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LIVING A VICTORIOUS LIFE

Salvation pg5

Armageddon pg7

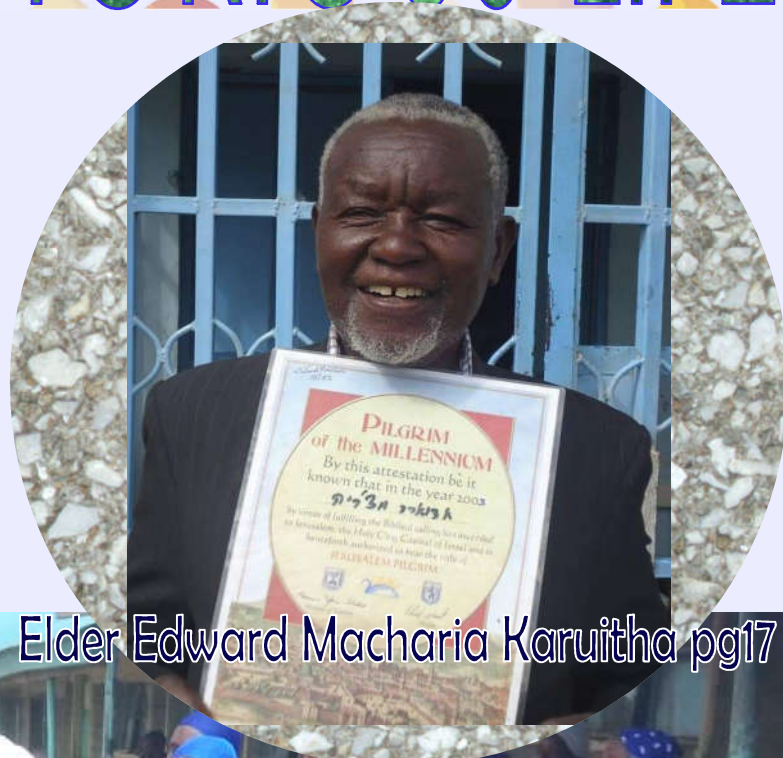
Elohim's Yardstick pg8

Ichabod pg10

The Congregation as an Eagle pg13

Messiah as a Package pg15

Mental Health pg18



Elder Edward Macharia Karuitha pg17



Revelation 18:4

"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

Editor's Note



In the recent past, the issue of LGBTQ has been in the limelight in both local and international media. The proponents and supporters of LGBTQ are fighting for their rights and anyone or institution against their advances is strongly rebuked by them. Not even the Bible can be cited to negate their behavior, hence worldly leaders have been compromised and absorbed in the aforementioned. As worldly leaders continue to seek equality for all inhabitants of the world, it is imperative for us to know that the conveyance of the 3rd Angel's Message will be compromised. Consequently, we need to redeem the time by allotting time to convey the 3rd Angel's Message while there is freedom before total darkness befalls the world because we are the light of the world: Matthew 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

For a person to become victorious in his/her endeavor, he/she must sacrifice and input fully into the endeavor. The same case for Spiritual pursuance is outlined in "LIVING A VICTORIOUS LIFE". We all wish to be successful, nevertheless, there is "ELOHIM'S YARDSTICK OF SUCCESS" as inputted by Martin Makokha. The word Salvation is used in a very simple context. It is however a very complex ideology to a true believer as expounded in "SALVATION" by Ezekiel Ngogoyo. John Kennedy Changandu writes on "ICHABOD"....." Solomon Macharia gives an analogy of the Eagle in the article "THE CONGREGATION AS AN EAGLE". Psam Nderitu reminds us about an approaching war in his poem "ARMAGEDDON". MESSIAH AS A PACKAGE CONTINUES"... Even as we battle rising cases of mental illness, do we mistake it for demon-possession - find out in the article "MENTAL ILLNESS"

As we continue serving our Heavenly Father, let's us pray for his guidance, provision, and protection in this wicked world: 2 Peter 3:17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your steadfastness.

Shalom.

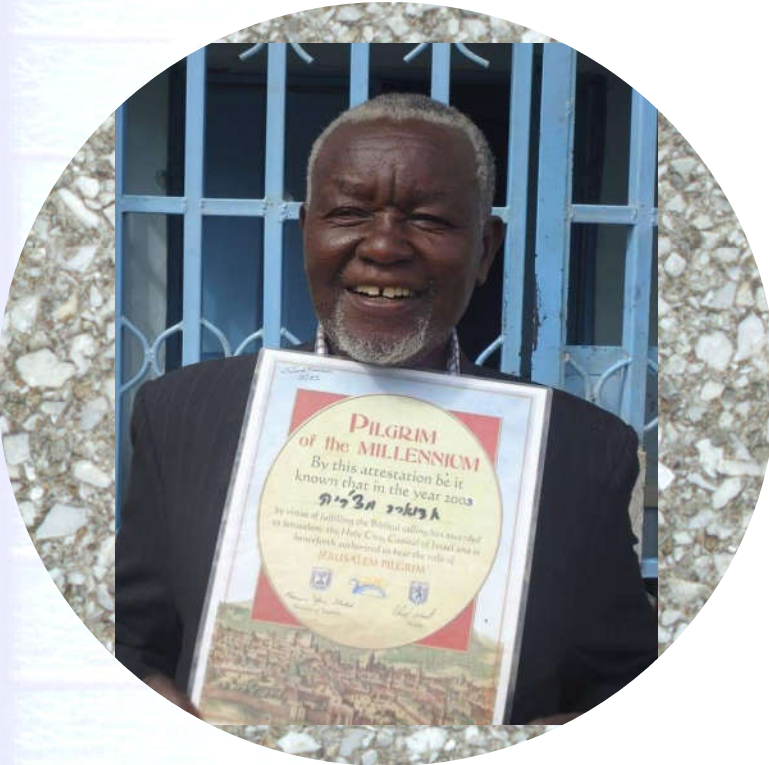
PETER G. KING'ORI
3RD ANGEL MESSENGER
P.O BOX 9774
NAKURU.

