**1 Ki 1 / Lk 17**

**Main theme: Darkness overpowers, grab the promise for the kingdom of God in one heart**

**-Be watchful to pray for the kingdom / Be watchful and not be led astray**

Golden verses: 1 Ki 1:36 Lk 17:6

The 1 & 2 Ki recorded the rise and fall of the two nations of south and north Israel and is also a mirror reflecting the nature of our old self. Among the kings, King David was our example (1 Ki 15:4-5). Except a few who were godly, the others worshiped idols, committed adultery, violated God and became our warning. The theme of these two chapters concerned being watchful to pray for the kingdom and being watchful not to be led astray. On one side it concerned Adonijah usurped the throne and plotted to overthrow it. Many were led astray. Joab, the senior statesman and Abiathar were invited to the feast. On the other side it concerned the day for the Son of Man was near but many were coveting in material pleasure. Thus disasters came suddenly. Therefore we ought to be watchful and not be led astray, grab the promise of the Lord and pray for His kingdom like Nathan the prophet and Bathsheba.

**A. Do not be led astray, walk the way of love and pray for the kingdom of God by faith**

Plead (1 Ki 1:1-27) - Grab the grace (Lk 17:1-19)

1.【Walk the way of love and do not be a stumbling block】1-4 King David was old and well advanced in years. His servants looked for a virgin to lie beside him to keep him warm. This virgin was beautiful and she attended the king. But David had no intimate relations with her. When David was old, he was watchful to keep God's Word. He bore the mind of the Holy Spirit and put his old self to death. He no longer became a stumbling block to others.

※【Walk the way of love and forgive others】1-4 Jesus taught the disciples to walk the Way of love lest they might cause one of these little ones to sin for woe to the one who caused people to sin. Then the Lord taught the disciples to be careful to exhort the brother who had done wrong to them with love to forgive him if he repented. If he sinned against them seven times in a day and if he repented, forgive him. When David was well advanced in years, his spirit had reached the peak. He obeyed the Way of love and overcame evil with good. He had repeatedly forgiven the wrong of Saul. He also overcame his inner self and did not caused people to sin.

2.【Do not be led astray or be shaken】5-10 Adonijah, the son of David exalted himself as king. Darkness reigned just like the period before God will come again. There will be the false Christ and the false prophets who impose the Lord's name so many will be led astray. (Mt 24:4-5; 23-27) Joab and Abiathai were invited to support the new king. Only Zadok, Benaiah, Nathan the prophet, all the warriors and Solomon did not give support to the new king. They were not led astray or shaken.

※【Pray for faith to be a faithful servant】5-10 The apostles requested the Lord to increase their faith. The kingdom of David had to face Satan's power of betrayal. They needed a firmer faith! If the faith is like a mustard seed, whatever is requested will be granted. Further we have to be the Lord's faithful servant to get ourselves ready and wait on the Lord humbly. Zadok and Nathan believed firmly without moving in the great test. They did not follow the trend and were faithful servants of David forever. But Joab and Abiathai were unfaithful and disloyal. They were disloyal in their old age and did not have the faith to follow David till the end. They followed the rebellious trend.

3.【Grab the promise and pray for God's will】11-27 Nathan the prophet was watchful and faithful. He reminded Bathsheba to go to see the king and grab his promise to put his son Solomon as king according to God's will. Adonijah conspired to overthrow and set a feast. So Bathsheba went to see the king and requested him to clarify who ought to reign. Nathan then also went in to affirm. If we pray together according to the Lord's will, the Holy Spirit will confirm and He will hear us. (1Jn 5:14)

※【Grab the grace and glorify God】11-19 Jesus passed through a village and ten lepers grabbed the chance to cry to the Lord and were cleansed. But after they were healed, only one Samaritan came back. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and gave thanks to glorify God. Bathsheba and David sinned and were forgiven by God just like leprosy being cured. She humbly listened to the reminder of the prophet and grabbed the promise to plead the king. This was also being thankful and she repaid God's love of redemption. Joab, Adonijah and the sons of the king were like the nine who were healed but were ungrateful and wayward. They failed the grace of God.

**B. Plead together and were granted, be alert to follow the Lord and God's will overcomes**

Plead together (1 Ki 1:28-53) - Follow closely (Lk 17:20-37)

1.【Plead together and were granted and everything was reversed】28-37 Bathsheba and Nathan the prophet prayed in one heart and were granted by the king. The king immediately ordered to anoint Solomon as king and to rejoice and blow the trumpet. So he was to sit on the throne. When the king made the order, everything was turned and God's will triumphed.

※【Follow the Lord watchfully and God's kingdom comes】20-32 When the Son of Man comes, it will be like lightning. Therefore we have to be watchful to follow the Lord and not be led astray by the false Christ. Do not follow the ways of this world to indulge in eating and drinking, but to pray watchfully to seek fervently the kingdom of God to welcome Christ as King. Do not be the wife of Lot who looked back and yearned for the present life. Do not be a rebellious member to attend the "new king's" (the king of the world) feast. We ought to seek the kingdom of God to come to our heart and always exalt Christ as King.

2.【Suffer to follow and enjoy God's kingdom together】38-53 So Zadok. Nathan, Benaiah and the warriors went down. Zadok anointed Solomon as king. The people sounded the trumpet and shouted. The sound shook the ground. The feast of Adonijah was instantly scattered in fear. Adonijah failed in seizing the throne. He was frightened but did not repent. He went to cling on to the horns of the altar. He was spared temporarily but was finally killed and ruined in a moment for disloyalty and unfaithfulness. The Kerethites and the Pelethites followed the suffering David faithfully till the end. They continued to enjoy the eternal blessings in the glorious kingdom of Solomon.

※【Deny one's life to follow and wait to be caught up】33-37 Whoever tries to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it. No one knows about that day or hour, so we ought to be watchful and ready to learn from the warriors of David to follow faithfully till the end and welcome the glorious kingdom of Christ. If we follow the new king of the world, when the Lord comes, we will be left behind. By then it is useless to regret!

**Ps 72 / Rev 14:7 Main theme: The time for judgment has arrived, so those who honor God will be blessed and the wicked will be avenged**

 **-Honor God / Judgment**

(1)【Pray for righteousness and justice, and lead men to fear God】1-5 The time of the Lord's judgment has come. We ought to seek righteousness and justice and lead men to fear God so they may have peace. Then our Lord will be comforted.

(2)【Richly blessed for being righteous and merciful】6-17 He is like the dew and showers. He rules till the ends of the earth full of abundance. All peoples are blessed by Him. Those who love the Lord will be remembered forever.

(3)【Lead men to return to God】18-20 We ought to cry aloud. May men fear the God who created everything and does marvelous deeds alone! May the whole earth be filled with the Lord's glory!

**Central point of the wheels: Be watchful for the kingdom, be righteous, merciful and grateful to save men**

Dear Lord, may You let me always be watchful in prayer and not be led astray, so I may lead all people to return to You and wait for your coming!

**1 Ki 2 / Lk 18**

**Main theme: Pray persistently to destroy the enemies, obey the Word and follow the Lord is true blessing**

 **-Get rid of the harmful / Pray persistently**

Golden verses: 1 Ki 2:45-46 Lk 18:7-8

A discussion on getting rid of the harmful and praying persistently - on one side it concerned Solomon reigned. He followed the instruction of David at his deathbed to get rid of the ones harmful to the nation thoroughly and put the inner adversaries to death. He killed Joab, Adonijah and Shimei so the kingdom would be strengthened. On the other side it concerned the Lord taught the apostles to pray persistently and God would grant justice. We ought to take the result of Joab and Adonijah as our warning and leave everything behind to follow the Lord till the end so we may inherit the kingdom of God.

**A. Pray and obey the Word, put the adversary to death and seek God's kingdom humbly**

Obey the Word (1 Ki 2:1-21) - Pray persistently (Lk 18:1-17)

1.【Obey the Word courageously and destroy the wicked wisely】1-12 At David's deathbed, he told Solomon to be strong, to show himself a man and be careful to obey the Word so he might prosper in all he would do. On one side he had to act with wisdom to remove evil so the gray head of Joab and Sheba would be brought down to the grave. On the other side he should treat the sons of Barzillai and repay them according to their goodness (2 Sa 17:27-29) showing Solomon established and upheld his kingdom with justice and righteousness. (Isa 9:7)

※【Pray constantly to get rid of the adversary】1-8 Jesus taught the disciples to pray often without giving up like the widow who kept bothering the unrighteous judge day and night for justice against her adversary. Even the judge defended for her. What about the chosen people who cried day and night? Would God finally defend for them! Joab and Sheba were ungodly and unrighteous. This also represented our inner adversary. On one side was to be strong and obedient to destroy evil for the kingdom. On the other side was to pray by faith to remove the adversary.

2.【The wicked demanded presumptuously】13-17 Adonijah failed in seizing the throne, but his ambition had not died. He wishfully pleaded for the beauty Abishag. He went to see the mother of the king and entrusted her to make this request to the king to satisfy his lust. Bathsheba was spiritually unclear and gave partiality. She thought this big evil was a small thing and agreed to request the king for it.

※【The sinner pleaded humbly】9-14 The Pharisees were arrogant. They were self-righteous and looked down on others. In their prayer, they boasted themselves on one hand and on the other hand accused the tax collectors and sinners. That tax collector was humble and contrite. He beat his breast and asked God for mercy on him. Thus he was considered righteous before God. Adonijah was arrogant and exalted himself. He attempted in vain to be king. Then he coveted the beauty of the king just like the Pharisees. They provoked God's anger and harmed themselves by their evil.

3.【How could we demand presumptuously for others】18-21 Bathsheba was unclear of the right and wrong. She recognized the enemy as a friend. She easily agreed to the wishful thinking of the wicked. How could this be a small thing! As a result she was ashamed. This is to encourage the intercessors we should not only have the love. We need to understand the truth and be able to identify the right from wrong and pray according to God's will. Then we will be answered.

※【How could we hate what God loves】15-17 The disciples did not have the mind of the Lord. They hindered the little children to come to see the Lord. They hated what the Lord loved. Bathsheba considered human affection and loved what God hated. Both are unrighteous. On one side was Jesus loved all the little children. On the other side was the most holy God hated all evil. The disciples and Bathsheba ought to return to be like little children to love what the Lord loves and hate what the Lord hates. Then they would be delighted by God to inherit His kingdom.

**B. Leave everything behind and follow the Lord, destroy the inner adversary and strengthen God's kingdom**

Destroy the enemies (1 Ki 2:22-46) - Leave everything (Lk 18:18-43)

1.【Cannot escape the sin of the greatest offence】22-35 King Solomon was discerned in wisdom. He had insight in everything. He pointed out to his mother that the request of Adonijah for Abishag the concubine had ulterior motive. He was outrageous to seek his kingdom and thus lost his own life. One who sows to please his sinful nature will reap destruction. Both Adonijah and Joab were unfaithful to David. They had turned their coat in their late age and depraved in grace. Thus it was hard for them to escape from the judgment.

※【Leave everything behind to follow the Lord and gain everlasting blessings】18-30 Jesus replied the ruler not only to keep the commandments but to sell everything to give to the poor and leave everything behind to follow the Lord. Joab and Abiathar were unwilling to leave everything behind to follow David. Their old self did not die and were hard to enter God's kingdom like the rich man. The disciples had left all they had to follow the Lord and gained many times in this age and eternal life in the age to come. Adonijah wanted to have Abishag in vain. He gained nothing and was avenged.

2.【Cannot follow till the end】36-38 Joab and Abiathar had once suffered together with David. But they did not follow till the end. They lost their integrity in the late age. As a result their position as a commander and a priest were replaced by others. (Rev 3:11; 1 Ki 2:35)

※【Bear the cross to follow the Lord till the end】31-34 Again Jesus prophesied to the Twelve He would be handed over to be mocked and insulted, flogged and killed. On the third day he would rise again. Therefore we ought to carry the cross and follow the Lord till the end. But the disciples did not understand. Finally Judah betrayed the Lord and was replaced by someone who had taken his position. He and Joab and Abiathar who betrayed David became our warning. Only he who overcomes and does the Lord's will to the end will be given the authority to reign with Him. (Rev 2:26-27)

3.【Avenged for violating deliberately】39-46 Shimei was ungodly and unrighteous. He did evil and harmed himself. He despised God's abundant grace, tolerance and endurance. He disregarded the warning of Solomon. He violated the king's order and wronged purposely. He belittled his oath and was killed at the end. He deserved his punishment. Solomon removed the evil in his kingdom courageously. Thus his kingdom was firmly established. If we remove our inner enemies by the Lord, our spiritual eyes will be opened. We will follow and glorify the Lord!

※【Call for eye sight and is granted】35-43 A blind beggar heard Jesus was passing by. Regardless of anything he cried for the mercy of the Lord to let him be able to see. The blind man was favored due to his faith. He was able to see immediately. He followed the Lord all along and gave glory to God. Shimei was like a blind man. He did not understand the righteousness and majesty of God. He only cared for the benefits before his eyes and could not see God's tolerance. He was contemptuous at God's grace. He purposely sinned like a fool turned his back. He harmed his own life. (Pro 1:32)

**Ps 73 / Rev 14:8 Main theme: Adultery is fallen; to love God with a pure heart is a true blessing**

 **-A pure heart / Adultery**

(1)【A pure heart is a blessing】Be devout and consecrate yourself, keep your hands clean and a pure heart. Though you run the path of the cross and are plagued all day long, and are examined and punished everyday, the Lord is with you to hold you by the right hand and guide me with His counsel. Afterward He will take you into glory. As your are near God, you are able to tell of all His deeds and lead men to righteousness and gain great reward.

(2)【Adultery is fallen】Though the wicked seemed to be carefree, healthy and strong, their wealth increase, they are insufferably arrogant and brutal, they profane God and slander men, God despises them. They harm themselves and others. They induce men to adultery and wickedness. They provoke God's wrath and fall in an instant and become such a desolate!

**Central point of the wheels: Destroy all inner adversaries thoroughly, love the Lord with a pure heart and follow Him humbly**

Dear Lord, may You let me love You wholeheartedly, flee from adultery, put all my inner adversaries to death by You and follow You till the end.

**1 Ki 3 / Lk 19**

**Main theme: Make every effort to know the Lord, remove evil and obey the Word, and be filled with God's love**

 **-Ask for a discerning heart / Pray for true love**

Golden verses: 1 Ki 3:12 Lk 19:9-10

A discussion on asking for wisdom and praying for true love - on one side it concerned Solomon loved God humbly. He offered one thousand offerings and was revealed by God. He asked for a discerning heart to govern. On the other hand Zacchaeus the tax collector thirsted for and pursued to see Jesus. Salvation came to him and his family. This teaches us we ought not only to ask for wisdom, but also be humble as the Lord's faithful servant, to pursue the greatest love that is the Lord Himself, then we may be fit for His use.

**A. Be humble to offer everything, make every effort to pursue to see the Lord**

Offer everything (1 Ki 3:1-15) - Pray fervently (Lk 19:1-27)

1.【Offer everything humbly and be revealed】1-9 Solomon was in a high position. He loved God and obeyed the Word humbly. He offered a thousand burnt offerings and was delighted by God. God appeared to him in a dream and asked what did he want. He did not ask for anything except the wisdom from God to distinguish between right and wrong and to govern the people.

※【Make every effort to be redeemed】1-10 Jesus was passing through Jericho and Zacchaeus the chief tax collector made every effort to see Him. Though he was wealthy, wealth and fame could not satisfy him. He longed for salvation. He confessed and was contrite. He repaid the debt of sin and had regard for the poor. So he was redeemed by the Lord and the whole family was favored. When Solomon first reigned, he loved God humbly and offered himself. He acknowledged he was only a little child. He longed for wisdom and was granted by God. (Mt 5:3-4) We ought to receive the Lord with joy and offer all our heart and love. Then the Lord will appear to us. We will be favored and our whole family will be favored and all people will be favored.

2.【Ask for a discerning heart and is granted】10-15 Solomon did not ask for himself long life or wealth. He only asked for discernment in administering justice. This delighted God. Not only was wisdom given to him; riches, honor and long life were also given to him more than what he asked, only if he would imitate his father to obey the Word of God. He awoke and gave thanks and offerings to God. He gave a feast for all his court and all were favored.

※【Faithful to the assignment and receive the praise】11-27 Jesus told another parable. A man of noble birth gave ten of his servants each a mina. The master was appointed king and returned. Some had gained ten more and some five more. They were commended by the master as trustworthy and good servants. They were given the power to take charge of ten cities and five cities respectively. Solomon was also God's trustworthy servant. He did not ask for himself but for the wisdom to judge his people. He was also commended more than what he asked. Only the evil servant would take grace in vain. He kept it in a piece of cloth. He failed the master. He was wicked and lazy so how could he present his books? As a result everything was taken away from him.

**B. Pursue true love, listen to the Lord's judgment and be humble and obedient fit for use**

True love (1 Ki 3:16-28) - Humble and obedient (Lk 19:28-48)

1.【Two prostitutes contend】16-22 There were two prostitutes who indulged in sin and gave birth to lust. They both bore a son. One woman was fast asleep and killed her son for she had laid on him. This woman stole the son of the other woman while she was sleeping. They argued and came to the king. Both women claimed the life child and were waiting for the king's judgment.

※【Two apostles are sent】28-40 Two disciples were sent to the village ahead to bring a colt so the Lord might ride on it and be used by Him. The people shouted in praise and gave glory to God. On one side was the two disciples accomplished the Lord's assignment in one heart. On the other side was the two women argued without ceasing. They did not have any testimony and were a disgrace to God. Jesus is the King who comes in the name of the Lord. If we shut our mouth and do not praise, even the stones will cry out. The Pharisees were hypocritical and self-deceiving. They were jealous and crafty like the mother of the dead child without true love. She did not know how to praise. Instead she rebuked others. She would receive the righteous judgment of God!

