

Serving God as a Household!

2

YOUR HOPES WILL NOT BE CUT OFF

10

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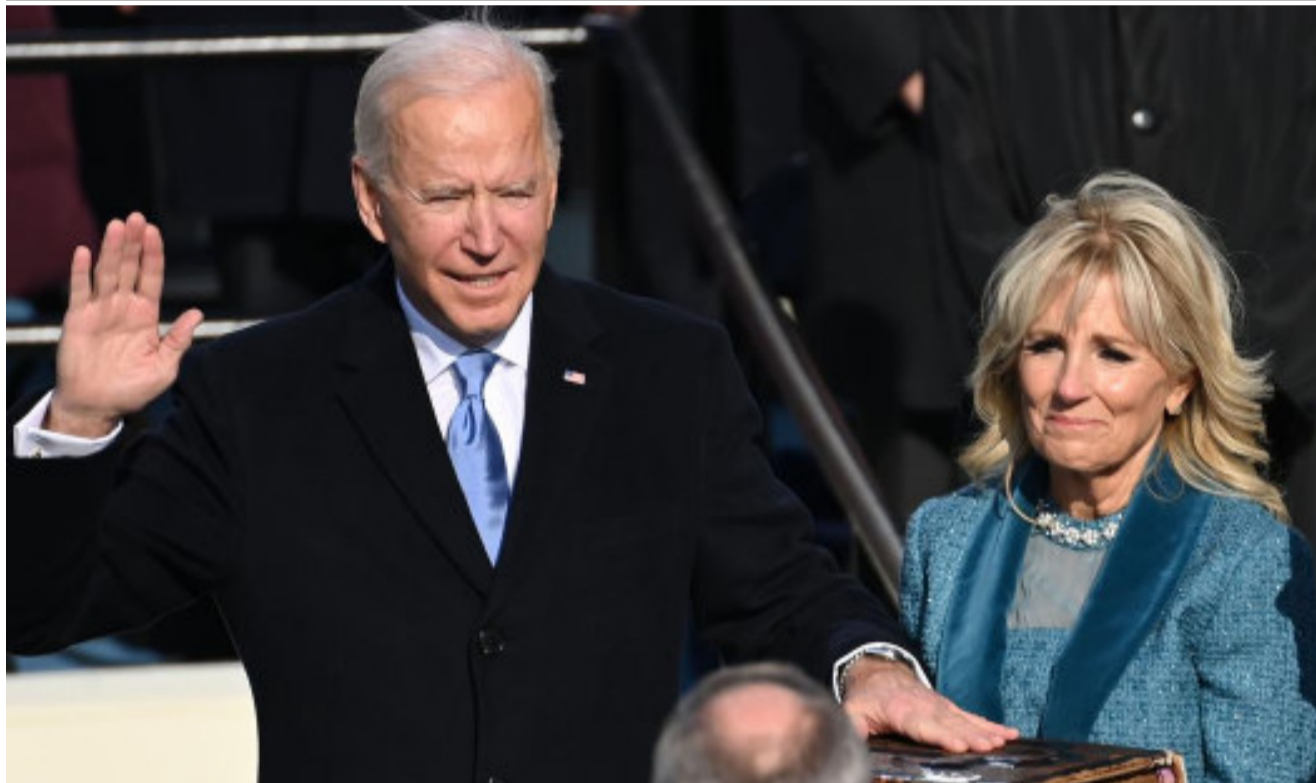
THE WAKE-UP CALL

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US President Joe Biden, flanked by First Lady Jill Biden being sworn by Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts on Wednesday, at the US Capitol in Washington, DC.

JOE BIDEN SWORN IN AND KAMALA HARRIS THE FIRST EVER WOMAN VP OF AMERICA

▶▶▶ FULL STORY ON - 08

CHALLENGES TO CHRISTIAN PERSECUTED COUNTRIES: BRITISH PRIME MINISTER'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has appointed Fiona Bruce, MP for Congleton, as his Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief.

