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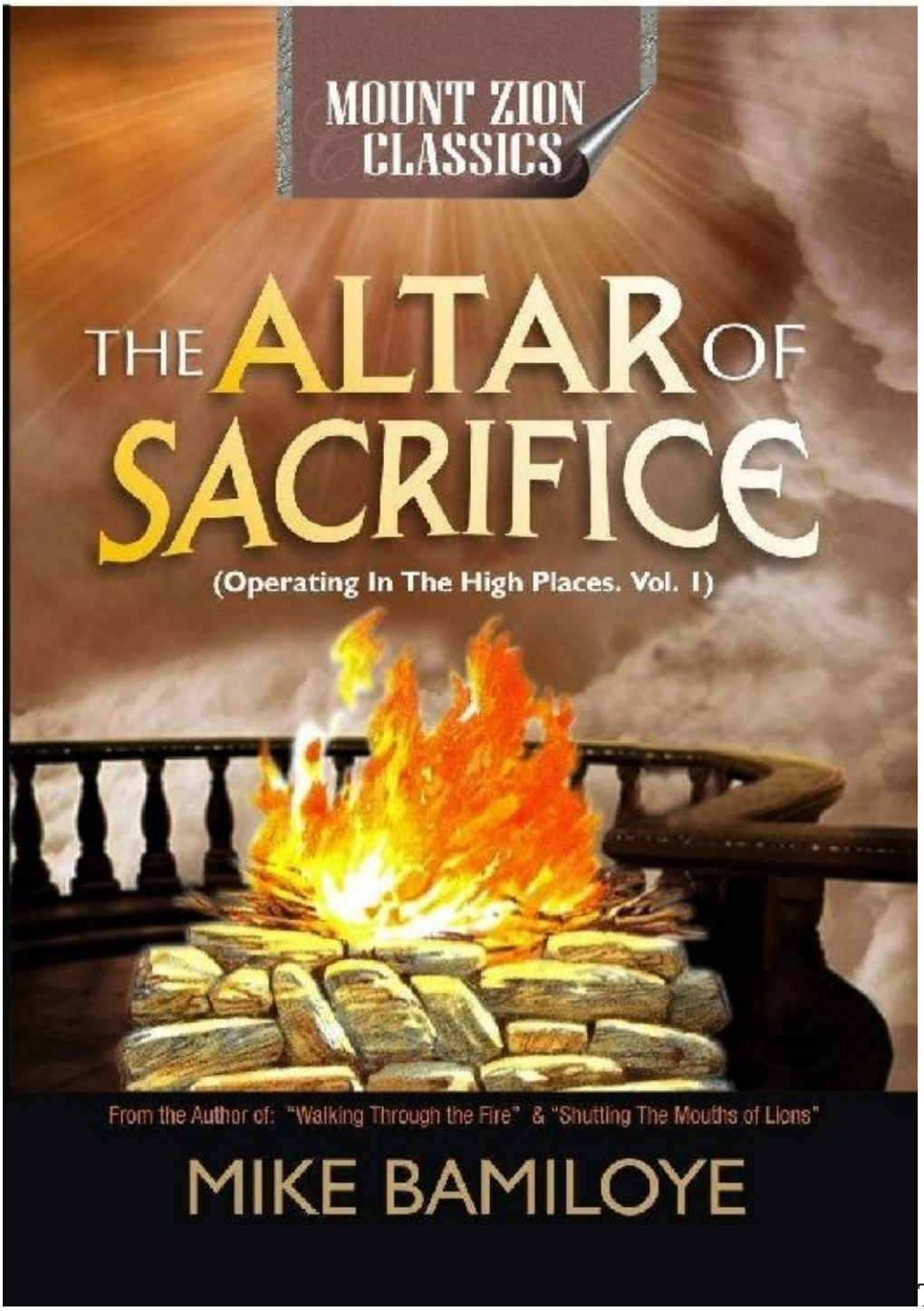
THE ALTAR OF SACRIFICE

(Operating In The High Places. Vol. 1)



From the Author of: "Walking Through the Fire" & "Shutting The Mouths of Lions"

MIKE BAMILOYE



THE ALTAR OF SACRIFICE

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Dedication

T

o all my Beloved brethren in Mount Zion Faith Ministries, who have labored with me in the ministry and made covenant

with God by continuous sacrifices and dedication.

To Bro. Joseph, Jerry, Isaac, Matthew, Moses, Abraham and to Mercy, Grace, Eunice, Lydia, Joke, Lara, Dasola.

And to my Dear Wife, Gloria.
They all have made covenant with God by Sacrifice.

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Introduction

I

n the Series of Faith Books, the first I published was “By Faith Conquering Kingdoms”, and this was followed by the

three others in this sequence: “Walking On the Waters”, “Walking Through The Fire” and “Shutting the Mouths of Lions”.

Next, the Holy Spirit led me to start a brief series on “Operating in The High Places”, and this book: “The Altar of Sacrifice” becomes the first part of the series, believing that the Lord will help me to reveal His mind and release His burden on the secrets of possessing the High Mountains for the Lord.

The first major secret of Operating in the High Places as reflected in this book is to hear His call and follow His Word in absolute faith. So, we were brought face to face with the repercussion of ignoring His glorious call and tending to one’s own ways; and the beauty and results, through the illustrative lives of many Bible characters, of following His Word without wavering. The Book: The Altar of Sacrifice reflects majorly on why the Lord God deserves to be worshiped with the best of our offerings and sacrifices.

MIKE BAMILOYE
JANUARY 2012.

Chapter 1

“YES, LORD! HERE I AM”

J

ames Cameron’s “TITANIC”, a world acclaimed romantic drama movie, released on 19thDecember 1997, was the fictional

romantic tale of a rich girl and a poor boy who met on the ill-fated voyage of the 'unsinkable' ship. The romantic story of the rich girl and the poor boy was interwoven into the tragic story of the most popular and one of the largest passenger ships built and commissioned to go on her maiden voyage with 2,200 passengers on board on April 10th, 1912 and sank into the belly of Atlantic Ocean by 2.20am on April 15th, 1912 with less than 750 survivors.

It was a highly emotional movie which has been a No. 1 blockbuster-movie of all time. It is the story of how the most prestigious British Passenger ship of that time was hit by disaster on the ocean, got flooded and sank with about a thousand and five hundred people on it. It was horrifying watching the true-life story movie.

Another movie of similar theme is the 2006 Wolfgang Petersen’s “POSEIDON”, a thirteendecked luxury cruise ship which was on a Trans-Atlantic crossing on a New Year Eve, having on board many prestigious personalities who had decided to celebrate the New Year on the luxury cruise. And as the ship celebrated the New Year count-down, the crew suddenly noticed a 150-foot wave coming towards the ship. The sailors tired to steer the ship away from the wave, but was too late as the wave hit the side of the large cruise, sweeping dozens of people overboard. The ship Poseidon completely flips upside down and sank into the sea within seconds. It was likewise a dreadful disaster action movie which showed how thousands of people could be drowned in a minute aboard a huge passenger cruise. I could barely finish watching the action horror movie.

Yet another true life story was the one which involved another luxury passenger ship named MV NINUS, many years ago, which sailed from Jaffa Port in Israel onward to Tartessus in Southern Spain. Mid way into their journey, a tempestuous wave arose against the ship which was so tense and threatened to break the ship into two. The crew and the passengers watched helplessly as the

deadly storm tossed the large ship around on the high sea. The entire passengers were losing hope as the sun was retreating and giving way for the emerging moon from the horizon. They had lost their appetite to eat or drink, fear and anxiety had overwhelmed every heart on board.

In order to attempt every possible solution, the captain thought it wise to lighten the burden of the ship by offloading some of the luggage into the sea, yet the storming sea raged on unabated.

Then, the captain made a general appeal to all passengers in all the standard and executive cabins to start praying in whichever way and calling whoever has whatever solutions to come up into the captain's deck to offer them. People got more panicky and there were rising frightening noises and screams as the stern of the big ship began to tilt up. The lavishly furnished banquet hall on one of the middle decks was already flooding through the broken glasses of the windows; the entire passengers and crew were undoubtedly in danger.

Then the captain and the officers went down through all the executive cabins and suites to make sure no women or children are still inside, because he had decided to begin to lower the few life boats on board, and according to the regulations: women and children go down first. In their random searching, they came into one of the cabins on the lower deck and found a fairly elder man asleep. They were astonished that a man would still be sleeping soundly amidst the deadly commotion on board. They dragged him out of the cabin up on to the screaming and distressed crowd of passengers on the upper decks.

And upon more intense investigation and questionings, they became very suspicious of him; thinking he might be a man who had brought them the calamity that was about to swallow them. They brought the man into the crews' cabin as the waves ferociously beat against the ship, flooding the middle decks.

Desperately, they yelled at him; one of the officers, grabbed his clothes and shook him fretfully:

JONAH 1:8

"Then th ey said to him, "Please tell us! For whose cause is this trouble upon us? What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?"

It was then that Jonah knew the game was up. He confessed to them how he had been called by God and commissioned to go somewhere but had decided not to heed the call but run away from it.

JONAH 1:10-11

Then the men were exceedingly afraid, and said to him, "Why have you done this?" For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you that the sea may be calm for us?" -for the sea was growing more tempestuous.

And he said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you. For I know that this great tempest is because of me."

Much as they tried to steer the ship to the nearby land, the tempest was aggressive against them and the sailors sensing that they could not escape the imminent danger unless they do as Jonah had said, reluctantly wrapped him in his coat and threw him overboard into the sea. Amazingly, to the surprise of everyone, in minutes, the sea calmed down and everywhere became quiet. A crowd of passengers gathered, standing behind the rails and watching in bewilderment the sudden calmness of the sea. They had seen the end of a man who found it hard to say: “Yes, Lord!”

The main reason why some children of God have never been able to climb the mountains before them to the level of spiritual and ministerial relevance in life is because THEY HAVE NOT YET RESPONDED TO GOD’S SPECIFIC CALL.

There are many children of God who are sweating laboriously outside the divine plan of God for their lives. There are many who have been called on to mission fields or evangelistic services that are still sweating it out in some companies’ managerial posts or in some corporate establishment. Some dedicated children of God are presently in serious problems in their companies because they have overstayed their appointed time in those places. Some children of God who ought to have answered the Lord’s call to His service, but had arrogantly and stubbornly refused to disengage themselves have walked into unbearable financial embarrassment and scandals which would have been avoided, had they obeyed the Lord’s call and quit at His signals.

Some have been called by God to the mission fields of Eastern Africa, but had disregarded the specific calls and headed towards Eastern Europe. Like Jonah, who was called to go on evangelistic trip to Nineveh, but went on his own way to Tarshish.

Like Jonah, the mysterious calamities that have been threatening to destroy some peoples' companies emanated from the unholy presence of some children of God in those companies. Like, the sailors of that big ship, if they had identified such contraband personalities and ejected them out of their midst, the tempestuous storms around those companies would have calmed down. And some children of the Kingdom, who had consistently disobeyed the Lord's voice need to be disgraced out of their secular jobs into the swampy and stinking bellies of some financial, marital or societal whales, before they can learn to submit to the master-plans of their Master and Maker. In the belly of the whale, Jonah prayed:

JONAH 2:3

" For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the floods surrounded me; all Your billows and Your waves passed over me."

From up inside the warmth of the cruise cabin down into the swampy and odious belly of a whale, that was an opposite of operating in the high places.

What is therefore the NO.1 SECRET of Operating in the High Places? ANSWERING: "YES, LORD!", TO HIS CALLS.

There is a song; the chorus of which I love so well as far as this answering of His call is concerned:

"From the bottom of my heart To the depth of my soul, I say "Yes, Lord!...Completely Yes!" My soul says: "Yes!"

Have you observed that when the Lord called Samuel and he ran to Prophet Eli saying: "Here I am, for you called me" he had not yet answered properly. He had not yet said: "Yes, Lord." So, as long as he ran to man each time he was called by God; God did not speak further neither did He give any further instructions nor did He make any revelation known to him. Why? He answered, but he kept running to man.

To some people, it isn't lack of knowledge, but fear of the future, that makes

them run to man after they might have heard the Lord's call upon their lives. Some children of God are fortunate to run to people like Prophet Eli who would truthfully help them to recognize and acknowledge the voice of God in the air and the hand-writing of God on the wall and encourage them to listen attentively to what the Lord has to say.

However, some people, even after they had known that the Lord had call them to do a certain thing, still run to men who would advise them otherwise. They will be seeking for an elderly man of God or a Christian friend who would not have the full understanding of the instructions or the circumstances surrounding the directions God had given to them. They would desire a backing; someone to speak in the opposite direction of the Lord's instructions.

I seriously fear such people. People who had already resolved at what they would do in their heart, but still come around seeking for counseling on some things they feel the Lord want them to do. After you might have innocently advised them in the ways of the Lord, and counseled them to do that thing which is the Lord's will; they would depart seemingly humbly, only to see them following the obstinacy and stubbornness of their heart.

On many occasions, therefore, after hearing out a person struggling around God's directions and instructions, once I discern that he or she has only come to inform me of what he had resolved to do in his or her heart, though asking for my counsel. I usually emphasize to such persons to make sure they do exactly what the Lord is instructing them to do.

1 SAMUEL 3:9

Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, 'Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears.'"

Eli counseled Samuel to lie down and be still to hear what the Lord would say. He advised him not to run to him again but to hear exactly what the Lord was trying to say.

It is very difficult for a person who would not answer the Lord's call to do what the Lord says. A person who does not know how to answer the Lord's call would find it hard to get the Lord's favor and backing.

Operating in the high places begins from hearing His call to strategic duties and

responsibilities and answering promptly. Hearing His distinctive voice in your heart instructing you to embark on a project or lay your hands on a program or relocate to a place or give a certain amount at a certain time; and you promptly saying determinedly: “YES, LORD!”

THE SECRET OF OPERATING IN THE HIGH PLACES IS PROMPTLY ANSWERING OBEDIENTLY TO THE LORD’S CALLS AND INSTRUCTIONS, without arguing it or delaying it till a better time.

Chapter 2

“FOLLOW ME!”

Y

es, I can recall vividly. It was early on a Monday morning; as I sat in the front passenger seat of the bus that plied the

road to the village where I worked as a secondary school teacher. I had come to the city during the weekend and I was going back to my village station. I was fortunate to have the front seat because I was the first to get into to vehicle and so had the chance to choose whichever seat I desired.

While the driver waited for other passengers to arrive, I sat in the front seat to read my daily devotional Bible passage. There, I came to a common Bible passage I have never forgotten since then. It was a passage that made a difference in my life; a passage that came upon my heart like a carpenter’s hammer. I got to the passage and got stuck there; because, there I was arrested and began to get further instructions. I got to the passage and could not go further. It was as if I was seeing an invisible being sitting beside me to address me. The presence of the Lord came down into the village vehicle. I was lost as I sat down staring at passers-by without seeing them; the noise at the motor-park was so distant to my ears as I continued to receive the ministrations from the Bible passage.

MATTHEW 6: 25-34

25 "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?

26 "Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?

27 "Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature?

28 "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin;

29 "and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.
30 "Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?
31 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'
32 "For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.
33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.
34 "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

The above passage was like an answer to the turbulent questions I have been asking the Lord for more than a month to that distinctive morning. I was sure He told me He wanted me to serve Him full time. But I wasn't prepared for the full time work so soon. Our ministry had already begun at the time, and we were in our third year.

We had been operating on part time, during the weekends. Every one of us would travel from our various places of duties on Friday afternoon and converge at a place before moving on to the ministration venues for the weekend. Within a weekend, we would travel and visit many churches till Sunday evening, before traveling back to our various places on Monday morning. We were between sixteen and nineteen in the team and very few of us were working while the rest were students. I too was working as a secondary school teacher in a nearby village. That was 1987.

In the midst of our busyness, the Lord had begun to ring it in my hearing that He needed more of me if we wanted to move forward beyond the level we were. He began to tell me I needed to come into the work full time if we were to fulfill His full purpose for the ministry. I had a lot of visions welling up in my heart, but I knew it that our operation would be limited and our movement restricted, if we would not be ministering beyond the weekends. Invitations were coming from many cities and churches beyond our weekend reach, and we kept turning them down. Most of the times, I felt guilty that we could not honor many of these

invitations. But our weekends were always fully booked and some times, many of the ministry members use to get back to their works and offices late on Monday morning.

It was amidst this pressure that I began to feel the Lord prodding my heart about giving Him my time fully in the ministry. So, I had been asking Him many questions in my heart: What would be my future? How would I feed and take care of my family when I eventually get married? Clothings. Feeding. Welfare. I was afraid of the future. I was scared of leaving the known for the unknown. How would I leave my paid job for a ministry which was just beginning?

