

WORD AT WORK

VOLUME LX NUMBER II Sonship Gift 8: Inheritance I

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Scripture: Ephesians 1:3-4, Esther 4:13-14

Ephesians 1:3-4 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,..."* The Christian growth process starts out when we discover that we were chosen. The most important thing about being chosen is accepting the divine purpose that causes it. The Jewish people faced tremendous peril during the days of Mordecai and Esther when the nation of Israel was in captivity. Mordecai had to send a message to his niece, Queen Esther, who knew that if she went in to see the king without being summoned she could be put to death. In Esther 4:13-14 Mordecai said, *"Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this."* Discovering divine purpose is a great gift! Satan comes as a thief, often to steal purpose. What if our generation parallels Mordecai and Esther in purpose? When many are departing from the faith, God needs bold believers to speak up for Him, declaring God's divine purpose! We were chosen for a purpose and that purpose likely has much to do with the season in which we live. Will we embrace the fullness of the Holy Spirit and stand up in courage and present God in a season in which so many people are going passive? How tragic to be paralyzed into passivity through immaturity, not knowing who we are or why we were called!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Scripture: Ephesians 1:4

This Scripture says, *"...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,..."* God has chosen us that we should be holy. What a statement! Of all the nine Sonship Gifts the only one that is a direct attribute of the character of God is holiness. God gives us a gift of that aspect of His Own character. He applies it through the Blood of Christ and He declares it over us. Through the Blood of Jesus, we become a new creation and we are declared holy. That qualifies us to become the temple of the Living God. Once we are declared holy, God can take up residence in our temple and He can live and develop on the inside of us. Holiness is very important in the plan of God. God told Moses to take the sandals off his feet for he was standing on holy ground. The ground was holy because God was there. We are holy because God takes up residence in us. The issue of holiness is an issue of our position or of our relationship with the Creator of the heavens and the earth. Our kinship with God and our sense of relationship is set in motion through holiness. When He takes up residence by the Holy Spirit on the inside of a person, then we can agree with God that by the Blood of Christ we have been made holy. Honoring holiness is an issue of yielding to the Holy Spirit. It is not a physical issue but wholly a relational one. It is a relational issue and it comes from our relationship with the onboard Living, Holy God who dwells within. Choosing to live holy is a relational issue. It is a choice that we need to make knowing full well what the consequences are. If we don't want to grieve the Holy Spirit so that He goes on vacation and leaves, then we have to choose to maintain that relationship of holiness and it is a choice. It is about fullness of purpose and it is about a heart desire to please our Father.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

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

This verse says, “...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,...” We are declared blameless. We are blameless because Jesus paid the price for us to be blameless. The Blood of Christ offers another relational aspect of the Lord taking up residence in us which is the fruit of holiness, which is blamelessness. The down-payment on redemption that we receive from the Blood of Jesus makes us blameless. This is an issue that allows us to have faith and to walk with God the Father as His sons and daughters. Being blameless is very, very important. It is more than just acknowledging an eternal truth it is a matter of receiving Family status as sons and daughters. It is an invitation to freedom through relationship. It is foundational for growth and realizing our fullness of purpose. Blamelessness is a seed for the transformation that comes with redemption. It is a catalyst for the dismantling the deception and manipulation that are byproducts of shame, guilt and accusations which keep us immature and vulnerable. Blamelessness extracts the arrows of blame, shame and guilt and will grow us to the place of accepting the status of sons and daughters of the King! 1 John 3:20 says, “If our heart does not condemn us, God is greater than our heart and knows all things.” Faith to walk with God requires that we receive and accept blamelessness.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Scripture: Ephesians 1:5

