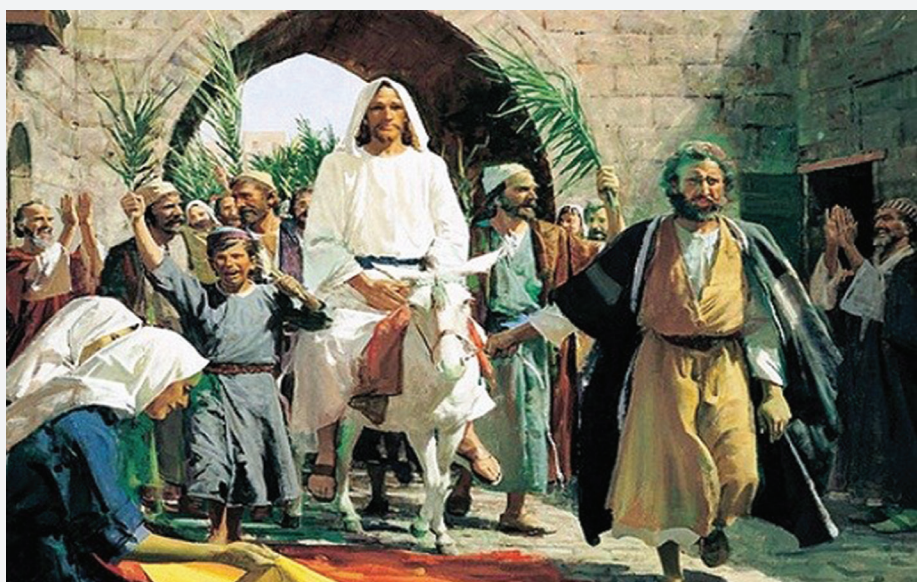




GOING TO JERUSALEM

By Anthony 'Yinka Adesile

Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? Father, save Me from this hour? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name. (John 12:27-28)



We have come to a season that the global Church recognises as a time to reflect on the finished work of Christ on the cross of Calvary. Many can use the time to do others things apart from Christ but our goal as a Church must be on Christ and Him being the only sure way to the Father. That is why this discourse is relevant; going to Jerusalem. Sometimes we are beset with some situations that we know will try our patience to the core. What we are about to face or currently face could even be of such magnitude that that the potential to lose what we cherish dearly, or even one's life, is foreboding. Yet we know it to be part of the plan of God. We understand it deep down to be a test of our ability; such that will eventually bring glory to God, either through the salvation of our souls, returning to the LORD after years of riotous living or maturing

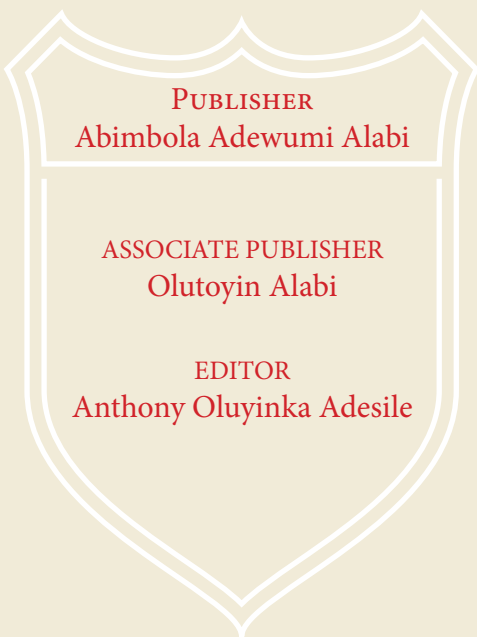
and/or stepping into the divine will and purpose of God. Thus was the experience of our Lord Jesus Christ in the passage of Scripture above. Which brings us to the story of yet another man in the Scripture who was confronted with a foreboding future similar to that of Jesus Christ. And in his case, many who should know better tried to persuade him from taking the step he knew he had to take. Now when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, "what do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus (Acts 21:12-13) But we do know that God used his captivity after going to Jerusalem to reach many, including those in the upper class whom he might not have been opportune to reach. Not to mention the many great words of wisdom and work of ministry that were credited to him. These achievements came because he simply followed the example of His Saviour and Master, Jesus Christ. Going to Jerusalem can be costly