2.【Cry for the son】23-28 King Solomon judged not by what he saw with his eyes or decided by what he heard with his ears! (Isa 11:3) He ordered to bring in a sword to cut the living child in two, half to this woman and half to that woman. The woman whose son was alive had compassion for her son and pleaded the king to give the living child to that woman and do not kill him. That evil woman insisted to cut the child! Solomon was full of wisdom and power. He ordered to give the child to this woman because she was his mother. A true mother pays the price of life and exhibits true love! The Lord's word is the sword of judgment with great effect which judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Heb 4:12)

※【Wail for the holy city】41-48 Jesus was full of the heart of a mother. He wept over the desolation of Jerusalem. He was also full of the mind of righteousness and zeal. He used His power to cleanse the temple to be a house of prayer. The heart of the dead child mother was vicious like a den of robbers. She was not moved when the living child was to be cut like the Pharisees. Solomon judged not by what he saw. Jesus' eyes were like fire which searched the hearts of men. He saw the filth of the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the temple. The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. God will repay according to what each one has done.

**Ps 74 / Rev 14:9 Main theme: Pray fervently, warn aloud and God revealed His power**

 **-Pray fervently / Warn**

On one side is to pray fervently while the other side it to warn aloud.

(1)【Pray that God will stretch His hand to destroy the enemy】1-11 May God do not reject us forever. We are redeemed by Him and His inheritance. Now He is angry at us. The enemies have ruined our sanctuary and crush it completely. How long will they revile and mock You. May God stretch out His hands and destroy the enemies.

(2)【Pray that God will rise up to deliver】12-23 God had used His powerful hands to save our forefathers. Now may God save His poor people and remember the wickedness of the enemies. May He have regard for His covenant and rise up to save us.

(3)【To warn aloud】We ought to imitate the angel to warn in a loud voice. Do not worship the beast and his image and received his mark so that we will provoke God and be punished forever. We ought to love Him wholeheartedly, and meditate on His words. We will be free from disasters and blessed with the Lord's mark.

**Central point of the wheels: Ask for a discerning heart and pray for true love to overcome temptation and be fit for God's use**

Dear Lord, may You let me thirst to see your face, grant me a discerning heart and your love to overcome everything and be fit for your use.

**1 Ki 4 / Lk 20**

**Main theme: Imitate the Lord to obey the command and deny everything to obey the will is true wisdom**

 **-Wisdom / Power**

Golden verses: 1 Ki 4:29 Lk 20:35-36

A discussion on wisdom and power - on one side it concerned Solomon reigned with great wisdom, power and glory. His kingdom represented Christ's glorious kingdom. (Mic 4:1-8) All the officials would serve him and the kings of the world came to hear of his wisdom. On the other side Jesus preached with great wisdom and power. He refuted all who were against Him. This teaches us we ought to be the Lord's faithful servant to hand over fruit timely to satisfy God and glorify Him.

**A. Faithful servants will hand over the fruit timely; the evil will harm himself**

Faithful servant (1 Ki 4:1-19) - Hand over the fruit (Lk 20:1-26)

1.【Faithful officials】1-6 Solomon reigned as the king of Israel according to God's will and set his officials. Zadok was the chief priest leading the ministry of the holy temple. Benaiah was the chief commander leading the whole army. They all obeyed the king's orders and were dutiful.

※【Crafty leaders】1-8 Jesus was the king of Israel and also the glorious king of the world. Though the chief priests and the teachers of the law were the religious leaders, they came to spy on and frame the Lord. They came to ask Jesus from where did he have the authority. Due to their disbelief Jesus did not answer but asked them a question. The power of Solomon's kingdom was from God. Jesus' authority was also from heaven. They did not exalt the Lord as king, nor did they believe Him. Therefore they dared not answer that the baptism of John was from heaven. We ought to be faithful servant of God's kingdom to learn from the Lord to possess the heavenly wisdom, power and gut!

2.【Provide timely】7-19 Solomon set twelve district governors over all Israel so they might supply abundant feasts and provisions for the king and the royal household monthly in the year. The master will commend the faithful and wise servants whom the master has put in charge of the servants to give them their food at the proper time. (Mt 24:45-46) We too, ought to unite with the Lord to eat up the scroll, so our lives will be abundant to give food to the world.

※【Reject to hand over the fruit】9-26 Jesus told another parable. A master planted a vineyard and rented it to some farmers. They ought to have given him some fruit of the vineyard timely like the twelve governors of Solomon who knew the grace and were grateful to be loyal to the king's assignment. But the evil tenants were ungrateful. They took the grace in vain and rejected to give any fruit. Instead they persecuted the servants sent by the master and even killed the beloved son of the master and seized the inheritance. They would be punished severely. The chief priests and the teachers of the law knew He had spoken this against them. So they looked for a way to arrest Him and sent spies to watch on Him closely. Jesus honestly proclaimed the Word and provided the spiritual food to men. He used wisdom to handle the enemies so the spies became silent.

**B. Wisdom and abundance; guard against hypocrisy, overcome the enemies**

Wisdom (1 Ki 4:20-34) - Overcome (Lk 20:27-47)

1.【Govern various nations】20-28 The people of Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They ate and drank and were happy representing the abundance and strength of the kingdom of Christ. Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms. They brought tribute to him and were subject to him. The people lived happily in peace and enjoyed the grace of God.

※【Overcome various enemies】27-40 The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection of the dead. They also came to spy on the Lord and refuted the matter on resurrection. Jesus rebuked them for not knowing the Scriptures or the power of God. (Mt 22:29) God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. He brought us the resurrection and the hope of eternity and eternal pleasures! The power of ruling over all the kingdoms represented Christ rose from the dead and triumphed over all the enemies. He was given the eternal kingdom to rule over all. Jesus' words refuted the enemies and no one dared to ask Him any more questions. We too enjoy the everlasting peace and eternal pleasures because of the power of resurrection from Christ.

2.【The immense wisdom surpasses thousands】29-34 God gave Solomon great wisdom above any other man. He also gave him a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. He wrote the Proverbs, psalms and described all sorts of plants and animals. His fame spread to all the surrounding nations. Men of all nations came to listen to his words of wisdom representing the Lord is the root of wisdom.

※【The wisdom and the scepter of kingdom is beyond comparison】41-47 David prophesied Jesus rose from the dead and sat at the right side of the Father waiting to make the enemies a footstool for His feet. (Ps 110:1) The wisdom and the breadth of understanding of Solomon represented the wisdom and authority of Christ and His glorious kingdom was far beyond comparison, surpassing Solomon. The people came to listen to Jesus' lesson of wisdom. Jesus told the disciples to guard against the hypocrisy and self-deception of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law because they were unwilling to humble to listen to the Lord's words of wisdom. They only sought men's honor. Their folly would be revealed and they would be punished most severely.

**Ps 75 / Rev 14:10 Main theme: Worship idols will drink the cup of wrath; obey and preach the Word will be exalted by God**

 **-Exalt / Cup of wrath**

(1)【In time God will judge】1-7God will judge the people with His upright words. All the people of the earth will quake. But those who keep the Lord's Word and bear His mark will not be shaken. Therefore the wicked should not be boastful, self-deceiving and arrogant. Only God judges to bring one down or exalt another.

(2)【The ending of the kind and the wicked】8-10 The evil will drink God's cup of wrath and suffer. The horns of the righteous will be lifted up to proclaim God's deeds of wonder.

**Central point of the wheels: Humble and be exalted, gain wisdom and power to be the Lord's faithful servant**

Dear Lord, I am willing to exalt You as the King, be your faithful servant to overcome the enemies and bear fruit abundantly to satisfy your heart!

**1 Ki 5 / Lk 21**

**Main theme: Build the temple with one heart, pray watchfully and not be led astray, love the Lord and offer everything**

 **-Prepare / Be watchful**

Golden verses: 1 Ki 5:5 Lk 21:36

A discussion on preparation and watchfulness - on one side it concerned Solomon had intended to build the temple for God. God made king of Tyre help him for the good of God's will. He prepared the material for building the temple. On the other side it concerned Jesus prophesied that before the Lord comes, there would be great persecution and temptation. This is to refine God's children to become precious material to build the church fit for the Lord's use and to wait for His coming.

**A. Intend to build a temple, love the Lord and offer everything and be refined bitterly to be good material**

Build the temple (1 Ki 5:1-6) - Offer everything (Lk 21:1-13)

1.【Intend to build a temple and God testifies】1-5 Solomon reigned and there was rest on every side. He intended to build a temple for the Name of the Lord according to what God promised to his father. The king of Tyre had always been on friendly terms with David and he was also friendly with Solomon. He sent his officials to see him and Solomon testified that God wanted him to build the temple.

※【Love the Lord to offer everything and He commends】1-4 Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small coins. The Lord commended the widow had put in more than all the others. She put in all she had to live on. God valued not the quantity of the offering but a pure heart that loved God! Solomon's heart to determine to build a temple for God was accepted by Him. The poor widow's heart to love God and offered all was even commended by the Lord.

2.【Cut wood for the temple】2-6 Solomon sent men to see Hiram the king of Tyre to request him to order his servants to cut the cedars and get ready for the materials for God's temple. The king promised to pay wages to his servants. It was God's will for Solomon to build the temple, so He made everything worked for the good of it.

※【Suffering prepares the material】5-13 Jesus prophesied that the temple which seemed beautiful and splendid would be completely thrown down. The church of the new covenant would be built through the body of Christ. Similarly David had to subdue all the enemies, and then Solomon might build the temple. The Lord exhorted the disciples to be careful not to be led astray by the false prophets and those who came in His name. The disciples would suffer for the name of the Lord so as to refine them to be precious material for building the church like the cedar had to be cut, peeled, sawed and be dealt with under a lot of suffering before they might be fit for use without shaking or be led astray with good witness.

**B. Endure to obey the Word, prepare to build a temple and be watchful to welcome the Lord**

Prepare (1 Ki 5:7-18) - Be watchful (Lk 21:14-38)

1.【Deliver the material together in one heart】7-12 The king of Tyre praised God for giving David a wise son to govern the people. He agreed happily to provide the logs and float them in rafts by sea. They both made a treaty to help each other to prepare to build the temple in one heart. This represented that the Gentiles had a share in the work of building the church. Each year Solomon gave Hiram oil as food. If we grow in the truth and the abundance of the Holy Spirit, then we may become precious material.

※【Sufferings refines to become precious material】14-26 If the disciples would be brought before kings and governors, the Lord promised to give them the wisdom so the enemies could not refute. They too had to suffer the hardship and endure till the end from their relatives and friends for God's name just like the logs were cut. They had to deny themselves and suffer to obey God's will. They had to match with each other and be brought to the destined place. On one side was to help each other in one heart to prepare the materials. On the other side was to encounter the parents and brothers as enemies and be refined to be good material. The chosen had to escape in the great calamity. They would suffer to obey the Word and be protected till the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

2.【Chisel stones and prepare material ready for building the temple】13-18 Solomon conscripted thirty thousand men in shift to work in shift in the mountain and to have spiritual fellowship at home. He had seventy thousand carriers and eighty thousand stonecutters in the hills. He also used thirty three hundred foremen who supervised the project just like the establishment of a church which needs the matching of gifts, each according to his duty and everyone helps each other. The king gave the order to chisel great and precious stones to be the foundation of the temple.

※【Be careful and watchful to prepare for the Lord】27-38 Each evening Jesus went out on the hill to pay the price to crush oil to pray and be intimate with the Father. In the early morning He would go the temple to teach the disciples. The Lord used His Word to edify His disciples and chisel them to precious stones. The twelve apostles were like expert builders filled with oil and food. Their lives were abundant to supervise the church and became the foundation of the church, (Eph 2:20) and also the foundation of the precious gems of the new Jerusalem. (Rev 21:14) The kingdom of God is near. Be careful and self-controlled to be watchful to prepare, and escape from dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life to become the precious gems of the foundation of the church to stand before God without shaking!

**Ps 76 / Rev 14:11 Main theme: Worship idols will suffer everlasting punishment; obey the Word boldly and lead men to God**

 **-Beauty / Everlasting punishment**

Those who worship the beast (who worship the flesh, the false prophets and anti-Christ) will suffer bitterly day and night without peace. Obey the Word in the Lord will bring peace.

(1)【There is peace with the Lord's presence】1-5 We ought to imitate Judah to be contrite and repent of our sins. (Gen 38) He who exalts the Lord will understand Him. He will dwell with him and subdue all his enemies so he will have peace. But those who worship the beast do not have peace. Obey the Word and in the Lord will have peace.

(2)【Only the Lord is to be feared】6-9 God's children ought to be courageous without fear. Once the Lord rebukes, who can stand before Him? Only the Lord is great and awesome. We ought to tremble at God's words of judgment (the Scriptures)from heaven to be a humble man who obeys the Lord's teachings.

(3)【The survivors' wrath should be restrained】10-12 Everything will work for the good of it. Surely your wrath against men brings You praise. The persecution and temptation of the enemies have created many glorious instrument like Daniel and Joseph. But God will restrain the survivors of their wrath. God will reveal the majesty of His awe so His suffering children may fulfill their vow and repay the grace to lead men from all sides to fear the Lord.

**Central point of the wheels: Prepare watchfully, fulfill the vow to save men and wait to welcome the Lord's coming.**

Dear Lord, may You let me endure to obey the Word, prepare watchfully to become material fit for use to grab to save the souls and wait for your coming!

**1 Ki 6 / Lk 22**

**Main theme: Pray watchfully and obey the Word, do according to the Lord's word and become the beautiful temple**

 **-Build the temple / Suffering**

Golden verses: 1 Ki 6:18-19 Lk 22:28-30

A discussion on building the temple and suffering - on one side it concerned Solomon obeyed God's will to build the temple according to God's pattern of instructions. Every part of the temple was according to the measurement, pattern and requirement of God. On the other side it concerned Jesus obeyed God's will to endure the suffering of the cross to build the church through His body so as to accomplish the church of the New Testament. We ought to imitate the Lord to crush ourselves to bring out oil in our prayer. We should also obey the Word to overcome so our spiritual temple may be built to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit. (Eph 2:21-22) Regretfully, the apostles became asleep and slumbered when the Lord suffered. They disputed who ought to be considered as the greatest. They forsook the Lord and were not fit for the pattern of God's temple. But the Lord was courageous, humble and obedient. He willingly endured all the suffering and gave a good testimony.

**A. Eat the Lord's supper, fit for the measurement of the Lord and reveal Christ**

Fit the measurement (1 Ki 6:1-22) - Eat the Lord's supper (Lk 22:1-38)

1.【Build the temple according to God's pattern】1-10 On the fourth year and second month of Solomon's reign, he started to build the temple according to the pattern which God gave to David. (1 Ch 28:1-21) Everything of the temple was built according to the pattern. The lives of the saints also ought to be established through the Word of God. (Ac 20:32) There should be three levels of side rooms, the higher the wider. The spiritual life of the priest ought to be the higher the wider. (Pro 15:24) In building the temple, only blocks dressed at the quarry were used. The old life had to be dealt with completely to be holy and fit for use. Then there would not be any sound of the hammer, chisel or any other iron tool.

※【Obey the will to suffer and build the temple】1-6 The Passover was approaching and Jesus would soon be killed just like the Lord prophesied the temple would be demolished. But the Lord would re-establish it within three days. (Jn 2:19-22) Judah was greedy for money and sold the Lord. He followed Him for three years in vain. He who does not fit to the Lord's pattern will be phased out. Our old lives need to be demolished and be rebuilt according to God's pattern and ascend to the spiritual room. On one side was to build the temple according to God's pattern. On the other side was to obey God's will to suffer to build the temple.

2.【Obey the Word and God will dwell in him】11-13 While Solomon was building the magnificent temple, God's words came upon him and warned him if he would be careful to obey God's decrees and regulations, He would live among the Israelites forever without abandoning his people. This showed God valued the edification of the inner life and the buildup of God's words.

※【Eat the supper with the Lord】7-23 The Lord sent the disciples to go and make preparations for the Passover. This Passover represented Christ, the Lamb of God was killed and sacrificed for us. (1 Co5:7) He laid down His life and used His blood to make the covenant. Therefore we ought to remember the Lord's love and imitate the Lord's example to break ourselves. We obey the Word and also teach others to obey it. Then the Lord will be with us always to the very end of the age just like what He promised to Solomon. (Mt 28:20)

3.【The life of the inner temple reveals God's glory】14-22 Solomon built the inner temple according to the pattern. From the floor to the ceiling he lined it with cedar boards and overlaid it with pure gold. No stone (the old life) was to be seen inside the temple. God's ark of the covenant was placed in it. The Word is inside the heart and be united with God so the life of the inner temple reveals God's glory.

※【Dispute with each other and reveal the nature of their character】24-38 The disciples were the temple which ought to have revealed Christ completely. But they had shown their old self and disputed who was considered to be the greatest. They exhibited the nature of the old self. The stones in the temple ought to be overlaid with pure gold full of the character and glory of Christ. (2 Pe 1:4) The Lord taught them they ought to be humble as a servant, to learn to serve men and to suffer and be glorified with Him. Then He would confer on them a kingdom and rule with Him. Peter was boastful in the flesh. Finally he failed and disowned the Lord for three times. Satan had asked to sift him as wheat. But the Lord interceded with love so he did not fail in faith. He turned back and strengthened his brothers. He revealed Christ and lived out the life of the inner sanctuary.

**B. Pray watchfully and overcome, obey God's will to build the temple according to the pattern**

According to the pattern (1 Ki 6:23-38) - Pray watchfully together (Lk 22:39-71)

1.【Serve the Lord watchfully in one heart】23-28 The pair of cherubim on the atonement cover in the inner sanctuary represented God's righteousness and glory. Their wings touched each other and the other wing each touched one wall. (1 Jn 1:3) They were identical in size and shape. Their wings spread out. They were alert and faithful to watch over God's ark of the covenant and guard the truth. (Jude 1:3) They served God in one heart.

