

Bird's-eye view #12 Spiritual Principles, Life Lessons, and Holy Warnings concerning the Enjoyment of the Good Land Seen with Five Major Figures in 1 and 2 Samuel 5/23-29

I Under Eli the old Aaronic priesthood had become stale and waning, and God desired to have a new beginning for the accomplishing of His economy: **A**

We all need to reject anything of staleness, oldness, lukewarmness, and pride and keep ourselves empty, open, fresh, new, living, and young with the Lord; we need to be one with His desire for us to be one with Christ, filled with Christ, and occupied by Christ to live Christ for the organic building up of the Body of Christ. **Phil. 3:13** Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before. **14** I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward. **Gal. 4:19** My children with whom I travail again in birth until Christ is formed in you, **B** In the days of Eli the word of God was rare; God's speaking was almost lost; in the priesthood the first thing that a priest should do is to speak for God; a priest must be a person who is intimate with God, who is one with God, who knows the heart of God, and who speaks forth the unique and healthy teaching of God's eternal economy. **C** Eli taught Samuel to say to the Lord, "Speak, O Jehovah; for Your servant is listening"; in order to speak for the Lord and be one with Him to carry out His eternal economy, we must first treasure and listen attentively to His speaking so that we may know His desire and preference. **1 Sam. 3:10** Then Jehovah came and stood by and called as at the other times, Samuel! Samuel! And Samuel said, Speak, for Your servant is listening. **D** Eli disregarded the priesthood in his loose disciplining of his two evil sons. **II** Samuel was faithful to God in all his God-given statuses and offices: **A** As a Levite, he served God his whole life; as a Nazarite, he kept his consecration without failure; as a priest-prophet, he spoke for God honestly and initiated the prophethood to replace the fading priesthood in the divine revelation; as a judge, he was faithful to God and just to the people, terminating the judgeship and bringing in the kingship in order to change the age for the fulfillment of God's economy. **B** As one who worked together with God for the carrying out of His economy, Samuel was established as a prophet of

Jehovah to speak for Him by listening to His word; we need to continually exercise ourselves to have an ear to "hear what the Spirit says to the churches"; furthermore, we need to follow the pattern of Mary, who "sat at the Lord's feet and was listening to His word". **1 Sam. 3:20** And all Israel... knew that Samuel had been established as a prophet of Jehovah. **21** ...for Jehovah revealed Himself to Samuel... by the word of Jehovah. **Luke 10:39** And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at the Lord's feet and was listening to His word. **III** Jonathan loved David, made a covenant with him, and predicted that David would become the king and that the kingdom would be his kingdom: **A** Saul's intention was to preserve the kingdom for Jonathan; however, Jonathan was not willing to take the kingdom but recognized that David should be on the throne. **B** Jonathan should have told his father about this and then should have left his father to be with David; in typology, for Jonathan to follow David would have signified our following Christ today and our giving Him the preeminence. **Col. 1:18** And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things; **C** Jonathan lost the proper and adequate enjoyment of his portion in the good land promised by God because of his failure in not following David according to God's will due to his natural affection for his father; although Jonathan realized that David would be king, he stayed with his father, and as a tragic result, he suffered the same fate as his father and died with him in battle. **IV** Saul was chosen by God and anointed by Samuel to be the king of Israel: **A** Saul disobeyed God's word at least twice so that he lost his kingship and his kingdom; when Saul disobeyed God in 1 Samuel 15, he actually rebelled against Him. **B** In this chapter Samuel told Saul, "Rebellion is like the sin of divination, / And insubordination is like idolatry and teraphim"; to practice divination is to have contact with evil spirits; what Saul did in rebelling against God was like this sin of divination; he was not subordinate to God and in fact became an enemy to God; as a result, he lost his kingship. **1 Sam. 15:23** For rebellion is like the sin of divination, / And insubordination is like idolatry and teraphim. / Because you have rejected the word of Jehovah, / He has also rejected you from being king. **E** Because of Saul's selfishness, the people of Israel suffered defeat and were slaughtered in the fight against the

Philistines, and Saul and his sons were killed; Saul's ambition to have the kingdom for himself and for his son, with his jealousy of David, confiscated and ended his enjoyment of the good land promised by God. [Gal. 5:24](#) But they who are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and its lusts. [Matt. 16:24](#) ...If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. [David was chosen and anointed by God through Samuel to be the king of Israel:](#) **A** After David slew Goliath, he was praised by the women of Israel as higher than Saul, but with David there is no hint that he was made proud or that he became ambitious for the kingship; when David was under the trial of Saul's persecution, he was approved to be the right one to carry out God's economy by establishing the kingdom of God on earth. **B** When David was under Saul's persecution, he had two chances to destroy Saul, but David would not do this because of his fear of God in that Saul was God's anointed; this indicates that David maintained a good order in God's kingdom. **C** No doubt, David learned a lot regarding not avenging himself but denying himself for the fulfilling of God's purpose. [1 Sam. 30:6](#) But David strengthened himself in Jehovah his God. **E** David's sincere trust in God and his faithful walk with God qualified him fully to enjoy the good land to a high level, even up to the kingship according to God's heart with a kingdom that became the kingdom of God on the earth; David was one with God; what was his was God's, and what was God's was his; he and God had only one kingdom; such a one enjoyed the good land, typifying Christ, to the uttermost. **F** After the death of Saul, "there was a long war between the house of Saul and the house of David; but David became continually stronger, and the house of Saul became continually weaker" ([2 Sam. 3:1](#)). **G** If in any matter we do not have the inner sense that the Lord is with us, we must be careful and reconsider our way; in the Lord's recovery, whenever we do anything, we must take care of the sense of the Lord's presence; we all need to learn the lesson of caring for two things; the inward presence of God and the outward confirmation in our environment. **H** Furthermore, we all need to learn of David on the negative side as well as on the positive side; the lust of the flesh is a devastating element that can destroy us; if such a godly man as David could be seduced, how can we escape?

