

Module : Soul Prosperity**Session 5** : Peace for The Seed - Part 2**Focus** : Peaceful Relationships for the Prosperous SeedWord to the World
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A Reminder: Peaceful environments and habitations are required for seeds of any kind to thrive and prosper. [Review session 4 thoroughly before proceeding]

Zechariah 8:12 *'For there will be peace for the seed: the vine will yield its fruit, the land will yield its produce and the heavens will give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to inherit all these things.'*

Zech 8:12a (CEV) your crops are planted in peace;

(GW) Seeds will thrive in peacetime.

All expressions of prosperity are dependent on the prosperity of the soul. Negative emotional states or mindsets attendant with the soul are usually caused by relational difficulties, tensions or failures. Emotions such as bitterness, hatred, anger, malice, prejudice, etc. most times exist and are caused within the context of relationships. The soul must be healed relationally. GOD'S WORD has standards for us by which we should position ourselves in how we relate to ALL people, especially where there has been hurt, betrayal, etc. We are called to live in peace with all men as far as possible, and even have favourable attitudes and behaviours in reference to our enemies. This is crucial, as it affects the state of your soul and so also your total well-being and total life prosperity. Your soul will be healthy when you have relational peace. You will have peace because you function in righteousness in all your relationships. Where righteousness and peace abound, the blessing and favour of God is experienced.

We have discussed the importance of practical righteousness, doing what is right in God's sight – especially righteousness in our relational dealing with people.

1 John 3:7 Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous

Where righteousness persists, peace prevails. Prevailing peace then becomes the spur to greater expressions of righteousness and all of its attendant blessings and rewards.

James 3:18 And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness. (NLT)

Isaiah 48:17,18 (ESV)

- 17 Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the Lord your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you in the way you should go.
- 18 Oh that you had **paid attention to my commandments!** Then **your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea.**

Righteousness must be practised relationally. We must be righteous relationally with men. Seeds are prosperous within an environment of peace. Peace is the fruit of righteousness. Righteousness produces peace. Peace then, becomes the catalyst for greater expressions of righteousness. So it could be said that righteousness results from peace.

A seed has to be SOWN first before it can spring forth. Likewise, for RIGHTEOUSNESS to spring forth, we have to SOW righteousness by being practically righteous, especially in our relationships. Just seek to act in accordance with what is right in God's sight in all your relationships.

Isaiah 61:11 "For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes the **THINGS SOWN** in it to **SPRING UP**, so the Lord will cause **RIGHTEOUSNESS** and praise to **SPRING UP** before all nations".

Heb. 12:11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the **peaceful fruit of righteousness**

EXAMPLES OF HOW RIGHTEOUS AND PEACEFUL RELATIONS FACILITATE ABUNDANT PROSPERITY.

When we deal righteously with people and exhibit exactness in our relationships with all men, we will have peace and so we will have prosperity. Here are some case studies in reference to this:

- **ABRAHAM'S ACTION TO RESCUE HIS BROTHER, LOT, WHO SEPARATED FROM HIM IN A CONTEXT OF STRIFE, BROUGHT HIM GREAT WEALTH AT THE DEFEAT OF A COALITION OF FOUR MIGHTY KINGS.**

Prosperity comes to those who apprise brotherhood highly, especially those who risk everything of their prophetic destiny simply to seek the welfare of brothers – especially brothers that have walked away from them - as Lot did from Abraham. Abraham did not have the pursuit of wealth as an objective but the rescue of a brother and in doing so he reaped riches. Your next breakthrough could be located in your sincere and sacrificial seeking out of the wellbeing of a brother in trouble.