※【Be alert with the Lord together】39-46 Jesus prayed earnestly in Gethsemane (oil is crushed) and entered the inner sanctuary. He paid the price to pray. Though he was in anguish, He still did not ask for His will. He only wanted His Father's will be done. Due to sorrow the disciples were asleep. They could not be watchful in prayer with Him and so they were led astray. Therefore we ought to be like the cherubim in the inner sanctuary to be in one heart to be watchfully faithful as well as be in one heart with the Lord to pray watchfully. Then we may not be led astray.

2.【A good testimony】29-38 All the walls of the inner and outer sanctuary were carved with cherubim, palm trees and open flowers full of the heavenly life, majestic and triumphant, beautiful and fragrant. The inner and outer sanctuary had two doors carved with beautiful ornaments which were dealt with through hardship and revealed the witness of an abundant life and glorious victory. Solomon used seven years to set the foundation till its completion.

※【Lost the witness】47-71 The Lord was arrested. He felt easy and was not afraid. Though he suffered a lot of humiliation when he was judged at the Sanhedrin, He gave a good witness for the truth (1 Ti 6:13) just like the beautiful sanctuary. Both the inner and outer sanctuary exhibited the Father's glory. Peter woke from his sleep and cut someone by the flesh. He added trouble to the Lord. Later on he followed the Lord at a distance. He was so weak that he dared not acknowledge the Lord before the servant girl. He disgraced the Lord's name and lost his witness. When the rooster crowed, he awoke and went outside to weep bitterly. Thereafter he preached bravely and died to glorify God. The Lord's body is the sanctuary and was rebuilt after three days to become the foundation of the church and the pillar of the truth. (Eph 2:20-22) It was also like the beautiful temple door with good witness that led thousands to return to the Lord. Now, darkness reigns and we ought to be like the Lord to deny ourselves to obey the will fit for the standard of the truth and the cross. We will overcome and triumph by the Lord to build the spiritual house to glorify His name!

**Ps 77 / Rev 14:12 Main theme: Cry for help in affliction, recollect the former days and endure to keep the Word**

 **-Recollect / Endure**

(1)【Cry out in affliction】1-4 Be watchful in the dark. But our hearts grow faint and are not comforted.

(2)【Recollect the former days】5-20 God never rejects His children. He promised He will never reject! Therefore my faith cannot be weak. We ought to remember and speak of God's mighty deeds and miracles of the years of long ago. He redeemed His people and displayed His power among the nations so the earth quaked and did awesome things that we did not expect. He will lead His people to accomplish His plan.

(3)【Ought to endure to keep the Word】Rev 14:12 Therefore we ought to consecrate and keep the Word. We must endure till the end and surely see the Lord's glory.

**Central point of the wheels: Suffer to endure, pray watchfully and obey the Word to accomplish building the temple**

Dear Lord, may You grant me the power to endure suffering, to pray watchfully and to obey the Word so I may fit to your pattern to reveal yourself!

**1 Ki 7 / Lk 23**

**Main theme: Deny oneself to bear the cross, obey the will till the end and accomplish the Lord's work**

 **-Build a temple / Obey the will**

Golden verses: 1 Ki 7:21 Lk 23:42-43

A discussion on building a temple and obeying the will - on one side it concerned Solomon completed the construction of his palace and the pillars of the temple, the Sea of cast metal and bronze basins, etc. Everything was completed according to the pattern. On the other side it concerned Jesus was judged before Pilate and Herod. Though no basis was found against Him, He was finally nailed on the cross to accomplished the will of God. We ought to be the twelve bronze bulls to preach the salvation of Christ to the world and build up the body of Christ.

**A. Forsaken but no charge was found, be bold without compromising and stand firm in truth**

Stand firm (1 Ki 7:1-22) - Without compromising (Lk 23:1-25)

1.【Set up the judgment hall】1-12 Solomon used thirteen years to build his palace. Later on he built the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon to place the weapons and the hall of judgment. (1 Ki 10:17; Isa 22:8) The stones used for these building were made from blocks of high-grade stone cut with a saw on their inner and outer faces. Their pattern was according to the inner courtyard of God's temple with its portico. Our old life is just like the natural stones which need to be dealt with by the cross and accept the judgment of the Lord's words. Then we may build our spiritual house according to God's pattern.

※【No charge but was judged】1-17 Jesus was judged before Pilate and then sent to king Herod to be judged. Though He was falsely charged. They found no basis for the charges against Him. But He was convicted for us so that whoever believes in Him will be freed from future judgment. The Lord is the glorious King. But He suffered all sorts of mocking and humiliation like a stone being chiseled and sawed that brought us peace and healing because of Him. (Isa 53:5) We too ought to be willing to suffer and to endure the humiliation which He had. We ought to use the spiritual weapon to overcome the inner and outer enemies and let the Lord sit forever on the Hall of Justice.

2.【Set before the temple】13-22 Solomon brought Huram who was an expert of bronze. He was an expert builder full of spiritual wisdom and highly skilled. He was chosen by God. He cast two bronze pillars and erected them in the temple so the truth might stand firm. On the capitals of both pillars, above the bowl-shaped part next to the network, were two hundred pomegranates in rows all around. The church is the pillar and the foundation of the truth (1 Ti 3:15) with good witness and bears good fruit. The pillar to the south was named Jakin (God's will) and the pillar to the north was Boaz (God's strength). The capitals on top were in the shape of lilies, holy and pure which exhibited God's glory!

※【Give in to the people】18-25 Pilate had proved three times he could find no ground of His charge. But the crowd shouted together, 'Away with this man! Crucify him! and Release Barabbas to us!' Due to their loud shouts to insist to crucify Him, their voice won. Pilate gave in to the people and surrendered our innocent Lord to them to be crucified. Jesus was charged but He did not say a word. He was unyielding like the pillars standing firm in the temple. He was lifted up to draw all men to Him like the fruitful pomegranates on the capital of the pillars and also like the lilies, holy and majestic in beauty which glorify God.

**B. Carry the cross to follow the Lord, preach salvation among the land and consecrate to be sanctified**

Complete the work (1 Ki 7:23-51) - Accomplish (Lk 23:26-56)

1.【Shoulder the mission to save people】23-26 Then Huram made the Sea of cast metal representing the wells of salvation. (Isa 12:3) Under the Sea were twelve bonze bulls bearing the mission to save men facing east, west, north and south proclaiming the salvation of the cross among the land. Their heads were toward outside and their hindquarters toward the center representing they all had one spirit for the faith of the gospel to unite to save men. (Php 1:27)

※【The Lord denied Himself to save men】26-38 Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, was seized to carry the heavy cross for the Lord. He followed the Lord to Golgotha like the bulls were cast underneath the Sea. He had a share in Jesus' suffering and like the gourds surrounding the Sea, the unworthy were favored. Many followed Jesus including some women who mourned for Him. The Lord was crucified innocently. The righteous had replaced the unrighteous and was crucified with the sinners. He denied His life and shed His blood to become a spring to wash away our sins and to save the sinners. Finally He also asked the Father to forgive their sins. Therefore we ought to be like the twelve bronze bulls to be faithful to the Lord's assignment and to exalt the cross to accomplish the mission to save men.

2.【Consecrate and be sanctified】27-39 Huram also made ten bronze basins and stands, each had four bronze wheels (Exo 30:18-21) so the priests who served God might wash any time to set apart to be holy and be sanctified by the Word. (Eph 5:26) When the Lord's side was pierced , blood and water flew from Him and becomes our spring to wash away our sins.

※【The thief was favored】39-43 The other criminal on the cross witnessed Jesus had done nothing wrong. So Jesus saved him on the cross. The Lord's blood had sanctified him and he was with the Lord in paradise. Jesus had silently endured the opposition and ridicule from sinful men. He obeyed the will till death and would not save Himself so millions of sinners may be favored to be cleansed. We should, all the more consecrate and be sanctified by the water and the Word every day and be used by the Lord.

3.【Accomplish the work according to God's pattern】40-51 Then Huram made pots, shovels and sprinkling bowls. Thus king Solomon finished all the work of God's temple. He also made the golden altar, the golden table on which was the bread of the Presence, the lampstands of pure gold and all sorts of large and small articles of gold.

※【Obey the will and accomplish salvation】44-56 Jesus obeyed the Father's will till the end and accomplished the salvation on the cross. He called out with a loud voice and breathed His last. The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom and opened for us a new and living way to the Most Holy Place. (Heb 10:19-20) We ought to be refined by the Lord to be bronze instrument and firmly obey the Father's will according to the Lord's pattern. We also ought to become instrument of pure gold fit for the Lord's use to lead millions of sinners to repent and gain the Lord's salvation. The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee and Joseph who loved the Lord in hiding and buried the body of Jesus were like the articles of pure gold in the temple. They had a share in the suffering and kingdom of Christ. Solomon finished the work of the temple according to the pattern and the Lord had also accomplished the work of salvation on the cross.

**Ps 78 / Rev 14:13 Main theme: To live in sin is meaningless; to die in the Lord will flourish and is blessed**

 **-Violate the covenant / Obey the Word**

Blessed are those who keep and preach the Word and who die in the Lord; the effect of their work follows them. The light and momentary troubles achieve for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

(1)【Woe to those who are rebellious】1-67 But God's children mostly will not pay more careful attention to His words. Their hearts were not loyal to God. They were stubborn and rebellious. Time after time they were beaten by God. They experienced a lot of miracles but they still sinned against the Lord. Even after they gained the promised land, they still worshiped other gods and united with the Gentiles. Thus they provoked God and were given to the enemies.

(2)【Be contrite and return to the right will be chosen】68-72 Judah, the worst of sinners was favored. He knew the more he was forgiven, thus he loved the Lord more and bore the mind of the father to deny himself and intercede for his younger brother, just like Paul was willing to deny himself to save all the souls of the world. He was chosen and gained great blessings.

(3)【Blessings and warnings will be left to many generations】So men will swear to obey and proclaim the Word and gain great blessings. Do not be rebellious and break the covenant which will harm oneself and others and provoke God's anger in disasters.

**Central point of the wheels: Do not be rebellious, deny yourself to obey the will and build the spiritual temple**

Dear Lord, I am willing to offer myself, to bear the burden to preach the gospel, to deny myself to obey the will and accomplish your work according to your pattern.

**1 Ki 8 / Lk 24**

**Main theme: The Lord has resurrected, pray watchfully and obey the Word, intercede and preach extensively**

 **-Intercede extensively / Preach widely**

Golden verses: 1 Ki 8:12-13 Lk 24:25-26

A discussion on interceding extensively and preaching widely - on one side it concerned that after Solomon had finished building the temple, he led the whole nation to receive the ark and placed it in the temple. God's glory filled the temple. Then Solomon spread out his hands and interceded for all the people. He blessed them and gave thanksgiving offering. On the other side it concerned Jesus resurrected. He revealed to the apostles several times and opened their hearts so they might understand the Scriptures and to preach the way of repentance to all the people. We ought to receive the resurrected Christ (the ark) into our hearts, to consider His mind to intercede and preach to all the people.

**A. Believe the Lord's words without doubt, receive the ark and praise God**

Praise (1 Ki 8:1-30) - Doubt (Lk 24:1-24)

1.【Bring in the ark and glory is filled】1-11 King Solomon summoned all the elders of Israel and the entire assembly of Israel to bring the ark of the covenant to the inner sanctuary, the Most Holy Place. The righteous cherubim spread their wings to overshadow and protect the ark. There was nothing in the ark except the two stone tablets representing God's Word. When the Word is in the heart, God's glory fills the temple.

※【Forget the Lord's word and doubt is filled】1-10 Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, the Lord has resurrected. The women who loved the Lord came to the tomb and found the stone was rolled away. They had forgotten what the Lord had said. They were not joyous though the Lord had risen, they were full of doubt. When the ark is carried into the inner sanctuary, the Word is in our hearts, then we are full of God's glory and joy. Suddenly the angels appeared and reminded them the Lord has risen. 'Why do you look for the living among the dead?' Then they remembered the Lord's words and went to tell the Eleven. We ought to receive the Lord's words into our heart and let the risen Christ live in us, then we will be filled with joy and glorious brightness.

2.【Full of praise in the mouth】12-30 On one side Solomon blessed the people and on the other side he praised God for fulfilling what He promised with His own mouth. There is no God like the Lord in heaven above or earth below. He is the God who keeps the covenant of love. 'May God hear the prayer and supplication of his servant to open His eyes toward the temple night and day and when You hear, forgive!'

※【Full of worried look on the face】11-24 When the apostles heard the report of the women, they thought it was nonsense. They did not believe the Lord had risen. Among them were two who went to Emmaus. Their faces were downcast and still discussing about this matter. Jesus Himself came up and walked with them. But they were kept from recognizing Him. Solomon experienced the faithfulness of God and he was full of praise. The two apostles had no faith. Though the Lord was beside them, they could not recognize Him and were downcast.

**B. Understand the Scriptures, intercede extensively, preach zealously and gain the promise**

Intercede (1 Ki 8:31-66) - Be sent (Lk 24:25-53)

1.【Pray that the good way may be taught】31-40 Solomon interceded for a man who wronged his neighbor and his people who had been defeated by an enemy. When disasters come and they are aware of the afflictions of their own heart, may God forgive. He also prayed that God would teach them the right way to live and send rain on their inheritance.

※【Listen to the Lord to open the Scriptures】25-27 The two apostles were slow of heart to believe all that the prophets had spoken. So the Lord explained to them from Moses to the prophets and Christ had to suffer and then enter His glory. All these would be fulfilled. Solomon bore the mind of God and interceded for his people. He prayed for God's forgiveness on one side and on the other side he prayed for the right way to live, just like the Lord explained the Scriptures to the apostles. Only the Lord's words make men awake and revive like the spiritual rain falls.

2.【Consider God's mind to intercede extensively】41-53 Solomon also bore God's mind to pray for the foreigners so that all the peoples of the earth might know His name and fear Him like the Israelites. He also prayed for the people who went to war against their enemies so they might overcome. If they had sin and were held captive, and if they had a change of heart and plead with repentance, he prayed God would show mercy and forgive.

※【A fervent heart to witness the Lord】28-45 The two apostles listened to the talk of the Scriptures by the Lord on the way and were burning in their hearts. When the Lord gave thanks and broke the bread, then they knew He was the risen Lord. So they got up and gave witness to the apostles and the people. Solomon was also zealous to intercede for all the nations and peoples. The Lord appeared to the apostles and showed them His nailed hands and feet and opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. They saw the Lord personally and were no longer doubtful. They took the mission and prayed extensively and proclaimed widely to all peoples.

3.【Give blessing to the people】54-66 Solomon blessed his people in a loud voice that God would be with them so their hearts would turn to Him to keep His Word and make all the peoples be favored to know God. The king and all the people dedicated the temple of the Lord. They gave thanks and sacrificed. The people went home in gladness.

※【Receive the important assignment】46-53 Before Jesus ascended to heaven He told the apostles to wait for the coming of the promised Holy Spirit and be fully clothed with power from on high to bear the mission to spread the gospel from Jerusalem to all the nations. The Lord lifted up His hand to bless them and then he left them and was taken up into heaven. Solomon also blessed his people so all the peoples were favored. Only if we will keep the Word, then we may lead all the peoples to keep the Word and be favored to turn to God.

**Ps 79 / Rev 14:14 Main theme: The harvest is near, plead to God to stop His wrath, save the people and attack the enemies**

 **-Plead / Harvest**

The son of man has a sharp sickle in his hand. The Lord's coming is near. He wants to reap His harvest. But the saints are in trouble and the temple is desolate. We ought to consider the Lord's mind and plead God to stop His wrath to save the people and attack the enemies.

(1)【Will the Lord be angry forever】1-5 The holy temple was defiled and reduced to rubble. The holy people were in disasters and became a scorn around them. How long will God be angry with us?

(2)【Pray that the wrath be poured on the heads of the enemies】6-8 May God remember the evil of the enemies and do not hold against us the sins of His people because we are in desperate need.

(3)【May the Lord deliver us for His name's sake】9-13 Do not let the nations say, "Where is their God?" May the Lord preserve the nearly extinguished remnants and hurl seven times the reproach to the enemies so the Lord's people will recount and praise the Lord forever.

**Central point of the wheels: Understand the Scriptures, consider the Lord's mind, pray to stop the wrath, intercede and preach extensively**

Dear Lord, may You let me be filled with your Word so I may intercede and preach extensively, thus your power of resurrection may be revealed on earth.

**1 Ki 9 / Jn 1**

**Main theme: Obey the Word and preach the Word, then blessings will come upon blessings; turn from the Word will lose the grace**

 **-Warning / Preach the Word (turn from the Word/Obey the Word**

Golden verses: 1 Ki 9:3 LJn 1:29

A discussion on warning and preaching the Word - on one side it concerned God revealed to Solomon again after he had built the temple. He warned him to observe everything God instructed him and then he would be blessed. If he turned from God's Word, disasters would come. On the other side it concerned John the Baptist not only obeyed the Word, he also witnessed for the Word and the Light. This teaches us we need to emphasize on the built up of our life and the Lord's word rather than gold and gain Christ as our greatest treasure.

**A. Obey the Word and be favored, turn from the Word will encounter disasters, forsake darkness and come to the light**

Turn from the Word (1 Ki 9:1-14) - Keep the Word (Jn 1:1-28)

1.【Ought to take the warning】1-9 Solomon had finished building the holy temple. God appeared to Solomon a second time. He had heard the prayer and plea Solomon made before Him. God's heart and eyes would always be there. But God warned him and his descendants if they imitated David to be honest and obey the Word, they would be strengthened with blessings. If they were wayward to serve other gods, they would be cut off and disasters would come. Further, the temple which God set apart to be holy would be abandoned and become a byword.

