

## ***The Duties of the Priest Part 5***

### ***Continuity for the Family of Jacob***

We will continue in this message to discuss about the family of Jacob. We spoke about his troubles in Shekem due to his negligence to his vow to God in Bethel. In spite of this, the consequences of Jacob's other sins were recognized as the history of his family continued and as the following:

***A. Rachel died after she delivered Benjamin, Jacob's youngest son: "16 And they journeyed from Bethel; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour. 17 And it came to pass, when she was in hard labour, that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; thou shalt have this son also. 18 And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin. 19 And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem. 20 And Jacob set a pillar upon her grave: that is the pillar of Rachel's grave unto this day."*** (Genesis 35:16-20 KJV) Here God allowed the second wife of Jacob to die while she was giving birth to her second son Benjamin. Jacob was in adultery because of this second marriage for his first wife was still alive when he married Rachel and that is why God allowed her death to cleanse Jacob from adultery and that was also a consequence of his sin. **In the same way when you take a wrong step against God's will and sin against Him He will make a way to cleanse you from your sin by taking the very thing that caused you to sin.**

***B. Reuben the first son of Jacob slept with his father's concubine Bilhah: "22 And it came to pass, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine: and Israel heard it. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve:"*** (Genesis 35:22 KJV) As Jacob committed adultery with his second marriages with Rachel and with his concubines Bilhah and Zilpah then that sin passed to his children and to his family as we found Reuben here slept with his father's concubine. **Therefore you need to repent of your sins so the curse will not pass to your children and you find them doing the same sin.** Perhaps such incidence had stopped Jacob to go unto Bilhah and possibly Leah withheld him from going to her maid Zilpah, and now he was left with his first wife Leah, who was God's choice for him.

***C. Judah the son of Jacob slept with Tamar his daughter-in-law:*** We can read about this adultery in Genesis 38, ***"24 And it came to pass about three months after, that it was told Judah, saying, Tamar thy daughter in law hath played the harlot; and also, behold, she is with child by whoredom. And Judah said, Bring her forth, and let her be burnt. 25 When she was brought forth, she sent to her father in law, saying, By the man, whose these are, am I with child: and she said, Discern, I pray thee, whose are these, the signet, and bracelets, and staff. 26 And Judah acknowledged them, and said, She hath been more righteous than I; because that I gave her not to Shelah my son. And he knew her again no more."*** (Genesis 38:24-26 KJV) Another incident of adultery passed to the children of Jacob. **Again the sin that you do will pass to your children and descendents; therefore refrain from all sins so they will not pass to your children and descendents.**

***D. Joseph, Jacob's favorite son was separated from the family:*** Jacob favored Joseph more than the rest of his children because he was the son of his favorite second wife Rachel. But that caused jealousy inside the family among the siblings toward Joseph. They hated him and

wanted to kill him to get rid of him. Joseph was also gifted with seeing and interpreting dreams that caused his brothers to be upset with him, and all the more they were jealous of him when they saw their father's greater love for Joseph. Finally the brothers of Joseph managed to get rid of him by selling him to the Midianites who sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard. We read about this event in ***Genesis 37, "26 And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood? 27 Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content. 28 Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt. 29 And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph was not in the pit; and he rent his clothes. 30 And he returned unto his brethren, and said, The child is not; and I, whither shall I go? 31 And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood; 32 And they sent the coat of many colours, and they brought it to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or no. 33 And he knew it, and said, It is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces. 34 And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days. 35 And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him. 36 And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard."*** (Genesis 37:26-36 KJV) You see clearly the favoritism that Jacob practiced caused troubles inside his family and finally troubled him. **Therefore be careful of what you do and practice inside your family because what you sow you will reap.**

Joseph stayed in Egypt 22 years, away from his family. He worked as a servant at Potiphar's house. The LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. Joseph was a highly disciplined person, hard working and faithful in his work and service, and set a good example for others to follow God. He moved away from temptation and trusted God who only could protect him and provide for all his needs. What Joseph had received as teaching from his father and family, he applied in the years of his afflictions. Even when he was put in prison he did his duty well and was able to restart once again and he received favor from the authority of the prison, ***"23 The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper."*** (Genesis 39:23 KJV) Finally, Joseph was taken out from the prison and was put second to Pharaoh in managing the country of Egypt facing the seven years of famine. During these famine years God made a way that he would be reunited with his family who were left in Canaan. His brothers were forced to move to Egypt to buy grain and there they met Joseph who forgave them and welcomed them and invited them to live with him in the land of Egypt to overcome the remaining years of famine. Jacob and his whole clan moved to Egypt and God allowed him to be reunited with his son Joseph again. ***"5 And Jacob rose up from Beersheba: and the sons of Israel carried Jacob their father, and their little ones, and their wives, in the wagons which Pharaoh had sent to carry him. 6 And they took their cattle, and their goods, which they had gotten in the land of Canaan, and came into Egypt, Jacob, and all his seed with him: 7 His sons, and his sons' sons with him, his daughters, and his sons' daughters, and all his seed brought he with him into Egypt. 8 And these are the names of the children of Israel, which came into Egypt, Jacob and his sons: Reuben, Jacob's firstborn. 9 And the sons of Reuben; Hanoch, and Phallu, and Hezron, and Carmi. 10 And***