Ephesians 1:5 says, “...having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,...” Number four of the Sonship Gifts is adoption and adoption cements our primary purpose. We become legal sons and daughters. That sets our Family status as God’s very Own in place. It is the very first thing that is declared as God’s purpose for us. We accept our Sonship and become unshakeable in the fact that we have been adopted by God and we are fully His. Now we are sons and daughters of the Most High, exactly like Jesus was and is! That is only a challenge to our mind. It is not a challenge to our heart. Our heart wants to say yes, of course we are! I am a son and I will walk side by side with my elder brother Jesus. We are sons and daughters and we can have the same relationship with the Father that Jesus had. That is the purpose. That was God’s first purpose for us. Other purposes unfold. The first purpose demands we take our place as a son and daughter of the Most High and we don’t let anyone argue us out of it. True Biblical faith comes from a place of being in relationship with God—a legal relationship that comes with privileges, inheritance and anointing. All originated with God Himself. This relationship also comes with responsibility! These nine Sonship Gifts are critical for us developing the relationship that God intended us to have so we can further accomplish our appointed purpose in the last days. That is no small thing! Purpose number one says yes to fully being a son and daughter of the Mighty Creator! Eventually we have to act like it. We have to think and behave differently. Our Dad has a business, Dad is wealthy with supernatural wealth to share, Dad wants to plug us in to our assigned spot. Let’s develop that relationship with Dad and the Holy Spirit and see what happens!

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Scripture: Ephesians 1:5-6

Ephesians 1:5-6 says, “...having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.” Purpose number one is adoption. Our Father predestined us to adoption as His Own by Jesus Christ. We are now sons and daughters of the Most High. Purpose two is that we are to accept and embrace our new family, our position in it as well as our relationship with the Father. Accept it! We have been made fully accepted, and made sons and daughters of our Mighty Creator! It is essential to believe and to receive. We did not dream this up! It was God Who originated this and our part is to accept it! To accept our acceptance, we must embrace the truth of it and discard thoughts of unworthiness or reflection. This gift prepares the way for understanding redemption.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Scripture: Ephesians 1:7

This passage says, “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” Redemption is where every penalty is paid so that we know nothing against ourselves. All of our failures

and mistakes are redeemed. Every violation and every penalty is paid for. All of our past failures and mistakes are paid for and are redeemed. They become as a nonexistent thing in the eyes of our Father. If our conscience does not condemn us, we have faith toward God. In this position we know that we know that we know that we have been redeemed, rendered pure with a fresh start in the eyes of the Lord. Redemption cements the prior Sonship gifts in place. It is real to us because we train ourselves to act like it, think like it, we live like it and we pray like it! Occasionally any of us may slip and fall. If we fail, we are to rise up, repent and quickly be restored to blamelessness and redemption. *"If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* Our family status is secure!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Scripture: Ephesians 1:7

Ephesians 1:7 says, *"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace..."* Forgiveness of sin is more than forgiveness of sin. We discover in the Greek, the word 'remission of sin,' and that remission carries with it two parts. Number one is forgiveness of sin but number two is the expunging of the record. It is the expunging of the record that completely eradicates any witness against us. All those voices are and should be silenced by what Jesus has done. Sonship Gift seven, redemption, completes the eradication of all the voices against us and turns those ongoing specific reminders into illegal lies. That should release us into perfect faith so that now our spirit man will germinate the seeds of God's promises under the direction of the Holy Spirit. This is the fruit of what the Lord has done for us that we can now without any condemnation bring forth perfect faith in what God calls us to do because there is no grounds for any accusation against us. Jesus had major victory to communicate after the resurrection. God has fully blotted out the handwriting of ordinances against us... Colossians 2:13-14 NLT says, *"When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you^[a] alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross."* Our sin is remitted and expunged—no record, all record of failure gone! Alleluia! This is developmental. From this point on, all things are possible to us. Nothing is impossible. Anything that God promises or speaks prophetically is possible for us. It can be germinated and we can exercise victorious faith for it. That is the purpose of the Sonship Gifts. They have a purpose and that purpose is to eradicate blame shame and guilt. We are to put to death the old self and the old nature. According to Colossians 1:21-23 *"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, and above reproach in His sight—if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister."* Colossians 3:10 says we are to *"...have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,..."* Will we accept Jesus' gift? It takes obedience. What God did, He did for a specific purpose! That purpose is to raise up a fearless Bride in the last days. When we ponder what God's purpose is for us individually, it is to be a fearless, obedient voice for Him. We are to stand as sons pure and upright to live for the praise of His glory. I trust that we are moving into this because the hour is crucial and the Sonship Gifts will establish us! The church in the last days is to be without spot, wrinkle or blemish and it is a glorious church, pure, secure and mature! One of the reasons why it is glorious is because it is fearless. When we choose to fear the Lord, the Bible says in Proverbs that we shall be free from the fear of evil. If I choose to fear God, then I am fearless in the face of man. That is one of the blessings of choosing to fear God. It really makes sense that as the Bible says, *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Scripture: Ephesians 1:8-14

