

# Ten Old Testament Characters

STUDIES 1 - 10

*STUDENT MANUAL*

Stephen Nemeth Lectures

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Studies 1 - 10

## *Student Manual*

TABLE OF CONTENTS		
Study	Title	Pages
1	Lot: A Saved Soul, A Lost Life	1
2	Lot's Wife: A Solemn Warning	10
3	Rahab: The Wondrous Grace Of God	17
4	Caleb: Whole-Hearted Following	27
5	Saul: The Snare Of Spiritism	34
6	Queen Of Sheba: A Royal Visit	41
7	Obadiah: Servant Of Jehovah	49
8	Manasseh: Old Testament Prodigal	56
9	Isaiah: Steps Into Blessing	64
10	EbedMelech: A Work Of Rescue	71

*Stephen Nemeth Lectures*

# ***LOT: A SAVED SOUL - A LOST LIFE***

## **STUDY 1**

**Scripture Portions: Genesis 12:1-5; Genesis 13:1-13; Genesis 14:1-16; Genesis 19:1-38**

In this series of studies we shall concentrate our attention upon ten Old Testament characters.

There is no better way to encourage ourselves and one another than by studying the lives of men and women who have served God in the past.

### **Romans 15:4 -**

But this line of study will also bring us solemn warnings about the dangers and pitfalls which confront us.

### **1 Corinthians 10:11-12 -**

This series, therefore, will provide us with a balance of encouragements and warnings.

We begin with a word of warning as we read and study the character of Lot. The scripture references above make very sad reading. They tell us about a man who was saved, as is made clear when he is referred to as “just” Lot and “that righteous man” in

### **2 Peter 2:6-9 -**

In New Testament language, Lot was a saved man, but he was only just saved. He was a worldly Christian who had a saved soul but a lost life.

Because he lived for self and was in bondage to the things of time and sense, he became engulfed in and succumbed to the evils of his time.

Notice the following main lines of teaching which we extract from the sad story of Lot.

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### **LOT WALKED BY SIGHT AND NOT BY FAITH.**

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The true hallmark of the believer is that he walks by faith and not by sight.

### **2 Corinthians 5:7 -**

But the worldly believer reverses the order.

### **Habakkuk 2:4 -**

**Romans 1:17 -**

**Galatians 3:11 -**

**Hebrews 10:38 -**

Lot lived by sight.

This is most of all apparent in the selfish, carnal choice he made.

Read about it in -

**Genesis 13:1-11 -**

and compare -

**2 Corinthians 4:18 -**

The worldly Christian lays up treasure on earth and has little or no treasure in Heaven.

**Matthew 6:19-20 -**

The worldly Christian, walking by sight, is governed by the world's wisdom and standards.

**1 Corinthians 2:2-7 -**

**1 John 2:15-17 -**

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**LOT MADE HIS HOME AND REARED HIS CHILDREN IN WICKED SODOM.**

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He deliberately chose to do so, as we learn from -

**Genesis 13:12-13 -**

At first, Lot only pitched his tent towards Sodom.

But, later we find him living in Sodom -

**Genesis 14:12 -**

a prosperous citizen of Sodom and holding a high position in the civic and social life of the city.

Lot was a V.I.P. in Sodom - but how sad for a child of God!

He called the wicked men of Sodom “brethren” -

**Genesis 19:7 -**

so he was one of them.

Probably he never intended to drift into the worldly, sensual, God-dishonouring life of Sodom.

What Christian ever intends to get away from God and to dishonour Him?

Before long, his wife and children were thoroughly imbued with the worldliness of Sodom - dance-mad, pleasure-mad, drink-mad, fashion-mad, sex-mad.

This picture is surely up-to-date, though it happened with Lot and his family 4000 years ago!

But God’s call is to separation.

**2 Corinthians 6:14-18 -**

**2 Peter 2:20 -**

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### **3. LOT WAS OUT OF TOUCH WITH GOD.**

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He lost the consciousness of the presence of God.

**Genesis 13:14 -**

Notice the word “after”. How solemn!

**Job 23:3 -** *Oh that I knew where I might find him! that I might come even to his seat!*

He lost the experience of the peace of God.

**2 Peter 2:6-9 -**

We are told that the wickedness of the Sodomites “vexed” the soul of Lot.

Yes, his conscience was troubled. It “stung” him.

**Isaiah 57:20-21 -**

How could he know peace in his heart when he was enmeshed by the world and by

worldly people?

***c. He lost the power of God - if he had ever had it!***

Instead of being a power for God, he had become a weak, worldly, failing, disobedient man.

His case was rather like that of Samson as recorded in **Judges 16:4-20**.

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**4. LOT HAD NO INFLUENCE FOR GOD.**

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He did not look, walk or act like a man of God. Nobody ever dreamed that he was one.

As a believer, he should have exerted a powerful influence for the Lord.

Because he was so weak and so worldly, his influence for God counted for nothing at all.

1. He had no influence with the men of Sodom.

We learn this from **Genesis 19:1-11**.

Particularly notice in -

**Genesis 19:7-9 -**

that they laughed him to scorn.

The men of Sodom must have despised Lot.

And the world despises a worldly, “make believe” Christian.

2. He had no influence with his children.

We learn this from -

**Genesis 19:8 -**

This is a verse to make us shudder, but is there a sadder verse in the whole Bible than -

**Genesis 19:14 -**

*c. He had no influence with his own wife.*

We learn this from -

**Genesis 19:26 -**

which tells the solemn story of her disobedience and her tragic end.

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5. LOT WENT FROM BAD TO WORSE AND BECAME HARDENED BY THE DECEITFULNESS OF SIN.

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**Genesis 19:15-16 -**

We read that Lot “lingered” - which tells us that his conscience was seared -

**1 Timothy 4:2 -**

How slow he was to obey God, even when God had warned him of impending judgment!

**2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 -**

These are some of the most solemn words in the Bible.

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**6. LOT LOST HIS HONOR AND WAS INVOLVED IN SHAME WITH HIS OWN DAUGHTERS.**

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The awful story of debauchery, weakness, deceit, drunkenness and incest is told in **Genesis 19:30-38**.

Scripture does not gloss over men’s sins. Let us be warned and take heed as we read this sad, sad story.

The result was that two illegitimate children were born - Moab and Ammon - from who came the bitterest enemies of ancient Israel - the Moabites and the Ammonites.

Sin, if it is harbored, goes on working in the heart and in the life. Eventually it leads to shame and tragedy - even to members of one’s own family.

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7. **FINALLY, LOT WAS LITERALLY “SAVED; YET SO AS BY FIRE”.**

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He was “plucked out of the fire”.

Read and compare -

**Zechariah 3:2 -**

**1 Corinthians 3:15 -**

**Jude 23 -**

Every believer will have to appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ.

**Romans 14:10 -**

There, we shall either be rewarded for faithfulness or we shall suffer loss because, like Lot, we have lived an easy-going, careless, worldly life. All believers will be saved, but some will be saved “yet so as by fire”.

Read and seriously consider -

**1 Corinthians 3:11-15 -**

***NOTES***

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# ***LOT'S WIFE: A SOLEMN WARNING***

## **STUDY 2**

**Scripture Portions: Genesis 19:1-29; Luke 17:22-37**

Lot was saved, but only just saved.

Lot's wife, the character we shall consider in this study, was almost saved, but she was lost.

**Genesis 19:17 -**

**Genesis 19:24-26 -**

The story of this woman was referred to by the Lord Jesus when He was warning of judgment.

