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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Jonah 1.

(2014)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.

If you think items presented on this site to be in error, please let me know and I will gladly reconsider the content.

Jonah 1.

Topics.

- The LORD tells Jonah to go to Nineveh and speak against the city.
- Jonah boards a ship and flees to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.
- A storm arose and the mariners cried out to their God while Jonah slept.
- The mariners tell Jonah to call out to his God so they would not perish.
- The mariners cast lots to know why the storm has come upon them.
- Jonah tells the mariners his God is the God of heaven and the men fear.
- Jonah tells the mariners to throw him into the sea.
- The sailors pray "O LORD, let us not perish," and throw Jonah into the sea.
- The LORD appoints a great fish to swallow up Jonah.

INTRODUCTION: because the story of Jonah contains the story of a fish swallowing a man, many dismiss the book of Jonah as fiction, but (2 Kings 14:25) mentions Jonah as living during the reign of Jeroboam II (about 793–753 B.C.) and Jesus himself considered Jonah a historical person (Matt. 12:39-41). Unlike other prophetic books, the book of Jonah focuses on the prophet himself rather than on his message. When God sent Jonah to Nineveh he rebelled, was swallowed by the fish, repented, was restored, and preached to Nineveh and they repented and the LORD relented from destroying the city. Since only Jonah himself could have known all the facts the story records, the book lists no author.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

The LORD tells Jonah to go to Nineveh and Speak against the City.

Jonah 1:1-2 ----- ¹Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ²"Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it, for their evil has come up before me."

Amittai: means (faithful).

Nineveh: was founded by Nimrod it was the capital of the Assyria Empire (North Iraq) the people were Assyrians it was a great international power and administrative centre. Jonah is told to speak out against all the evil of Nineveh.

Most modern critical scholars today regard the book as a work of the imagination. Some call it a myth; others an allegory; others a parable; others a didactic story; etc., but this interpretation avoids the miraculous elements in the story, which the critics find it impossible to accept; but it does not do justice to the fact that Jesus very evidently held to the historical authenticity of the book.

He thought of the story as history and taught it as such and the record of him speaking of Jonah is recorded in the New Testament Scriptures in the following three chapters.

1. Jesus answered them (the scribes and Pharisees), "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of *the prophet Jonah*.⁴⁰ For just as *Jonah* was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. ⁴¹The men of

Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the *preaching of Jonah*, and behold, something *greater than Jonah* is here. (Matt. 12:38-41).

2. Jesus said, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except *the sign of Jonah*.” So he left them and departed. (Matt. 16:4).
3. Jesus said, “This generation is an evil generation. It seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the *sign of Jonah*.³⁰ For as *Jonah became a sign* to the people of Nineveh, so will the Son of Man be to this generation.³¹ The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with the men of this generation and condemn them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.³² The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the *preaching of Jonah*, and behold, something *greater than Jonah* is here.” (Luke 11:29-32).

Clearly Jesus thought of the story as history and taught it as such, saying that as Jonah was three days and three nights in the body of the fish, so should the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth, and that the men of Nineveh repented at the preaching of Jonah. Added to this if we deny the miracle of Jonah do we also deny the following wonders and miracles and if we don't why then choose to deny the miracle of Jonah when all the following miracles are also outside of our laws of nature.

- God appearing to Moses in a flame of fire out of a bush and though the bush was burning, it was not being consumed (Exodus 3:2-6).
- Aaron staff turning into a serpent and swallowing up the sorcerers of Egypt staffs. (Exodus 7:10-12).
- The Ten Plagues of Egypt exodus (Exodus chapter seven to chapter twelve).
- God descending on Mount Sinai wrapped in smoke and fire and the whole mountain trembling greatly. (Exodus 19:17-18).
- God opening the mouth of a donkey and the donkey speaking to a man named Balaam and Balaam speaking to the donkey. (Num. 22:27-30). Peter picks up on this story in his writings (2 Peter 2:16).
- God causing the sun to stand still for Joshua and stopping the moon until the nation took vengeance on their enemies. (Joshua 10:13).
- God giving Samson the physical strength to collapse two massive stone pillars on which a house rested and about 3,000 Philistines stood upon its roof. (Judges 16:28-30).
- God sending fire from heaven to consume a burnt offering and wood that was saturated in water and stones and sucking up water that was in a trench. (1 Kings 18:31-40).