Gen 13:8 So Abram said to Lot, "Please let there be no strife between you and me, nor between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, **for we are brothers.**

Gen. 14:14-16

- 14 Now when Abram heard that **his brother** was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained *servants* who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.
- 15 He divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked them and pursued them as far as Hobah, which *is* north of Damascus.
- 16 So he brought back all the goods, and also brought **back his brother** Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people. (NKJV)

▪ THE GROUND DOES NOT RESPOND TO CAIN WHO KILLED HIS BROTHER ABEL

Genesis 4:1-12

- 1 Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, "I have gotten a manchild with *the help of* the LORD."
- 2 Again, she gave birth to his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.
- 3 So it came about in the course of time that Cain brought an offering to the LORD of the fruit of the ground.
- 4 Abel, on his part also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and for his offering;
- 5 but for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. So Cain became very angry and his countenance fell.
- 6 Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?
- 7 "If you do well, will not *your countenance* be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."
- 8 Cain told Abel his brother. And it came about when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.
- 9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "**Where is Abel your brother?**" And he said, "**I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?**"
- 10 He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground.
- 11 "Now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.
- 12 "When you cultivate the ground, **it will no longer yield its strength to you; you will be a vagrant and a wanderer on the earth.**"

1 John 3:15

Everyone who **hates his brother is a murderer**; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

Hatred is equated to murder. When you kill (hate) your brother, you disrespect the image of God in him/her (see Gen.9:6) and your seed of any kind loses its power. The principle of sowing and reaping is rendered ineffective to him who is not at peace with his brother. The ground does not yield its strength to Cain, who killed Abel. Effective sowing is conditional upon peaceful relationships. Fix all your relationships, and see how your seed's potential flourishes to maximum harvest.

Mat 5:21-24

- 21 "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.'
- 22 "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty *enough to go* into the fiery hell.
- 23 "Therefore if you are **presenting your offering** at the altar, and there remember that **your brother has something against you**,
- 24 **leave your offering** there before the altar and go; **first be reconciled to your brother**, and then come and present your offering.

Offerings are only acceptable and thus have power when given within the context of RECONCILED relationships. Note the imperative of 'FIRST' be reconciled in the verse above. Reconciled relationships are of greater priority in God's estimation than the obedient act of presenting one's offerings and also the magnitude of the offering. Implied in this also is that an offering's qualitative worth and acceptance is appraised on the basis of one's commitment to peaceful, covenantal and reconciled relationships.

- **JACOB'S DESTINY TAKES ON HEIGHTENED ACCELERATION AFTER HIS RECONCILIATION WITH HIS ESTRANGED BROTHER, ESAU.**

Read Genesis chapters 27 to 35. In the twenty years in Uncle Laban's house, Jacob knew the blessing and protection of God. On his leaving there to return to his father's house and the vicinity of Bethel, he had to reconcile with his estranged brother Esau. This was something that probably haunted him all the while he was serving Laban. He knew the will of God for his life would be impeded if this was not prioritised. He appeased the anger of Esau with many gifts. The two were reconciled, thereafter the pace at which God-ordained events played out in Jacob's life escalated.

His 'seed' – his offering – was given within the context of a desire to mend a broken relationship – and it worked, bearing a harvest of the purposes of God being performed in his life. He saw Esau's face as God's face.

When we learn to see the nature, character and purpose of God in the face of our brothers – particularly those with whom we are estranged, we will deliberately pursue the mending of these relationships. We must perceive God's face (nature, character and purpose afoot) in estranged brothers, even though circumstances might be characterised by negative and unsavoury events/issues that led to division in the relationship. We must reckon that God permitted things to transpire to demonstrate HIS FACE to us in our brothers in order to accomplish some shaping of His character within us.

Jacob crossed the Jabbok – a little river before confronting Esau – Gen 32:22. **Jabbok means “emptying; pouring out; running out”.** It symbolically implies that Jacob, like we too, had to empty himself of himself, pour himself out and adopt a disposition of deep humility devoid of any pride, arrogance, self-justification, etc. in order to prioritise the issue of reconciliation with an estranged brother.