He referred -

to the days of Noah -

**Luke 17:26-27 -**

and to the days of Lot -

**Luke 17:28-29 -**

He was (and is) the Truth -

**John 14:6 -**

He always spoke the truth. He never spoke one word out of place.

The events recorded in Genesis were actual historical events. The stories we read there are not folklore or fables. They are factual historical events and authenticated by the Lord Himself.

“Remember Lot's wife,” He said, and then warned His hearers of the swift and terrible judgment which overtook her.

He said this in connection with His second coming, which leads us to link up some of the most terrible words in the Bible.

**2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 -**

Do not be tempted to water down or weaken the force and truth of these solemn words  
-

**Luke 17:32 -**

and who it is who enjoins us to do this, and why.

There are five things in particular that we should remember about her.

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REMEMBER: LOT'S WIFE PERISHED ALTHOUGH SHE WAS A WOMAN OF  
GREAT PRIVILEGE.

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She was the wife of Lot who was “a righteous man”, a believer - yet she perished.

All through the years Lot had believed in God. He had prayed to Him and had worshiped Him, yet Mrs. Lot remained outside, without a like faith in the Lord.

Presumably these two, husband and wife, not only lived together, they slept together. They did everything together - and yet, when the crisis time came, Lot was saved and his wife was lost.

There is only one judgment for the man or woman who has not repented.

**Luke 13:3 -**

See this awful word “perish” in -

**John 3:16 -**

**1 Corinthians 1:18 -**

**Hebrews 2:3 -**

In this connection, look up and see the significance of -

**Matthew 24:40-42 -**

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## **2. REMEMBER: LOT'S WIFE PERISHED ALTHOUGH SHE HAD CLEAR WARNING OF HER DANGER.**

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You see, Lot's wife could never say that she had not heard about God or heard His warning that judgment was about to fall on Sodom.

### **Genesis 19:14-17 -**

There must be people today who have not heard of judgment to come simply because no one has told or warned them.

But that was not the case with Lot's wife. And that can never be the case with those of us sharing this Bible Study.

The danger of every unsaved soul is very terrible.

All who have not received Christ as their personal Saviour, all who have not come to Him and placed their faith in Him, are condemned -

### **John 3:18 -**

The wrath of God abides on them -

### **John 3:36 -**

They cannot go to be where Jesus is, and, if they die in this state, they will die in their sins -

### **John 8:21 -**

Yes, and that means eternal banishment from God's presence -

### **Revelation 20:15 -**

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## **8. REMEMBER: LOT'S WIFE PERISHED ALTHOUGH SHE MADE SOME EFFORT TO BE SAVED.**

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From the record, we learn that she rose up early with Lot.

Together they set out to leave the city of Sodom, but she did not make it. She needed the security of the city of refuge - Zoar. She never reached Zoar. She perished on the way. It is not enough for men and women today to try their best to leave the bad things behind and to do the good things, such as going to church, reading the Bible, giving up bad

habits.

He, the Lord Jesus, is the only safe and sure Refuge.

**Hebrews 6:18 -**

We are not saved by works, but by personal trust in the Lord Jesus.

**Romans 4:5 -**

**Ephesians 2:8-10 -**

**Titus 3:5-7 -**

*Not the labour of my hands  
Can fulfil Thy law's demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know,  
Could my tears for ever flow,  
All for sin could not atone;  
Thou must save, and Thou alone.*

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9. REMEMBER: LOT'S WIFE PERISHED ALTHOUGH SHE COMMITTED ONLY ONE SIN.

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The command was to "*Escape.....look not behind thee.*"

**Genesis 19:17 -**

But she "looked back....." -

**Genesis 19:26 -**

and she perished.

The sin of unbelief is the one and only sin which is needed to bring total and final spiritual disaster.

**John 16:7-11 -**

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## **5. REMEMBER: LOT'S WIFE PERISHED ALTHOUGH SHE WAS ALMOST SAVED.**

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The judgment of God fell upon her not when she was miles or yards away from the place of safety, but when she was at the very gates of Zoar.

How true it is to observe that this woman was almost saved - but she was lost! She was almost within the gates of mercy, but she was outside..... How solemn this is!

*“Remember Lot’s wife.....”.*

May the solemn truth of this study stir us to a deeper concern to seek those who are perishing, that we may bring them to Jesus.

The doom of Lot’s wife was very terrible, but no more terrible than will be the doom of every lost sinner.

If we believe this, we shall make quite sure of our own salvation. Then we shall seek the enabling of the Holy Spirit to warn those who do not know the Lord Jesus as their Saviour of the danger which awaits them.

**Psalm 51:14 -**

**Ezekiel 3:18 -**

**Matthew 3:7 -**

**Acts 20:31 -**

**2 Corinthians 5:11 -**

**Colossians 1:28 -**

***And Preachers - there is great need to bring this warning note back into our preaching!***

We must call upon men and women not only to believe -

**Acts 16:31 -**

but to repent and believe -

**Mark 1:15 -**

Then we must warn them of the danger of failing to do so.

It is only when we are aware of our terrible danger of failing to do so that we seek deliverance.

*“Almost persuaded”, harvest is past!*  
*“Almost persuaded”, doom comes at last!*  
*“Almost” cannot avail;*  
*“Almost” is but to fail*  
*Sad, sad that bitter wail;*  
*“Almost, but lost”!*

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# ***RAHAB: THE WONDROUS GRACE OF GOD***

## **STUDY 3**

**Scripture Portions: Hebrews 11:31; Joshua 2:1-24; Joshua 6:17, 20-25**

God never condones or excuses sin, but He has made a way whereby sinful and failing men and women may find deliverance from the penalty and the power of sin.

That way is the way of faith - faith (as we shall see in this study) in One who shed His blood for us and whose precious blood was so beautifully typified in the “true token” of Rahab, “the line of scarlet thread” which guaranteed and secured her safety and the safety of “her father’s household”.

**Joshua 2:12 -**

**Joshua 2:18 -**

**Joshua 6:25 -**

Compare with -

**Hebrews 11:31 -**

Are we surprised when we read that “by faith the harlot (of all people!) Rahab perished not with them that believed not”? Can a sinner be translated from a house of shame into the Hall of Fame? Yes!

**Colossians 1:13 -**

Does the grace of God take a prostitute of the land of Canaan and place her into the line of Christ? Yes!

**Proverbs 28:13 -**

See in this verse a wonderful illustration of God’s way of salvation.

Notice Rahab’s faith - how it began, how it operated, how it was manifested and what it accomplished.

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RAHAB WAS A COMMON SINNER YET SHE WAS SAVED BY GRACE,

THROUGH FAITH.

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That, of course, is the only way for a sinner to be saved.

Compare -

**Ephesians 2:8-10 -**

**Titus 3:5 -**

Rahab was a pagan. She lived in spiritual darkness, among people who were given up to idolatry.

**John 3:19-21 -**

She was a “taverner”, or innkeeper, as the word signifies. She entertained residents and visitors in her house of the wall.

**Joshua 2:15 -** *Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house was upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall.*

She was also a prostitute, but God loved her.

**John 3:16 -**

Read **Luke 7:36-50** and **John 8:3-11**, also -

**Romans 3:22-23 -**

**James 2:10 -**

Our need now is as great as hers was then!

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RAHAB’S FAITH BEGAN, WHERE ALL TRUE FAITH BEGINS, BY HEARING  
GOD’S WORD.

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Twice we are told that she said, “We have heard.....”.

**Joshua 2:10-11 -**

Because she had heard, and because she believed what she had heard, she was able to say, “I know.....”.

**Joshua 2:9 -**

Faith takes God at His word and reckons on it.

