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WISE OBSERVATIONS FROM SOME BIBLE CHARACTERS

INTRODUCTION:

- a. All of the Bible is inspired _ [II Timothy 3:16,17](#), but not every word recorded in it comes from inspired men.

16

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17

That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

- b. However, such men have often (by experience, or through life lessons) expressed some great truths

I. Nebuchadnezzar

[Daniel 4:34-37](#)

34

And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation:

35

And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What dost thou?

36

At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me.

37

Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

- a. Nebuchadnezzar was a proud and haughty king, and God brought him low to teach him a lesson in humility

[Daniel 4:28-33](#)

28

All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar.

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29

At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon.

30

The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?

31

While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee.

32

And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

33

The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.

b. Hannah, the mother of Samuel, confirmed this kind of action by God, by inspiration, in [I Samuel 2:3,4](#)

3

Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

4

The bows of the mighty men are broken, and they that stumbled are girded with strength.

c. Mary, the mother of Jesus said of God in her hymn of praise, "He hath put down princes from their thrones, And hath exalted them of low degree." - [Luke 1:52](#)

d. Jesus taught this divine lesson in [Luke 14:11](#)

11

For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

II. The Man Born Blind-- [John 9:24-33](#): With Jesus' help, the blind man could now "see," in more ways than one, but the Jews became "blind" to clear evidence that Jesus was the Christ:

24

Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner.

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25

He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.

26

Then said they to him again, What did he to thee? how opened he thine eyes?

27

He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be his disciples?

28

Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples.

29

We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is.

30

The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes.

31

Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

32

Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind.

33

If this man were not of God, he could do nothing.

a. The blind man first said, "He is a prophet" ([Vs. 17](#)),

17

They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet.

but later testimony convinced him that Jesus is the Son of God ([Vs. 35-38](#))

35

Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?

36

He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?

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And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.

38

And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.

b. This was the purpose of John's Gospel.

[John 20:30,31](#)

"Many other signs therefore did Jesus in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book:

31 but these are written, that ye may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye may have life in his name."

iii. Jothan, son of Gideon-- [Judges 9:1-21](#) -Jotham had strong insights into what happens when a wicked man makes a covenant with other wicked men:

1

And Abimelech the son of Jerubbaal went to Shechem unto his mother's brethren, and communed with them, and with all the family of the house of his mother's father, saying,

2

Speak, I pray you, in the ears of all the men of Shechem, Whether is better for you, either that all the sons of Jerubbaal, which are threescore and ten persons, reign over you, or that one reign over you? remember also that I am your bone and your flesh.

3

And his mother's brethren spake of him in the ears of all the men of Shechem all these words: and their hearts inclined to follow Abimelech; for they said, He is our brother.

4

And they gave him threescore and ten pieces of silver out of the house of Baalberith, wherewith Abimelech hired vain and light persons, which followed him.

5

And he went unto his father's house at Ophrah, and slew his brethren the sons of Jerubbaal, being threescore and ten persons, upon one stone: notwithstanding yet Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left; for he hid himself.

6

And all the men of Shechem gathered together, and all the house of Millo, and went, and made Abimelech king, by the plain of the pillar that was in Shechem.

7

And when they told it to Jotham, he went and stood in the top of mount Gerizim, and lifted up his voice, and cried, and said unto them, Hearken unto me, ye men of Shechem, that God may hearken unto you.

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8

The trees went forth on a time to anoint a king over them; and they said unto the olive tree, Reign thou over us.

9

But the olive tree said unto them, Should I leave my fatness, wherewith by me they honor God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?

10

And the trees said to the fig tree, Come thou, and reign over us.

11

But the fig tree said unto them, Should I forsake my sweetness, and my good fruit, and go to be promoted over the trees?

12

Then said the trees unto the vine, Come thou, and reign over us.

13

And the vine said unto them, Should I leave my wine, which cheereth God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?

14

Then said all the trees unto the bramble, Come thou, and reign over us.

15

And the bramble said unto the trees, If in truth ye anoint me king over you, then come and put your trust in my shadow: and if not, let fire come out of the bramble, and devour the cedars of Lebanon.

16

Now therefore, if ye have done truly and sincerely, in that ye have made Abimelech king, and if ye have dealt well with Jerubbaal and his house, and have done unto him according to the deserving of his hands;

17

(For my father fought for you, and adventured his life far, and delivered you out of the hand of Midian:

18

And ye are risen up against my father's house this day, and have slain his sons, threescore and ten persons, upon one stone, and have made Abimelech, the son of his maidservant, king over the men of Shechem, because he is your brother;)

19

If ye then have dealt truly and sincerely with Jerubbaal and with his house this day, then rejoice ye in Abimelech, and let him also rejoice in you:

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20

But if not, let fire come out from Abimelech, and devour the men of Shechem, and the house of Millo; and let fire come out from the men of Shechem, and from the house of Millo, and devour Abimelech.

21

And Jotham ran away, and fled, and went to Beer, and dwelt there, for fear of Abimelech his brother.

a. There is a spiritual example of this principle in [Jeremiah 5:31](#)

31

The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?

b. Jesus said, "Let them alone: they are blind guides. And if the blind guide the blind, both shall fall into a pit." - [Matthew 15:14](#)

iv. The servants of Naaman

[II Kings 5:13](#)

13

And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?

a. They knew that men should obey the Lord in humility.

B. Never was a man more humbled than Paul

[I Timothy 1:12-17](#)

12

And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

13

Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

14

And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

15

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

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16

Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

17

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

CONCLUSION:

a. [Romans 3:4](#)

4

God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, [That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.](#) Psa 51:4

b. [Isaiah 55:8,9](#)

8

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

9

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.