This passage says, *"...which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."* God has a purpose for us and that purpose is to carry His inheritance and parcel it

out by direction of the Spirit. What is that word guarantee in the Greek. It is **ar-hrab-ohn**. What does this mean in the walking out of the purpose of being sons and daughters of God. The whole center of our relationship is based on this word **ar-hrab-ohn**. Let's do an exhaustive study of the depth of meaning of this word. The first lexicon we will look at is the Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament. This dictionary defines **ar-hrab-ohn** as a legal, commercial and technical term. It explains an advance transaction that guarantees the validity of a contract or a full purchase down-payment, the first installment or a pledge. It is used figuratively in the New Testament of the gift of the Holy Spirit to believers. What a descriptive definition. It is a legal and technical term defining a specific transaction where a valid contract is initiated which has a full purchase price and the Holy Spirit signifies the down-payment. The first thing we understand about our inheritance is, it is legal and contractual. We have been given a contract as sons and daughters. We have been given a contract and that contract is guaranteed. That contract comes in the form of a Person, so that contract is accessible relationally. If we never develop that relationship or get to know the person who guarantees the contract we always stand on the outside trying to figure out why the promises don't seem to work, never realizing that God gave us a road map. The road map is a Person. The road map comes in the form of a Person Who guides us on the path that leads to the promises. Moral choices are made on this path that determine the fate of promises!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Scripture: Ephesians 11-14

Ephesians 1:11-14 states, *"In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee/ar-hrab-ohn of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."* The ultimate purpose for which we were chosen is to access our inheritance through the Holy Spirit and stand up as sons and daughters in Christ. It is time to look at the Complete Word Study Dictionary of the New Testament and how it defines **ar-hrab-ohn**. It says **ar-hrab-ohn** means, "Earnest money, a pledge, something which stands for a part of the price and paid beforehand to confirm the transaction." This defines the job of the Holy Spirit in working with us to confirm the biblical promises by leading us into the manifestation of those promises. Holy Spirit directions come relationally. As we build a relationship, directions to God's purpose and covenant blessings are released. We develop a hearing ear by tuning in to the divine frequency on which the Spirit broadcasts. The Holy Spirit is the One Who stands for part of the price and paid beforehand to confirm the transaction. The job of the Holy Spirit is to confirm the transaction that we have been adopted as sons and daughters. He will prove that to us if we develop a relationship with Him. And, quite possibly, He might also prove to the world that Jesus was not just a historical person walking the earth, but is still walking the earth through His sons and daughters who are doing the works that He did. What if that were the purpose for which you and I were chosen? What if we were chosen to prove to our generation that God is real, by doing the same and greater works than Jesus did? If God intends wealth transfer, the Holy Spirit has to be the key. I pledge something which stands for part of the price and paid beforehand to confirm the transaction. Have we allowed the Holy Spirit to confirm the transactions that prove we are sons and daughters of the King? There is a problem however, and it is that this is more than just a contract presented in the Bible for each of us. The contract takes the form of a roadmap communicated by a Person. Instead of Google Map directions, "Turn left at Main street *now* and right on First street at the next light...", we have to develop a relationship with the Person who tells us where to turn and when. The Holy Spirit is the roadmap. Directions come from a Person. The key to the works of Christ and the key to the greater works of Christ are in following the Person of the Holy Spirit. Out of the relationship we develop with the Holy Spirit comes our ministry!

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Scripture: Ephesians 1:13-14, 1 Kings 19:1-18