**Romans 4:20-21 -**

We are saved in the same way as Rahab was saved.

We hear the gospel -

**John 5:24 -**

We hear that we are under condemnation; we tremble -

**Joshua 2:11 -**

**John 3:18 -**

**John 3:36 -**

By faith, by taking God at His Word, by trusting Him, we are saved -

**Acts 16:30-31 -**

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**RAHAB CONFESSED HER FAITH TO THE SPIES.**

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She was not a secret believer.

Notice the difference between a mere intellectual faith and a real heart faith.

**Joshua 2:10 -**

She said, "*For we have heard.....*"

(That presumably included many of the inhabitants of Jericho).

But, in -

**Joshua 2:9 -**

she said, *“I know that the Lord.....”*.

Many in Jericho heard about the Lord, about His power and they believed about Him, but Rahab believed in Him. She trusted Him.

Now read -

**Romans 10:9-10 -**

Particularly notice the word “heart”.

It is not enough to believe with our head. We must trust and this has to do with our heart. Then, after believing in, or with, our heart, we must confess Him with our mouth and in our lives.

**Matthew 10:32-33 -**

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**RAHAB’S FAITH WAS DEMONSTRATED BY HER WORKS.**

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Works are the evidence of faith.

Compare -

**James 2:25 -**

**Ephesians 2:10 -**

**Philippians 2:12-13 -**

Where faith is real it will be seen.

The evidence of Rahab’s faith was that she hid the spies -

**Joshua 2:1 -**

**Joshua 2:4 -**

**Joshua 2:6 -**

that she confessed to the spies -

**Joshua 2:9-12 -**

and that she sent the spies away -

**Joshua 2:16 -**

But the greatest and most striking evidence of Rahab's faith was the scarlet cord, mentioned in -

**Joshua 2:18 -**

This cord was the "token" that she believed the word of the spies.

**Joshua 2:12 -**

While the cord was in the window, Rahab knew she was safe.

Compare -

**Joshua 2:21 -**

**Exodus 12:12-13 -**

The safe refuge for a guilty sinner is the blood of Jesus.

**1 John 1:7 -**

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## **5. RAHAB'S FAITH INVOLVED A RADICAL CHANGE.**

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Because she believed on the Lord, her life was transformed.

For her, a believer, it meant leaving the doomed city, being separated from her people (the Canaanites) and throwing in her lot with the people of God. She certainly turned to God from idols and everything became new. Compare -

**2 Corinthians 5:17 -**

**1 Thessalonians 1:9 -**

A real work of grace in the heart will always lead to a real change in the life.

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**6. RAHAB'S FAITH REACHED OUT AND ENCOMPASSED HER FRIENDS AND LOVED ONES.**

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This is made clear in -

**Joshua 2:12-13 -**

What a lovely thing it is to see this woman showing a great concern for the salvation of her family and friends! She was like Esther -

**Esther 8:6 -**

She was like Andrew -

**John 1:40-42 -**

She was like Philip -

**John 1:43-49 -**

She was like the woman of Sycher -

**John 4:28-30 -**

Do we have any real concern for the members of our own family and for our friends who do not know the Saviour.

Are we seeking their salvation?

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7. RAHAB'S FAITH BROUGHT HER INTO A POSITION OF GREAT HONOR  
AND IT MADE HER THE SPECIAL CHANNEL OF GOD'S BLESSING.

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God's grace is very wonderful!

This woman Rahab, who had now been brought into living relationship with the Lord, was given to a godly husband. As the result of their union, she became the mother of Boaz, the great-grandfather of king David.

Compare -

**Ruth 4:21-22 -**

**Matthew 1:5-6 -**

**Matthew 1:16 -**

As you conclude this study be sure to read -

**Joshua 6:21-23 -**

**Joshua 6:25 -**

**Isaiah 1:18 -**

*Lord, I cast myself on Thee,  
Nothing but Thy blood can save me.  
From my guilt, O set me free.  
Nothing but Thy blood can save me.*

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# ***CALEB: WHOLE-HEARTED FOLLOWING***

## **STUDY 4**

**Scripture Portion: Joshua 14:1-15**

On six separate occasions, the Holy Spirit has recorded the fact that Caleb wholly followed the Lord.

In a day when some who believed in God were content simply to follow, Caleb followed wholly, whole-heartedly.

**Numbers 14:24 -**

**Numbers 32:11-12 -**

**Deuteronomy 1:36 -**

**Joshua 14:8-9 -**

**Joshua 14:14 -**

Are you a whole-hearted Christian, or are you only a half-hearted Christian?

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1. THERE WERE THREE WITNESSES TO THE FACT THAT CALEB WHOLLY FOLLOWED THE LORD. THE SAME WILL BE TRUE OF US IF WE ARE WHOLE-HEARTED FOR HIM.

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Caleb himself was the first witness.

See what he was able to say of himself.

**Joshua 14:8 -**

This was not a sinful boast. It was a sincere testimony. Can we say the same concerning the past years, months, days, day or hour?

Moses was the second witness.

See what he said of Caleb in -

**Joshua 14:9 -**

If we are wholly following the Lord, we not only know it in our own hearts, but those around us know it also.

What do our unconverted friends say about our following?

*c. The Lord was the third witness.*

See what He said of His servant in -

**Numbers 14:24 -**

Can the Lord, who knows the hearts of all men, say that of us?

This is the supreme test.

The thing which matters most: what does the Lord say about my following?

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2. THESE THREE TESTIMONIES SUGGEST THREE GREAT MOTIVES OR REASONS WHY WE SHOULD WHOLLY FOLLOW THE LORD.

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1. That God may be glorified.

There is only one kind of life that really glorifies Him. That is the life that is wholly given over to Him.

His command to every one of us is that we should -

be holy!

**Leviticus 20:7 -**

**Hebrews 12:14 -**

be whole!

**John 5:6 -**

**1 Peter 1:15-16 -**

2. That others may be edified.

Which life is the greater power and influence for the Lord - the life that is wholly His or the life that is only half His?

One reason why the gospel is not making greater progress in the world is that many Christians who are whole-hearted in everything else they do, are only half-hearted in their Christian living.

*c. That I may be satisfied.*

This may sound a selfish motive, but it is not really selfish.

We all seek satisfaction. True satisfaction is only found in wholly following the Lord Jesus.

It was at the end of his life that Caleb said -

**Joshua 14:8 -**

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3. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FOLLOW THE LORD WHOLLY? WHAT DOES IT IMPLY?

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3. Following the Lord wholly implies concentration.

To follow the Lord wholly means to concentrate all, everything, on doing this one thing.

We get a perfect illustration of this in the case of the apostle Paul who said -

**Philippians 3:13 -**

Paul was determined to do one thing, and one thing only. That was to follow the Lord wholly.

To follow the Lord wholly implies an undivided loyalty.

Read the searching words of our Lord in -

**Matthew 6:24 -**

Here is the whole idea of concentration and absolute allegiance to our one rightful Lord and Master.

**Matthew 23:10 -**

**John 13:13 -**

Compare the words of -

**Psalm 16:8 -**

4. *Following the Lord wholly implies completeness, i.e. following the Lord completely.*

To follow Him completely means to follow Him utterly, absolutely, with heart and soul, without any reservation.

**Luke 9:61 -**

It means to follow Him in all that we are, in all that we do and in all that we say, and to do this wherever we are and under every circumstance, completely - my heart to love Him, my will to obey Him, my mind to think for Him, my feet to run for Him, my voice to sing for Him, my hands to work for Him, my eyes to see for Him, and my lips to speak for Him.