Of course there are many more wonders and miracles contained in the Old Testament Scripture that are beyond our laws of nature. To deny the miracles of the Bible is to deny God's awesome creative power. Every Christian who believes in God believe He created the heavens and the earth, yet some find it difficult to believe the simple things like a donkey talking, a plant instantly growing or a man being swallowed by a fish.

If God created a human from the dirt of the earth and Eve from his rib and every living creature from nothing, it is a very simple thing for Him to prepare or create an enormously large fish for the specific purpose of swallowing a man so that his message against Nineveh would not only be believed and result in thousands of men, woman and children being saved from destruction, ruin and death, but also result in the story being told from generation to generation.

Ponder for a moment: all of these wonders and miracles are so far outside of our laws of nature and the laws of the universe that they shock the mind and imprint vivid pictures upon the imagination.

During the time of the Old Testament there was no internet, phones, newspapers etc., so God would perform wonders and miracles that shocked the human mind in such a way that people from all nations would speak of the God of Israel and in this way the name and power of the invisible immortal Almighty God of all creation and source of all life the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob quickly spread.

Added to this, these wonders and miracles are so far outside of our natural laws of nature that they are still spoken of in our modern world. Even Hollywood today is still making blockbuster movies of some of these amazing stories. Those who doubt such biblical stories should keep in mind that it was God who established the laws of nature and of the universe which means that He is not bound by them, but controls them. Every Christian believes God created Adam from the dust of the earth and Eve from his rib and the sun moon and stars by his power, so anything else God does outside of our laws of the universe is but a blink of his eyes and would only need a thimble full of His awesome power by comparison.

Jonah boards a Ship and flees to Tarshish from the Presence of the LORD.

Jonah 1:3 -----³But Jonah rose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.

Tarshish: was an ancient city presumably located on the Atlantic coast of Spain.

Joppa: was a Judean Port on the Mediterranean Sea coast just north of Jerusalem.

Jonah was told to go into the streets of a powerful city of great international influence and start proclaiming in a loud voice all the wicked things they were doing. Imagine, how Jonah would have felt when he heard this, it would be like going into Washington in America and telling the government and the people that God is against the way they are living and if they do not change the LORD will destroy the White House and the city, it is easy to understand why Jonah was afraid, if we did that today, we would fear being labelled as crazy and perhaps taken away in a white coat, in Jonah's day the fear would have been death.

NOTE: when it is noticed that it is not recorded anywhere in the four chapters of Jonah that God told him Nineveh would repent and that God would relent from destroying the city, but was only told to speak out against Nineveh it helps in understanding his fear to speak against such a powerful nation and his fleeing from the LORD'S call on his life.

The only message Jonah was told to speak against Nineveh was, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown! (Jonah 3:4). In chapter three the king of Nineveh said, "God may turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish." (Jonah 3:9) and in verse ten of the same chapter we are told, "When God saw the people of Nineveh turned from their evil way, He relented of the disaster he said he would do. (Jonah 3:10). These two verses clearly show that the word overthrow carries the idea of utter destruction.

Though Jonah was not told God would relent, he did know that God was gracious, merciful and abounding in steadfast love and does relent from disaster if people respond to the message of repentance (Jonah 4:2). Jonah suspected the LORD might change His mind if Nineveh did the right thing, but it is not recorded that the LORD told Jonah He would relent from the destruction pronounced upon Nineveh so all Jonah could tell the people was that they would be destroyed in forty days.

