

BARBS

In Their

EYES

&

THORNS IN THEIR SIDES



GORDON LYON

Title:

**BARBS IN THEIR EYES AND THORNS IN
THEIR SIDES**

By

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At the time of completing this book, I am celebrating my 40th spiritual birthday; yes, in November 1983, I surrendered my life to God and accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Saviour. Upon doing this, my life was instantly touched and transformed; the bondage I had experienced with alcohol, drugs and nicotine was instantly broken off my life, never to return again.

I would like to acknowledge had I not made that decision, this book would never have been possible. I am so grateful for all the Lord has done in and through me these past 40 years. I am so thankful he plucked me out of the kingdom of darkness and translated me into the kingdom of light and that my name is written in the lamb's book of life.

I would like to acknowledge from the bottom of my heart my gratitude for all that God has and continues to do in my life, family and ministry; truly, I serve a great God.

Thank you, Jesus. I love you because you first loved me.

OVERVIEW

This book consists of ten easy-to-read chapters. It is pertinent that Christians, especially at this time in history, are constantly reminded of the past and encouraged to learn lessons from the past and use these lessons learnt to forge a better relationship with God and choose to live for God and not be carried away with the crowd.

Pastor Gordon, in this book, desires that every believer is not ignorant of their authority in Christ and that every believer understands how to enjoy life completely free from any form of barbs in their eyes and thorns in their sides.

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INTRODUCTION

This book is titled Barbs in Your Eyes and Thorns in Your Sides.

Have you ever had people who just became a barb in your eye and a thorn in your side? Have you ever encountered a situation or a circumstance that becomes a barb in your eye and a thorn in your side?

This book explores different dynamics of commandments God gave his people in the Old Testament and the consequences of their choices.

These stories, when laid parallel to our present-day experiences as Christians, echo the same ethos that we must follow and urge us to live carefully and boldly in ensuring that all that is given to us in Christ becomes available for us to enjoy.

CHAPTER ONE

Ungodliness ruins a Nation.

Have you ever wondered why the world is going through so much pain and anguish?

Wars and famine, economic crises, religious wars, profanity, and natural disasters, to name but a few, have continued to ravage the nations of the world, and there seems to be no end in sight.

The answer to this question bugging your mind lies in Proverbs chapter 29, verse 2, which says,

“When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice, but when the wicked man rules, the people groan and sigh.

The Bible says that if you have righteous leadership, the land will rejoice, the land will flourish, and the land will be blessed. But if you get wicked and ungodly men in power, there is a different story.

Look around you in this day and age, and you will see this scripture playing out before your eyes.

When unrighteous, wicked men are in authority, the nation groans, sighs and is in pain because leadership affects the land. Righteous leadership births righteousness and righteousness is what will exalt a nation, while sin brings an unquestionable reproach to the land.

Leaders are often viewed as authorities and the mouthpiece of God. Their primary job is to lead the people in righteousness through the obedience of the commands of God.

When leaders are not firm in following the commands of God and compromise because of bilateral benefits, they jeopardise the safety of the people and risk putting the whole nation into an intractable situation for generations to come.

This was the case with the children of Israel, God gave them a simple instruction in Deuteronomy chapter 20, verse 16 but they chose compromise over obedience. The story of the journey of the Israelites was written to show

us the mistakes to avoid and how to persevere and take back what is rightfully ours as Christians without compromising our stance with God.

Now, let us explore this Scripture:

Deuteronomy chapter 20, verse 16, says,

“But of the cities of these people which Jehovah your God gives you for an inheritance, you shall save alive nothing that breathes”.

The instruction was pretty straightforward. If it breathes, it dies. Everything that breathes has to die.

Verses 17-18 of the same chapter says;

17. “But you shall utterly destroy them, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, as Jehovah your God has commanded you.

18. So that they may not teach you to do according to all the abominations which they have done to their gods so that you would sin against the Lord your God”.

The Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites were all into pagan idol worshipping, and God did not want them to corrupt the children of Israel. That’s why God wanted to wipe them all out; they were the enemies of God.

All through the Old Testament, you will come across a lot of **"ites"** who were the enemies of God, and God's desire is to wipe them away because of what they represent.

Exodus chapter 23, verses 23- 25. It says;

For my angel shall go before you and bring you into the Amorites, and the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, and I will cut them off. You shall not bow down to their gods nor serve them, and you shall not do according to their works, but you shall surely pull them down, and you shall surely smash their images, and you shall serve the Lord your God, and he shall bless your bread and your water, and I will take sickness away from the midst of you.

You see, God just didn't want to kill the Canaanites, the Jebusites, etc necessarily. He wanted to destroy their culture. He wanted to wipe out their culture and eradicate it.

Now, you may be wondering, after having read the above scriptures, why God would want to kill these people when God himself, in the Ten Commandments, which he gave to the Israelites, says, "**Thou shalt not kill**".

How can God command the children of Israel to go in there and to slaughter?

I mean, think about it.

Get the picture.

The Israelites came into the land of Canaan, they go into a village where there is a husband and his wife perhaps he has a baby in the crib, a two-year-old toddler, and maybe a twelve-year-old girl. They've got a cat, a dog, and a budgie, and in walks the Israelites. They kill the baby in the crib, slaughter the two-year-old, kill the other kid, and then kill the mum and dad. They turn on the budgie, they turn on the cat, they turn on the dog, they turn on the pig, they turn on the sheep and the cattle, and they wipe everything out. That doesn't sound right, does it?

God is a God of love, a God of mercy. Why would he do that?

Do you want to know the answer?

The sixth commandment says; *Thou shall not murder*.

Big difference.

There's a difference between murder and killing.

Let me explain the difference to you very simply.

If a man walks into a house and shoots somebody to death, he has murdered that person.

He then gets arrested and taken before a court of law with a jury. The jury found him guilty. The judge passes the sentence, and he is to be executed. The time comes when he is to be executed.

When he is executed, was he murdered, or was he killed?

He wasn't murdered; he was killed.

That's the difference.

God was exercising judgment. Judgment is the very same that we see that occurred during the flood in Genesis. God exercised judgment with that flood because of the wickedness of the people.

When you look at Sodom and Gomorrah, you see the wickedness of the people there. The sins that were taking place in Sodom and Gomorrah at that time were just unbelievable, beyond comprehension. And God wiped them out.

So then you have to look and say, what was so bad in the land of Canaan that God wanted to send judgment down and wipe them all out?

One of the things you have to look at is that God is not accountable to us; we are accountable to God. God gave life; therefore, he can take life.