It means more than giving Him all that we have. It means yielding to Him all that we are.

**Romans 6:13 -**

God wants our gifts and talents, but, most of all, He wants - us!

5. Following the Lord wholly implies constancy.

Most of us are far too intermittent in our following. We follow wholly one day, and only “half-ly” the next!

**Luke 22:33 -**

Peter’s intention was undoubtedly to follow the Lord wholly.

**In Luke 22:54 -**

We read that he completely failed to do this.

Peter was not constant.

To follow the Lord wholly is to follow Him all the time, and to go on following Him all the time.

It means to be a Christian of set purpose.

Compare -

**Luke 9:51 -**

**Psalm 16:8 -**

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#### 4. WHAT IS THE SECRET OF WHOLLY FOLLOWING THE LORD?

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Who is sufficient for these things?

We cannot wholly follow the Lord in our own strength.

Yet Caleb did wholly follow - so what secret did he learn?

It is an open secret.

**Numbers 14:24 -**

Caleb wholly followed the Lord “because he had another Spirit with him.....”.

Now, this is very important.

Do not fail to look up and compare -

**John 14:16-17 -**

“*another Comforter.....*”! Yes, that is the secret.

Strength and power to follow the Lord wholly is not in ourselves, but it is in the Holy Spirit.

With the Holy Spirit indwelling and infilling us, we can then do as Caleb did - wholly, fully, follow Him, our glorious Lord!

*When I am dying how glad I shall be  
If the lamp of my life has been blazed out for Thee.  
I shall be glad in whatever I gave,  
Labour, or money, one sinner to save.*

*I shall not mind that the path has been rough,  
That Thy dear feet led the way is enough.  
When I am dying how glad I shall be  
If the lamp of my life has been blazed out for Thee.*

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# ***SAUL: THE SNARE OF SPIRITISM***

## **STUDY 5**

**Scripture Portion: 1 Samuel 28:3-25**

As you read this section of scripture, you will agree that there is a fearful pathos about the story as well as a solemn warning concerning the perils of this ancient and modern heresy.

Why is it that people get involved with witchcraft, sorcery and the occult? Well, why did Saul? Because he was out of touch with God, depressed and troubled.

Many people today, in times of bereavement and sorrow, seek comfort by trying to get into communication with their departed loved ones.

It is quite evident that the Witch of Endor did not expect Samuel to speak, much less to appear.

### **1 Samuel 28:12 -**

This incident is, therefore, a strong argument against the theory that the medium actually contacts those who have departed.

It is an argument for what many believe to be the case - that the voices heard in seances are, in reality, the voices of evil spirits who impersonate the dead.

The fact that Samuel, and not an impersonating spirit, did appear and speak was a great shock to the witch, and to Saul. It was due to a direct intervention of God.

There are seven clear statements about spiritism and every form of the occult which provide us with seven reasons for rejecting it.

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### **SPIRITISM IS ONE OF SATAN'S SNARES.**

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Be sure about this : it is not of God, but of the devil.

The great objective of Satan is to blind the minds of men and women.

### **2 Corinthians 4:4 -**

This is the explanation of the presence of so many false religions and cults in the world

today.

It is the devil's way of blinding men and women to the truth.

He does not mind their being religious and enthusiastic about some doctrine so long as they are kept in the dark as to the truth of God. So beware, be warned.

Spiritism is not only a form of bondage to Satan, but it is also a kind of Satan-worship.

All who dabble in spiritism, or any other form of the occult, are accepting the lies of the devil rather than the revelation of God.

Read **2 Thessalonians 2:1-12**.

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**SPIRITISM, WHEN RESORTED TO, INDICATES A STATE OF UNBELIEF AND BACKSLIDING.**

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No soundly converted Christian who is living in touch with the Lord can possibly have recourse to spiritism.

Anybody, anywhere, who is engaged in spiritist practices is either an unbeliever, or a believer who has got out of touch with the Lord.

This was the case with Saul, as we learn from -

**1 Samuel 28:6 -**

How sad it is when a Christian, through being overwhelmed with bereavement or sorrow, turns aside from the God of all comfort to that which issues from the god of this age - the devil himself!

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4 -**

---

**3. SPIRITISM IS ON THE INCREASE AND IS ONE OF THE SIGNS OF THE LAST DAYS.**

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Probably there has never been a time when this heresy has abounded more than it does today.

In a way, this encourages us, for it announces the near return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**1 Timothy 4:1-2 -**

It indicates that we are living in “the latter” times.

Be quite convinced of this, that, although there is much fraud in spiritism, there is also a very great deal of reality.

Those who go to seances do hear voices and mutterings. They do see visions, but they are thoroughly deceived into thinking they are listening to the actual voice of their loved one or are looking upon the actual form of their loved one.

It is a simple matter for the devil, whose knowledge is very great, to send an impersonating spirit to anyone who is breaking the laws of God and who is out of touch with Him.

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**4. SPIRITISM IS DESCRIBED IN SCRIPTURE AS ONE OF THE WORKS OF THE FLESH.**

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**Galatians 5:19-20 -**

It is certainly not one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

**Galatians 5:22-23 -**

Of everyone who professes to be a Christian and at the same time professes to believe in and dabbles in spiritism, the question needs to be asked: Have you crucified the flesh, that “work” of the flesh which is “witchcraft”?

**Galatians 5:24-25 -**

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**5. SPIRITISM IS AN ABOMINATION TO THE LORD, THEREFORE IT IS EMPHATICALLY AND EXPLICITLY FORBIDDEN IN HIS WORD.**

---

How can anyone whose eyes have once been opened to the truth of God, turn to spiritism when God, in His Word, so clearly warns us against this peril?

Carefully read the following selected scriptures.

**Exodus 22:18 -**

**Leviticus 19:26 -**

**Leviticus 19:31 -**

**Leviticus 20:6 -**

**Leviticus 20:27 -**

**Deuteronomy 18:10-12 -**

**2 Chronicles 33:6 -**

**Isaiah 8:19-20 -**

**Acts 16:16-18 -**

**Acts 19:19 -**

Add to these the other scripture references included in this study in which we are warned not to have anything to do with spiritism.

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## **6. SPIRITISM IS AN ENEMY OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH.**

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So-called Christian Spiritual Churches and professing Christians who are engaging in and advocating the methods of spiritism, are, in reality, wolves in sheep's clothing.

**Matthew 7:15 -**

To be a true spiritist, one must reject the Word of God. Anyone who does this is an enemy of the Christian faith.

Notice that:

spiritists reject the inspiration and authority of the Scriptures.

have a conception of God, of Christ, of the Holy Spirit and of the Church which is unscriptural and, indeed, blasphemous.

**c.** *do not accept the atoning virtue of the blood of Christ.*

**4.** believe in salvation by works.

**e.** deny the existence of evil spirits, of the devil, of judgment and of hell.

5. they minimize sin.

---

7. SPIRITISM CAN ONLY LEAD TO DISAPPOINTMENT, DISILLUSIONMENT, DARKNESS, DESPAIR AND FINAL DESTRUCTION.

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It is damaging physically, mentally, morally, spiritually and eternally.

Compare -

**Revelation 21:8 -**

**Revelation 22:15 -**

If you have any connection at all with spiritism, renounce the whole thing.

**2 Corinthians 6:14-18 -**

If you know any spiritists or any who are becoming ensnared by spiritism - pray for them!

Be sure to read -

**1 Chronicles 10:13-14 -**

Of course, what we have said with great care, but also with great certainty, applies equally to every form of the occult.