*the sons of Simeon; Jemuel, and Jamin, and Ohad, and Jachin, and Zohar, and Shaul the son of a Canaanitish woman. 11 And the sons of Levi; Gershon, Kohath, and Merari. 12 And the sons of Judah; Er, and Onan, and Shelah, and Pharez, and Zarah: but Er and Onan died in the land of Canaan. And the sons of Pharez were Hezron and Hamul. 13 And the sons of Issachar; Tola, and Phuvah, and Job, and Shimron. 14 And the sons of Zebulun; Sered, and Elon, and Jahleel. 15 These be the sons of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob in Padanaram, with his daughter Dinah: all the souls of his sons and his daughters were thirty and three. 16 And the sons of Gad; Ziphion, and Haggi, Shuni, and Ezbon, Eri, and Arodi, and Areli. 17 And the sons of Asher; Jimnah, and Ishuah, and Isui, and Beriah, and Serah their sister: and the sons of Beriah; Heber, and Malchiel. 18 These are the sons of Zilpah, whom Laban gave to Leah his daughter, and these she bare unto Jacob, even sixteen souls. 19 The sons of Rachel Jacob's wife; Joseph, and Benjamin. 20 And unto Joseph in the land of Egypt were born Manasseh and Ephraim, which Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On bare unto him. 21 And the sons of Benjamin were Belah, and Becher, and Ashbel, Gera, and Naaman, Ehi, and Rosh, Muppim, and Huppim, and Ard. 22 These are the sons of Rachel, which were born to Jacob: all the souls were fourteen. 23 And the sons of Dan; Hushim. 24 And the sons of Naphtali; Jahzeel, and Guni, and Jezer, and Shillem. 25 These are the sons of Bilhah, which Laban gave unto Rachel his daughter, and she bare these unto Jacob: all the souls were seven. 26 All the souls that came with Jacob into Egypt, which came out of his loins, besides Jacob's sons' wives, all the souls were threescore and six; 27 And the sons of Joseph, which were born him in Egypt, were two souls: all the souls of the house of Jacob, which came into Egypt, were threescore and ten.” (Genesis 46:5-27 KJV)* The later part of the book of Genesis recorded the names of the children of Jacob with their descendants. The family of Jacob with his children and their families-seventy people entered Egypt, and that was the size of the church. Each of the twelve sons of Jacob had descendants and they multiplied and increased greatly in number and for a certain time they prospered in Egypt.

From one man, Adam, God instituted a family. In the early history of God's people, there were not much righteous men but few individuals from Seth's family. They were the type of church during that stage of history because the word 'church' means those people who were called out of the world of darkness or sin into His light because of their willingness to follow Christ. When people increased in number on earth and became wicked, God was not pleased. Yet He called out and preserved a lineage of families that were called as His chosen people, and from where the royal priesthood in the Old Testament would soon come. *Each godly family is a congregation, a base of a church that will expand tremendously over the time with God's grace and provision. From one family that raised up children with the fear of the Lord, God will build a church of many members.*

Figuratively, we are the royal priests chosen by God to bear light to the world. Our children must not bear the witness of Cain but of Godly descents. But speaking about how to raise children, there would be people commenting that some good people come from bad families, and likewise, there are bad people who come from good families. *Yes, the outcome of our children is not in our hand, but have we done our part by obeying God's command to teach our own children and train them up in the way of the LORD? Let us not escape the responsibility of being priestly parents, and should not say things to excuse ourselves from being accountable in bringing up our children in the fear and the ways of the Lord. We, the*

*royal priests whom God has placed over our families and children, shall do our part to consistently teach our children to fear God and keep His commandments:*

*“1 Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: 2 That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. 3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey. 4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.” (Deuteronomy 6:1-9 KJV)*

Let us not give up teaching and training our children in the fear of the Lord because considering that from the same family of Adam and Eve, Seth was born and from his descendants came out a Godly and righteous ancestry. Let us be persuaded that through an individual family member of ours who comes to know God and commits to follow a righteous way of life, God's church would be conserved and Godly generations could continue as royal priests who manage their family well, and thus continue to worship and give glory to God.