How many of us would want share such a message or be courageous enough to proclaim it to an enormously powerful and corrupt nation without being told they will repent and turn from their wicked ways. Added to this Jonah feared that if the people of Nineveh did repent and turn from their wicked ways God would not destroy them and then he would look like a false prophet before the people of Israel and the surrounding nations and if this was the case he would rather die than live with the shame of being labeled a false prophet and the shame it would bring upon his family (Jonah 4:1-4).

A storm Arose and the Mariners cried Out to their god while Jonah Slept.

Jonah 1:4-5 ----- ⁴But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship threatened to break up. ⁵Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried out to his god. And they hurled the cargo that was in the ship into the sea to lighten it for them. But Jonah had gone down into the inner part of the ship and had lain down and was fast asleep.

There was no such thing as evolution in the days of Jonah, almost everyone believed in a god of some kind. These mariners were in such terror because of the storm each one prayed to their own god, yet Jonah was fast asleep.

Some readers wonder, how Jonah could be sleeping while the mariners were in absolute fear, but remember Jonah has just fled from the presence of the LORD that alone has to be a terrifying thing for a prophet to do, maybe he was so exhausted and relieved at having escaped (or at least thinking he had) from having to proclaim to Nineveh that they would be destroyed in forty days he fell into a deep sleep as soon as he felt safe.

The Mariners tell Jonah to call out to his God so they would Not Perish.

Jonah 1:6 ----- ⁶So the captain came and said to him, "What do you (Jonah) mean, you sleeper? Arise, call out to your god! Perhaps "the god" will give a thought to us, that we may not perish."

Notice the captain calls Jonah's God, "the God." I have a friend who has been sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with some friends in China. He has noticed it is quiet common to hear people in China say, "The God". The God is a safe expression because the title embraces all kinds of gods that people like the captain and sailors on the ship Jonah was travelling on believed in.

How can we know what God people have in their mind, when they say, "the God"? Firstly, by their testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ and secondly by the following words of Jesus, "You shall know them by their fruit," meaning by their outward actions, are they kind, merciful, forgiving humble and giving etc., or arrogant, prideful, greedy and selfish.

- Hosea wrote: Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them; for the ways of the LORD are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them. (Hosea 14:9).
- Jesus said: "Whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. (Matt. 7:12) (Luke 6:31)
- Jesus said: ¹⁶You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. (Matt. 7:16-20).

Those who say they believe in "the God," may not have a totally clear understanding of the God of Abraham, Jacob and Isaac, but if they are manifesting His nature (kindness, mercy, forgiveness, grace and love for others), then the God they are beholding in their minds is the God of the Bible. This may not always mean they are saved to eternal life, but it certainly means they are on the right path to finding God's salvation and His favour.

The Mariners Cast Lots to know why the Storm has come Upon Them.

Jonah 1:7-8 ----- ⁷And they (the mariners) said to one another, "Come, let us cast lots, that we may know on whose account this evil has come upon us." So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. ⁸Then they said to him, "Tell us on whose account this evil has come upon us. What is your occupation? And where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?"

For some reason the sailors believed that the storm had come upon them because of one of the men on the ship. Based on verse ten they probably had a good idea that it was Jonah, nevertheless they cast lots to find out which person "the God" who had caused the storm was angry with.

The word lot in the Old Testament comes from the Hebrew word (gowral) and means to be rough (as stone) it carries the idea of a small stone or pebble being used for the purpose of a lot to determine a portion or destiny. In the New Testament the word lot comes from the Greek word (Kleros) and refers to using bits of wood for the purpose of deciding a thing by chance. The book of proverbs states: -

- The lot is cast into the lap, but it's every decision is from the LORD. (Proverbs 16:33)

This means that the decision of the lot is not made by any virtue of the lot itself, but by the will of God who guided the uncertain lot. The final decision of casting a lot before God is from God so it is not against God's will in things which cannot otherwise be easily distributed or when there is no apparent advantage or disadvantage whichever way the lot falls and when neither choice is preferred above another, such as an employer trying to choose between two equally qualified and suitable candidates for the same job. Proverbs also states: -

- The lot puts an end to quarrels and decides between powerful contenders. (Proverbs 18:18).

