



GLORY AND HONOR



PART 4

GOOD NEWS: GOD IS STILL TURNING THINGS AROUND

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“When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, We were like them that dream.” (Psalm 126:1 KJV)

The world as we know it is changing by the second. It is, no doubt, very different from what those who had come before us had imagined the future (in which we now live) to be. Events of recent times have not helped either and these changes are affecting every sphere of our existence. What's worse? These changes are man-made and we haven't seen the worst of it yet as the mind of humans seems to be getting darker and darker by the day. Let's look at some of the challenges our world is facing now:

Job seekers are on the rise, and many others have given up on the search and concluded there's nothing out there for them. More so, the recent 8.6 consumer performance index (CPI) is quite devastating to our world. The stock market and other financial indices are nothing to write home about. Besides, there are wars here and there which threaten human existence. Ukraine is a typical example of how war affects our daily lives — prices of food, gas, and essential commodities are on the high side, making life unbearable for many; many lives are being lost on both sides of the war. Pestilence and diseases are on the rise with some new types of diseases being discovered in the last two years which have crippled many areas of our lives. Indeed, many lives have been lost on that basis, too, and many homes and families get shattered as a result. This happens every time calamity strikes.

What are the effects of these problems on our homes? Tension is the common result, and in turn, the tension ends up splitting marriages and families. The divorce rate continues to be quite alarming, and it is now triggering another horrible statistic of people choosing to remain single. This was definitely not the plan of our Maker. Many children are being born outside of a two-parent system to a crazy single-parent hood that is now becoming the norm. Hence we are seeing a lot of anomalies destroying our society as children commit horrible crimes (like the one recently witnessed in Uvalde, Texas). To such and other kids who have been born into challenging single-parent situations, we are praying that God will provide adequate mentors or the right stepdad or stepmom.

However, while the issues we are going through globally look like doom and gloom with no way out, let me tell you the good news I have found in the midst of it all. It is found in **Psalm 126:1**; let's look at it together,

“When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, We were like them that dream.”

I love that the verse begins with a “WHEN” — a reference to a point in time. It offers us the hope that the condition of the world will never remain as bad as we know it now. I also love the phrase “the LORD”; it references the One Who can make the change happen. It is now up to you and I to connect to the One Who can turn our captivity around. When would you like the connection to happen? The choice is completely yours! If you are born again and have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, your captivity is no longer your responsibility; God will surely turn it around. If you are not born again yet, however, you are married to your problems and, make no mistake about it, they can kill you. You can change that by asking Jesus to come into your life and everything will change for you. He will give you what you need to journey through any condition with peace and hope. If you are doing this for the first time or you are rededicating your life, please let me be the first person to welcome you into the Kingdom of God.

GLORY AND HONOR (Part 4)

The case for us to live a lifestyle of glory and honor is clearly made in the scriptures. There are too many scriptures that show God's intention and purpose for our glorious living and we shall continue to explore them in the course of this wonderful study. We have looked at several scriptures in the preceding episodes, and in today's episode, we will look at two pieces of evidence from the Bible.

First, let's consider how God made us. The first thing He made for humans before He even made the first humans was a glorious habitation. He created the beautiful universe and carved out a garden for our habitation. God built this magnificent edifice for our habitation. In other words, we could clearly see God's heart — that He didn't want any human

being to be homeless. God hates homelessness with a passion, why? God cannot stand a man carrying His image without a place to lay his or her head.

(If you are facing homelessness or having a challenge keeping up with your mortgage, or rent, or the cost of putting a roof over your head, my God will meet you at the point of that need in Jesus' name. Speak to that situation right now! You carry His glory, honor, and authority. I join my faith with yours that when next you read from me, the situation will have received the touch of God in the name of Jesus!)

God made man from the earth; He spoke every other thing He created to existence but He made man like a masterpiece work-of-art, made in the image and likeness of God. And then **Genesis 2:7** adds,

“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”

God breathed into man's nostrils the 'BREATH OF LIFE,' not a 'breath of death.' In other words, you and I carry the superior DNA of God. It will be abnormal for me to turn into a misnomer. Everything brings forth its kind, right? So if I carry the breath of God, then it goes without saying that I am made for glory and honor. Sickness, untimely death, misfortune, bad luck, and every kind of evil are not my portion because of the creative power source that is surging through my life by the grace of God. If you have an understanding of what I just described, you will shout 'Glory!'

Jesus would later come as a man to pay the great price that makes it possible for humanity to once again reconnect with this 'breath of Life,' this time as “the Holy Spirit.” Hence, John the Beloved writes,

“And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost” (John 20:22)

After paying the price for this precious reconnection, Jesus breathed on His disciples the same way the Father breathed on the man He made from the dust of the earth at the beginning. This time, the breath of Jesus—which would fully arrive at Pentecost—becomes in everyone who believes in Him, a fountain of life which is capable of constantly delivering as many breaths as each of us will ever need to maintain this glory and honor bought back for us by Jesus' sacrifice to put on display in our everyday lives.

ANCHOR TEXT

Today we have further established that our glory and honor is preordained and predetermined. We also know that God (in Christ) restored what the enemy had stolen by the power of redemption. It is very paramount not to forget this simple but powerful transaction that took place in Golgotha.