Your life is in his hands. If he decides that your next breath will be your last one, it will be the last one. Your life is in his hands. And that's why some people have such difficulty making the transition from sin, bondage, and unbelief into the camp of faith in Jesus Christ because they don't want to give up their lives to live for Jesus.

Living for Jesus isn't just praying at the altar and saying, I receive Jesus, and then going and living the same way. No repentance in your life. No change in your life. That's not salvation. Salvation comes through works. Good deeds.

Now, you don't work your way into salvation, that's impossible but the fruit of it is a change and a transformation in a person's life.

Let your salvation yield fruits of righteousness that are evident for all to see and attest to.

CHAPTER TWO

There is always mercy before judgment.

The Canaanites had already seen Sodom and Gomorra annihilated, so they knew that God judges iniquity. God judges unrighteousness.

So, they were aware of this fact, and it was also a warning to them; "If You don't get yourselves right, I'm going to smoke you guys. You've heard about the flood. You've heard about Sodom and Gomorrah. You guys are next". Let's pretend God speaks in that voice and tone.

But the message was clear to the Canaanites to repent or be judged.

The Canaanites also knew about Melchizedek and Abraham. So, the truth was available to them. They weren't ignorant. They didn't want to receive the validity of the word of God.

This is typical of our world today. The world out there is knowledgeable of Jesus. They know He hung on a cross, He died, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven; they're aware of that, yet they don't want to know any more about it. They don't like to receive it and believe it. It doesn't change the fact that He's the Saviour. All they have to do is reach out and receive Him, but they have chosen to walk in the wisdom of their own eyes.

God gave the Canaanites Four hundred years to get their act in order. But they didn't do it.

For Four hundred years, the children of Israel were in Egypt, in bondage. Till God led them out of Egypt, and they wandered in the wilderness for another Forty years.

So, there was a lot of time for the Canaanites, the Jebusites, the Hittites, and all these nations to get their act right with God. But they didn't do it and God was raising a tremendous army out in the wilderness who would take care of them all. That was how He was going to judge, through the children of Israel.

God had spoken this to Abraham when He made a covenant with him in Genesis 15. God spoke to Abraham and said, **"Your children are going to be in a land of bondage for four generations, 400 years until the iniquity of the Amorites is in its fullness. And then I will judge them"**.

So, at 390 years, God wasn't ready to wipe them all out because their iniquity wasn't to their fullness yet. So, what does that tell us? There is a time and a season; an appointed time in people's lives, in nations' lives, that God says enough is enough and judges. So, we have to be aware of that and do not mistake the silence of God to mean acceptance of sin.

The Canaanites knew that the children of Israel were coming, and they feared.

Joshua chapter 2 verse 9 it says;

“I know that the Lord thy God has given this land to you, and a great fear of you has fallen on us so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you”.

The Canaanites were afraid because of what they had heard about the Israelites and the battles they had won before then.

The Israelites had taken care of three kings and three armies before arriving at Jericho. The first was Pharaoh and the Egyptian military washed up in the sea. The horse and the rider were cast into the sea.

The other two were the Amorite kings and their armies; God wiped them out as well.

So here they are, marching around Jericho, and Jericho realises that if they're betting men, the odds are stacked against them from getting victory. But their safety and their security are in this vast fortified city. They're however behind the walls, trembling because they know they will get beaten.

Now, God had the children of Israel march round Jericho for six days.

The reason they walked around Jericho for six days is because the mercy of God is so great. The love of God is so great. They marched around for six days so that the people could get out. They had six days to pack their bags and say: “The children of Israel are over there, I'm out of here”.

But do you know how many left? Not one. Not one person left.

In Joshua chapter 6, verse 1, it says;

“And Jericho was utterly shut up because of the sons of Israel. None went out, and none came in”.

The leadership of Jericho was obstinate, arrogant, prideful and boastful. They were so confident that there was no way they would take over Jericho. They had absolute confidence in the fortitude of their walls, so they must have instructed that nobody left the city, so nobody was going, and nobody was coming in.

Wrong leadership will always lead to bad decisions. You can follow the wrong leadership, which will cost you your life.

When you fly with the crows; you get shot with the crows.

So, the people of Jericho were under the wrong leadership. The leaders of Jericho were not letting anybody out. God's mercy prevailed for six days, giving the people a chance to go because there is nowhere in the scripture that says that if anybody were to leave, we'd hunt them down and kill them.

God was not targeting individuals; He was only against them as a group.

He was against the culture. He was against all of that. But he always gives people a chance to repent.

To show that God's mercy will always cover anyone who repents and chooses to stand by the side of God, Rahab, the harlot, by a single act of faith, wove her name into the lineage of Jesus.

She hid the children of Israel who came in to spy on the land and protected them.

And this is what she said: **“we knew you were coming, and we feared you greatly”**. Well, why did they fear them greatly? I'll tell you why because they'd already heard the news that through God, the Israelites had already taken care of three armies.

Joshua Chapter 2, verses 9-13, says;

“9. and said to them, "I know that the Lord has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you.

10. We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you destroyed.

11. When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear, and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.

12. "Now then, please swear to me by the Lord that you will show kindness to my family because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign.

13. that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death."

Rahab and all her family were saved. They couldn't leave the city. They wanted to go, but they couldn't. So, the next best thing was to tie a red scarlet outside the window, and they were protected. God saved them because they came under the covenant, the red symbolising the blood, the blood of Jesus. They come under the blood.

We must constantly remain under the blood at all times so that we can partake fully of the mercies of God before judgment comes upon the land and its people.

CHAPTER THREE

The Inheritance of the earth belongs to the meek.

God said repeatedly that he would drive out the inhabitants of the land of Canaan before Israel, and those who wished to leave had time and the opportunity to do so, but leadership holding them in bondage would not allow them to go.

All it would have taken for the leaders to say, "Open up the door," so that the people who want to go can go and the people who want to stay and fight can do so.

But you know as well as I do, dictators don't think like that.

Dictators take everything off you, squeeze you up and throw you to the side.

There are many people we see through the scriptures that were once enemies of God but became friends of God because they started to tie up with the children of Israel and started to work with them.

An example is that of Rahab. She and all her family were engrafted into the children of Israel and became part of the lineage of Jesus Christ.

So, what does that tell us?

It wasn't God's mission to destroy every single one of these Canaanites, however. They had a chance to repent, and they never took it.

It is funny how in our present world, the same people who are angry because God doesn't do anything about the evil in this world are the very first ones to cry foul when God does something about it.

Now, I'll get semi-political for one moment and talk about Iraq.