3rdangelmessenger@gmail.com
Website: <http://3rd-angel-messenger.org/>
Facebook: 3RD ANGEL MESSENGER
WhatsApp: 0721576325
Cell: 0721576325, 0780976325.

Physical Address: Green valley next to Greensted International School.

LIVING A VICTORIOUS LIFE

By Peter Kings



who is the source of strength to overcome the Devil. Messiah is the believer's pioneer in overcoming the devices of the Devil, consequently destroying his works and plans as outlined in Hebrews 12:2 "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our Faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God". When we follow the Almighty father's directives through the Messiah, we are assured of victory over the Devil as attested in 1 Corinthians 15:57" But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ". (KJV).

We all desire to be victors in our battles with the world and emphatically with the Devil. In a battle, there comes out a Victor and a Loser. Once an individual decides to follow the directives of the Almighty father, he/she enters into a battle with the Devil. The Devil's motive is to weaken us through his devices and finally get hold of us. Since creation, the Almighty Father had good plans for his creation. Unfortunately, the Devil decided to do contrary to the good plans of the Creator. He knew the best way to fulfill his wicked desires was by misleading the creation emphatically the human beings. For the aforementioned reason, Messiah came into the world to destroy the Devil's work as affirmed in 1 John 3:8 "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil".

Every person who wants to overcome the devices of the Devil must embrace the Messiah

The Devil who was perfect when he was created until iniquity was found in him and hence imperfection, knows very well that the Almighty Father will destroy him at the appointed time. (Ezekiel 28:15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. Harmonized with: Revelation 20:10 and the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever). Being conversant with the foregoing, he embarked on a process to make sure that the rest of the creation bears the repercussion of his errors. His plan is to subject human beings to bondage for fear of death. Nevertheless, through Messiah's death and resurrection any person who accepts Messiah in his/her life he/she is delivered from the bondage as outlined in Hebrews 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 2:15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

LIVING A VICTORIOUS LIFE

At the end of ages, we shall be judged by the directives given to us by our heavenly Father. If we adhered to the directives given to us by the Almighty Father we shall get admittance to the heavenly kingdom which will descend to the earth for the overcomers to reign together with Messiah as the king of kings. (Revelation 5:10 and hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth).

We should be prayerful lest the Devil get an advantage over us by suppressing our connection with the heavenly Father for he knows it's only through divine power from Heaven through Messiah that we can overcome him. (2 Corinthians 2:11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices).

Messianic believers from all eras including our era are advised to overcome: Revelation 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. Revelation 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death. Revelation 2:17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna and will give him a white stone and in the stone, a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it. Revelation 2:26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: Revelation 3:5 He that

overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment, and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. Revelation 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. Revelation 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

It's the highest time we equipped ourselves with divine power so that we can live a victorious life. May our heavenly Father grant us the divine power and find us faultless on Messiah's second coming.

Jude 1:24 Now unto him that can keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

Peter Gichuki King'ori
Ptergichs@gmail.com
3rdangelmessenger@gmail.com



Salvation: Simple but Deep

By Ezekiel Ngogoyo



The word salvation is used in a very simple context. It is however a very complex ideology to a true believer of

Yahshuah (Jesus). Salvation is about three majors: Believing in God almighty (The knowledge of His Might). Trusting in Him and (Conviction of His Power). Obeying his word (His Son, Yahshuah the Messiah). Strict adherence to a list of do's and don'ts is not what Christian salvation is about. **Romans 3:20** reads, "no one will be declared righteous in his [God's] sight by observing the law."

Therefore, salvation is about getting back to the truth after falling. Man fell in the garden of Eden by sinning and doing contrary to God's command.

Man failed to believe what Elohim (God) had said and what he was told to do and what not to do.

Man failed to be convinced of Elohim's trustworthiness. Man failed to obey the word of Elohim.

To attain true salvation, one MUST believe and obey Elohim. One must be ready to welcome the grace of Elohim to work in him. One must humble himself and swallow any form of pride. One must be ready to abandon all other teachings of men and the world's philosophy. One must be ready to differ from people's wisdom and knowledge. One must be ready to forego all worldly approaches to the knowledge of God. True salvation is about being humbled in order to accept the word of Elohim.