In her new role, Fiona will bring together efforts across the UK government with faith actors and civil society to promote religious tolerance abroad, read a press

▶▶▶ FULL STORY ON -05

ISRAEL MUSEUM REVEALS ANCIENT ARTIFACT DEPICTING NATIVITY IN BETHLEHEM

Ahead of Christmas, the Israel Museum in Jerusalem revealed the existence of a rare token that was likely a memento of a Christian's trip to Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus, at least 1,400 years ago. They're called Eulogia tokens – small souvenirs that Christians collected on pilgrimages to the Holy Land hundreds of years ago, much like they do today. But this particular token is unique. "I'm holding a tiny, miniature token that used to belong to a 6th or 7th century pilgrim that came here [on] a journey. We have here a Nativity scene. So he probably visit Bethlehem," said Morag Wilhelm, Assistant Curator of



Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine archeology at the Israel Museum. Wilhelm discovered this rare piece – about the size of an American dime – in a large collection that had been donated to the museum. "We can see Jesus, baby Jesus and also the ox and the ass but they are inside an architectural building. And we think that this building is the church of the

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▶▶▶ FULL STORY ON - 08



Rev. Manuel Joseph Th.M.
Sub-editor, End-Time News

Serving God as a Household!

The New Year is here and many have taken resolutions to build them and their family in faith. An important resolution of the hour seems to be serving God as a family! How can we do this?

Firstly, it can be done by choosing God instead of the alternatives. As the word says, in Joshua 24: 15 "And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as

for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. To the congregation in front of him, Joshua gave a strong exhortation to serve the LORD! Perhaps some among them did not want to serve the LORD. If they chose not to serve the LORD, they were then responsible to choose which God they will serve. They might choose to serve the gods of their heritage (the gods which your fathers served that were

on the other side of the River) or they might choose to serve the gods of Canaan (the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell). Yet they had to make a choice. Everyone serves some kind of god (or, God). Secondly, it can be done by serving God with an absolute decision. Joshua's course was clear and sensible; he chose to serve the

▶▶▶ **FULL STORY ON - 05**

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The ALTAR of GOD can ALTER your life



The altar of God is a sacred place that can change your life forever. It will change how you think, how you feel, what you want, how you walk and where you go. Promises to do better and act right are good, but they would not really alter your life unless you first go to God. The altar has always been the avenue of access to God. The Bible records many accounts of the building of altars. The first was by Noah following the great Flood. Gen 8:20. Abraham, Moses, Joshua, David and many others also built altars as special places of sacrifice and reconciliation. There are also accounts of the neglect, misuse and corrosion of altars. Such an account is found in 1 Kings 18:30, 36-39. There was a confrontation between the prophets of Baal and God's prophet Elijah. The false prophets prayed to Baal, a false god, from morning until noon. They jumped on the altar and cut themselves until blood gushed out. They had no answer from their so-called god that was

no god at all. In the evening, "Elijah repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down" 1 King 18:30. As he prayed to God, the fire fell from Heaven. "When all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The Lord, he is the God; the Lord, he is the God" vs.39. Since we know that we are guilty sinners, the cleansing we have experienced by the sacrifice of Christ should bring us frequently to the sacred altar. The altar should be a place of

1. Sacrifice and Surrender

To have a life of close communion with God, we must place our all on the altar, bowing in humility before God. The Bible says in Rom> 12:1 we should "present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is our reasonable

service." In essence, we are giving up something trifling – selfish pursuits to get something of great significance – being right with God. We cannot put a part of our lives on the shelf for self and have the best of God's blessings.

2. Reconciliation and Restoration

The altar is also a place where we come to agreement and set things right. Where do we go when we have sinned or failed the Lord? Let us go to the altar and seek restoration. Sometimes we drift or get distracted by other interests. In 2 Cor. 5:21 says "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

3. Prayer and Petition

FULL STORY ON - 04

▶▶▶ FULL STORY ON - 03

We go to the altar to plead and petition. Here we ask the Lord for what we want and need. Children know how to plead for what they want. Imagine the beautiful eyes of your child pleading for a favor. He often gets it when he asks in the right spirit. Why don't we ask of God? Is it that we don't care enough or maybe we don't even believe God can help us? When we plead petition, we express our sincerity and our faith in Him. Philippians 4:6 says "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." It always thrills me when I remember that Jesus prayed for me!"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word."John 17:20. Jesus prayed for us. He stands with us ready to help. Victory is possible if we keep that altar in a state of good repair and keep it in use.