※【Receive the true light】1-18 The Lord is the Word. In the beginning the Word was with God and the Word became flesh and dwelled among us. He gave us life and true light. We will not only receive God's abundant grace and truth but also His warning to keep the Word in trembling all our life with blessings upon blessings. If we turn from the Lord's Word, we will lose the grace and be in trouble. We ought to be like David and John the Baptist to be honest and obey the Word and be the witness for the light. We too ought to imitate the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made Him known.

2.【Haggle over the reward】10-14 King Solomon gave twenty towns in Galilee to Hiram for the reward of his support of the materials and gold. Not only was he not satisfied and thankful, he was not pleased. He gave a name to the towns as Land of Cabul (displeased).

※【Deny oneself completely】19-28 John the Baptist humbled and denied himself. He exalted and witnessed Christ all his life. He acknowledged he was only a voice in the desert to make straight the way for the Lord. He testified that He was one who came after him, the thongs of whose sandals he was not worthy to untie. But the king of Hiram was self-centered. He cared about his personal reward and his gains and losses. He did not have a humble and thankful heart. If we are the servant of the Lord, we ought to deny ourselves completely without caring for reward. We should only care to satisfy God's heart like John.

**B. Do not turn to unfounded things, witness Christ and lead men to the Lord**

Turn to unfounded things (1 Ki 9:15-28) - Witness the Lord (Jn 1:29-51)

1.【Be God's warriors】15-24 King Solomon erected a lot of buildings throughout his land so all the people left from the Canaanite tribes were conscripted for his slave labor force. But for the Israelites, he did not make slaves of them. They were his fighting men and officials to fight for the nation. Due to the redemption of Jesus, we are no longer slaves to sin but the warriors of the kingdom of heaven. (Ro 6:6; 2 Ti 2:3)

※【Be the Lord's pioneer】29-42 John was the pioneer of the Lord who led men to know Christ is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world without being a slave to sin. He witnessed that he came baptizing with water, but Christ was baptized with the Holy Spirit. Due to his witness, his disciples followed Jesus and became the disciples of Jesus. They were the warriors of Christ Jesus who dwelled with the Lord.

2.【Lead men to grab gold】25-28 After Solomon had finished building the temple, though he kept the Feast and sacrificed three times a year, he did not use God's words to build up himself. His heart was slowly led astray. He blindly grabbed for gold and valued wealth. He built ships for himself and sailed together with the seamen of Hiram. He became friends to the secular and failed the important assignment of God.

※【Lead men to know and follow the Lord】43-51 Philip was called by God and he immediately followed. He was blessed and he also led Nathanael to know the Lord. Solomon himself coveted gold and led men to grab gold. Though the honest Nathanael did not know the Lord, he was finally revealed to know the Lord was the Son of God and the King of Israel. The Lord even said they would see heaven open, that the Son of Man who was the Word became flesh was the heavenly stairway. He is the only mediator and Savior. (Jn 14:6; 1 Ti 2:5) It is better to gain the Lord than millions of silver and gold. But Solomon was led astray by gold, the god of the world. His mind was blinded and only saw the world. He could not see God and was depraved in grace.

**Ps 80 / Rev 14:15 Main theme: The time to harvest has come, pray that we may turn back and revive**

 **-Revive / Harvest**

On one side the harvest has ripen, on the other side we pray for restoration and revival

(1)【May God's might let us be restored】1-3 We ought to cry aloud fervently that men's heart will turn back to God, then we may gain the great revival.

(2)【Do not be discouraged but pray fervently】4-7 Though the Lord seems not to have heard for a long time and our enemies mock us, we still continue to pray for revival.

(3)【May God turn back and have regard for His people】8-19 May the Lord remember how painstakingly He had cultivated the children who belong to Him and do not be angry to give them to the enemies. May the Lord turn back to have regard for His people to avoid death. May the Lord save us and restore us to gain revival.

**Central point of the wheels: Keep the Word and preach the Word, plead for revival to reap the harvest**

Dear Lord, may You open my spiritual eyes to know that You are the only mediator so I may be careful to keep the Word and reap the harvest!

**1 Ki 10 / Jn 2**

**Main theme: Consecrate to obey the Word and be filled with God's glory; seek vanity will deprave**

 **-Thirst / Change (value wealth and power/cleanse the temple)**

Golden verses: 1 Ki 10:7-9 Jn 2:24

A discussion on thirsting and change - on one side it concerned the Queen of Sheba came from the ends of the world to see Solomon. She thirsted to hear his words of wisdom. As a result they far exceeded what she heard and desired. The queen was filled with praise to God and went home abundantly. (Mt 12:42 Solomon represented Christ) On the other side Jesus turned water to wine at the wedding and revealed God's glory. He brought changes to our lives and we enjoy the sweetness of God's love. Solomon sought after wealth and power. He gradually turn from the Lord's way and became our deep warning. We ought to thirst for the Lord's words and clear the temple so we may demolish the old life and build up the spiritual house.

**A. Thirst for the Lord's words, act according to the order, water turns**

**to wine and exceeds what is desired**

Thirst to listen (1Ki 10:1-13) - Change (Jn 2:1-12)

1.【Thirst to listen to the Lord's words】1-9 Though the queen of Sheba possessed everything, she was not satisfied. She heard the name of Solomon and came from the ends of the world to hear his words of wisdom. Solomon was able to answer all her hard questions. She also saw for herself all the abundance and the majesty of the kingdom of Solomon and was overwhelmed. She saw his officials stood before him to hear the king's wisdom. How blessed it was! Therefore she praised God's eternal love and He had made Solomon as king to maintain justice and righteousness.

※【The wine is gone】1-4 Jesus, His disciples and His mother were invited to the wedding. Unexpectedly there was no wine. Fortunately, Jesus was among them. The end of men is the beginning of God! Human happiness and the good wine of the marriage will finally come to an end. The queen of Sheba had enjoyed all the human pleasures but was not satisfied. She came from far and thirsted to hear the wisdom of Solomon. Then she was satisfied. The Lord's words and the glory of God's kingdom outweighs the good wine of human wedding and is never used up.

2.【Is favored and exceeds what is desired】10-13 Whatever the queen of Sheba saw and heard in the kingdom of Solomon overwhelmed her. She praised unceasingly and was satisfied. Thus she offered a lot of gold, precious stones and spices. But the king gave her more than what she wanted and thought. The queen was favored and returned with abundance.

※【Experience water turn to wine】5-12 Our Lord is greater than Solomon. (Mt 12:42) Jesus' mother believed there was nothing too hard for Him! So she said to the servants to do whatever He told. They obeyed Jesus' order to fill six jars with water and draw some out. It turned to wine and was brought to the master of the banquet. Except those who drew out the water had the personal experience, no one knew the choice wine was from where. When we come before the Lord, we ought to be the empty jars and empty ourselves, so we may be filled with the Lord's Word, His Spirit and love. Our lives will be renewed to change to be willing to sacrifice to bring God's love to others. We will be able to live out the good witness so men may enjoy the abundance of salvation; just like the queen of Sheba came to see Solomon and tasted the sweetness and satisfaction which was better than wine.

**B. Clear the temple, do not value wealth and power, and do not turn away from the Lord's Word**

Turn from (1 Ki 10:14-29) - Clear the temple (Jn 2:13-25)

1.【Pursue wealth and power】14-22 In his abundance, king Solomon did not tremble, or felt satisfied or be thankful. He blindly coveted gold, silver and wealth of the world. He completely violated the requirement of a king in chapter 17 of Deuteronomy. Each year he received six hundred sixty six talents of gold. The large and small shields of hammered gold were glamorous for a time. But they were all plundered during the time of king Rehoboam. He also made a great throne inlaid with ivory and overlaid with fine gold. But he did not exalt God as king and let Him sit on the throne.

※【The temple becomes the robbers' den】13-17 Jesus obeyed the Father's will and worked unceasingly. When it was near the Passover, He went up to Jerusalem. He saw the temple was full of buying and selling like robbers' den. The heart of Solomon was also the same. Zeal for the house consumed the Lord's heart. So He used His authority to cleanse the sanctuary to make it become a house of prayer for all nations. (Ps 69:9) The Lord told the disciples to value the Scriptures more than anything! But Solomon despised God's words and blindly pursued wealth and fame. He valued worldly property but did not see God's words were more than thousands of gold and silver. He grieved the Holy Spirit of God.

2.【Turn from the Lord's Word】23-29 King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth. They all sought audience with him to hear his wisdom. But when he had great wealth and honor, he turned from God's Word. He acquired for himself large amount of gold and silver and great numbers of horses. He was outwardly strong and splendid but his heart was empty and filthy.

※【Destroy and raise】18-25 The Jews only saw with their eyes and did not believe in the Lord. But they wanted Him to show them a miraculous sign. When the body of the Lord was destroyed and rebuilt after three days, the cross of Christ was the greatest miracle! (Mt 12:38-40) After the Lord was raised from the dead and His disciples recalled what He had said was fulfilled. Then they believed in the Scriptures. Solomon proclaimed the words of wisdom to the other nations but he turned from them. The temple which he built was finally destroyed. Many people saw the miraculous signs and believed the Lord. The Lord knew what was in a man. The heart of Solomon turned from the Lord's Word. He was also examined by God. He pursued wealth and fame. Though he gained a time of vanity, he lost the heart of God. As a result he lost everything!

**Ps 81 / Rev 14:16 Main theme: Cry out to God, obey the Lord's Word, open the mouth widely and gain the whole land**

 **-Open the mouth widely / Good harvest**

May the Lord send out the refined workers like swinging the sickle and gain the good harvest.

(1)【May the Lord strengthen us so we may be steadfast to obey His command】1-7 Pay attention to the Lord's command. We ought to listen to the sound of the horn to take warning in every step of our spiritual journey. Whether in the Sabbath, the New Moon, when the moon is full, the Passover, the Pentecost or the Feast of Tabernacles, we ought to let the Lord be our center, so we may cry out by the Lord to increase our strength and rejoice in triumph and gain abundance even when we are in all sorts of environment, or trials.

(2)【The Lord's heart is saddened】11-12 But the people would not listen to the Lord. They would not submit to Him. So He gave them over. The Lord's heart was saddened.

(3)【Exhort the people to listen to the warning】8-10, 13-16 We shall not have any foreign gods. We ought to open wide our mouth to thirst for the Lord's words, His Spirit, His love and the souls of all the land. Then He will fill us. If His people would but listen to Him, He would quickly subdue their enemies and give the good spiritual food which is the message (honey) of the Most Holy Place to those who thirst for it.

**Central point of the wheels: Remove other gods, seek the true grace, open the mouth widely and exceeds what is desired**

Dear Lord, may You let my mouth be opened wide to thirst for your Word, to live out the new life so I will not desire for anything apart from You and reap the harvest!

**1 Ki 11 / Jn 3**

**Main theme: Unlimited grace for accepting the words of the Lord; be led astray and disasters come from everywhere**

 **-Follow lust / Follow the Holy Spirit (forsake darkness/come into the light)**

Golden verses: 1 Ki 11:9-10 Jn 3:16-17

A discussion on following lust and following the Holy Spirit - on one side it concerned Solomon abandoned God in his old age. His heart turned to evil and indulged in lust. He loved foreign women and worshiped other gods. He provoked God to anger thus domestic trouble and foreign invasion arose and both the people and the nation were harmed. This teaches us that when we face the contention of the spirit and lust, we ought to overcome the flesh by the Holy Spirit.

**A. Do not follow lust but follow the Holy Spirit so we may enter the kingdom of God**

Deprave (2 Ki 11:1-22) - Gain life (Jn 3:1-18)

1.【Follow lust and deprave】1-8 When king Solomon was old, he was led astray by one thousand wives and concubines. His heart was misled and followed other gods to sin and deprave. He did not imitate his father David to obey God wholeheartedly. But he did evil in the eyes of God. He loved many foreign women and disregarded the most holy laws. He violated God's prohibition. (Deut 7:1-4) He did not care for any influence or consequence. He built high places for the detestable god of these women and sinned greatly against God.

※【Follow the Holy Spirit and be born】1-13 A Pharisee named Nicodemus though was a member of the Jewish ruling council, he was not satisfied with his knowledge, position and wealth. He did not care for the pressure of the Sanhedrin and the press. He was humble and thirsty. So he came to see Jesus at night. The Lord told him about the Word of reborn. Man has to be born again by water and the Holy Spirit, then he may enter the kingdom of God. (Tit 3:5) When Solomon was old, he did not thirst for the Lord's Word. Nor did he obey the Holy Spirit. Instead he pleased the sinful nature and thus was led astray to sin. Therefore do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral or idolaters will inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Co 6:9-10)

2.【Forsake God and provoke Him to anger】9-13 The heart of Solomon had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel who had appeared to him twice. He violated God's order. Thus God was angry with him and tore his kingdom away out of the hand of his son and gave it to his subordinates. But for the sake of David and Jerusalem which God had chosen, He would give one tribe to his son. However, Solomon did not take the warning and God's punishment came.

※【Look up to the bronze snake and gain life】14-15 Moses lifted up the bronze snake in the desert. Anyone who was bitten could look at it and live. (Num 21:8-9) This represented Christ has redeemed us from the curse (Gal 3:13) on the cross so whoever believed Him would gain eternal life. Solomon sinned and depraved just like being bitten. But he was not contrite. He did not put hope in salvation and provoked God's anger resulting the division of the country and the nation. He harmed his descendants and brought future trouble to them. It was only after a few hundred years later when Josiah reigned, all the high places and idols were completely removed. (2 Ki 23;13) Jesus laid down His life and shed His blood. He was lifted up and drew all men to the Lord! (Jn 12:32)

3.【Go against God and the enemy's descendant becomes the trouble】14-22 Solomon did evil and violated God. So God raised up his adversary to cause him trouble. When Hadad, the descendant of the Edomite king was still a boy, he fled to Egypt. Now he had grown up and came back to be the enemy of Solomon. The flesh and sinful nature of Solomon had not died and was like a boy and grew. Finally it became his trouble. Therefore we ought to put the misdeeds of the body to death by the Holy Spirit. (Ro 8:13)

※【The only Son of God gives eternal life】16-18 For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shell not perish but have eternal life and not be condemned. How great is God's love! Though Solomon sinned against God, His love did not abandon him. He would use men's whip to punish him. This showed God's love of discipline so he might be contrite to turn from sin and turn back to God due to faith. Then he would not be condemned. How can we despise God's discipline and resent His rebuke! (Pro 3:11-12)

**B. Ought to take warning, abandon darkness and come into the light, the Lord becomes greater and I must become less**

Take warning (1 Ki 11:23-43) - Come into the light (Jn 3:19-36)

1.【Not willing to repent, so domestic trouble and foreign invasion come】23-28 As Solomon did not take warning or repent, he suffered trouble from inside and outside. God raised up Rezon and king Aram to be the adversaries of the Israelites. He also made Jeroboam to attack Solomon. Jeroboam was a man of standing. He was put in charge of the whole labor force of the house of Joseph. He also betrayed him.

※【Abandon darkness and come into the light will not be condemned】19-21 Jesus is the light. He came to the world to give light to every man on earth. (Jn 1:9) Who is willing to come into the light? Solomon did not acknowledge his sins. He did not love the light and instead loved the dark. He would be condemned. He and his kingdom were in the dark. Only those who abandon the dark and walk in the truth will come into the light. Though Jeroboam was a man of standing, he did not walk in the truth and was also in the dark.

2.【Take warning to imitate David】29-39 Ahijah the prophet prophesied the kingdom of Israel would be divided. Jeroboam was chosen by God to be the king of Israel. But the prophet warned him. If he would imitate David to obey and keep the Word, he would be strengthened and always have light. But he did not take the warning. He only imitated evil and not good.

※【Willing to humble to exalt Christ】22-30 John was willing to humble and delighted in God. Though many followed Jesus, his joy was satisfied. He denied himself to obey the Word and exalted Christ. He was glad to see "He must become greater, I must become less." The kingdom of Solomon was seized because of his arrogance. He disregarded God's warning. His old self was unwilling to become less. Jeroboam was chosen to be the king. He was also arrogant and did not exalt God as King. He was finally ruined.

3. 【Follow lust will be ruined】40-43 Solomon encountered internal worry and external trouble. He still did not repent. He just wanted to kill Jeroboam and added more to his sins. Solomon followed the sinful nature to sow and reaped destruction. He brought trouble to his nation and calamities to his people. He harmed himself and others. After he died Rehoboam reigned and the country was divided.

※【Trust in the Holy Spirit and grace is unlimited】31-36 Jesus comes from above and is above all. He testified to what He has seen and heard, but no one accepted his testimony. Solomon also did not take God's warning, instead he wanted to kill his official. He had no witness. The Father has placed everything in the hands of Jesus for God gave the Spirit without limit. Solomon did not trust in the Holy Spirit to deal with the flesh. He had changed the grace of God into a license for immorality. He was ruined and lost everything. Whoever trusts in the Holy Spirit and believes the Son will have eternity and unlimited grace. He will triumph due to God's salvation! Only those who reject the Son and please the sinful nature like Solomon will be under God's wrath.

**Ps 82 / Rev 14:17 Main theme: The Lord's Word judges, pray and preach lest men will be punished**

 **-Judge / Punish**

The angel came out with a sharp sickle for God's time of judgment has arrived. In due time God will judge all the people and he will avenge the wicked and reward the good.

(1)【Judgment begins with the family of God】1-2 He who inherits God's Word will be given power to build up men and not to ruin men. God will punish those who do not defend the just and show partiality.

(2)【Save the poor and oppressed】3-4 We ought to bear the mind of God to have compassion on the lost sheep of the land and to intercede and preach the Word day and night to save them from death to turn to the true God.

(3)【If still be ignorant and wicked will fall】5-8 If we do not take warning and still do not understand God's mind to sin and do evil in the dark, we will be like Saul who was once anointed and finally fell. The Lord will come to judge the world. We ought to consider His mind. He wants everyone to be saved and no one to perish. We ought to use God's authority and power to save many, then we will not be punished but be rewarded.