Elijah complained about being the only true prophet left in Israel and wanted more judgment. God answered in signs of judgment without His presence, signifying His great mercy on judgment. Elijah found himself fleeing from Queen Jezebel to Horeb, the mountain of God. God gave Elijah what he wanted, more demonstrations of judicial power in the form of a tornado, but God was not in the wind. Then God sent an earthquake but God was not in the earthquake. Then God sent fire but He was not in the fire either. Where was God? God dwells in us and speaks often quietly to those who

develop a hearing ear. Finally, a still, small voice brought direction to finish his race and complete the transition! In Ephesians 13-1, we are told, “ *In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee/ar-hrab-ohn of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.*” The Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains defines **ar-hrab-ohn** as, ‘The first installment of a deposit which guarantees a sure down payment; a pledge; a deposit which guarantees a contract.’ The Holy Spirit is a Person and He guarantees us a down payment on the ultimate contract as sons and daughters. We develop a relationship with him. No relationship can last with God unless we obey Him and do what we hear Him say. All the way through, the emphasis has been on us developing a relationship with the Holy Spirit. Jesus walked as a Son and learned the sound of the still, small Voice. As sons and daughters, our first priority is to tune in to that Voice. Praying in the Spirit helps us hear! Praying in the Spirit exercises the same phone line God uses to communicate with us. Praying in the Spirit builds a hearing ear! Jude verse 20 is a key to growth! Let’s obey His voice!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Scripture: John 16:5-14

In John 16:5-14, Jesus made it very clear that this transition was absolutely essential. It says, “*But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and **declare** it to you.*” He will be to us the One who declares His wisdom and guidance. It is all in the relationship with the Holy Spirit. Our future in the anointing and what to do in every situation, awaits the maturity of that relationship. The roadmap is a Person and that Person is the Holy Spirit! He is the guarantee of our inheritance. We have to have faith in that fact and walk in it every single day. We need to mature and grow up in our relationship with the Spirit of God. Let’s pray, ‘In Jesus’ name, Holy Spirit, talk to Your people! Reveal Your inheritance in healing, deliverance, provision! In every area, be our roadmap and our down payment. We accept the contract, in Jesus’ name!’ The Greek word for “**declare**” is **an-ang-el-o** or an angel, and it means, ‘To announce or to make known,’ guaranteeing God will speak loud enough for us to hear!

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Scripture: Luke 11:11-13

In Luke 11:11-13 we are told, “*If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!*” Where is the battle concerning seeing God manifest? The battle has been in the resistance toward our hearing the Holy Spirit. How does the church approach the issue of the Spirit? The challengers argue – ‘You get the Spirit at the time of your salvation and that is all of the Holy Spirit you need.’ We do receive the Spirit at salvation, but it is not the whole picture. The Bible is very clear – we need tongues, we need our prayer language, and we need to pray in it every single day. We need to develop our relationship with God because the Holy Spirit is the down payment on our inheritance! And we often fight this war in the church. The war is in whether or not people are going to receive the richness and depth of Holy Spirit like they did in the Bible. The Pharisees among us try to argue us out of it. We have to face the reality of what the Bible says about the issue. The Holy Spirit comes with a prayer language—tongues. Praying in tongues is essential. The question is, are we going to accept what the Word says? How can we say we’ve gotten the Holy Spirit, if we have not received it the way they did in the Bible? Let’s revisit the book of Acts! The Holy Spirit is the down payment on our inheritance. He comes with a prayer language, receive it!

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Scripture: Isaiah 28:9-13

Isaiah 28:9-13 says, *“Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts? For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little. For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people, To whom He said, ‘This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest,’ And, ‘This is the refreshing’; Yet they would not hear. But the word of the Lord was to them, Precept upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little,’ That they might go and fall backward, and be broken And snared and caught.”* Do we want what God offers His people? We have to take it the way He offered it. When He offered us the Holy Spirit, He offered it with tongues! He did not offer a serpent, a scorpion or a stone, He offered the Holy Spirit with a prayer language. We need the prayer language because the Holy Spirit is a Person and we have to learn to communicate with Him. God ordained that we need to learn to communicate with Him in a way where we are praying for things that we do not even understand. Tongues removes the need for logic. We have to submit to praying in a way that is initially uncomfortable, but giving up control has always been a challenge. This is a test for every intellect. The more intellect we have, the more of a test it is. What are we going to do? If we assert either our intellect or our will, we will fail the test. Our choice – agree with God’s way which is also His wisdom. Yielding to the Spirit is always a good idea. *“Yet they would not...”* What will we choose? Many choose their own intellect. Do not be among them! Go with God to find fullness of life with divine purpose connected to it.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Scripture: Ephesians 1:13-14