There's one camp that believes that we shouldn't have gone to war against Iraq.

There's another camp that says we should have gone to war against Iraq.

What's your own opinion? Mine I will keep to myself, though.

But let's say the iniquity of Iraq the nation came to the nostrils of God, and he said, "Enough is enough; I see these people are in bondage and captivity; they're being tormented. Their wives and daughters are being raped. Everything's getting taken off them. The leader of that land, Saddam Hussein, is taking all the money of these people, all the money of this nation; it's time to bring these all to an end".

And perhaps God says, I'm going to use American and Britain and a couple of other countries to do it.

Could it just be that when you look at the Old Testament, and you see God's method of operation and compare it with what happened in Iraq, could it not be that was God bringing judgment onto Iraq and saying enough is enough because he judges nations?

Yet when you turn on your news and listen to what the report has to say, you're getting the producer's perspective, and he's giving you his side of the story. So they're interviewing all the people that said, "oh this doesn't seem right, we shouldn't have done this, go home America, we don't want you".

And then you get the Christian channels, they go in there, and they start interviewing people, and you see pictures of them rejoicing and shouting and hallelujah, thank you so much. They appreciate the coalition forces that came in and got them out.

So, which side of the coin are you going to listen to?

Anyway, I am going to get away from politics. Despite all the gloom that has befallen the world today, the good news is that you, as a child of God, do not operate and function by the dictates of the world.

In Matthew chapter 5 and verse 5, the bible says;

"Blessed are the meek because they shall inherit the earth".

God wants you to inherit the earth because the world and the fullness thereof are created for us.

The earth wasn't created for the devil and his bunch, although they look as though they've got the world.

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth”. So, God wants us to inherit the earth. Part of the process of inheriting the earth is that we must be educated. We must be relatively intelligent.

We must use the brain that God has given to us and get educated because the last time I checked, they were not putting uneducated people into the number 10 Downing Street, where the office of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom is domiciled. They were not putting them into the White House in America. They were not putting them to be captains of industries.

The people who occupy these positions are educated. So, if we must inherit the earth that God has already given to us, we must be educated. We have got to have the resources and the finances to be able to take possession of our inheritance.

You won't have so much impact unless you have some finances.

If you don't believe me, ask Coca-Cola how much money they spend on advertising and how much money they spend on promoting their products. They've got their products all around the world. They've done exactly what we are supposed to be doing with the gospel.

So has McDonald's.

When McDonald's moved into Eastern Europe, back then, it was a huge thing; everyone was like, wow! There is a McDonald's in Eastern Europe.

The fantastic thing you see when you go to McDonald's in Eastern Europe back in the early days, and you look at the menu, what you have got in your pocket as change was enough to buy everybody in the restaurant a meal and still have change left over.

It was peanuts!

I remember looking at my wife Lynne when I saw the menu, and she looked back at me, and I thought, I can't believe this. You feel prosperous. Oh, glory!

I could buy everybody a meal there and still have change left over. I felt like a multi-millionaire and even joked about moving to that place. Can I also add my day of visiting McDonalds has long gone now!

God wants his children to prosper and inherit the earth so that they can exert significant influence around them.

We are no longer Great Britain, we are not even Britain, because we are no longer the United Kingdom; we are a divided kingdom.

Scotland, England, Ireland and Wales all want their piece. It's a fight and no unity.

If you don't have the unity, you don't have the strength. We have had the wrong people in the political arena for a long time.

When you set the clocks back 60, 70, 80 years or even 100 years, there was a strong Christian influence in this country, but the church has been lying down sleeping. It's been dormant, and it's just allowed so much to happen. This carefree attitude has cost us as a nation, and we are paying for it now.

It's either, you are ruling or ruining.

Some churches do not like to talk about the finances of their members. You don't talk about money, and you don't talk about sin in these churches.

But in our church, New Life Christian Centre, Hamilton, Scotland, we talk about sin. You have to deal with it so you can get on with your life and do what God wants you to do because sin will hold you back.

We also talk about finances because God wants you to have finances so you can propagate the Gospel. It costs money to go and propagate the Gospel.

There's a golden rule: "He that has the gold rules", and if you don't have it, you will be the doormat. God wants us to prosper in all areas of our lives – physically, financially, socially, mentally, spiritually and martially.

So, we have to be open to that and let him do what he must because he wants us to inherit the earth.

He wants us to learn how to manage our resources so that lack and want will not become barbs in our eyes and thorns in our sides, stopping us from enjoying the fullness of our inheritance.

CHAPTER FOUR

Each seed reproduces after its kind.

The Bible say In Leviticus chapter 18 and verse 22-25;

“And you shall not let any of the seed pass through the fire to Molech, neither shall you profane the name of the Lord your God. You shall not lie with humanity as with womankind; it is an abomination to God, and you shall not lie with any animal to defile yourself with it.

Therefore, I visit its wickedness, and the land itself vomits those things out, for the men of the land who were before you have done all these abominations, and the land is defiled. You shall not do those things that the land may spew you out also when you defile it”.

God was very concerned that if the children of Israel came into Canaan and didn't take care of the culture, it would seep into them.

Did the Israelites take care of the people? No.

So, what we're seeing here is because of the probation, the compromise, and the iniquity, it cost them the lands.

Because of profanity and sexual immoralities, which the children of Israel permitted to live alongside them because they didn't destroy the Canaanites as God instructed them; this gave rise to a lot of unnatural occurrences which were alien to humanity.

Canaan was recorded to have giants in their midst. These were not spiritual giants, as we would say today; they were real giants.

Goliath was one of such giants, and when you read the story of Goliath in the bible in 1 Samuel chapter 17, you will see that he was a barb in their eyes and a thorn in their side for Forty days and Forty nights, because he was not killed when he was supposed to be killed.

Goliath was thirteen feet in height. He was a big guy. I'm just a little less than six feet. So, if you have two of me, they're still shorter than Goliath, he wasn't a big, skinny guy; he was broad and a fighting machine.

So where did he come from?

The law of nature is that each seed reproduces after its kind.

Apples produce apples.

Tomatoes produce tomatoes.

When was the last time you saw or heard of a woman producing a giant?

Women can't make giants. So, where did the giants come from?

I want to give you some insight into where the giants came from and I'm going to back it up with scripture.

This is my opinion based on the scriptures.

Most Bible scholars do agree with it. So, I'm not going to be out on a limb with some weird stuff.