but the potential benefits are of eternal value. In this day and age, it is often very difficult to recognise that most times, the way of success in God is not paved in gold and precious stones, but in trials and challenges that overwhelm even the strong and mighty. That's why we need to understand that most important thing: purpose. Not ambition but purpose. There must be purpose in going to Jerusalem. Purpose focuses one on the plan and the process of fulfilment. Purpose provides a clear pathway on what is to be done and the expected outcome. But the process of attending to purpose may require us taking that troubling step: that which Jesus knew He had to take. Taking that step could be costly. A man of the world coming to submit to God would have to endure the brutal response from the world; a man of influence being called into the work of missions would choose to become a nobody in order to reach his or her targeted group, and the list goes on. This critical place that every man or woman of purpose must reach can be called, the point of decision. It's a defining place where one either chooses to proceed or not to proceed. And what if one declines? Had Paul chosen not to go, he would have settled for the status quo and probably wouldn't be one of the

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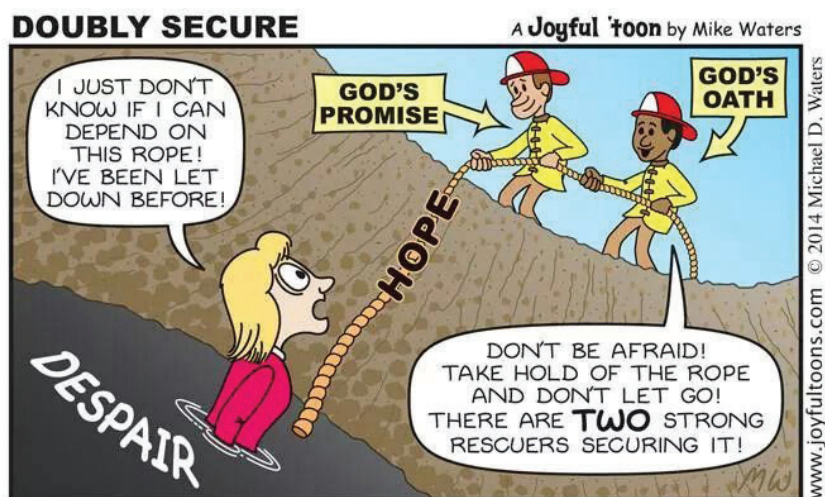
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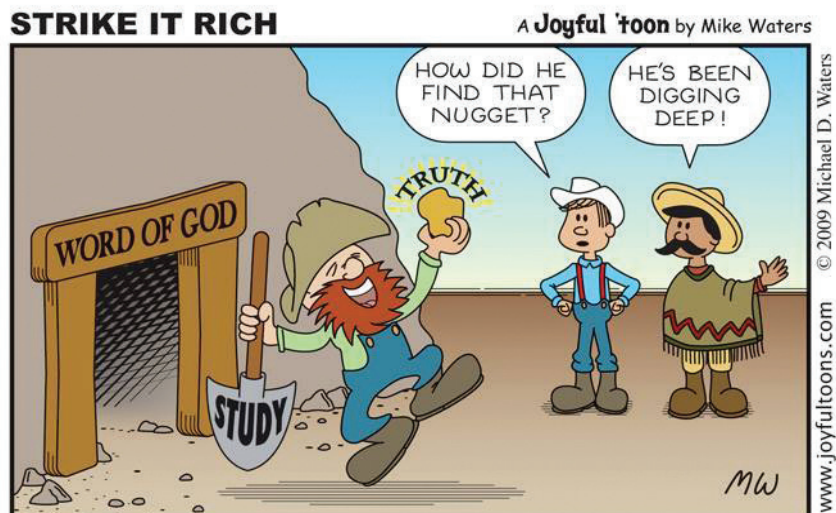
heroes of faith. All that he would have accomplished might not have amounted to much. But he had understanding of what he had to do. He knew he had to go to Jerusalem for it was part of the plan for him. Yet he knew that death awaited him should he go. He also knew that God wanted him to go. It was important to God that he went to seek out the lost. He was qualified to do the work. Which brings us to another important aspect of life; being qualified or approved to fulfil God's plan. Even when we do not know that we can, God approves. When Peter was still a timid but reactive man, Jesus called him Rock. When we are faced with the challenge of the next step, we must recognise that it is to the glory of God, and that He has pre-qualified us. Back to the option of choice. Jesus knew the hour of death had drawn near; he also knew that He could choose to abandon the purpose or the project and return to His Father in heaven. Yet the thought of man whom He created being doomed forever filled His heart with determination to proceed. It was for this purpose that He came and for the same purpose, He must accomplish and glorify His Father. He proceeded and set us an example; that when we are faced with an option, we must seed God's glory and grace to proceed.