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III [Jonathan loved David, made a covenant with him, and predicted that David would become the king and that the kingdom would be his kingdom:](#) **B** Jonathan should have told his father about this and then should have left his father to be with David; in typology, for Jonathan to follow David would have signified our following Christ today and our giving Him the preeminence. **C** Jonathan lost the proper and adequate enjoyment of his portion in the good land promised by God because of his failure in not following David according to God's will due to his natural affection for his father; although Jonathan realized that David would be king, he stayed with his father, and as a tragic result, he suffered the same fate as his father and died with him in battle. **D** Jonathan stood between Saul and David; he was one man standing between two ministries; he should have followed the second ministry, but because his relationship with the first ministry was too deep, he could not disentangle himself. **I** In every age the Lord has special things that He wants to accomplish; He has His own recoveries and His own works to do; the particular recovery and work that He does in one age is the ministry of that age. **2** David was a minister of his age with the ministry of that age; in the Old Testament, Noah had the ministry of that age to build the ark, Moses had the ministry of that age to build the tabernacle, and David and Solomon had the ministry of that age to build the temple. **5** In God's building ministry there are those who take the lead in that ministry in every age; may the Lord open our eyes to see that as long as we are human beings, we should be Christians; as long as we are Christians, we should enter into the Lord's ministry in this age. [Acts 13:36](#) Now David, having served his own generation by the counsel of God..... **6** It is God's mercy that a person can see and come into contact with the ministry of the age, yet it is altogether a different thing for a person to take up the courage to forsake past ministries and enter into God's present ministry. **7** The ministry of the age ministers the present truth to God's people; in [2 Peter 1:12](#) the present truth can also be rendered "the up-to-date truth"; every worker of the Lord should inquire before God as to what the present truth is. [Eph. 4:12](#) For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the

building up of the Body of Christ.

Application to business persons, graduate students

Just as believers have enjoyment and responsibility in their families and in the companies they work for, they also have enjoyment and responsibility in the church life in the Kingdom of God. The book of Ephesians, the highest book in the New Testament, first reveals the blessings and status that the church receives in Christ. Later it shows the living and responsibility that the church needs in the Holy Spirit, and describes the living needed in ethical relationships in the section: ① the relationship between husband and wife, ② the relationship between children and parents, and ③ the relationship between slaves and masters (employee and manager) (from the Recovery version of the Bible, Outline).

This means that for your family and business life to be healthy and blessed, you first need a vision concerning Christ and the church, His Body, and the church life based on the vision. Without the vision of Christ and the church, the Economy of God, and the experiences based on the vision, you are not in the Kingdom of God, and therefore, practically speaking, you are in the Kingdom of Satan. If so, you will never have a healthy, blessed family and business life.

Several well-known celebrities recently committed suicide in the Corona disaster. Their common traits were serious, reputable people with seemingly happy family lives and successful business lives. However, they were unable to keep up with the rapid changes caused by the Corona disaster and became mentally depressed and committed suicide.

This age is the age of building the Body of Christ, the goal of God's Economy, and the Lord raised up brother Nee and brother Lee and through them released words concerning the revelation of the God's Economy and experiences based on the revelation. As a believer, please enter into the word of the ministry of the age, become one with the ministry, and move forward on the way of building according to divine revelation.

As long as we are human beings, we should be Christians. As long as we are Christians, we should enter into the Lord's ministry in this age. It is for you to be saved out of the kingdom of Satan and be blessed in the kingdom of God. [Acts 20:24](#) But I consider my life of no account as if precious to myself, in order that I may finish my course and the ministry which I have received from the Lord Jesus to

solemnly testify of the gospel of the grace of God.

Prayer Oh Lord Jesus, as long as we are human beings, we should be Christians and as long as we are Christians, we should enter into the Lord's ministry in this age. Through the ministry of this age, the visions of God's economy, Christ and His Body, the church and the church life according to the vision are clearly presented. I enter into the words of the ministry of this age and become one with the ministry to press on the way of the building according to the divine revelation. Amen!

