

WORD AT WORK

VOLUME XXXVIII NUMBER X
Sonship Gift III – Without Blame A

This Word at Work is dedicated to our friends at PWCC

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1

Scripture: Ephesians 1:3-4, 1 John 3:20-21

In Ephesians 1:3-4 we are introduced to the Sonship Gifts. This passage says, *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love...”* In the past few months, we have been looking at the primary fruit of being chosen and holy before God and realizing that we are blameless as a result of the progressive growth and development of application of the Blood of Christ. Blood-bought holy soil grows plants that are blameless, especially when we allow ourselves to germinate in the soil of God’s Word. We grow into blamelessness. One of the fruits of being blameless is the fearlessness that God desires for the church in the last days. Number one, we were chosen. Number two we were declared holy by the Blood of the Lamb, and number three we were blood-washed and declared without blame. We know biblically that the fruit of being blameless is a clear conscience that does not condemn. 1 John 3:20-21 says, *“For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us we have confidence toward God.”* Confidence toward God can grow into fearlessness. Our call as believers is to be fearless representatives of Christ. We are called to walk in His fullness in the last days. That is the goal of growth. That is our destiny. God has called us there and the Sonship gifts are the soil that will produce that. We are explaining the contribution of being blameless as it contributes to fullness!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2

Scripture: Ephesians 5:25-27

The Greek word **am-o-mos** means to be without blemish, without blot, without disgrace, without censure and without insult. It refers to the spotless requirement of a perfect sacrificial lamb. **Am-o-mos** is the word that is used of a perfect sacrifice. In the Old Testament when the sacrificial animal was presented, it had to be carefully inspected to make sure it was faultless and without a single spot or blemish. This was a well-executed inspection meticulously applied by the priests in the Old Testament! Jesus, of course, became that perfect Sacrifice for us. **Am-o-mos** is used for the second time in the New Testament in Ephesians 5:27. We are told, *“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and **without blemish.**”* Jesus brought us into that place where the church is spotless, holy, and without blame. There is another word that shows up in this process called **kata-krima** which means there is no judgment against us! When you and I are declared blameless by the Lord, we must choose to walk in the Spirit with no judgment against us. Without blemish and blameless with no judgment against us becomes our spiritual reality. **Am-o-mas** and **kata-krima** are the two concepts that merge together into one, creating a platform on which we are called to stand. Whenever we are declared blameless by the Blood of Christ, the first thing we accept is that no judgment can stand against us. None! Zero! All are erased! All judgment is eradicated, removed, gone by the Blood. No judgment against

am-o-mas can stand! **Kata-krima** is removed. Glory to God! We must choose to believe the Word and act on it! The result is supernatural confidence in our heart because our hearts assure us that there is no condemnation!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3

Scripture: Colossians 1:19-22

Colossians 1:19-22 says, *“For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless/am-o-mas and above reproach in His sight.”* Without reproach is the **kata-krima** element. There are no judgments tolerated against us. Once we embrace our blamelessness, we are empowered to cast down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God! Our job is to cast them down! Getting ahold of this and really believing it will probably be a process. But taking the Word, taking the truth and declaring it every single day is an important first step. God’s truth applied to our heart brings freedom. John 8:32 says, *“And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.”* Spiritual truth often becomes personal reality as we choose to believe it and continue walking as if it were so, expecting God to make it real!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4

Scripture: Hebrews 9:13-14

Hebrews 9:13-14 says, *“For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”* In Hebrews 9:14 we know that Jesus the Spotless Lamb offered Himself for us. That is the Greek word **am-o-mas**. He was completely and totally blameless. He was the perfect Sacrifice and He made it possible to have that indescribably rich blessing. Clearing the conscience is like erasing a blackboard. The Blood of Christ is the magic eraser. Any thoughts to the contrary are directly from the enemy and we must stand on the truth to fight against satan’s lies. Every memory of our past sin or the corresponding guilt, shame and blame can be eradicated permanently by the Blood which is our Eternal Eraser. We can only appropriate this for ourselves. No one else can do it for us. Hebrews 9:13-14 is evidence of Paul’s application of this magic eraser and we have to walk in truth until our testimony matches Paul’s. *“I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day!”*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5

Scripture: Jude 24

How many times does it take to study this truth in the New Testament before we begin to possess its reality? Satan’s goal is to steal, kill and destroy and he will do it by any means possible. Do we ever wonder if we’re good enough for God? Have we ever thought our sin might be too big for Him to forgive? Do we continue in shame over something we’ve already confessed to Jesus? If so, we must discern that is satan who is whispering in our ears! His goal is to defeat us and paralyze us! God has fruitfulness and a full destiny. For us, it is no surprise that the enemy persists with accusations which keep us in guilt and prevent us from accepting blamelessness. We must earnestly contend for our Sonship Gifts and the freedom they offer *“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,...”* *“Faultless”* in this Scripture is also the Greek word **am-o-mas**. So every day we have is a gift that is bought and paid for by the Blood. We have this gift that declares we are blameless before God and man! If God declares us blameless, then who are we to argue or stay paralyzed by shamefulness and despair? We should rather persist daily to receive our gifts with thanksgiving!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