- **THE FORTUNES OF JOB ARE RESTORED TO HIM AFTER HE PRAYS FOR HIS FRIENDS WHO MISUNDERSTOOD, MISPERCEIVED AND INACCURATELY ASSESSED AND SPOKE ABOUT HIM IN THE MIDST OF GREATEST PERSONAL CRISIS.**

Job 42:10-17

- 10 The LORD restored the fortunes of Job when he prayed for his friends, and the LORD increased all that Job had twofold.
- 11 Then all his brothers and all his sisters and all who had known him before came to him,

and they ate bread with him in his house; and they consoled him and comforted him for all the adversities that the LORD had brought on him. And each one gave him one piece of money, and each a ring of gold.

- 12 The LORD blessed the latter *days* of Job more than his beginning; and he had 14,000 sheep and 6,000 camels and 1,000 yoke of oxen and 1,000 female donkeys.
- 13 He had seven sons and three daughters.
- 14 He named the first Jemimah, and the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch.
- 15 In all the land no women were found so fair as Job's daughters; and their father gave them inheritance among their brothers.
- 16 After this, Job lived 140 years, and saw his sons and his grandsons, four generations.
- 17 And Job died, an old man and full of days.

Job was morally upright, but he had to be tested and proven relationally. You can be morally blemishless, but relationally soiled. Those who have mastered personal purity must also master relationships.

Pray for your greatest detractors. David went to Hebron after he sang the Song of the Bow. After he demonstrated Christ-like disposition toward to deceased enemy, he was ready to enter greater levels of covenants with people – and this would be preparatory to him ruling of Zion.

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- **AN OFFERING IS RENDERED POWERLESS AND OF NO REPRESENTATION BEFORE GOD, BECAUSE A SPOUSE DEALS DISHONESTLY AND UNFAITHFULLY WITH HIS/HER PARTNER**

Sowing financial sowing, inclusive of first fruits, tithes and various kinds of offerings are also biblical ways to position oneself for a prosperous life, but secret sin neutralises the spiritual benefit associated with financial sowing.

Prov. 28:13 He who **conceals his transgressions will not prosper**, but he who **confesses and forsakes** them will find compassion.

Here is a case in point.

Malachi 2:13-14

- 13 This is another thing you do: you cover the altar of the Lord with tears, with weeping and with groaning, because He no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand.
- 14 Yet you say, For what reason? Because the Lord has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant

In the above passage, the offering of the people was rejected by God because of a violation of the marriage covenant - verse 14 suggests some kind of adultery. The word ‘**treacherous**’ used here (‘**bagad**’ in Hebrew) means ‘**to cover with a garment – to act covertly**’; **to act or deal deceitfully or faithlessly**.

The unacceptability of the offering to the Lord is specifically because they transgressed the marriage covenant. Marriage speaks of covenantal relationships. There was the violation of the sacredness of this. On a practical and natural level, we need to respect our marriage unions – and uphold the sanctity and enduring covenantal characteristic of marriage. When the sacredness of this relationship is violated, it impacts directly on the acceptability of any financial offering to the Lord. The scriptures are replete with examples of how that that which is offered to Lord becomes acceptable from the foundation and basis of divinely ordained covenantal relationship. Seed of any symbolic kind, especially financial offering, loses its internal potential to produce and bear a harvest if the marriage covenant is not maintained in righteousness.

Note that there is implied in the verse above that the weeping of the wife who is hurt and betrayed is louder and heard by God more than the weeping of the people over the fact that their offerings were not accepted. For the offering (seed) to be accepted, the marriage covenant must be upheld.

Any kind of deceitful or covert dealings on behalf of either spouse renders their seed offering ineffective. This would even include being faithful to each other in your thought life. There should be absolute and total transparency and honesty between husband and wife. Respecting and honouring divine principles attendant with the marriage relationship empowers your seed for a great harvest. `

A Reminder:

Mat 5:21-24

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- 22 "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty *enough to go* into the fiery hell.
- 23 "Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you,
- 24 leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering.