I was still in this confusion when I stumbled on the Bible passage in Matthew 6: 25-34 that glorious morning. And the key counsel was: “Do not worry about your life”. I felt the presence of the Lord in the vehicle; I felt I was hearing His voice audibly persuading and assuring me of brighter future if I would obey and follow Him. I heard Him encouraging me not to worry about food, clothing and shelter. He said my Father in heaven knew all what I needed and would give me if I set my priority right,…seeking the Kingdom of God first and His righteousness.

For a long time I kept gazing at the passage till passengers began to take their seats in the vehicle. That morning I got my final confirmation from the Lord through His Word, beckoning me to come into the ministry fully. On those scriptural verses I have been standing from then till now. And I have found the Lord to be faithful to His Word. He kept all His promises and stood by all His covenants. I have discovered that when you worry about the expansion of His Kingdom, He takes charge of your life.

THE NO.2 SECRET OF OPERATING IN THE HIGH PLACES, THEREFORE, IS: LEARNING TO TRUST HIM.

Trusting His judgment and trusting His ways. Believing Him absolutely and following His directions without questions.

When the Lord calls a man or a ministry to serve Him, He is calling the man or the ministry on to a higher place. He will eventually bring the person or the ministry to a position of great ministerial responsibility; but the problems we usually have is: not trusting Him enough to follow Him fully without questioning.

ABANDONING THE GREAT CATCH

They had labored all through the night without any catch. They were professional to the core; with more than twenty years on the job; in fact, they grew up doing only the job and it was the only job they grew up knowing how to do.

They knew the right time to catch fishes in the sea; they knew the technicalities and techniques. They were master fishermen. However, on many occasions, fishermen don't usually make reasonable catches. And on this particular occasion, they employed all the techniques they had all through the night and caught nothing. So in the morning, they lost hope and began to wash and mend their nets, to get them prepared for another night.

Then the master came to the shore and borrowed their boat to preach in it to the masses. After the preaching program of that morning, He rewarded them with a very large catch. Their net was full with great fishes and it was breaking. They beckoned to the other boat:

LUKE 5:7

"… And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.
Even the second boat too began to sink with an overload of big fishes. The Bible says, the man was so astonished at the great catch that he had to fall down on his knees in worship. He had never seen that great harvest before in all his years of fishing profession.
And when the two large boats were overloaded with many big fishes, that translate to a large amount of money for the fishermen. The money they would realize from the sales would be enough to make them take a rest from fishing for several weeks. It was a catch they had never seen before. It was like winning a lottery. It was at that point of their greatest catch in life that they heard the Lord's call to follow Him, for He would make them become "fishers of men".

The three fishermen did what a person who desired to operate on high places should do:
LUKE 5:11

"So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him."
They trusted the Master's promises. He had made a covenant with them to make

them catch men instead of fishes, and that he would make them professionals at that. And they trusted everything He said and they followed Him, even when they didn't know where He lived. They left that big catch without selling anything out of it; without even tasting out of the big fishes. They left those big fishes to people who didn't hear any call. That was TRUST.

Therefore, YOU CAN NOT OPERATE IN THE HIGH PLACES IN MINISTERIAL LIFE AND MINISTRY IF YOU DO NOT LEARN TO ALWAYS TRUST WHATEVER THE MASTER SAYS.

Was the Master not faithful to His promises? Didn't those fishermen become great and renowned at catching men? In fact, they became anointed and skillful in catching men for His Kingdom later in life that when they accidentally ventured into trying to catch fish again, they once again became very unprofessional and unfruitful.

FOLLOWING, NOT KNOWING WHERE

At the very earliest time of our ministry, we went on a drama ministration in Lagos. It was the national headquarters of a big denominational body, but we were a very young drama group. So we were accommodated in a large room, probably the children church, I supposed. We were to minister also in the following evening, so in the next morning, one of our ministry members approached me, as we were arranging the benches for the evening program:

"I want to ask you a question, Bro. Mike. What does the future hold for us? Is this the type of life we shall continually live?"

The man was a married man. At a certain time, his wife had also joined us briefly. They were married with children. The man must have thought it over; does it worth staking one's life on a young ministry that has an uncertain future? We travelled around to nearby towns and cities mostly on weekends, spending the little money given (if any at all) after each ministration on transport and feeding. Therefore, the man was right to have asked that prodding and thought-provoking question: *"What does the future hold for us?"*

The question jolted me and I became briefly defensive as I looked him straight in the eyes and said:

"I don't know what the future holds for us, but I know that the Lord Who called

us to follow Him will not disappoint us. He has our future in His hand."

That was around 1989, and has He disappointed us? No. He has never. More than 21 years after that poking question, the Lord is still faithful to us in the ministry; expanding us, enlarging us and increasing the work in our hands. In the year, 2010, we celebrated the 25th Year anniversary of the Mount Zion Faith Ministries. Within the years of the ministry, many of us married in the ministry and got children; they got education and many of them are in various universities and colleges of higher learning; while some of them have even finished the mandatory National Youth Service Corp. The Lord has never disappointed us. Though we didn't know where we were going when He called us, we followed Him by faith, and 25 years after, we are still following Him, going to where He said He was taking us. We have begun the journey to the destination, we have not gotten there, but we are on the way.

What is the secret of Operating in the High Places? TRUST HIM AS YOU FOLLOW HIM. You may not know where he is taking you, but He will surely bring you to where He is taking you.

Chapter 3

A MAN OF DOUBLE VISIONS

GENESIS 37:6-9

So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed:
"There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Then behold, my sheaf arose and also stood upright; and indeed your sheaves stood all around and bowed down to my sheaf."
And his brothers said to him, "Shall you indeed reign over us? Or shall you indeed have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.
Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers, and said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me."

M

any years ago, when I was teaching in a fairly large village, the Reverend of the Orthodox Church in the village was a very popular man of God.

Everyone knew him; both men and women usually talk about him. Actually, I first knew him when I was first posted to the village and I was at the motor-park early in the morning, waiting for the vehicle plying the way. I was sitting on a bench under an erected shelter, when I noticed some of the people calling him: “Reverend!” jovially and almost sarcastically. Both men and women were calling him from every side, but not reverently. The calling was with cynical undertone. He too moved about amidst the people talking and joking loosely and I noticed some young women trying to avoid him as he moved towards them. His appearance including his faded flowing native ware was very irreverent.
It was later I got to know more of him, when

I got into the village. He was known for playing loosely and even sleeping with some of the young women of the village. He was a laughing stock among the villagers. He was known for lacking restraint in words and deeds; no sense of propriety.

Then, on some occasions, I saw him in his cleric garb and I felt for him. I wondered how a ‘man of God’ could be held in such a low esteem and still boldly adorn himself with his cleric attire. The religious costumes he decked himself with added no admiration to his already battered virtues. He still stood before his congregations and preached; he still conducted various services and church programs; he still worked in the church, but had no character. His characters had defeated his services.

Some group of college brethren went for an all-night prayers in the house of a respected young man of God. The man of God was respected for his deep knowledge of the Word and power of expression and utterance at dishing out the dissected scriptures. He was so charismatic and friendly and therefore, commanded the attention of young college and university students.

He was the one anchoring the night vigil inside a fairly large sitting-room of a house. Mid way into the vigil, while prayers were going on, he beckoned at a

young sister and led her out of the room to another corner of the passage. There, he attempted to kiss her. Very astonished, the sister struggled and resisted and hurried back into the room. She didn't concentrate on the prayers any more. The man was known for high-powered preaching and reverberating prayers. He was so engrossed in the works of God and travelled around preaching in colleges and universities; however, he lacked virtue. His characters made a mess of his service.

THE VISIONS OF JOSEPH

Joseph had two separate visions, on two different nights. First, he saw the vision OF THE FIELD; next, he saw the vision OF THE SKY. Those visions were not a mistake. They were strategically given to him by God.

When he told his brothers the first vision, they interpreted it to mean: REIGNING and DOMINION. And when he narrated the second vision to all of them, his father solemnly translated it to mean: KINGSHIP.

Thus, BOTH VISIONS means Operating in the High Places.

The most important thing about the first dream was that Joseph's sheaf AROSE AND STOOD UPRIGHT, when all others around him were bowing. Summarily, therefore, JOSEPH STOOD UPRIGHT ON THE FIELD.

This is highly spiritually symbolic. It was a prophetic revelational warning for him; the Lord was warning him to be ready to stand upright on the field before he could have Dominion and Kingship; the Lord was telling him that his people were coming to bow for him, but he must be ready to stand upright on the field.

Now, even the field is a spiritual symbolism. If you go to the field to look at the farm or the laborers, do you see them in the sky or you stand straight and see them before you? Of course, you look straight before you VERTICALLY.

Jesus Christ, while teaching the people and His disciples about THE FIELD, said:
MATTHEW 13:38

"The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one."

If the FIELD IS THE WORLD, what was the Lord trying to telling Joseph when He showed him in the dream about HIS SHEAF STANDING UPRIGHT in the field?

The Lord gave him a Prophetic Revelational dream. He told him of his future. He warned him to STAND UPRIGHT IN THE WORLD (FIELD) IF HE WOULD REIGN AND HAVE DOMINION. He told him, if he would be what He had created him to be, then, he must not fall. He must stand upright when others are falling. His father also made him know that the Lord had prepared a throne for him, and everyone, including him and his brothers are still coming to bow before him, BUT HIS SHEAF MUST STAND UPRIGHT IN THE FIELD.

Now, look at the next symbolism.
JOHN 4:35

"Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!
So, when Jesus Christ was telling the disciples to lift up their eyes and look at the fields, he was telling them to look straight before them: VERTICALLY.

However, the second dream was not about the field, but ABOUT THE SKY. It had to do with THE SUN, THE MOON and THE STARS; and that was likewise seriously spiritually symbolic. The Lord was giving Joseph a revelation of the things pertaining to Heaven. He was telling him of the future glories.

1CORINTHIANS 15:41

"There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory."

So when Joseph said he dreamt and saw the sun, the moon, and the stars bowing for him, he must have been looking upward to HEAVEN just as David said:

PSALMS 8:3

"When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained…"

Therefore, what did these visions of the FIELDS and the HEAVENS symbolize

spiritually for Joseph and for us? Why did the Lord give him both visions that had to do with Reigning, and Dominion, and Kingship?

The Lord was telling him as He is telling us today: IF YOU WOULD OPERATE IN THE HIGH PLACES IN LIFE:

-YOU WILL HAVE TO STAND UPRIGHT ON THE FIELD OF THIS WORLD,
-AND YOU MUST CONSIDER HEAVEN.

It is unlike the story of the two men of God I shared before now. They were working on the fields, but they were definitely not standing upright, neither were they considering heaven. And there are many ministers and children of God like that today whose standing on the fields of this world are no longer straight but crooked. Yet they keep on ministering to people, laboring in the vineyard, holding programs and embarking on evangelistic projects without considering Heaven.

Were Joseph not standing upright on the Fields, he would not have been so faithful to God and dedicated in his master's house in Egypt to the extent of making him the ruler of the house of Portiphar:

GENESIS 39:4

"So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority."

And it was his upright standing and faithfulness to God, that brought abundant blessing and favor upon the house of Portiphar. Then, his master's wife turned the heat on him, pestering and nudging him daily to sleep with her:

GENESIS 39: 8-9
But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand.

"There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do

this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

A man who would fulfill destiny and possess his possessions in life would always consider HEAVEN. A man who desires to be all what the Lord want him to be in life would consider HEAVEN. A man who wants all the good promises and covenants the Lord God had made for him to come to pass would put HEAVEN in view in whatever he does.

As Joseph was on his way to his enthronement, he did not lose focus of HEAVEN. He did not want to do anything that would truncate divine plans of God. He did not allow someone who has nothing to lose to destroy the destiny of a man who has everything to gain.

GENESIS 39:10-12

So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with her…

That she caught him by his garment saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand, and fled and ran outside.

But not many children of God may be able to do that today. During the capitalization of the Nigeria Banks, when young and ebullient ladies were set loosed into the public market to garner deposits with unbelievable neck-stretching deposit targets set before them; the morality of many ladies crumbled in the hotel rooms and guest houses of big men who had promised them huge deposits that could accelerate their promotions if they would spend some nights with them. And many fell, to secure their banking jobs.

Many bank managers sat in the airconditioned confine of their offices, while they set those innocent but job-hungry ladies out as baits to secure the deposit targets. Some children of God thought compromising your stands and faith is the only logical way to operate in the high places at this time…but they were seriously mistaken. Compromise is a short-cut to cancelling the Promises of God for one's life.

Then less than two years after the banking capitalization, the judgment fell on them all. Many who had compromised their faith and stand to secure their banking job had got fired, many of them with huge debt to pay back to the bank. Some highly placed female bankers began to look for menial jobs, just to keep the body soul together. Many of the Branch Managers who had sent those ladies on the loose against men are also now back on the streets looking for jobs.

COMPRO MISE CANCELS GOD'S PROMISES. To Operate in the High Places and fit into God's agenda; to fulfill God's destiny and possess possessions:

- YOU MUST STAND UPRIGHT ON THE

FIELD OF THIS WORLD and
- YOU MUST ALWAYS BE CONSCIOUS OF
HEAVEN.

IF JOSEPH HAD FALLEN

If Joseph had compromised his stand for fear of losing his job, and had slept with his master's wife, the promises and covenant of God for his life would have been cancelled immediately, because he would have sinned against God.

Then, he would not have gone to the dungeon where he met with the cup-bearer and the baker of the king. He would not have interpreted their dreams and the cup-bearer would not have remembered him before Pharaoh later. Would he have come into Egyptian Palace at all? No. He would probably have ended his career and life not going beyond Portiphar's house.

If he had not been standing upright and had not considered Heaven, he would have destroyed his own soul on the altar of adultery and what would have happened to those brilliant visions of the Sun, the Moon, and the Stars bowing before him? What would have become of those Prophetic revelational dreams of Reigning, Dominion and Kingship? Visions and dreams *et all* would have been burnt off on the bed with Portiphar's wife.

Then, his father and his brothers and all those children of the large family would never have made it through the famine. His family would have died in that scorched land.

LISTEN!

Had Joseph slept with the woman, then, he would have killed the destinies of the entire Israel, because they would never have migrated to Egypt where they were sustained and multiplied to the multitude and became a nation. Joseph determined the fulfillment of the destinies of all his family. If he had fallen, they would all have fallen with him invisibly inside that bedroom.

GENESIS 39:11
But it happened about this time, when Joseph went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the house was inside,

Yes, the Bible says, no one was in the house, physically, but invisibly, not so.

When the U.S Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin, Jr. first landed on the moon, the noise all over the world was: “Americans have landed on the moon!” The two men stood for the entire Americans and when they planted the American flag on the lunar surface, the whole world acknowledged that America had conquered the moon. The men stood for the entire Americans and the flag also stood for the American presence on the moon.

Joseph was Israel’s Ambassador in Portiphar’s house. Whatever an ambassador does is done by the entire country. AbdulMutallab, a Nigerian, was captured wanting to blow up a U.S. jetliner on a Christmas Day, and the entire Nigeria was listed on Terrorist List of the world. He represented us badly.

YOU CAN NOT OPERATE IN THE HIGH PLACES IF YOU CAN NOT STAND UPRIGHT BEFORE GOD AND MAN.

Unknowingly, a single one-night stand was the entire thing the devil needed to dislocate some people’s future and the destiny of their entire family.

REUBEN’S CURSE
GENESIS 35:22

And it happened, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine; and Israel heard about it.

He lacked the knowledge of his royal status. He didn’t take into cognizance his enviable destiny. His glorious future and privileges of the first born was wasted in his inglorious act of sleeping with his father’s concubine. He thought it was fun; he thought as the big boss and respected heir of the family, he could do ignoble things with impunity. He did had a nice time with the young woman and his father Jacob heard it, but was quiet about it.

And the man did not raise the issue for many years until he got to his death bed; until the moment of the release of The Blessing. And Jacob called to remembrance the dastardly act:

GENESIS 49:3-4

"Reuben, you are my firstborn, my might and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity and the excellency of power.

Unstable as water, you shall not excel, because you went up to your father's bed; Then you defiled it He went up to my couch."

Sin will always cut down a man's life. A man cannot fulfill full destiny if he is not standing upright and living right. Jacob could not do otherwise. He could not bless him because what Reuben did had already secured a curse that could not be reversed except by God's mercy. Jacob was only repeating what the Law of the Lord had already validated:

DUETERONOMY 27:20

Cursed is the one who lies with his father's wife, because he has uncovered his father's bed.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'

Reuben did not climb up to high places. He did not reach the full destiny. He could not stand upright and he lost his birthright and privileges for a fun of a few moments.