4. Consecration and Dedication

Time and again we come to the altar in rededication. It is a sweet time when we renew our commitment to do the will of God and to faithful-ness. If our altar is broken down and unused, we will not have personal victory. Let us keep the altar in a state of good repair so that we can go there for refuge and relief, for comfort and consolation, for peace and pardon. If you will frequent the altar, it will alter your life.

They say 'I am a Christian', then confessed to death: IS releases video of Nigerian Christians kidnapped for Christmas



Nigeria – Islamic extremist terrorists who kidnapped 11 Christians in northeast Nigeria on Dec. 25 have executed five of them, according to a video released by the Islamic State's AMAQ News agency. The 49-second video, dated Dec. 29, shows five armed members of the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) lining up behind five men dressed in orange robes who are kneeling with their hands tied behind them. Ordered in the Hausa language to state their names, each of the kneeling men in turn is heard saying their name and adding, "I'm a Christian." Morning Star News heard the names spoken as Uka Joseph, Sunday, Wilson, Joshua Maidugu and Garba Yusuf. Speaking in the Hausa language common throughout northern Nigeria, one of the ISWAP militants then says, "This is a warning to Christians in all parts of the world and those in Nigeria. We have not forgotten what you did to our brethren in ZangonKataf town and other parts of Nigeria. Use the heads of these five of your brethren to continue with your ungodly celebrations." The five Christians are then shot to death.

The executioner's citing of Zangon-Kataf appears to refer to ethnic clashes in the area in Kaduna state in 1992 over a proposal to relocate a market away from land granted to the Hausa people, who are primarily Muslim. Clashes broke out between them and the indigenous, predominantly Christian Atyap people, resulting in 60 deaths in February

1992 and 400 more in May 1992, with Hausa youths killing many Christians of various tribes in retaliation. On Christmas Eve ISWAP terrorists began an attack on Garkida, Adamawa state, that local residents assumed was launched by Boko Haram, the Islamic extremist group from which ISWAP broke off in 2016. Government and local sources said the Nigerian army repelled the attack, but as it continued into the wee hours of Christmas Day, the assailants were said to have killed six Christians and kidnapped 11 others. Morning Star News received messages from area residents on Wednesday (Dec. 30) asserting that six Christians were killed in Friday's (Dec. 25) attack on Garkida, and that the Christians martyred in the video were among the 11 kidnapped. Moses Abarshi, a Christian leader in northern Nigeria, notified Morning Star News that a Christian had told him that his brother and four other Christians had been executed for their faith. "Please let us keep the family in our thoughts and prayers in this trying time," Abarshi said by text message. "May the blood of these martyrs keep speaking for the gospel. May the church not be frightened and discouraged, in Jesus name!" In the attack on Garkida town, ISWAP burned down homes, looted shops and stores, set fire to a hospital and took food from homes, area Christians said. On July 22 a video was released showing

▶▶▶ FULL STORY ON - 05

▶▶▶ **FULL STORY ON - 02**

Lord. In the English translation a future tense (we will serve the Lord) is used while in Hebrew the tense used can mean both past and future making the statement as follows, "I have chosen, and I will choose." This statement is very pregnant as Joshua had a life that continuously chose to serve the Lord! Let's consider some of his choices in life!

- ⇒ He *chose* to fight against the Amalekites – choosing when it might cost everything.
- ⇒ He *chose* to reject the golden calf – choosing when the flesh might be satisfied.
- ⇒ He *chose* to serve the Lord by serving Moses – choosing a humble place.
- ⇒ He *chose* to believe God's promise about the Promised Land – choosing against the majority.
- ⇒ He *chose* to recognize the leadership of the Captain of the LORD's army – choosing surrender to God.
- ⇒ He *chose* to take leadership of Israel and lead them into the land – choosing faith instead of unbelief.

Lastly, it can be done by involving the family. His household was involved in this path. Joshua also understood that he, as the priest of his family, was charged with the responsibility to see that his whole house served the LORD. He had the job of representing his whole house before God. Joshua would do whatever was right and godly to make sure that his household did serve the LORD. The contrasting word "but" gives the sense that Joshua was determined on this course no matter what anyone else thought. His relationship with God was not based on any man, but on the LORD alone, and he would serve God no matter what anyone else did. What an affirmation and sense of responsibility!