Your spouse is also your 'brother'. 'First' (suggesting 'priority') be reconciled to your brother (spouse) before presenting your offering.

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- **JOSEPH (a representation of Christ and of breakthrough, provision, immunity, security, etc.) IS REVEALED ONLY WHEN ALL THE BROTHERS ARE FULLY REPRESENTED, THEIR FATHER'S WELL-BEING PRIORITISED AND SINCERE LOVE AND BROTHERLY COMMITMENT DEMONSTRATED.**

Joseph, testing his brothers, insisted they bring back Benjamin with them after holding Simeon hostage until their return. If they are to ever see his face again (which for them represented provision and survival), they had to be fully represented as brothers before him. Joseph was really testing, not just their honesty, but more importantly their heart commitment to brotherhood.

Gen 43:3 Judah spoke to him, however, saying, "The man solemnly warned us, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.'"

The twelve brothers constitute an apostolic governmental representation. The face of Christ (Joseph) will not be fully manifested unless there is the representation of governmental brotherhood; or until brothers have demonstrated sincere concern for each other's welfare.

Judah, a representation of the apostolic spirit, volunteers to his father to stand surety for Benjamin. This demonstrates serious commitment to ensuring his brother's welfare.

Gen. 43: 8-9

- 8 Judah said to his father Israel, "Send the lad with me and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, we as well as you and our little ones.
- 9 I myself will be surety for him; you may **hold me responsible for him**. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame before you forever.

In releasing his sons to return to Egypt, Jacob loads them with many gifts and the finances with which they came from Egypt as well as finances from his own household, together with Benjamin, their brother. The principle here is that your financial gifts and financial seed must have brotherhood as an essential key component. Seed without peaceful brotherly relations is rendered powerless. It would not be the gifts and finances that would activate Joseph's abundant benevolence upon them in permitting them to eat in his house, but rather the sight of Benjamin in their midst.

Gen 43:11-15

- 11 Then their father Israel said to them, "If it must be so, then do this: take some of the best products of the land in your bags, and carry down to the man as a present, a little balm and a little honey, aromatic gum and myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds.
- 12 Take double the money in your hand, and take back in your hand the money that was returned in the mouth of your sacks; perhaps it was a mistake.
- 13 Take your brother also, and arise, return to the man;
- 14 and may God Almighty grant you compassion in the sight of the man, so that he will release to you your other brother and Benjamin. And as for me, if I am bereaved of my children, I am bereaved."
- 15 So the men took this present, and they took double the money in their hand, and Benjamin; then they arose and went down to Egypt and stood before Joseph

In their final test (Gen. 44), when Joseph intended to imprison Benjamin, Judah volunteers to take his place. At this Joseph reveals his identity. When he saw that a brother was willing to give his life for his brother so as to preserve the life and prophetic destiny vested within his father, he revealed his identity. From here, his role in ensuring the survival of his family and thus a whole nation was activated. We, the church, are the holy nation of God, which in times of global economic famine will see greater manifestation of the nature, provision and preservation of our God when we demonstrate sincere brotherly love and oneness. Our provision and preservation is vested with our sincere and honest brotherhood.

- **PAUL DID NOT PURSUE THE OPEN DOOR BUT HAD NO REST IN HIS SPIRIT UNTIL HE SOUGHT OUT HIS BROTHER TITUS.**

2 Cor. 2:12,13 Now when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and when a door was opened for me in the Lord, I had no rest for my spirit, not finding Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I went on to Macedonia

Three things here:

