will dwell with the Lord in the kingdom of heaven as their sure foundation.

### **Example 21) Book of Proverbs**

King Solomon, who was granted the gift of wisdom from God, wrote many of the **Proverbs**, all of **Ecclesiastes** and **Song of Solomon**. Shortly after Solomon became king of Israel, the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Ask! What shall I give you?" (**1 Kings 3:5**). Solomon, stressing his relative youth and inexperience by referring to himself as "a little child" in the affairs of government, asked for wisdom and understanding to judge his people. The Lord was pleased with Solomon's request and not only granted him wisdom and knowledge, but also blessed him with great wealth and honor. King Solomon taught the wisdom of God in his Proverbs. Possessing God's wisdom, he taught the way to a righteous lifestyle with God. Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, recorded his wisdom for our benefit so that we might receive instruction and understanding in God's righteousness— a pathway that leads to rewards in the coming kingdom. The wisdom and understanding which Solomon possessed as he ruled in the kingdom of Israel has its connection with the "tree of life." In **Proverbs 3:13-18**, Solomon associated wisdom

and understanding with the “tree of life.”

*Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding; For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold.*

*She is more precious than gold. She is more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her.*

*Length of days is in her right hand, In her left hand riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, And all her paths are peace.*

*She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who retain her.*

The fruit of the tree of life originally placed in the Garden of Eden would have provided wisdom and understanding for Adam to rule. It will provide Christians in the Millennium the necessary wisdom and understanding to rule in the kingdom as well. Christians allowed to partake of the tree of life will in that day be equipped to rule over the earth as co-heirs with Christ. It is reserved for the overcomers in the age to come.

The Book of **Proverbs** exhorts believers to feed on God’s wisdom through His Word for the preparation of their soul salvation. Making the proper preparations will qualify believers to be partakers in Christ’s coming kingdom and to partake of the tree of life in the midst of the Paradise of God. The Book of **Proverbs** deals with the message of acquiring wisdom and understanding for the purpose of being equipped to carry on the Lord’s business as ministers during His absence in this age. If we overcome, we will have access to wisdom and understanding from the partaking of the tree of life in the age to come.

### ***The Value of Wisdom:***

*My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you, So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding;*

*Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding, If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures;*

*Then you will understand the fear of the Lord And find the knowledge of God.*

*For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly;*

*He guards the paths of justice, And preserves the way of His saints.*

*Then you will understand righteousness and justice, Equity and every good path. (Proverbs 2:1-9)*

If we are passionate about seeking God's Word, He will be faithful to give wisdom and knowledge, allowing us to grow and be transformed like Him. God's Word is life, life in the Millennium. God gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to all believers for the purpose of imparting truth and understanding. The Holy Spirit is comprised of seven Spirits whom God brought forth since the beginning, before the ages were formed. These Spirits are part of His Spirit whom He sent out to all the earth to give to all believers who seek Him --- for the purpose of guiding the way to His future kingdom. A clear picture is revealed by the Spirit of Wisdom:

*"The Lord possessed me at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old, I have been established from everlasting, From the beginning, before there was ever an earth.*

*When there were no depths I was brought forth, When there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, Before the hills, I was brought forth; while as yet He had not made the earth or the fields, Or the primal dust of the world.*

*When He prepared the heavens, I was there, When He drew a circle on the face of the deep, When He established the clouds above, When He strengthened the fountains of the deep,*

*When He assigned to the sea its limit, So that the waters would not transgress His command, When He marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside Him as a master craftsman;*

*And I was daily His delight, Rejoicing always before Him, Rejoicing in His inhabited world, And my delight was with the sons of men. Now therefore, listen to me, my children, For blessed are those who keep my ways.*

*Hear instruction and be wise, And do not disdain it. Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at the posts of my doors.*

*For whoever finds me finds life, And obtains favor from the Lord; But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; All those who hate me love death." (Proverbs 8:22-36)*

The importance of gaining wisdom through God's Word is a matter of saving or losing one's soul-life in the age to come. From the beginning, the Lord Jesus Christ, together with the Holy Spirit, took part in God's creation. **Isaiah 11:2** reveals the seven parts of the Holy Spirit:

*The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him (His Deity),  
The Spirit of wisdom  
and understanding,  
The Spirit of counsel  
and might,  
The Spirit of knowledge  
and of the fear of the Lord.*

And in **Revelation 5:6**, Christ is described as the Lamb, possessing the seven Spirits of God:

*And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.*

God *commands* Christians to attain His wisdom. When one possesses the fear of the Lord, he is motivated to understand and please Him, desiring to be partakers with Him in the age to come.