The commitment Joshua made before the people, was meant to encourage everyone to make the right choice - to consciously reject the false gods of the Amorites and commit to obeying and trusting the true and living God of Israel. The people were obviously impacted by Joshua's heartfelt plea, because they replied in unison, "We will certainly not abandon the Lord to

worship other gods (Joshua 24: 24)." Let's serve the Lord as a family in this New Year! May God Bless You!

▶▶▶ **FULL STORY ON - 01**

release issued by the British Embassy Dubai on Sunday.

Fiona will work alongside the UK Minister responsible for Human Rights, Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon.

In her new role, Fiona will draw on her wealth of experience from the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Freedom of Religion or Belief to look at how the UK Government can protect and promote this fundamental freedom internationally. She will also work with the members of the International Religious Freedom or Belief Alliance to raise awareness of cases of particular concern, advocating for the rights of individuals around the world who are being discriminated against and persecuted for their faith or belief.

Johnson said, "The UK is absolutely committed to protecting the inalienable right to freedom of religion and belief, at home and around the world. As we approach Christmas, the season of peace, people of all faiths and none are still being persecuted for their beliefs. I am delighted to appoint Fiona as my special envoy on this issue, and I know she will be a passionate advocate for tolerance and freedom."

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said, "Fiona has been a standard setter for Freedom of Religion or Belief in Parliament, and I look forward to working with her to make sure everyone, everywhere can have and practise a faith, belief, or no religious belief, in accordance with their conscience.

"Acting as a force for good in the world will see the UK continue to promote and defend Freedom of Religion or Belief for all."

Speaking on her appointment Fiona said, "I am honoured to be given this opportunity to serve as the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief.

"I pay tribute to the work of my predecessors, Rehman Chishti MP and Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, and hope to build on their dedicated work and that of many Parliamentarians and others in this field, to raise further the profile of this fundamental freedom.

"There is much to do, and I shall place myself at the service of some of the most vulnerable individuals across the world."

▶▶▶ **FULL STORY ON - 04**

terrorists believed to be members of ISWAP executing five men, with one militant saying it was warning to "all those being used by infidels to convert Muslims to Christianity." The U.S. State Department on Dec. 7 added Nigeria to its list of Countries of Particular Concern for engaging in or tolerating "systematic, ongoing, egregious violations of religious freedom." Nigeria joined Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan on the list. In a more recent category of non-state actors, the State Department also designated ISWAP, Boko Haram, Al-Shabaab, Al-Qaeda, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, the Houthis, ISIS, ISIS-Greater Sahara, Jamaat Nasr al-Islam walMuslimin, and the Taliban as "Entities of Particular Concern."

On Dec. 10 the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Fatou Bensouda, issued a statement calling for investigation into crimes against humanity in Nigeria. On Jan. 30 Christian Solidarity International (CSI) issued a genocide warning for Nigeria, calling on the Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council to take action. CSI issued the call in response to "a rising tide of violence directed against Nigerian Christians and others classified as 'infidels' by Islamist militants in the country's north and middle belt regions." Nigeria ranked 12th on Open Doors' 2020 World Watch List of countries where Christians suffer the most persecution but second in the number of Christians killed for their faith, behind Pakistan.

Submissions Invited
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Pastor Shibu Thomas
Oklahoma, USA

YIELDING THE UNDESIRABLE FRUIT!

He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well. Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit. (Isaiah 5: 2)

Up the hill, in the fertile piece of the land, after clearing the stones and ploughing, the gardener planted his choicest vines. Made the vineyard secure with a fence and he waited for a crop of good grapes giving water and fertilizers on time. However, contrary to his expectations, the grapes that grew were bitter. The Planter, indeed, had a colorful dream concerning the fruits he would harvest, the sweet and soothing grape fruits. But now they are bitter and not tasty at all. Like the planter who lament for wasting his

time and resources, God will be lamenting over man, the crown of His creation, who does not yield according to His desires! The ox knows its master, the donkey its owner's manger, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand." (Isaiah 1: 3). After forsaking God, the source of life, people dig potholes that has no water. God laments over and repents when He sees the people who are purchased with the blood of His Son Jesus fights and injures each other! God gives us grace and strength so that we might bear fruits that are delicious and tasty and

He keeps us safe and protected that we will continue to bear fruits. Indeed, He expects us to bear fruits that of love, brotherhood, peace, comfort, happiness and satisfaction. Submit yourself, with repentance and dedication, into the hands of the Lord who has called, separated, and planted you in His church, so that you will bear good fruits! May the flavor that is enjoyable to both man and God be flowing out of you . Prayer – Lord, please make me like a vine that bears good fruit. Amen!

