

Store Houses, Versus Empty Houses Part 2

“20 There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up.” (Proverbs 21:20 KJV)

*“3 Behold, I will corrupt your seed, and spread dung upon your faces, even the dung of your solemn feasts; and one shall take you away with it.”
(Malachi 2:3 KJV)*

The Scriptures show leaders who had shown the wrong attitude towards God and that was reflected in the treasuries and storehouses of the house of God. We will continue in this message to study how these leaders with their disobedience, bad attitude, and lack of faith, pulled it down.

2. King Asa of Judah: *“1 In the six and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah, and built Ramah, to the intent that he might let none go out or come in to Asa king of Judah. 2 Then Asa brought out silver and gold out of the treasures of the house of the LORD and of the king's house, and sent to Benhadad king of Syria, that dwelt at Damascus, saying, 3 There is a league between me and thee, as there was between my father and thy father: behold, I have sent thee silver and gold; go, break thy league with Baasha king of Israel, that he may depart from me. 4 And Benhadad hearkened unto king Asa, and sent the captains of his armies against the cities of Israel; and they smote Ijon, and Dan, and Abelmaim, and all the store cities of Naphtali. 5 And it came to pass, when Baasha heard it, that he left off building of Ramah, and let his work cease. 6 Then Asa the king took all Judah; and they carried away the stones of Ramah, and the timber thereof, wherewith Baasha was building; and he built therewith Geba and Mizpah. 7 And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said unto him, Because thou hast relied on the king of Syria, and not relied on the LORD thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thine hand. 8 Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubims a huge host, with very many chariots and horsemen? yet, because thou didst rely on the LORD, he delivered them into thine hand. 9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars. 10 Then Asa was wroth with the seer, and put him in a prison house; for he was in a rage with him because of this thing. And Asa oppressed some of the people the same time.” (2 Chronicles 16:1-10 KJV)*

In the previous chapters, **2 Chronicles 14 and 15**, King Asa had done very well and achieved wonderful victories for himself and for the people of God and he obtained a big plunder and had built the treasure house of God. But in **2 Chronicles 16**, King Asa was faced with multiple problems which he did not handle in accordance with God's Word and will, and for this reason was not able to sustain his riches.

We need to understand that trials and problems are not intended to break us and makes us fail, but to perfect us and to enable us to achieve further victories in our lives. King Asa's troubles mentioned in **2 Chronicles 16** were not intended to ruin him but to enable him to be more than a conqueror. Therefore, let us learn a valuable lesson from King Asa's life and face trials considering them stepping stones to promotion in life and more victories.

“1 In the six and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah, and built Ramah, to the intent that he might let none go out or come in to Asa king of Judah.” (2 Chronicles 16:1 KJV) King Asa was conspired against and betrayed by the king of Israel. The king of Israel intended to block King Asa and all of Judah. This was a dirty game, and God allowed that for a purpose. He did not intend to harm Asa or Judah but he was testing their reaction. God was waiting for King Asa to sustain his achievements and reap another victory by relying on God to solve the problem. But, let us see how King Asa acted:

“2 Then Asa brought out silver and gold out of the treasures of the house of the LORD and of the king's house, and sent to Benhadad king of Syria, that dwelt at Damascus, saying.” (2 Chronicles 16:2 KJV) King Asa's first response was to use his finances to solve the problem. He did not even pray, inquire, or cry to God to aid him. **When we face a problem in our lives, the first thing we should do is to run to God. We don't rely on our money or on people, or on what we have to solve it.** King Asa should not have used his resources after what he had experienced previously. God's hand of deliverance had saved him from the one million strong armies of the Ethiopians and the Lubims. King Asa lost the treasures that God had given him when he failed to put his full trust in God. **We will lose our treasures and all the material things God has given us when we fail to trust God and not rely on Him and on His promises when we face the storms of life.**

“3 There is a league between me and thee, as there was between my father and thy father: behold, I have sent thee silver and gold; go, break thy league with Baasha king of Israel, that he may depart from me.” (2 Chronicles 16:3 KJV) King Asa made a league with non-believers to solve his problem. He should not do that, but first, he should go to God and pray to God according to the covenant that he had with Him. **We should not rely on the arm of the flesh or on our money to solve our problems. Let us go first to God and if He will use some people to solve the problem, then He will either guide us to them or He will bring them to us.**