Written By
Pastor Anthony 'Yinka Adesile



God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged.

- HEBREWS 6:18 NIV



and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

- PROVERBS 2:4-5 NIV

Mountains and Valleys

The LORD said to Moses at Mount Sinai . . . — Leviticus 25:1

The Torah portion for this week is a double reading, Behar-Bechukotai, from Leviticus 25:1–27:34. Behar means “the mountain,” and Bechukotai means “My decrees.” The Haftorah is from Jeremiah 16:19–17:14.

By Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein

The drive to Jerusalem is always special. Most visitors approach Jerusalem from Tel-Aviv where Ben-Gurion Airport is located, but just about any direction you come from will offer the same vista. Jerusalem is surrounded by mountains and Jerusalem herself is at one of the highest altitudes in Israel.

The Jewish sages teach that Jerusalem’s geography is not accidental; it is symbolic. Any approach to God includes mountains and valleys, ups and downs, highs and lows. Both the peaks and the vales are part of walking a spiritual path.

This week we read a double Torah portion. We read Behar, meaning “the mountain” as in *“The LORD said to Moses at Mount Sinai”* We also read Bechukotai, meaning “My decrees” as in *“If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands”* (Leviticus 26:3). Taken together these two titles represent the balance between inspirational highs and the less inspiring walks through the valleys of our lives.

Mountains represent the high points in our lives — milestones such as getting married or having children. Or they can be inspirational moments like watching a gorgeous sunset or the waves of the ocean. They can also be spiritual moments when we feel deeply connected to God or moved by His spirit.

In the Bible we often find that such spiritual moments took place on mountains – like the giving of the Torah

on Mount Sinai or the prophet Elijah’s great spiritual victory against the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. From these high points in our lives we can appreciate the beautiful view of the life around us.

Then there are the valleys. Sometimes these are difficult times in our lives, but not necessarily. The valleys also represent “regular” life. The day-in and day-out routines that occupy most of our life. These times are not so inspiring or satisfying. It’s putting one foot in front of the other and walking on until we reach the next high point. During these times in life we simply follow God’s decrees, walking in obedience and with faith. We do the right thing every day even when it’s hard and no one is looking, or even when we don’t feel like it.

When we read these two portions together we remember that we need both forms of worship on our journey toward God. Sometimes we need to feel inspired and connected; other times we need to simply walk in obedience. As we keep our eyes fixed on the ultimate goal, we will succeed.

With prayers for shalom, peace,

Rabbi Eckstein

Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein
Founder and President



What did Ruth see that Naomi did not initially see?

By Dr Abimbola Alabi

“And Naomi said, See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.

And Ruth said, Urge me not to leave you or to turn back from following you; for where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people and your God my God.” Ruth 1:15-6.

Naomi, Ruth’s mother in law had seen so much of tragedies and failures that made her put limitations of what God can do and had resolved to just fold her hands in an all hope is lost attitude.

Ruth had inner convictions while Naomi was looking at the facts of life what we sometimes call the empirical evidence.

Apparently Naomi had knowledge of Yahweh that she and her late husband shared with their two sons from where Ruth as a wife to one of the sons had a purposeful encounter with the God of destiny.

Ruth in the verse above positively confessed that Naomi’s people shall be her people and she knew inside of her that her journey to purposeful fulfillment of her life destiny was in following Naomi to connect with her people.

She did not allow the incidents of the death of her father in-law, her husband and his brother to shake her off her God given destiny.

How are we today allowing one or two incidents to derail our God given destiny?

One experience of disappointment had made some people walk out of marriage, business and personal relationships. Yet clearly at the beginning you know what God has clearly told you about the relationship.

We do easily find offence with the church, pastor or ministry where God has specifically assigned us to blossom and be fulfilled.