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f EndTime Radio 24x7



FULL STORY ON - 01

Nativity," Wilhelm told CBN News.

The souvenirs were made of earth taken from holy sites.

According to Wilhelm, this one is unique because Mary and Joseph are not in the picture and its likely depicting the cave under the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem – that makes it a combination of the historical scene from the birth of Jesus and a depiction the structure from a few centuries later. "So this combination is very rare in the case of Bethlehem. We have it here in Jerusalem, from the Holy Sepulcher but not from Bethlehem," she said.

Christians have been making pilgrimages to places mentioned in the Bible for at least 1,700 years.

In an historical writing of church father St. Jerome, he relates the story of a woman on pilgrimage from Rome named Paula: "Then she entered the cave of the Savior...and saw the stable, where 'the ox knew his Master, and the ass his Lord's manger'... then she solemnly declared in my own hearing that, with the eyes of faith, she saw a child wrapped in swaddling clothes, weeping in the Lord's manger..." "So, what we guess we are seeing here is it's this special visualization or religious experience that you go to the Holy place and you actually see baby Jesus in the cave of Bethlehem," Wilhelm said.

The token will likely be displayed in the museum's Pilgrimage collection along with other tokens depicting biblical scenes, especially from the life of Jesus like the

Christians Swept Downriver During Baptism In Peru, Rescued By Police



Most baptisms don't end with police intervention, but when two Peruvian Christians got swept away by a river, they needed to be rescued to survive. According to local reports, Rosa Jiménez Bartolo was getting baptized by her brother, a pastor, in Peru's Rímac river on Dec. 28.

With her sister-in-law watching, he lowered her into the fast-flowing river. "I baptize you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ," her brother said in Spanish as he lowered her into the river.

crucifixion and resurrection. They also have other "souvenirs" like little vials for oil, and crosses, pendants and rings. And while coronavirus may have closed down international tourist travel for now, when the gates re-open tourists and pilgrims are sure to return to Israel and the Holy Land.

In a video recording of the baptism, Bartolo is seen lowering herself slowly into the hip-high water. As she started to rise, she lost her balance, and the river swept her forward, knocking over her brother. The brown waters carried the pair swiftly downriver, while another church member unsuccessfully tried to help.

The person filming the baptism dropped the camera, and said "Oh my God!" The change from ceremony to calamity took only seconds to happen.

Police responded when a church member asked them for help.

"We were patrolling Ramiro Prialé Highway when we got a request for help from one of her relatives. Immediately, we mounted a search and found them 100 meters from the place, submerged in the water. We rescued them and took them to a medical post," local police officials told the Peru-based daily newspaper La Republica.

Police saved Bartolo and her brother, who both survived.

Her brother's name remains unreleased. The pair both attend an evangelical church, according to a local report.

National Police of Peru major Erick Acosta said that people should avoid getting baptized in the Rímac now because Peru's rainy season creates dangerous river conditions.

"As there were no swimming pools and they are closed in Huachipa, they chose to go to the Rímac River," he said on America TV.

In the video, the river runs deep and fast. On rare occasions, river baptisms can go wrong with dangerous effects.

In 1992, a pastor and two congregation members drowned in South Africa after being swept away by a river. Police found their bodies hours later.

A similar incident happened in Tanzania, where two worshippers drowned during a baptism in a river with strong currents.

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▶▶▶ FULL STORY ON - 01

JOE BIDEN SWORN IN AND KAMALA HARRIS THE FIRST EVER WOMAN VP OF AMERICA



Joe Biden was sworn in as the 46th President of the United States on Wednesday (20/01/2021). His deputy, Kamala Harris, the daughter of immigrants from Jamaica and India, also took oath as the new Vice President, becoming the first woman, Black person, and first Asian-American to serve in the position. In his first remarks, Biden said, "Here we stand days after a riotous mob thought they could silence the will of the people. It will not happen, not today, not tomorrow, not ever." He pledged to be honest with the