Added to this it totally does away with man's bias or favouritism in choice making. Neither the people of Israel nor the people of other nations took the practice of casting lots lightly or entered into it flippantly. This is because the decision of the lot carried the nature of an oath, meaning its outcome was as binding as a promise before the LORD and as binding as a legal document. All parties involved in the judgment that is to be made by the lot concerning persons or things accepted the outcome in the same manner they would accept a binding legal document. Though it mattered not which way the lot fell in most cases it did matter in the following six cases which way it did fall: -

1. Exposing the sin of Achan (Joshua 7:13-15).
2. Choosing of Saul as King over Israel (1 Sam. 10:20-21).
3. Exposing the sin of Jonathan (1 Samuel 14:42).
4. Haman casting lots to destroy the Jewish nation. (Esther 3:7) (Esther 9:23-26).
5. Mariners casting lots and it falling on Jonah. (Jonah 1:7-8).
6. Zechariah (the father of John the Baptist) being chosen by lot to enter the temple on a particular day. (Luke 1:8-9).

On all six occasions it is very clear in Scripture that God was fully involved and in total control of all the events leading up to and surrounding the casting of the lot. For further information see the title: "Casting Lots in the Old and New Testament" (at the end of this study).

Jonah tells the Mariners his God is the God of Heaven and the Men Fear.

Jonah 1:9-10 -----⁹And he (Jonah) said to them (the mariners), "I am a Hebrew, and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land." ¹⁰Then the men were exceedingly afraid and said to him, "What is this that you have done!" For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them.

Jonah tell the mariners "the God" he believes in is the LORD, the God of heaven who created the sea and the land, and the mariners were terrified, because they believed Jonah's God was who Jonah said He was. It is almost certain these sailors had heard of the many great signs and wonders the God Jonah believed in had done.

Jonah tells the Mariners to throw him into the Sea.

Jonah 1:11-13 ----- ¹¹Then they (the mariners) said to him (Jonah), "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea grew more and more tempestuous. ¹²He said to them, "Pick me up and hurl me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great tempest has come upon you." ¹³Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to get back to dry land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more tempestuous against them.

The mariners were good men, they believed their lives were in danger because of Jonah, the storm was increasing in strength and Jonah, trying to save the mariners tells them to throw him overboard and the storm will stop, but at the risk of their own lives rather than do what Jonah said, they try to row to safe ground to save him, but the storm was too great.

The Sailors Pray "O LORD, let us not Perish," and Throw Jonah into the Sea.

Jonah 1:14-16 ----- ¹⁴Therefore they (the sailors) called out to the LORD, "O LORD, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not on us innocent blood, for you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you." ¹⁵So they picked up Jonah and hurled him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. ¹⁶Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

The mariners called out to "the God" of Jonah LORD, LORD, they knew they were in trouble because of Jonah, so they were forced to throw him overboard to save themselves, immediately the storm stopped, then the men were in fear that "the God" Jonah believed in would judge them for doing such an awful thing. Though these men did not have a clear idea of who God was they were clearly good men, they knew there was a God, they feared God, they tried to save Jonah and had great guilt when they threw him overboard even though they had no other choice.

NOTICE: even though the sailors each had their own concept of god (v5) and knew the God of Jonah only as "the God," (v6) they understood the principal of offering a sacrifice to be made right with God.

The God and the mind: in the imagination of the mind a strong belief can create a false, but very real image of "the god" people believe in, but these spiritual gods only exist in the mind of those who believe in them. They are an entity of the mind created in the imagination through a false belief in them. The stronger the belief the stronger the power "the imaginary god" will have over the person.

The false image in the mind will affect a person's emotions and feelings accordingly, if they believe "the god" to be on their side they will have good emotions, but if they believe "the god" is against them they will feel emotions of fear, because the human nervous system cannot tell the difference between a real image of the mind and a false one.