1. **What gives you no REST in your spirit?** For Paul, it was the inability to find a BROTHER. When we too cannot 'find each other' – not physically but **RELATIONALLY in 'ONENESS'**, this should cause us great unrest in our spirit. The spirit of a true man of God only finds total rest within the context of peaceful and harmonious brotherly relations.
2. Paul could not locate Titus, whilst there was simultaneously a massive opportunity to advance his ministry. He did not want to pursue the open door of great opportunity without first finding Titus, his brother. He was not ecstatic about an OPEN DOOR, as exciting as this may be, but when weighed against establishing and locating the 'spiritual location' of a lost brother, the open door was secondary. **Pursuit of divinely orchestrated ministry opportunities must not become an obsession at the expense of breaking or not maintaining divinely ordained relationships.** We must not neglect FINDING a lost BROTHER because we are too preoccupied with fulfilling ministry obligations – even those doors which God has opened. The basis for successful ministry endeavour is relationships.
3. The open door was not to be pursued until Titus was found. **It would seem that Paul was not content to enter the open door alone, but with Titus, highlighting the principle that our movements into great opportunities for the acceleration of God's global purpose would now be a corporate one, and not an individualistic 'one-man' show,** as was characteristic of the time of Judges. This represents an unselfish position.
4. **Paul realised that the open door had to be entered jointly and not individually.** He demonstrated the desire to bring others into opportunities that God had supernaturally opened for him. I believe that God will open many doors of multi-faceted opportunities for us when we desire to enter these in company – and not to be so preoccupied with benefits that might accrue to us personally as individuals. When last did you take someone with you through an open door which God opened for you?

▪ PEACEFUL SEEDS LEAD BROTHERS INTO BREAKTHROUGH

Genesis 38:27-30

- 27 When the time of her labor came, there were twins in her womb.
 28 And when she was in labor, one put out a hand, and the midwife took and tied a scarlet thread on his hand, saying, "This one came out first."
 29 But as he drew back his hand, behold, his brother came out. And she said, "What a breach you have made for yourself!" Therefore his name was called Perez.
 30 Afterward his brother came out with the scarlet thread on his hand, and his name was called Zerah.

Tamar bore twins, Perez and Zerah. At the birth, Zerah's hand pushed out first and a scarlet thread was tied around his hand to indicate he would be born first. But he retracted back into the womb, and his brother Perez (which means 'breakthrough') was born first. The midwife named Perez because 'he broke-through'. In the NKJV, the midwife asks the question "How did you breakthrough?". If he could respond, he would have said "My brother Zerah, whose name means 'SEED', paved the way for me. [Zerah, which means 'shining' or 'brightness' also alludes to SEED in its root meaning]. Your seed will bring you breakthrough. More accurately stated, your seed brings you breakthrough when this seed is exemplified in one who exists for the benefit, well-being, progression, advancement and prosperity of his brother.

▪ THE CONTEXT IN WHICH GOD FAVOURS ZION IS ONE IN WHICH SONS OF GOD DELIGHT AND TAKE PLEASURE IN OTHER SONS OF GOD.

This speaks of seeking out the other's good and well-being.

Psalms 102:13,14 Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to **favour her, yea, the set time, is come.** For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favour the dust thereof.

Stones here are a reference to people who are 'living stones' making up God's house.

▪ PEACE WITHIN OUR WALLS SURROUNDING PROSPEROUS PALACES IS AN EXPERIENCE ONLY FOR THOSE THAT LOVE THE MANY-MEMBERED BODY OF CHRIST.

Psalms 122:6-8 (ESV)

- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.
 7 Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.
 8 For my brethren and companions 'sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee

Note: 'THEY SHALL PROSPER THAT LOVE THEE'. Those who love the church, the Body of Christ, the new Jerusalem, the Bride of Christ – these will prosper (Rev. 3:12; Rev. 21:2). Your prosperity is conditional upon your favourable attitude and disposition toward your brothers and sisters.

Sons of God who are peacemakers, actively seek the amplified peace (or double peace as depicted in the phrase “peace, peace”) of their spiritual father and also the peace and peaceful relationships in and amongst the sons of their father.