country as it continues to confront difficulties, saying leaders had an obligation to "defend the truth and defeat the lies". Saying there was "no time to waste", Biden signed a slew of orders to "change the course" of the Covid-19 pandemic, combat climate change and advance racial equity. Undoing Donald Trump's legacy, he lifted the travel ban on 13 Muslim-majority and African countries; halted construction of the US-Mexico border wall; and directed officials to preserve the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), among other

things. Meanwhile, Biden disclosed that Trump had written him a "generous" letter before departing from Washington. "The president wrote a very generous letter. Because it was private, I won't talk about it until I talk to him. But it was generous," he said. In his final address before leaving the White House, Trump had told the nation, "We love the American people and again it has been something very special. And I just want to say goodbye, but hopefully it's not a long term goodbye. We'll see each other again." Kamala Harris made history when she was sworn in as the 49th Vice President of the US. She is the first woman to hold the country's second-highest office. In her inaugural address, Harris referred to "American aspiration" and called on people to "do what is good, to unite, to believe in ourselves, believe in our country, believe in what we can do together."



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പ്രത്യേകം തടജിഖര ഭക്താൾ
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▶▶▶ **FULL STORY ON - 11**

But remember; you are not alone here. You are not here without anybody to take care of you.

Jesus Christ who has overcome the whole world is with you.

He has a specific plan and purpose for you. You are in fear because you cannot see those plans today. And you cannot see too. The only thing you can do is to trust. There may be challenges and struggles, but your good times are not gone; it is yet to come.

Let me conclude with one more reminder, "There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off."

● **Submissions Invited** ●

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Sparkling Wisdom!

❖ "God has a purpose behind every problem. He uses circumstances to develop our character. In fact, he depends more on circumstances to make us like Jesus than he depends on our reading the Bible."—
Rick Warren

❖ "Religion says, 'I obey; therefore I am accepted.' Christianity says, 'I'm accepted, therefore I obey.'"—**Timothy Keller**

❖ "God is looking for those with whom He can do the impossible — what a pity that we plan only the things that we can do by ourselves."—
AW Tozer

❖ Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you get neither. — **CS Lewis**

❖ My deepest awareness of myself is that I am deeply loved by Jesus Christ and I have done nothing to earn it or deserve it. — **Brennan Manning**

❖ If through a broken heart God can bring His purposes to pass in the world, then thank Him for breaking your heart. — **Oswald Chambers**

❖ The spirit of complaint is born out of an unwillingness to trust God with today. . . . spending your time looking back toward Egypt or wishing for the future all the while missing what God is doing right now. — **Priscilla Shirer**

❖ Give me the Love that leads the way, Faith that nothing can dismay, Hope no disappointments tire, Passion that'll burn like fire, Let me not sink to be a clod, Make me Thy fuel, Flame of God. — **Amy Carmichael**

❖ I have one desire now — to live a life of reckless abandon for the Lord, putting all my energy and strength into it. — **Elisabeth Elliot**

❖ Do not have your concert first, and then tune your instrument afterwards. Begin the day with the Word of God and prayer, and get first of all into harmony with Him. — **James Hudson Taylor**



Abigail Thyvilayil John

YOUR HOPES WILL NOT BE CUT OFF



There are times in the life of all people when they find themselves in difficult situations. Sometime, the violent waves of problems surge against us and we feel that it is a dead end and nothing is possible hereafter. Struggles seem to overpower us and we see all doors of possibility shut before us. Some people even tend to doubt God whether He knows something or not.

I had the same experience in my more than once. Once I even thought that I had no reason to live and I wanted to take my own life.

In another situation, I thought that the problem was so big that I could not solve it. I felt I had only two options; either to flee from that situation or die to escape the situation.

There are numerous people who go through such hard times in their life. The problems in the life of some people may not be very big but they think they are very big. Some people really have very big problems where they are incapable to manage things; nor do they have anyone to help them out.

The word of God speaks to us very clearly how we need to respond to such situations in life.

1. The first thing is to Know that God has a purpose for us. We are not on this earth by accident or by chance. God has never done anything without a clear and specific purpose. Our existence in this world is also not without a purpose.

As we read in the 5th verse of chapter one in the book of Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; (consecrated) I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." Yes my dear brothers and sisters, it is true; because it is the word of God; not only that this is His word, this is what he has promised to us and prophesied about us. This is his plan for us that no power in this world can fail.