Many years ago, Dr. A. T. Pierson issued the following warning -

“To meddle with this awful realm of spirits, may bring us under the sway of malignant supernatural agents and forces. Not only God, but wicked spirits wield weapons which, to us, are superhuman and supernatural.....

“The devil can sway man by powers which belong to a higher realm. To dare to invade those forbidden precincts is to venture into an unknown territory and run corresponding risks, risks which are proportionate to the success of our experiment!”

This means that we must -

**1 John 4:1 -**

***How can we test them?***

***#1 - Is what they say in harmony with the Word of God?***

**Isaiah 8:19-20 -**

*#2 - Do they confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh?*

**1 John 4:3 -**

***NOTES***

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# ***QUEEN OF SHEBA: A ROYAL VISIT***

## **STUDY 6**

**Scripture Portion: 1 Kings 10:1-13**

### **Matthew 12:42 -**

The Lord Jesus authenticated the historical accuracy of this beautiful story of the queen's visit to the king. She was a wealthy woman. She lived and ruled in what is now northern Abyssinia.

King Solomon reigned in Jerusalem. He was not only wealthy and powerful, but he was also very wise.

Between Jerusalem and northern Abyssinia were trade routes by sea and by camel caravans. Thus, there was considerable commercial activity in fragrant spices, precious stones and gold. It was along this caravan route that the queen traveled to visit the king.

As we consider this graphic and heart-gripping story, we shall notice the steps by which men and women may come to the One who declared Himself to be greater than Solomon - even Jesus Christ our Lord and how they may discover in Him all that they need for time and for eternity.

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### **WHAT SHE HEARD.**

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### **1 Kings 10:1 -**

She heard of the fame, the wisdom and the riches of king Solomon.

### **1 Kings 4:29-31 -**

We are not told how she heard all this. Presumably someone came down from the north, by land or sea, by camel or ship, and told her of the king.

Hearing is the first step towards entering in to any spiritual blessing.

### **John 5:24 -**

### **Romans 10:17 -**

Have you heard of the love of God in Christ and of the fame of our King, the Lord Jesus?  
What a responsibility rests upon those of us who have heard!

**Romans 10:12-15 -**

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**WHAT SHE DID.**

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**1 Kings 10:2 -**

What a sight it must have been, “a very great train, with camels.....spices.....gold.....precious stones.....”! What a hazardous and long journey it was for a royal personage in those far-off days!

But any journey is worthwhile if it brings us into touch with the King!

The sad thing is that there are so many today who have heard of Him but they have not come to Him. His invitation to them is clear.

**Matthew 11:28 -**

His guarantee is certain.

**John 6:37 -**

But still they do not come to Him.

**John 5:40 -**

Is it true that you have heard what a wonderful Saviour and King He is, you know your need of Him, yet you have not come to Him?

The queen opened her heart to the king.

**1 Kings 10:2 -**

She brought all her problems to him for solution.

**1 Kings 10:1 -**

To whom else can we turn in our time of need?

**John 6:68 -**

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### **3. WHAT SHE FOUND.**

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**1 Kings 10:3 -**

She found that there was nothing she asked Solomon concerning which he was not able and ready to give an entirely satisfactory answer.

And this is absolutely true of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Colossians 2:3 -**

He is the One who can give an authoritative answer to all our questions and a solution to all our problems.

For example -

*(a) Question: How can I have my sins forgiven?*

**Answer: Acts 13:38 -**

*(b) Question: What must I do to be saved?*

**Answer: Acts 16:31 -**

*(c) Question: Is there any other who can save me?*

**Answer: Acts 4:12 -**

*(d) Question: Can I be sure He will receive me?*

**Answer: John 6:37 -**

*(e) Question: Can I be cleansed from sin?*

**Answer: 1 John 1:7 -**

*(f) Question: Surely I must work to be saved?*

**Answer: Romans 4:5 -**

*(g) Question: Shall I ask Him now?*

**Answer: Romans 10:13 -**

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**4. WHAT SHE SAW.**

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**1 Kings 10:4-5 -**

She saw his wisdom.

**1 Corinthians 1:24 -**

**Ephesians 1:8 -**

She saw his house.

Have you recognized the wonderful house that our King is building?

**Ephesians 2:19-22 -**

*c. She saw his table laden with good things.*

**Psalm 23:1 -**

**Psalm 34:10 -**

4. She saw his servants, his cup-bearers, his ministers and their apparel.

*e. She saw “his ascent by which he went up.....”.*

Compare -

**Hebrews 10:19-22 -**

And what happened when the queen saw all this?

**1 Kings 10:5b -**

She was overcome, humbled.

Seeing the Lord always results in a deep humbling.

Compare -

**Job 40:4 -**

**Isaiah 6:5 -**

**Acts 9:4 -**

**Revelation 1:17 -**

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**5. WHAT SHE SAID.**

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**1 Kings 10:6-9 -**

As those who have come to Christ and have trusted Him as Lord and Saviour, we can say the same.

5. She said: "It was a true report.....".

**John 4:42 -**

*b. She said: "I believed not.....until I.....had seen it.....".*

3. She said: "the half was not told me.....".

**1 Kings 10:8 -**

makes us consider whether the Queen of Sheba felt that the king's servants had something that she did not possess.

Do you feel that those who belong to Christ have experienced something that is lacking in your life, for which you long?

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**6. WHAT SHE GAVE.**

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**1 Kings 10:10 -**

“Gold.....spices.....precious stones”. And in what abundance! Most of us can never give the Lord such valuable gifts, but we own something that is of more value than the whole world. We can give this to Him.

**Mark 8:36 -**

Have you given your soul, your life, to Him? “Love so amazing.....demands my soul, my life, my all”.

See also -

**1 Kings 10:11:12 -**

and compare with -

**2 Corinthians 5:14 -**

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7. **WHAT SHE RECEIVED.**

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After she had given so generously to the king, see what the king gave to her -

**1 Kings 10:13 -**

1. “All her desire.....”.

Compare with -

**Psalms 37:4 -**

2. “whatsoever she asked.....”.

Compare with -

**John 14:13-14 -**

c. *“of his royal bounty.....”*.

Compare with -

**Philippians 4:19** -

How wonderfully satisfied she was! Are you?

***NOTES***

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# ***OBADIAH: SERVANT OF JEHOVAH***

## **STUDY 7**

**Scripture Portion: 1 Kings 18:1-16**

There are no less than thirteen Obadiah's mentioned in the Old Testament.

The man we have chosen for the subject of this study is mentioned in **1 Kings 18:1-16**. He was governor, or lord chamberlain, in the palace of king Ahab.

Some have written most disparagingly about this servant of the Lord, but we read of him, not only that he “feared the Lord”, but that from his youth he had “feared the Lord greatly”.

### **1 Kings 18:3 -**

### **1 Kings 18:12 -**

This man had his failures. He was certainly not an Elijah, but we see in him many noble qualities. He feared the Lord in a day of apostasy, idolatry and immorality.

When Elijah asked him to seek audience with the wicked king Ahab, then Obadiah was very frightened. But he overcame his fear and “went to meet Ahab”, to whom he delivered the message.

### **1 Kings 18:16 -**

Here are some main lessons to consider.

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### **OBADIAH CAME TO KNOW THE LORD WHEN HE WAS QUITE YOUNG.**

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We get this, as we have noticed, in **verses 3 and 12**. What lies behind these words?

Did Obadiah have godly parents? It is significant that his name means “a servant of the Lord”. What a heritage!

### **2 Timothy 3:15 -**

What a blessing it is when children come to know the Lord! None are too young to come to Jesus. And none are too old.