Acts 16 provides one example of the many adventures and challenges faced by the early Christian church. It recounts the preaching of Paul and Silas, their persecution, and their imprisonment. Rather than feeling discouraged, while in jail the two Christians prayed and sang hymns. An earthquake shook the prison, the doors opened, and the chains of all the prisoners were loosed. The jailer, greatly concerned, approached the two, falling before them and pleading, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Paul and Silas replied, "Believe in the Lord Yahshuah, and you will be saved ..." (**Acts 16:30-31**). The passage is important in relation to the topic of salvation or, technically, soteriology. In everyday language, salvation has to do with how we are saved or delivered from our fallen condition. We are, as noted in another article which talks about rebels in God's image, fallen and in need of restoration.



when it comes to salvation Christianity is Savior-centered, not self-centered: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast" (**Ephesians 2:8-9**). Good works are the natural outcome of following salvation through Christ. Neither is salvation universal, meaning that not everyone will be saved. This does not mean that God does not love everyone. Indeed, He "wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth" (**1 Timothy 2:4**). But only Christ is "the way and the truth and the life" (**John 14:6**). Salvation is not found in legalism, either. Strict adherence to a list of do's and don'ts is not what Christian salvation is about. **Romans 3:20** reads, "no one will be declared righteous in his [God's] sight by observing the law; rather, through the law, we become conscious of sin." We all "fall short of the glory of God" (**Romans 3:23**). Some beliefs claim that salvation in a biblical sense is not required. Instead, terms such as "spiritual liberation" or "enlightenment" are used.

Hence, the answer regarding the question of salvation as given by Paul and Silas is, "Believe in the Lord Yahshuah ..." (**Acts 16:31**). The Greek word translated "believe" in the passage is *pisteuo*, meaning "to believe, put one's faith in, trust, with an implication that actions based on that trust may follow." Belief, then, encompasses more than just knowing about Jesus. One must also act on this knowledge, combining faith and trust and acting on it. Salvation also entails repentance – a sincere willingness to radically change our behavior (see, for instance **Matthew 3:2; 4:17; Mark 6:12; Luke 13:3-5; Acts 2:38**). There is a certain degree of humility that is also required on our part in order to submit to Christ and receive salvation. In the story of the jailer, for instance, we are told he "fell trembling before Paul and Silas" (**Acts 16:29**)

But we are not expected to "just believe" and be saved,

Salvation: simple but deep



"Damnation is all of the will of man"
Charles Spurgeon

"Though the Bible was written over sixteen centuries by at least forty authors, it has one central theme--salvation through faith in Christ" Max Lucado

"No one can be saved - in virtue of what he can do. Everyone can be saved - in virtue of what God can do" Karl Barth

The example of salvation as an escape from danger of death through obedience.

Read the following context. They teach us that we must believe and hear the word of Elohim and obey in order for us to get true salvation. Even today the word of God is spoken through the Bible.

1. Example of Noah, and the way in which he obeyed Elohim and did what God told him to do (He built the ark and was saved from the floods)
2. Example of Lot, he was a righteous man who also obeyed Elohim and left the city of Sodom and Gomorrah
3. The prevailing nature of this sinful world and the redeeming salvation that many people are ignoring-they wait for the soon coming disaster.

Clarity of Common Nouns:

Yahshuah-Jesus the son of God

Messiah- Christ the savior

Elohim-God, the creator of the heavens and earth

By: Bro Ezekiel G Ngogoyo

ngogoyo10@gmail.com

+254727709870

+254789767429

without any appeal to proof or reason. Certainly faith plays a part in salvation, but there is a difference between blind faith and justified faith. Even **Acts 1:3**, for instance, observes of Christ, "After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive," while in **Acts 26:25**, Paul states that his Christian beliefs are "true and reasonable." When Paul and Silas said to the jailer, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved ..." (**Acts 16:31**), they understand the centrality of Messiah in salvation. The word translated as "saved" is charged with deep theological implications, meaning "to save, rescue, deliver; to heal ... to be in right relationship with Elohim, with the implication that the condition before salvation was one of grave danger or distress" Yahshua's death and resurrection offers every one of us an opportunity for salvation.

Summary of what true salvation is about.

1. Obeying Elohim (If my people shall obey me...)
2. Following Elohim's commandments (**Exodus 20**, read the whole chapter)
3. Believing in Yahshuah(Jesus)Messiah as the son of Elohim and savior
4. Receiving the true Gospel of Salvation-Originated from Israel
5. Stop sinning against Elohim (loving God and loving your neighbor)-The greatest command is love
6. Getting the right doctrine of Jewish and Yahshuah-That observes all the ten commandments
7. Being baptized by emersion-a sign of accepting Yahshuah as your savior

A few quotes about Salvation:

"You will find all true theology summed up in these two short sentences: Salvation is all of the grace of Elohim."



ARMAGEDDON

There is a war coming Armageddon.
I know it must come,
I know it will be tough,
Lives will be lost,
Flats will be at their knees,
Kneeling to the king,
Russia will be on her knees,
Kneeling to the king.
Ooh it must come,
Cause the word is true,
The King's word is pure and true.
On the mount of olives
The king shall rule,
In Yahrushalayim
The King's throne.
A war is coming,
That has never been seen before,
Angels will fight,
It must come.
Don't know if i will be alive,
But it must come,
A generation will see,
Will hear, will terror,
Will melt their hearts,
Will wish for death,
Will Praise The Messiah
Will see Him in His Power.

From Revelation 16:12-21

~Psamnderitu~



Elohim's Yardstick



By Martin Makokha

To an athlete success is leading the pack and being crowned with the gold medal. To a football team its beating all the opposing teams and emerging the winner to lift the medal. To a farmer it's having bountiful harvest at the end of the season. To a student, success is passing examinations with what they usually call, 'the flying colours'. To today's 'pastors/bishops' success is having a big church with thousands of members and branches that will be able to support his/her lavish lifestyle. To a businessman it's making maximum profit and to a civil servant is a good salary that allows meeting of all the needs and wants without stressing. All in all to a human being success is marked by accumulating more and more assets for his gratification.