Scripture: Revelation 14:4-5

Revelation 14:4-5 is the final place that **am-o-mas** is used in the New Testament. *“These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they*

are **without fault before the throne of God.**" **Am-o-mas** is said of every believer. In the book of Revelation the Lord uses **am-o-mas** concerning the 144,000 Jewish evangelists ministering during the tribulation period. We are just as **am-o-mas** before Him as they are. None of this group has ever been guilty of sexual sin. What is being highlighted here? God is emphasizing an important point for clarity of conscience! When you and I are born into the family of God and when, as believers, we ask to be again washed with His blood, all sexual sin is cleansed, blanked out, erased and gone! Yes, gone! Why cloud it with any future problems? That would be foolishness! Engaging in sexual sin leaves an impact that can affect us within and without. We cannot afford to do that. Sexual sin is a much greater travesty with God than our culture admits! The way we walk fearless in the last days is to accept the full umbrella of the application of **am-o-mas** in making us blameless. I certainly hope that by looking at every place it is used in the New Testament we are making that application to our own lives. We need to! The fruit of knowing we are blameless is serving God in fearlessness. A confident and fearless walk before God is His goal for us!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7

Scripture: Matthew 1:1-3

Matthew gives us a look at all those God chose to populate the family tree of Christ! Who are those who would be counted worthy to birth God Himself into the earth? Will we find the richest and brightest or the lowest and the least? Will we find people like us? If we could choose our own family would we agree or disagree with God's choices? Is there a message to us in God's choice of those individuals who bore His only Son? Do all those including God's family lineage need a Savior as desperately as we do? We can learn from God's choices. God has, through covenant, made a declaration over the family that Christ came through. The Blood of the covenant covers them just like it covers us. It would be of great value for us to look at Christ's family tree and weigh the moral character of those involved. Does He have a minimum requirement in qualifying for Christ's family tree? This is an interesting proposition.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8

Scripture: Genesis 49:8-10, Matthew 1:1-3

In Matthew 1:1-3 we are told, "*The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram.*" It is interesting that sometimes in the written genealogy it records the wife. I wonder why? It is always something we should note for review. In a male-dominated culture, how did the women get mentioned? Why were women included in what was obviously a genealogy that primarily recorded only the men? I wonder if that points us to something? That would be interesting to see. In Genesis 49, Jacob called all of his sons together and gave them each a prophetic word and told them what would befall them. Of Judah he said, "*Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's children shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion's whelp; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.*" Judah must have been an honorable man to qualify for such a word. What kind of man gets a good word like that? Does his character match his word? Since his word is sovereign, he must have been one amazing, noteworthy and holy individual. Let's delve into the Word and find out.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9

Scripture: Genesis 37:22-28

In Genesis 37:22-28 we find, "*And Reuben said to them, 'Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit which is in the wilderness, and do not lay a hand on him'—that he might deliver him out of their hands, and bring him back to his father. So it came to pass, when Joseph had come to his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the tunic of many colors that was on him. Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit was empty; there was no water in it. And they sat down to eat a meal. Then they lifted their eyes and looked, and there was a company of Ishmaelites, coming from Gilead with their camels, bearing spices, balm, and myrrh, on their way to carry them down to Egypt. So Judah said to his brothers, 'What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother and our flesh.'* And his brothers listened. Then

Midianite traders passed by; so the brothers pulled Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.” I surely thought that with Judah’s amazing calling he would have been a very honorable individual and yet he is the one who sold his own brother for gain. That is amazing. I wonder how guilty he felt when the brothers became aware that Joseph was the second in command in Egypt. What a rotten thing to do to your brother! Now surely if God can declare Judah blameless and worthy to be in Christ’s lineage, can we argue with the Lord about our own gift of blamelessness! We have never sold anyone into slavery for twenty pieces of silver. He is one compromised character, but God knows the motive of heart! This cleansing Blood might be stronger than we thought. Judah might argue, it was compassionate to sell Joseph and save his life, but slaves in that era often died at the whim of the master. How did they know what awaited Joseph, either death or life? They did not know but acted out of jealousy and were willing to sell him into a bondage that could have easily ended in his death.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10