Verses 13-14 state, *“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee/ar-hrab-ohn of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”* Another definition for **ar-hrab-ohn** comes from the Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament which says, “This Semitic lone word is from the sphere of commerce or business law, and means pledge or down-payment on the total debt. Security, according to Job 17:3. **Ar-hrab-ohn** is the earnest of the basis of which one obligates oneself to the fulfillment of a promise. What is this Hebrew dictionary telling us? It is telling us that when we receive the Holy Spirit, we receive God's obligation to the fulfillment of His promises. That obligation is alive, it is living, it is a Person and He is in us. That Person had an assignment to declare, reveal or communicate directions to all of God’s promises including all that eye has not seen and nor has ear heard. 1 Corinthians 2:9 is a wonderful promise that every believer should memorize!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Scripture: Job 17:1-9

In Job 17:1-9, Job was in the battle of a lifetime! Right in the middle of it, what kind of revelation does Job get? He is crying out, ‘God, where are you?’ In verse 3 he says, *“Now put down a pledge/ar-hrab-ohn for me with Yourself. Who is he who will shake hands with me?”* He basically says, ‘Give me a guarantee/ar-hrab-ohn from yourself that You will bring me into the fullness of my inheritance.’ Verse 9 says, *“Yet the righteous will hold to his way, And he who has clean hands will be stronger and stronger.”* What Job was asking for you and I already have in the Presence, and Person of the Holy Spirit! We have the down payment of the pledge that Job was asking for. ‘God, you allowed it, now God, You get me out of it!’ There is a pledge we can stand on – what Job cried out for, we now have! We are better off. Christ said we would be better off when He went away because He would send His Helper. It is time we took that for what it means. It is time we embrace the Holy Spirit and build the relationship required for Him to become the down payment on the possession of our inheritance. The price has been paid – ‘Lord, let’s see it, in Jesus’ name! Holy Spirit, show me how to get there!’ We already have what Job cried for at the pinnacle and height of his agony. We have it – the question is, will we walk in it and will we develop it? Pray in the Spirit!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Scripture: Ephesians 1:13-14

Verses 13-14 state, *"In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee/ar-hrab-ohn of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."* Finally, the Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, commonly known as Kittle, says of **ar-hrab-ohn**, "The word is a commercial term; it signifies a pledge which is later returned, a deposit, which pays part of a total debt and gives it a legal claim. Earnest money ratifying a contract. It also implies an act which engages to something bigger." How much bigger? What are the big things in our life which we have trouble getting over? Does this mean the Holy Spirit knows our weakest point and how to take us straight through it? Yes, He does! Has He guaranteed to do it? Yes, He has guaranteed to take us to the very thing that is the stronghold in our lives and to show us how to overcome it and redeem it so the weakness is turned to a cause to praise Him. The Holy Spirit is our personal Director for God's path of redemption! Pray in the Spirit!

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Scripture: Genesis 38:1-7

In Genesis 38:1-7 we find that Joseph's family was having extreme difficulty. We are familiar with Judah. and we know the tribe of Judah was significant because it was King David's tribe, the tribe that was destined to rule. These verses reveal there was tremendous sin in the camp of Judah. Verses 6-7 say Judah took a wife for Er, his firstborn, and her name was Tamar. But Er was wicked in the sight of the Lord and the Lord killed him. That had to cause major grief in a family, especially in a family with a significant call on their lives. Judah had the call of God on his life and I'm sure they were rejoicing at the wedding, but it did not take long for that joy to fade. Tragedy struck the family and God ended Er's life. But that tragedy was not over because there were choices to be made about covenant. How would they deal with those choices? The Bible is not silent about man's choices and God's responses. God did not hesitate to kill the wicked even in the tribe that brought forth the Messiah. In this present hour will we see God move in judgment on the wicked as He did in Scripture? I believe the fact that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever guarantees it! The still, small voice that directed Elijah released the anointing to penalize wickedness. 1 Kings 19:17, where Elijah was anointing leaders to fill His shoes, it states, *"It shall be that whoever escapes the sword of Hazeel, Jehu will kill, and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill."* God answered Elijah by telling him who to anoint and that each one would kill the wicked! Elijah's pinnacle prophetic event was the killing of the prophets of Baal. He stewarded God's anointing to arrest wickedness and those who were promoting it! Revelation promises a restoration of the judicial anointing to arrest a flood of evil!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Scripture: Genesis 38:8-10

In verses 8-10 we are told, *"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."* We see a streak of rebellion in Judah's family. Er died because he was wicked. Onan was rebellious so God killed him as well. How bad was this going to get? It all depended on the choices of Judah's family. When people consistently make choices against God, things can get difficult. But the Holy Spirit is **ar-hrab-ohn**, and He knows the way through. He also executes the word as well as the wicked. Will we see this side of God in the days ahead? We better count on it!