The imaginary, but real images of the mind creates a real entity that affects the emotions and feelings through the human nervous system. These feelings convince those that believe in false gods that their own personal god exists, but in reality "the god" they are putting their faith in does not actually exist, "the god" is an entity created by a false belief of the mind, but to the person believing in "the god" it is a very real entity.

The apostle Paul says there are many gods in the world: -

- For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords." (1 Cor. 8:5).

Immediately after making this statement Paul says nevertheless not everyone possesses this knowledge. Meaning the knowledge that there are many gods, neither do they understand how and why (1 Cor. 8:7). The Bible teaches that there is only one real God and creator of all that exists and He is the great, I AM, He is, the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, every other god is an illusion of the mind created by a strong belief in them.

- God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. ¹⁵And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this *is* my name for ever, and this *is* my memorial unto all generations. (Exodus 3:1-22).

For further information see the title: -

- I AM (Old and New Testament).
- In, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The LORD appoints a Great Fish to Swallow up Jonah.

Jonah 1:17 ----- ¹⁷And the LORD appointed (prepared in KJV) a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

All we are told concerning the fish is that it was a great fish and that the LORD prepared and appointed it to swallow Jonah.

Throughout history there has been many speculations concerning what kind of fish this was, but it is possible God created an enormously large fish for this specific purpose, especially when it is considered God also appointed a plant to instantly grow during the night to give Jonah shade over his head (Jonah 4:6) and then over the next night appointed a worm to destroy it (Jonah 4:10) added to these, Jesus who had all the power of God available to him created full grown fish in an instant from nothing for five-thousand people to eat.

Casting Lots in the Old and New Testament.

The word lot in the Old Testament comes from the Hebrew word (gowral) and means to be rough (as stone) it carries the idea of a small stone or pebble being used for the purpose of a lot to determine a portion or destiny. In the New Testament the word lot comes from the Greek word (Kleros) and refers to using bits of wood for the purpose of deciding a thing by chance. In some circumstances the easy way to decide a thing or stop a quarrel is to flip a coin.

Following is a simple example of this principal. When my building partner and I decided to go our own way we had to divide the tools, we were good mates and did not want to upset each another so we prayed that God's will would be done and then grouped the tools together in pairs of equal value, then wrote our names on opposite sides of a block of wood and then tossed it in the air. We agreed that whoever's name came up would have the first choice then we would alternate choosing from then on, it worked really well and stopped any tension that could have developed.

In casting lots God's will was done because we both agreed to accept the outcome whatever way the block fell and both accepted the outcome of it as God's will.

Proverbs states; "The lot puts an end to quarrels and decides between powerful contenders (Proverbs 18:18). Added to this it totally does away with man's bias or favouritism in choice making. Neither the people of Israel nor the people of other nations took the practice of casting lots lightly or entered into it flippantly.

This is because the decision of the lot carried the nature of an oath, meaning its outcome was as binding as a promise before the LORD and as binding as a legal document. All parties involved in the judgment that is to be made by the lot concerning persons or things accepted the outcome in the same manner they would accept a binding legal document.

The book of proverbs states: -

- The lot is cast into the lap, but it's every decision is from the LORD. (Proverbs 16:33)

This means that the decision of the lot is not made by any virtue of the lot itself, but by the will of God who guided the uncertain lot. The final decision of casting a lot before God is from God so it is not against God's will in things which cannot otherwise be easily distributed or when there is no apparent advantage or disadvantage whichever way the lot falls and when neither choice is preferred above another, such as an employer trying to choose between two equally qualified and suitable candidates for the same job.

Neither is it against God's will when whatever way the lot falls is a good outcome, an example of this would be if Paul and Peter were attending a church meeting in the same house on the same Sunday at the same time. There would be nothing wrong with them flipping a coin to see which one of them was going to speak at the meeting and by faith accept the choice the lot made as God's will since no matter whether the coin fell in favour of Peter or Paul the outcome is a good result for those attending the meeting and for God's Kingdom.