**John 3:4 -**

But the percentage of those who are saved in later life is very small indeed.

An evangelist tested his audience of 4,500 and asked for various age groups to signify when they came to Christ. The result was:

- 400 of those present were saved under 10 years of age.
- 600 were saved between 10 and 14.
- 1000 were saved between 16 and 20.
- 24 only were saved after the age of 36.

The remainder in the audience were unsaved.

How important it is to seek to reach the boys and girls and young people with the gospel message with a view to leading them to Christ! Look up and read **Ecclesiastes 12** and compare with -

**Proverbs 22:6 -**

---

**OBADIAH NOT ONLY KNEW THE LORD BUT HE FEARED HIM GREATLY.**

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He revered God with an intense zeal and enthusiasm and a true dedication. This is God's desire for all His people. Compare -

**Deuteronomy 5:29 -**

**Proverbs 1:7 -**

**Proverbs 8:13 -**

**Proverbs 10:27 -**

**Proverbs 14:26 -**

**Proverbs 15:16 -**

**Proverbs 19:23 -**

To fear the Lord does not mean to be possessed with a slavish fear. It means to love Him, to have a strong desire to please Him and to be "afraid" of grieving Him.

Fear is an emotion which grips us. To fear the Lord means to be gripped by a disposition to resist everything which would displease and dishonor Him.

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### **3. OBADIAH HAD CONTINUED AS A FAITHFUL FOLLOWER OF THE LORD OVER MANY YEARS.**

---

Notice the word “from” in -

**1 Kings 18:12 -**

Obadiah trusted God and began to serve Him when he was a mere boy and had continued to do so over many years.

Compare -

**Acts 26:22 -**

**Luke 9:62 -**

It is a great thing to start, but it is greater to start and to go on!

**Psalms 36:3 -**

and compare with -

**John 8:31 -**

**John 15:9 -**

**Acts 13:43 -**

**Acts 14:22 -**

**Colossians 1:23 -**

**1 Timothy 2:15 -**

**2 Timothy 3:14 -**

“It’s not the fellow who starts who succeeds but the fellow who starts and sticks.”

---

4. OBADIAH LIVED FOR THE LORD AND SERVED HIM IN A VERY DIFFICULT SPHERE AND UNDER THE MOST TRYING CONDITIONS.

---

This God-fearing man was chief steward in Ahab’s household.

He was immediately responsible to king Ahab and to his wicked, scheming wife, Jezebel.

Would it not have been better for Obadiah to seek other employment? Not necessarily.

See what we are told -

about Joseph -

**Genesis 41:41 -**

about Daniel -

**Daniel 2:48 -**

about Mordecai -

**Esther 2:19 -**

and the saints in Caesar’s household -

**Philippians 4:22 -**

We are to Honor the king or the ruler whoever he is - Ahab or Nero.

**1 Peter 2:17 -**

---

5. **OBADIAH WAS WELL KNOWN AMONG THE LORD'S PEOPLE FOR AN ACT WHICH SHOWED DEEP COMPASSION AND GREAT COURAGE.**

---

Obadiah was quite naturally fearful.

**1 Kings 18:4 -**

**1 Kings 18:13 -**

He actually showed very great concern for the welfare of the sons of the prophets by hiding them and by feeding them. This was a brave thing to do.

His daring act saved many lives from suffering, starvation and death.

Let us remember in our prayers the many who today are showing great courage and compassion as they live for and serve the Lord in a completely alien situation.

---

**6. OBADIAH, ALTHOUGH HE LOVED AND SERVED THE LORD, WAS VERY HUMAN!**

---

We learn this from **1 Kings:18:5-16**. But, although Elijah was a man of iron, a strong, brave servant of God, he also was very human.

Compare -

**1 Kings 19:1-3 -**

**James 5:17 -**

He was "a man just like ourselves".

There is encouragement here for all of us. When we read in the Bible of those whom God raised up and used in His service, we are apt to think that they were men and women of special qualities. They were, when God fashioned them.

But, in themselves, and apart from what the Lord was to them and made of them, they were just like ourselves.

Two good verses to look up and relate to this emphasis are found in -

**2 Corinthians 3:5-6 -**

To compare with these, look up -

**1 Corinthians 1:26-31 -**

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7. **OBADIAH, BY HIS FAITHFULNESS, MADE AN UNCONSCIOUS CONTRIBUTION TO THE GREAT AND MIGHT VICTORY OF THE LORD.**

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**1 Kings 18:15-16 -**

These scriptures make great reading! They remind us that Obadiah's service for the Lord was a valuable link in the chain of God's working.

At the end of the day, he was able to pray with the psalmist -

**Psalm 71:17-18 -**

*Dismiss me not from Thy service, Lord,  
But train me for Thy will  
For even I in fields so broad  
Some duties may fulfill.  
And I will ask for no reward,  
Except to serve Thee still.*

*All works are good, and each is best  
As most it pleases Thee.  
Each worker pleases when the rest  
He serves in charity.  
And neither man nor work unblest  
Wilt Thou permit to be.*

***NOTES***

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# ***MANASSEH: Old TESTAMENT PRODIGAL***

## **STUDY 8**

**Scripture Portion: 2 Chronicles 33:1-13**

The story of Manasseh appeals to us because it is a perfect illustration of God's dealings with men and women today.

Manasseh had no thought, place or time for God. In fact, he openly defied God. Yet, in a wonderful way, like the prodigal in our Lord's parable, "he came to himself". Then he "came to his father".

Read **Luke 15:11-24**.

As we read the first part of the story of Manasseh we find ourselves saying, "Surely there can be no hope for such a wicked man." But, as we read on, we discover how wonderful is the sovereign grace of God; that "no one is beyond redemption's point".

No one is too bad to be saved and transformed. The grace of God can do just that!

Notice how the story of Manasseh divides into three parts.

---

### **1. THE MAN GOD LOVED.**

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Who was Manasseh? He was king of Judah. He came to the throne at the early age of twelve. He reigned for 55 years and died at the age of 67. His father was Hezekiah, of whom we read that he did right in the sight of the Lord.

#### **2 Chronicles 31:20 -**

So Manasseh had a godly heritage. But there is absolutely no guarantee that, because a man's parents are godly then, the man himself will grow up in the fear of the Lord.

Hezekiah's son was Manasseh who turned out to be one of the worst characters in the history of his times. He was a great sinner. He was like the leper who came to Jesus "full of leprosy".

**Luke 5:12 -**

But God loved him!

Please read -

**2 Chronicles 33:2-9 -**

See how wicked this man was. In spite of this, however, God loved him and longed for his salvation. Of course, God hated Manasseh's sin, but He loved Manasseh.

**Matthew 9:13 -**

**Luke 15:2 -**

**Luke 19:10 -**

**1 Timothy 1:15 -**

We are sinners, as we learn from -

**Isaiah 53:6 -**

**Romans 3:23 -**

The penalty for our sin is death.

**Romans 6:23 -**

But God loves us, and in His mercy He calls upon us to repent and turn back to Him.

**Isaiah 1:18 -**

**Isaiah 55:6-7 -**

When Manasseh was right away from God, God spoke to him.

**2 Chronicles 33:10 -**

There is the proof that God loved him and was concerned for his welfare. If God had not loved him, He would have left him alone.

So what did God do?

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**2. THE METHOD GOD EMPLOYED.**

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Because God loved Manasseh He did not cast him off, but He did three things.

He let him have his fling so that he would come to the end of himself.

This is exactly what happened to the Prodigal. The father did not override his son's wish to leave home.

He let him go so that he could go his own way and find out for himself that sin does not pay.