“4 And Benhadad hearkened unto king Asa, and sent the captains of his armies against the cities of Israel; and they smote Ijon, and Dan, and Abelmaim, and all the store cities of Naphtali. 5 And it came to pass, when Baasha heard it, that he left off building of Ramah, and let his work cease. 6 Then Asa the king took all Judah; and they carried away the stones of Ramah, and the timber thereof, wherewith Baasha was building; and he built therewith Geba and Mizpah.” (2 Chronicles 16:4-6 KJV) King Asa's victory, plunder, and achievement were not from God but it was seemingly accomplished by the arm of flesh using money. **When Christians compromise, they seem to achieve things in the name of God's ministry and the church. Nowadays, churches choose to covenant with non-believers to support and to enlarge the ministry. They collect money from rich people and non-believers to solve their financial problem. But compromises are never useful and are not ordained or blessed by God. The more the church compromises today, the more the church is losing her power and authority.**

“7 And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah,” (2 Chronicles 16:7 KJV) This man of God rebuked King Asa for his wrongdoing. **I pray that the message in our hands is a rebuke to us if we are found unfaithful as King Asa was.** The seer Hanani explained further the bad consequences of his compromises, *“and said unto him, Because thou hast relied on the king of Syria, and not relied on the LORD thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thine hand. 8 Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubims a huge host, with very many chariots and horsemen? yet, because thou didst rely on the LORD, he*

*delivered them into thine hand.” (2 Chronicles 16:7-8 KJV) * Compromises and lack of trust in God will pave the way for our failure and loss of plunder and blessings that God had prepared for us to harvest. * When God allows problems in the life of the church, it is not to bring in a loss in finances but get plunder. “9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.” (2 Chronicles 16:9 KJV) God will strengthen those who trust Him and stand before Him with a perfect heart. That is why the Bible says that the righteous are as bold as lions. “1 The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.” (Proverbs 28:1 KJV) Every compromise made by the church will weaken her more and more. Compromises and the lack of trust in God are sins and will invite God’s wrath upon our lives as a consequence of our sins. The church will become a skid row as a result of the church handling crisis in a worldly way.*

“10 Then Asa was wroth with the seer, and put him in a prison house; for he was in a rage with him because of this thing. And Asa oppressed some of the people the same time.” (2 Chronicles 16:10 KJV) King Asa was angry with the man of God who had pointed out his sin and corrected him. The purpose of God and the man of God is to spare people from troubles and lead them to repentance. Never be angry with those who point out our sins, mistakes, and shortcomings in the light of the Scriptures. They do it out of pure concern only for our own good and for the good of others. Asa oppressed some of the people most likely out of pride because he was rebuked publicly. Let us be honest with ourselves and accept correction and not retaliate neither with those who correct us nor with the other innocent people around us. “15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise.” (Ephesians 5:15 KJV)

3. King Jehoash of Judah: “17 Then Hazael king of Syria went up, and fought against Gath, and took it: and Hazael set his face to go up to Jerusalem. 18 And Jehoash king of Judah took all the hallowed things that Jehoshaphat, and Jehoram, and Ahaziah, his fathers, kings of Judah, had dedicated, and his own hallowed things, and all the gold that was found in the treasures of the house of the LORD, and in the king's house, and sent it to Hazael king of Syria: and he went away from Jerusalem.” (2 Kings 12:17-18 KJV) King Jehoash was not willing to stand and fight. Some church leaders just live for themselves and they are not willing to face challenges nor suffer for their faith. It is easy for them to squander what others have labored hard for, to ensure that they don’t get into strife. They don’t have the correct faith that the Scripture teaches about nor are they living in obedience, and they choose to lose the battle being aware of the fact that God is not with them who have sinned.

