**THE TRAGEDY OF SIN AND GOD’S DEALINGS**

| **GOOD BEGINNING**  **1 Samuel 10** | **SECRET SIN** | **Tragic Ending**  **1 Samuel 31** |
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| 1. Anointed king  2. Strong, mighty man  3. Great warrior  4. Excellent leader  5. Humble in heart | **SAUL**  (Independent spirit) | 1. Stripped of kingdom  2. Tried to murder David  3. Sought after witchcraft  4. Disloyal to his own son  5. Committed suicide |
| 1 Samuel 17  1. Anointed king  2. Mighty warrior  3. Musician of the Lord  4. Faithful, loyal man  5. Great leader  6. Built tabernacle of David  2 Chronicles 1:7-12  1 Anointed king  2. Humble person of prayer  3. Temple builder  4. The greatest kingdom  5. The greatest throne  6. The greatest wisdom  7. The greatest wealth  8. Author of 3,000 proverbs  9. Author of 10,005 songs  (incl. Song of Solomon)  **Judges 14-16**  1. Dedicated to God  2. Great warrior  3. Exceedingly strong  4. Man of faith  5. Killed a lion  6. Killed 30 Philistines  7. Killed 10,000 soldiers  8. Broke strong bands  9. Carried off gates of Gaza  **Judges 6-8**  1. Chosen by God  2. Had angelic visitation  3. Hated idols  4. Destroyed idols  5. Great deliverer  6. Great man of faith  **Ezekiel 28; Isaiah 14:12-20**  1. Full of beauty  2. Perfect  3. The anointed cherub  4. One who covered the Throne  5. Song leader and musician of heaven | **DAVID**  (Lust)  **SOLOMON**  (Pride, greed, wrong values, self-confidence)  **SAMSON**  (lust; gullibility to a woman)  **GIDEON**  (power and greed)  **LUCIFER**  (Lust for pride and power) | 2 Samuel; Psalms 32&51  1. Disloyal to his men  2. Committed adultery  3. Committed murder  4. Tried to cover great sins  5. Brought judgment on his whole family.  1 Kings 11; Ecclesiastics 1  1.Turned his heart from God  2. Become an idol worshipper  3. Vexed by vain philosophy  4. Sinned in sight of the Lord  5. His kingdom taken away  6. Sought to kill Jeroboam  7. Wrote “Ecclesiastes,” book about the vanity of life  **Judges 16:20-27**  1. Deceived by a woman  2. Hair shaved; lost his dedication to God  3. Had eyes burned out  4. Imprisoned  5.Left by the Lord  6. Mocked and ridiculed  7. Loved a strange woman  8. Never fulfilled potential  9. Lost his anointing  **Judges 8**  1. Rejected by God  2. Made an idol  3. Caused Israel to sin  4. Became a stumbling stone  5. His good ruined by his evil  **Revelation 12:9&20:2,3,10**  1. The serpent  2. The source of all sin  3. The devil, and the spirit of deception  4. Cast down to the pit  5. Destroyer of the Church |

All of these Mighty leaders of God begin with splendor of success, but ended with the tragedy of defeat. It is important take a note that they all began with many good qualities in their lives and their ministries: humility, wisdom, faith, knowledge, anointing and a heart after the Lord. This feet makes for an even stronger warner for today's Church leaders. Beginning with strong qualities only requires one to grow even more sensitive and obedient to the Lord.

In 1 Corinthians 9:23-27, Paul spoke of the man who rubs the race for the prize. In these verses, Paul said that he did not want to be like the man who, after having preached to others, would become a Castaway, rejected and of no value. All leaders must maintain a continual alert against the secret sins that can so easily destroy their lives and Ministries.

**God's Dealings Defined Scriptually**

The Bible uses many words to describe God's dealings in a person's life. Here we will list five of the more commonly used words, their definitions, and scriptures in which they are used.

1. Distress (to assault, trouble, hem in; Psalms 4:1,2 and 18:6; Isaiah 25:4; 1 Corinthians 7: 26)
2. Affliction: to bruise, to be heavy, to press heavily, to melt. Affliction of Souls: Leviticus 16:29-31; 23:27

Land of affliction: Genesis 41: 52. Bread of affliction: Deuteronomy 16: 3; 1 Kings 22: 27. Chords of affliction: Jobe 5: 6 and 36: 8. Furnace of affliction: Isaiah 48: 10. Day of affliction: Jeremiah 16: 19

1. Purge: to refine, purify, clarify by heat. Isaiah 1: 25; Psalms 51: 7; Malachi 3:8
2. Pressing: to squeeze, push on, come down upon, Crush; Psalms 38: 2; 2 Corinthians 1:8
3. Fire: intense Heat. Brings out the sweet smell ( Leviticus 1: 7- 17). Fire is in Zion ( Isaiah 31:9). For the believer to walk through (Isaiah 43:2). To burn up the chaff (Matthew 3:11-12). Likened to the word of God (Jeremiah 23:29). Reveals a man's works (1 Corinthians 3:13). Burns off bandages (Daniel 3:22-27). Part of the Believers baptism (Matthew 3:11-12). Tries our faith (1Peter 1:7; Revelation 3:18). God is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:29).