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,  
And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.  
For by me your days will be multiplied, and years of life  
will be added to you. (Proverbs 8:10, 11)*

The wisdom of God is the central theme of the Book of **Proverbs**. Solomon, in all his wisdom, knew how extremely important it was to understand God's Word and to walk in His ways. And he knew that fear and reverence for the Lord was the motivating factor for gaining His wisdom. The Book of **Proverbs** provides detailed instructions to guide us in our Christian walk. It teaches believers the tools needed to overcome.

An example of an overcomer is pictured in the “virtuous wife” in **Proverbs 31:10**. The virtuous wife is representative of the bride of Christ. Her acts of goodness, honesty and strength *all the days of her life* to her Husband and her household brings her praise and honor and qualifies her in the gates (of the Kingdom). This type of individual will be hard to find at the end of this dispensation. It is a question that is stated at the beginning of **Proverbs 31:10**:

*“Who can find a virtuous wife?”*

We find a similar question addressed in **Luke 18:8** when Jesus says:

*“Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find [the] faith on the earth?”*

### **The Virtuous Wife**

*Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.*

*The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.*

*She seeks wool and flax, and willingly works with her hands.  
She is like the merchant ships, She brings her food from afar.*

*She also rises while it is yet night, and provides food for her household,  
And a portion for her maidservants. She considers a field and buys it;  
From her profits she plants a vineyard.*

*She girds herself with strength, And strengthens her arms. She perceives that her merchandise is good,  
And her lamp does not go out by night.*

*She stretches out her hands to the distaff, And her hand holds the spindle.  
She extends her hand to the poor. Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy.*

*She is not afraid of snow for her household, For all her household is clothed with scarlet.  
She makes tapestry for herself; Her clothing is fine linen and purple.*

*Her husband is known in the gates, When he sits among the elders of the land.  
She makes linen garments and sells them, And supplies sashes for the merchants.  
Strength and honor are her clothing; She shall rejoice in time to come.*

*She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue is the law of kindness.  
She watches over the ways of her household. And does not eat the bread of idleness.*

*Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her:  
“Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all.”*

*Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But a woman who fears the Lord,  
she shall be praised.*

*Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates. (Proverbs 31:10-31)*

*Her worth is far above rubies* refers to faithful works that are found to be

without blemish. Those found worthy from previous decisions and determinations at the Judgment seat of Christ will be valued far above precious stones (**1 Corinthians 3:12; 1 Peter 1:7**).

*She does him good and not evil all the days of her life* refers to being faithfully obedient to the Lord until the end; a lifelong process of putting to death the flesh and living according to the Spirit.

*She also rises when it is yet night, and provides food for her household.* This is similar to **Matthew 24:45-47**:

*Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.*

As wise and faithful servants of Christ, the food that we are to give to His household (the family of believers) is the meat of the Word, the Word of the kingdom. When Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, He left us with the Holy Spirit and His Word, commanding us to “do business” until He returns.

*She considers a field and buys it; from her profits she plants a vineyard.* The “vineyard” is the kingdom. Jesus Christ is the vine and the Father is the vinedresser. The field is the world. As branches, we are to bear fruit in the world for the building of the kingdom.

*Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit he takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit...I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me, you can do nothing. (John 15:2-5).*

Just as Christ purchased us with His blood to redeem us and offer us a part in His future kingdom, we also must put to death the flesh daily and purchase oil [wisdom] from the Holy Spirit. We must bear fruit through the Spirit of Christ in order to build the kingdom and be found worthy as the bride.

*She girds herself with strength, and strengthens her arms. She perceives that her merchandise is good, and her lamp does not go out by night.*

By implication, the word “gird” means with intensity, and is subject to a passionate determination to fulfill. Therefore, by remaining constant and strong in the Word of God, the overcomer is strengthened and cannot be brought down. The overcomer’s merchandise is the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Her lamp (spirit) not only contains the oil from the Holy Spirit, but is completely filled (strong meat of the Word) that qualifies her at the Judgment seat of Christ.