Scripture: Genesis 38:1-3

In Genesis 38:1-3 we are told, *“It came to pass at that time that Judah departed from his brothers, and visited a certain Adullamite whose name was Hirah. And Judah saw there a daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name was Shua, and he married her and went in to her. So she conceived and bore a son, and he called his name Er.”* The Israelites were not supposed to marry the Canaanites. They were absolutely not supposed to do that. That was forbidden. In this passage we read that Judah went against God’s law and picked the wrong woman for a wife. Here Judah had a call, the tribe of Judah was the tribe out of which King David and Christ Himself was to come. So far we have two serious acts of rebellion against God’s law. And the more we research Judah the more the evidence mounts against him. The evidence is stacking up that Judah defied God in major ways again and again. God chose regular people who had major issues to overcome! God did not hide the dysfunction of those He chose! This should cause us to take heart.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11

Scripture: Genesis 37:6-10

Verses 6 and 7 say, *“Then Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, and her name was Tamar. But Er, Judah’s firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord killed him.”* Somehow Judah’s rebellion multiplied in His kids. Judah married against God’s law. He married a Canaanite woman and God killed his first-born. Verses 8-10 go on to say, *“And Judah said to Onan, ‘Go in to your brother’s wife and marry her, and raise up an heir to your brother.’ But Onan knew that the heir would not be his; and it came to pass, when he went in to his brother’s wife, that he emitted on the ground, lest he should give an heir to his brother. And the thing which he did displeased the Lord; therefore He killed him also.”* So far, the fruit of Judah’s generation was that his rebellion had doubled. God killed Judah’s second son as well. Why would somebody this flawed be selected by God for a tremendous blessing? Is there something God sees in Judah’s heart that can’t be determined by his actions?

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12

Scripture: Genesis 38:11-30

Judah only had one remaining son. His daughter-in-law Tamar was pressing him to be wed to his third son so that an heir to Er, his first-born, could come as was the Jewish custom. Judah said to Tamar, *“Remain a widow in your father’s house till my son Shelah is grown.”* For he said, *‘Lest he also die like his brothers.’* And Tamar went and dwelt in her father’s house.” Now the plot thickens because Judah never intended to give his youngest son to Tamar. Tamar devised a plan. This chapter goes on to say, *“So she took off her widow’s garments, covered herself with a veil and wrapped herself, and sat in an open place which was on the way to Timnah; for she saw that Shelah was grown, and she was not given to him as a wife. When Judah saw her, (after his wife died) he thought she was a harlot, because she had covered her face. Then he turned to her by the way, and said, ‘Please let me come in to you’; for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law.”* Tamar asked for a pledge and he gave her his signet, his cord and his staff with the intent that Judah would later exchange a young goat for his belongings. When Judah attempted to make payment, the harlot was nowhere to be found. Three months passed and Judah got a report that Tamar his daughter-in-law had played the harlot and was now pregnant. Judah was ready to bring full judgment to her and declared she was to be burned to death. We are told in verses 24-28, *“And it came to pass, about three months after, that Judah was told, saying, ‘Tamar your daughter-in-law has played the harlot; furthermore she is with child by harlotry.’ So Judah said,*

'Bring her out and let her be burned!' When she was brought out, she sent to her father-in-law, saying, 'By the man to whom these belong, I am with child.' And she said, 'Please determine whose these are—the signet and cord, and staff.' So Judah acknowledged them and said, 'She has been more righteous than I, because I did not give her to Shelah my son.' And he never knew her again." What is amazing about this is the Scripture records that Tamar gave birth to twins. The Word goes on to say, *"Now it came to pass, at the time for giving birth, that behold, twins were in her womb. And so it was, when she was giving birth, that the one put out his hand; and the midwife took a scarlet thread and bound it on his hand, saying, 'This one came out first.' Then it happened, as he drew back his hand, that his brother came out unexpectedly; and she said, 'How did you break through? This breach be upon you!' Therefore his name was Perez. Afterward his brother came out who had the scarlet thread on his hand. And his name was called Zerah."* One was named Perez and the other was named Zerah. Tamar gave birth to two boys. One of those twins was to be in the direct lineage of Jesus. We are told in Matthew 1:3, *"Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram."* This is an incredible account of more than one failure of the patriarch Judah. Why did God choose men who were this flawed to be in the lineage to bring forth His Own Son? Here is a child of incest that is part of Christ's holy heritage. Is there is a message for us here? When He declares us blameless by the Blood of Christ, faultless, spotless and flawless, we need to believe it! In order for us to bring forth God's will and purpose in the last days, we have to be fearless, and we can't be fearless for God if we don't **know** that we are blameless before God. Our Sonship gifts can help us stand victorious in this hour with supernatural confidence. Understanding our blamelessness is a key!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

Scripture: Matthew 1:4-6, Joshua 2:1

In Matthew 1:4-6 we are told, *" Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king."* Let's take a look at a woman named Rahab whose name first appears in Joshua 2. Here we have Joshua sending two spies into the Promised Land to survey the land. They lodged with Rahab the harlot who ran a brothel. And she was counted among the lineage of Christ. It is one thing to say we understand people who have had some sexual mistakes but what about someone who makes it their business. God is sending us a message about the depth of His redemption! Rahab had her own personal God-moment. We know that is true as we hear her own confession in Joshua 2:8-11 which says, *"I know that the Lord has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath."* The terror of the Lord persuaded Rahab and unlike the others in her city the honor and awe which entered her heart became her pathway to salvation.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14