**Luke 15:12-13 -**

He spoke a word of warning to him (as we have seen).

**2 Chronicles 33:10 -**

One of the most solemn warnings in the Bible is found in -

**Proverbs 29:1 -**

But do you not see that the very fact that God reproves us is the proof that He loves us and is concerned about us?

This was true in Manasseh's case.

**c. *He afflicted him.***

Yes, God did it, for this man's good.

**2 Chronicles 33:11 -**

Compare with -

**Luke 15:14-16 -**

That was drastic action, but it was all with a view to bringing him to his senses. God knew what He was doing, as He did with Saul of Tarsus.

**Acts 9:5 -**

Today, God allows troubles and trials to fall heavily upon men and women in order that they may see the futility of living day after day without Him.

---

**3. THE MIRACLE GOD WORKED.**

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Miracle? Yes, a miracle indeed!

**2 Chronicles 33:12-13 -**

Have you ever seen a miracle? Well, here is one! Think of it!

This same man of whom we read earlier in this chapter, now sought the Lord, humbled himself before the Lord, prayed to Him and experienced a wonderful restoration and transformation! This is so up-to-date!

Compare -

**2 Corinthians 5:17 -**

**Luke 15:20-24 -**

The story of Manasseh reminds us of the testimony of John Bunyan. One day, swearing, blaspheming, godless John Bunyan heard a voice saying: “Wilt thou leave thy sins and go to Heaven, or have thy sins and go to hell?”

John Bunyan, like Manasseh, left his sins and became a valiant servant of the Lord. But consider this question asked of him by the Lord.

What does it tell us about God’s way of saving men and women?

1. It tells us that God is sovereign in the salvation of a sinner.

It was while John Bunyan was away from God, and when he had no thought of God, that God spoke to him.

The same was true of Manasseh. God took the initiative and broke into his life.

**2 Chronicles 33:10 -**

He said from Heaven, “Wilt thou.....?”

**Genesis 3:9 -**

**Jonah 2:9 -**

**Acts 9:3-5 -**

Compare with -

**John 6:44 -**

2. It tells us that God calls upon men to repent.

John Bunyan needed to leave his sins. That is what repentance is. It is a change of mind that leads to a change of action.

**Isaiah 55:7 -**

**Acts 17:30-31 -**

- c. *It tells us that, while salvation is altogether the work of God, man is called upon to make a decision.*

The human will is brought into action.

**Deuteronomy 30:19 -**

**Joshua 24:15 -**

**John 5:40 -**

**Revelation 22:17 -**

4. It tells us that to say “Yes” to God leads to Heaven.

**Revelation 21:1-7 -**

**John 14:2 -**

**2 Corinthians 5:8 -**

5. It tells us that to say “No” to God leads to Judgment and Hell. Yes - Hell!

**Revelation 20:11-15 -**

**Revelation 21:8 -**

*I could not do without Thee,  
O Saviour of the lost,  
Whose precious blood redeemed me,  
At such tremendous cost.*

*Thy righteousness, Thy pardon,  
Thy precious blood must be  
My only hope and comfort,  
My glory and my plea.*

*I could not do without Thee,  
For the years are fleeting fast.  
And soon in solemn loneliness  
The river must be passed.....*

*But Thou wilt never leave me,  
And though the waves roll high,  
I know Thou wilt be near me,  
And whisper, "It is I".*

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# ***ISAIAH: STEPS INTO BLESSING***

## **STUDY 9**

**Scripture Portion: Isaiah 6:1-9**

It is the plan and purpose of God that every one of His servants should enter into an abiding experience of fulness of spiritual blessing in Jesus Christ.

Many have to confess that their experience is often one of defeat and failure.

What are the steps which lead to fulness of blessing - to a life of victorious living and serving? Notice the following sequence.

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### **The First Step: CONTEMPLATION.**

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All vital Christian experience begins with a vision of the Lord Jesus Christ. Isaiah was worshiping in the temple when, suddenly, he was over-awed with a tremendous sense of the Lord's presence.

#### **Isaiah 6:1-5 -**

He saw Jesus Christ in His pre-incarnate glory.

#### **Isaiah 6:1 -**

that is, the glory that was His before He came to earth to be our Saviour.

Compare -

#### **John 12:41 -**

#### **John 17:5 -**

He saw the eternal Son of God, who was (and is) one with the Father and the Holy Spirit  
in creation -

**Colossians 1:16 -**

and in redemption -

**Hebrews 1:1-3 -**

He saw Him reigning.

**Isaiah 6:1 -**

The earthly throne was empty. It is wonderful in these days of uncertainty to know that there is a throne established for ever in Heaven.

**Psalm 45:6 -**

*c. He saw the Lord being worshiped.*

**Isaiah 6:1-2 -**

The angelic beings were paying homage to the One who alone is worthy of their worship, and of ours.

4. He saw His purity and holiness.

**Isaiah 6:3 -**

Even the celestial beings had to cover their faces, so blinding was the awful purity of the Lord.

*e. He saw His power.*

He is spoken of as -

**Isaiah 6:3 -**

**Isaiah 6:5 -**

6. He saw His majesty.

**Isaiah 6:5 -**

*g. He saw a glimpse of His future glory.*

**Isaiah 6:3 -**

That will be true one day. Read **Isaiah 35**.

---

**The Second Step: CONVICTION.**

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This sevenfold vision of the Lord produced in Isaiah a deep humbling and a conviction of sin.

**Isaiah 6:5 -**

The only thing which will produce a consciousness of sin is a vision of the Lord.

Compare -

Job -

**Job 42:5-6 -**

Peter -

**Luke 5:8 -**

and John -

**Revelation 1:17 -**

How sinful we see ourselves to be in the light of His awful purity! We discover, with Isaiah, that sin separates from God, for the word “undone” should literally read “cut off”.

**Isaiah 59:1-2 -**

Sin separates from God.

**Matthew 27:46 -**

We have here a terrible illustration of the power of sin to separate from God when He, “who knew no sin”, bore this separation for us.

**2 Corinthians 5:21 -**

What then should we do with our sin?

---

**The Third Step: CONFESSION.**

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**Isaiah 6:5 -**

This is the only way to get rid of sin - confess it. It is no good trying to cover it. It must be forsaken.

**Proverbs 28:13 -**

Notice that Isaiah's besetting sin had to do with his lips. When he made his confession to the Lord, it was not a general confession but a particular confession.

He did not say, "Woe is me.....I am a sinner." He said, "Woe is me.....I am a man of unclean lips.....". He confessed to the Lord the particular sin of which he had been convicted.

What happens when we do this?

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**The Fourth Step: CLEANSING.**

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**Isaiah 6:6-7 -**

May we suggest that:

7. The "seraphim" represents the Holy Spirit.
8. The "live coal" speaks of the precious blood of Christ.
- c. The "altar" speaks of Calvary's cross.

It is when we confess our sins that the Holy Spirit applies the blood which was shed on Calvary, and we are cleansed.

**1 John 1:7-9 -**

God demands clean servants. He cannot use unclean instruments.

**Isaiah 52:11 -**

Compare -

**2 Corinthians 7:1 -**

If we confess our sin to the Lord, we shall then be able to enjoy that intimate communion with Him which makes it possible for us to hear His voice.

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## The Fifth Step: CHALLENGE.

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### **Isaiah 6:8 -**

But notice that Isaiah heard the Lord only after he had experienced the cleansing. God is wanting men and women whom He can commission and equip to go forth in His Name to preach His Word among the nations.

Why do not more hear Him saying,

### **Isaiah 6:8 -**

Is it because of sin in the lives of God's people?