I CHRONICLES 5:1

Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel-he was indeed the firstborn, but because he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph, the son of Israel, so that the genealogy is not listed according to the birthright;

REUBEN FELL WHERE JOSEPH STOOD UPRIGHT. The sin which took the birthright away from Reuben's hands and landed it upon Joseph's lap, came visiting Joseph also in Portiphar's house; to snatch the birthright away from his hands too, but JOSEPH STOOD UPRIGHT AND ALSO SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED HEAVEN. And that was the major difference between the two. So one picked up what the other dropped down. His sin of adultery distorted the genealogy of Israel. The second to the last born became the first born with all the rights and privileges thereof.

Chapter 4

THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS

1CORINTHIANS 1:18

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

W

hat do these double visions symbolically represent? Why did Joseph dream about the FIELDS and

about the HEAVENLY things? When you stand upright on the edge of a field and you look straight before you, you have the VERTICAL VIEW of the field. In the case of Joseph, he dreamt and saw himself and his brothers WORKING ON THE FIELD.

GENESIS 37:7
"There we were, binding sheaves in the field."

When Jesus told the disciples to lift up their eyes and see the field ripe for harvest, He told them to pray to the Father to send laborers to the field.

THE VISION OF THE FIELD IS ABOUT WORKING FOR GOD, ABOUT SERVICES IN HIS VINEYARD, ABOUT REAPING THE HARVEST AND BINDING THE SHEAVES ON HARVEST FIELDS.

When you stand, you see the field straight before you IN A VERTICAL VIEW.

Then, what about the vision of THE SUN, THE MOON, and THE STARS? Apostle Paul admonished the believers:

COLOSSIANS 3:1-2

"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

Setting your mind on things above is being mindful of Heaven; being Heavenly conscious in all we do.

AS YOU SEE THE FIELDS BEFORE YOU IN A VARTICAL VIEW, SEE THE HEAVENS ABOVE YOU IN A HORIZONTAL VIEW.

Some years ago, I watched a film about the life and suffering of Jesus Christ; I have forgotten the title. In the scene where Jesus Christ was being led to the crucifixion, He was made to carry the Bar of the Cross tied to His stretched hands; not the full Cross, but the Bar alone, while another person carried the Pole over his shoulder, dragging it along the rocky way. So, the Cross of Christ was made of a Bar and a Pole. The Bar is shorter than the Pole. The Bar was the VERTICAL wood where His hands were nailed, and the Pole was the HORIZONTAL wood where His legs were nailed.

A COMBINATION OF BOTH THE VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL PIECES OF WOOD IS THE CROSS OF CHRIST.

Therefore, consider these scriptures:
LUKE 9:23

Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

LUKE 14:27
"And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."

Symbolically, therefore, when the Lord Jesus Christ says, if anyone would be His disciple, he would carry his cross daily, and follows Him; it means:

A CHILD OF GOD MUST COMBINE HIS SERVICES FOR GOD ON THE FIELDS WITH DAILY CONSCIOUSNESS OF HEAVEN.

Everywhere around us today, we see people who are vigorously serving the Lord without loving Him. We see people who are fervent with their gifts in the churches and campus fellowships, but whose lives and characters are far apart from Godliness. We see ministers whose ministries are raking souls into the Kingdom of God, but who are not mindful of Heaven and their Eternity.

What is the essence of this discourse? I am encouraging and also charging the reader of this book to be mindful of Heaven as you walk your journey in this life. I am charging you to place Heaven in view as you labor in the Lord's vineyard. I am saying, your services and labor in the Lord is not enough to get you to Heaven but your relationship with Jesus Christ. Both the Bar and the Pole of the wooden cross must be nailed together to form the Cross; it is then you can

carry the Cross as His disciple.

Is your life-style Godly?
MATTHEW 7:22-23

"Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"

They prophesied in the Lord's Name and cast out demons. They actually ordered demonic spirits to leave in the name of Jesus Christ, and the demons left. They did many mighty works of God. They, therefore, must have been very notable and heavily empowered ministers. They must have been so popular and commanded much attentions.

However, they were only carrying the Bars of the Cross instead of carrying the entire Cross nailed together. The Lord was pointing to all their field activities which glorified Him. They were surely active for the Lord, doing exploits on the fields, but were never conscious of Heaven – they "practice Lawlessness". They were not carrying the complete Cross. So, on the Judgment Day, the Lord says, such people shall be rejected by Him, they shall be condemned.

This message of carrying the complete Cross is like foolishness to many. That is why you find an increasing number of believers living a life that does not glorify the Lord.

TO OPERATE IN THE HIGH PLACES AS JOSEPH DID, YOU NEED TO HAVE THE VISION OF THE CROSS. YOU NEED TO CARRY THE COMPLETE CROSS OF CHRIST AND FOLLOW HIM DAILY.

The Complete Cross is STANDING UPRIGHT ON THE FIELD (OF THIS WORLD), BEING FAITHFUL TO THE LORD IN HIS SERVICE and BEING HEAVENLY CONSCIOUS IN WHATEVER WE DO.

A child of God must always have it in his mind that we are all pilgrims in this wretched world and we are only passing by. We must ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT LIFE IS TOO SHORT AND ETERNITY IS TOO LONG.

In your dealings and relationship with people: THINK HEAVEN. In your services to God and man: THINK HEAVEN. In all you say and do: THINK HEAVEN.

Chapter 5

ENTERING INTO A COVENANT BY SACRIFICE

PSALMS 50:5
"Gather My saints together to Me, those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice."

O

n July 11th, 1986, was the first live drama ministration of our ministry: the Mount Zion Christian Productions,

Nigeria. It was a year after the ministry had started. We had spent the first year of the ministry in prayer meetings, vigils and retreats, with members always coming from various places. That evening of the maiden presentation was at the instance of The Nigerian Christian Teachers Fellowship conference. And it was a great production that evening. We were more than 50 in the production: Casts, Technical hands and Chorus team. It was a theatrical production. And the organizers, after the astounding presentation, labeled us: *The Professionals.*

The next day, was planned to be the launching and dedication of our first photoplay magazine; which we spent a long time and a lot of effort to make. On credit, we had produced about a thousand copies of the magazine and promised the printer to pay up the money for the printing paper and the rest outstanding debts. We were banking on the money we would realize from the launching.

The first shocker about the launching program was that the hall was almost empty. Almost all the people invited did not turn up. Next, was another moment of astonishment; the appointed Chief Launcher for the Maiden Edition did not come with money, or she forgot the money at home. So, she approached me to give her some money to use for the launching before the few people present. I obliged. I gave her the money to launch the magazine we had invited her to come and launch with her money. We finished the program and the Chief Launcher left.

We were left with almost all the copies we brought for the launching, because people did not turn up for the launching. So, we decided to distribute copies among some members of the ministry for quick sales wherever we were. We intended to make sure we sold many of the copies within a week to pay the money we owed the printer on the magazine. The launching was held on a Saturday.

I too supplied a lot of copies to newspaper vendors to help us sell. The pressure to pay up the debt we owed the printer was on me. I was looking for how to sell

the magazines as quickly as possible and pay off the money. When I heard of a big crusade being organized by a large denominational body, I was glad and I prepared to take the magazines to the venue. I strongly believed that when people see the photoplay magazine, which was the first of its kind, they would rush at it.

At the venue, I displayed it beside the road and I stood beside it. People walked pass without taking any interest in it. Very scanty number of people paused and branched to see what I displayed. I can't remember now if I sold any copy. I left the venue dejectedly when my co-worker, a female teacher who had come to the crusade saw me and asked what I was selling. She looked briefly and left.

About a day or two after, early in the morning, I was heavily depressed and was praying when I heard the Lord spoke into my heart: *"You have not actually done what I wanted you to do with the magazine"*. I froze in fear. I was scared. Then I tried to search my heart to know what the Lord desired us to do.

Suddenly, like a big bang, I heard His voice inside of me and it froze me. He said, *"I desired that you would give the copies of that magazine free to people."* I could not contain those instructions, I was overwhelmed with fear and I began to cry. I knew He had spoken. I was compelled to follow His voice. But I was confused with the debt we still owed the printer. If we should give the magazines out free, how would the debt be paid? I didn't get a definite answer to that puzzle; however, I knew the Lord had spoken.

Next, I went back to the newspaper vendors who had been supplied with copies, and I got back all the remaining copies. They had sold only a few copies. I travelled to Ibadan to meet another member of the ministry who had gone with a large number of copies. When he saw me, he thought I had come to collect the money for the magazines. He was quick to tell me sadly that nothing tangible had been sold. He was relieved and amazed altogether, when I told him what the Lord told us to do. I then told him to stop selling but start distributing to people.

I have now forgotten how we eventually paid off the money we owed the printer, because, we eventually got inspired by God, and went ahead to make Part Two of that Photoplay Magazine and on the cover of it was boldly printed: *Free! Not To Be Sold.*

That was the first ever project of The Mount Zion Faith Ministries, AND WITH

THAT SINGULAR ACT, WE DIDN'T KNOW WE WERE ENTERING INTO A COVENANT WITH THE LORD.

Therefore, when in 1987, the Lord instructed us to hold a National Festival of Christian Drama tagged: HARVEST '87; inviting all drama groups from churches and campuses for a festival of drama presentations, it was a higher instruction which demanded greater faith.

When He further gave us the instruction to feed all the participants that would come for the festival freely and that there would not be registration or gate fee, He froze up our little faith again. Yet we knew He had instructed and we had the options to obey Him or not. We chose to obey Him and drag Him into the program He had initiated Himself.

Eighty percent of us in the ministry were students; very few of us were working. The Lord inspired all the members to rise up to the challenge and do the program exactly the way the Lord had ordered it. Members fell into groups of two and three to bring foodstuffs: gallons of palm-oil, bags of raw food, boxes of frozen fish, etc. It was almost unbelievable that the organizers of such program, who hosted almost 400 people for five days with free feeding, were majorly students, belonging to a very young drama ministry.

With the inspiration of that maiden drama festival, we went into the second, third and fourth edition of the national Christian drama festivals, in 1988, 1989 and 1990, still bringing large crowds of drama groups from churches and campuses for four, five and six days, feeding them free throughout the program. Not that we never argued with the Lord before each of those festivals; but on each occasion, we always chose to do the program the Lord's way and at the end of it, we always saw manifestations of His faithfulness. We were never disappointed. At the end of one of the festivals, all of us in the Mount Zion had to share the remaining foodstuffs and fried fish after four or five days of feeding almost 400 participants in the festival. The people fed and yet the food remained for us to share.

THE SACRIFICIAL GIVING ENTRENCHED US MORE INTO HIS COVENANT. WE WERE ENTERING INTO COVENANT WITH HIM BY SACRIFICE.

THE NO.3 SECRET of Operating in the High Places, therefore, is: ENTERING

INTO A COVENANT WITH HIM BY SACRIFICE.

In 1987, therefore, after the maiden edition of the Christian drama festival; after seeing the impact of faith; after the Lord had made us see what He could do if we would always obey His voice and trust His instructions, one afternoon, He spoke to me and said:

"If you want to be all what I want you to be; and do all what I want you to do, then, you will have to follow Me by faith."

I declared to Him solemnly, that we desire to be all what He wants us to be and reach the goals He wants us to reach. Then He spoke emphatically that thenceforth, we should walk with Him by faith. And He changed the name of our ministry from: *The Mount Zion Christian Productions* to The Mount Zion Faith Ministries.

THUS WE ENTIRED INTO A COVENANT WITH HIM BY THOSE SACRIFICES WE MADE.

Chapter 6

AN ALTAR OF SACRIFICE

GENESIS 8:20-21

Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.

A

fter the flood, Noah built an altar on which he made a huge sacrifice unto the Lord God. I imagine how huge the

sacrifice would have been: picking from each of all the clean animals and from each of all the clean birds; slaughtering them and setting them on fire on a huge altar. It must have released a huge pillar of smoke to heaven. No one knows how many days it took him to make the burnt offerings. But it must have been a huge offering on a very huge altar.

The enormous sacrificial offering moved God into making an eternal covenant with the living things He created.

NOAH ENTERED INTO A COVENANT WITH HIM BY SACRIFICE.

It was a huge sacrifice unto God which prompted Him to make a covenant with the whole world never again to break the “fountains of the great deep” and fling open all the “windows of heaven” to release flood over the earth.

IT WAS A HUGE SACRIFICE THAT PROVOKED A HUGE COVENANT. GENESIS 9: 11,13

"Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth."

"I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth.

On many occasions in the Bible, God children and servants were move, inspired or instructed by God to enter into covenants with Him by sacrifice. When there was no evident instruction by God at all before a Biblical character went into a sacrificial giving or offering unto God, it would be that such person was moved by the Spirit of God to go into that sacrifice.

ONE OF THE SECRETS OF OPERATING IN THE HIGH PLACES IS ENTERING INTO COVENANT WITH GOD BY HUGE SACRIFICIAL

OFFERINGS, BECAUSE THERE IS AN ETERNAL COVENANT ON GROUND IN SUPPORT OF SUCH GIVERS:

GENESIS 8:22

"While the earth remains,
Seedtime and harvest,
Cold and heat, winter and summer,

and day and night shall not cease.

There were Four Immutable Laws spelt out in the above Bible verse; laws that are permanently unchangeable: cold and heat; winter and summer; and day and night. These cannot change. They are irreversible covenants. The power that drove day and night is the same power that drove the winter and the summer and the cold and heat. This same power is the driving force behind Seedtime and Harvest. As long as day and night cannot cease from occurring, seedtime and harvest shall not cease from happening.

It is this unchanging law that makes whoever plants to harvest; irrespective of the person. Sowing and reaping happens to everyone. Whoever sows, reap; and whoever sows nothing, reaps nothing. It is a law.

THEREFORE, WHEN A MAN MAKES A SACRIFICE ON THE LORD'S ALTAR; HE IS ACTIVATING AN IMMUTABLE LAW WHICH GUIDES THE DAY AND NIGHT, COLD AND HEAT and SUMMER AND WINTER.

Right from the beginning of our ministry, the Lord brought us into that covenant with Him; a covenant made by sacrificial offerings. That was how the foundation of this ministry was laid. And the covenant was continually being renewed by continual sacrificial offerings prompted by God from time to time.

WHERE IS MY HONOR?
On the first Sunday of January, in the year 1994; I was in the morning service. Somehow, I sat on the back bench, not because I came late, but I believe the hand of the Lord made me take the back seat in the service that morning. While the special service for the beginning of the New Year was going on, and everyone was happily listening to the choir and the captivating sermon and various varieties; I was not feeling well in my spirit. I was uncomfortable in the spirit and I was busy searching out why. All of a sudden, a Bible verse flashed

across my mind in a heavy way:

MALACHI 1:6

"A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am the Father, Where is My honor? And if I am a Master, Where is My reverence?

I no longer concentrated on what was going on in the church service. I began to ponder on the Bible verse. I was questioning in my heart: Where have I not honored the Lord? Where are we not reverencing Him in our ministry? The service was still going on, the choir was singing and many interesting things were happening, but I wasn't hearing a thing anymore. All my concentration was on the challenging questions the Lord had thrown at me.

I was still asking Him to show me where I have not honored him when He flashed another scripture into my heart:

HAGGAI 1:3-8

Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying,
"Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?"
Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: "Consider your ways!
"You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, Earns wages to put into a bag with holes."
Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Consider your ways!
"Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified," says the LORD.

As I opened the Bible and read the above passage to the 8thverse, the Spirit of the Lord opened my eyes to what He was saying. No wonder I sat in the back row. The congregation had rows of benches and some old-patterned rickety pews to sit on. The benches and the pews had never caught my attention, even though that was my church where I worshipped. The moment the Lord pointed this to me, I saw that the Lord wanted to be honored with new set of pews filling the church. He said, that was one of the major projects He wanted us to embark for Him in that year.

We thought it would take us almost a whole year to get the church filled with the long pews, but by the seventh month of the year, the furniture maker had brought the five and last batch of twenty pews. The elders had agreed with us not to reveal where the pews came from.

When the last batch was delivered and arranged in the church, I was in the church on the Sunday again. Throughout the service, I was pleased glancing around and seeing people sitting comfortably in the Lord's presence. As I was absorbing this graceful sight, I heard His voice again: *"Is it not right for my Ministers to sit comfortably too?"*

At that point, I looked at the ministers and the church elders sitting on the raised altar before the congregation, their chairs were as old as the pews the Lord had removed. Some of the chairs were seriously being managed by the elders. Instantly, I knew what the Lord was saying: He wanted us to change the chairs of those Ministers and church elders too.