4. King Ahaz of Judah: “5 Then Rezin king of Syria and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to war: and they besieged Ahaz, but could not overcome him. 6 At that time Rezin king of Syria recovered Elath to Syria, and drave the Jews from Elath: and the Syrians came to Elath, and dwelt there unto this day. 7 So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglathpileser king of Assyria, saying, I am thy servant and thy son: come up, and save me out of the hand of the king of Syria, and out of the hand of the king of Israel, which rise up against me. 8 And Ahaz took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasures of the king's house, and sent it for a present to the king of Assyria.” (2 Kings 16:5-8 KJV) King Ahaz is another king who never lived in line with the Scripture, and what he did with the treasures was one of his shortcomings. He trusted the non-believers as if he was a stranger to God and His ways, and he used money thinking it would solve the

problem. “20 And Tilgathpilneser king of Assyria came unto him, and distressed him, but strengthened him not. 21 For Ahaz took away a portion out of the house of the LORD, and out of the house of the king, and of the princes, and gave it unto the king of Assyria: but he helped him not. 22 And in the time of his distress did he trespass yet more against the LORD: this is that king Ahaz.” (2 Chronicles 28:20-22 KJV)

*5. King Hezekiah of Judah: “13 Now in the fourteenth year of king Hezekiah did Sennacherib king of Assyria come up against all the fenced cities of Judah, and took them. 14 And Hezekiah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria to Lachish, saying, I have offended; return from me: that which thou putteth on me will I bear. And the king of Assyria appointed unto Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold. 15 And Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the LORD, and in the treasures of the king's house. 16 At that time did Hezekiah cut off the gold from the doors of the temple of the LORD, and from the pillars which Hezekiah king of Judah had overlaid, and gave it to the king of Assyria. 17 And the king of Assyria sent Tartan and Rabsharis and Rabshakeh from Lachish to king Hezekiah with a great host against Jerusalem. And they went up and came to Jerusalem. And when they were come up, they came and stood by the conduit of the upper pool, which is in the highway of the fuller's field.” (2 Kings 18:13-17 KJV) Very clearly we can see here that money cannot be used to stop people from attacking and threatening the church. King Hezekiah paid and apologized to the king of Assyria, but it did not work. We really cannot use the money to make friends, to please people, or to pacify wicked people. Paul was kept two years in prison by Felix to force Paul to pay him money but Paul didn’t succumb to it. * We should not be intimidated by people who threaten to leave the church or service because they feel they have not been paid the money that they were expecting. When such people leave the church, it is a blessing, and the church will progress better without them. * We need to face wickedness and deal with those who try to extort us or take advantage of us. They are greedy and ungrateful. The more we give them money and the more we try to befriend them, the more they will abuse us and abuse the grace of God that is reaching them through our lives. Finally, King Hezekiah and Judah faced the threats of King Sennacherib and God assisted them and dealt with the enemy in a marvelous way as we can read here, “32 Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor cast a bank against it. 33 By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the LORD. 34 For I will defend this city, to save it, for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake. 35 And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses. 36 So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh. 37 And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword: and they escaped into the land of Armenia. And Esarhaddon his son reigned in his stead.” (2 Kings 19:32-37 KJV) We need to do the same. God will give us true victory over the wicked when we rely on Him and not on our money. Not only that, but the Lord will bring more and better people instead of those unfaithful, and will establish His church.*

6. King Hezekiah of Judah: “12 At that time Berodachbaladan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present unto Hezekiah: for he had heard that Hezekiah had been sick. 13 And Hezekiah hearkened unto them, and shewed them all the house of his precious

things, the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious ointment, and all the house of his armour, and all that was found in his treasures: there was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah shewed them not. 14 Then came Isaiah the prophet unto king Hezekiah, and said unto him, What said these men? and from whence came they unto thee? And Hezekiah said, They are come from a far country, even from Babylon. 15 And he said, What have they seen in thine house? And Hezekiah answered, All the things that are in mine house have they seen: there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shewed them. 16 And Isaiah said unto Hezekiah, Hear the word of the LORD. 17 Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store unto this day, shall be carried into Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD. 18 And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon. 19 Then said Hezekiah unto Isaiah, Good is the word of the LORD which thou hast spoken. And he said, Is it not good, if peace and truth be in my days?" (2 Kings 20:12-19 KJV) Out of sheer boasting and flamboyance, King Hezekiah behaved in such a way.

The Word of God tells us the following: *"31 Howbeit in the business of the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon, who sent unto him to enquire of the wonder that was done in the land, God left him, to try him, that he might know all that was in his heart."* (2 Chronicles 32:31 KJV) Those people from Babylon came to Hezekiah to ask him about the miraculous sign that had occurred in the land, but Hezekiah did not speak about the Lord but boasted about his possessions. You may ask why Isaiah hadn't warned him about it. God wanted it to happen in this way so that what was in Hezekiah's heart would be exposed. **Certain sins and bad attitudes are only exposed in certain situations.**

Hezekiah showed no discretion but utter ingratitude and selfishness as he used the words *"mine" and "my"*. *"15 And he said, What have they seen in thine house? And Hezekiah answered, All the things that are in mine house have they seen: there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shewed them."* (2 Kings 20:15 KJV) He considered all that he had his rather than from the Lord and for the Lord. Some people think that what God has given to the church is for them to enjoy, forgetting and putting aside the purpose of God in their lives.