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Scripture: Genesis 38:11-12

In verses 11-12 it says, *"Then Judah said to Tamar his daughter-in-law, '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 in the process of time the daughter of Shua, Judah's wife, died; and Judah was comforted, and went up to his sheepshearers at Timnah, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite."* What do we see going on? Judah has refused to allow

Tamar to marry his youngest son, and did so because he was being rebellious. What happened to his last offspring that was rebellious? That was Judah's son Onan and God killed him. Will God kill Judah? No, because it was time for God to redeem the sin. It was time to cut off rebellion and time for the healing, redeeming Hand of God to manifest in this family who was called with an eternal purpose. The Holy Spirit works these things out according to the individuals involved. He is the roadmap through as Judah discovered the hard way! Our moral decisions dictate God's response and God knows how to expose and confront sin.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Scripture: Genesis 38:12-17

In verses 12-17, we find out that Tamar disguised herself as a harlot and arranged to meet Judah. When he propositioned her, she asked for an **ar-hrab-ohn**, or a pledge. In verse 17 we are told, *"And he said, 'I will send a young goat from the flock.' So she said, 'Will you give me a pledge till you send it?'"* And that pledge is the Old Testament equivalent of what the Holy Spirit does on the inside of us in New Testament terms- **ar-hrab-ohn**. This is the Scripture that is directly mentioned in Kittle's Theological Dictionary of the New Testament. If we want a picture of **ar-hrab-ohn** in the Old Testament, we are looking at it here. This is what Kittle identified as an Old Testament manifestation of **ar-hrab-ohn**. Tamar asked if Judah would give her a pledge, and he did. Do we have a pledge? Yes and it is the Holy Spirit. He knows our way to fulfillment and He knows how to redeem our strongholds. Often exposure, acknowledgment of sin and repentance are involved! God's Spirit knows how to get us there and on to victory.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Scripture: Genesis 38:18-26

In Genesis 38:18-21, they negotiated the pledge. It says, *"Then he said, 'What pledge shall I give you?' So she said, 'Your signet and cord, and your staff that is in your hand.' Then he gave them to her, and went in to her, and she conceived by him. So she arose and went away, and laid aside her veil and put on the garments of her widowhood. And Judah sent the young goat by the hand of his friend the Adullamite, to receive his pledge from the woman's hand, but he did not find her. Then he asked the men of that place, saying, 'Where is the harlot who was openly by the roadside?' And they said, 'There was no harlot in this place.'"* What is God after in this situation? He is after truth and He is after restoration. Is He going to get it? This is a picture of how the Holy Spirit works with **ar-hrab-ohn** in our lives. Is He going to get Judah there? Will Judah allow himself to be pierced with the arrow of truth so that restoration will commence? This passage is a picture of how the Holy Spirit worked with **ar-hrab-ohn** in Judah's life and how He will work in our lives as well. Will we allow ourselves to be pierced with truth that we need for our personal growth?

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Scripture: Genesis 38:22-26

In verses 22-26, Judah was told that Tamar was pregnant. He decided a penalty of the law should be executed on her, and she would be burned alive. Verses 25-26 state, *"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."* Tamar gave birth to twins by her father-in-law Judah. The Holy Spirit knows the best way to right a wrong, confront rebellion and convict hearts. We cannot know what to expect, and that is the point. We must be obedient and walk these things out with God. Obedience is always better than sacrifice. Truth is always far above deception.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Scripture: Genesis 38:27-30

In verses 27-30, Tamar gave birth to twins, Perez and Zerah. It is interesting that it's not just a biblical picture of how the Holy Spirit deals with people and brings repentance, but also how the Holy Spirit ends a streak of rebellion. It also speaks volumes to us when we look at what it means to be redeemed from sin. God is not just after truth, He wants

redemption. God redeemed Tamar's sin by exposing Judah's greater sin, fulfilling the law by raising up seed from Tamar and blessing the lineage as only God can! God honored Tamar's faith and gave her children within her Biblical family through repentance, gaining restoration.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Scripture: Matthew 1:1-3