The furniture maker was brought to look at the old chairs and make modern and more beautiful ones. He set at work, and that took him about six weeks to make. By that time, we were already moving into the last quarter of the year. After making the elders' seats, the Lord moved again and pointed my attention to the old wooden lectern; as if He was saying: *"Now, how about where the Word of God is being preached out?* There and then, I saw that all the furniture that mattered in the church had been changed except the old wooden lectern.

We wanted to give the Lord the best, so we chose the design from a foreign ministry magazine and showed the furniture maker. He made a very expensive one. However, when we brought a senior elder of the church to come and look at it before bringing it into the church, he didn't like it and he explained why the council of elders may not like that pattern of pulpit. The elderly man was very reluctant to reject it, but it was apparent, he was not so joyful about the pulpit. There we saw our mistake; we would have allowed them to choose a pattern for the furniture man.

The Lord must have the best. We must not place on the altar the Pulpit the church ministers would not be happy to use. So I told the senior elder to take the furniture man to see any sample the church desired.

Few days later, the man started working on the new Pulpit. And on the 31stof

December of that year, during the New Year Eve, the church pastors and elders dedicated the new Pulpit and called on the entire congregation, to pray for Mount Zion Faith Ministries, Nigeria.

The entire project of honoring the Lord and reverencing Him by sacrificial offering of filling the church with pews, elders' seats and a new Pulpit took a whole year. But it was a huge sacrifice that brought us into a huge covenant with the Lord God.

FROM THAT MOMENT ONWARD, THE LORD BROUGHT US ONTO A HIGHER LEVEL OF SACRIFICIAL GIVING ON A BIGGER ALTAR OF SACRIFICE.

One of the Secrets of Operating in the High places in ministry and in one's ministerial life, is BUILDING AN ALTAR OF SACRIFICE on which you make offerings unto the Lord continually. What do I mean by this Altar of Sacrifice?

Your monthly Tithe and Offering in your local church or to a particular ministry or minister is an Altar of Sacrifice unto the Lord. Only that, the size of the Altar is limited to your monthly tithe. That is why you just need to go beyond The Tithe and build an additional Altar
– a bigger Altar of Sacrifice on which you continually make much bigger sacrificial offerings.

THE ALTAR OF SACRIFICE HOLDING THE TITHE MAY BE LIMITED IN SIZE, BUT THE ALTAR HOLDING OFFERINGS HAS NO SPECIFIC SIZE. THE BIGGER YOUR OFFERING, THE LARGER YOUR ALTAR OF SACRIFICE.

Your giving to a particular mission fields from time to time is an OFFERING on an Altar of Sacrifice. The evangelistic programs the Lord lays on your heart to hold from time to time, in which you spend a lot of money is a large Altar on which you give offerings to the Lord. The edifying and inspiring Magazines you print for the Youths from time to time is an Altar on which you make your offerings to the Lord; so also are the programs you put together and the booklets you distribute all the time.

In Mount Zion, the films we give to the Television Stations from time to time, is an Altar of Sacrifice unto the Lord. For more than eight years, we have not stopped doing this, and almost all Nigerian TV stations have Mount Zion

movies. We keep updating them with new titles from time to time. Most of the time, it is not an easy thing for us to do, financially, but we receive grace from God to continue with this. We can't remove the Altar now that it is getting bigger.

The Drama Ministers' Power Night which we held quarterly throughout 2009, in which we gave free books and premiered newly made movie to the participants on each night, is an Altar of Sacrifice on which we make continual costly offerings. And the Altar is getting larger in size as more than 7,000 participants turned up in the December 2009 edition of the Drama Ministers' Power Night, with each of them going back home with a gift of a book. We thought we wanted to rest the Power Night again, as we did in the December of 2006, when we rested it for two years and picked it up at the Lord's command with December 2008 Drama Ministers' Praise and Power Night running through 2009.

We were already breathing relief when the Lord spoke to us NOT TO DISMANTLE THE ALTAR AGAIN, BUT CONTINUE WITH THE OFFERINGS.

So, we continue again with the quarterly Power Night in 2010 all through 2011, till the Lord Himself will tell us to move on to build another Altar of Sacrifice.

SOME PEOPLE EASILY GET DISCOURAGED after series of offerings on their Altar; and they dismantle it or abandon it, after getting fed up of giving and giving to the Lord.

NO! DO NOT REMOVE THE ALTAR OF SACRIFICE! DO NOT STOP BRINGING OFFERINGS ON THE ALTAR UNTIL THE LORD MOVE YOU ON TO BUILD ANOTHER ONE.

Like Abraham:
GENESIS 12: 7-8

Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your descendants I will give this land." And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

And he moved from there to the mountain east of Bethel, and he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; there he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.

GENESIS 13:18

Then Abram moved his tent, and went and dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and built an altar there to the LORD

As Abraham moved on, he built new Altar of Sacrifice unto the Lord

WHAT NAME DID YOU CALL THE ALTAR? Listen to this: it occurred to me that almost all Altars built to the Lord had their individual names. You come across them in many places in the Bible.

GENESIS 35:7

And he built an altar there and called the place El Bethel, because there God appeared to him when he fled from the face of his brother.

EXODUS 17:15
And Moses built an altar and called its name, The-LORD-Is-MyBanner"

In his journey, Jacob came to Luz in Canaan and built an Altar there, and called it's name: El- Bethel. When Moses and the Israelites were making a war against the Amalekites, Moses built an Altar there and called it: The-Lord-IsMy-Banner. Meaning: JEHOVAH-NISSI. While in Judges 6:24, Gideon built an Altar to the Lord and called it – The-LORD-Is-Peace, meaning: JEHOVAH-SHALOM.

In the Mount Zion Faith Ministries, we too presently have a very large Altar on which we make expensive offerings quarterly called National Drama Ministers' Power Night, and it could be called: JEHOVAH-JIREH, meaning: The –LORD-Will-Provide. We also have another large Altar of Sacrifice, on which we send newly released and unreleased movies to TV stations for the blessing and edification of the masses; and The Mount Zion Institute of Christian Drama, where the students' session are heavily subsidized with three meals per-day, tuitions and accommodation for two weeks, is also the name of a large Altar of Sacrifice.

YOUR ALTARS OF SACRIFICE ARE PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, ASSIGNMENTS, RESPONSIBILITIES, ETC, WHICH AFFORD YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUALLY MAKE OFFERINGS TO THE LORD.

You need such Altars to Operate in the High Places.

In most of the times, in the Bible, ALTARS ARE WHERE GOD MADE PROMISES AND WHERE COVENANTS ARE RENEWED.

GENESIS 22:9

“Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood.”

On this Altar, Abraham presented his only son before the Lord. And here, the Lord renewed the covenant with him by an irrevocable oath.

GENESIS 22: 15-17

Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son
"blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.

If Abraham had not got to this point and built an Altar for sacrifice unto the Lord; if he had not presented an offering of sacrifice on the Altar before God, the Lord would not have renewed the covenant by an oath.

Promises and covenants made by God need constant renewal from time to time: this is done by continual sacrifices on the altar.

What program or project are you involved in for God, on which you continually spend your time and resources? That is an ALTAR of Sacrifice on which you must continually and relentlessly make your sacrifices and offerings until the Lord orders a stop and a building of another altar for him.

NOTES

Chapter 7

IN THE DAY OF TROUBLE

PSALMS 20:1-3
May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble;

May the name of the God of Jacob defend you;
May He send you help from the sanctuary,

And strengthen you out of Zion; May He remember all your offerings,
And accept your burnt sacrifice.

T

he year 2005 was a very significant year to us in our ministry. Many events occurred in the year, which left some

indelible marks upon our hearts. It is still a point of reference to us in the ministry till this time of writing.

August 2005 was the 20th Anniversary Ceremony of The Mount Zion Faith Ministries Int'l; and it was in that month we had the Official Dedication of The Habitation of Faith – Mount Zion Training and Retreat Centre, Ile-Ife, which had been under a slow-paced construction since 1994. It was a double joy for us in the ministry as friends; invited ministers including great people of God came to celebrate with us.

Two months later, October 2005, crisis struck us; occasioned by demonic operations and satanic manipulative networking. Previously, some people had sent messages to us from a prayer church saying someone had stood up in their congregation and prophesied that demonic agents and Hosts of Hell had already concluded their devilish moves against our ministry. Many people who had been in the prayer church heard the prophetic utterance and had been sending the messages to us. Again, from the same prayer gathering, they would send another message that the Lord said we should go into seven-day prayer and fasting to overcome demonic attacks. Funnily, the messages would come when we were in the midst of about 21 or 30 days prayer and fasting.

We were never moved, because, we trusted the Lord who called us; we believed in His power to deliver from whatever demonic gangups. We were in series of prayers and fasting till the anniversary celebration of August 2005. Even after the celebration, the prayers and fasting did not stop.

October 3rd, 2005: I called it a Black Monday. My wife and I including our children had left Abuja in the morning, by flight, coming from a festival program. Two other members of our ministry, another notable drama minister and our driver were coming by road in our stationwagon car. Ordinarily, we would have joined the car back home, but we thought the journey would be very uncomfortable and impossible with an additional five passengers. My driver,

therefore, dropped us in the airport to come home by flight, while other three and the driver were to come home by road.

Before 1.00pm we were at home in Ibadan. As I was entering into my room, I got a strange phone call from a man who was speaking hastily, informing me of my brothers' involvement in an accident on Abuja road. I froze. The network was breaking, so, I began to call frantically. When eventually he picked it up, he said they were being carried to a nearby hospital.

The driver that dropped us from Lagos airport had not gone far before we called him to come and take us back to Lagos airport. On our way back to Lagos, the Good Samaritan called again that our driver who drove the car had died on the way to the hospital. I was desperately asking about the conditions of the others. I didn't let my wife know of the death of our driver, I knew the news would dislodge her. So, I kept the news till we arrived at Gwagwalada General Hospital. Two minister friends of ours who had heard of the incidence had been around running around. They came out to us to lead us to where our brethren were. They lay on the bed; one with plastered eyes; another with deep cut on the forehead and the third with fractured shoulders. It was a black Monday.

I came outside again and as one of our minister friends embraced me, I began to weep on his shoulder. When my wife heard of the death of our driver, she wept like a baby. She wanted the men to lead us to where the body was, to go and pray for him to come back to life. It was a black Monday.

In the next two or three months after, it was as if the hosts of darkness had laid a siege against our ministry. It was as if they were shooting arrows from all sides at us. It was as if we were living under a closed heaven and walking upon brass ground. Everything stood still, except that spirits of discouragement, confusion, misunderstanding, argument, impatience, mistrust and doubts etc, began to bombard us from within.

Incidentally, around that moment of internal crisis, another demonic prophecy came forth from that same prayer-church, through a young 'Prophetess' saying: the Powers of Darkness said they have already finished working on Mount Zion Faith Ministries. When someone sent the message to us, we knew it was contrary to the covenant the Lord made with us. This is what Jesus Christ said about Himself and His ministry:

JOHN 8:29

"And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."

During those moments of crisis; aggressive and desperate prayer vigils and meetings were going on within the ministry. In one of those prayer vigils, when it seemed as if the whole of Hell was closing in on us and was about to disband us, I stood up during the prayers and I began to shout aloud, almost in tears:

"God of Mount Zion! God of Mount Zion!

Hear us this day from Your throne and deliver us.
Remember all our sacrifices and offerings
on Your altars.
Let all our givings and sowings come to
Your remembrance, Oh Lord!
Remember all our sowings into the mission
fields!
Remember all our givings to ministers and
missionaries!
Remember all our labor on Habitation of
Faith,
which we have been spending the money
You gave us to build
and still You demanded that we give it up
for a retreat and training center for Your
people.
Remember our large piece of land You ordered us to Seed into a church;
Remember the only bus you gave us, but which you took from us as a seed to another ministry…
Remember all our givings on field outreaches and our sacrifices and
LET THESE OFFERINGS AND SACRIFICES RISE UP AND SPEAK FOR US…!"

The moment I said that prayer under that desperate situation, it was as if the presence of God was set loose over us; there was a strange calmness in the spirit realm; the charged atmosphere was relaxed. It was as if, that was the last anchor: calling upon the Lord to remember some strategic offerings and sacrifices made

at His command. It was as if the Lord stood up on His feet to calm the raging deadly storm.

It was similar to the desperate prayers of King Hezekiah when death stared him in the face:

2 KING 20:1-5

In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live.'"

Then he turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the LORD, saying, "Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what was good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.
And it happened, before Isaiah had gone out into the middle court, that the word of the LORD came to him, saying,
"Return and tell Hezekiah the leader of My people, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the LORD.

In the Psalms of David 20:1-3, it indicates that in the time of trouble, at crucial moment, the Lord could call to remembrance offerings and sacrifices. Don't you believe that Offerings and Sacrifices do speak on behalf of the giver? Check out on the case of Abel:

HEBREWS 11:4

By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

Abel still speaks through his "excellent sacrifice" even long after he was dead. Some sacrificial offerings are very strategic, and they easily come to God's remembrance in the moment of critical situations. Some strategic offerings and sacrifices speak up for deliverance, some for critical provisions, some for protections, some for elongation of life, some for strategic wisdom, etc. Evidences of these abound in the scriptures.

In Act 10, Cornelius, a Roman centurion was:

"…a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.

He had some critical spiritual needs, and God sent His angel to him to give him help. The angel said:

"…"Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God."

When offerings and sacrifices come up for a memorial before God, it means, for a long time, the offerings and sacrifices have been going on seemingly unnoticed and unrewarded. Or the person has been making a lot of seeding and offerings to the Lord's works and His ministers without much visible harvests in return and he has been doing it incessantly without getting wearied. Then, all of a sudden, a needy time arises; a seemingly hopeless situation and things swiftly move into position in the spirit realm and there is sudden calmness.

THIS IS WHY ONE OF THE SECRETS OF OPERATING IN THE HIGH PLACES IS ENTERING INTO COVENANT WITH GOD BY SACRIFICE.

Ministry is all about giving and sowing and planting and …watering; while the Lord God Himself gives the increase and the harvest. A person who enters into the ministry to grab and get and take cannot enter into covenant with God, because entering into covenant with God has to do with sacrificial offerings.

Chapter 8

AN ALTAR IN THE PRISON

T

wo vibrant and popular evangelists were once arrested in one of the Northern cities for preaching the gospel of Jesus

Christ. They had held crusades and meetings in some market places and small halls for some days without interruptions. However, the local men began to move against them when many more people started to pay attention to their messages and they began to testify to the results of their prayer meetings.

Some of the leaders of the town, whose religious businesses were being hurt, printed some leaflets writing inciting and damaging lies about these evangelists, and distributed the leaflets in many places. At the same time, a damaging petition was written to the Commissioner of Police, accusing these evangelists of inciting the public against their religious leaders and bringing strange religious belief into the town.

These religious leaders gathered some youths and attacked the men during one of their teaching meetings; the youths dragged them out into the open, tour their clothes and beat them.

To forestall any possibility of a religious uprising, the Police swung into actions and arrested these men and dispersed the irate crowd. Straight away, they were charged to court and found guilty of illegal religious assembly and causing of public disorder. Surprisingly, they were unjustly sentenced to twelve months imprisonment and hurled into a waiting Prison van which carried them to a Maximum Security Prison, after been branded SR (Security Risks).

It was reported that upon arrival in their cell, they turned the whole place to a worship centre. The reverberating echoes of their voices pierced the serenity of the large prison compound throughout the night as they both kept switching from praise to worship songs. Many of the prisoners could not sleep but were listening quietly to the various praises. Then, some of the prisoners who could sing too, from their various wards of cells, began to insert their voices, till there was a

shaking in the atmosphere.

Then, unbelievably, there was a strange occurrence:

ACTS 16: 26-28
Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.

And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself.

But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here."
That is the Biblical version of that fiction in Acts 16.

The main import of the story is the significance of the Altar that was set inside the Prison cell. It was an altar on which Sacrifices of Thanksgiving were placed. Paul and Silas landed in the inner prison and, firstly, set up an Altar of Praise. Then throughout the night, they offered Him sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving in the face of their crisis and calamities. Voices of praise activated an earthquake which shook the prison to its very foundation.

THE COMMONEST AND THE MOST PRECIOUS SACRIFICE YOU CAN PLACE ON THE ALTAR OF SACRIFICE IS PRAISES AND THANKSGIVING.