God tells us three things; he knew us; he set us apart or consecrated us; he appointed us or designated us.

Believe it. You were in his mind and you were a part of his future plan before you were formed in the womb of your mother.

He had known you before your parents knew you; he had set you apart or consecrated you when you were not in existence.

The third part is the best one. Before you were born, he had decided what you are going to be after today. While listening to this message, please do know that your future that you think is uncertain is not uncertain; your creator had already decided and planned everything in the best manner for you.

2. While you are listening to these words of mine, a very natural and genuine question may arise in your mind. If god has a purpose for me, why has nothing happened so far?

You are absolutely right and I respect your right to raise questions. I cannot give you a satisfactory answer to your question. I am truly helpless. But the word of God is not

▶▶▶ **FULL STORY ON - 11**

● Submissions Invited

You are cordially invited to send submissions to The End Time News magazine, including articles, short stories, poems, cartoons, etc. If you would like to contribute, please contact us at our email address :
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▶▶▶ **FULL STORY ON - 10**

helpless.

Let us see what the word of God tells us as an answer to our question.

Please read the first verse from chapter tree from the book of Ecclesiastes; "There is a time for everything; a season for every activity under the heavens."

Yes, there is a right time for us. We may quite often be impatient. No one is willing to wait. All are in a hurry to see the outcome.

So, from the Bible, let me give you some examples about the accurate time of God for his people.

a. Moses knew God and he had heard from his mother about God's plan. His mother had taught him the Law and God's plan when she nurtured the boy.

He did not know that he was going to deliver people from the Egyptian slavery; but he knew God had a purpose for him. But he could see nothing for the first 80 years of his age. First half of the 80 years he was living like the son of Pharaoh's daughter; he spent the second half in the pasture lands, grazing the sheep of his father in law.

But, after 80 years, when it was God's time, he did a glorious job, to deliver God's people by devastating and putting an end to the mightiest empire in the world at that time.

b. The parents of John the Baptist, Zechariah and Elizabeth had prayed for long with the hope that they would be blessed by God with an offspring. But their faith did not work in their time and their prayers went unanswered. Ultimately, they stopped praying they concluded that nothing could be possible for them.

But at the appointed time, the angel appeared and said their prayer was going to be answered. In spite of Zechariah's disbelief, they were blessed with a son who later turned out to be one of the greatest men of God in the history.

John the Baptist paved way for Christ Jesus, who was the savior of the mankind. We can say that it was John who pioneered the ministry of Jesus in this world.

c. Abraham was not a born believer; he was an idol worshipper.

But God had a time to call him and to bless

him with a son.

He received a son when he and his wife became completely impotent to give birth to a child.

In our view, it was too late, but God's plan worked well and Abraham is the only man in the Bible whom God called a friend.

d. Apostle John lived a good number of years on this earth. He had spent a very significant three and half years with Jesus, witnessing all the signs and wonders that Jesus did. He spent all those three and half years very close to Jesus, closer than the other disciples.

But surprisingly, God's greatest plan and purpose were not fulfilled in all those good years of his life.

In the late evening of his life, there came a very bad time that no one would ever want to have. He was thrown into the most ugly and frightening island of Patmos for preaching the gospel.

Dear friends, that was the best time for John according to the plan of God. Christ's revelations were handed over to him in that island.

Know this truth; if God has a purpose, he has a time too. There can never be a purpose without a proper time.

e. Hanna prayed for long; cried for long. Others received blessings even without prayers.

But God had a plan for her son to be born. Before her son's birth, God had appointed him the prophet of Israel. But there was a time for that purpose.

Please remember; delay in our life is not delay; we are being prepared for the best time in our life.

1. We may think the best time is gone.

Moses' best time- in Pharaoh's palace as his daughter's son

as a wealthy man in Midian

Zechariah's - in their prime youth

Abraham- in his prime youth

John- while with Jesus, during

miracles, on the Mount of Tabor,

during the last supper, at resurrection

God does not work when we think is the right time; he has a perfect time for us in every matter.

2. There will be challenges, struggles, disappointment and pains during the course of time. Moses- could have been killed at birth.

Could have been killed by his own people and or Egyptians Stayed 40 years in the forest.