2 Peter chapter 2, in verses 4 through 6. This is what it says

“For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an example unto those that after should live ungodly;”

So right now, there are angels in chains of darkness waiting for the Day of Judgment. They are not out tormenting anybody. They are being tortured. They are in chains and have been so for thousands of years, waiting for the Day of Judgment

“And he did not spare the old worlds but saved Noah the 8th one, a preacher of righteousness”.

Peter is telling us precisely what Noah did. He was a preacher of righteousness. All the children of this world had a chance to get into that ark

because Noah was telling them, preaching the gospel to them. He was a preacher of righteousness.

“Bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into the ashes, He condemned them with an overthrow”.

God, in this scripture, was setting an example to men intending to live ungodly. If you intend to live ungodly, I'm going to show this to you as an example of what will happen. That ought to get your attention.

Jude verse 6 it says

“And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day”.

So, there's a confirmation of what Peter was saying, and Jude is now saying it as well. They're in chains in darkness because they never kept their first place.

Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around them, in like manner, were committing fornication and going away after other flesh, or as the King James version says, strange flesh. They upset the natural Laws of humanity, and the wrath of God came upon them.

CHAPTER FIVE

The Devil is after your seed.

The verses we read in the previous chapter talked about angels, fornication, and strange flesh.

What do you think that strange flesh could be?

Let's go to Genesis, and we'll find out,

All the answers are in Genesis. Everything starts in Genesis, the book of beginnings. Everything you want to know about God is in the book of Genesis.

Let's find out where these giants come from before God wiped them all out because they were real.

Genesis chapter 6, verses 4-7, says,

“4 There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.

5 And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

6 And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

7 And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

Some people will read that and say, "Well, the sons of God came to the daughters of men. They bore them mighty men who existed of old men of renown". So they think these are just wise men, wise men of renown.

When was the last time you saw a wise man 15 feet in height?

The devil is interested in the seed of a woman, and that is why he will go to any length to corrupt it. He corrupted the seed of a woman through the fallen angels such that they produced giants, which were not in the order of humanity.

Here's the reason why he did it.

The very first prophecy that God gave to the devil was in Genesis chapter 3, verses 15,

"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel".

This scripture is the reason why the devil so desperately wants to corrupt the seed of man.

How did he corrupt the seed?

The giant devil says to a little lady there, "let's have babies". So he succeeds in corrupting the seed.

God looked at that and said enough is enough; I will wipe these ones out.

So, while the children of Israel were wandering in the wilderness, God was preparing them as an army, as a mighty army that would wipe out the Hittites, the Jebusites in the land.

The children of Israel were wandering in the wilderness, moaning and complaining, "there's no water, there's no bread, there's no salt for the meal", and God looks down at the children of Israel and says I see you as a mighty fighting machine, a mighty army that will destroy the wickedness in that land. You're going to take these giants down, cut their heads off, and destroy them, yet they're wandering around, moaning and complaining.

This is how I feel about the New Testament church: complaining and moaning always.

"Oh Lord, you didn't answer my prayer last night; why am I sick? Why have I got a sore head? Why is this happening to me"?

Yet God looks down and sees us as a mighty fighting machine, a mighty army that will rise and take this nation and other nations all over for Jesus

Christ—walking into the business community and building up finances for the Gospel.

Man will not get in the way, not when God's involved. It might look like man is in control of things for a season, but God isn't concerned about what happened five minutes ago, and five minutes to Him is like 50 years anyway. When He desires, everything turns around according to his plan.

I went to another town in my area to hear a brother minister. God spoke to him and said I want you to go to Scotland to take the fire of the Holy Spirit to Scotland; he was ready to go and do all this. God spoke to him and said you've got to go to Scotland. The Lord started to show him visions of what he would do in Scotland, so he came over to Scotland and set his meetings up, and I had a chance to speak to him before one service and get to know the guy's heart a little bit; it was excellent, and he shared something with me. He said three demons appeared to him before he came to Scotland.

The three demons started to mock him and began to laugh at him. Saying you are coming over for warfare, we're ready for you.

We will fight you. You want warfare; you don't know what warfare is until you come here. We are ready for you in Scotland.

We are going to deal with you.

Who do you think you are?

And he said he didn't know where the boldness came from, but it just arose within him and he said; "I'm not coming to Scotland for war; I'm coming to Scotland for victory", and the demons' faces changed. He said I could see the fear in their eyes, and they left.

And that's the mentality we ought to have, as believers.

We are not out for warfare; we're out for the victory. The battle has already been won. All we have to do is go and mop it up. We've got the victory. We do the clearing up, and God does all the battling for us.

When Jericho came down, it wasn't man's strength that did it.

All we had to do was go and mop up all the gold, silver, and diamonds, and then build a tabernacle for God because it's all about building something for God. That's what the money's for.

But there was one man in the bible called Achan who had a different idea and took the wedge and the Babylonian garment and hid it in his tent as he wanted to take it for himself. Greed and rebellion against God cost him his life and his family, which was dangerous.

Let's get back to talking about giants and how the devil chose to corrupt the seed of humanity.

In Deuteronomy chapter 3 and verse 11,

“For only Og, king of Bashan remained of the rest of the giants. Behold his bedstand was a bed stand of iron, thirteen and a half feet long and six feet wide”.

This gives you an insight into how huge a giant is. This King was still a boy, yet he was a sizeable boy of thirteen and a half feet.

Goliath was also 13 feet tall, and he had brothers. Do you think he was 13 feet, and his brothers were of normal height?

I don't think so!

They were a big family, a family of giants.

You don't want to mess with that clan, and you don't want to mess with the Goliath family.

But let me tell you something about David. David had something nobody else had. He had intimacy with God so that gave him the courage to be able to stand before Goliath and take him out. The rest of them couldn't because their intimacy with God was questionable.

When David went down to the brook to get the stone to take him out, he got a few rocks.

David belonged to a tribe that were good with a slingshot, and they were outstanding.

They could hit a matchstick 100 metres away.

Why did he take several stones?

He knew the first one would kill Goliath, but he also knew Goliath had brothers, so he wasn't taking chances. He took a few more stones so that if

they wanted to show up after he had taken their brother out, they would have a stone coming their way, too.

When the children of Israel had sent the spies into the Promised Land, the spies who were sent there said “there are giants in the land, and we're like grasshoppers in their sight”.

They weren't joking or saying it figuratively; they were serious. That's because they were big guys, 13 feet, 12 feet, 15 feet. So, in a nutshell, they were implying to Moses to forget the idea of them fighting these guys and the unrealistic dream of taking their lands.

Yet these giants were sitting on top of all their blessings, just like certain giants are sitting upon your blessings, all your healings, all your peace, all your joy, all your finances, etc. They are saying “you are getting none of this; I'm holding it and having it for myself”.