On Several occasions in Mount Zion Faith Ministries, we have encountered critical situations which were overwhelming and looked very insurmountable. On many occasions, when we didn’t know what to do, the Lord had ordered us to go into fasting and praises. Sometimes, we would gather in our office, during prayer sessions only to sing and praise Him. And we may do this every afternoon for days. We had come into situations when the only thing the Lord had told us to do was “Just be praising Me”.

PSALMS 27:6
And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me; Therefore, I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD.

PSALMS 107:22

Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare His works with rejoicing.

I am still learning how to praise Him effectively. I am still looking for ways of encouraging myself to know how to praise Him more. Praising Him brings you to His presence.

Praises and worships are items of sacrifice on His Altar, and you do not need to go and buy these. You already have them in you. Your head shall be lifted above your enemies, when you know how to offer to the Lord, sacrifices of joy and praise. Learn to sing. If you don't know how to sing, play praise and worship songs in your home, in your living-room and bedroom. If possible, place a cassette player in your kitchen and have one in your car. Hear praises. Sing praises.

When there is critical crisis staring you in the face like Paul and Silas, sing praises.

Can you remember how the Israelites broke down the walls of Jericho? How could those high walls and skyline towers have been brought down if not by supernatural means? God instructed them to attack the walls and towers with sacrifices on the altar of praise:

JOSHUA 6:12-13

"And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD.
Then seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually and blew with the trumpets. And the armed men went before them. But the rear guard came after the ark of the LORD, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets".

The priests blew the trumpets before the Ark, marching round the walls, while the entire warriors remained quiet. This they did for six days and on the seventh day, circled the walls seven times: weakening the foundations of the walls with trumpets of praises. Then the entire crowd of soldiers raised a joyful noise unto the Lord, and the weakened walls crumbled without any use of a single physical weapon. That is how spiritual prison walls around you can crumble, by the use

of weapon of praise.

With sacrifices of praise, you enter into covenant of protection, provision, deliverance and victory with the Lord. Look at these verses of the scripture:

PSALMS 149:5-9
“Let the saints be joyful in glory; Let them sing aloud on their beds.

Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand,
To execute vengeance on the nations, and punishments on the peoples;
To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron;
To execute on them the written judgmentThis honor have all His saints. Praise the LORD!”

Doesn’t this sound like a recipe for dealing with the demonic forces and satanic strongholds and every imagination that raises itself up against the knowledge of Christ in our life?

David, the Psalmist recommends a combination of two infallible weapons: the twoedge sword (Word of God) and Praises in our mouth, to execute holy vengeance on the hosts of darkness and punishments on demonic forces.

TO OFFER SACRIFICES OF THANKSGIVING ON THE ALTAR OF PRAISE, IS THE HONOR BESTOWED ON ALL HIS SAINTS.

“YEHUDAH! NOW I WILL PRAISE JEHOVAH”

When Jacob was on his death-bed, and was pronouncing The Blessing upon each of his children; when he took the heritage of the first born from Reuben and gave it to Joseph the eleventh son, do you know The Blessing he pronounced upon Judah the fourth son?

GENESIS 49: 8-10 *"Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise;*

Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies;
Your father's children shall bow down before you…
…The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes;
And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.”

What qualified Judah for this position? What placed him in the position of receiving the praise of his brothers? What spectacular spiritual thing did he do to warrant his brothers coming to bow down for him? Again, the dying old Patriarch had issued an indelible Blessing of being the custodian of The Sacred Scepter and the esteemed position of The Lawgiver. He was blessed with both the positions of The Executives and The Legislatures of the land. He was made both the King and the Maker of Laws over his brothers. Why?

Before I let you know the Reason, read this again:
1 CHRONICLES 5:1-2

Now the sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel-he was indeed the firstborn, but because he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph, the son of Israel, so that the genealogy is not listed according to the birthright;

Yet Judah prevailed over his brothers, and from him came a ruler, although the birthright was Joseph's

When did this man fight and prevailed over his brothers? Not when he grew up; not when he was young. If any of Jacob's sons was entitled to those posts and positions, it should have been Joseph. Judah never did any spectacular thing; neither did he pass through any hard life as Joseph. Yet, he prevailed over his brothers. How?

The Answer to the Quiz: His mother did the war on his behalf. Or rather, his mother heard from God and gave him the prized Name: JUDAH, which won him those laurels ever before Joseph and six others were born:

GENESIS 29:35

And she conceived again and bore a son, and said, "Now I will praise the LORD." Therefore she called his name Judah.

JUDAH: MEANS PRAISE! IT MEANS: PRAISE THE LORD!
In Hebrew language, he is YEHUDAH, meaning: "I WILL PRAISE JEHOVAH!"

It was PRAISE which made him prevail over his brothers; it was his name – PRAISE- which gave him the neck of all his enemies; it was that name that

brought him into position of rulership: PRAISE! I WILL PRAISE JEHOVAH!

I am not done yet with this Judah issue, that name is an amazing name. We all know the Lord God was the Chief Architect of the Tabernacle in the wilderness. He gave Moses all the details of the dimensions and the quantity of materials and instruments to be used. Summarily, He gave him the full architectural drawings and the Bill of Quantity of the construction of the Tent and the materials therein.

However, who was the Chief Engineer, the Construction Engineer and the Interior Designer of the Tabernacle? God had to appoint the person Himself:

EXODUS 31: 1-5
Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: "See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of

Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah.
"And I have filled him with the Spirit of
God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge,
and in all manner of workmanship,
"to design artistic works, to work in gold, in
silver, in bronze,
"in cutting jewels for setting, in carving
wood, and to work in all manner of
workmanship.

He needed someone from the Tribe of PRAISE to be in charge of such a sensitive construction which would eventually signify the Presence of the Almighty God Himself. He needed someone, who would continually have PRAISES in his mouth throughout the entire construction.

YEHUDAH! JEHOVAH BE PRAISED!
WHEN THE TABERNACLE WAS COMPLETED

When the Tabernacle was completed and dedicate, and God allowed the elders of the tribes to begin to bring dedication offerings to the Tabernacle; one would expect the leaders to bring their offerings according to the positions of the Patriarchs. One would expect the leaders from the tribe of Reuben or Joseph to bring their offerings to the Tabernacle first: No.

NUMBER 7: 11-12

“For the LORD said to Moses, "They shall offer their offering, one leader each day, for the dedication of the altar."

And the one who offered his offering on the first day was Nahshon the son of Amminadab, from the tribe of Judah.
And finally, our Lord Jesus Christ came from that notable Tribe of Praise:

REVELATION 5:5
But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

YEHUDAH! JUDAH! JEHOVAH BE PRAISED!

Chapter 9

BLEMISHED SACRIFICE ON GOD’S ALTAR

DEUTERONOMY 15:21

"But if there is a defect in it, if it is lame or blind or has any serious defect, you shall not sacrifice it to the LORD your God.

DEUTERONOMY 17:1

"You shall not sacrifice to the LORD your God a bull or sheep which has any blemish or defect, for that is an abomination to the LORD your God.

F

or more than fifteen years, we have been burdened for the French people. We have burdens for the spiritually parched

ground of the Francophone countries. We had always wish that they too would have the benefits of having all these wonderful gospel dramas and movies we are blessed with here in Nigeria.

On different occasions, many missionary agencies and organizations had visited us and expressed desires to translate Mount Zion films to French language and we had supported their visions by granting them permissions and giving them the scripts and the Master Tapes of the films requested; they had gone and promised to feed us back and brought us sample copies of the finished translated movies. Agencies, organizations and individuals had visited us from Mali, Cote D'Ivorie, Benin Republic, Cameroon, and Togo. They had gone with the scripts and master tape and had promised to do the work and come back to show us.

On many occasions we had waited in vain without seen them coming back. Yet, whenever, new people came with similar request, we would always answer them by listening to their visions; then, we would give them the scripts and master tapes to work with.

After all those years of disappointments and with this vision burning in our heart, we took a bold step on our own. We decided to translate the scripts of Mount Zion films into French language and use the translated scripts for subtitling the movies into French language in the studios; and go further to publish these scripts as French drama books which could be given to missionaries and Christian organizations operating in French countries.

With this vision on our heart, we employed a young man fully; a university graduate in French Language and lecturer in one of the Colleges of Education to take up the responsibilities of translating these scripts and supervising the subtitling of the movies in French language. We created an office and a department in our secretariat and called it: French Missions Department and dedicated a whole editing studio for the movie subtitling.

The man set at work in earnest. Working tirelessly in his office; translating the Mount Zion drama scripts into French language. We were all excited as he finished working upon one script after the other, and simultaneously monitoring the editor who was subtitling the movies into French. We picked on the first two scripts he had translated; after an elderly female French lecturer had gone through one of them and certified it right; and went ahead to print 2,000 copies each with excitement.

Shortly, the printer delivered the printed books in our office and the parcels were received with jubilation. The following Sunday, I went to church with two copies each of the new French drama books. I wanted to give them to the International Director of a big missionary agency who attends the church. He speaks French fluently and had served in many Francophone countries before. I wanted to show him what the Lord had done, and to invite him to request for copies for his missionaries serving in the Francophone countries. The books were well wrapped and I presented it to him. He was so elated when he heard of our efforts on the project.

I think it was the next day or so that he called me on phone and asked if we had not printed much copies of the book. I told him we printed 2,000 copies each of the books. Next, he asked if we had not given out the book at all. By then, I became worried about the strange questions.

Then, he threw the bomb. He said there were a lot of errors in the published books; he said, many of the words and the phrases would not be easily understood by the natives of some French countries. He said he needed to see me urgently. I became heavily depressed. I could not stomach this disappointment any more. I became angry at the same time. I was irritated that French land missionaries could condemn the work we had spent a lot of time and money to accomplish without their help and support.

The following Sunday, I was in the church and could not wait to see him after the morning service. He spoke to me with concern and said,

“Bro. Mike, there are a lot of mistakes in those books. I hope you have not distributed it?”
Angrily, I spoke out sternly, pointing my finger at him:

“You people pushed us into those mistakes. You French missionaries have

wasted our time, many of you came to our office to collect scripts and Master Tapes to translate but you never came back. Now, we took the steps on our own, and after completing the works, you said the works had errors and mistakes, you pushed us into this."

The man looked at me soberly, and said, " Bro. Mike, we are sorry. We are very sorry. Now, let's talk. I am taking it upon myself that we shall do it this time. Our missionaries are in French countries, and I have people who can translate well in Cote D'Ivoire. I will bring them into it and it shall be done perfectly. I promise, we shall not fail this time."

I got back to the office and we fired the man we had employed. We no longer needed his service. He had tried his best, but it could not serve our purpose. What about those 4, 000 copies of the two French drama books? We learnt they contained errors; so, we couldn't give it out to people as planned, except some Leadership Training School participants from French countries who had come to our city. We stacked the books somewhere in the office untouched.

Truly, the man got in touch with his missionaries in Cote D'Ivoire; they got in touch with us and we sent them the first two scripts. Soon, they finished the translation and sent the completed scripts back to us. Among the six or seven translators was a French white woman, who supervised the translation and made sure it could be understood by the European French people.

We got the scripts and went back to the printer to print the corrected versions. So, the corrected versions were printed and delivered. We rejoiced when we got delivery of the parcels.

Some weeks later, they contacted and informed us that a production studio was interested in producing the French language versions of the movies using the translated scripts of the missionaries. And they sent us a 10 minutes clip of their first attempt, the French version of "Captives of the Mighty". We watched the clips and we were amazed and excited. So we readily gave them the permission to go on with the project.

It was a memorable day, in the evening of the Grand Premiere of the French movie: *"Captif de l'homme Fort"* in a large theatre hall of a fivestar hotel in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire. We had been invited from Nigeria to attend the Grand Premiere and launching of the new French movie. So, four of us had gone to

Abidjan for the launch.

It was an impressive evening, as we entered the large hall filled with excited Ivorians who had come to watch a new French Christian film made in West Africa. The compeer was making all introductions and announcement in French; and all pre-show variety programs including special songs from invited music ministers were in French language. We didn't hear anything they were saying, but we were enjoying the blessing embedded in giving God a perfect offering.

Then I was called upon to come and make comment and greet the large audience. I walked up to the high stage with joy and satisfaction. I spoke in English and someone was translating my words in French. I was happy a land had been possessed. If we had thought of the huge amount of money we had spent on those published first version of the books, and had not condemned the faulty copies and allowed a corrected version, we would not have witnessed the awesomeness of God of that evening.

It was a remarkable evening as we watched the movie as if it was originally shot in French language. I saw my wife and I speaking fluent French on the screen. We were sitting watching the film with full attention as if we had never seen those characters before. Truly, we had never seen any of our movies translated and screen in fluent French before. It was a new thing.

After the film show, copies of the film and the published book of the drama were displayed for sale, and I was placed on a seat at a corner where some people queued before me for booksigning and autographing of the DVD copies bought. It was a remarkable night of giving God a Perfect Offering.

GOD WILL BE GLORIFIED WHEN THE SACRIFICE PRESENTED ON THE ALTAR IS A PERFECT ONE.

If we had thought of the thousands of Naira spent on the faultily translated published books, we would never have agreed to waste that amount on nothing. We would have, all the same, gone ahead distributing the books, then, those missionaries in Cote D'Ivoire would not have brought forth a perfect one for the Lord; and God would not have raised up a production company to go into the complete movie translation with the corrected scripts.

ONLY THE BEST IS GOOD FOR THE LORD GOD JEHOVAH. IF YOU GIVE HIM A PERFECT OFFERING, HE WILL BE GLORIFIED AND YOU

WILL BE BLESSED.

LEVITICUS 22: 20-22

'Whatever has a defect, you shall not offer, for it shall not be acceptable on your behalf.
'And whoever offers a sacrifice of a peace offering to the LORD, to fulfill his vow, or a freewill offering from the cattle or the sheep, it must be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no defect in it.
'Those that are blind or broken or maimed, or have an ulcer or eczema or scabs, you shall not offer to the LORD, nor make an offering by fire of them on the altar to the LORD.
I kept a glorious relic at the back of my house

for many years. It was a memorable artifact from a ministerial archeological adventure. In Chapter Six, I shared with you about the Pulpit we were led by the Lord to make for a church. You read how we made a pulpit after a foreign pattern and it was not accepted by the elders. We had to make another one for them after their own chosen design. That first pulpit we made with a lot of thousands of Naira at that time, but which was rejected had to be with us for the next fifteen years. We used it briefly at Mount Zion Institute for lectures, then we brought it back home and abandoned it in the garage where a lot of junks were dumped on it.

Under the garage, it stood there symbolizing the cost of giving God the best offering, acceptable offering. It stood for an imperfect offering and reminded me of what it cost us to eventually give God an acceptable sacrifice on His altar. The elders and ministers, becoming joyous with the new pulpit showed the offering was perfect this time and was therefore, accepted.

THEREFORE, IF WE ARE TALKING ABOUT ENTERING INTO COVENANT WITH GOD BY SACRIFICE, IT MUST BE A PERFECT SACRIFICE, AN ACCEPTABLE ONE.

MALACHI 1:7-8

"You offer defiled food on My altar. But say, 'In what way have we defiled You?' By saying, 'The table of the LORD is contemptible.'

And when you offer the blind as a sacrifice, Is it not evil? And when you offer the

lame and sick, Is it not evil? Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably?" Says the LORD of hosts.

THE GIFT THAT PUT US IN PROBLEMS Some years ago, a man gave us a Peugeot 404 Pick-Up car which we never enjoyed. It was constantly visiting the auto-mechanic workshop and our brother who was driving it was almost turned to a mechanic-driver. Several times, it broke down on the road leaving the brother stranded beside the road and sometimes we had met the vehicle abandoned beside the road and we would know that it had broken down there and abandoned. We did used it briefly, but it was never a perfect gift, neither did we really enjoyed it.

Eventually, we decided to get rid of it by selling it off, so as to save ourselves of much trouble. An auto-mechanic who displayed it in his workshop for sometimes without a bidder finally offered to buy it at a very ridiculous price. We counted it a miracle for someone to offer to buy it in the first place. We gladly accepted the money and pushed the vehicle off our neck.

I kept wondering, if we have not been happy with this gift, would God have been happy? If we considered the gift an imperfect one, would God have considered it otherwise? The gift had put us in many troubles, I didn't know if we accepted it with thanksgiving or not. And I can't remember now if we prayed and blessed the giver or not. However, I know the scripture says: in everything, we should give thanks. So, we thank God for it anyway.

MALACHI 1:13-14

…"And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand?" Says the LORD. "But cursed be the deceiver who has in his flock a male, And takes a vow, but sacrifices to the Lord what is blemished- For I am a great King," Says the LORD of hosts,

"And My name is to be feared among the nations.
THE 'WASTED' COSTLY OIL

In John Chapter 12, a woman who came to Jesus Christ and poured on Him a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, worth three hundred penny at that time was considered a serious waster by some of the disciples. The perfume was worth almost a whole year salary of most people at that time, yet the woman thought of what to give Jesus, and she "wasted" on Him a very costly ointment.