Zechariah- lost hope; lost faith; ensured it was not going to happen now. body became impotent Abraham- no hope; impotent body (Sarah's advice brought problems)

Hanna-persecution and oppression from the adversary; doubted and blamed by the priest there is all reason for us to believe that nothing is possible now.

3. What should we do in times like that?

Look unto God; turn to the word of God. Habakkuk 2: 3. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.

Jer. 55:8-9. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. 9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways

and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Jer. 29:11. For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Be of good courage; the promise for you in proverbs 23: 18 is like this. "There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off."

My dear brothers and sisters, if you are going through tough times in your life, do not panic. Do not think that you are alone. Our master is with us to lead, guide and take us to our destinations.

You may be facing challenges in your personal life, family life or social life. There can be struggles in your financial matters. You may have problems in your professional life. You may be fighting with diseases.

Your dreams and your plans for your future may seem to be shattered.

Your pain is not imaginary; it is true.

▶▶▶ **FULL STORY ON - 09**



SHOCKING NEWS ▶▶▶▶

UK, AFRICA COVID-19 VARIANTS MAY BE MORE DEADLY, OFFICIALS WARN

Even as 195 cases of a variant of the coronavirus, which first emerged in Britain and is more lethal and contagious, have been found in 22 U.S. states, a separate variant from South Africa, though not identified in the United States yet, is causing more concerns among health officials, according to reports.

As of early Sunday, at least 72 cases of the U.K. variant had been detected in California; 50 in Florida; 22 in New York; six each in Colorado and Georgia; five in Minnesota; four each in Connecticut, Indiana and Maryland; three each in Michigan and Texas; two each in Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, Pennsylvania and Tennessee; and one each in Illinois, Louisiana, Oregon, Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming, a CDC map shows.

The actual number is likely to be higher, as the Washington Department of Health also announced Saturday that the U.K. variant, known as B.1.1.7, had been confirmed by DNA sequencing in two cases in Snohomish County, according to The Epoch Times, which added that the Oregon Health Authority has also confirmed two cases.

Some preliminary studies in the U.K. show

the new variant may be between 30% to 40% deadlier than previous variants, The Wall Street Journal has reported.

“We have been informed today that, in addition to spreading more quickly, it also now appears that there is some evidence that the new variant—the variant that was first identified in London and the southeast—may be associated with a higher degree of mortality,” British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said in a televised news conference Friday.

The U.S. National Institutes of Health Director Francis Collins said Saturday they are closely watching the U.K. variant. Federal authorities have warned it may become the dominant variant in the United States by as early as March, according to WSJ.

“At the moment we are not alarmed about that,” Collins said, according to Reuters. “We are somewhat more concerned about a South African variant.”

A study by BioNTech SE and Pfizer Inc. showed that their vaccine successfully neutralized the U.K. variant. On Monday, Moderna said its vaccine appears to work against the South African strain but may be less effective. It is currently working on a

booster shot against the African variant.

“As we seek to defeat the COVID-19 virus, which has created a worldwide pandemic, we believe it is imperative to be proactive as the virus evolves. We are encouraged by these new data, which reinforce our confidence that the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine should be protective against these newly detected variants,” Stephane Bancel, CEO of Moderna, said in a statement.

The South African variant has been found in 22 other countries, including Canada, China and Germany.

Data that is more conclusive on how vaccines perform against the new strains is awaited as human trials of COVID-19 vaccines are underway in South Africa and the U.K.

The United States has been hit the hardest by COVID-19, with nearly 25 million cases and 417,441 deaths by early Sunday, according to Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center.

Bancel, whose company's vaccine is one of two approved for use by the Food and Drug Administration, said recently he believes the virus could be around “forever.”

“We are going to live with this virus, we think, forever,” he said during a panel discussion at the annual JPMorgan Healthcare Conference.

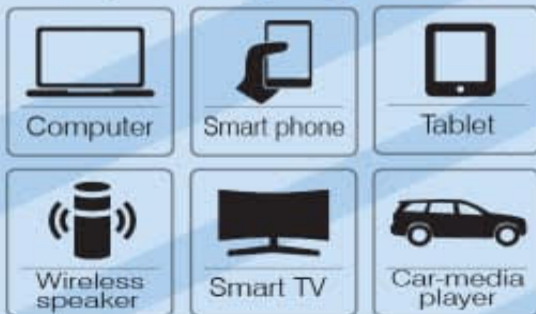


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