A few days ago, some photos circulated in social media of someone arrested transporting a cow and her calf. It was alleged that the cow had been stolen somewhere, what kept people talking was that the vehicle had the words, "ni Maombi" (It's by prayer's) written at the rear. This happens because human beings have completely misunderstood what success is.

"And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. 20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" Luke 12:18-20.

The above parable applies to many of us living in this last generation, take note that Elohim isn't against becoming wealthy; He isn't

against living a posh life for it's Elohim that blessed the ground of this rich man to have a plentiful harvest. But re read the above verses; you will realize that our rich man despite having bountiful harvest never lived a successful life for even a week.

1. This rich man was so full of himself; the word's "I" has been used 6 times and "my" has been used 5 times. This man is a true reflection of the man living in our generation; a true reflection of you and I. Apostle Paul admonishes the Colossian Church which applies also to us living in the last generation that whatever we do in word or in deed should be done in the name of Yahshua our Saviour (for the glory of Elohim)- Colossians 3:17. Most are the times that we do for our own self-gratification and only worship on Sabbath for the glory of Elohim. It's so true that we are ready to give Elohim the Sabbath so long as He doesn't interfere with our six days of the week.

2. The second point, I noted in this rich man which as I said earlier is a typical example of the Messianic living in the 21st century in the Roman year of 2023 is "...What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops? So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods' (NKJV) This man had plenty, all his stores were full and he was planning to harvest more. Just like you and I, he thought of expanding his storage capacity. This is common in our generation and we might not see anything wrong with it because it's what we call success. More income means more savings and more harvest means bigger stores (granaries).

We ceased being our brother's keeper, we ceased praying for our enemies and chose to internalize the worldly saying that "God for us all, everyone for himself" Some have gone to an extent of thinking that the phrase is

Elohim's Yardstick

Biblical. The above parable does not intimate any indirect and unjust ways of gain which this man used to increase his wealth, but condemns his insatiable desire and thirst after more (WBN).

To a Messianic, successful life shouldn't be like the rich man's life in the story above, but; As Elohim's steward's we must take note that the houses of the poor should be our granaries/stores for the abundances of our increase. If we do charity with our abundance that's the best storage. When Elohim gives us more, He does so knowing that we have other's in our midst who should be relieved not for our own gratification and luxurious living. When we do charity to the poor with however little we have then we're living a successful life. It shouldn't be taken as if Elohim is against saving/storing the abundance, but He's concerned that as we keep some in the stores, we should make sure that we have touched the poor in our midst.

A messianic successful life is marked by forgiving those who do wrong to you. How many people have you forgiven and not for the public sake but personally from your own heart? In this last generation am sorry to say that a non-believer can easily forgive than a believer. Our

generation is true to the prophetic parable in Matthew 21:35, in which as believer's we have been forgiven ten thousand talents but aren't ready to forgive our fellow servants who owe us a hundred pence. We are living in a generation where Paul said men shall be trucebreakers among other things (2 Tim 3:1-5.) Unless we refocus and change a banner like this would truly represent some of us "Do wrong to a 21st century messianic believer at your own risk!"

This rich man learned a lesson though late that wealth and accumulation of earthly treasures weren't going to save/preserve his life for even a day. It's time we take seriously some lessons from the birds of the air, see how relaxed and comfortable they are. However hard and dry the season is, the birds will start the day with 'praise and worship' Perhaps if given wisdom to interpret birds tongues (Job 12:7) we would be able to understand the kind of praise they offer to Elohim every daybreak (Psalms 104:12). This knowledge should enlighten us that the time and strength we put in laying treasures upon the earth is all but wasted if we neglect becoming rich towards Elohim in faith and good works.

Now to you my dear reader, how do you measure success in your life? Do you use the worldly yardstick or Elohim's? Time and space may not allow me to talk of Abigail's husband, Nabal who despite all the wealth he had accumulated never lived a successful life and of Job the righteous man who despite passing through great challenges lived a successful life. May Elohim guide us in that in our treasures we have accumulations of the hearts and souls we have positively touched not for cameras but for His GLORY.



Ichabod

By Pst JK Changandu

Now the children of Israel were ranged in battle array against their longstanding enemies, the Philistines, at Aphek. It however went sore with them, with hard-pressed Israel losing over four thousand men on the battlefield. They wondered why Elohim had let them suffer such a humiliating defeat in the hands of the uncircumcised! However, instead of seeking Elohim's face in sack-cloth and ashes, through prayer and fasting, they opted to bring the sacred Ark of God's Covenant into the battlefield! I submit that they wanted to use it as

some sort of talisman, an insurance policy of sorts, or as a way of arm-twisting Adonai into granting them a victory against their

Philistine enemies. To bolster up this warped logic, Eli's sons, the priests Hophni and Phinehas, accompanied the Ark to Aphek. These desperate measures did not help matters at all, and the armies of Israel were soundly thrashed by their determined foes! A staggering thirty thousand Israel foot soldiers lay dead on the killing fields! Both sons of Eli were killed and furthermore, the Ark was captured by the despised Philistines! O what a tragic turn of events!