There was a man in the Bible who was born into shame and lack by the virtue of her mother's childbirth experience; his name was JABEZ. Let's look at his story to see how glory and honor can register our name in God's eternal plan:

“And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow. And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.” (1 Chronicles :9-10)

The fact that this Jabez became more honorable tells us that honor and glory can multiply if we place a demand on the source of it. The above passage tells us that Jabez's life was not colorful; it was a story of shame and horror . . . until he prayed. Jabez called upon the God of Israel for a reversal of his fortune and, as a result, made history! His family was chronicled in the all-time bestseller in history: the Bible. Today, all you need to do is to CALL UPON GOD if you don't like what you are seeing. You are made for more, and Christ has paid for it all.

Hence, our foundational text is found in the Psalms; it says:

***“For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels,
And hast crowned him with glory and honour.” (Psalm 8:5 KJV)***

If your crown of glory and honor is missing, go and retrieve it now!

WHY ARE THE GLORY AND HONOR FADED?

So far, we have considered three reasons, viz:

- 1. SIN**
- 2. STRANGE FIRE: THE CASE STUDY OF NADAB AND ABIHU**
- 3. THE EFFECT OF TERRITORIAL POWER**

Let's continue from there today.

4. THE PRESENCE OF STRONGHOLDS IN A FAMILY AND A NATION

***“Then I looked up, and there before me were four horns. I asked the angel who was speaking to me, “What are these?” He answered me, “These are the horns that scattered Judah, Israel and Jerusalem.” Then the Lord showed me four craftsmen. I asked, “What are these coming to do?” He answered, “These are the horns that scattered Judah so that no one could raise their head, but the craftsmen have come to terrify them and throw down these horns of the nations who lifted up their horns against the land of Judah to scatter its people.”
(Zechariah 1:18-21 NIV)***

This is the sad story of many in the kingdom of God. God has done His part and has placed the crown of glory and honor on our heads for us to shine in this dark world. The problem with us most of the time is that we are not careful or observant enough. Let's look at what prophet Zechariah said in verse 18 of chapter 1; in the KJV, it begins like this:

“Then lifted I up mine eyes, and saw, and behold four horns . . .”

I know that the situation in many people's lives can make them hang their heads in shame, thus making them unable to see the things that are causing them to remain stagnant; not this prophet. He chose to lift up his eyes! I pray for you today that you will lift your head to heaven from where your help will come in Jesus' name.

As Prophet Zechariah lifted up his eyes to look, he saw 'four horns'. I don't know how many 'horns' are troubling your family and limiting you from moving and shining; today, by the mighty power in the name of Jesus, I declare that they are uprooted in Jesus' name!

In verse 19, the prophet asks a second question,

***“And I said unto the angel that talked with me, What be these? And he answered me,
These are the horns which have scattered Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem.”***

Did you notice that the prophet was conversing with an angel that was assigned to him for the purpose of unpacking this revelation? Likewise, do you know you have an angel assigned to you? In Zechariah's case, the main thing he wanted to know was the identity behind 'the horns' that troubled Judah, Israel and Jerusalem. He understood that if one doesn't know the horns troubling his/her life and family, it will be difficult to get rid of them. The angel clarified that the horns are behind the scattering of Judah, Israel, and Jerusalem and their goal is to ensure that no one from those places can lift their heads. Beloved, I don't know what may have caused your head not to be lifted so that the crown of glory can rest on it; any

such 'horn' is hereby destroyed today in Jesus' name!

There are various types of Horns—the horn of Delays; the horn of Debt; the horn of Diseases; and the horn of (untimely) Death, among others.

Thankfully, the vision also included a solution to the problems caused by the horns. Let's see it together in **verses 20-21**,

“And the LORD shewed me four carpenters. Then said I, What come these to do? And he spake, saying, These are the horns which have scattered Judah, so that no man did lift up his head: but these are come to fray them, to cast out the horns of the Gentiles, which lifted up their horn over the land of Judah to scatter it.”

Just as the Lord 'showed' Zechariah those four carpenters sent to cast out the horns, I declare that the Lord will begin to 'show' you the solution to the problem of every negative 'horn' in your life. As of today, the Lord will begin to show you the solution to every horn in your family in the name of Jesus. As 'FOUR CARPENTERS' came from heaven in Zechariah's revelation, I pray for you today that the divinely appointed 'carpenters' who will rebuild your life to the glory of God will become visible to your naked eyes in Jesus' name. Destiny helpers that will sponsor your lifting shall come your way in Jesus' name. Everything that has been contesting for your survival will bow to you now in the name of Jesus. I command you to begin to see new opportunities and adventures in Jesus' name.

CALL TO ACTION

Are you in a terrible situation?

Are you looking for a way out?

Do you know that the Lord can turn your misery around?

Do you know what you carry?

Are you seeing well?

Do you know the horns that are contesting against you or your family?

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: “I WILL RAISE THE DECAY PLACES THEREOF”

“that confirmeth the word of his servant, and performeth the counsel of his messengers; that saith to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be inhabited; and to the cities of Judah, Ye shall be built, and I will raise up the decayed places thereof:” (Isaiah 44:26 KJV)

he servants of God or Pastors in your life can be the ones to play the role of the 'carpenters' of Zechariah's revelation in your own situation. Consult your pastor to join you in prayers as you engage in spiritual warfare against the 'horns' in your life. As Solomon said, two are better than one. God confirms the pronouncements of His servants over you, don't take them for granted. May your horns be destroyed by the carpenters of God in Jesus' name.

PRAYER POINTS

1. I rebuke the operations of every 'horn' sent to scatter my life or my family in the name of Jesus.
2. Father, connect me to Your chosen 'carpenters' ordained to destroy every 'horn' exalted against my life in the name of Jesus.

PS: Remember to reach out or pray for ten souls to be added to the Kingdom of God in your area. God bless you as you do so. Amen.