Scripture: Joshua 2:2-24

In Joshua 2:2-24 the spies went into Rahab's house. While there, the King of Jericho apparently had informants in the neighborhood. He sent to Rahab and said, *"Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to search out all the country."* All of a sudden, not only the mission but the life of the spies was on the line. Whatever Rahab decided to do was going to determine the outcome of this war against Jericho. Verses 4-6 tell us what she did. *"Then the woman took the two men and hid them. So she said, 'Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. And it happened as the gate was being shut, when it was dark, that the men went out. Where the men went I do not know; pursue them quickly, for you may overtake them.' But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order on the roof."* Rahab saved the spies and then because she lived on the wall of the city, she helped them escape by lowering them down the wall with a rope through a window. She also made them promise that they would save her and her family when Israel made its attack. So they made an oath. Verses 17-18 state, *"So the men said to her: 'We will be blameless of this oath of yours which you have made us swear, unless, when we come into the land, you bind this line of scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and unless you bring your father, your mother, your brothers, and all your father's household to your own home. So it shall be that whoever goes outside the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on*

his own head, and we will be guiltless. And whoever is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head if a hand is laid on him.” Rahab’s belief in Israel’s Mighty God and her treatment of the spies gained the salvation of her entire house. Rahab knew that her whole city was afraid of the Israelites and she related that information to the spies. Rahab not only provided safety and shelter but she also told them exactly what to do to successfully escape. The testimony of the two spies as they returned to Israel’s encampment inspired great faith in Joshua and in the whole army.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15

Scripture: Joshua 6:17-25, Ezekiel 36:26

This verse says, *“Now the city shall be doomed by the Lord to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.”* Rahab gained the promise of the salvation of her entire family and in verses 21-25 of chapter 6 we discover that was exactly what happened. The Israelites burned the city with fire but they saved Rahab and her entire family and all that they had because of her faith demonstrated by what she did for the two spies. We could say that Rahab became a believer. Here we may ask ourselves, does becoming a believer wipe out our entire past? Apparently with God it does, even if we were managing a brothel. Ezekiel 36:26 says, *“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”* When we feel that we are **not** blameless, we are listening to lies from the enemy! Understanding this should give us cause to celebrate. These accounts should greatly support and reinforce our understanding of our own blamelessness. God redeems personal failures and our missteps as believers! Repentance always returns us to a position of chosen, holy and blameless in God’s eyes. God’s quality and power of love is all-powerful and beyond comprehension!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16

Scripture: Hebrews 11:31

We are all familiar with Hebrews 11 and realize the importance and the honor of being included in Faith’s Hall of Fame. In Hebrews 11:31 we are told, *“By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.”* By faith Rahab believed in the God of Israel and God saved Rahab as well as her whole house and all that she had. She became a part of faith’s Hall of Fame and a member of the forever family of God and beyond that to the lineage of Christ. The Blood of Christ has made us family and as family with God we are blameless, spotless, faultless in His sight. And most of us have never pioneered a family brothel. Why do we have trouble believing what the Word says when God’s choice of family is pretty obvious? He loves it when people simply take Him at His Word. Surely we can be those people. Certain kinds of sin, the degree of sin, the months and years of sin do not and should not be a barrier from a victorious Christian life. The Word says in 2 Corinthians 5:17, *“Therefore if **any** man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are becoming new.”* What a marvelous Savior we serve!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17

Scripture: James 2:25

James 2:25 is dealing with the issue of justification—‘just as if we’d never done it’ and says, *“Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”* Rahab became an example of faith and how it works and its power to transform. God is much more interested in faith and obedience than He is in what kind of business we were in before we met Him, what kind of mistakes we made prior to knowing Him, and what sins we’ve asked forgiveness for since knowing Him. It is obvious because of the inclusion of this woman who had a brothel and went on to become an example of faith in Faith’s Hall of Fame in Hebrews. Anyone who thinks they don’t qualify because of past sexual escapades or sin better think again.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18

Scripture: Matthew 1:5-6, Acts 13:22

Matthew 1:5-6 we are told, *“Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah.”* In Christ’s genealogy

we also read of the relationship of David and Bathsheba. We know what they went through, yet Scripture makes it very clear that these two stood before God blameless and they became a key part of the family of God. More than that, David is an example in the book of Acts for all of us as a man after God's own heart. What is being revealed to us about blameless? When God says we are blameless, that wipes out all our past failures. That is the power of the Blood of Christ and we need to say yes to it without reservation. God chose people with weaknesses and faults who yielded to temptation but they all had hearts with enough humility to acknowledge their failures and follow God to the end of their destiny. They all believed God was bigger than their failures! Our daily repentance will keep us in awareness of our gift of blamelessness and keep us walking fearlessly toward all that Christ has!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19