But God says all these blessings are yours. What, then, are you going to do about it?

You have to fight to get it off them and reclaim what is rightfully yours

You must fight to protect your seed and all that is rightfully yours because this is your inheritance in Christ.

CHAPTER SIX

You are separated and preserved.

We can do nothing of ourselves, except through God. We can, and we will do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

Let's briefly recap the previous chapters to have a clearer picture of this chapter.

We talked about the fact that God gave a commission to the Israelites to go into the land of Canaan and to destroy everything that breathes. Men, women, children, animals, livestock, everything was to be slaughtered and killed.

People may wonder and say that God is a God of love; how then can He possibly have men go into a land and wipe people out?

God is of truth, the God of love, but He is also the God of justice.

Some people may also say that the Bible says in the Ten Commandments, in the sixth commandment, "Thou shalt not kill". Well, if you open up your Bible and read the Ten Commandments, it says thou shalt not murder.

There's a big difference between murdering somebody and killing. If somebody under the law of the land was to be judged and to be executed, that person was not murdered; that person was killed. There is a difference. Whereas somebody walks into a house and shoots somebody, they have murdered them. There's a difference.

We have also talked about the fact that Satan tried to pollute the seed of mankind by raising giants in the land.

Imagine that some of these giant babies, for example, may have been 4 feet tall. Think about it because when they grow to full maturity, they are 13 and 14 feet tall. So they were big babies, perhaps.

But the fact of the matter is Satan had attempted to pollute the seed because the seed was Jesus.

But God said, no, I want everything killed, everything wiped out.

So that brings us up to speed to the fact that God's not accountable to us, but we are responsible to God. And that's what we must understand; there are many things in many situations we don't fully understand.

Why, God, did you let this happen? You may ask.

We don't understand the beginning from the end, but God does. And that's why we have to walk by faith and not by sight.

We must believe the best and believe that God has our back, that God is looking out for us, and that God is working on our behalf.

Philippians 2 verse 13 says,

“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure”.

Wouldn't you love God's good pleasure in your life? Well, God is working in us, both to will and to do of His good pleasure. So, our trust must be in God at all times.

Now, what I'm about to say in this chapter is controversial, and it is not politically correct.

The Bible is not politically correct, but it is the truth we stand upon.

So here is what I want to say: It is God's will that when unbelievers are living near believers, His will is that believers will thrive, flourish, and prosper more than the unbelievers.

There you go, I said it.

Let's look at it from the scripture.

In the book of Exodus, chapter 8, the children of Israel were bound in the land of Egypt. They've been crying out to God for deliverance. God raised a man named Moses to go and to deliver the children of Israel out of the hands of Pharaoh and his army.

So, in Exodus chapter 8, in verse 22, it says,

“And I will sever in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there, to the end thou mayst know that I am the Lord thy God, and I am in the midst of the earth”.

Then, chapter 9, in verse 6, says,

“And the Lord did that thing on the morrow, and all the cattle of Egypt died, but of the cattle of the children of Israel died not one”.

Then chapter 9, verse 26 says,

“Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, there was no hail”.

You see, God rained down the wrath upon the Egyptians, but the Israelites were over in a different part of the land called Goshen, and that part of the land was protected. So, they were sitting back in their land, watching all these plagues coming upon the Egyptians, but it did not affect their livestock, it did not affect their lives. God severed them and set them apart.

This is your reality in Christ; you're set apart. You're in this world, but you're not of this world.

You're an ambassador for Christ. You have been set apart. God has set you apart and separated you unto himself.

Another example would be when you look in Genesis when God called a man named Noah. The Bible says in 2 Peter chapter 2 that Noah was a preacher of righteousness and that God raised Noah to build an ark and to warn the people that there was a flood coming. God built that ark, and the invitation went out to the world, but we know they never accepted it. God set Noah and his family to the side in that ark, so that when the floods did come, Noah and his family prospered. Everybody else was wiped out but God separated and severed them.

In Sodom and Gomorrah, the same separation happened with Lot and his family. The Bible says he was a righteous man. Lot and his family were taken out of Sodom and Gomorrah. There was a separation that took place there before God rained down upon Sodom and Gomorrah with hail and fire.

There is always a separation between the children of this world and the children of God.

This is God's method of operation. He always ensures that those who are His are preserved and flourish.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Everybody has a choice.

The subsequent historical separation that's going to happen is the rapture.

The Bible talks about when Jesus Christ will come to take his church out of this world, out of this world's system.

There will be a catching up and taking up into the clouds.

Jesus won't come to the earth, but the Bible says, in 1st Thessalonians, chapter 4, verses 16- 17 says:

16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

The trumpet shall sound, and Jesus shall go forth and call out his people.

So, you could be in the workplace one minute, and the next minute, you will be in God's presence. That's the rapture; it's a taking out and separating of the saints before God's wrath comes upon this planet.

Some prophets of doom may tell you that we, as the church, are going to go through the end time tribulation, but it's a total contradiction to what the Bible teaches.

God always separates the righteous before he judges the unrighteous.

This should get us excited and hopeful for that day to come, and I believe we are at the end of the end days now, especially considering what has been happening since 2020!

You are not going to be hung upside down or beheaded, contrary to what some prophets of doom want you to believe.

The people who are going to be hung upside down and tortured and tormented are the unbelievers, and this includes backsliders. That's the way I see it.

The backsliders will have another opportunity to receive Christ, live for him righteously and become a bold witness for God.

But everybody will have that opportunity; everyone is given the opportunity, just as you are reading this book, to give your life to Christ and live truly and steadfastly for him.

Just as the people in that time and that generation in the old world had an opportunity to go into the ark. They were given a choice; they were given a chance. The people in Sodom and Gomorrah were given a chance. The people in Jericho were given an opportunity to leave the city, but they never took it. The people at Sodom and Gomorrah had an opportunity. They could have gone with Lot, but they decided they wanted to stay, and they had the consequences for their choice.

The Egyptians could have just said after the third plague that they would get their family and livestock and go to Goshen because nothing terrible was happening there. There was peace there, but they decided they wanted to stay in Egypt.

They had the opportunity to switch camps.

Do you think for one minute, if these people had left Egypt and gone over to where the children of Israel were, they would be in peace and safety? Of course, they would.

But they never went.

Rahab and her family in Jericho, if she had the opportunity to leave, she would have taken it, but the leadership in the city barred up all the doors so they couldn't get out. The leadership could have just turned and said, "Listen, wait a minute, we're being silly here. Let's get out of here before God's wrath falls".