God, at that instance, had sent the prophet Isaiah to rebuke Hezekiah in order to show him his sin to correct him. *"16 And Isaiah said unto Hezekiah, Hear the word of the LORD. 17 Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store unto this day, shall be carried into Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD. 18 And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon."* (2 Kings 20:16-18 KJV) The rebuke of God to Hezekiah showed him that he was totally self-centered, careless, and insensitive about his descendants and the next generations to come. **Boasting will make us susceptible to the attack of the enemy. When we show off our treasures, the enemies will covet and attack us.**

Hezekiah did not have the mind of Christ like the prophet Isaiah whose heart was set on the Lord and on the well being of the next generation. Hezekiah showed no repentance this time. Previously, when Isaiah had informed him on his deathbed that he would die, Hezekiah humbled down. But, on this occasion, since he had plenty and was in good health and God had already answered his prayer and he was living in peace with no threat around him, he did not

humble down and repent before the prophet Isaiah when the latter rebuked him. This was how he had answered the prophet Isaiah: *"19 Then said Hezekiah unto Isaiah, Good is the word of the LORD which thou hast spoken. And he said, Is it not good, if peace and truth be in my days?"* (2 Kings 20:19 KJV) This boastful attitude of Hezekiah shows clearly that his heart was not perfect in God's eyes and he needed to be perfected. Isaiah, the faithful man of God, was sent by Him to Hezekiah for this purpose. But Hezekiah boasted to Isaiah and took all the glory for his financial prosperity and the state of peace that his kingdom was enjoying without giving the glory to God. *"Is it not good, if peace and truth be in my days?"* (2 Kings 20:19 KJV) **Many Christians will boast about their material prosperity when they are corrected, thinking that their jobs, money, and wealth are the stamp of the approval of God. God gives good things in order to lead us to repentance. Therefore, we need to pay heed to the message and repent.**

Finally, what God threatened to do through the prophet Isaiah took place when the army of Babylonian destroyed Jerusalem and took all the precious things. Hezekiah's sin of vanity and selfishness was exposed by God. Hezekiah didn't think of passing on the blessings that he had received from God to his descendants. His pride and boasting refused him the correction. **Spiritual wrongdoings and short comings of parents and church leaders and their unwillingness to repent and be restored will put their descendants in a tight corner.**

7. Eliashib the priest: Eliashib the priest had entered into an agreement with one of the enemies of Nehemiah's work of rebuilding the wall –Tobiah, the Ammonite and enabled him to occupy rooms in the courts of the temple of God where the grain offerings, the frankincense, the articles, the tithes of grain, the new wine and oils were stored. The work that Nehemiah had started was destroyed by the careless and selfish priest, Eliashib. *"4 And before this, Eliashib the priest, having the oversight of the chamber of the house of our God, was allied unto Tobiah: 5 And he had prepared for him a great chamber, where aforetime they laid the meat offerings, the frankincense, and the vessels, and the tithes of the corn, the new wine, and the oil, which was commanded to be given to the Levites, and the singers, and the porters; and the offerings of the priests."* (Nehemiah 13:4-5 KJV) **Many are selfish and do not care about the future of the church, but they are only concerned about their personal affairs.** When Nehemiah came to know about it, he wasn't one just to sit back and grieve. He took action – throwing all Tobiah's stuff out of the rooms he had occupied in the temple courts, then ceremonially cleansing the rooms, and finally by putting the rooms to their proper use – as storerooms for the sacred things of the temple. *"6 But in all this time was not I at Jerusalem: for in the two and thirtieth year of Artaxerxes king of Babylon came I unto the king, and after certain days obtained I leave of the king: 7 And I came to Jerusalem, and understood of the evil that Eliashib did for Tobiah, in preparing him a chamber in the courts of the house of God. 8 And it grieved me sore: therefore I cast forth all the household stuff to Tobiah out of the chamber. 9 Then I commanded, and they cleansed the chambers: and thither brought I again the vessels of the house of God, with the meat offering and the frankincense. 10 And I perceived that the portions of the Levites had not been given them: for the Levites and the singers, that did the work, were fled every one to his field. 11 Then contended I with the rulers, and said, Why is the house of God forsaken? And I gathered them together, and set them in their place. 12 Then brought all Judah the tithe of the corn and the new wine and the oil unto the treasuries. 13 And I made treasurers over the treasuries, Shelemiah the priest, and Zadok the scribe, and of the Levites, Pedaiah: and next to them was Hanan the son of Zaccur, the son of Mattaniah: for they were counted faithful,*