Scripture: 2 Samuel 11:1-5

2 Samuel 11:1-5 says, *"It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold. So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, 'Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?'"* Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house. And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, *"I am with child."* Wow! How many people do we know that take a bath on their roof in order to attract a better lifestyle and end up getting it? This is what we might call naked ambition and using one's assets for a better future. This may or may not have been Bathsheba's motivation—we don't know. We know the greater sin rests with King David because of the authority of his position and the anointing oil upon him to consecrate him. What a king does affects his whole nation and David was judged accordingly. God did not hesitate to bring Christ through David and Bathsheba! Their union, which started in sin, produced the Savior of all mankind!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

Scripture: 2 Samuel 12:1-12

In this passage Nathan the prophet was sent to King David after the death of Uriah the Hittite. In his confrontation with David, Nathan began with a story. There were two men one rich and one with a single little ewe lamb. The rich man saw the lamb and decided he wanted it and took it to feed a guest. The rich man refused to take from his own flock and instead took the poor man's and prepared it. David's anger was greatly aroused against the man, and he said to Nathan, *"As the Lord lives, the man who has done this shall surely die! And he shall restore fourfold for the lamb, because he did this thing and because he had no pity. Then Nathan said to David, 'You are the man!'"* David was caught. Nathan said, *"For you did it secretly but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun."* David had to listen to the fact that he would lose his kingdom, all of his wives would be taken before all of Israel because of what he did secretly. God was now going to do this to him openly. One of the things we've learned about judgment is that what we do to other people can and often does come back on us. We certainly see that here. God didn't condone David's behavior but He brought it back on David's head. David had to acknowledge his sin and then walk through it before all Israel. To David's credit he did not make any excuses but in verse 13 he said, *"I have sinned against the Lord." And Nathan said to David, 'The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die.'* One of the things we know about King David was that he was quick to repent. He did not make excuses for his own failures and mistakes but he acknowledged them, quickly repented and turned from them. That is certainly something that all of us need to emulate. As believers it is a key to daily keep our hearts renewed in blamelessness. There is something else here. King David was declared faultless and became a great example in Scripture. He still sinned, but when he turned back to God, the Redeemer made him blameless once again. Through the Blood of Christ you and I can overcome our mistakes! We can overcome our faults, we can grow out of past failure because of what God has done for us. Accepting forgiveness is essential! The real sin here is believing our mistakes are greater than the remedy of Christ's Blood shed for us. This applies to sins both before our conversion and after as we keep a humble, repentant heart. We must rise up beyond our failures and embrace the freedom, that Blood purchased! It is foolish to continue to believe we are unworthy in the face of the examples which God has put in His Word! David killed Uriah. As we see with David, even in the sin of murder God does not withhold forgiveness and salvation. Blamelessness is the key to acknowledgement and

repentance. We are without excuse for not accepting the power of the Blood that makes us blameless. We need to embrace eternal truth.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21

Scripture: 2 Samuel 12:13-14

In 2 Samuel 12:13-14 David acknowledged his sin and the Lord put it away and then David found out what the judgment was going to be on the child who was a product of their sin. Verse 14 says, *“However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also who is born to you shall surely die.”* And when their son was born he became sick and died. King David had to walk through not only the shame but the judgment that followed! The judgment included the pain and heartache of losing their child. David walked that out honorably! He did it biblically, he did it covenantly and he ultimately got rewarded by God for it as the Scripture declares!

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22

Scripture: 2 Samuel 12:15-20, John 8:36

In 2 Samuel 12:15-20 we discover that King David walked through steps of restoration. His first step was acknowledging his sin. His second one was accepting the consequences of the sin he committed. This doesn't mean that he could not ask God to intervene and change it. In verse 18 we find, *“Then on the seventh day it came to pass that the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead. For they said, ‘Indeed, while the child was alive, we spoke to him, and he would not heed our voice. How can we tell him that the child is dead? He may do some harm.’”* David at this point was praying, interceding and fasting. The Bible says he would not eat and no one could raise him off the ground. So David was praying and fasting for the child to live, but the child died. Clearly as soon as the child died, David accepted that and knew it was time for the season to change. In verse 19 we are told, *“When David saw that his servants were whispering, David perceived that the child was dead. Therefore David said to his servants, ‘Is the child dead?’ And they said, ‘He is dead.’”* His baby's death marked the end of David's fasting and praying for the child. It was over, the initial judgment was complete. There were future consequences of his actions that were going to come to pass but David simply had to walk out the rest of his life and he knew that. He refused to be stuck in the past or be held back in the shame-and-blame game. He refused to believe the lies of the enemy. He believed God's message of being declared blameless. God removed every ounce of blame from David and He will do that for us too. We do not have to live under shame and blame any longer! I trust we are hearing this because the Bible makes it clear. If we continue to feel blame, we have to resist the enemy and stand on the Word! John 8:36 says, *“Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”* Being held back by our faults keeps us defeated. We were chosen for a purpose, God has placed a call on our lives and He has given us giftings to fulfill that call. But there is no way we can be fearless and fulfill our call if we do not accept the fact that we have been declared blameless! We must discern the lies of the enemy for what they are. We must reject guilt and shame and embrace the divine gift of blamelessness every single day! King David refused to be defined by his sin and we must do the same!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23