But they chose not to. They stayed in Jericho, yet God gave them six more days as they marched around the city to say, look, you can still leave if you want.

They still said no, no, and paid for it with their lives. Their children, livestock, everything died.

God always gives us a choice. He always makes a way of escape for us. Here we are in the 21st century, and the way of escape now is the second ark that has already been established, and his name is Jesus.

Come aboard that ark.

The choice to the world is whether they accept it or not.

When you hear these warnings, please do not harden your heart from choosing to live for Jesus.

Everybody has that choice. God has given us a choice. But we have to make the ultimate decision ourselves on what we will do.

Numbers chapter 33, Verse 51 says,

“Speak unto the children of Israel and say unto them, when you are passed over Jordan into the land of Canaan. You shall drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you and, destroy all their pictures, molten images, and pluck down all their high places. And you shall dispose of the land's inhabitants and dwell therein, for I have given the land to possess it”.

God says it, and that settles it. God gave them the land.

Verse 55 says;

“Then those of whom you let remain shall be as barbs in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall trouble you in the land where you dwell”.

If you do not destroy these people, God says, and drive every single one of these tribes out of the land of Canaan, all the Hittites, the Jebusites, and every one of their kind, if you don't drive them out, they are going to become a barb in your eye and a thorn in your side.

That indeed became a reality for the Israelites.

When you read through the rest of the Scriptures, you will see that they eventually became a barb in their eye and a thorn in their side to the children of Israel.

God said to them that these people will constantly fight with them over the land they live in. All you have to do is turn on the 1 o'clock news, the 5 o'clock news, the 10 o'clock news, and you'll see it to this day.

Today, they're still fighting over that land because God ordained, and His will was, that Abraham and all his descendants should occupy the Holy Land. Still, because of the disobedience of the children of Israel back then, these people became a thorn in their eyes and a thorn in their sides.

Verse 56 of Number Chapter 33 says.

“And then I will do to you what I plan to do to them.”

I mean, that's powerful.

God says, listen, if you don't do this as I have commanded you, what I was going to do to them, I'll do to you.

I don't know about you, but that would be a good place to say it isn't going to happen. Who do you want me to kill, Lord? What image do you want me to pull down? You show me. I don't want that coming into my life.

They never did it.

If you do not appreciate your healing, it will become a barb in your eye and a thorn in your side.

If you don't appropriate your prosperity and the blessing God has for you, it will become a barb in your eye and a thorn in your side.

You have to seize it. You must grasp that which is rightfully yours because there are demonic strongholds out there that believe it's their right, and it's theirs.

In Matthew chapter 11, verse 12, it says,

“The kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. You've got to take it by force”.

In 1 Peter 2, verse 24, it says,

“By His stripes, you are healed”.

You are healed!

That doesn't mean you're going to get healed. It means you are already healed.

“Who his own self bare our sins in His own body that we being dead unto sins, should live unto righteousness, and by His stripes we are healed.”

We are already healed.

But there's a devil out there that's trying to make us sick and we have to seize and appropriate that which is rightfully ours, or else it becomes a barb in our eye and a thorn in our side.

CHAPTER EIGHT

Exercise your dominion and authority.

Philippians 4, verse 19 says,

“My God shall supply all my needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus”.

If you don't apply that principle, law, word and that promise that God has given to us, it will become a barb in your eye and a thorn in your side.

Have you ever found yourself chasing the mailman around the estate, trying to find him? I found myself some time ago; i was searching for the mailman high and low around the estate because the mailman was no longer coming by 8 a.m. like I had been used to, now, he comes in late and takes me unawares.

The modern-day Philistines are getting late and later showing up, thereby taking us unaware.

Do you know what the Philistines are? They are the credit card bill, the loan agreement bill, etc. They become barbs in their eyes and thorns in their sides.

God wants us to exercise dominion and authority over those things and appropriate what is rightfully ours.

If you don't stand against the devil of sickness and poverty, it will become a thorn in your side.

Galatians 3, verse 13 says;

“So, the blessing of Abraham is to come upon us through Jesus Christ our Lord”.

What is the blessing of Abraham?

It simply means that you'll be blessed in the city, you'll be blessed in the field, you'll be blessed coming in and you'll be blessed going out, you'll be blessed in your wallet, you'll be blessed in your checking account. Everywhere we go, we will be blessed. God wants to bless us.

Hallelujah!

God gave the children of Israel a commission to go into the land of Canaan and possess it.

Now, if God's on your side, who can stand against you?

They had the responsibility to go into that land with their weapons and drive these Canaanites out.

But in the New Testament, we're not driving anybody out of the land. We're not pulling out swords and guns and fighting people. That's not what we do.

The Bible says in Ephesians chapter 6, verse 12 that

“Our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms”.

We wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers and spiritual wickedness in high places.

Therefore, you have an obligation by God to drive these modern-day Philistines out of your life by his word.

You have overcome by the word of your testimony and the lamb's blood. You must overcome these situations and circumstances that come against you.

When David went into the valley to fight Goliath, he never denied that Goliath was there. Goliath was real, but he denied the fact that Goliath had the right to come against the children of Israel the way he did. So, he killed him. He took his head off.

You must take heads off certain giants that have shown up in your life.

If you're constantly fighting the same giant over and over and over again, God wants to put a sword in your hand. It's called the sword of the spirit, the word of God, and take that head off that giant.

If you're constantly fighting the same thing all the time, if you're struggling with your finances repeatedly, God wants you to know that if you can identify the devil that attacks you the most, you can identify the devil that fears you the most.

So, if you who are going through tremendous financial pressure, you are going through that because the devil fears money in your hand because he knows if you get cash in your hand, you're going to propagate the gospel, you are going to finance the kingdom of God. You are going to win the lost for Jesus, so he fears that and want to hold you back by keeping you in bondage.

You must drive that spirit out of your life.

If you're constantly fighting sickness and disease, you've got to drive it out.

Some of the most remarkable healing ministers on the face of this planet were people who were on their deathbeds, about to die, but managed to connect with God and get healed, set free and delivered, and God raised them to become great healing evangelists.

Joshua 14, verses 7 through to 13, talks about Caleb. Caleb and Joshua went with the other spies to spy out the land, but they were the only ones returning with an excellent report. God promised that Joshua and Caleb would live and take the inheritance, but the rest would be wiped out; they would not see the promised land. Caleb and Joshua were given a promise they would have the land.

Caleb outlived all these young men in Israel and went into the land of Canaan at 80 years of age. His eye was not dim, and he still had strength and vigour as a youth. At 85, he says to God, "I've been toiling here, and I'm 85 years of age, but you know something? Give me that mountain; I'm well able to take it".