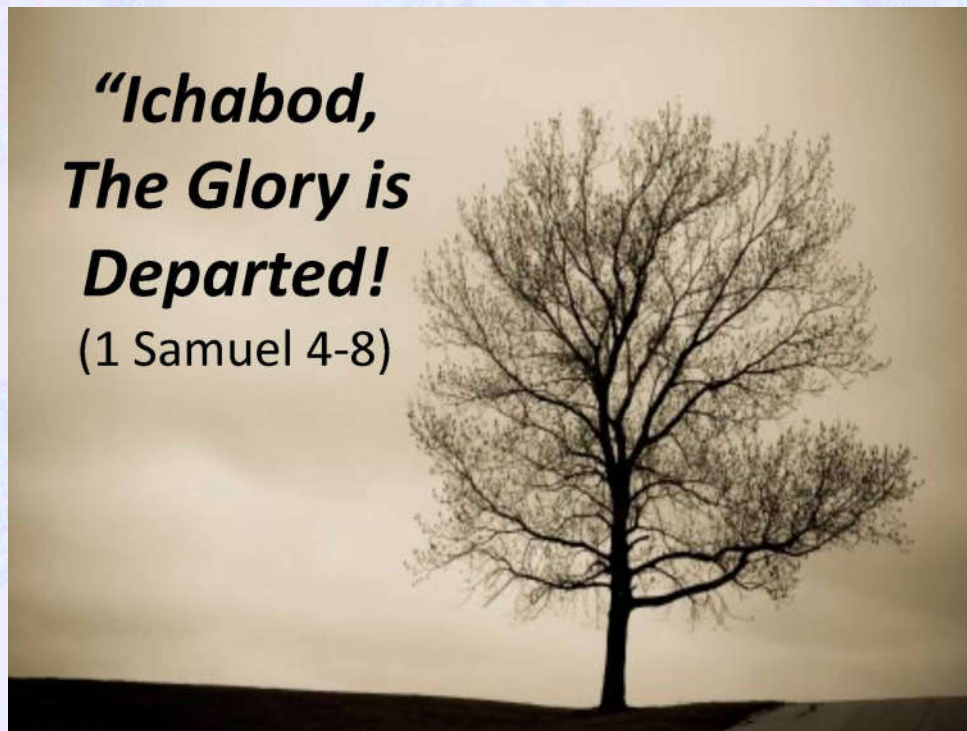
Back home in Shiloh, the aged High Priest Eli was a very worried man. His

primary concern was what could happen to the Ark of God if it fell into Philistine hands. He sat by the city gate, anxiously waiting for any news from the warfront. When he learnt that indeed Israel had lost and that both his sons were dead, the old man was stunned. However, it was the news that God's ark had been captured that ended it all for him. He fell backwards from his seat, broke his neck and died. Meanwhile, Eli's daughter-in-law, Phinehas' wife was heavy with child. Upon hearing the calamitous turn of events at Aphek, the shocked young

woman went in to labour and delivered a baby boy. As she lay dying - for it all proved too much for her - she named her son "Ichabod", roughly translating to "...the glory has departed" - since Elohim's ark had been captured by the

uncircumcised! The episode was truly one of the most tragic chapters in Israel's long history.

But just how did Israel get into this most low of moments? What lessons does this low-tide mark in Israel's history, have for us? Ever since Joshua son of Nun died, Israel had been oscillating between serving Adonai and falling into the idolatry of their Canaanite and Philistine neighbours. They had failed to totally annihilate these heathen peoples as Adonai had ordered (cf Numbers 33:52, Joshua 15:63, 13:14 etc). And true to Moshe's



***"Ichabod,
The Glory is
Departed!"
(1 Samuel 4-8)***

Ichabod

warnings these idolatrous neighbours proved to be a snare to Israel. Over and over again, Israel found themselves drifting into and participating in the blatantly sexual rites of Baal and Asherah worship. The stringent admonitions in the Torah slowly paled, so that the covenant relationship between God and his people Israel was put under severe strain. Two common refrains appearing throughout the Book of Judges are: "...everyone did as they saw fit..." (Judges 17:6; 21:25) and, "...again Israel did evil in the eyes of the LORD..." (cf Judges 2:11; 6:1; 13:1; 10:6-9; 3:12 etc). Israel had sunk really low indeed.

By the time of Eli's sons, even the priesthood was no longer kosher. Eli's sons were not exactly the epitome of holiness. They were not only treating Elohim's sacrifices with contempt (cf 1Samuel 2:29; 3:18-19), but also sleeping with the women who served at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting! They were borrowing elements of the sexually orientated worship in Canaan's fertility cults and copy-pasting them into the religion of Adonai! The half-hearted rebukes from their father Eli (cf 1Samuel 2:22-25; 3:13), fell on deaf ears. Elohim sent several warnings via his prophets (cf Samuel 2:27-36; 3:11-14), but the red alerts were routinely ignored. It was only a question of time before divine wrath, retribution and judgment overtook them.

Thus the "ichabod phenomenon" (for lack of a better term) is a warning to all of us. We should not cozy up to sin and normalise it in our lives. Had Israel dealt with the Canaanites and Philistines as God had ordered (the total annihilation of the Canaanites), they would not have been seduced into the clutches of idolatry. They were now living in close proximity to their pagan neighbours and slowly became de-sensitized into accepting the Canaanite religious viewpoint. They became inured to the voice of God as he, time and again sent his prophets and judges to them. Israel would take

one step forward, only to take several steps backwards as they wrestled with the two conflicting religious pathways.