CP2 David ruined all his good works because of fornication. We all need to flee from fornication thoroughly

VH We all need to learn of David on the negative side as well as on the positive side; the lust of the flesh is a devastating element that can destroy us; if such a godly man as David could be seduced, how can we escape? [2 Tim. 2:22](#) But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. ① Regardless of our attainment in our spiritual pursuit, it is possible for any of us to commit such a sin; we should read this account seriously in the presence of God; this account warns us that the indulgence of the flesh is a serious thing; David was tempted simply by a glance, and then he failed to restrict himself. ② All the saints, especially the young ones, should search their hearts and make a strong resolution of heart never to go the way of the indulgence of the flesh; we need to say, "Lord Jesus, I love You, I need You, and I receive You"; if we say this, He will be our Savior and our dynamic salvation; as the pneumatic Christ, He will save us, preserve us, and protect us from the contamination of this age, so that we may keep the glory that we have attained. [Judg. 5:15](#) ...Among the divisions of Reuben there were great resolutions in heart... [16](#) In the divisions of Reuben there were great searchings of heart.

David...willingly committed adultery. In his record of Christ's genealogy, Matthew purposely wrote, "David begot Solomon of her who had been the wife of Uriah" [Matt. 1:6]. This indicates the seriousness of David's sin.

We need to learn of David on the negative side as well as on the positive side. The lust of the flesh is a devastating element that can destroy us. If such a godly man as David could be seduced, can we escape? Human beings are human beings, flesh is

flesh, and lusts are lusts. We should always keep a distance between ourselves and those of the opposite sex. A young man or young woman should not talk privately with someone of the opposite sex in a closed room. No godly person should be loose in contacting the other sex. Regardless of our attainment in our spiritual pursuit, it is possible for any of us to commit such a sin....The children of Israel lost their nation and the land of their fathers; they were scattered around the globe; and they were persecuted and killed. Today, although they have a narrow strip of land near the Mediterranean Sea, they have no peace with their neighbors.

Application to young people, college students, new ones

Young people and new ones should learn from both David's positive and negative aspects. On the negative aspect, he has ruined all his good works because of his fornication. You must learn from your youth to flee from fornication thoroughly.

① [Gen.35:22](#) And while Israel dwelt in that land, Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine, ② [Heb.13:4](#) Let marriage be held in honor among all, and the bed undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge. **FN marriage be held in honor** In the church life, contact between brothers and sisters is unavoidable. Hence, to be protect from falling into defilement, we must hold marriage in honor and not behave loosely. This is a matter that seriously affects our birthright in God's economy. Reuben lost the birthright because of his defilement, and Joseph received it because of his purity. God will judge fornicators and adulterers, and the church too must judge them. Nothing damages the saints and the church life as much as this defilement. ③ [Prov.5:7](#) And now, my sons, listen to me, / And do not depart from the words of my mouth. ⑧ Keep your way far from her (strange woman), / And do not go near the door of her house; ⑨ Lest you give your honor to others, / And your years to the cruel; ... ⑬ He will die for lack of instruction, / And in the greatness of his folly he will go astray. ④ [Neh.5:14](#) Moreover from the time that the king appointed me to be governor in the land of Judah, from the twentieth year even to the thirty-second year of Artaxerxes the king, twelve years, I and my brothers did not eat the food appointed for the governor. **FN did not eat** Nehemiah, as the governor, in the position of a king, was a man with a pure heart for the

rebuilding of Jerusalem's wall in the carrying out of God's economy. Unlike many of the kings of Israel and Judah, he was not selfish, he did not seek his own interests, and he was not indulgent in sexual lust. Therefore, he was qualified to enjoy the top portion, the kingship of the good land promised by God to His elect.... Nehemiah was a pattern of what a leader among God's people should be.

Three types of relationships are described in Ephesians 5:22-6:9: the relationship between husband and wife, parents and children, and the relationship with the supervisor at work. The first relationship mentioned is that of the husband and wife, and this relationship is the most important. The Bible places great importance on marriage with regard to the normal life of a man. Marriage is founded on man's loyalty and built up by woman's virtue. Since fornication destroys marriages, brothers in particular must keep a proper distance from women in order to flee from fornication.

Testimony I went to pharmaceutical department of a private college where a pharmacy section was established in a women's college. There were more women in pharmaceutical department itself, so I think I had more contact with women in normal campus life than the average college student. Since this was the situation, a brother who was responsible in the church and a professor at the university told me, "Don't be careless towards young women." In my mind, I was angry because I thought, "Even if you say so, it won't help because it's basically a women's college." But since the responsible brother said for me, not really understanding, but I prayed, "Lord, forgive my carelessness. May I always be aware and keep a proper distance from young women. I am still a man in the flesh and I cannot rely on myself to sanctify myself." And I realized that I was a little careless. And I can testify that this prayer was effective and I was protected. Thanks for the advice of the brother.

Prayer Oh Lord Jesus, the lust is a devastating element that can destroy us. Even such a godly man as David could be seduced and failed. God will judge the adulterers and the fornicators. Reuben lost his birthright because of his defilement, and Joseph received it because of his purity. To be protected from falling into defilement, I should always keep a distance between me and those of the opposite sex, hold marriage in honor, and not behave loosely.