**Central point of the wheels: Do not turn to evil, abandon darkness and come into the light to avoid the judgment**

Dear Lord, may You let me follow the Holy Spirit to overcome my flesh, to walk in your light and obey your command to love God and men!

**1 Ki 12 / Jn 4**

**Main theme: To plan and prepare for oneself will harm us; to deny oneself to obey the will saves men**

 **-Harm people / Save people**

Golden verses: 1 Ki 12:24 Jn 4:13-14

A discussion on harming people and saving people - on one side it concerned Rehoboam reigned. He was arrogant and selfish. He did not consider God's mind or care for the suffering of the people. He rejected the idea of the elders to deny oneself and be humble to love men. Instead he took the young men's brutal idea to treat the people thus it resulted in secession of the nation. He lost the heart of the people. On the other side it concerned Jesus did not care for his hunger and fatigue. He denied himself to save men and gave them the living water so the sinners were favored. They were released from the bondage of sin and many believed the Lord.

**A. Do not act brutally, deny oneself to save men and drink the living water**

For self (1 Ki 12:1-24) - Deny oneself (Jn 4:1-38)

1.【Treat the people brutally】1-11 When Rehoboam became king, the Israelite assembly sent Jeroboam to request the new king to lighten the harsh labor and the heavy yoke on them. But Rehoboam made his old self rule and did not bear the mind of God. He did not love his flock and rejected the idea of the elders to 'be humble as a servant and deny oneself to love the people'. Instead he took the idea of arrogance and selfishness to be brutal to the people from the young men who had grown with him.

※【Deny oneself to save men】1-8 Jesus considered the mind of the Father in everything. He did not care of the weariness and hunger and thirst when he walked. He sought the sinners anywhere and at any time. He came to Sychar of Samaria and sat down beside a well. He saw a woman who came to draw water. In order to give the living water to this woman, He humbled to ask her for water. The Lord thirsted for millions of sinners to repent and be saved. (Jn 19:28) But Rehoboam exalted himself as king. He was presumptuous and selfish. His life was dried up and could not flow out the living water. He never cared for the hardship of his people. He cared only for his own pleasure and satisfaction.

2.【Scourge with scorpion whips and the nation is divided】12-20 On the third day, sure enough Rehoboam used harsh words to reply the people according to the idea of the young men in order to give them a heavier yoke and even to scourge them with scorpions. In this way Rehoboam lost the hearts of the people and resulted a secession of the nation. The Israelites thus betrayed the house of David and set Jeroboam as the king of Israel. This fulfilled God's words through Ahijah, leaving behind the tribe of Judah.

※【Free from the bondage of sin and gain the living water】9-26 Jesus was full of compassion. In order to save a sinner, He did not care about the tradition that the Jews and the Samaritans never had any contact. He broke the old rule and spoke to a Samaritan woman and thus made the woman felt strange. The Lord wanted to give the living water to the woman so she might see the water of the world (the pursuit of the flesh and material) would make her thirsty after drinking and never be satisfied. Only by drinking the living water given by the Lord will never thirst. Rehoboam reigned and made the people suffer the whips of the scorpion. The Lord came to save us from sins and the sting of death. (1 Co 15:55-57) Only if the woman was willing to bring out the 'husband' who overruled her and she would be relieved to gain the living water and to worship God in spirit and in truth. Rehoboam mistreated the people. He allowed his old self to rule and overrule others and persecute others. Only Christ may let us be relieved and set us free. (Jn 8:36)

3.【Gather troops to contend by flesh】18-24 When Rehoboam failed to suppress the Israelites, he still did not give up to seize back his kingdom. He mustered one hundred and eighty thousand fighting men to make war against Israel. But Shemaiah the man of God was sent to prevent them to fight with their brothers because this was God's doing.

※【Obey God's will and reap the harvest quickly】27-38 The food of Jesus was to do the will of the Father. Even the disciples could not understand why He spoke with a Samaritan woman. That woman was humble and contrite. She gained the living water from the Lord and left her water jar. Then she told the people of that town about the Christ who told her everything she ever did. The harvest is ripe. How can we just mind about ourselves and contend with our brothers by the flesh? We ought to consider the Lord's mind to be zealous like the burning fire for the souls and obey God's will to reap the harvest. We shall sow on one side, and reap on the others side to rejoice together!

**B. Bring people to sin; save men to gain life**

Harm men (1 Ki 12:25-33) - Save men (Jn 4:39-54)

1.【Lead men to worship the gold calf】25-29 When Jeroboam reigned, he was self-centered because he was afraid that the people might turn back to Rehoboam and go back to Jerusalem to worship God. So he conspired to make two golden calves to replace the Lord who brought the Israelites out of Egypt. He led men to Dan and Bethel to worship the calves. He was bold and reckless. He became wayward and violated God's command severely. He attempted to lead men to himself. (Exo 32:8)

※【Lead men to believe the Savior】39-45 The woman's testimony of repentance and favor made many Samaritans believed in Jesus. They urged Him to stay with them to hear the Word of Jesus personally and to understand He truly was the Savior. But Jerobaom led the people worship the gold calves and turn to other gods to reject God's Word.

2.【Bring people to sin】30-33 Jeroboam cast gold calves and imitated the other nations to worship idols. He also built shines on high places and appointed other people as priests. He instituted a festival and went up to the altar to make offerings. He greatly violated God and thus caught the generations in sins. (2 Ch 11:15)

※【The dead boy becomes alive】46-54 A royal official came to plead the Lord for his son. Due to his faith, Jesus said a word and his son lived. The official and all his household believed in Jesus. Jeroboam reigned and acted corruptly. He was unfaithful to God and sinned greatly. He made the Israelites caught in sins for generations and ran towards destruction. The two successful miracles Jesus made in Cana changed our lives. They turned from death to life and gained the eternal life. On one side was the whole people worshiped gold calves. On the other side was the official and the whole household believed in Jesus and were favored.

**Ps 83 / Rev 14:18 Main theme: The enemies gathered to attack, pray that the Most High God to destroy the enemies and save the people**

 **-The enemies unite / Pray to God**

On one side the poisonous grapes on the earth have ripen, and monstrous crimes have filled the earth. Thus God's punishment of wrath will come. On the other side we pray God to crush the united attack of the enemies.

(1)【Pray that God will destroy the combined attack of the enemies】1-17 The enemies united to conspire to remove God's children. They all gather to destroy God's children like the following people: the Edomites who consider only for the flesh and covet the secular, the Ishmaelites who belong to the flesh, the Moabites who are hypocritical, Hagarites who make rules for people and a slave to the basic principle, the Chaldeans who are the fence-sitters, the Ammonites who are self-righteous, the Amalikites who belong to the sinful nature, the Philistines who disbelieve, the people of Tyre who is the great harbor of the nations, the Assyrians who confused the truth, and the descendants of Lot who covet the world. We must cry out to the Most High God unceasingly to stretch out His hand so the enemies will be like chaff before the wind and the dust of the ground forever in shame and be destroyed.

(2)【Exalt the Lord's name and the whole land return to Him】18 May the name of the Lord be proclaimed extensively and all the peoples of the land will know only my Lord is the only Most High God.

**Central point of the wheels: Deny oneself to save men and pray that God will destroy the enemies**

Dear Lord, may You let me imitate You to deny myself to save men, be sent by You to destroy the enemies and lead men to gain the living water!

**1 Ki 13 / Jn 5**

**Main theme: Be Bold to do good, listen with trembling and work continually**

 **-Violate the command / Obey the will (failed bitterly/complete victory**

Golden verses: 1 Ki 13:8-9 Jn 5:8-9

A discussion on violating the command and obeying the will – on one side it concerned a man of God was sent to warn Jeroboam. He prophesied the high place would be split apart. He also worked miracle and had great effect. But as he violated God’s command and exposed his slackness, he was enticed by the old prophet. As a result he was bitten by a lion and failed bitterly. By this we can see that a worker is more important than his work. If the flesh does not die with only a momentary vigor, then we can only be used by God for a moment. On the other side it concerned Jesus obeyed God’s will to do good. He worked without slackening. He hid Himself and would not accept glory from men. He triumphed completely.

**A. Listen to the order completely, save men and save oneself**

Expose (1 Ki 13:1-9) Hide (Jn5:1-26)

1.【Exposed one’s intention in his work】1-9 A man of God was sent from Judah to Bethel to warm Jeroboam and prophesied Josiah, a king of the house of David would be raised up. He would kill the priests of the high places. Jeroboam was burning incense and rejected this sign. He despised God's words. He stretched out his hand to seize him. His hand shriveled up and the altar was split apart and its ashes poured out according to the sign given by the man of God. Due to the intercession of the man of God, the hand of the king was restored. For this the king rewarded him and treated him. The man of God was vigorous for a time. Though he rejected the reward from the king, he had shown his desire and thus left a gap.

※【Hide Himself in His work】1-14 Beside the Bethesda pool in Jerusalem sat the blind, the lame and people of all sorts of diseases full of suffering. The people under the sinful control of Jeroboam also suffered poorly. They were also like having all sorts of diseases and could not get up. Jesus saw an invalid for thirty eight years and had compassion on him. He forgave him and cured him. After Jesus had finished his work with the miraculous effect, he immediately hid Himself. But the man of God did not know to hide with such vigorous effect. He exhibited his desire. Thereafter, the Lord warned the cured man not to sin again, or something worse might happen to him. Though the hand of Jeroboam was restored, he did not repent. He continued to sin and the result could not be imagined.

2.【Violated the order, slackened and was enticed】10-19 The man of God then took another road. But he delayed on the way and did not escape timely. Accidentally the sons of an old prophet came back. They told the father what the man of God said and did before the king. The old prophet quickly chased after the man of God. There he found him sitting under an oak tree slacked and relaxed. Thus the old prophet used smooth talks to deceive him. He eventually rejected God's order and easily went back to Bethel to eat and drink at the home of the old prophet.

※【Obey the will to work without shaking】15-26 The Jews persecuted Jesus because Jesus cured the sick on the Sabbath. But Jesus was courageous and said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working." At this, they wanted to kill Him all the more for Jesus called God as the Father. Jesus boldly witnessed His relationship with the Father. He could do nothing by Himself. He did only the will of the Father. He overcame completely before the persecution of the enemies. He continued to work without ceasing. The man of God examined his honor after his work. He was greatly relaxed and eventually was deceived by the old prophet who masqueraded as an angel of light. He went back to Bethel and ate and drank. On one side was listening to the Father's order to cross over from death to life. On the other side was rejecting God's word as the flesh was unwilling to die. He was trapped in a snare and finally died.

**B. Violate God’s order and bitten by a lion; obeys God’s will and has good witness**

Failed bitterly (1 Ki 13:20-34) – Complete victory (Jn5:27-47)

1.【Violated God’s order and was bitten by a lion】20-32 The man of God came back with the old prophet to eat together. God's words came upon the old prophet to rebuke the man of God for violating the order to come back. He ate and drank where God had prohibited him. Therefore his body would not be buried in the tomb of his fathers. The man of God heard it but was not afraid. He did not take the warning and continued to eat and drink and went away after he had finished. As expected he was bitten by a lion. The old prophet had an ulterior motive. He brought back the body of the man of God to mourn for him and buried him in his own tomb. He was smart and clever for himself. He told his sons to lay his bones beside the bones of the man of God. After three hundred years his dead body surely was not burnt away. But he still could not escape from the final judgment of 'those who have done evil will rise to be condemned'. (2 Ki 23:16-18)

※【By God’s will there is witness】27-37 Jesus declared to the people the different results of good and evil. Those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned. (Dan 12:2) The Lord judges not by Himself but the will of the Father. He did not only have John the Baptist as His testimony, He also had the witness from His Father. The man of God disregarded God's warning. He violated the order and ate and drank. Surely he was killed by the lion and his body was thrown down on the road, with both the donkey and the lion standing beside it to witness his rebellion. John was killed for witnessing the truth. But the man of God was killed for violating the order. The old prophet was selfish. His selfish motive was ultimately exposed.

2.【Did not turn from the evil way】33-34 Jeroboam still did evil. He did not take the warning and led to the downfall of his whole house and to its destruction from the face of the earth.

※【The Lord’s Word is not in the heart】38-47 Jesus rebuked the Jews for not keeping God's Word in their heart because they did not believe the one the Father sent. The mind of Jeroboam was filled with wickedness and was finally destroyed. The Lord does not accept praise from men. The Jews accepted the praise from one another, yet they made no effort to obtain the praise that came from the only God. They also did not turn from wickedness. They did not take warning just like Jeroboam. The old prophet and the man of God also accepted praise from each other. They knew the wrong and still sinned. They also did not keep God's Word in their heart. We may receive the Word and take root in the heart only by examining the Scriptures to understand the Son of God and gain eternity.

**Ps 84 / Rev 14:19 Main theme: Drink the cup of wrath due to sin; obey the Word and blessings overflows in the Lord**

 **-Cup of wrath / Cup of blessings**

Once the angel stretched his hand, the wicked is avenged and was thrown into God’s winepress of wrath.

(1)【To dwell in the Lord is blessed】1-4 I yearn and even faint to dwell with the Lord. I cry out to the Almighty God so I may have this blessing. I will pursue at this target with all my heart and all my strength.

(2)【Be strengthened to go forward by the Lord is blessed】5-12 We cannot turn back or fall and we will be punished if we sin and do evil. We must be diligent to go forward by the Lord to walk on the holy path. Though we experience suffering, it will turn to gladness. We will have favor and honor in the Lord, never lacking anything good. By trusting in the Almighty Lord to strengthen us, we may turn from evil and do good to gain rich blessings.

**Central point of the wheels: Listen to the command firmly and dwell in the Lord is blessed**

Dear Lord, may You let me hide deeply in You and not be tempted, to listen to your command firmly so I may triumph till the end and be blessed by You!

**1 Ki 14 / Jn 6**

**Main theme: Not by taking advantage of the Lord, believe and obey the Lord’s word till the end**

 **-Ought to take warning / Eat the Lord’s words (be wayward /obey the word)**

Golden verses: 1 Ki 14:6 Jn 6:28-29

A discussion on taking the warning and eating the Lord’s words – on one side it concerned Ahijah the prophet (God’s friend) rebuked Jeroboam for violating the order and doing wicked, thus he would encounter disasters and be wiped out. On the other side it concerned Jesus denied Himself to save all people. He gave the bread of life to those who believed in Him. This teaches us we ought to believe and obey the Lord’s words till the end. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life.

**A. Be wayward and do evil** **will bring disasters; deny oneself to save the people and gain the real bread**

Do evil (1 Ki 14:1-11) – Do good (Jn 6:1-23)

1.【Be bold to pass the bad news】1-6 The son of Jeroboam was sick. Jeroboam ought to have confessed and be contrite. Instead he told his wife to disguise herself to see Ahijah the prophet. Though Ahijah was old and could not see, his spiritual eyes were discerned. He was not being taken advantage of by them. He boldly proclaimed the bad news and rebuked the sins of Jeroboam.

※【Deny oneself to save all people】1-14 Many people followed Jesus due to the miracles He performed. He saw many people came and was compassionate on them. He asked Philip only to test his faith for He already had in mind what He was going to do. A boy offered only five barley loaves and two fish. After the Lord gave thanks and broke them, the people were all satisfied and had left over. Though Ahijah was old and men considered him valueless, he broke and offered himself to be the spokesman of God's will. His heart was full of God's jealousy. He boldly proclaimed the bad news. Jesus had even broke Himself so thousands were fed.

2.【Do evil and cast idol bring disasters】7-11 The prophet was ordered to rebuke Jeroboam. He failed God's selection. He did not imitate king David to obey God's command wholeheartedly. Instead he did evil and made idols for himself. He provoked God's anger and disasters came. So he and his whole family were cut off as one burned dung till it was all gone.

※【Do good and hide overcome the storm】15-23 After Jesus had performed the miracles, He knew the people intended to make Him king by force. So He retreated to a mountain alone. He humbled and hid Himself. Jeroboam was exalted by God to be the king of Israel. But he was arrogant and he let his old self rule. He led people to himself and thrust God behind his back. All the people were in trouble due to him. The disciples got into a boat and crossed the lake. Suddenly there was a strong wind and the waters grew rough. Their faith was shaken. Jesus walked on the water in the wind so the disciples were saved in danger. The prophet was ordered to rebuke Jeroboam. He was not afraid of the strong wind and roaring waves. He boldly declared God's judgment. Jesus was full of the spiritual authority to control over the wind and the sea. The disciples took the Lord into the boat and surprisingly the boat reached the shore immediately.

**B. Do not take warning will be destroyed; eat the Lord’s words and follow Him forever**

Be wayward (1 Ki 14:12-31) – Obey the word (Jn 6:24-71)

1.【Do not take lesson will be cut off】12-20 When the wife of Jeroboam returned home, the boy died as expected. The people mourned and buried him. It was because he was the only one in the house of Jeroboam who exhibited good to God. This shows the Lord's Word is righteous. (Eze 18:19-20) This also fulfilled the prophecy of the prophet. The whole house of Jeroboam still did not take lesson to repent. When the time came, they were cut off. The Israelites also provoked God's anger for worshiping idols and were uprooted from the good land.

※【Come before the Lord and gain real bread】24-47 Many people came to seek Jesus to be fully fed with bread just like Jeroboam sent his wife to see the prophet. He just wanted to take the advantage of God. Jesus taught them not to work for food that would spoil, but for food that would endure to eternal life. The Father had placed His seal of approval on the Son of Man. He is the true bread sent from heaven to give life to the world. He who comes to Him will never go hungry or be thirsty. Ahijah was also the prophet with the seal of approval of God. He gained the true bread and proclaimed God's prophecy. The rest of the household of Jeroboam abandoned God's Word and were finally cut off. The Jews did not believe. They saw by their eyes and grumbled about the Lord. They did not want the true bread and did not gain eternity.