*She extends her hands to the poor, yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy.*

Usually the word “poor,” such as in **Matthew 5:5**, refers to the poor or needy in spirit, i.e. the humble, those hungry for the Word. They are humble to receive God’s Word, to mature and to submit to His commandments. To these individuals we are to reach out and give assistance by the ministering of the Word of the kingdom and to their common needs.

*Her clothing is fine linen and purple. Her husband is known in the gates. When he sits among the elders of the land.*

In **Revelation 19:8**, we see that the fine linen of the bride of Christ is the “righteous acts of the saints.” An example of being properly clothed is pictured in **Ruth 3:3** as Ruth had to put on her best wedding garment [righteous acts] to prepare herself to meet her bridegroom. The virtuous wife prepares herself knowing that her husband is known in the gates of the kingdom. He sits on the throne among the elders (angels) of the kingdom.

*Strength and honor are her clothing; she shall rejoice in time to come.*

We are to put on the proper clothing (attributes of strength and honor) under the leadership of the Holy Spirit *now* so that we can possess a glorified body *then*. In this, we shall rejoice in the age to come.

*She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness. She watches over the ways of her household. And does not eat the bread of idleness.*

An overcomer is able to control the tongue through the power of the Holy Spirit, speaking in kindness and in wisdom, preparing to be priest-king in

the age to come. She continually exhorts other believers who are like-minded and she remains steadfast in the faith, never wavering.

*Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her: "Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all."*

At the judgment seat of Christ, the overcomers will be exalted; and some more than others, as some will have excelled in works as well as in rewards.

*Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.*

The overcomer's focus is not on the things of this world, but on the fear of the Lord. The reward to be presented at the Judgment seat of Christ will commensurate with the measure of one's fruit. The overcomer's works will be found to praise, honor and glory in the gates of the kingdom!

In summary, the Book of **Proverbs** *commands* believers to obtain wisdom through God's Word, producing the fear of the Lord. When we have the fear of the Lord, we understand that Christ will judge our soul-life in that future Day.

*Keep sound wisdom and discretion; So they will be life to your soul. (Proverbs 3:21, 22)*

*In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, And His children will have a place of refuge.*

*The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, To turn one away from the snares of death. (Proverbs 14:26, 27)*

*The fear of the Lord prolongs days, But the years of the wicked will be shortened. The hope of the righteous will be gladness, But the expectation of the wicked will perish.*

*The way of the Lord is strength for the upright, But destruction will come to the workers of iniquity. (Proverbs 10:27-29)*

We must seek God's Word daily and allow the fruit of the Spirit to produce good works through us. We must endure until the end, for our reward waits.

### **Example 22) Book of Ecclesiastes**

The Book of **Ecclesiastes** was written at a time during Solomon's recommitment to the living God and is a guide for believers who fall into the perils of this present life. Solomon continues his instruction from the Book of **Proverbs** of attaining the fear of the Lord and concludes with the following,

*Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil. (Ecclesiastes 12:13)*

Why should we fear and obey God? The answer is because God will judge everyone -- the righteous and the wicked (faithful and carnal) Christians. On the Day of the Lord, Christ will call forth all believers to account for their works, whether good or bad. Therefore, the admonition to fear God and the expectation of divine judgment are the two great themes that conclude this Book.

The Book of **Ecclesiastes** instructs believers to live for the Lord, for only then can we find hope and peace. The pleasures in life that come from the world and the flesh are all vanity. It is a way of keeping our focus away from the One and Only True God. Satan diverts our attention by having us focus on ambition, lustful pleasures of the world, self, worldly desires and possessions which provide no permanent joy or satisfaction. Those who overcome these temptations by faith in God will experience true joy and peace -- for their hope is in the age to come.

Every believer will experience blessings and suffering. God allows it for good, to prepare us for the saving of our soul. If a believer remains faithful during trials, he will have God's protection and guidance. But an unfaithful believer does not trust in the Lord to protect and guide him when he encounters suffering and tribulation.

To fear God, the central theme of the Book of **Ecclesiastes**, means to have reverence, fear, awe and wonder in response to His glory. It means to respond to Him in faith and obedience, and to be in fear (Greek word, “phobos” which means “terror”), for all will be judged one day in His presence.

*I know that whatever God does, It shall be forever. Nothing can be added to it, And nothing taken from it.*

*God does it, that men should fear before Him. That which is has already been, And what is to be has already been; And God requires an account of what is past. (Ecclesiastes 3:14, 15)*