Scripture: 2 Samuel 12:20-23, Acts 13:32-34

We are told in 2 Samuel 12:20-23, *“So David arose from the ground, washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he went into the house of the Lord and worshiped. Then he went to his own house; and when he requested, they set food before him, and he ate. Then his servants said to him, ‘What is this that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive, but when the child died, you arose and ate food.’ And he said, ‘While the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, “Who can tell whether the Lord will be gracious to me, that the child may live?” But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.’”* David realized that he couldn't change what was already past. The past was over and the season had now changed. Despite everything David did, he moved forward by arising from the ground, washing, anointing himself, changing clothes and reconnecting with God. These were his steps to a new beginning! These were the steps to resume his life and ministry through the Blood of the covenant! It is essential that we comprehend, internalize and integrate these restorative steps. A fearless walk demands a restoration process! King David pioneered a process here. If we don't understand how to reconnect with God and receive the cleansing impartation of the Blood, we can become

stranded. King David got it and we can get it too. He partook of his covenant of Sure Mercy. Jesus guaranteed that same covenant to us in Acts 13:32-34. It is as much ours as it was King David's. He stood on it and he believed it. God honored David's process by restoring him completely. Now isn't it time we accept our purpose, our giftings and our call? Isn't it time we fully believe and stand on the cleansing impartation of the Blood? Let's do it, in Jesus' name!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24

Scripture: 2 Samuel 12:24-25

In 2 Samuel 12:24-25 we find that David went on to the last step in birthing a new beginning. In the final step, King David went back and comforted Bathsheba his wife and he went into her. It was like a fresh start, and they had another child. He called his name Solomon and the Lord loved him. This passage says, *"Then David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in to her and lay with her. So she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. Now the Lord loved him, and He sent word by the hand of Nathan the prophet: So he called his name Jedidiah, because of the Lord."* 'Jedidiah' means greatly loved. After God took their first son, David ministered mercy and restoration to his wife Bathsheba. After their marriage they had a son, Solomon, and the Lord loved Solomon. How much did the Lord love Solomon? Solomon was to become the wisest and the richest man who ever lived. Now that is a testimony! It is a testimony to the power of the covenant of Sure Mercy. It is a testimony to the power of becoming blameless, faultless and spotless. It is a testimony to the power of forgiveness that is in the Blood of Christ. We have it and it is time we appropriate it and walk in full faith and confidence of what God has done for us. It is certainly clear that God chose normal people for His family. We cannot escape this truth. God chose some seriously flawed people, He redeemed their flaws and made them people of great faith and stature, and they carried His Kingdom and built it. We are called to be those people in the last days and we have a worldwide harvest to birth so we better get with it. Let us accept our redemption! Many of us need to give ourselves permission to embrace a new beginning!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25

Scripture: Proverbs 31:10-31

In Proverbs 31:10-31 we find what is termed the Proverbs 31 virtuous woman. This passage says, *"Who can find a virtuous wife: For her worth is far above rubies. The heart of her husband safely trusts her; So he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil All the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax. And willingly works with her hands. She is like the merchant ships. She brings her food from afar. She also rises while it is yet night, And provides for her maidservants. She considers a field and buys it; From her profits she plants a vineyard. She girds herself with strength, And strengthens her arms. She perceives that her merchandise is good, And her lamp does not go out by night. She stretches out her hands to the distaff, And her hand holds the spindle. She extends her hand to the poor, Yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of snow for her household, For all her household is clothed with scarlet. She makes tapestry for herself; Her clothing is fine linen, and purple. Her husband is known in the gates, When he sits among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them, And supplies sashes for the merchants. Strength and honor are her clothing; She shall rejoice in time to come. She opens her mouth with wisdom, And on her tongue is the law of kindness. She watches over the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her; 'Many daughters have done well, But you excel them all.' Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her the fruit of her hands, And let her own works praise her in the gates."* The amazing thing about this passage is the subject who inspired the author to write it. Solomon wrote this about his mother Bathsheba. Bathsheba made quite an entrance onto the national stage of Israel through her affair with King David! Time healed the moral failure and proved her real character. By honor, by integrity, by her words and her service, she put God first and built an exemplary life! She taught Solomon the wisdom that was on her tongue. How did Solomon know to ask God for wisdom? He likely got it from his mother. Solomon is telling all of us, 'I became who I am because of who my mother was.' This is quite a statement. God loves to take people with spots, wrinkles and blemishes and infuse them with faith and walk them out into a great future of change and transformation. Why don't we accept what the Blood has done for us and start building on it? It is obvious from the people God chose for His family that He loves flawed characters so that He can redeem their failures. Bathsheba was one such example!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26