He points to this land, which was his inheritance for his family. And says, give me that mountain, I am well able to take it. As an 85-year-old man, he didn't have a walking stick, and he didn't have glasses on. He was still in good shape and ready to go. He was still talking and fighting battles.

Don't you think that if Caleb were alive today, he'd put some Christians to shame? At 85 years of age, he's looking for a fight, saying, "I'm taking that mountain; I'm well able to take it since God said I can have it, that settles it".

You know, some people get you into a fight and get you killed. But some people get you into a fight and get you the victory. Caleb was one of them. He had been meditating and dwelling upon that promise that God gave him 40

years ago, 45 years ago. And he was well able and well ready to take that mountain.

Of course, the Canaanites were standing up there laughing down at him.

Who do you think you are? They must have said. "This is our land; you're not getting it. We're going to kill you".

That didn't stop Caleb; it didn't intimidate Caleb in any way whatsoever. He says, get out of the way; we're coming through. The rest became history. He slaughtered them and took over the land.

The devil always wants to show us our weaknesses so that we won't press forward to receive our inheritance in Christ.

When you say, "I receive my healing, I believe that the stripes of Jesus heal me". The devil stands there laughing at you and says, who do you think you are? You're nothing but an old sinner. You blew it last week. He tries to heap condemnation on you and convince you that healing isn't for you.

But healing is for us.

God's plan is for prosperity and increases for our lives, but those demonic powers stand back there laughing and saying, no, no, no, this is ours; we're holding on to it.

It's good to know that we're not the sick trying to get healed. We are the well, and the devil's trying to put sickness on us.

If it were natural for everybody to be sick, we would all live in hospitals and visit homes once a week.

One of the biggest challenges with the church is they're too interested in heal me, heal me, but they're not interested in health itself.

God laid down a health plan.

The Old Testament talks a lot about the things you should eat and the things you ought not to eat.

That diet didn't go away at Calvary.

The diet that's been laid down there for us to live by is for today, and the people that are living by that are the healthiest people on the planet—living

to all sorts of ages because they're still living by what the Bible teaches us to eat.

I love pork, but I'll tell you what: it takes a long time to go through your digestive system, whereas an apple goes through it in a couple of hours.

Some things are just not good for us. We were not created to digest pork meat.

Our body wasn't created for it, yet God says we don't eat it, and we're still eating it because it's lovely.

We must continually work towards exercising our dominion and authority over our lives, health, finances, etc., so that we can fully withstand all the fiery darts and deceptions of the devil.

CHAPTER NINE

Be a person with a different spirit from the masses.

Caleb rose with his family, and they went in, and they took over the mountain that God gave them as inheritance, no questions asked, no fear or defeat accepted.

This is how we ought to be as Christians; we should take over what is rightfully ours.

Look at the media. Do you sometimes feel that the media can be a barb in your eye and a thorn in your side?

Do you sometimes think that the BBC, CNN could perhaps be a barb in your eye and a thorn in your side?

Let's go in and take over the BBC. Let's pray and intercede and believe God to raise godly men to go into the BBC and take over positions of authority, the BBC was set up by righteous men, God-fearing men, many, many years ago and just over a period of time, they let compromise slip in.

We are created to take over. We are created to be overcomers.

1 Samuel chapter 17, verse 8 Is a well-known story of David and Goliath. In this portion of the Bible, Goliath stood, towering over the children of Israel and said:

“Give me a man, and we will fight together. And Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, and they were dismayed and greatly afraid”.

They were dismayed, and terrified, Goliath continued night after night, day after day, saying the same thing every day.

Saul was the king of Israel, so everybody was looking to Saul. This job was for Saul because the Bible says that Saul was head and shoulders above every man in Israel, so that means he was taller than everybody else. Goliath is a big guy and so was Saul, but he was not close to Goliath's height.

Goliath was looking for a fight to see who will rule and reign. Saul was the king, so that sounds like Saul's job.

But where was Saul?

He was in the palace, biting his nails. He wasn't going to fight because he didn't want to die.

Nobody wants to die. Nobody wants to sacrifice their lives.

But then when David showed up and things took a different turn. David wondered why nobody was doing anything about the giant that was terrorising them day and night and profaning the name of their God.

Goliath was a barb in their eye and a thorn in their side.

His kind should have been dead if the Children of Israel had obeyed God. Goliath should never have existed had the children of Israel wiped out all the Philistines. But because the ancestors of the Israelites never did as God commanded them, Goliath came into existence and became a barb in their eye and a thorn in their side, and he is now challenging them to a fight.

Nobody likes a bully, especially when he's twice your size, three times your height, three times your weight, with a big mouth.

Israelites became impotent at Goliath's voice and they cowered in fear.

The Philistines are on the other side of the field, or the valley and the Israelites are on this side, dressed for war. They have all got their swords and their spears.

They're ready for a battle.

That's what it looks like, except there is no battle. Nothing happened until David showed up, and he started saying, what's happening here?

1 Samuel 17:26 it says,

“And his older brother heard when he spoke to the men, and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, "Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know the pride and the naughtiness of your heart. You have come down to see the battle”.

Eliab is a picture of the established church who would say to younger churches “Who do you think you are? By what authority do you do this? We've been here for a long time”.

“You've just come to see the battle”. Eliab said to David.

What battle? The bible recorded that they weren't fighting any battle. They were standing there talking amongst themselves, but their knees were knocking together in fear. They were applauding Goliath every time he spoke with their knees. They had fear in their bodies. Their hearts were turned to water. There wasn't one man capable of going out and taking out Goliath, until David showed up.

What is the difference between David and his brother Eliab?

What is the difference between David and the children of Israel?

What is the difference between David and Saul?

It's intimacy with God. David stayed in the fields and had intimacy with God; he spent time in God's presence and sang psalms to God continuously. He fellowshiped with the Holy Spirit continuously and had intimacy with God.

Intimacy with God brings a boldness. It brings an anointing and strength into your being.

That was the difference that David had.

Saul didn't have any intimacy with God. The Bible very rarely records that he ever called upon the name of the Lord. I think he did it twice in his whole existence.

David continuously sought the Lord. Continually developing that relationship with God to the point where he knew who He was.

Nothing was impossible to him. God and he were a majority. He was a man of faith. He was of a different spirit. He was the same spirit as Caleb and Joshua.

People of a different spirit are what God wants us to be as a New Testament church—those of a different spirit that doesn't go with the multitude.