1 Chron. 12:18 Then the Spirit came upon Amasai, who was the chief of the thirty, *and he said, "We are yours, O David, And with you, O son of Jesse! **Peace, peace** to you, And **peace to him who helps you**; Indeed, your God helps you!"* Then David received them and made them captains of the band.

Those who are intent and inclined to seek the peace of their leader and fellow brothers are eligible for significant and strategic positions, roles and functions in God's Kingdom.

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- **JOYFUL PRAISE TO GOD EMIITS FROM THOSE WHO REJOICE TO SEE GOD FAVOUR ON THEIR BROTHERS**

Psalm 122: 8 For my brethren and companions 'sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee

Psalm 35:27 Let them shout for joy and rejoice, who favor my vindication; And let them say continually, “The Lord be magnified, Who delights in the prosperity of His servant

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- **A COMMANDED BLESSING OF ‘LIFE FOR EVERMORE’, i.e. THE ZOE LIFE OF GOD, TYPIFIED BY ABUNDANCE IN EVERY RESPECT, IS AUTOMATICALLY REALISED WHEREVER YOU HAVE BROTHERS IN A CONSTANT STATE OF PEACE AND ONENESS**

Psalm 133:1-3

- 1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!
- 2 It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;
- 3 As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

Oneness is likened unto dew here. Dew depicts prosperity. Dew is symbolic of many things in Scripture including fertility, provision and divine favour. All these flow out from the condition of peaceful relations amongst brothers who DWELL (i.e. implying a state of permanency) in oneness.

Fertility:

Gen 27:28 Now may God give you of the dew of heaven, And of the fatness of the earth, And an abundance of grain and new wine;

Gen 27:39 Then Isaac his father answered and said to him, "Behold, away from the fertility of the earth shall be your dwelling, And away from the dew of heaven from above.

Hagai 1:10 "Therefore, because of you the sky has withheld its dew and the earth has withheld its produce.

Provision:

Deut 33:13 Of Joseph he said, "**Blessed of the LORD be his land, With the choice things of heaven, with the dew,** And from the deep lying beneath,

Exo 16:13-14 So it came about at evening that the quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a **layer of dew around the camp.** When the layer of dew evaporated, behold, on the surface of the wilderness there was a fine flake-like thing, fine as the frost on the ground.

Num 11:9 When the **dew fell on** the camp at night, **the manna would fall with it.**

Deut 33:28 "So Israel dwells in security, The fountain of Jacob secluded, In a land of **grain and new wine;** His **heavens also drop down dew.**

The Favour and Grace of the Lord:

Prov. 19:12 The king's wrath is like the **roaring of a lion,** But **his favor is like dew on the grass.**

"When a mountain is saturated in DEW, it will produce a river." (Thamo Naidoo)

[Further applications of 'DEW' are referenced in my study on 'One-ness']

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- **GEHAZI VIOLATED A KEY RELATIONSHIP, MISREPRESENTING ELISHA TO NAMAAN IN HIS BID TO FRAUDULENTLY EXTRACT FUNDS FROM HIM TO FEED HIS GREED AND SO APPEASE HIS INSECURITY** [Read 2 Kings 5]

Gehazi was struck with leprosy, and did not access the financial increase and prosperity he so desired. He presumed to access wealth whilst simultaneously violating the sacredness of relationship with his spiritual father. He was struck with leprosy and aborted the privileged position of serving Elisha, thus losing intimacy and nearness with him as a spiritual father who had custody over key aspects of God's purpose in the nation of Israel.

The pursuit of wealth at the expense of violating the sacredness of relationships will result in spiritual leprosy where you will be marginalised to the fringes of God's intent being rolled out in the earth, and never play a central role in stewarding Divine global purpose.