In Matthew 1:1-3, we are looking at the lineage of Christ and we are told in verse 3, "*Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram.*" These are all in the lineage of King David, and all the way down to Joseph. Tamar, by obeying the leadership of the Spirit, obtained her promise by faith. When she asked for a pledge, she exposed the sin and brought repentance. Because of her willingness to walk in faith toward her promise of raising up an heir, she is included in the lineage of Christ. Talk about the power of covenant and **ar-hrab-ohn**! God knows the circumstance and situation that you and I are going to face in the last days. He knows what is needed to confront the sin around us. He knows how to shine the spotlight on what is ahead. So the question is, have we come to the Kingdom for such a season as this? Is our eternal purpose concealed in the inheritance of God, administered by the Holy Spirit? Yes, it is! Are you and I willing to pay the price to walk it out? Obeying the Spirit gains the promise!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:6-9, Proverbs 25:2

In 1 Corinthians 2:6-9 we are told, "*However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written: 'Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.'*" God's plan was hidden from the demons. They did not know it and because they did not know it, those demons were hung by it and destroyed by the process. Proverbs 25:2 explores and exposes the process, "*It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.*" Tamar possessed the glory. God has hidden things for us in the last days. Praying in the Spirit opens the door to what has been hidden for our glory. Judah, when confronted, acknowledged his sin and repented. We are the ones who are going to decide. By walking in the Spirit, we set God's stage for eternal purpose through yielding to the Spirit! The Holy Spirit is our down payment on what the eye has not seen and ear has not heard. The question is, will we develop that relationship and bring it forth? I trust we will! Pray in the Spirit! May we sow in tongues and reap in glorious fruit!

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:10-12

Verses 10-12 state, "*But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.*" The way we get to know the fullness of our inheritance is we have to develop a relationship with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit knows and He wants to reveal it in us, but we have to walk it. The real question is, are we willing to develop this relationship? God has it for us but we have to be willing to seek Him and to walk it out. Pray in the Spirit!

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:13-16

In verses 13-16 we find that we have to be willing to speak and declare the things that God reveals, which the Holy Spirit teaches. The natural man does not know these things, but the Spirit of God knows them and discerns them. He finds things, judges them and grants to us the mind of Christ. Are we willing to say yes to that? God wants us to have it! How far is the Lord willing to go to bring us into His eternal purpose? A very, long ways! The cross represents God's

intervention to change history! We can follow the Spirit and pray to birth our future or we can rebel and find ourselves nailed to circumstances which become as a cross! Pray in the Spirit!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 1:12-22

In 2 Corinthians 1:18-22 we are told, *“But as God is faithful, our word to you was not Yes and No. For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me, Silvanus, and Timothy—was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes. For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has **sealed** us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a **guarantee**.”* This guarantee is our **ar-hrab-ohn**! Here we are told for the second time. We are told this truth once in Ephesians and again in 2 Corinthians! God is very serious about this guarantee. The Holy Spirit is our living roadmap. He will walk us through our race. Will we say yes? Pray in the Spirit!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:1-11, Revelation 11:3-7

“Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.” We find that **ar-harab-ohn** is the key to the terror of the Lord! In the Word, walking obediently in the Spirit is having access to the terror of the Lord as He directs. According to this passage as we walk in the Spirit there is the availability of the terror of the Lord. There is access to the terror of the Lord as the Spirit directs! Saying yes to our pledge and understanding that the Holy Spirit is a living roadmap to the promises brings us to a very important place – Revelation 11:3-7. It ends with the terror of the Lord that brings in a harvest. 2 Corinthians 5:11 says, *“Knowing the terror of the Lord we persuade men...”* Nothing is impossible to you and I if we will develop this relationship with the Holy Spirit. The question is, will we walk in this manner? It is our choice! Pray in the Spirit!

*God has ordained us
Created to be,
Shining with Sonship
In His family.*

*Strong, bold and fearless
Is truly our aim,
Forever reflecting
God's purpose and Name!*

By J Houghton