Scripture: Matthew 1:7-8

Matthew 1:7-8 say, *“Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa: Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah.”* There is one thing we have discovered in the lineage of Christ and that is that there are no perfect people. Solomon was amazingly gifted. He asked for wisdom to shepherd Israel and became the wisest man ever, the wealthiest man ever. Just like us, they all had faults and failures. And they all had to believe God to be redeemed by covenant Blood. God was faithful to them in their generation and will be to us too! That is the one thread we all have in common. We all share similar issues. David and Bathsheba had to trust God to redeem their failures. Isn't it time that we said yes to the power of the Blood? It is time to get ready for the greatest harvest the earth has ever seen. Our greatest days are ahead. That means we have to believe that we are blameless so that we can stand fearless for Christ! As believers we can surge forward in God-confidence and fearlessness because we are leaning on Him every step of the way!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 14:1-6. 9-15

In 2 Chronicles 14, Asa became king of Judah. Asa did almost everything right in the beginning of his reign. 2 Chronicles 14:2 says, *“Asa did what was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God,...”* In verse 9 he was attacked by Zerah and the Ethiopians who came out against him with a million-man army. Asa knew he was outnumbered so he cried out to God for deliverance. Asa declared, *“‘Lord, it is nothing for You to help, whether with many or with those who have no power; help us, O Lord our God, for we rest on You, and in Your name we go against this multitude. O Lord, You are our God; do not let man prevail against You!’ So the Lord struck the Ethiopians before Asa and Judah, and the Ethiopians fled. And Asa and the people who were with him pursued them to Gerar. So the Ethiopians were overthrown, and they could not recover, for they were broken before the Lord and His army. And they carried away very much spoil. Then they defeated all the cities around Gerar, for the fear of the Lord came upon them; and they plundered all the cities, for there was exceedingly much spoil in them. They also attacked the livestock enclosures, and carried off sheep and camels in abundance, and returned to Jerusalem.”* King Asa was greatly blessed. This season of blessing unfolded for 20 years. Unfortunately, that didn't last throughout his entire reign because another enemy came against him toward the end of his days. And instead of standing as he had before, he took all the gold and silver of the temple and tried to buy help and get relief through his own maneuvering. He used manipulation and surprisingly, it actually seemed to work. Gradually manipulation, however, grew to replace faith until a disease came upon him and he felt he could no longer trust God. Manipulation eroded his confidence before God! He ended up dying and losing the fullness of his call because he yielded to manipulation. King Asa is an example of an individual who started out well but abandoned the Word and suffered terminal consequences! King Asa is an example of how mixed-seed works against us!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 17 - 2 Chronicles 20

We know from 2 Chronicles chapters 17-20 that Jehoshaphat was a good man. He was the man, however, who made mistakes. He had riches and honor, yet erred by showing his wealth to unbelieving kings who set their hearts on his wealth. But far worse, he erred in making a completely irresponsible alliance with Ahab and Jezebel of Israel which included giving his son Jehoram in marriage to their daughter Athaliah. God was not pleased with his trek to war alongside of Ahab. 2 Chronicles 19:2-3 say, *“And Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to King Jehoshaphat, ‘Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD? Therefore the wrath of the LORD is upon you. Nevertheless good things are found in you, in that you have removed the wooden images from the land, and have prepared your heart to seek God.’”* Did Jehoshaphat let his thoughts be consumed with Jehu's declaration to Him about the wrath of God? Obviously not! He finished his race victoriously. Jehoshaphat is a great example of a king who was a good man with Godly accomplishments and yet he also made major mistakes. Thankfully he rose up beyond his missteps. We are discovering something about the men and women of the Bible. Their accomplishments, obedience and failures are openly presented for all to see. God is bigger than their failures! It is amazing to watch King Jehoshaphat turn into a man of great faith. Listen to what he said to God in 2 Chronicles 20:7-9, *“Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever? And they dwell in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying, If disaster comes upon us—sword,*

judgment, pestilence, or famine—we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name is in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.” Jehoshaphat’s mistakes didn’t dictate his path or his identity. He became a man of victory. He listened to God’s voice and didn’t let guilt and shame ruin his thoughts or direction. He cried out for deliverance from his enemies and God answered. Jehoshaphat rose beyond his failures and believed in the God of deliverance. His persistence was rewarded!