Though God sometimes sanctioned this type of deciding in difficult cases generally speaking casting a lot to decide what one should do, is wrong, unless it is in a matter of indifference meaning either way the lot falls would be a good thing or perhaps in some extreme necessity where all other human means fail. In almost all scenarios of casting lots in Scripture it mattered not which way the lot fell since there was no right and wrong choice and there was no bad outcome whichever way it did fall.

The choice to be made was not choosing between a good situation and a bad one or choosing between a good person and a bad person obviously no one would cast lots in such circumstance since the choice to be made for both situations would be clearly obvious. Though it mattered not which way the lot fell in most cases it did matter in the following six cases which way it did fall: -

7. Exposing the sin of Achan (Joshua 7:13-15).
8. Choosing of Saul as King over Israel (1 Sam. 10:20-21).
9. Exposing the sin of Jonathan (1 Samuel 14:42).
10. Haman casting lots to destroy the Jewish nation. (Esther 3:7) (Esther 9:23-26).
11. Mariners casting lots and it falling on Jonah. (Jonah 1:7-8).
12. Zechariah (the father of John the Baptist) being chosen by lot to enter the temple on a particular day. (Luke 1:8-9).

On all six occasions it is very clear in Scripture that God was fully involved and in total control of all the events leading up to and surrounding the casting of the lot. In the book of Proverbs it is written: -

- The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD. (Proverbs 16:33).

Solomon in the book of Ecclesiastes wrote: -

- I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favour to those with knowledge, but time and chance happen to them all. (Eccles. 9:11)

Casting a lot is an act of chance and we are told God is in full control of it and the following verse tells us that time and chance comes to all. Does this mean that all things that come upon our lives, is God's will for our lives? If one of our sons **dies** of a drug overdose or our daughter is raped or killed in a car crash is this God's will for our lives or is there another way to view such horrific and painful events.

The word chance comes from the Hebrew word (*pega*) it carries the idea of something unplanned imposing and intruding or interrupting and invading a person's life and impacting upon it by accident or by violence and affecting it in a manner that was unexpected. The principal of time and chance is different to the principal of casting a lot in that everyone involved in casting lots is not only fully

aware of the two outcomes the lot may choose, they have also agreed to accept the outcome whatever that maybe. In contrast to this the principal of time and chance takes whoever it falls upon by surprise since it is not something they had expected or planned. Since there are many injustices in the mortal and corrupt world we live in and such things as rape, murder, adultery, stealing and oppression of the poor etc., are clearly not God's will certain troubles that may befall the faithful have to be given over to the principle of time and chance. This statement is supported by the following words of Solomon: -

- Man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun. However much man may toil in seeking, he will not find it out. Even though a wise man claims to know, he cannot find it out. (Eccles. 8:17).

The following verses show that the faithful of the Old Testament lived by faith and not by sight, meaning they did not judge God according to their circumstance (good or bad) but by faith: -

- Abraham the father of faith went by faith not knowing where he was going to live in the land of promise. He and many others went by faith because they were looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. These all acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth who desired a better country, a heavenly one. (Heb. 11:8-16).
- By faith Moses considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward and not being afraid of the anger of the king he by faith left Egypt for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. (Heb. 11:26-27).
- Many faithful families went about destitute, afflicted, mistreated wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth and of these God said, "The world was not worthy of them," and commends them for their faith. (Heb. 11:35-38).

Despite the troubles, hardships and sorrows these faithful men and women suffered they endured in faith knowing their citizenship was not of this world, but of the heavenly world to come and God commends them for their great faith. Though all faithful Christians who belong to the global body of Christ are promised eternal life no one no matter how faithful is promised a trouble free life this side of Eternity. This is why Paul tells us to walk by faith, not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7) meaning regardless of time and chance, good or bad we trust in the Lord looking toward a better country to come knowing that our citizenship is not of this world.

For further information see the title: -

- Casting Lots in the Old and New Testament in (ON WEBSITE MENU).

End.