It could even be an idea that heaven has revealed to us that will prosper us but two or three disappointments has made us to abandon that dream.

To some it might be failure of an examination and you had given up on the career and profession altogether.

Today I want to remind you of the inner conviction of Ruth that made her stay true and because she believed, confessed and acted on her purpose, her life today is linked with the lineage of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Many Christians today wrongly completely depend on the social media to form opinions and take life crucial decisions that should be bible based.

Are you one of them?

Let God be your guide, search the scriptures and spend time in prayers.

Be like Ruth and stay true to your destiny and do not limit yourself to the current circumstances of life like Naomi initially did.

Dr Abimbola Alabi



Where is the Perfect Man?



By Dr Abimbola Alabi

Is there a perfect man today?

Your likely answer could possibly be “ Nobody is perfect”

However have you seen a peaceful man or woman around?

Have you seen an upright man around?

Observe around you today and look for that man / woman with maturity of character who has consistency of character

Can one rely on your words?

Do you remain true from morning till evening or your character changes with the weather?

The power of sin pulls down but Apostle Paul says, “Sin shall not have dominion over you”.

The man /woman of God experiences daily deliverance because as contained in the above verses The Lord is their strength in times of trouble.

Thanks be unto God who keeps giving us victory.

God told Abraham walk before me and be thou perfect.

Perfection is attainable Apostle Paul says follow me as I follow Christ

“Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace. But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off. But the salvation of the righteous is of the Lord: he is their strength in the time of trouble.” *Psalm 37:37-39*

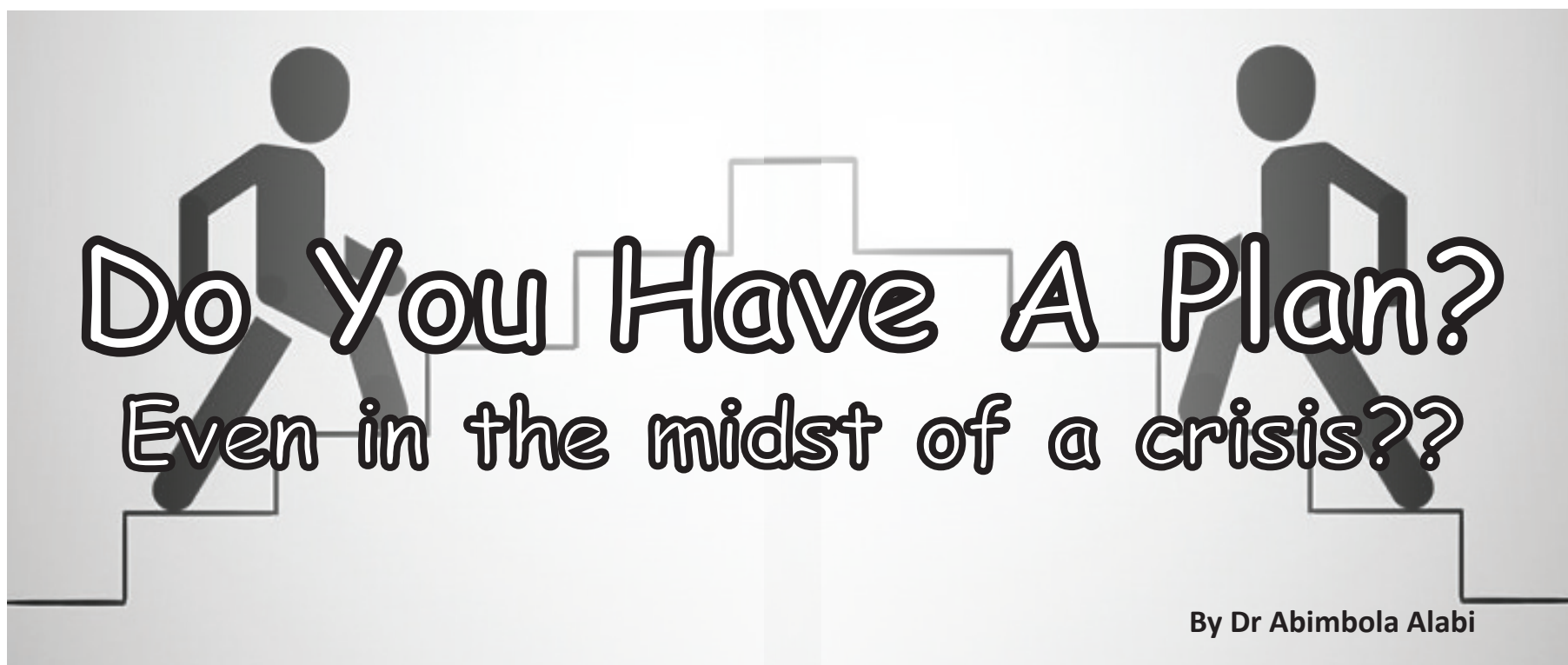
Don't lower your standards today and say it is impossible to be of consistent character.