2.【Act detestably will be punished】21-31 Rehoboam reigned and he was strengthened for only three years. Then he forsook God and His Word. (2 Ch 11:17; 12:1) He led the Jews to worship idols and commit adultery. They imitated all the detestable practices of the nations and provoked God's wrath and were far worse than their forefathers. God raised the king of Egypt to attack the holy city and seized the treasures of the temple and the palace including all the gold shields made by Solomon. They were severely judged and punished by God.

※【Eat the Lord’s flesh and follow Him forever】48-71 Jesus taught the disciples to take the bread of life and they would live forever. The words of the Lord are spirit and they are life. He who feeds on the Lord and drinks His blood remains in Him and He is in him. The Jews grumbled with one another and many of His disciples turned away. They felt offended at His words. Rehoboam and the people of Judah also turned away and abandoned God's Word. They imitated the evil practices of the nations and were punished. The Lord has the words of eternal life above all the gold, silver and treasure. Whom shall we follow? Rehoboam and Jeroboam always fought against each other by the flesh. But they did not contend with the flesh, the old self, the evil spirit and the devil. Jesus knew one of the disciples was a devil, that was Judah who betrayed Jesus. How tragic was his result! These are our warning!

**Ps 85 / Rev 14:20 Main theme: Evil will be avenged, be redeemed and return, and do not act wantonly again**

 **-Fear / Do wantonly**

On one side was the wicked was avenged and blood overflew on the ground; on the other side was the righteous in trouble and God showed His favor.

(1)【God has favored and saved His people】1-3 Set aside all His wrath.

(2)【Now let us pray God to stop His wrath and grant blessing】4-7 Do not be angry with us forever. May You let us be the Prodigal son to be restored to see your unfailing love and salvation.

(3)【But we ought to take warning】8-13 We ought to listen to God's words. He promises to bless. But we must not return to folly. We ought to persist to fear the Lord and to glorify Him in grace. We have to pursue love and faithfulness, righteous and peace. He will indeed give what is good so our land will yield its harvest and open an open door for us.

**Central point of the wheels: Eat the holy words and follow the Lord forever without acting wantonly**

Dear Lord, may You let me eat your bread of life so my life becomes abundant without turning back, without acting wantonly but let thousands of souls gain life!

**1 Ki 15 / Jn 7**

**Main theme: Remove evil completely, thirst to drink the living water and do good till the end**

 **-Remove wickedness / Gain the living water (do evil/dogood)**

Golden verses: 1 Ki 15:13-14 Jn 7:37-38

A discussion on removing wickedness and gaining the living water - on one side it concerned Asa became the king of Judah. He imitated David and was fully committed to the Lord all his life. He was zealous to remove all idols but was still not thorough. Baasha destroyed the whole family of Jeroboam and became the king of Israel. But he still did not leave the path of Jeroboam. On the other side it concerned Jesus was opposed by the Jews but He was still bold to do good and admonished the people. He also promised to grant the living water of the Holy Spirit to those who were thirsty. Thus we ought to remove all wickedness and to thirst for the living water of the Holy Spirit, then we may do good and overflow with the living water.

**A. Remove other gods, not by wealth and power and obey the Father's will firmly**

Remove all sins (1 Ki 15:1-15) - Obey the will firmly (Jn 7:1-24)

1.【The example of David】1-8 King David was an example that God set in Israel because except in the case of Uriah, he had done what was right in the eyes of the Lord. He had not failed God's commands all his life. Abijah, the son of Rehoboam became king of Judah. He did not imitate from David, but he committed all the sins of his father. For the sake of David, God still gave him a lamp in Jerusalem. After he died, his son Asa reigned.

※【The example of Jesus】1-13 Jesus is our best example! Though the Jews wanted to kill Him, the people grumbled about Him and they did not know Him, and even His brothers did not believe in Him, He still insisted to obey the Father's will. He hid Himself and only pleased God. David obeyed God's will in everything. He became a man after God's heart. Jesus was hated by the world because He testified their evil. Abijah imitated the evil of Rehoboam and not the good.

2.【Remove other detestable gods】9-15 When Asa reigned, he imitated from David. He did what was right in the eyes of God. He expelled the male shrine prostitutes from the land and even deposed his grandmother Maacah from her position as queen mother. He cut the repulsive Asherah pole made by her. He was fully committed all his life except for the removal of the high places. He brought the silver and gold and the articles that he and his father had dedicated into the temple of God.

※【Choose to do God's will】14-24 During the Feast Jesus went up to the temple courts to teach the people. The Jews were amazed at His teaching. If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether His teaching comes from God or whether He speaks on His own. Asa boldly removed all the detestable idols. He also chose to do God's will. Jesus did not gain honor for Himself but He worked for the honor of the One who sent Him. He rebuked them for judging by mere appearances. In order to obey God's will, Asa deposed his grandmother Maacah from her position as queen mother. There was no partiality in him and he did not gain men's honor.

**B. Lead men to gain the living water to avoid people be caught in sin**

Remove all evil (1 Ki 15:16-34) - Gain the living water (Jn 7:25-52)

1.【Rely on wealth and power will be ruined】16-24 Asa started to fail after thirst six years of reign. He always fought against Baasha king of Israel. Baasha fortified Ramah to prevent anyone from leaving or entering the territory of Judah. Asa did not trust God wholeheartedly. Instead he gave gold and silver and depended on the power of the king of Aram to attack Israel. Then Baasha did not fortify Ramah. In order to guard against Baasha, Asa told the Jews to build up Geba and Mizpah. He still did not trust in God wholeheartedly. In his old age, his feet became diseased. He did not seek the help from God but only from the physicians. Finally he lost his testimony. (2 Ch 16)

※【Trust only in God and not be afraid】25-36 The Jews were whispering about Jesus and wanted to kill Him. Jesus was teaching in the temple court. He was not afraid because He trusted in God wholeheartedly. No one laid a hand on Him because His time had not yet come. So many put their faith in Him and were favored. Asa depraved from grace. He depended on wealth and power and by flesh. But he did not trust in God. He was angry with the prophet and brutally oppressed the people. Thus he was put to shame and failed tragically.

2.【Bring the people be caught in sin】25-34 After Jeroboam died, his son Nadab reigned. He still did evil and brought the people in sin. Baasha betrayed him and became the king of Israel. He killed the whole family of Jeroboam and fulfilled the prophecy of Ahijah. But when Baasha became king, he did not take warning and still walked the path of Jeroboam and caused the people to sin.

※【Lead men to gain the living water】37-52 On the last day of the Feast, Jesus declared aloud that if anyone is thirsty, let him come to Him and drink. He is the source of the living water and will give the living water of the Holy Spirit to whoever believes in Him. On hearing this, some people began to dispute for Jesus. The Pharisees were stubborn and wayward. They rebuked others but not themselves. They sent men to seize Jesus just like Baasha. He destroyed others and did the same as the others. They did not imitate the good and only imitated evil. Baasha and all the kings of the successive generations caught the people to worship idols. Only the Lord promised to give the living water of the Holy Spirit so men might turn from the idols and the bondage of sins completely by the power of the Holy Spirit. Nicodemus stood up to speak. He boldly rebuked the Pharisees had violated the laws showing that he had received the salvation of the Lord. But Baasha was bold to do evil. He turned to the wicked path and was finally destroyed.

**Ps 86 / Rev 15:1 Main theme: The angels controls the plagues, call and obey the Word and God reveals His favor**

 **-Obey the Word / Free from disasters**

God's wrath will be completed by the last seven plagues. We ought to seek to obey the Word to be favored and avoid the disasters!

(1)【Call and obey the Word】1-11 Be devoted to call and put hope to trust in the Lord and He will save us to turn from the evil temptation. Further, we have to seek to understand the Lord's Word, to fear Him wholeheartedly and to walk in the truth of the Lord. Then disasters will not fall upon us because disasters are under the control of the hands of the angels.

(2)【God reveals His great love and grace】12-17 The Lord will show a sign of His goodness to those who call on to Him and seek to obey His Word. In their distress, He will help and comfort them so that their enemies may see and be put to shame just like God exalted Mordecai before Haman. Therefore we ought to thank and glorify the name of the Lord.

**Central point of the wheels: Remove all evil, gain the living water, call to obey the Word and be free from disasters**

Dear Lord, may You let me choose to obey the Father's will, be bold to do good, remove all detestable things and thirst for your living water of the Holy Spirit.

**1 Ki 16 / Jn 8**

**Main theme: Getting more and more evil and God is angered; be perfect pleases God**

 **-Fall into sin / Free from sin (be wayward/keep the Word)**

Golden verses: 1 Ki 16:24 Jn 8:34-36

A discussion on falling into sin and departing from sin - on one side it concerned many generations of the Israel kings murdered and usurped. They did not take any warning or turn from the evil way of Jeroboam. They brought the people into sin and were worse than the previous kings. On the other side it concerned Jesus pleased God in everything He did. He led men to turn from sin and come into the light to gain real freedom. This teaches us we ought to abandon darkness and follow the Lord to have the light of life.

**A. Ought to take warning, turn from sin and come into the light to gain the real freedom**

Take lesson (1 Ki 16:1-20) - Come into the light (Jn 8:1-36)

1.【Not willing to turn from sin and is destroyed】1-7 Jehu the prophet was ordered to rebuke Baasha. God lifted him up to be the king of Israel. But he was ungrateful and did not take warning. He still did not turn from the ways of Jeroboam to cause the people to sin and provoked God's anger. Thus God would consume Baasha and his house like the house of Jeroboam. Baasha did not repent till death or turn from his sins.

※【Turn from sin and come into the light will not be condemned】1-12 Jesus stayed overnight at Mount Olives to be close with Father God. At dawn He returned to the temple to teach the people. (Lk 21:37-38) The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery in order to test the Lord for a basis to accuse Him. But the Lord just bent down and wrote. He asked whoever was without sin might first throw a stone at her. The Lord is the light of the world. Whoever is willing to come into the light will not be condemned. Before the light of judgment of the Lord, the people went away shamefully one at a time from the older ones first. Neither did the Lord condemn the woman and said, "Go now and leave your life of sin." Jehu the prophet went up the spiritual mountain and then God's words came upon him. The words of the prophet was like the light and was able to reflect the sins of Baasha. But he was indifferent. He still sinned and rejected God's light. His result would fall into the everlasting darkness.

2.【Murder, usurp and do evil】8-20 Elah the son of Baasha continued the reign. But he still did not take the warning. He only did evil. While he was indulging in wine and revelry, his official Zimri murdered him and succeeded him as king. Once Zimri reigned he killed the whole family of Baasha fulfilling the words of Jehu the prophet because they provoked God to anger by their worthless idols. When Zimri became the king, he also walked the ways of Jeroboam and continued to do evil which caused the people to sin. He reigned only for seven days and was besieged. He set the place on fire and died.

※【Do what pleases God】13-36 The Pharisees challenged Jesus that His testimony was not valid. However, the Lord stood with the Father and He testified Him. They did not believe that He was the One He claimed to be and indeed would die in their sins just like the whole family of Baasha all died in sins. There was nothing that Jesus did on His own but what the Father had taught Him for He always did what pleased Him. Jesus encouraged the Jews who had believed Him if they held to His teaching, they were really His disciples and the truth would set them free without being a slave to sin. They would gain true freedom because of the Son of the Heavenly Father. Zimri reigned and was still wayward and did evil. He did according to his own desire and caused the people to sin and be bound without freedom. All the kings of the generations did what they wanted. They conspired to seize the throne and provoked God to wrath. They deserved the retribution.

**B. Be wayward, forsake the Lord, and do even worse will be punished**

Do evil (1 Ki 16:21-34) - Be wayward (Jn 8:37-59)

1.【Do evil than ever】21-28 Zimri reigned and did what was evil in the eyes of God. He was far worse than the previous kings. He provoked God to anger by the worthless idols. He followed the ways of Jeroboam and caused the people to sin.

※【Be more evil to kill the Lord】37-40 The Jews were unable to accept the Word of the Lord in their mind. They thought they were the descendants of Abraham but they did not walk his way. They even wanted to kill Him. Their sins were just as heavy as Zimri.

2.【Provoke God to more anger】29-34 Ahab continued the reign of Zimri and became the king of Israel. He was more evil than the previous kings. Not only did he worship the gold calves, he married Jezebel daughter of king of Sidon. He served and worshiped Baal. He built temples for Baal and made Asherah pole. He treated God's prophets cruelly and provoked God greatly. (1Ki 18,19). When he reigned, he did not lead the people to keep God's Word. Thus someone rebuilt Jericho. He disregarded God's warning. Sure enough there was the curse just as the words of Joshua. (Jos 6:26-27)

※【The devil as the father】41-59 The Jews claimed God was their Father by their lips. But they never loved the Son who came from God. They did not listen to the Word of the Lord because they belonged to their father, the devil. They wanted to carry out their father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning. He lied and did not hold to the truth just like Jezebel was anti-God from her nature. She misled the people to worship idols and committed adultery. She was the most cruel murderer. (1 Ki 18:4) She was the incarnation of the devil. The Jews did not accept the truth. Instead they claimed the Lord was demon-possessed and wanted to stone Him to death. They and those who rebuilt Jericho would suffer the severe punishment of God's words. (Jn 12:48)

**Ps 87 / Rev 15:2 Main theme: Obey the Lord's words completely, make every effort to enter the narrow gate and become a translucent instrument**

 **-The foundation / Triumphal**

Those who overcome will stand on the sea of glass to sing the triumphant song. God's children must:

(1)【Set the foundation on the Rock】1-3 He who has listened to the Lord's words and overcomes the inner and outer enemies by Him, obeys His words and sets the foundation on the Rock to be diligent to enter the narrow gate will be loved. He will be able to glorify the Lord and receive the glory from Him.

(2)【God establishes whoever listen to Him】4-7 No matter where you are from and irrespective of how defiled or corrupt you are, only if you will put trust in the Lord to repent and accept the Lord's salvation, to make effort to know Him, He will put your name in the Book of Life. God does not show partiality. He let all the people be in the Lord to enjoy to drink the living water from the spring and sing the song of victory.

**Central point of the wheels: Abandon darkness and come into the light to overcome and praise**

Dear Lord, may You let me abandon darkness and come into the light, obey the Word and overcome so I may lead men to gain real freedom and be away from evil and idols.

**1 Ki 17 / Jn 9**

**Main theme: Trust and follow the Lord's word, then the spiritual eyes are opened to understand the Almighty God**

 **-Trust and follow / The eyes are opened**

Golden verses:1 Ki 17:2-4 Jn 9:4

A discussion on trusting and following and the eyes are opened - on one side it concerned that after Elijah had announced God's punishment to Ahab the king, he obeyed successfully to hide in the Kerith Ravine and the widow at Zarephath. He led a life of faith and waited. In the meantime he experienced God turned nothing to something and death to life. His spiritual eyes were opened and knew God better. On the other side it concerned Jesus healed a man born blind to reveal God's deed. Faced with the censure of the Pharisees, His faith was refined so His spiritual eyes were opened and knew the Lord better.

**A. Trust and follow the Lord's words and the blind will see**

Obey (1 Ki 17:1-7) - Trust and follow (Jn 9:1-12)

1.【Face with the drought】1 Ahab reigned and his sins were heinous and much more than the previous kings. Elijah the prophet was ordered to declare to him there would be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at his word. (Lk 4:25) This showed God's love of discipline to wait for his repentance.

※【Born blind】1-3 Jesus saw a beggar blind from birth and answered His disciples, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned. This happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life." Ahab encountered a severe drought because he sinned. He married Jezebel and caught the whole nation in the confusion of worshiping Baal just like blindness and withered soul. They no longer knew God and were unable to see God's deeds for three and a half years. Suffering and punishment are God's love which urges us to turn back to be favored and glorify God!

2.【Obey the Lord's words and the spiritual eyes are opened】2-7 The prophet obeyed to turn eastward after declaring to king Ahab. He hid in the Kerith Ravine and led a life of faith to look up to God alone. God ordered the ravens to provide him with bread and meat day and night and to drink from the brook till it was dried up. He obeyed and was close with God. He communicated with Him and enjoyed His abundance and experienced alive the faithful promise of God.

※【Trust and follow the Lord's words, the blind can see】4-12 Jesus is the light of the world. As long as it is day, we must do the work of Him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. Elijah had to hide for the time being when he was under the dark power of Ahab and Jezebel. Jesus put mud with the saliva on the man's eyes. He believed the Lord's words and went to the Pool of Siloam to wash. He was able to see. The Lord's words had power and made the blind man see. In the hidden life Elijah experienced the power of the Lord's words. His eyes of faith were opened.

**B. To trust in trouble and experience the Lord's words, the spiritual eyes will be opened**

Experience the Lord (1 Ki 17:8-24) - Witness the Lord (Jn 9:13-41)

1.【Experience the Lord in deficiency】8-16 When the Kerith Ravine was dried up, God's words came to Elijah again. He obeyed to go to the home of a widow in Zarephath of Sidon. God had ordered the widow to provide for him. Though the woman was left with a handful of flour and a little oil, she believed in the words of God from the prophet. She first made a small cake of bread and sure enough the jar of flour would not be used up and the jug of oil would not run dry until the day the Lord gave rain on the land.

※【Witness the Lord in the trial】13-28 The people brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind because the day Jesus cured the man was on the Sabbath. The man faced the questions and the rebuke of the Pharisees. He boldly testified he was blind previously and it was Jesus who made him see. The Jews sent for the man's parents. Due to the fear of the Jews, the parents shirked that he was already an adult and they could ask him. As the widow believed the words of the prophet and boldly received him, she was able to experience God's wonderful deed in her poverty. Her spiritual eyes were opened and she saw the faithfulness and abundance of God's words. On one side was the blind man testified the Lord in trial. On the other side was the widow experienced the Lord in her trial.

