

LESSON

01

TOPIC:

DIVINE RECOVERY

**3rd
January**

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 30:1-8

OUTLINE

A: Divine encouragement

B: Inquire from the Lord

C: Listen and obey what god has to say

INTRODUCTION: Welcome to a new year. Last year may have ended on different notes for different people; it was certainly a turbulent year all over the world. Nevertheless, God is assuring us that He will restore to us all we may have lost in the pandemic year; just as He helped David to recover all that he lost when the Amalekites raided their homes and carted away all their possessions, including their wives and children. You can also recover all by following the principles below.

A: DIVINE ENCOURAGEMENT

I Sam. 30:6; Ex. 14:13; Isa. 41:13; Isa. 41:10

We all need encouragement at one point or the other in our lives here on earth. The greatest encouragement one can receive is the one we get from the Almighty God. David was distressed; for the soldiers that followed him to assist the Philistines in their war against Israel,

spoke of stoning him when they discovered that the Amalekites had come to raid their homes in Ziklag, took their wives and children captive and completely burnt down their town.

The God we serve is one who cares and is concerned for all His children. He is always there for them; ensuring that whatever challenges they go through in life, they will end up being victorious and overcomers. For instance, when the Israelites were faced with the red sea, God sent a word of encouragement to them, assuring them that the Egyptians they were seeing, who made them afraid, they will see them no more forever (Ex. 14:13). God has assured all that trust in Him that He will help, strengthen and uphold them with His right hand of righteousness (Isa. 41:10).

QUESTION: Why do some Christians find it difficult to encourage themselves in the Lord?

B: INQUIRE FROM THE LORD

I Sam. 30:8; Ps. 5:8; 27:11; 143:10; Isa. 55:6-7

After David encouraged himself in the Lord, he inquired from the Lord; to know what to do about the situation. This habit of seeking God's leading and waiting for His directions characterized David's life all through his years, before and during his reign as king of Israel (Ps. 5:8; 27:11). The believer is surrounded by many enemies and often faced with different challenges in this present world.

One major way of overcoming them is through prayers. No one has capacity to predict or determine how his/her year would likely be except the Lord reveals it. This was why Prophet Jeremiah while praying to God acknowledged that we humans are not in control of our own lives; even a strong man who is at his best, cannot direct his own ways (Jer. 10:23). We must therefore learn to seek and call upon the Lord and to inquire of His ways. We must at the same time learn to forsake every sin, weight, our wicked and unrighteous thoughts in order to hear His instructions and directions all through the year.

QUESTION: Why do some Christians not receive a response from the Lord when they inquire from Him?

C: LISTEN AND OBEY WHAT GOD HAS TO SAY

1 Sam. 30:8-10, 18; 2 Chron. 20:15; Jos. 1:8

After David inquired from the Lord on what to do in his conflict moments, God spoke and gave him a definite directive to pursue, overtake and that he will surely recover all. David acted on God's word immediately without any delay; not contemplating or rationalizing how possible it would be. He recovered all! God requires prompt obedience. When King Jehoshaphat also inquired from the Lord, at a time when three kings ganged up against him and his people, the Lord spoke and gave them specific instructions concerning the strategy for the battle. They obeyed the instructions and all their enemies were defeated (1 Chron. 20:15).

Every believer must resolve to listen and hearken to the word of God in this New Year (Pr. 7:24). Prayer is communication with God; don't just talk (inquire), also pause to listen. Prompt obedience is the price of achieving good success and prosperity in life. Make John 2:5 your motto this year: "Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it."

QUESTION: Why do some Christians find it difficult to hear God and reluctant to obey His word?

CONCLUSION: The God we serve is the same yesterday, today and forever. Whatever He did for the people in time past, He is able to do it today. Whatever you have lost to the enemy in time past, God will make it possible for you to recover all this New Year, as you follow the laid down principles in the word of God.

MEMORY VERSE: 1 Samuel 30:8b. "Pursue for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all."

BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday - 04th January: Genesis 10-11
Tuesday - 05th January: Genesis 12-15
Wednesday - 06th January: Genesis 16-19
Thursday - 07th January: Genesis 20-22
Friday - 08th January: Genesis 23-26
Saturday - 09th January: Genesis 27-29
Sunday - 10th January: Genesis 30-32