We ought to remember too, what happened before the Great Flood of Noah's day. Noah's generation had become steeped in sexual immorality, violence, murder and other debilitating sins. They had caused the Holy One of Israel much grief with their lawlessness (cf Genesis 5:5-6). In his great mercy, God let Methuselah live close to a thousand years. The name Methuselah roughly means: "...after his death, the floods will come". So in a way, Methuselah's long life was testament to God's long-suffering forbearance in the face of a very rebellious world. In the end, Elohim's patience finally ran out: "...my Spirit will not contend with man forever..." (Genesis 6:3). God's waters of judgement came upon the earth and subsequently, man's lifespan was drastically whittled down to a mere 120 years! In all probability, the shortened lifespan was meant to help break man's cyclical dalliance with sin.

The ichabod phenomenon is again repeated in the life of Samson son of Manoah, of the tribe of Dan. Samson was born a Nazarite. He however had little regard for his special, set - apart status. Can you imagine a consecrated Nazarite scooping up and eating honey from the decaying carcass of any animal, let alone an unclean one like a lion?! But that was Samson for you! His parents, just like Eli, had warned him on several occasions against relationships with heathen girls. But Samson would not listen! The many close shaves with Israel's enemies, the Philistines, only seemed to serve as adrenaline rush fuelling escapades to him. He became so de-sensitized that "playing Russian roulette" with his own life in the hands of the deadly Philistine seductress, Delilah, was an inconsequential matter to him. When God's almost infinite patience eventually ran its course and Elohim's Spirit left him, Samson did not even know it! According to the passage;

"...he awoke from his sleep and thought, 'I will go out as before and shake myself free...' But he did not know that the LORD had left him." (Judges 16:20). How sad.

Due to his folly, Samson lost his eyes, his freedom, had to go into involuntary slavery and eventually died a premature death in a pagan temple! The glory had left him!

Ichabod is also the story of Israel during the days of the prophet Ezekiel. Again and again, the voice of Adonai reached the seer's ears: "Son of man, do you see what they are doing - the utterly detestable things the house of Israel is doing here, things that will DRIVE ME FAR FROM MY SANCTUARY? But you will see things that are even more detestable..." (Ezekiel 8:6, NIV, full caps mine. See also Ezekiel 8:9, 13, 15 and 17). Eventually, after the prophet was taken on a detailed tour of the abominable things that Israel was practicing within the precincts of the House of God, the Spirit of God left Solomon's Heykal (Ezekiel 10:18). The glory departed from the Temple and it was only a question of time before the Babylonians came and reduced the proud edifice to rubble. For Israel, it was ichabod all over again!

We must therefore ask ourselves: to what extent are we cozy with sin? Are we, Nazarites, toying with death like Samson of old did? Are you, like an ancient Israelite, secretly cherishing sin and entertaining idols in your life? Quite often, we read the line: "...however, the high places were not removed..." (cf 1Kings 15:14; 22:43; 2 Kings 12:2-3; 14:3-4; 15:3-4; 2Chronicles 20:32-33). Do you have "high places" in your life too? Things that weigh you down, so that you are unable to make spiritual progress and



grow in your relationship with Yahshua? Habits that vie for pride of place/priority vis a vis your dedication to living a set apart life as a servant of Adonai? Are you a European soccer leagues addict? Or are you immersed in the popular endless

Mexican soap operas? Do you spend inordinately long hours on social media? Are you hooked on pornography? Or gossiping? Or keeping old fruitless friendships with unbelievers? Unless these high places are demolished, destroyed, brought down... the ichabod spectre looms. The Preacher's warning comes to mind: "He who is reprov'd often and fails to take heed, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy..." (Proverbs 29:1-3). Eventually it may cost you eternal life itself! Do not be like fabulous King Solomon whose multiple wives (I suspect his "high places") eventually irredeemably turned him away from his God (cf 1Kings 11:7). For all his stellar intellect, wise King Solomon could not help sinking deeper and deeper into a debilitating spiritual morass! The scriptural testimony is that Solomon clung to these heathen women in love! (cf 1Kings 11:1-3). Ominously, the name Solomon does not appear on Paul's "roll of fame" as he listed the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11! May the Almighty help us as we each strive to eradicate the "high places" and avoid the ichabod spectre in our lives. Blessings.

Pst JK Changandu
Oloitoktok
06/10/2022
changandu2015@gmail.com
+254 723 667 579

The Congregation as an Eagle

By Solomon Macharia

Revelation 12:14: But the woman was given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.

Isaiah 40:31

But those who wait on YHWH Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

So, what are the characteristics of an eagle?

1. *Eagles fly Alone and at High Altitudes. They don't fly with sparrows, ravens, and other small birds.*

MEANING; Stay away from narrow-minded people, those that bring you down. Keep good company.

2 Corinthians 6:14

Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

2. *Eagles have an Accurate Vision. They have the ability to focus on something as far as 5km away. No matter the obstacles, the eagle will not move his focus from the prey until he grabs it.*

MEANING; Have a vision and remain focused no matter what the obstacles.

Deuteronomy 5:32

“Therefore you shall be careful to do as the Lord your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left

3. *Eagles do not Eat Dead things. They Feed only on Fresh Prey.*

MEANING; Do not rely on your past. Leave

your past where it belongs, in the past.

Galatians 4:8-9

8 But then, indeed, when you did not know YHWH you served those which by nature are not gods. 9 But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage?

4. Eagles Love the Storm.

When clouds gather, the eagle gets excited, the eagle uses the storms wind to lift itself higher. Once it finds the wind of the storm, the eagle uses the raging storm to lift itself above the clouds. This gives the eagle an opportunity to glide and rest its wings. In the meantime, all the other birds hide in the branches and leaves of the tree.

