

THE GOD THAT MOVES MOUNTAINS.

JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME YESTERDAY, AND TODAY AND FOREVER.

**CONSIDER “THE LIFE AND FAITH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST”
APRIL 30, 2023**

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ANCHOR BIBLE REFERENCES

➤ Hebrews 13: 5-8

➤ ⁵ God has said,

“Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you.”

➤ ⁶ So we say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.

What can mortal man do to me?”

➤ ⁷ Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you.
Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

➤ ⁸ **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

**Our Mandate Remains: “The House of Prayer for all Nations,
Extending God’s Love to all the Nations.”**

We are sowers (not eaters) but the sower reaps in multiple folds.



The Leaders, consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

Luke 5:37-38

"No one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will spill, and the wineskins will be ruined."

"Instead, new wine is poured into new wineskins."

(This year, we must have a fresh vision of our Christian life. We must empty the old and fill with the new.)

As we consider the life of the leaders and imitate their faith, let us apply the lessons and, thus, create new wineskins and expand our spiritual container to enable God to move the mountains He has planned to move for us from 2023.

The Leader, JOHN, consider the outcome of his way of life and imitate his faith.

➤ Background:

The leader John the Baptist, provides to us unparalleled lessons as:

A. Children of our parents,

B. Parents of our children, and

C. Individuals

We see a case where John's parents (Zachariah and Elizabeth) were married for a long time, and even into their old age, did not have a child.

Zachariah was a Priest and a leader of a service division in the church and the wife was a descendant of Aaron. So they feared God and served God. But God had a big plan that they did not know until it was revealed

Luke 1: 1-

⁵ In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was

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also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶ **Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly.** ⁷ But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

Brethren, the fact is that given the status in the kingdom, both of them were praying intensely, asking God for a child.

⁸ Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and **he was serving as priest before God,** ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense.

¹⁰ And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

Not only was Zachariah righteous and blamelessly in observing all the Lord's commands and decrees but he was also serving in God's

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house to the extent that he built enough reputation with people who choose him to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense.

So, Zachariah was not a shallow person in the kingdom (if it were today we will say he was not a shallow Christian).

Brethren, in Jeremiah 1:5, God said,

⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.” ⁶ “Alas, Sovereign LORD,” I said, “I do not know how to speak; I am too young.”

Brethren, Jeremiah has parents who could not receive the word of God on his behalf. His parents had him as a baby and they were training outside his call until God intervened.

As parents, how many of us were able to receive the call of our children before they were born and thus used that revelation of their call as the

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bases for their up-bringing and training?

Jeremiah, like many of us today, was born without his parents receiving any revelation about his call knowing his call. But he lucky, for while he was still a child, he had an encounter with God.

But brethren, this encounter is not an easy one. It would have been easier that Jeremiah's parent received word from God before he was born and modelled his training and up-bring accordingly.

In Galatians 1:14, Paul said, "14I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries and was extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers. **15**But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by His grace, was pleased **16to reveal His Son in me** so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not rush to consult with flesh and blood

Now compare Jeremiah's situation, and even Paul, with that of John...

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Luke 1 (contd.)

⁹ Zachariah was chosen by lot ... to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside. ¹¹ **Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense.**

¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear.

¹³ But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. **Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John.** ¹⁴ **He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth,** ¹⁵ **for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born."**

Brethren, even though Zachariah out of shock, doubted and was punished, after his punishment, this revelation guided his upbringing of his son.

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¹⁶He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

...⁵⁷ When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁹ On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, ⁶⁰ but his mother spoke up and said, “No! **He is to be called John.**” ⁶¹ They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.”

⁶² Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. ⁶³ He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “**His name is John.**” ⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God.

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⁶⁶ Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him.

⁶⁷ His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

⁶⁸ “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because He has come to His people and redeemed them.

⁷⁶ **And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for the Lord,**

⁸⁰ **And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.**

Luke 3:2

²... the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of

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the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’” (Isaiah 40:3)

Brethren, John was able to link his ACTIONS to a revelation that God had brought in the past through prophet Isaiah.

Whatever we embark on (our ACTIONS) must be backed by either a rhema word that aligns with the scripture or directly from the scripture itself Tested and is true.

Jesus said:

- My sheep hear my voice and they follow me.
- “**Occupy till I come.**” You must know where to occupy.
- Psalm 125:3 “The scepter of the wicked will never settle upon the lot of the righteous.” .. **Are we on our lot?, it is important to find out.**
- *They that know their God will be strong and do exploit. (God’s commitment is only for those who are on the CALL pathway.*

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LESSONS

1. We are God's battle axe and His weapon of war (Jeremiah 51:20)

As parents, God is interested in revealing to us what our unborn children will become. Therefore, parents should build relationship with God in order to receive and let that revelation guide the up-bringing and training of the child: **There are many examples in the bible:**

- a. Jesus and Mary
- b. John and Zachariah
- c. Samuel and Hanna

2. If we missed it before the child was born, we must follow through with the child, after birth, to discover his or her call early in life so that the child's journey will be easier and without backwards engineering.

In Gal 1:15, Paul was too far into a wrong direction before God re-directed his path. In today's world, there are many examples of children in wrong direction.

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3. As individuals, if we do not have a hand-down script, from parents, of revelations they have gotten concerning our call on earth, it means we have nothing to build. **We must, therefore, seek the face to God to find out what that call for us is.**

In Matthew 7:6-8, Jesus said, “**6**Do not give dogs what is holy; do not throw your pearls before swine. If you do, they may trample them under their feet, and then turn and tear you to pieces. **7**Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. **8**For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.”

Romans 8 makes it even clearer:

6 The mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.... **8** Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God... **28** And we know that in all things God works for the good of those ..who have been called

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according to His purpose.

³⁰ And those God predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, he also glorified.

4. **Parents**, stand and support your children to stand

Isaiah 59:21 (message)

“As for me,” GOD says, “this is my covenant with them: My Spirit that I've placed upon you and the words that I've given you to speak, they're not going to leave your mouths nor the mouths of your children nor the mouths of your grandchildren.”

5. **Often, big plans are missed** because we are not seeking the face of God with the purpose, or we are not listening, to discover our call.

We must seek God ourselves and teach our children to do the same.