As one wise man said, and I hasten to add he was a billionaire, “observe the masses and do the opposite”.

So, whatever the masses are doing, you want to do the opposite. If they are all selling, you are buying. If they are all buying, you are selling. You do the opposite. If they are all going that way, you go the other way.

A different spirit from the world is what God wants us to have.

Broad is the road to destruction, and narrow is the road to life.

CHAPTER TEN

Be wise; Learn from the mistakes of others.

God cannot ask us to do something we do not have the capacity and ability to do.

God's not going to ask you to do something you're not capable of doing.

In Exodus 14, the bible talks about the children of Israel and the Egyptian army crossing the Red Sea.

The children of Israel could never have wiped out the Egyptian army. Their inner image was so poor that even if they were given swords and shields to fight the Egyptian army, the Egyptians would have just wiped them out because they didn't have the mentality of a warrior inside them. They didn't have the self-esteem to carry them to that so they couldn't do it.

So, God never asked them to do it. God killed the Egyptians for them.

God will fight your battle if you're not capable of handling it. He has got your back. He will take care of you.

But God is not going to do something for you that you are capable of doing yourself.

So, what does that mean?

It means, for example, Monday morning, God is not going to wake you up and say,

"Good morning. You don't have to get up this morning. I will go to work for you".

I don't think so.

You have your part to play, and God has His part to play, and if we get into tandem, we will bring God's plan and purpose into fulfilment in our lives.

The book of Judges was written when the children of Israel occupied the Promised Land.

Judges Chapter 3, verse 5 says;

“And the sons of Israel lived among the Canaanites, the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hittites, and the Jebusites”.

The very people they were supposed to kill and destroy were living among them, and they took their daughters to be their wives, and they gave their daughters to their sons, and they served their gods. The very thing that God said to them I don't want you to do is the same thing they were doing.

You may sometimes find that you might be living your Christian life, yet you're doing the very thing that God doesn't want you to do because you are in an environment where you are not supposed to be.

God gave the Israelites an instruction, and they never followed it. They rebelled against it and even went as far as giving their sons and daughters over in marriage and receiving the sons and daughters of the Hittites, the Jebusites, etc., in marriage. So God was furious.

And as you read through Judges, you see four steps happening repeatedly. It reoccurs all the time.

The first step that happens in Judges is they fall into sin, and the reason they fall into sin is in Judges Chapter 17, verse 6.

“In those days, Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit”.

There was no law in the land, and they did what was right in their own sight.

Don't do things because it's right in your sight. Do things that are right in God's sight, and you'll be safe. There are a lot of people in prison today because they did things that they felt were right in their sight, and they're in jail right now.

There was no law in the land, so the Israelites became a law unto themselves, and they fell into sin.

Step two: They then experience suffering and oppression. The occupants of the land rise up and oppress them, so they're being oppressed.

Pain is proof of disorder.

If something's out of order, you'll experience pain. If I put my arm up my back, I'm going to be in pain. Why? Because my arm doesn't belong up my back.

If you have pain in your marriage, it's because something is not right. You're not doing something right in your marriage.

If you have pain in your finances, you're not doing something right in your finances. Maybe it's something to do with the fact that you're sleeping 14 hours a day.

Sleep tends to poverty.

But pain is proof there is disorder.

Pain isn't your enemy, it's your friend. It's telling you something is out of order. You must correct the thing that is out of order, and the pain will leave, and things will start to flow smoothly again.

The pain is there to tell you something must go.

The oppression that was happening to the children of Israel was a pain, and the pain was proof that there was disorder.

What was the disorder?

They were in sin. So, as soon as they get the sin out of their lives, what happens? Order starts to come in.

Stage three: They pray, and they call upon the Lord their God.

So, when they turn their face towards God, they pray and repent.

What is repentance?

It is a complete 180-degree turnaround from sin. So, one minute you're going this way, you repent. Next minute, you're going in the opposite direction. That is repentance in God's eyes.

There is no salvation without repentance. You can't call yourself saved and continue living the way you were. You have to repent, turn around, and go a different direction. The direction that God wants you to go in.

The fourth stage is when God delivers them.

So, these four stages are seen all through the book of Judges. As you read through the book of Judges, you'll see it repeatedly. They fell into sin; oppression came upon them. They cried out to God, and God raised up a judge to deliver them.

What we can learn from this book is that the land of Canaan is a type and shadow of what we have in Christ. Once we're in Christ, we can't make the same mistakes the Israelites made.

You have to learn from the mistakes of other people.

A wise man learns from the mistakes of others. An ordinary man learns from the mistakes that he makes. An unwise person will say, "Oh, I made that mistake. I'll not do it again". But guess what? A wise man says, "Oh, that man made that mistake. I'll make a mental note of that, so I won't make a similar mistake.

A wise man learns from the mistakes of others.

If you want to be wise in the eyes of the Lord, you must learn from the mistakes that others who went before you made.

When the children of Israel did not deal with what God told them to deal with, they paid for it and are still paying for it to this day.

You may be reading this book, and God is telling you to deal with certain things in your life that ought not to be there. It will become a barb in your eye and a thorn in your side until you deal with it and obey what God tells you to do.

We must appropriate that which God has put in place for us.

We have to seize our rights and privileges through Christ. We must exercise authority over the principalities and powers because they are the types and shadows in the Old Testament of the Canaanites, the Hittites, and the Jebusites, who thought it was all theirs and they owned it.

They're sitting smug and all prideful up on the hilltop shouting, this is ours, and you aren't going to get it.

Is that not a picture of where we are right now in the New Testament?

So, we have to learn that if you allow sin into your life, oppression is going to rise somewhere.

Negativity is going to rise somewhere in your life. Once you identify and realise something is out of order here, you must cry unto the Lord and get repentance.

God will deliver you and set you back in a firm place.

But here's the point. If you don't get into sin in the first place, these four stages won't apply to you. You wouldn't need to go through them.

It's more important that you give no place to the devil.

What is the definition of sin?

Sin is to know to do good and to do it not.

Nobody is exceptional, and nobody is always right. We make mistakes, but we don't consciously go out of our way to sin. We don't intentionally do things we know that's not right. But if you find yourself in that situation where you are being tempted with sin, you have to resist it.

Remember, God is not going to ask us to do something that we are not capable of doing. If there's a temptation put in front of us, it means we can resist it.

Resist the devil, and he will flee.

We have the victory through Jesus Christ.

He bought and paid for our victory for every day of our lives, and we must walk consciously in this knowledge so that we can fight off anything that works to put us in bondage again by becoming a barb in our eye and a thorn in our side.