The spiritual application of the principles embodied in these words can be seen in Israel, the church in the wilderness. They can also be applied to the Christian Life. Israel's Tabernacle furniture, Tabernacle proper, and its sacrifices all demonstrate these truths. The incense used for the altar of incense had to be crushed before it could be used as an offering to the Lord. Similarly, every Christian, and especially church leaders, must first experience God's crushing dealings before their lives can bring forth a sweet fragrance unto the Lord. The Golden Stick also illustrates the necessity of the dealings of God. The Candlestick was made of one single beaten piece of work. The Candlestick was a single beating piece of gold that was taken through the fires of purification before you could be used every vessel of light in the Tabernacle. Likewise, God has a furnace for each Christian.

All of the boards in the sanctuary had to undergo a stripping process before their use in the Tabernacle. They were ground and carved until they came to the shape desired for them as part of the house of the Lord. All Christians, and particularly Christian leaders, are in the formative stages. We can be confident that the Lord will bring forth a beautiful work in due season if we faint not.

**The Purpose of God's Dealings**

**The Image of Christ.** God's first purpose in his dealings is to change us into the image of the Lord Jesus Christ. This process is described in 2nd Corinthians 3:18, *"But we all with open face behold as in a glass (mirror) the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even by the spirit."* The word "changed" here in the Greek language is “metamorpho” which means a complete change from one form to another. This Greek word is the root of our English word metamorphosis, which scientists use to describe the caterpillar's process of changing into a butterfly. The process takes much time and energy. The caterpillar changes from one form into a completely different form. Christians also are going through a metamorphosis. Christians are people with a sinful lower nature. But each day, the Christian who follows the Lord is more and more transformed into the image of Jesus Christ, who is perfect in body, Soul and Spirit.

*"Character building begins in our infancy, and continues until death." -* Eleanor Roosevelt

**To Purify.** Second, God's purpose in his dealings is to purge away all dross from our lives. The word purge means to refine, to make pure, the change by heat. The Lord puts heat on his people today, through his dealings. All over the world, there is much pressure and heat upon God's people. God has ordained His heat to purge his people, as the preparation of precious metals. All of the filth and foreign matter are brought to the surface for disposal. The word Dross means to the scum, that which is thrown off, waste matter, the useless part. God is removing all waste matter and scum from his people and particularly from his leaders. He wants to develop character in all his leaders. For example of this, see Proverbs 25:4; Isaiah 1: 22, 25: Ezekiel 22:18-19; Psalm 51: 7; Daniel 11: 35; Matthew 3:12; 2 Timothy 2:21; John 15:2.

**To Cleanse Our Spiritual Garments.** Third, the purpose of God's dealings is to cleanse and wash our spiritual garments. The background for this purpose is contained in some important prophecies about Christ. Malachi 3: 1- 3 speaks of two Messengers. The first is John the Baptist: *"Behold I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me."* Matthew 3:3 correspondingly states, *"The voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."* See also John 1: 19- 28.

The second messenger is the Lord Jesus Christ. Malachi 3: 1, 2 prophetically States, *"And the Lord whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his Temple, even the messenger of the Covenant, home lead the light in, behold he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts...For He is like a Refiner's Fire and like Fuller's Soap."*

The Lord Jesus Christ, the messenger of the New Covenant, came suddenly to the Jewish temple. Ever since he has been like a refiner's fire and like a fuller's soap to his people.

**To Bring Forth Fruit.** Fourthly, the purpose of God's dealings is to cause people's lives to bear fruit. In John 15, we have an allegory given by the Lord Jesus Christ, the master teacher. In this allegory of the vines and the branches. The husbandman who dresses the vine must at times use his pruning shears. He removes dead, fruitless branches so that they do not draw away from the necessary sap need it by the living branches. Fruitless branches are removed wow fruitful branches are pruned to bear more fruit. God will prune, Purge, refine and cut the fruit-bearing branches to increase their fruitfulness. God's purpose is always positive and Redemptive. Those leaders through which God desires who produced the most fruit will have to be pruned the most

**To Prepare Vessels for Service**

Fifth, the purpose of God's dealings is to prepare vessels for service. In 2nd Timothy 2:19-20, poll states that a large house has many vessels. Some vessels are made of gold or precious metals, While others are made of clay. Some vessels are reserved for the more honorable task, but all vessels have the use. Making a vessel involves much work in every step of the formative process, from the shaping of the clay until it is pulled out of the oven. At times, The Potter's hands upon the vessel are rough and firm. But the potter's wheel and furnace, as well as the potter's hands, are all vital parts of the vessel’s preparations. This is true of God's spiritual shaping in our lives, as well. The purpose of all this work is to mold a vessel of honor fit for its intended use by the Lord (Jeremiah 17:1-10). Vessels that were not properly prepared, that contained a flaw, were thrown out into the potter's field. In the potter's field, you could find many "would be" vessels of great use. Their problem was that they had not formed properly on the wheel, or they had not responded well to firing. An irreversible flaw formed in them

Scripture seems to indicate that Judas, the Fallen Apostle and betrayer of Christ, hung himself in the Potter's field. See Matthew 27: 1- 10. In this field, a rejected, maimed, and corrupted human vessel of dishonor was found along with many marred vessels of clay. Something was missing in Judas is preparation as a leader. The purpose of God's dealings with Judas, as well as with every potential leader, is to expose the floors in the vessel soon enough so that they can be reformed and used for a specific purpose. It is a measure of God's great wisdom that he found a valuable purpose even for Judas, that vessel of dishonor, do his end was destruction.