The perfect man exists and the characteristics are stated in the above scriptures.

Make a quality decision today to follow after our Lord Jesus Christ totally and attain that level so that when mankind is looking for that perfect man to observe your life would be there for them to see as example of a true follower of Christ in all areas of your purposeful life.

Dr Abimbola Alabi





“So she said, “As the Lord your God lives, I do not have bread, only a handful of flour in a bin, and a little oil in a jar; and see, I *am* gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.” And Elijah said to her, “**Do not fear; go and do as you have said**, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make *some* for yourself and your son. For thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth.’” So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for *many* days. The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke by Elijah.” 1Kings 17:12-16

Do you really have a plan that God can use to bring about your miracle?

It is evident from the story above that the widow of Zarephath did not just sit and wallow in the misery surrounding her she kept thinking even when it was difficult to think through. She looked at her meager resources and had little tasks of what to do.

God always show up to bless our thoughts, which are essentially our plans.

Do you have clear thoughts that could lead you out of the situation you are in or you are just blank, negative and cursing everybody you think are responsible for the situation you are in?

The platform of miracle to this widow is in “**Do not fear; go and do as you have said**” Elijah could connect his faith and anointing from God to this woman’s plans and as you can see God came in to the plans and perfected it to a miracle of sustenance that lasted as long as it was needed.

Today don’t just sit down and be negative about your situation, engage yourself in thinking through and turn over your thoughts to the WORD of God and in it there is LIFE that will not only bring hope and faith but will change your negative outlook to your situation and your miracle is in the plan you have.

Don’t say after all she said she would die after she had finished her plans obviously God whose thoughts are higher than our thoughts intervened. God always blesses what is in your hands, your plans, your thoughts.

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, “ Ephesians 3:20

What are you asking or thinking of today?

God is able to come in and perfect those plans for HIS Glory **Do not fear go and do as you have said, ... “So she went away and did according to the word of Elijah; and she and he and her household ate for *many* days. The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry, according to the word of the LORD which He spoke by Elijah.”**

Dr Abimbola Alabi

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What Banner is your Family Displaying?

By Dr Abimbola Alabi



“So the people of Israel did everything as the LORD had commanded Moses. Each clan and family set up camp and marched under their banners exactly as the LORD had instructed them.” Number 2: 34

God told Moses to arrange the children of Israel according to their families and each of them was to fly their banners conspicuously identifying them.

The root of the twelve tribe’s banners originated from the blessings the Patriarch Israel blessed them with as he was departing.

What are the Blessings on your family from generation to generation?

God is always about the family and the identity of the family is linked with the purpose of that family.

What is your family known for?

How have you personally identify with this purpose?

You should go beyond just what is your family name and clearly identify what is the **true purpose that God has raised your family up** for and how is it functioning?

The plan of God has always been for each family to possess their possessions as we saw Moses and Joshua did with the Israelites.

How are you doing today as a family member?

Is the name of your family synonymous with the Blessings God has pronounced on it?

When the name of your family is mentioned what does it mean to God and the rest of mankind that knows it?

You have a role today in helping to shape

the identity of your family.

It is not just a name, your family has a history and a reputation.

Beyond that God has a purpose for your family.

Rise today to make sure that the banner that your family is displaying is manifesting the purpose and the Blessings God has purposed it to be.

Will you lead your family today as the Lord instructed?

Dr Abimbola Alabi



EMPOWERING YOU TO FULFILL YOUR GOD GIVEN DESTINY



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‘How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.’

ACTS 10v 38

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