2.【The dead boy came back to life】17-24 Some time later, the son of the widow died of serious sickness. Due to her plea, the prophet took the dead child and carried him to where the prophet stayed. He put the dead child on his bed. He paid the price of faith and love. He stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried to God. God answered his plea and made the boy's life return to him. He lived again! The child's mother received the son and was full of joy. She experienced God through the words of the man of God were true. Her faith was also alive from the dead. Elijah even experienced the God who turned nothing to something and dead to alive was his God.

※【The spiritual eyes are opened in suffering】29-41 The man who was once blind faced the rebuke of the Pharisees again and again. He became bolder. He witnessed Jesus was from God. Thus he was driven away by the Pharisees. But Jesus looked for him so he was comforted in suffering. His spiritual eyes were opened to know Jesus was the Son of God. The widow experienced the dead child arise and knew more about God. Only the Pharisees were arrogant and did not acknowledge their blindness. They did not know Christ and still lived in the dark and in sins.

**Ps 88 / Rev 15:3 Main theme: Cry out day and night in affliction and lament turn to a song of joy**

 **-A lament / A song of joy**

(1)【Cry out day and night in adversity】1-9 When we are in the dark and deep pit, even our friends and relatives turn away from us, cry out everyday because the Lord has the power of resurrection.

(2)【Is delivered, so a lament turns to a song of joy】10-18 The dead cannot declare the love, faithfulness and righteousness of the Lord. May I be able to see your great and wonderful deeds while I am alive. But now your wrath and terror surround me all day. I still call to You unceasingly. God's children cry out day and night, so the Lord will quickly bring justice for them. (Lk 18:7-8) By that time, when we look back, it was all favor. The songs of sorrow will turn to songs of joy. We will sing of the Lord's almighty and His great love and awesome works.

**Central point of the wheels: Trust and follow the Lord, the spiritual eyes are opened, pray in adversity and turn to singing**

Dear Lord, may You open my spiritual eyes to experience You turning nothing to something, the dead turns to life so I may witness and sing of your greatness!

**1 Ki 18 / Jn 10**

**Main theme: Good shepherd denies his life to obey and preach the Word and his miracles witness him**

 **-Great revival / A good shepherd**

Golden verses: 1 Ki 18:36-37 Jn 10:10-11

A discussion on great revival and a good shepherd - on one side it concerned Elijah the prophet was sent. On Mount Carmel he overcame the prophets of Baal and Ashteroth and restored the people who were double-minded. He fell prostrate for seven times and God poured rain. They saw the promised revival came. On the other side it concerned Jesus was the good shepherd. He laid down His life for the sheep. The Jewish religious leaders were like robbers. They killed the prophets and persecuted Jesus. But many believed in Him.

**A. Be bold to obey, lay down one's life to save the sheep to be a good shepeherd**

Lay down one's life (1 Ki 18:1-19) - Love the sheep (Jn 10:1-18)

1.【Two kinds of leaders】1-6 When the period of Elijah's retreat was full, God's words came upon him. God ordered him to go and present himself to Ahab and promised to send rain on the ground. Regardless of anything, Elijah obeyed and went. Ahab was selfish. He did not care that the people were in great famine. He only cared that he might keep his horses and mules alive. Obadiah who was in charge of the palace of Ahab feared God. While Jezebel was killing off God's prophets, he was willing to risk his life to hide a hundred prophets.

※【Two kinds of shepherds】1-6 Jesus pointed out two different kinds of shepherds. One was a thief who did not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbed in by some other way just like Ahab and Jezebel who only cared for themselves and not their flock. They slaughtered God's prophets. Another kind was the shepherd of the sheep. He entered by the gate. This gate is the gate of salvation, a narrow gate (Lk 13:24) just like Elijah and Obadiah were willing to deny themselves to pay the price. We too ought to be diligent to enter the narrow gate and to deny ourselves to shepherd the flock and inherit the kingdom of God. (Mt 11:12)

2.【Have no regard for one's life】7-19 Elijah knew well Ahab wanted to pursue and kill him. But he did not care for his life. He obeyed God's order and swore to present himself to Ahab. On one side he rebuked the sins of Ahab and on the other side he ordered him to summon the people and eight hundred fifty prophets to assemble on Mount Carmel to see him. The prophet was powerful and courageous. He was also full of God's love to restore God's people from the confusion of Jezebel and the false prophets.

※【Lay down one's life for the sheep】7-18 Jesus is the gate for the sheep. Whoever enters through Him will be saved. The Lord is our good shepherd and He even lays down His life for the sheep so they may have life, and have it to the full. He also leads other sheep to become one flock so the foreign churches and the chosen people of God will come into one in Christ. (Eph 3:6-8) Elijah denied his life to love the flock. He did not care for his own safety and fought with the prophets of Baal in order to seize back the lost sheep. Ahab and the prophets of Baal were like thieves and a hired hand. They came only to steal and kill and destroy. They did not care for the flock.

**B. God testifies, God protects, pray zealously will revive**

Revive (1 Ki 18:20-46) - Overcome the enemies (10:19-42)

1.【God testifies the true prophet】20-40 By the power of God Elijah fought against the false prophets of Baal so the people would no longer be doubled-minded to obey Baal and know the Lord was God. Each side took a calf and cut it into pieces and placed it on the woods. Each would cry to their own god. The god who answered by fire - he was God. The prophets of Baal called on Baal from morning till evening. They slashed themselves until their blood flowed. They prophesied frantically and were not answered. Elijah took twelve stones representing the twelve tribes of Israel. He repaired the altar (restored to the cross) and dug a trench around it. He poured water on the trench and the altar till they were full showing we have emptied our sins and are sanctified by the truth. Elijah prayed that God would let men know He was the God of Israel. So the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice and the water in the trench. All the people fell prostrate and praised "The Lord - he is God!" So they killed the prophets of Baal and the Lord's name was greatly glorified and testified Elijah was the prophet of God.

※【Be the Lord's sheep and God protects】19-37 The Jews hesitated and were divided just like the people who were double-minded. They did not believe the Lord was Christ and they came to ask Him. They were not the sheep of the Lord. The Lord's sheep listens to the Lord's voice. The Lord gives them eternal life and they shall not perish. No one can snatch them out of the Father's hand. The Lord and the Father are one. The Lord's sheep are protected, how much more were the prophets of God. He would answer them by Himself to testify they were the chosen servants of God. The Jews wanted to stone the Lord because He claimed to be God. But the Lord continued to say, "The Father is in me and I in the Father." The Lord's words are the truth and the truth will overcome. The enemies will fail! Jesus and Elijah united with God. Though they were alone facing the enemies, they triumphed greatly.

2.【Plead till the end and see the revival】41-46 Not only did the Israelites saw the spiritual fire was sent by their own eyes, the fire of revival was burnt in their hearts. God also promised to send rain on the ground and the great famine turned to great abundance. Elijah bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees for seven times on the mountain. He cried and prayed and his faith multiplied a hundred times. On the seventh time the servant saw a cloud as small as a man's hand. The prophet heard the pouring of rain and knew God had granted. Meanwhile, heavy rain poured. When the Holy Spirit comes, the land is revived and it is like this. (Isa 29:17; 32:15)

※【Believe in the Lord's words will be favored】38-42 Again the Jews wanted to catch the Lord. But He was able to escape from them. However, many believed in Jesus. Though John never performed a miraculous sign, all that John said about this man was true. On one side we see the power of prayer. On the other side we see the power of the Lord's words! Hallelujah! We have to grab the promise of the Lord to plead for the Holy Spirit to grant revival so many will believe and be favored!

**Ps 89 / Rev 15:4 Main theme: God is righteous and merciful, grab the promise and pray for the great revival**

 **-Mercy / Righteousness**

God's righteous deeds are revealed. Who dares not to fear Him? We only pray that God will stop His wrath and grant us His love.

(1)【God is merciful, faithful and righteous】1-37 God has loved us with an everlasting love. His words of the covenant and oath will be established forever. He is righteous and has the power to punish evil and exalt His holy people. Therefore we ought to grasp His promise to call out for His people.

(2)【Pray that God will stop His wrath and grant us His love】38-52 But because we have sinned against the Lord and provoked God to anger, the righteous God will put us to shame and desolation. How long will this be? May God remember the covenant He swore and show His unfailing love to His people according to His faithfulness to have mercy on our fleeting days. May He remember all the evil the enemies have done on us so we may revive.

**Central point of the wheels: Lay down one's life to shepherd the sheep, pray to stop the wrath and for revival**

Dear Lord, may You let us imitate You to lay down our lives to shepherd the sheep, to overcome the false ways, to pray zealously for revival and to praise your name!

**1 Ki 19 / Jn 11**

**Main theme: Do not look at anything, listen to the Lord's voice quietly, believe and see God's glory**

 **-Listen quietly / Believe firmly**

Golden verses: 1 Ki 19:11-14 Jn 11:25

A discussion on listening quietly and believing firmly - on one side it concerned that after Elijah had greatly overcome on Mount Carmel, Jezebel sent men to kill him. Tribulation forced him to go up Mount Horeb. After hearing the whisper of God, he had a new mission. On the other side it concerned Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. The faith of Martha and Mary also experienced resurrection from the dead. This teaches us we ought not to fix our eyes on the environment. We need to put away our old self and the disbelieving stone, then we will see God's glory of resurrection.

**A. Do not fix your eyes on the environment, consider the great love of the Lord and let our heart be shaken**

Old self (1 Ki 19:1-14) - Disbelief (Jn 11:1-38)

1.【Encounter the power of darkness】1-3 The extremely evil Ahab was ungrateful to Elijah the prophet. He told everything that had happened on Mount Carmel and how the prophets were killed to Jezebel. She was very angry and bore the hatred in her heart. She sent a messenger to tell Elijah that she had determined to kill him. Faced with the power of darkness, Elijah was forced to run for his life.

※【Face with the power of death】1-4 The family of Martha and Mary was faced with the power of death. Their brother Lazarus was sick to death. They sent someone to tell Jesus the one He love was sick. Elijah also faced the power of darkness and death. Distress would not only force men to escape, but even escape to the Lord to pour out to Him and pray for help like Martha and Mary. (Ps 18:1-6)

2.【The love of burning coals】4-7 Elijah immediately ran for his life. He went a day's journey into the desert and came under a broom tree. When he looked at the environment, there was no help from anywhere and lost his faith. He became hopeless. So he sat there and prayed to God that he might die. He lay down under and slept. But God's love came upon him like the burning coal. He sent an angel to wake him up and prepared a jar of water and a cake of bread baked over hot coals. He ate and drank and then lay down again. The loving God sent the angel again to wake him up. "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." So he got up and ate and drank. He traveled forty days and forty nights to the mountain of God.

※【The love of delay】5-19 Jesus loved Martha and Mary and Lazarus. He heard Lazarus was sick but He still stayed where He was two more days till Lazarus died. Jesus disregarded the danger that the Jews wanted to stone him and He still went ahead. When He reached Judea, He knew Lazarus was in the tomb for four days. Martha and Mary fell into sorrow and hopelessness. They did not understand the Lord's love of 'delay' was to exhibit God's greater glory. Similarly, God's love of burning coals on Elijah was to show God's greater deed on him.

3.【The unyielding old self】8-14 Elijah went to the Mount Horeb and got into the cave. He thought he was very zealous for God. "I am the only one left without being killed and now they are trying to kill me too." God ordered him to go out and stand on the mountain so he might pass through the great and powerful wind which tore the mountain apart and shattered the rocks with an earthquake and a fire. After that came a gentle whisper. He felt ashamed and pulled his cloak over his face. He went out and stood at the mouth of the cave to hear God's whisper.

※【The disbelieving and stubborn stone】20-38 When Martha heard Jesus had come, she went out to meet Him. Afterwards Mary also came out to see Jesus. They both complained, "If the Lord had been here, my brother would not have died!" But they could not believe the Lord could make the dead alive. Jesus was deeply moved in spirit for their disbelief. Jesus also wept. The evil heart of disbelief is like a great stone blocking in the heart. The stubborn old self of Elijah that was like an insensate stone was completely smashed, and then he was able to hear God's whisper.

**B. Listen to the quiet whisper, gain the new mission, believe and see God's glory**

Listen quietly (1 Ki 19:15-21) - Believe firmly (Jn 11:39-57)

1.【Listen to the Lord's quiet voice】15-18 Distress forced Elijah to retreat to the mountain. On one side he experienced the old self was shaken and on the other side he received a new order. God ordered him to anoint three persons: to anoint Hazael king over Aram (2 Ki8:11-15), to anoint Jehu king over Israel (2 Ki 9:5-10) and to anoint Elisha as a prophet. Thereafter, all that God instructed him was fulfilled. Finally God replied him that He had reserved seven thousand in Israel who had not bowed down to Baal or kissed him. How could he be the only one left over!

※【Believe and see God's glory】39-46 Martha did not have the faith for her brother had died four days and his body would have a bad odor. What other ways could there be? Jesus said, "If you believed, you would see the glory of God." Jesus told them to take away the stone. Then He gave thanks and prayed to the Father. He called Lazarus to come out. The Lord also ordered to take off the linen around his hands and feet so he might be released full of the witness of resurrection. Many believed in Jesus due to this. Elijah heard the whisper of God and his life also rose from the dead. He was no longer bound by the old self. He had the new mission to run forward. He was also ashamed and remorseful. He knew that he was nothing, only one among the seven thousand.

2.【Was called to deny oneself to follow】19-21 Elijah went down the mountain after hearing the whisper and found Elisha plowing his field. Elijah threw his cloak around him so he was called to be assigned to replace Elijah. Elisha kissed his parents good-bye and bid farewell to his hometown. He was willing to follow Elijah and serve him humbly.

※【Many seek and follow the Lord】47-57 Due to the miracles performed by Jesus, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered in the Sanhedrin to discuss to kill the Lord. Among them was Caiaphas, the high priest of that year who prophesied that Jesus would die for this nation and to gather all the scattered people in one. Jesus suffered to do good and many people looked for Him and followed Him. Elisha was anointed to continue Elijah. He had also prepared a suffering spirit to deny himself and sacrifice to serve and follow the prophet willingly. The pursuit of Jezebel and the conspiracy of the Pharisees accomplished God's will instead and no one was able to thwart it. (Job 42:2)

**Ps 90 / Rev 15:5 Main theme: The Lord's words judge, seek a heart of wisdom to obey the will and work**

 **-Wisdom / The Ark**

There was nothing in the tabernacle except the Testimony. The Testimony is God's words. In the last days God will judge all people. Those who obey the Word will be rewarded while those wayward will be punished.

(1)【To lead your life with a heart of wisdom】1-12 Life is short with trouble and sorrow for it flies away in an instant. We will be remembered and rewarded only by fearing the Lord's and obeying His Word. Apart from the Lord is chasing after the wind and meaningless. If we are wayward and do evil, we will even be punished. We ought to gain a heart of wisdom to spend our days.

(2)【Pray to see God's glory】13-17 May the Lord establish the work that is entrusted to us by Him which is the work of our hands, so we may see God's glory at an earlier day and rejoice to harvest and sing of the Lord's name.

**Central point of the wheels: Raise from the dead, believe firmly and follow, and do not spend time in vain**

Dear Lord, may You devour my disbelief and old self so I may listen to your quiet whisper, accomplish your work and see your glorious resurrection!

**1 Ki 20 / Jn 12**

**Main theme: Deny oneself and listen to the Lord will overcome greatly; to go against the merciful will beruined**

 **-Do not compromise / Truly breaking oneself up**

Golden verses: 1 Ki 20:28 Jn 12:24

A discussion on do not compromise and truly breaking oneself up - on one side it concerned Ahab king of Israel compromised to his adversary king of Aram. Thereafter he was attacked by the enemy. Through the prophet God promised twice to put the enemy into Ahab's hands and would overcome greatly. However he was too merciful to the enemy and made a treaty with them. Finally he died in their hands. On the other side it concerned before Jesus was arrested and tried, Mary considered the Lord's mind and grabbed the chance to break herself. She offered her beloved pure nard to the Lord. She did a beautiful thing on the Lord. This encourages us to be a dead kernel of wheat to deny ourselves and obey the Word without compromising, to break ourselves up to love and follow the Lord till the end.

**A. Love the Lord and offer completely, be humble and obedient to overcome the enemy without compromising**

Give to the enemy (1 Ki 20:1-21) - Offer to the Lord (Jn 12:1-19)

1.【Give everything to the enemy】1-6 Ben-Hadad king of Aram represented the king of the world, the devil. He mustered his army and the kings to besiege Samaria. He also sent messengers to king Ahab that his silver and gold and his wives and children all were his. Ahab was afraid and compromised. He easily agreed to him. But the enemy got an inch and wanted a foot. He then sent his officials to search his palace to seize everything he valued.

※【Offer the most beloved to the Lord】1-8 After Lazarus had risen from the dead, Jesus went to Bethany to attend a dinner. Martha and Mary took the chance to repay the Lord's love. Martha served with all her effort. Mary took the chance to break herself. She poured the expensive perfume on the Lord. Judah was a thief. He did not have the heart for the Lord and only loved money. So he thought the sacrifice for the Lord was a waste. We ought to be like Mary to grab the chance to offer the best to the Lord. We ought to have the Lord and His Word in our heart always. But king Ahab did not have the Word in his heart. So under the pressure of king Aram he was forced to compromise and give what he loved to the enemy.

2.【Do not seek the Lord in threat】7-9 Under the threat of the enemy, Ahab did not go to seek God. He only told the elders and they thought, "How could you be such coward and allow the enemy to seize." Thus Ahab was unwilling to give in to the enemy and he was out of tune.

※【Seek the Lord in persecution】9-11 The chief priests were like king Aram the enemy. They were angry at the Lord and conspired to kill Him and even Lazarus was to be killed. But many Jews came to seek the Lord and because of Lazarus, they believed in Jesus. Faced with the unreasonable seizure and threat from the enemy, Ahab only came to men and not to God. He did not plead for God's help. Therefore we ought not be afraid or compromise. We ought to seek and believe in the Lord and His will surely overcomes.