When the disciples took up the woman for the wastage, Jesus Christ justified her, saying, she should be left alone. Her offering was accepted by Jesus Christ.

Since I got the revelation of the special offering of the costly Alabaster Box of Ointment; I have, thenceforth, believed this solemn fact:

NO AMOUNT OF MONEY SPENT FOR THE COURSE OF THE GOSPEL AND THE EXPANSION OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS A WASTE.

IN FACT, I HAVE, THENCEFORTH, BELIEVED THAT YOU CAN NOT WASTE MONEY AND RESOURCES ON JESUS CHRIST AND GET REBUKED BY HIM.

ANY WASTAGE OF MONEY AND RESOURCES ON JESUS CHRIST THE SAVIOR IS AN EXPRESSION OF LOVE FOR HIM.

This Jesus deserves the Best of Gifts. He deserves every beautiful thing we can give Him. He deserves more than anything we could give Him:

THE GREATEST GIFT WE CAN GIVE TO JESUS CHRIST IN RETURN FOR HIS LOVE FOR US IS OUR LIFE. HE DIED TO REDEEM IT FROM THE GRIP OF HELL, SO HE DESERVES TO HAVE IT IN FULL. NO NEGOTIATION.

IT IS THE HIGHEST AND THE BIGGEST SACRIFICE WE CAN PLACE ON THE ALTAR.
NOTES

Chapter 10

WHEN GOD REJECTS THE GIVER

ISAIAH 1:11-13
"To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?"

Says the LORD. "I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed cattle. I do not delight in the blood of bulls, Or of lambs or goats.

"When you come to appear before Me, Who has required this from your hand, to trample My courts?

Bring no more futile sacrifices; Incense is an abomination to Me. The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assembliesI cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting.

T

ruly, God delights in offerings and sacrifices; in perfect sacrifices upon His Holy altar. But, of what purpose is a huge

financial offering from the hand of a man who had embezzled the money entrusted in his care? Will God be happy to accept the sacrifices of spiritual labor of a person who continually mess up himself or herself on the bed of immorality? Will God, because of a minister's sacrificial labor of several years in His vineyard, overlook his acts of adultery, greed and covetousness?

When people live in iniquities, their offerings and sacrifices, however big and precious, become abhorred by God who loves the offerings and sacrifices of His beloved.

IT IS ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE TO BRIBE GOD WITH THE BIGNESS OF OUR OFFERINGS AND SACRIFIFCES. HE IS A PERFECT GOD.

When the sons of Prophet Eli desecrated the Lord's altar and made people disrespect the Lord's worship in the temple, God seriously became angry at him and sent a message to him through the young Samuel:

1 SAMUEL 3: 13-14
"For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them.

"And therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever."

The Lord swore that no amount of sacrifices and offerings shall atone for the offence of the house of Eli. He had been rejected by God, and so were his sacrifices and offerings. In other words, when one is not walking right with God, he cannot bribe God with a sacrifice or offering, neither can sacrifices and offering work for his deliverance, victory and protection. This is what the Spirit of the Lord said through David:

PSALMS 101:6-7

My eyes shall be on the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me; He who walks in a perfect way, He shall serve me.

He who works deceit shall not dwell within my house; He who tells lies shall not continue in my presence.

DECEITFUL WORKERS SERVING AT THE LORD'S TABLE.

However, today, in many places, people who walk in imperfect ways serve God; they minister before Him; they labor in His vineyard. Some people who earn bloody money bring this into the church to place them on the Lord's altar.

When a proprietor of a large brothel is a fervent child of God and a very dedicated sacrificial giver in a Pentecostal church, caring less about the number of ladies who ruin men's souls inside his brothel, but bringing his tithe regularly and contributing immensely to every evangelical project and program of the church, what becomes of such sacrifices? On whose Altar are those offerings laid?

DEUTERONOMY 23:18

"You shall not bring the wages of a harlot or the price of a dog to the house of the LORD your God for any vowed offering, for both of these are an abomination to the LORD your God."

There are many deceitful workers serving at the Lord's table. The standard of holiness has been lowered and the spiritual and ministerial future of the coming generation of God's ministers is very doubtful. The types of the young ministers we are building for the church of tomorrow are the types that can hardly withstand strong spiritual warfare; there are hardly enough time for their spiritual build-up in the Sunday school or deep-rooted Bible studies the ways many of dynamic ministers of God today were brought up.

Many of our youths in the church have been taught by their presiding pastors and Bishops to pursue the ephemeras – running after things that can never last or stand the test of times. We have been tutored right from the pulpits to press hard against God and get whatever we need from God instantly; not knowing how to "wait patiently for Him" or "running our race with patience". Most teachings we have been listening to have been on physical and material uplifting and not on the spiritual empowerment of the inner man. So, we have employed diverse

strategies of multiplying congregants without developing their spiritual life. We love to take their sacrifices and offerings even if the lives of the givers are irritating to the God of the Altar. Then, who has been accepting those offerings and sacrifices? God or man?

WHEN EVIL MEN MAN THE ALTAR

In 1 Samuel Chapter 4, when Israel went out to battle against the Philistines, they joined battle and Israel was defeated. Israel lost about four thousand men of the army in the field. They came back to the camp depressed and shameful and wondered why the Lord had given them over to the enemies. Then, they decided to bring the Presence of God to the battle ground with them against their enemies. They went to bring the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord from Shiloh.

It was the Ark that went with the Israelites when the insurmountable walls of Jericho came tumbling down; it was the Ark that stepped into the brim of the Jordan River, when the river parted into two and the people of Israel went on dry land to the other side. The presence of the Ark is the Presence of God, the Man of War. It is like importing a Heavenly Mercenaries against an earthly army. So the Israelites sent to Shiloh for the Glorious and Fearful Ark.

When the Ark arrived in the camp of Israel, all the demoralized and dejected soldiers raised up a very loud noise of jubilation which echoed in the air to the camp of the Philistines. When the Philistines heard the noise, they wondered why the defeated camp was rejoicing so loud. Their report found out that the Awesome, Fearful, Glorious Ark of the Most High God of Israel had arrived the camp from its base:

1 SAMUEL 4:7-8

So the Philistines were afraid, for they said, "God has come into the camp!" And they said, "Woe to us! For such a thing has never happened before.

"Woe to us! Who will deliver us from the hand of these mighty gods? These are the gods who struck the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness.

The Philistines were terribly scared. They knew the implications of the Presence of the Ark in the Camp of Israel. They knew that with the Presence of the Ark, they had a very little chance of winning that war, considering the past records of the Fearful Ark. The Philistines were seriously worried, but the camp of Israel

was in jubilation. Never in the history of the Ark had it gone to any war without winning. To the camp of Israel, the war was settled. Victory was sure.

But there was a serious miscalculation. When they brought the Ark out of its Tent in Shiloh, God did not follow the Ark out of the Tent to the battle because the two sons of Eli were manning it

1 SAMUEL 4:4

“So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from there the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, who dwells between the cherubim. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.”

So t he Ark was in the Battle without God’s Presence. It became an ordinary wooden box containing some ordinary golden items. The Ark was in the battle without the Presence of God.

The technical miscalculation was the presence of the sons of Eli with the Ark. God would not condone iniquities neither could He stand the presence of the wicked. The presence of those evil and corrupt sons of Eli had rendered the Ark, which must be carried by Holy Levites, ineffective.

Philistines created a great slaughter that day. They killed more Israelite soldiers that day alone more than they ever killed among them. On the day the Ark followed Israel to the battle, Israel lost 30,000 foot soldiers and the two sons of Eli manning the Ark were killed and the Glorious Ark itself was captured by the enemies. When evil men man the Altar of God, they drive the Presence of God away.

PROVERBS 15:8

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is His delight.

PROVERBS 21:27

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination; how much more when he brings it with wicked intent!

Chapter 11

A BROKEN SPIRIT AND CONTRITE HEART

NOTES

N

o one knew what King Hezekiah did apart from the fact that he was sick to the point of death and the Lord sent Prophet Isaiah to tell him to put his house in order and prepare to die. And the king turned his face toward the wall and prayed tearfully to the Lord, reminding Him how he had walked before Him in truth and with a loyal heart. He wept bitterly with a humbled heart. Isaiah delivered the message and was walking away; but before he could walk out of the palace, the Lord changed His mind and cancelled the death verdict.

2 KINGS 20:5

"Return and tell Hezekiah the leader of My people, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the LORD."

The Lord forgave whatever sins he might have committed and rewarded him with fifteen more years on the throne.

When David the king, committed an abominable crime of adultery and initiated the assassination of Bathsheba's husband, one of his loyal soldier, in order to conceal his sin of adultery; God sent His prophet to him to declare a judgment upon him: there was a declaration of war in his household; God said He would raise up adversity against him from his own house and take his wives from before him and give them to his neighbors. God said He would expose David's sins openly before the sun.

When Prophet Nathan finished declaring the words of judgment from God, David lamented and cried:

2 SAMUEL 12: 13
"*I have sinned against the LORD."*

In Psalms 51 when David was in great distress and sorrow because of this sin he committed, he wrote:
PSALMS 51:1-4

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions; and my sin is always before me.

Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight-That You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge.

It was a sorrowful plea for forgiveness. The Lord saw his spirit, that it was sorrowfully broken because of the sin; the Lord saw that he was really sorry and repentant. So the Lord spoke through the Prophet, a word of mercy:

2 SAMUEL 12:13-14
"…And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.

"However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die."

THE MAN WHO DENIED JESUS
What sin is greater than denying Jesus Christ? Is there any greater evil a child of God could commit than turning his back at His Lord and Master Jesus Christ? Denying vehemently and swearing intensely that he has never had anything to do with Him. I think that to be the father of all transgressions: Denying Jesus Christ.

But Simon Peter, His most vocal and active member did just that in the midst of serious crisis. He denied ever knowing Him; he denied ever having anything to do with Him, and he even swore to prove his assertion. He denied Him bluntly.

From afar off, he caught the staring eyes of Jesus Christ, and he got the message instantly. He had renounced his ever-loving Master; he had sworn he never knew the Man who made him walk on the Sea of Galilee and turned him to an enviable star overnight; he said he never knew the Man who took him to the Mount of Transfiguration and made him see part of His heavenly glory and granted him a rare privilege of seeing face to face: Moses and Elijah, the Old Testament Prophets whom neither had his great-grandfather nor any of his colleagues seen before. He turned his back at his Best Friend, Master and Creator. He cried bitterly and cried for forgiveness.

LUKE 22:61-62

And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." So Peter went out and wept bitterly.

Jesus forgave him and still, later, turned to him and gave him a special commission:
JOHN 21:15

So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs."

THE MAN WHO DIED WITH HIS ENEMIES

Let me give you another instance. Samson was already down at Zero Point. The erstwhile captain of the Israelites army; the Terror to the Philistines, the famous superhuman who captured 300 foxes with his hands and set fire on their tails. He disregarded his anointing in the room of a Gazan prostitute and rubbished his Nazarite vows on the lap of Delilah.

When the Holy Spirit backed off him, and was left alone empty, unshielded and shallow; the enemies got him and plucked out his eyes. He became a slave and a grinder of corn in the Philistine's dungeon. Bringing him to their National Theatre to make him dance and display before their nobles and the commoners while they make jest of him was his lowest ebb. At that point, he cried to the Lord in sorrowful penitence:

JUDGES 16:28

Then Samson called to the LORD, saying, "O Lord GOD, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me, I pray, just this once, O God, that I may with one blow take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes!"

And God listen to his voice and granted him forgiveness and gave him the desires of his heart at that pitiful state. On that day, he killed all the State Governors of the Philistines, all the Federal Ministers and Military Commanders including the Service Chiefs were all killed in a single day.

The Bible says all the nobles and the high personalities who had gathered in the National Auditorium to watch him – the Enemy of the State, displaying, were killed. He killed in a single day more than he had ever killed in his life-time, because God listened to him and answered his prayers. In Hebrews 11:32-33, he was fortunately admitted into the Hebrews Hall of Fame as among those:

"…who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,…"

THERE IS A TYPE OF OFFERING AND SACRIFICE THAT THE HOLY GOD CAN NOT REJECT:

David, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, said it in one of his Psalms:
PSALMS 51:17

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heartThese, O God, You will not despise.

THAT IS THE SACRED SACRIFICE AND OFFERING WHICH GOD CAN NOT REJECT: SORROWFUL REPENTANCE.

What is your state of heart? You feel, you have disappointed the Lord? You have served the Lord with defiled sacrifices and abominable offerings of your immoral conducts. Your spiritual life is not what it is supposed to be. You fall and rise all the time and feel abhorred by the Lord your God.

You so much desire to Operate in the High Places, but sins of immorality is holding you down. You want to possess your possession, but your lower level of faith disappoints you all the time. Like Peter, probably, you too have on one or more occasions denied the Lordship of Jesus Christ through your compromising life. Like Judas, may be, you too have betrayed your Lord before your friends; you have taken His grace in vain and rubbished His anointing upon your life.

WHAT IS THE SACRIFICES AND OFFERINGS THE LORD GOD WOULD NOT REJECT? BROKEN SPIRIT AND CONTRITE HEART.

Have true repentance from inside of your heart, asking Him for His Mercy and Loving Kindness.

Have you failed Him ONCE? He will give you ANOTHER chance.

Amen.

Chapter 12

TESTIMONIES FROM THE PREVIOUS BOOKS

Have you been blessed reading any of the previous books? Many lives have been touched and a lot of people have been blessed tremendously, reading these inspiring books. Below are some of the testimonies from the previous books.

Sir,
The book "SHUTTING THE MOUTHS OF LIONS" help me a lot and your story gave me hope about my younger brother is misbehaving. I believe the Lord that made your vision a reality will see him through….Thanks. TY

Sir,
The book: "Shutting the Mouths of Lions" have boosted my faith to withstand lions (of any form) in the pathway to fulfillment of my glorious destiny. The Lord bless you. GMK
Sir,
Now I know why my childhood was faced with sin…I was scared of ministerial assignment. But now my eyes are opened to the roaring of the lions, and I know that through the help of God, I will be an overcomer. PRECIOUS

Sir,
The books: "Walking on the Waters" ,
"Walking Through the Fire" and "Shutting the Mouths of Lions". I can't just stop reading them over and over again. Jehovah will keep you till the end. FUNKE.

Sir,

It just has to be God that inspired to write "Shutting the Mouths of Lions", or how else can we describe accurate, nerve breaking illustrations of Biblical stories modernized to contemporary situations thereby making the stories easily comprehensible and the message to jump out of the pages of the book into the spirit to do an eternal work to our lives. On eternity can reveal the impact and effects of these books on various lives. EJ

Sir,
I just finished the book "Shutting the Mouths of Lions" I got at the last Power Night, I was greatly blessed and inspired to hold on to God that the lions after my destiny won't succeed in Jesus Name. I started the book today and found it difficult to drop. KRISTIE.

Sir,

I just finished reading the book: "Shu tting the Mouths of Lions". The Chapter Two was spirit- filled and I prayerfully read it. It inspired me more that what God had decreed must surely come to pass and no man can stop it. Victoria.

Sir, I have read three of your books: "By Faith Conquering Kingdoms", "Walking Through the Fire", and this last one given to us at the last Power Night: "Shutting the Mouths of Lions" which got me on my knees several times. It's a book I would recommend to young ministers of God, so that our life will not be like that "minister of God from Africa". MA

Sir,
"This book (Walking Through the Fire) will not have been complete without chapters 1, 5 and 11"...it is one of the most exciting, captivating and instructive book I have ever read. I finished reading it.

Chapter 1. I almost jumped this chapter judging from the table of content.....due to over familiarity with the story. But when I slipped through and saw: "They were three of the Governors of the Nation."...I knew it was the Spirit of God who led you. It was so contemporary that I saw for the first time the reality of that story. The power of description and use of language were quite inspiring above all it was an eye opener to the ways of our lord God Almighty.

Chapter 5. Waiting....I also do not want to miss it. I felt for you and at the same time I laughed at the ordeals you went through. Any way your story seems to look like mine now.