MEANING; Face your challenges head on knowing that these will make you emerge stronger and better than you were. We can use the storms of life to rise to greater heights.

Matthew 10:16-20

Persecutions Are Coming

“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you

5. Eagles Prepare for Training;

They remove the feathers and soft grass in the nest so that the young ones get uncomfortable in preparation for flying and eventually flies/ when it becomes unbearable to stay in the nest.

The Congregation as an Eagle

MEANING; Leave your Comfort Zone, there is No Growth there. Never forego responsibilities.

Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go,
And when he is old he will not depart from it

Proverbs 22:15

15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child;

The rod of correction will drive it far from him.

6. When the Eagle Grows Old,

His feathers becomes weak and cannot take him as fast and as high as it should. This makes him weak and could make him die. So he retires to a place far away in the mountains. While there, he plucks out the weak feathers on his body and breaks its beaks and claws against the rocks until he

is completely bare; a very bloody and painful process. Then he stays in this hiding place until he has grown new feathers, new beaks and claws and then he comes out flying higher than before.

MEANING; We occasionally need to shed off old habit no matter how difficult, things that burden us or add no value to our lives should be let go of.

Psalms 103:5

5 Who satisfies your mouth with good things,

So that your youth is renewed like the eagle' s.

SHALOM



Messiah as a Package

Kigonor-Nakuru

By Peter G. King'ori

The 3rd Angel's Message Conveyance at Kigonor coincided with the Christmas celebrations. As a Matter of fact, 24th December was a Sabbath (Christmas Eve). Being the climax of the message conveyance which had commenced some days earlier, the audience came in large numbers. During Christmas and New Year celebrations, most people travel to their rural areas (Parent's homes). The venue for the message conveyance was located on the border of two constituencies, that is, Njoro and Nakuru west. Consequently, we had many people from different tribes. To reach more audiences we had to use the language they understood most, meaning we had to use several languages to convey the message. The church has different gifts which complement each other. Hence the interpretation of the message to the audience from the preacher was authentic as conveyed by the preacher.

The best thing about the audience was that they were active listeners. The aforementioned was proved by the fact that the audience asked a lot of questions about what they heard. One person asked about Christmas since in our message conveyance we had stated that there is no single scripture in the entire Bible to support that Messiah was born on Christmas day nor any command to celebrate his birthday. The scripture advises us to answer anyone who asks about our hope in meekness as affirmed in: 1 Peter 3:15 "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to answer every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:" We answered by citing scriptures to affirm what we had conveyed on the Christmas issue. The person who had asked the query was content with the answer he received.

Our predecessors in faith set precedence worthy of emulation in gospel conveyance. When they engaged the non-believers or those who were



Messiah as a Package

Kigonor - Nakuru



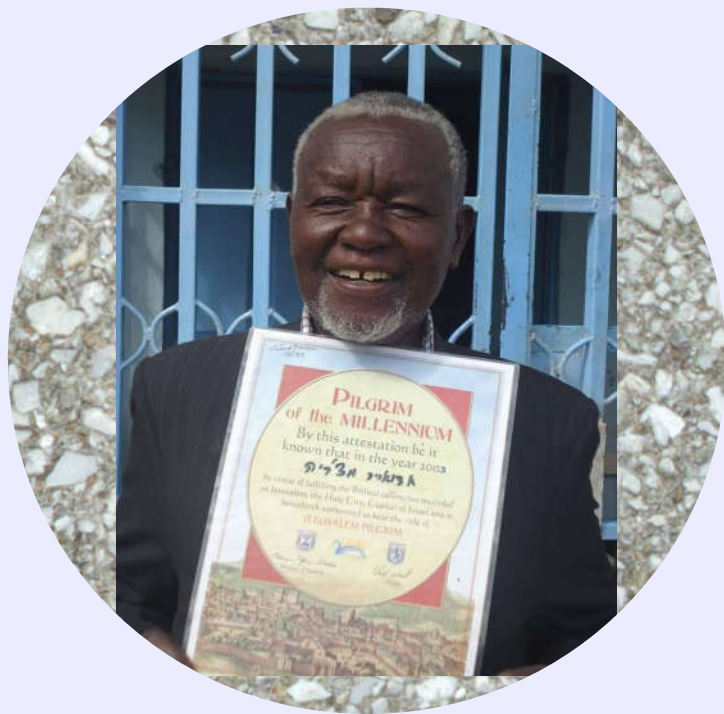
against their message, they did so in love and cited the scriptures to affirm their position as attested in Acts 18:28" For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, showing by the scriptures that Jesus was ".As we preach the 3rd angel's message, we must do so in love and avoid any prejudice since most non-believers are innocent and are blinded by the devil:2 Corinthians 4:3 But if our gospel is hidden, it is hidden to them that are lost: 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

As Messianic believers we must pray for the lost so that the Almighty Father can open their hearts to receive the message we are conveying: Acts 16:14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

As the day of our Savior approaches, it's paramount for us to redeem the time by reaching more people and getting them out of Babylon. When we left the area, we had done our best to engage with the locals in matters about the 3rd angel's message. We are hopeful there will be a harvest shortly. "Messiah as a package" continues...