3.【Overcome the enemy by God】10-21 King Aram saw that Ahab did not comply with him this time, so he got very mad. He sent men to challenge Ahab. This time Ahab wanted to show him he was not weak. He thought he might overcome the enemy by flesh. But for the sake of God's name, God sent a prophet to tell Ahab God would put the enemy in their hands. Ahab was to summon the young officers to fight and they inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. God's words overcame. However king Aram escaped and this became a future trouble for them.

※【Acclaim and the Lord is glorified】12-19 Jesus rode on a colt to Jerusalem fulfilling the words on the Scriptures. (Isa 9:9) The people shouted, "Hosanna. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the King of Israel!" When the Pharisees saw that the people all welcomed the Lord, they had to admit they were in vain. God chose the young officers humble as the colt and brave to fight the enemy. Only Ahab was unwilling to obey and he could not overcome the Aram king completely.

**B. Do not let go the enemy, do not forsake the Lord, deny oneself to follow the Lord and save men**

Release the enemy (1 Ki 20:22-43) - Forsake the Lord (Jn 12:20-50)

1.【Strengthen oneself to guard and destroy the enemy】22-30 God had regard for His children, so the prophet was sent again to remind Ahab to strengthen himself and pay attention to guard against the enemy for king Aram would come again to attack next year. Their enemy thought their gods are gods of the hills and so they won. If they fought on the plans, they would lose. So the enemy mustered other officers ready to fight. The man of God came to see Ahab and told him God would put them into his hands. Sure enough, the Israelites inflicted a hundred thousand casualties on the adversary. But they still had not annihilated the Aram king. The cunning Ben-Hadad hid himself cleverly.

※【Die completely to follow and serve the Lord】20-34 There were some Greeks among those who went up to observe the Feast. They came to see Jesus. They did not know Jesus had to die to glorify God like a kernel of wheat which fell to the ground and died. It then produced many seeds. Therefore we ought to be strong to guard against the enemy, to deny ourselves to obey the Word to die like a kernel of wheat. Then we may subdue men's heart to return to obey Christ and bear fruit. The man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. We will be honored by the Lord if we deny ourselves to follow and serve Him. The Lord was raised and He overcame completely on the cross to draw all men to Him. Ahab was unwilling to humble to follow the Lord. He would not even to put his old self to death. He was not complete in destroying the enemy. Thus he could not see the complete glory of God.

2.【Be merciful to the enemy will be avenged】31-43 Ben-Hadad the Aram king absconded from the battlefield. He was not resigned to his failure. So he took advantage of Ahab's mercy to his enemy. He pretended to surrender. Ahab took his enemies as friends and called each other brothers. He invited him to go up into his chariot and made a treaty. There was a prophet who suffered to obey the will to made a sign. He was sent to rebuke Ahab. He had set free a man whom God had determined should die. Therefore it was his life for the enemy's life, his people for the enemy's people. Ahab became sullen and angry after hearing this. He was finally avenged and the result was tragic.

※【Forsake God and be wayward will be judged】35-50 The Lord is the light of the world. We ought to believe and obey this light to be the sons of light. Though the Jews saw a lot of miracles, they still did not believe in the Lord. Among the leaders, many believed in Him. But they were afraid to be put out of the synagogue, so they would not confess their faith. Ahab was unable to identify the light and the dark, and his enemies or his friends. He loved praise from men more than praise from God. He did not obey God's order but was merciful to release his enemy. This was wayward. He abandoned God and was finally judged.

**Ps 90 / Rev 15:6 Main theme: Love the Lord wholeheartedly and He will protect; be wicked will bring disasters**

 **-Love wholeheartedly / Be wicked**

Disasters are controlled in the hands of the angels. They were dressed in clean, shining linen and wore golden sashes around their chests. God's children ought to obey the Lord's Word carefully, so they may dress in clean and shining robe of righteousness, to control their heart to love the Lord wholeheartedly so they may be blessed without disasters.

(1)【Hide deeply in the Lord and no disaster will come near】1-13 Whoever takes refuge in the Lord, He will never drive away. To dwell in the Lord is to rest in the shadow of the Almighty. The enemy cannot put his hand on you no matter when or where, or whatever methods he uses. God's angels will guard you in all your ways. You will tread upon the lion and the cobra and observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.

(2)【Love the Lord wholeheartedly and He will rescue】14-16 The Lord will not only deliver him and honor him with long life, and experience the Lord's perfect salvation with blessings because he loves the Lord and obeys His Word firmly.

**Central point of the wheels: Die completely and love the Lord, be free from disasters and gain blessings**

Dear Lord, I am willing to imitate You to be a dead kernel of wheat, to hide deeply in You, be protected by You and reveal your glory.

**1 Ki 21 / Jn 13**

**Main theme: Blessed is he who exhorts with love; woe to those who entice men to do wicked**

 **-Be faithful / Love one another**

Golden verses:1 Ki 21:27 Jn 13:7

A discussion on being faithful and to love one another - on one side it concerned Naboth the Jezreelite was faithful till death. He kept his predecessor's inheritance and boldly rejected the unreasonable demand of Ahab king of Israel. Thus he was killed by Jezebel. Ahab grabbed away the vineyard of Naboth and was seriously rebuked by the prophet. On the other side it concerned Jesus before He took his sufferings, He willingly humbled to wash the feet of the disciples. He personally set the example and gave them the command to love one another. The Lord denied himself to love the church and kept the vineyard while Naboth denied Himself to love God and kept His inheritance. We too ought to keep our vineyard at all costs . We ought to love one another, wash one another's feet, exhort one another and repay the Lord's love.

**A. Be faithful to keep the inheritance, deny oneself to love one another and imitate the Lord's example**

Keep the inheritance (1 Ki 21:1-16) - Keep the Word (Jn 13:1-20)

1.【Be faithful to keep the inheritance till the end】1-3 Naboth had a vineyard in Jezreel close to the palace of Ahab. As the king of Israel Ahab was not satisfied in his greed. He wishfully wanted to seize the property of the people. But Naboth feared God and was faithful to keep his inheritance. He was not afraid of power. The Lord forbid that he ought to give the inheritance of his fathers to the king. He was determined not to change, or to exchange or to sell it. He would not compromise. (Num 36:6-9; Eze 46:18) The old self of Ahab overruled him and he became sullen when his desire was not satisfied. He laid on his bed and refused to eat. Faithful servants ought to be faithful till death and pay the price to keep the truth firmly like Naboth!

※【The Lord loves us till the end】1-3 The church is the vineyard that the Lord planted. He paid the price of His life and loved us till the end. It is the same as Naboth had loved his vineyard. The devil had prompted Judas to betray Jesus. His heart had become a vegetable garden. He was ungrateful and betrayed His Lord and friend. Ahab was selfish and seized the people's inheritance. He benefited himself at the expense of others. He was the same as Judah. We have to keep our heart with all diligence to make it always a vineyard in spiritual communication and joy. Any time we are led astray to be friends of the world, we will turn it to a vegetable garden which will stop providing new wine for the joy of God and men.

2.【Harm others by power and evil plot】4-16 Jezebel the queen planned to seize the vineyard for Ahab. She conspired and did evil by her power. She ordered the elders and nobles of the city of Naboth to proclaim a day of fasting. Then she told two scoundrels to trap Naboth with false witness. The elders and nobles did as was told and killed the innocent Naboth unscrupulously. Ahab thought his attempt was successful. He got up and went down to take possession of Naboth's vineyard. Naboth was faithful till death to keep his inheritance. He was not afraid to sacrifice and would receive the crown of life.

※【Set the example to love one another personally】4-20 Jesus knew He would soon leave the world and return to the Father. He humbly wrapped His waist and washed the feet of the apostles to be an example of loving one another so they might follow. Jezebel and Ahab acted in collusion with each other and killed the innocent. Naboth was faithful till death to keep his inheritance. He was blessed before God. The apostles imitated the example of the Lord. They obeyed to act and were also blessed. The elders, the nobles and Judah shed the blood of the innocent. Jezebel was the representative of the great prostitute who was drunk with the blood of the saints. (Rev 17:4-6) On one side we ought to be faithful to keep the Word and not be afraid to sacrifice. On the other side we ought to wash one another's feet and remind one another to keep God's inheritance with holiness and love. Then we will never degenerate or be seized.

**B. Keep the Way of love, be discerned in the spirit, be humble and contrite will be favored**

Rebuke the sin (1 Ki 21:17-29) - Love one another (Jn 13:21-38)

1.【Discerned in the spirit and seriously rebuked the sin】17-26 Elijah the prophet was discerned in the spirit. He was sent to rebuke Ahab who sold himself and did evil. He killed and seized others inheritance. God would inflict his house with calamity like destroying the houses of Jeroboam and Baasha. Dogs would devour Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel. Ahab was urged by Jezebel to do the vilest thing to go after idols and caused Israel to sin.

※【Recline next to Lord and know the enemy thoroughly】21-35 Jesus was troubled in the spirit because one of them was going to betray Him. The disciples were at a loss except one of them who reclined next to Jesus and whom He loved. And it was Elijah who was on the top of Mount Carmel close with God and was discerned. He was able to see through the result of Ahab and Jezebel. After Judah had gone out, the Lord gave the disciples a new order to love one another. Satan entered into heart of Judah and also Jezebel, so they did the vilest thing. Therefore we ought to love one another in the Lord and also to discern completely the evil of the enemy and hate bitterly.

2.【Be contrite momentarily】27-29 Ahab was miserable and fasted due to the rebuke of the prophet. As he humbled before God, he was promised the disasters would come in the days of his son. But because he was not thorough in repentance and hated the rebuke of the prophet, he finally died unnaturally.

※【Be deeply contrite】36-38 Peter boasted by the flesh. He even said to deny his life for the Lord. Jesus replied him, "Will you really lay down your life for me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!" After Peter had failed, he was deeply contrite. He denied himself to follow the Lord till the end. He died to glorify God. But Ahab only repented for a time. Finally he died in the battlefield for rejecting God's order. He was disgraced and failed tragically.

**Ps 92 / Rev 15:7 Main theme: The evil faces the great wrath; the righteous will flourish and bear fruit forever**

 **-Flourish / Be avenged**

God's wrath will soon be poured on the head of the wicked. We ought to keep our faith and endure till the end.

(1)【Proclaim God's faithfulness day and night】1-10 How great are God's works. How profound His thoughts! When the evildoers flourish, they will be forever destroyed. But God will exalt the horn of the righteous. They will proclaim God's faithfulness.

(2)【The righteous will flourish and bear fruit】11-15 The righteous will see the defeat of their adversaries who oppress them. They will flourish and still bear choice fruit in old age. Obey the Lord's words and act. Blessed are those who take the Lord as their Rock.

**Central point of the wheels: Be faithful till death, love one another and flourish before God**

Dear Lord, may You make us be faithful to keep your Word till death, love one another, be planted in your court to flourish and be fruitful!

**1 Ki 22 / Jn 14**

**Main theme: Do not worry, obey the Lord's words completely and deny oneself to obey the will**

 **-Violate the order / Obey the command (the broad path/the narrow path)**

Golden verses: 1 Ki 22:23 Jn 14:6

A discussion on violating the order and obeying the command - on one side it concerned Jehoshaphat the king of Judah was blessed by God. He had great honor and wealth. He went down to Ahab king of Israel and intermarried with his family. He disregarded the warning of the prophet and united Ahab to attack Aram. Ahab relied on lies and listened to the false prophets. He did not listen to the prophet's fierce words and was killed in the battle. On the other side Jesus is the way and the truth and the life. We ought to love and obey the Lord, to walk the narrow path which He walked to obey the Father's will and deny oneself to suffer just like the prophet. The Lord promised to grant us the Counselor who is always with us.

**A. Set apart to be holy, preach God's words faithfully, love the Lord and obey His command**

Preach faithfully (1 Ki 22:1-28) - Obey the command (Jn 14:1-18)

1.【Deprave in grace】1-4 Jehoshaphat had great wealth and honor. But he depraved in grace and did not set apart to be holy. He went down to intermarry with the house of Ahab. (2 Ch 18:1-3) He did not inquire of God and easily agreed to go with Ahab to attack Ramoth Gilead. Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

※【Pray for things above】1-3 Jesus comforted the disciples not to be troubled. We ought to set our minds on things above and look up to the everlasting dwelling. The Lord went to prepare a place for us and He will come back to take us to where He is which is the better country. (Heb 11:16) Jehoshaphat was the descendant of David. But he set his mind on the things of the world and had many companions with Ahab and corrupt good character. (1 Co 15:33) Jesus goes to His Father's place and He also leads us to Him. Jehoshaphat went down and he also brought the house of Judah down. Thus they imitated the evil path of the house of Ahab and left a gap for the house of Judah and harmed their descendants.

2.【Preach the fierce words without compromising】5-17 Ahab brought together four hundred prophets of Baal to inquire of them. They all replied the same, 'Go, for the Lord will give it into the king's hand.' Afterwards, a messenger was sent to summon Micaiah the prophet of God. He faithfully proclaimed the bad news and swore not to compromise. He would not follow to prophesy good.

※【Walk the Lord's path without swerving】4-10 Jesus is the way and the truth and the life. It is only through Him we may go to the Father. But the disciples did not know He was the heavenly stairway. Nor did they know where the Lord go to. Philip asked the Lord to show them the Father but he did not understand 'anyone who has seen me has seen the Father'. The Lord did not say anything on His own. Rather it was the Father living in Him, who was doing His work. Micaiah was the same. His life was united with God. He dwelled in Him. Therefore he was courageous to proclaim the bad news without compromise. The Lord knew where He was going. The false prophets did not understand God. They did not have the truth and life. They did not know which way to go.

3.【Rebellious and be filled with the spirit of lies】18-28 Micaiah saw the Lord sitting on His throne with all the host of heaven standing around him on His right and on His left. There was God's Spirit in the mouths of all his prophets to be a lying spirit to entice the rebellious Ahab to die in the battle. Ahab did not take the warning. He was stubborn and hard-hearted. He believed in the good words of the false prophets. Thus God had decreed disaster for him. Ahab was bent on rebellion till the end. He finally ordered to put Micaiah in prison to suffer and wait for his safe return.

※【Obey and be grant with the Spirit of truth】11-18 The Lord said even if they did not believe in Him, they ought to believe on the evidence of the miracles. Anyone who has faith in Him will do even greater things than these. Therefore, the Lord will do whatever he asks in His name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. Whoever loves the Lord will keep His order. He will give us another Counselor, the Spirit of truth forever with us. Micaiah love God and obeyed His order. He had great faith and boldness. God's Spirit was with him. Though he suffered, God would not abandon him as orphan. Ahab was rebellious and did evil. He was deceived by the false spirit and forever abandoned by God.

**B. Rebellious and is destroyed; obedient and is loved**

Forsake the Lord (1 Ki 22:29-53) - Love the Lord (Jn 14:19-31)

1.【Violate the order and is pierced and died in the battle】29-40 So the two kings went up to Ramoth Gilead. The deceptive and crafty Ahab disguised himself and went into battle. But he told Jehoshaphat to wear his royal robes. Jehoshaphat was attacked by the enemy. He cried out in distress and was saved by God. Ahab was hit by an arrow at random. He was wounded and died fulfilling the words of Micaiah the prophet. God's retribution came at the same time. 'In the place where dogs licked up Naboth's blood, dogs will lick up your blood. (1 Ki 21:19)

※【Obey and is revealed by the Father】19-26 Whoever obeys the Lord's commands, he is the one who loves Him. He will be loved by the Father and show Himself to him. He who does not love the Son will not obey His teaching. The Counselor will teach the disciples all things and remind them of everything the Lord has said to them. Ahab went on the battle majestically. But he ended in death by the arrow because he rejected the Holy Spirit. He repeatedly violated the command of the prophet.

2.【Ally to ship gold and God wrecked】41-53 Jehoshaphat escaped from death and returned safely. Jehu the prophet was ordered to rebuke him. "Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the Lord?" (2 Ch 19:1-2) Though he had some good work, he made an alliance with Ahaziah king of Israel afterwards. The two kings agreed to construct a fleet of trading ships for gold. As a result it was destroyed by God. (2 Ch 20:35-37)

※【The Lord grants peace better than anything】27-31 The Lord left His peace behind and gave the Counselor to dwell in us forever. Therefore do not be troubled and do not have many companions to corrupt good character like Jehoshaphat. He was saved in danger and returned home safely. He was given the grace by God. But he was not willing to set it apart and made an alliance with the king of the world. So he had no peace! The promise of peace and hope by the Lord is far better than millions of gold. The prince of this world has no hold on the Lord. Christ overcomes completely and sets an example for us.

**Ps 93 / Rev 15:8 Main theme: Obey the Lord's words as holy forever and fully see God's glory and power**

 **-God's power / God's glory**

The wicked rebelled against God. In due time God will send seven plagues to reveal His might and glory.

(1)【God's power is above everything】1-4 God is the King of kings and Lord of Lords. He is robed in strength and majesty. He is the 'I AM WHO I AM' His throne and the scepter of His kingdom are from all eternity. His power is mightier than all the roaring wind and breakers of the sea. All the suffering which surrounded Job and the great disaster of Daniel being thrown into the lions' den were easily delivered by God.

(2)【Honor the Lord's words as holy is the most appropriate】5 Every word of the Lord stands firm. We ought to exalt His words as holy and we will see His great power and glory. (God wanted Abraham to be blameless before Him. God is Almighty. When he was one hundred years old, he bore Issac.)

**Central point of the wheels: Do not be rebellious, deny yourself to love the Lord and exalt God as the King**

Dear Lord, may You make me love and obey You, be your faithful servant, resist evil, suffer to preach your Word and be revealed by You!