Chaper 11. It was the last straw that broke the camel's back. It kept me glued and on the edge all through. This chapter really touched me. It was a call for me to reconsider my ways if I must make it to the throne of Grace. Indeed I was richly blessed. T.A

Dear Sir,
I read through the "Walking on The Waters" and "Walking Through the Fire" I was really blessed and it encourage me more and renew my focus on heaven than this earth. Fisayo
Sir,
I just finish reading one of your books which I collected from a friend, Walking Through the Fire to be precise and it has really blessed my life and it's affecting me positively, reminding me that I have a place I'm going after my journey through this earth. KOLA

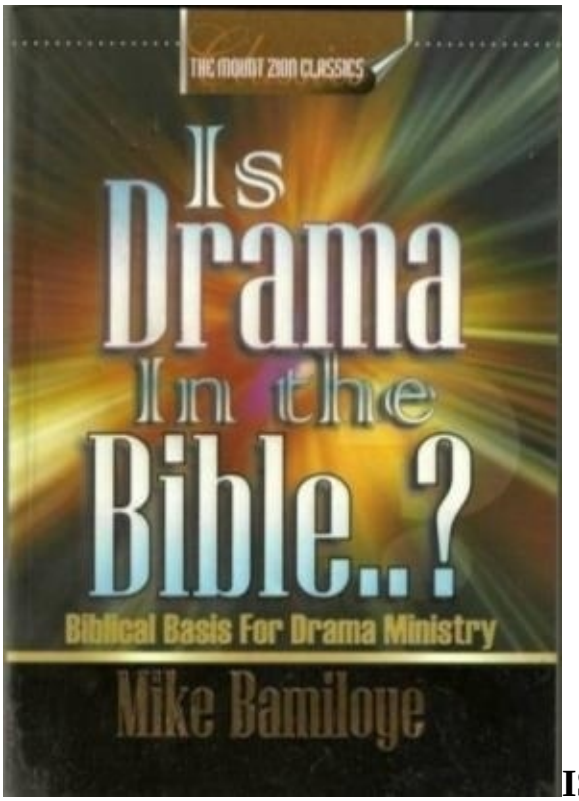
Dear Sir,
Your book, "Walking through the Fire" just reached me on my sick bed at UCH. I am about going through a surgery test. The book is God's confirmation that He's with me.
O.O.

Dear sir,
I just finished reading two of your books: "Walking on The Waters" and "Walking Through the Fire", I am not a drama minister and I doubt if I am called to serve in drama ministry, but thank you so much for putting the secrets of your God-given success in these books. I have learnt a lot from your personal stories and testimonies in those books. D.O., Lagos.
SEND US YOUR TESTIMONIES

You can send us your testimonies through our email addresses or simply text it to our phone number. God bless you abundantly.

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mikebamiloye@gmail.com

OTHER BOOKS BY MIKE BAMILOYE

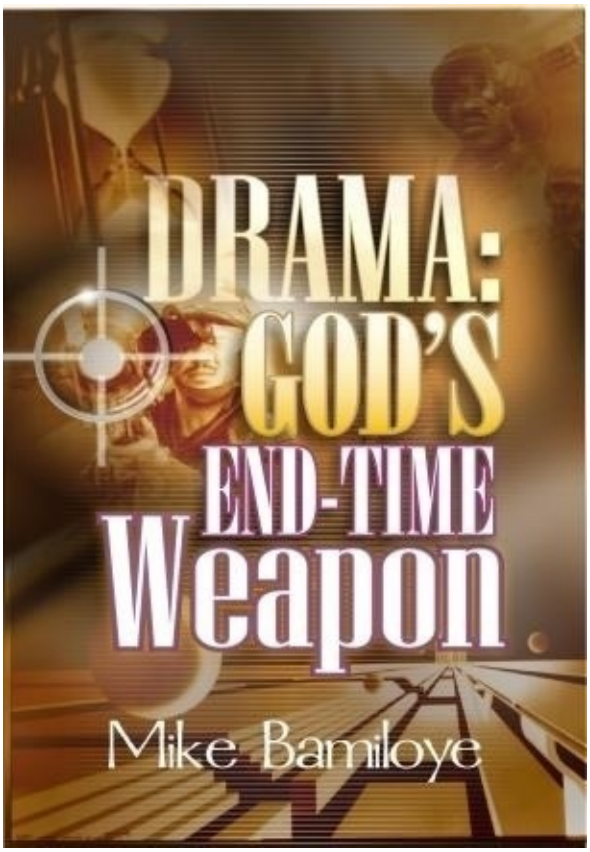


IS DRAMA IN THE BIBLE ?

For the first time in the history of Drama Evangelism, a scriptural defense, a biblical justification for drama

ministry is being presented I this book.

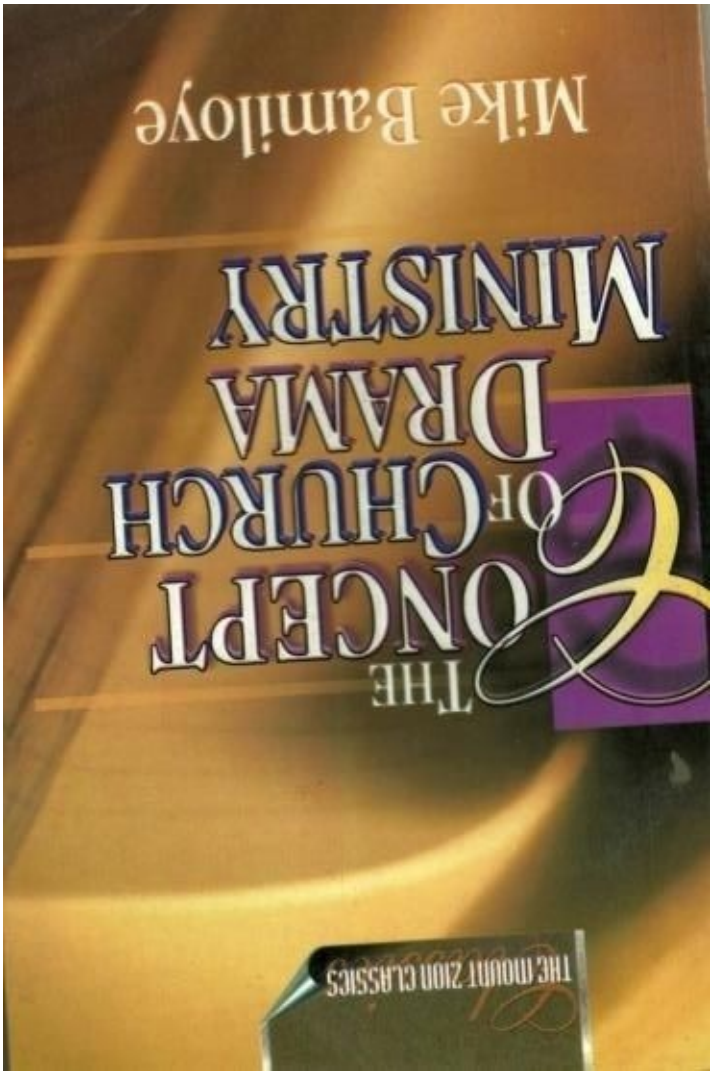
Is Drama in the Bible? Does behaving like demons, acting like harlots and herbalists or witchdoctor on stage or film has any scriptural justification? These and other questions are answered in this book. It contains some astounding revelation and scriptural mysteries on drama ministry embedded in the Bible.



DRAMA: GOD'S END TIME WEAPON

This book is written to challenge and enlighten all ministers of God with the peculiar gifts and calling of Drama and Music. They are made to understand how important and potent the gifts in their hand are. Great emphasis is placed on Drama and Music ministry as potent weapons of God at this endtime.

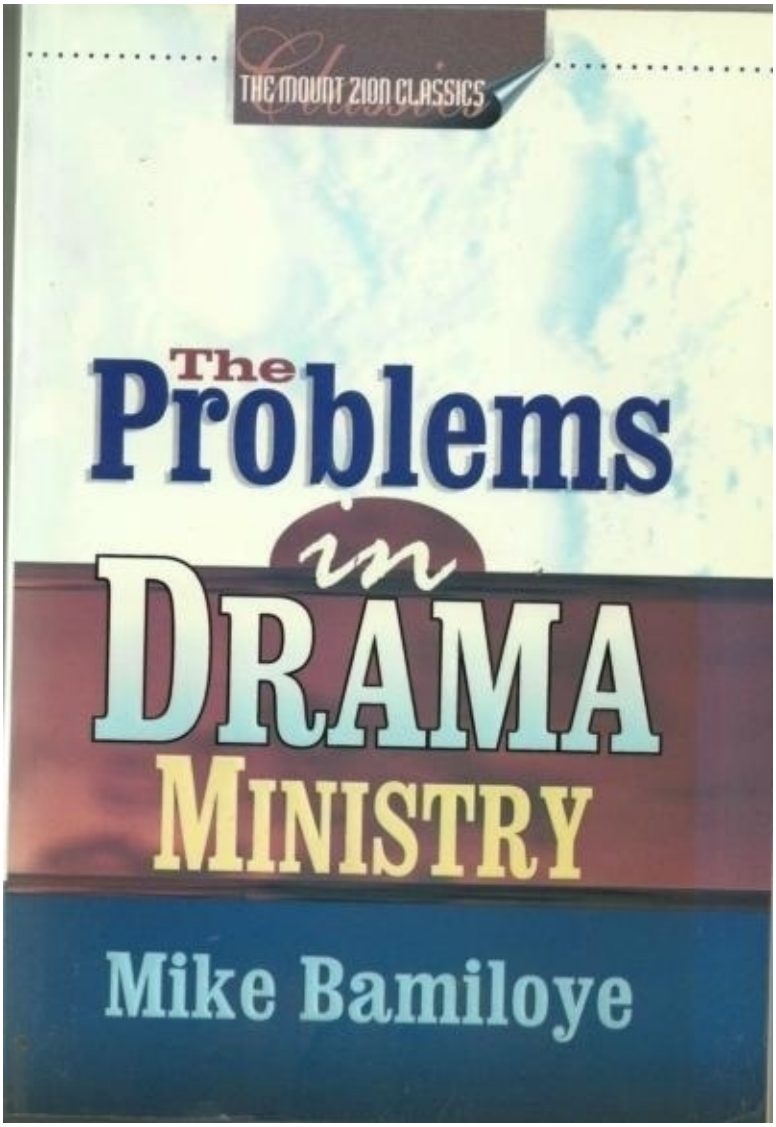
The Lord made us see, through this book, how the church of God in Nigeria had lost the power of the weapon of Drama many years ago, and how the Power of God is revisiting the gift again today.



THE CONCEPT OF CHURCH DRAMA MINISTRY

Among the majority of all existing drama ministries today, the church drama ministry carries the

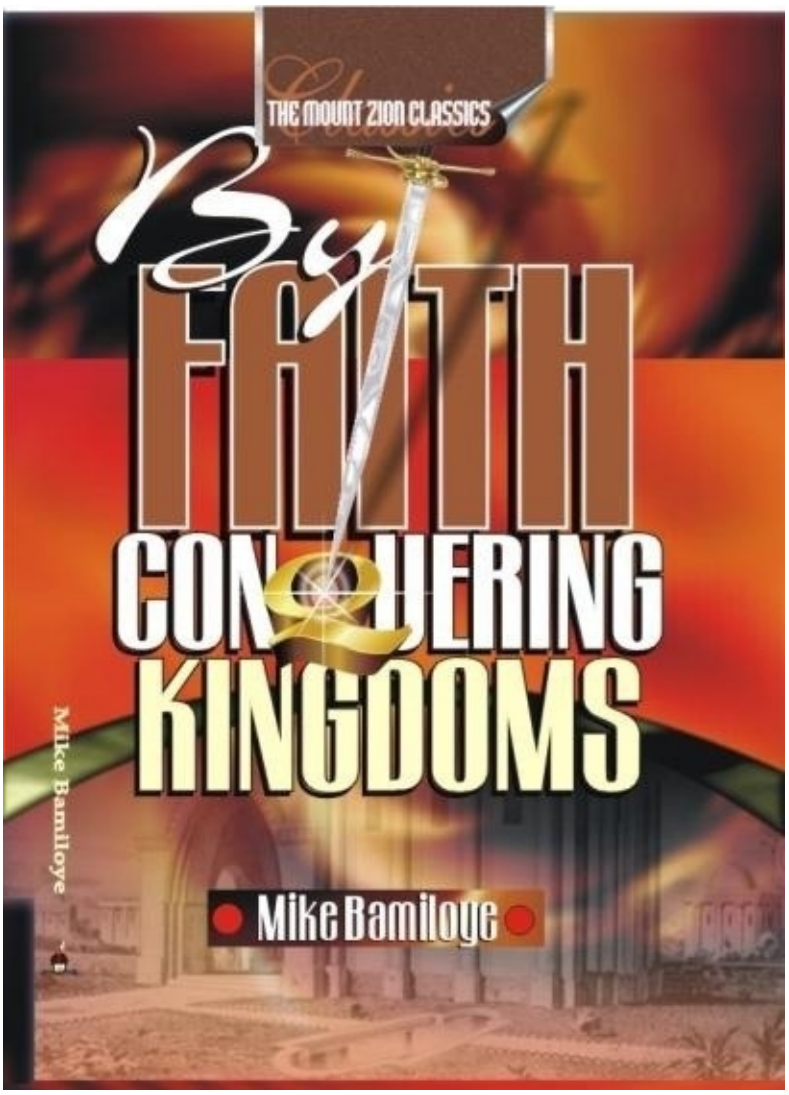
larger percentage. And many of these church drama groups do not know the normal functions and responsibilities expected of a church drama ministry/group. Inside this book are principles and structures of church drama ministry. In addition, the book shows the Pastors the way they can successfully control and supervise the drama groups in their churches and make them profitable to the church. It reveals both the primary and secondary roles of a church drama group.



THE PROBLEMS IN DRAMA MINISTRY

There are several problems confronting the ministry of drama and film productions. These problems are both spiritual and physical, resulting in slowing down the divine agenda for drama ministry at this end-time.

Many drama and music ministers possess the vision and zeal, but lack certain knowledge which hinders their move and render them frustrated in ministry. So this book contains many secrets to a lot of avoidable problems in drama ministry.

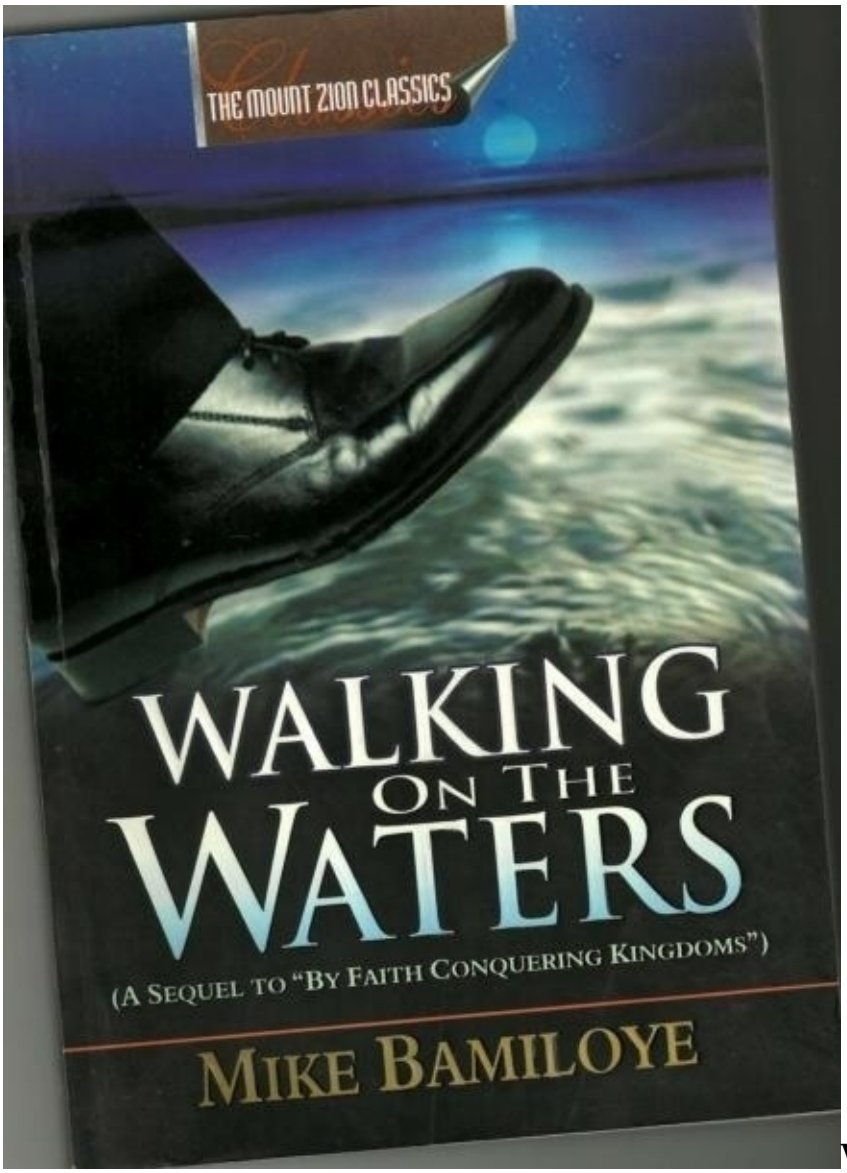


BY FAITH
CONQERING
KINGDOM

Some people have been called by God to fulfill great purposes for God and do mighty exploits, but they have never been able to do so. So children of God

who are to mount up with wings as eagles have never been able to fly beyond the ability of the chickens. This book supply answers to many questions in the heart of many children of God who have wanted to know how to fulfill their destiny in life and fit into God's divine program for their lives.