- **ACHAN COMPROMISED THE WELL-BEING AND FUTURE OF HIS FAMILY AND A WHOLE NATION BY ACTING SELFISHLY AND INDEPENDANTLY IN STEALING ITEMS OF WEALTH FROM JERICO**

[Read Joshua 7]

He demonstrated blatant disobedience to Joshua as his leader, and also exhibited no concern for the corporate welfare of the nation and suffered death. Disobedience to God-ordained leadership and a flagrant disregard for the welfare of the corporate Body of Christ can lead to selfish actions fueled by greed and ambition. These actions result in hampering the speed at which God's purposes attendant with the corporate Body progresses. The opposite is also true.

- **HEBRON IS TO BE TAKEN FIRST BEFORE RULERSHIP IS REALISED; FROM HEBRON THE LAND OF MILK AND HONEY IS TO BE SUBDUED.**

[Read 2 Sam.2-5; Josh 15; 1 Chron. 12:38-40; 1 Chron. 11:3-6]

Hebron was the hill country that the twelve spies were sent into to appraise the promised land. As we know, ten came back with a negative report and two had a positive report. In the mind of God, after leading Israel out from Egyptian bondage, after a few days, He is ready to lead them into conquest of the land and the first area He seeks them to conquer is Hebron. From here they were to then take the whole of Canaan. This was God's original plan. Hebron means alliance, confederacy, conjugal relationships. It represents the place of perfect stature or maturity in the area of relationships. It is a place of peace and oneness relationally. This was to be the platform from which the entire Promised Land was to be taken. The same holds true today. Unless we master relationships, we will not have mastery and attainment over our prophetic inheritance in the Lord.

Forty years after the initial failure to enter and conquer the land of Canaan, Caleb inherited Hebron as promised to him by Moses. From there he takes the city of Debir, formerly called Keriath Sepher – which means 'City of the books'. Books imply hidden knowledge and intelligence. The principle is that once you master relationships at Hebron, you will then be positioned to access knowledge, divine intelligence and codified secrets – and so possess wisdom that will afford you the opportunity for successful living, prosperous initiatives, witty inventions, etc. – and so prosperity will come to you.

In David's time too, he spent seven and a half years living in and mastering the Hebronic environment of synergistic relationships, before ruling from Zion for thirty three years. He went beyond perfection in the area of relationships (implied by the number seven and a half), and this brought him into significant kingly reign over the whole nation of Zion. We will rule nothing unless we master relationships.

[Consult Thamo Naidoo's teaching on Hebron for a more complete understanding of this principle: www.thamonaiddoo.com; go to GATE MINISTRIES tab; then 'DOWNLOADS'; then 'Sunday Morning Sermons' 2013]

Concluding Remarks:

It is essential that we seek to produce peaceful surroundings and domains in which we live and function. This includes our homes, churches, workplaces, recreational realms, etc. Much of the absence of peace and harmony are relationally based. There exists tensions, schisms, bitterness, resentment, hurts, betrayal, misunderstandings, unforgiveness, etc. between people, and if left undealt with, this has a negative impact upon total life prosperity. A peaceful context is the most ideal and necessary one in which to experience total life prosperity.

In our next study, we will emphasise the need to be peacemakers and so configure our environments to be able to accommodate the heightened degree of complete prosperity that God intends to bring to us.

Manifest PEACE and RIGHTEOUSNESS in all of the Following Relationships:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ▪ Peace with God. | ▪ Peace with members of the broader Body of Christ. |
| ▪ Peace with your spiritual father in the Lord. | ▪ Peace with your employees or subordinates in the workplace. |
| ▪ Peace with your spiritual sons. | ▪ Peace with your employer(s) or superiors in the workplace. |
| ▪ Peace with your spouse. | ▪ Peace with your enemy of any kind. |
| ▪ Peace with your natural children. | ▪ Peace with your secular government |
| ▪ Peace in your extended biological family. | |
| ▪ Peace with your fellow brothers/sisters in your Household of Faith. | |

Give serious attention to these matters. The potential of you as a seed AND your financial seed depends on this. Multiplied peace to you!

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