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29

Scripture: Isaiah 37:9-19

How many of us cry out to God in need? How many of us pray and ask God to give us a harvest? God answered Hezekiah when he prayed against his enemy. Hezekiah used his faith to pray judicially against Sennacherib. Because he did, God gave him a total victory over Sennacherib! Today, we have an assignment to contribute to a harvest in the last days. That means that we may have to pray against kings, armies, judges, leaders, and people who think they are powerful and **they** rule, but they don’t know that **God** rules until they meet Him. We are going to have to pray prayers that demonstrate that we serve a God Who is stronger than His enemies are. God desires to rule in the affairs of men! Are we ready to confront the those that refuse to turn and intend to do damage to the Kingdom of God? We need to prepare! We can only be fearless if we know that we stand before God blameless!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30

Scripture: Isaiah 37:35-38

The picture throughout the Bible is one of many people who achieve great success and often had to overcome great odds, sometimes as a result of their own personal choices. Whether we need these truths before or after our covenantal conversion, God’s message is consistent – repent and be restored! We consistently hear God’s voice through priests and prophets who said, ‘Repent and turn.’ The Bible presents God as a Covenant-Keeper who offers man an open invitation – walk with Me! God was mightier than what they faced and He is mightier than what we face! With God on our side we are never alone. Because of that, we can be fearless in the face of evil, stand strong and believe God for deliverance continually. Hezekiah prayed against his enemy Sennacherib who ruled the strongest army in the then-known world, and he got victory. Verses 35-38 say, *“For I will defend this city, to save it For My own sake and for My servant David’s sake.’ Then the angel of the Lord went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead. So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and went away, returned home, and remained at Nineveh. Now it came to pass, as he was worshiping in the house of Nisroch his god, that his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Ararat. Then Esarhaddon his son reigned in his place.”* Because Hezekiah stood in faith, God put Sennacherib under his feet. How many people are going to be under our feet so we can participate in a harvest? We can be fearless when we know that in God’s eyes we are blameless. The Bible is clear. God didn’t choose any who were ‘perfect’ for His family. He chose people who were flawed and had failures but they all had the same thing in common, they believed Him to be greater than their failures. He chose the humble and the repentant, and they believed Him and became overcomers. Can we do that? We owe Him that much!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31

Scripture: Matthew 1:10, 2 Chronicles 33:9-13

Matthew 1:10 says, *“Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah.”* 2 Chronicles 33:9-13 says, *“So Manasseh seduced Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do more evil than the nations whom the Lord had destroyed before the children of Israel. And the Lord spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they would not listen. Therefore the Lord brought upon them the captains of the army of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze fetters, and carried him off to Babylon. Now when he was in affliction, he implored the Lord his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, and prayed to Him; and He received his entreaty, heard his supplication, and brought him back to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God.”* How did Manasseh make the lineage of Christ as one of the worst kings in Israel’s history? The answer is, he repented. God heard his cry and restored his rule. Five is the number of grace. Manasseh ruled fifty-five years and he became Israel’s longest reigning king. For Manasseh this is a picture of double grace in manifestation. When we

acknowledge our sin and repent, God's grace will be poured out to us too. God's restoration of King Manasseh should greatly encourage us. God says in Jeremiah 32:27, "*Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?*" Let us not squander this amazing gift of blamelessness by self-criticism, shame or doubt! "*Arise, shine; For your light has come? And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.*"

Blessed Blamelessness

*With utmost care God's changing me,
 Accepting Truth is such a key!
 I'll not retreat to thoughts that hurt
 Of such, I'll be on high alert.
 Blameless...free from shame and guilt,
 I am the temple Christ has built.
 And I'll look toward a brighter day
 And let my Jesus have His way!*

Jayne Houghton

ITINERARY

10/5-10/6	Midland, TX	The Bridge Midland, 2813 Maxwell Dr., 79705 7:30 PM Fri, 9:30 AM Sat	Keith McLelland 432-967-3470
10/7-10/9	Andrews, TX	City of Refuge, 1876 N. US 385, 79714 10:30 AM & 6 PM Sun; 7 PM Mon & Tues	Larry Brewer 432-523-7773
10/12-10/13	Newark, Ohio	6363 Cooks Hill Road, 43056 7:30 PM Fri, 10 AM Sat	Gary/Debra Collins 740-215-6260
10/19-10/21	Cross Plains, TX	Living Water Ministries, 548 Highway 36 W., 76443 6:30 PM Fri; 1 PM Sat; 10 AM Sun	Max Evans 254-725-6619
10/23	San Diego, CA	VIP San Diego; Bali Hai Restaurant, San Diego, CA 11 AM, Reservations requested, womenvips@gmail.com	Lynette Williams 858-382-2933