Knowing how to walk with Him by faith to make a man be what God wants him to be is what this book is all about.



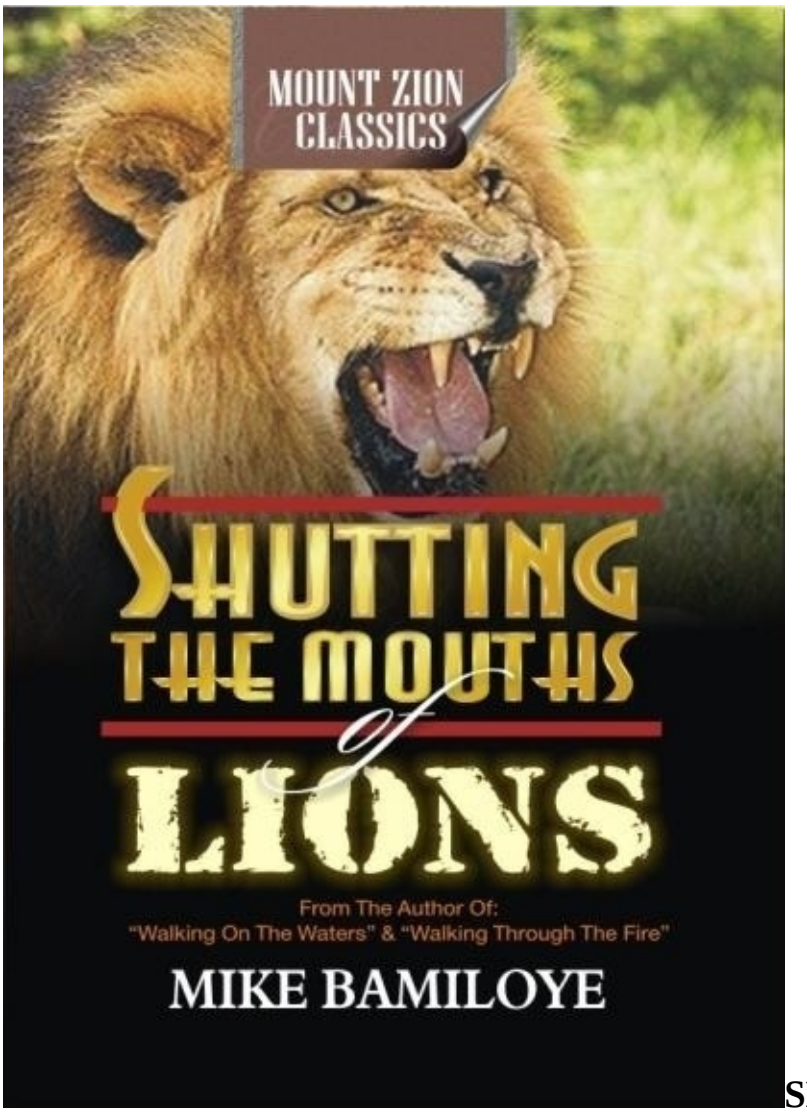
WALKING ON THE WATERS

This book is about walking in the realm of the supernatural. It is about living in the territory of the miraculous .It is about walking in faith; about doing exploits in life

and ministry if one is able to look unto Jesus Christ without shifting focus. It contains so many revelations, expositions and testimonies of the Author. Inside this book are stories of walking on the seas and sinking in the waters of life. It shows the saving power of Jesus Who delivered Peter from sinking completely. Reading this book will motivate you to walk with faith in the Lord's presence.

WALKING THROUGH THE FIRE This is a

message of encouragemen
t and comfort
to all those
who are passing through divers terrible situations in life and ministry. It is about strengthening and hardening of faith to walking through the fiery furnace of Christian and ministerial life. It is about trusting life in whatever situation of life one finds himself.
If you have read WALKING ON THE WATERS where you have been inspired to do mighty exploits for the Lord then, the revelation gotten is not enough without reading WALKING THROUGH THE FIRE.



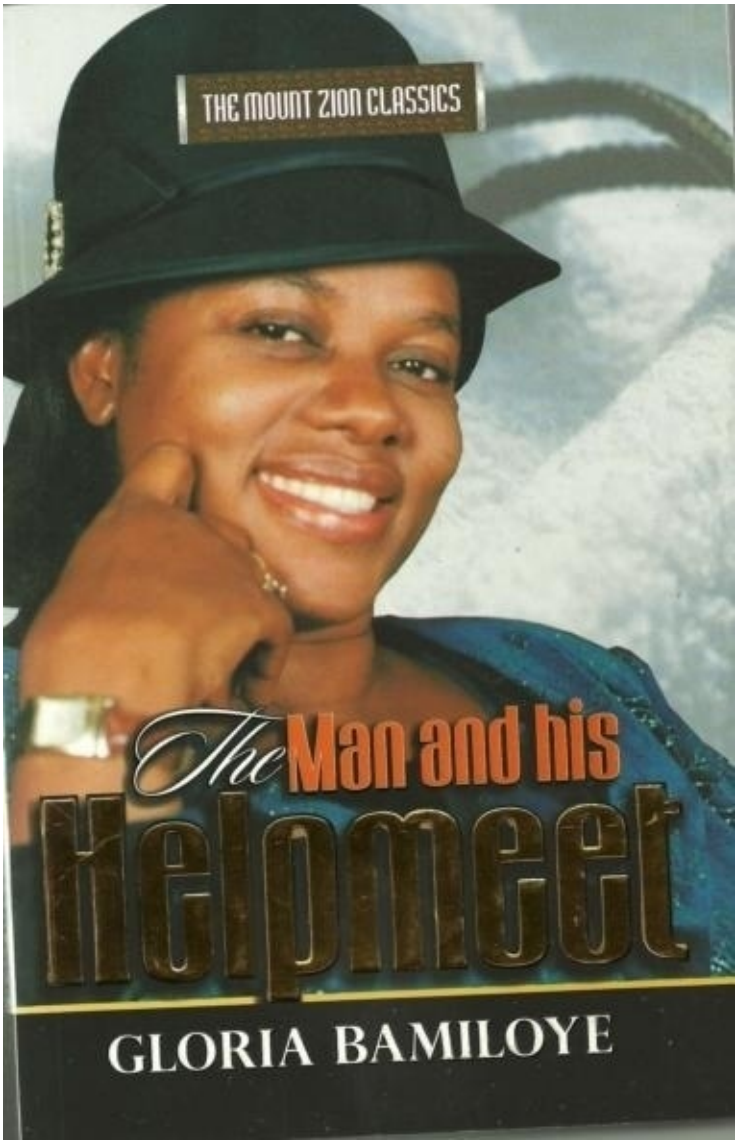
SHUTTING THE MOUTHS OF LIONS

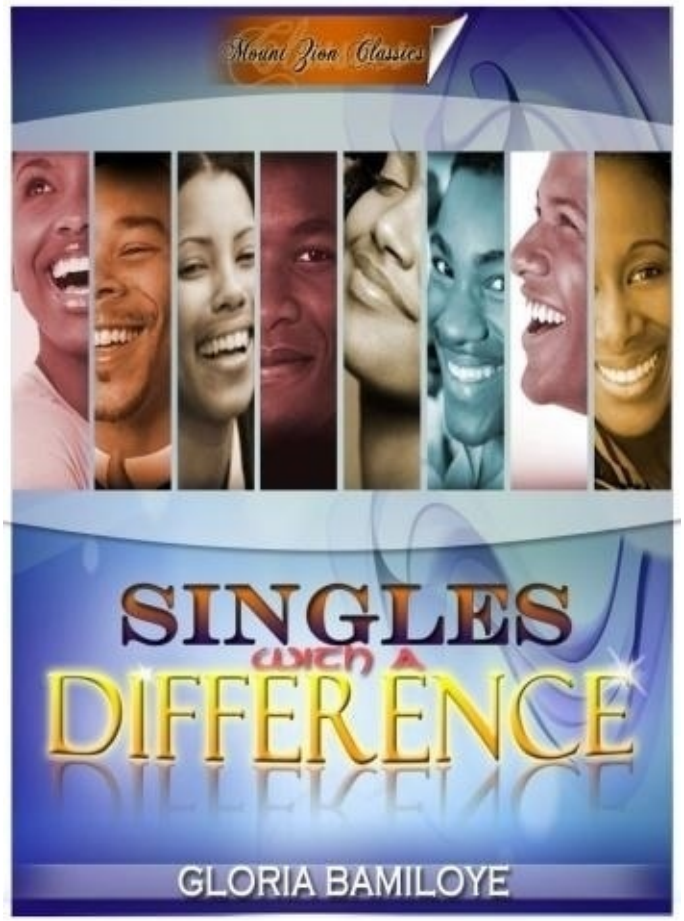
There are many encounters with lions in the Bible. Daniel slept overnight in their den; Samson slew one of them with his bare hand; one of them tore a prophet of God for

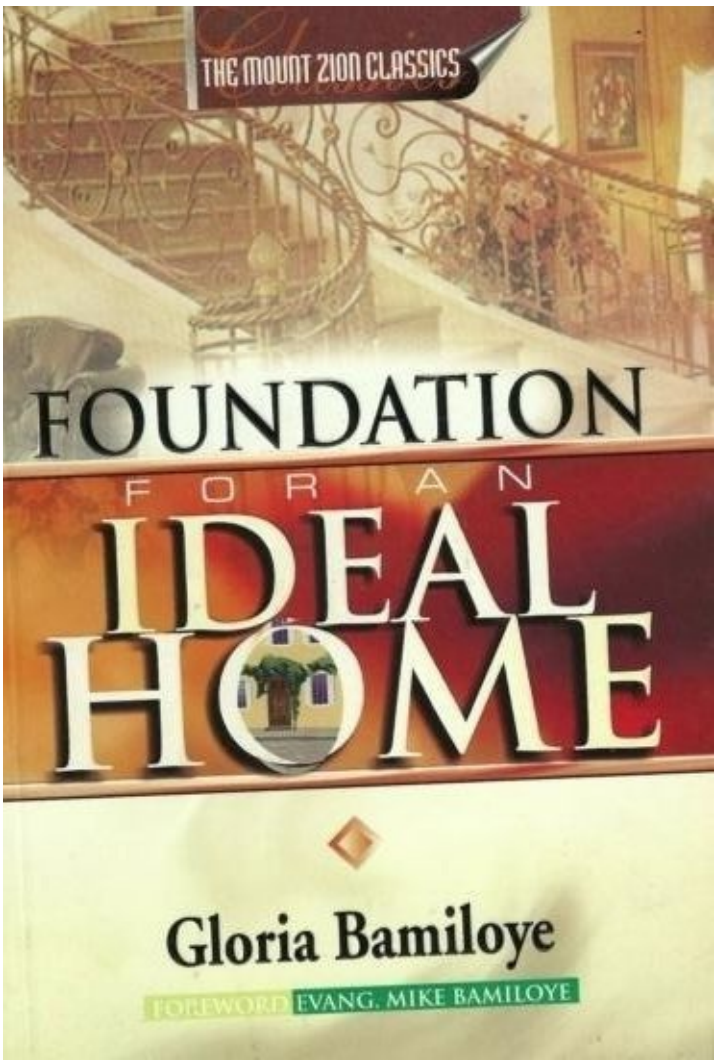
disobeying the Lord's instructions and David slew one when he was a very young shepherd. Those were physical lions. However, what do you do with the spiritual lions of all ages which have killed many people of God. How do you handle "The Roaring Lion". This book is about staying close and walking closely with "The Lion of the Tribe of Judah" to be empowered over the "Roaring Lion". In the Bible are stories of those the lion killed and the stories of those who shut the Lions' mouths by faith

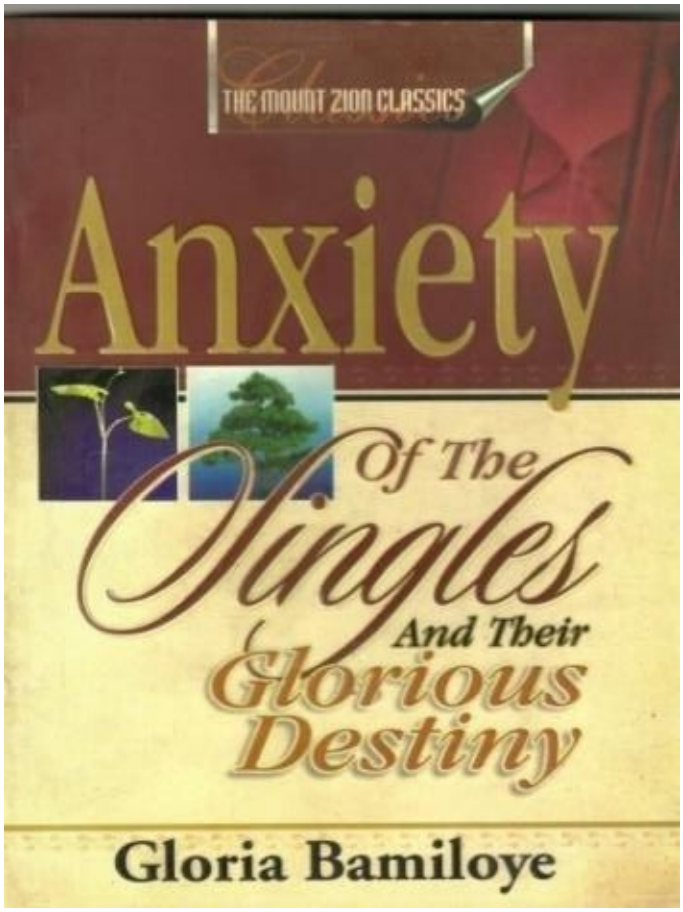
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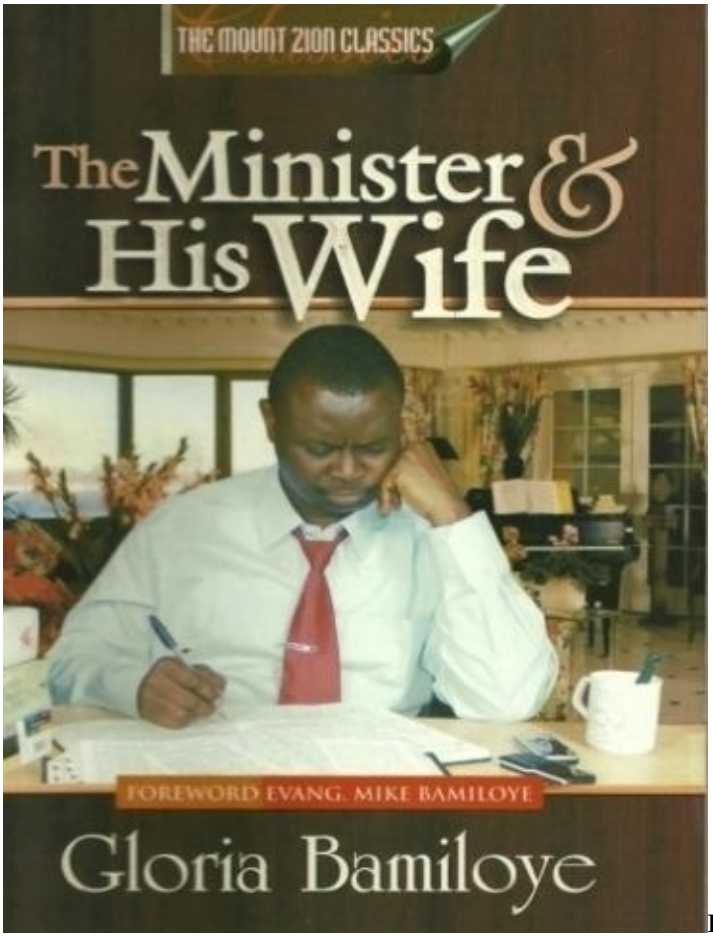



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