There is such desperate need today for men and women, especially young men, who will be willing to place their lives fully at the disposal of the Lord for specialized missionary work abroad and for gospel and teaching ministry at home.

What comes next?

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## **6. The Sixth Step: CONSECRATION.**

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### **Isaiah 6:8 -**

When Isaiah became conscious of the Lord's need of a man, he did two things:

1. He dedicated himself to the Lord. He said, "Here am I....".
- b. He dedicated himself to the Lord's service. He not only said, "Here am I....", but he also said, "Send me", indicating that he was willing to go just where the Lord would have him go.

It is vitally important to notice that in this matter of dedication, the Lord wants us before He wants our service. He wants both, but first it must be, "Here am I...." and then, "Send me!"

Then what?

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## **7. The Seventh Step: COMMISSION.**

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### **Isaiah 6:9 -**

Now we can see why God wanted to cleanse Isaiah's lips. It was because He wanted him to go and tell.

How wonderful that the sinning “member”, when cleansed by the Lord, is the “member” He will use for His glory!

**Romans 6:13 -**

Notice to whom Isaiah had to go - the people amongst whom he dwelt. That is always true.

Wherever you or I may be, it is just there that the Lord wants us to witness for Him.

Fulness of blessing is to be doing God’s will in the place of His choosing.

*Art thou hungering for the fulness  
Of the blessing Christ doth give?  
Longing now to learn the secret  
Of the Life He bids thee live?*

*In His word thine answer standeth,  
“Christ who is our Life” it saith.  
Open now thy heart and trust Him  
There to dwell, henceforth, by faith.*

*Christ, the Lord’s Anointed, reigning  
O’er the life He died to win,  
Daily shall reveal more fully  
His great power, without, within.*

*What thou never could’st accomplish  
Shall His Spirit work through thee,  
While thy soul this witness beareth,  
‘Tis not I, but Christ in me.*

***NOTES***

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# ***EBED-MELECH: A WORK OF RESCUE***

## **STUDY 10**

**Scripture Portion: Jeremiah 38:1-13**

The prophet Jeremiah was condemned to die.

### **Jeremiah 38:4 -**

He had been confined to prison which was nothing more or less than a great hole dug in the ground. In this murky dungeon lay the poor prophet of the Lord.

### **Jeremiah 38:6 -**

He was even denied food and water.

### **Jeremiah 38:9 -**

When Ebedmelech, one of the king's servants, a dark-skinned man of Ethiopia, heard of Jeremiah's plight, he went to the king and pleaded to be allowed to rescue Jeremiah.

### **Jeremiah 38:8-9 -**

The king not only gave his consent, but he commanded him to take thirty other men with him to deliver Jeremiah.

### **Jeremiah 38:10 -**

Ebedmelech effected the deliverance.

### **Jeremiah 38:11-13 -**

describe his great work of rescue.

In this simple story we have a wonderful picture of the Lord Jesus, who, away back in eternity, seeing that mankind had been plunged into a dark dungeon of death, went into the presence of the King and offered to engage in a mission of rescue.

### **Psalm 40:7 -**

**Revelation 13:8 -**

Thus it was that He came down into the prison of our need and by His sacrificial death and victorious resurrection, made it possible for sinful man to be saved.

**2 Corinthians 8:9 -**

**Galatians 4:4 -**

**1 Timothy 1:15 -**

But in this study, there is also a most telling illustration of the way in which we, as servants of the King, are to engage in rescue work.

Let us see how Ebedmelech rescued Jeremiah, and how we are to seek and secure the deliverance of poor lost men and women who are imprisoned by sin and Satan.

**John 8:34 -**

**2 Timothy 2:26 -**

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EBEDMELECH HEARD OF, SAW AND FELT THE SERIOUSNESS OF  
JEREMIAH'S PLIGHT.

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**Jeremiah 38:7 -**

“He heard.” This was quite enough to make him “see” (if only in his imagination), and then to “feel” the prophet’s need.

**Lamentations 3:51a -**

He saw a man starving, sinking and under condemnation. Have you seen the souls of men like this?

**John 3:18 -**

**John 3:36 -**

**John 8:21-24 -**

**Ephesians 2:2-3 -**

**Revelation 20:12-15 -**

Do you feel any compassion for the lost?

**Matthew 9:36 -**

How we need the vision that Ebedmelech had, for only as we see and feel the need of those who are perishing shall we be concerned for their salvation!

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**EBEDMELECH HAD AN INTERVIEW WITH THE KING.**

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**Jeremiah 38:7-9 -**

What an eloquent appeal he made!

And you and I can do the same, for we can come right into the King's presence and make known our requests to Him. While we are in His presence, He will give us instructions as to how to go about the work of rescue.

**Hebrews 10:19-20 -**

He will then commission us.

**Jeremiah 38:10 -**

If you are not burdened for the souls of your loved ones and of others, then seek an interview with the King and ask Him concerning them.

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**3. EBEDMELECH SOUGHT THE CO-OPERATION OF OTHERS.**

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**Jeremiah 38:10-11 -**

On the authority of the king, Ebedmelech did this.

We, too, have our King's authority for seeking the co-operation of others for the great work of soul-winning. There is the co-operation of prayer.

**Matthew 18:19 -**

There are other practical forms of co-operation, as suggested in -

**Mark 2:3 -**

If we are really concerned for the salvation of those around us, there will be many ways in which we shall seek to secure the desired results.

**Jude 23 -**

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**4. EBEDMELECH HAD FAITH IN THE MEANS OF SALVATION.**

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**Jeremiah 38:11 -**

Can you not see Ebedmelech testing the strength of the cords?

We must have absolute confidence in the power of our Saviour and of the gospel to save to the uttermost all for whose salvation we are working.

**Romans 1:16 -**

**Hebrews 7:25 -**

Some Christian workers and preachers seem to have lost faith in the saving power of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the efficacy, today, of the simple and sufficient message of the gospel. They question the strength of the rope!

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**5. EBEDMELECH SHOWED HIS LOVE FOR JEREMIAH.**

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He not only showed it by seeking his salvation -

**Jeremiah 38:11 -**

but he used ropes and rags, which would prevent the ropes from chafing under his arms. How wonderful! Jeremiah could have been saved without the rags. Yet he was saved so much more “comfortably” with them.

If those around us are convinced that we love them, they will be easy prey to our soul-winning efforts.

**Mark 10:21 -**

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**5. EBEDMELECH KNEW HOW TO INSTRUCT JEREMIAH IN THE WAY OF SALVATION.**

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**Jeremiah 38:12 -**

Picture the scene.

Do you know how to lead a soul to Christ? Can you tell a sinner what to do to be saved? It is well to be prepared for this great work.

Take your Bible and seek to become thoroughly familiar with all the great “salvation” verses. Memorize them with their reference. You may decide to underline them in your Bible and make a quick reference index of them on its inside cover.

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## **7. EBEDMELECH DID NOT REST UNTIL JEREMIAH WAS SAVED.**

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In the case of the prophet, the whole business of rescue did not take long.

**Jeremiah 38:13 -**

But sometimes it takes a very long time, during which there is need for the exercise of a great deal of patience and wisdom before the one for whose salvation we long is brought to the Lord.

**Galatians 6:9 -**

Once Jeremiah was saved, Ebedmelech faded out of the picture. That is how it should be with the soul-winner.

**Acts 8:39 -**

and compare -

**John 3:30 -**

*Rescue the perishing, care for the dying,  
Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave.  
Weep o'er the erring ones, lift up the fallen,  
Tell them of Jesus, the Mighty to save.*

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