Let us give the best example of living a holy life to our children by keeping the statutes of God in our family. The messages we learn from the family life of our ancestors inspire us to walk according to God's Word; God will protect us and bless our family line as long as we live away from sin. Let us therefore refrain from the wrong habit and attitude of parenting and nurturing our family-first, like Lot who chose to live in the city and expose his daughters to sinful ways of life and second, like Jacob who insisted on getting the wife he loved. This resulted in him having two wives and two concubines, and showing favoritism in the family. Discriminating children or any family member always caused heartache and pain inside the family. However, God blessed Jacob and his family increased in number and possession. But then Jacob neglected to fulfill his commitment to God. He had gone to Shechem and forgotten to shelter his daughter from the people of the land. Many parents are not careful to protect their children. They would say that they do not like their children only facing walls so they allow them to experience the ways of the world and the friends around them. Worldly friends introduce wrong practices and functions that contradict Christian discipline. When a Christian family is infected, the church is also infected and will be in great danger, and the process of discipleship is spoiled.

The children of Jacob had also foreign gods and rings in their ears showing that they were slaves to foreign or idol gods. And as we go through the history of Jacob's children we read more painful events that happened and brought bad testimonies not only to the family but to the Assembly of God's people. As a result, the good plan of God for them was hindered and disturbed. They were harmed and they got the consequences of their wrongdoing up to the point that their children's children all became slaves in the land of Egypt. They were the children of God's chosen generation but they did not live a life that glorified God.

Nowadays, many Christians are like the children of Jacob who kept idols or foreign gods with them. They worship God like how the heathens or idolaters worship their gods with parties or orgies, debauchery or dishonesty, and lasciviousness or wearing clothes that expose sensitive parts of their bodies. They spend much time with friends rather than with their families. They replace their Bibles with electronic devices and allow themselves in bondage with their iphones or other media devices to watch movies, TV shows and the social media, and to communicate with their friends in the world rather than spending time in prayer and reading the Bible. They indulge with boyfriends or girlfriends in addition to other forms of immoralities rather than building up Godly families; having worldly friends and learning from them jealousy, envy, and vices like dating, dancing, drinking, smoking, going to parties and malls, telling lies and putting away the rules and commandments of the true and living God: ***“19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” (Galatians 5:19-21 KJV)***

***My Dear and Beloved:*** Every church is formed by families and if sins are condoned inside a Christian family, those sins will spread like cancer into the life of families in the church. Like father Jacob, let us repent of all these sins and renew our covenant and commitment with God. Let us bury all our family idols in Shechem and move to Bethel, the Church of God. Let us lead our whole family to the house of God. We are called to live the Word of God and to impart the character and lifestyle of Christ to our spouses and children. As royal priests, let us worship the living God through leading our families to live in holiness: ***“1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” (Romans 12:1-2 KJV)*** Let us separate ourselves from the lifestyle of ungodly families, and preserve a Godly generation among our children. From the family of Jacob soon one tribe will rise to priesthood, the Levitical ministers who keep the lamps burning in the holy temple of the living God. Let us then move to preserve a royal priesthood in our families, so that the Church of God made up of Godly parents and families would continue to bring the message of hope and salvation to the next generation. 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 the dead to give me eternal life. Lord, thank you for your teaching that showed me the bad effects and the consequences of various sins inside the family and how to repent from them. Lord thank you for opening my eyes to the truth and thank you for all the admonishments and the corrections that I received in this message.

*Come now to God and confess your sins. Confess and renounce your worldliness, your love for the world, your yoke and wasting time with non believers and friends, and in bondage with the Media, News and games. Confess and renounce your lust, immoralities, your favoritism, and envy, jealousy, telling lies, fights and quarrels. Confess and renounce your disobedience to God's commands, your stubbornness, delayed obedience, and doing your own will and plan. Confess your lack of fear of God, non willingness to wait upon God's choice in your life,*

*your bad stewardship and your lack of reading of God's Word and prayer. Confess and renounce your bad example and your non willingness to serve God in doing the good works that He prepared in advance for you to do. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins*

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*Lord I commit myself to live according to the plan that you had ordained for me and my family to live on. Lord I commit myself to live in holiness and to discipline my family and take them away from all temptations and worldliness. Lord I commit myself to cleanse my family from the Media, games, threats of immoralities and other bondages that they may entangle in. Lord protect us and provide for us so we will continue to serve you.*

*Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, and committed their lives to do your will and to live the plan that you had for them and their families. Lord continue to lead them to the things that they need to do in their families and provide for all their needs and set them good examples to others to follow.*

*Lord, bless us as your church as we commit ourselves to continue to observe your Word and teach our members and workers to implement your Word in their lives and the lives of their families. Lord we ask you to refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. 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.*

The Duties of the Priest Part 5. Continuity for the Family of Jacob. Genesis 35:16-20. Genesis 35:22. Genesis 38:24-26. Genesis 37:26-36. Genesis 39:23. Genesis 46:5-27. Deuteronomy 6:1-9. Galatians 5:19-21. Romans 12:1-2.

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