and their office was to distribute unto their brethren. 14 Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and wipe not out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God, and for the offices thereof.” (Nehemiah 13:6-14 KJV)

My dear and beloved: Let us come now to God and be willing to apply what we learned in this message in our lives. Let us commit ourselves to obey God and His Word and commands, and let us fully trust that He will be the one to aid us in times of troubles and the one who will provide all our needs. Let us fear God and not man. Let us trust the power of God and not our resources nor our finances when we face troubles, relying fully on God that He will deliver us and keep us safe under His wings. Let us refrain from any foolishness as we studied in the examples that we learned in this message knowing that God shall not bless us if we behave in such manner. Let us pray

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from death on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord, thank you for your presence in my life, your provision, and your deliverance to me from various kinds of troubles. Lord thank you for your encouraging Word that taught me to rely fully on you and not on man or on my own power nor on my finances. Lord thank you for the warning, the teaching, the corrections and the admonishments that I received in this message.*

Repent and renounce all your sins. Repent of your trust on people, friends and finances and not on God. Repent of your pride, selfishness, your lack of concern for the next generations, for your fear of man, and your lack of stand on God’s Word. Repent of your worldliness and your love for material things. Repent of your anger when you are rebuked and corrected. Repent of all your corruption and compromises. Repent of your non concern to build God’s church and your non willingness to serve God and suffer for Him. Repent of not reading the Bible and your lack of prayers. Repent of doing your own will and plan and not the will nor the plan of God in your life. Lord forgive me I repent of the following sins: _____.

Lord I commit my life once again to you to fully trust you and rely only on you and not on people, powers or finances. Lord I ask you to help me and deliver me from the following problem _____, and from the following people _____. Lord I commit myself to be responsible and care and think for the next generation. Lord I commit myself to deal with the corruption and those who use the resources of God for wrong purposes. Lord I trust you that you will continue to protect me and provide for me and the ministry that you entrusted to me.

Lord, thank you for all my Brothers and Sisters who had committed themselves to put their full trust on you and not on people nor on finances. Lord protect them and deliver them from all their enemies. Lord continue to provide for them and prosper their good works and ministry.

Lord, I pray for us as a church to help us to go on in serving you and doing your work and your will. Lord we ask you to deliver us from the following people _____, who cause us the following problem _____. Lord, we commit ourselves to apply what we received in this message, to fully trust you and your power to deliver us from our troubles, and your hand to provide for all our needs. Lord, fill us once again with the Holy Spirit and enable us to evangelize and reach new people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and with the Word of God. Lord, we pray that you will enable us to plant new Bible studies and

new congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to be water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit Baptism. Lord prepare us for your coming, that we are ready when you come. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, ‘Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God’. Lord Bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf
The Church Overseer
Church of God
United Arab Emirates
www.churchofgoduae.com
Email: thebread1@gmail.com
Mobile Tel #: 00971551902647

Note: The Bread of Life is a weekly publication from the Church of God, United Arab Emirates. For further issues and more spiritual enrichment you can visit our web site at: www.churchofgoduae.com.

Share the message with your friends.

Please share with us your view about the message and if you have any question.

If you have a prayer request, please send it to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email: thebread1@gmail.com.

Please send your tithes, your first fruit, and your various offerings to the church to this account

BANK NAME:
First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB)
ACCOUNT NAME:
RAMIZ BAHNAM ABBO KHALAF
ACCOUNT NO.:
1576003753162014
IBAN:
AE380351576003753162014
SWIFT CODE:
NBADAEAAACPU

Or contact me to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email: thebread1@gmail.com.

If you need counseling in area of your life, whether about family, children or finances, please be free to contact me to this whatsapp Number: 00971551902647, or to this email: thebread1@gmail.com.