Peter G. King'ori
 Ptergichs@gmail.com
 3rdangelmessenger@gmail.com

Edward Macharia Karuitha - A Tribute



Edward Macharia Karuitha was born in 1935 in a village called Kabogo, Kiambu, as a young jobless man, he decided to go to Limuru in search of a job. On the way a white lady in a vehicle stopped and asked him whether that route led to Limuru. Edward responded and that he was also headed to Limuru. She allowed Edward to enter the vehicle so that he could show her the direction to Limuru. On the way they talked about the work and on reaching Limuru, she took Edward to the office of the District Officer and requested that he be given some work in Church Missions Society farm. CMS farm hosted St. Paul's Theological College.

All employees of CMS had to attend prayers in the chapel before going to work. In the chapel, there were many tracts from many churches and missions worldwide. Edward used to read the tracts until one day he saw a magazine entitled, "Israel Watchman" This magazine was different from what he had read previously thus he went with it to his home. He started correspondences with the author of that magazine in Jerusalem in 1958, 1959 Jerusalem sent another magazine 'The Mount Zion Reporter' together with many other tracts. He shared the tracts with his friends around Limuru and later on when he moved to Nakuru.

In August, 1970 they received a message that a pastor from Jerusalem had arrived and was residing in Githiga, Fort Hall (Murang'a). On 1/8/1970 they went to Githiga and for the first time met with other believers including Kimani Kiano.

Edward was the first person to be baptized on 15th August 1970 and on 16th August 1970 together with 13 others ordained by Elder Andy M. Shoemaker to be elders in The Church of God 7th Day. He was appointed the first secretary of the church.

He slept and was buried on 7th February 2023 in his Elburgon home, Nakuru County.



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My Health Today...

Mental Health

By Njogu Mureithi, Medical Officer, Ass. Editor

Matt 4:24 And news about Him went out into all Suria. And they brought to Him all who were sick, afflicted with various diseases and pains, and those who were demon-possessed, and epileptics, and paralytics. And He healed them.

There is a thin line between a mentally ill patient and a victim of possession by evil spirit. The science and concept of mental illness is a fairly recent one. In fact, it was not until late 19th century that mental illness or mental health was considered a discipline worth attention in medicine. Previously, when one became mentally ill, he was condemned to his own devices and considered an outcast. He'd be termed as mad, psychotic or neurotic, or possessed by an evil spirit.

Unless it escaped the writers hand, mental illness is rarely mentioned in the Bible. However, some of those who were normally cured or healed from possession by the demons, were probably mentally ill. Interestingly, especially throughout the Gospels and Apostolic era, the number of people who were healed from possession by an evil spirit is quite significant.

By definition, **mental illness is a term used to denote the diseases of the mind.** Mental illnesses are health conditions involving derangement of emotions, thinking and behavior and most commonly result in distress and/or problems functioning in work, family or social activities.

There are hundreds of mental illnesses. The most debilitating ones include schizophrenia, depression, bipolar mood disorder and anxiety disorders. Due to substance use and drug abuse, there is an emerging category of substance induced mental illnesses.

Schizophrenia is typically 'madness' in layman's language. It is characterized by disorganized behavior and speech, hallucinations (perceiving unreal things), delusions (strong conviction to an unrealistic belief), negative symptoms e.g. mutism (inability to talk) and cognitive impairment, for at least six months.

Depression (termed major depressive disorder in its severe form) is persistently low mood associated with low energy and lack of interest in previously enjoyable activities for at least two weeks. It can also be associated with insomnia or hypersomnia, weight loss or weight gain,

psychomotor agitation or retardation, feeling worthless, decreased concentration and suicidal thoughts or suicide.

Bipolar mood disorder is defined by cycles of elevated mood (manic episodes) and low mood (depressive episodes). People who suffer from this, during manic episodes, show feelings of extreme happiness or elation, they talk fast, feel full of energy, feel a sense self-importance, are full of great new ideas and having important plans, are easily distracted and easily irritated or agitated, are delusional, having hallucinations with disturbed or illogical thinking, insomniac, take unreasonable risks and make bad decisions. They switch to depression symptoms during their depressive episode.

Anxiety disorders are a range of illnesses that are characterized by extreme and unsubstantiated fear. The most common and quite disabling is post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). One re-experiences a previous bad event e.g. a fatal accident through dreams or flashbacks and practices avoidance of that location or such as a situation, however minor or insignificant it might be. Such a patient is also hyper-aroused and may develop low mood, unhappiness, self-blame and guilt.

Other conditions include sleep disorders such as nightmares (Night/Sleep Terrors), sleep walking (somnambulism) and sleep talking (somniloquy) and personality disorders such as obsessive compulsive personality disorder.

Mental illnesses are treatable. Seeking therapy early from a psychotherapist or a psychiatrist improves the mental health status and the general wellbeing and functionality. Such interventions include cognitive behavioral therapy, use of medications (pharmacotherapy) and Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT).

Discerning conditions of mental illness and slowing the labeling of mental ill patients as demon-possessed will reduce stigmatization and improve the outcome of treatment of such conditions.

Phil 4:6-7 Do not worry at all, but in every matter, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to Elohim. And the peace of Elohim, which surpasses all understanding, shall guard your hearts and minds through Messiah Yahshua.

PETER G. KING'ORI
3RD ANGEL MESSENGER
P.O BOX 9774
NAKURU.

3rdangelmessenger@gmail.com
Website: <http://3rd-angel-messenger.org/>
Facebook: 3RD ANGEL MESSENGER
WhatsApp: 0721576325
Cell: 0721576325, 0780976325.

Physical Address: Green valley next to Greensted International School.