**Jos 1 / Am 7**

**Main theme: Obey the Word and be bold to gain the land, prayer will turn away the darkness**

**-Entrust / Intercede (Keep the Word / Be wayward)**

Golden verses: Jos 1:2-4 Am 7:15

The book of Joshua is the art of war of the heavenly kingdom. The main theme is to press ahead toward Canaan to overcome the enemies and gain the land. Joshua represented Christ who led us overcome the inner and outward enemies and to enjoy his inward abundance and peace. God's promise was His guarantee to the Israelites they might gain the land by faith. The central point of the two chapters concerned assignment and intercession. On one side it concerned Joshua was called and entrusted with an assignment. God encouraged him to be bold to obey the Word, and then he would lead the people cross the river and gain the land. On the other side it concerned Amos the prophet continually saw the vision of God's judgment. He considered the mind of God and interceded with love for the sinning people and turned away the darkness. Thus God relented and waived the disasters. We ought to imitate the two servants of God to be bold to obey the Word and intercede with love to accomplish God's will.

1. **Be bold to undertake the assignment, intercede with love and keep the Word and prosper**

Keep the Word (Jos 1:1-9) – Be wayward (Am 7:1-9)

1.【Be bold to undertake the assignment】1-6 After the death of Moses, God's words came upon Joshua to encourage him to stand up and bring the people to cross the Jordan to gain the promised land of God. God promised how He was with Moses, so He would be with him. He would never leave him nor forsake him. He had to be strong and faithful to God's assignment.

※【Intercede with love】1-6 Not only was God's servant strong for the assignment, he had to be like Amos full of spiritual burden who interceded with love for the sinful people. In his vision, the prophet saw God sent locusts and drought like a fire which devoured Israel. So he pleaded for God's forgiveness. How could Jacob survive? He was so small. Due to his intercession, God relented and turned the darkness. God's faithfulness and promises never change! May God bestow boldness and love so His will may be accomplished without hindrance.

2.【Keep the Word and prosper】7-9 God also encouraged Joshua not to let the Book of the Law depart from his mouth but to meditate on it day and night so that he might be careful to do everything written in it without turning to the right or to the left. In this way, God promised him prosperity and success wherever he might be. (Ps 1:2-3) God's words are the magic weapon of gaining the land! Keep the Lord's words without fear for God will be with you and nothing will be unsuccessful. (Ps 119:165)

※【Be wayward and sorrowful】7-9 Then the prophet saw the vision of the plumb line. God's law is the plumb line, the standard of the truth (Isa 8:20) If you obey the Word, you will be successful! Jeroboam worshiped the gold calf. He renounced God's Word. Thus God lifted up the just plumb line (Isa 28:17) to execute His judgment without forgiving. Thus the sanctuary became desolate. God will attack the house of the wicked. They become sorrowful because of their waywardness.

**B. Prepare the food and gain the land, be sent to attack crime, and be firm to obey God's will**

Prepare the food (Jos 1:10-18) – Attack crime (Am 7:10-17)

1.【Keep the Word in the heart】10-11 Joshua ordered the officers to go throughout the camp to tell the people to get supplies ready so they might cross the Jordan. God's words are the bread of life and are more than food. We ought to let God's Word dwell richly in us to prepare for food and grain, then we may join the battle to possess the land. (Col 3:16)

※【Be bold to attack crime】10-11 Amos was filled with God's Word. He was ordered to attack crime boldly. He foretold Jeroboam would die by the sword and the people would go into exile. Thus he was hated by the prophets of Bethel who convicted him before the king as raising a conspiracy. We ought to get prepared for God's words, then we may fight crime and gain the land without fear.

2.【Deny yourself to obey the command】12-18 Joshua ordered the fighting men of the two and a half tribes not to forget Moses' command to deny themselves to obey and to help their brothers to go to battle and gain the land. Until their brothers had enjoyed the rest and gain possession of the land, then they might go back and occupy their own land. They all promised they would obey. (1 Co 10:24)

※【Be steadfast to obey God's will】12-17 Amos was originally a shepherd of the land of Judah who took care of sycamore-fig trees. He was steadfast to obey God's will. He denied himself to love his people and went to the land of Israel to prophesy. When he faced the attack of the enemy, he was like a fighting man without compromise. How the two and a half tribes obeyed the order of Moses, the servant of God; likewise, they also listened to the words of Joshua to help the brothers to gain the land. Not only Amaziah did not listen to the prophet's words, he even went against him and set a trap on him. Thus the prophet prophesied he would die in a pagan country. His result would be tragic and the Israelites would go into exile, away from their native land because they had rejected God's command to worship idols and prostituted themselves to defile the good land.

**Ecc 7 / Rev 20:11 Main theme: Meditate on the result, listen to the rebuke, be away from evil and do good extensively**

**-Result / Judgment**

The judgment of the final day will come and no one can escape it. The heaven and earth will change but the Lord's words are everlasting.

(1)【A wise heart will think of the result】1-4 Those who worry what the Lord worries, revere God and save men to avoid them being destroyed will gain a good name. They will be remembered in heaven and be praised on earth.

(2)【Do not be greedy on unrighteous things】5-7 It is better to heed a wise man's rebuke than to listen to the song of fools.

(3)【Endure to do good】8-10 No matter if you are successful or in distress, bear a heart to revere the Lord and walk a wise path. Then you will be guarded and receive promises.

(4)【Do not swerve to the left or right and obey the Lord's command】11-14 Do not be over-righteous more than what is recorded in the Bible. Nor do we show off our cleverness to offer an unauthorized fire through man-made rules, philosophy and the basic principles of the world, or to cast a gold calf. These are wicked things in the eyes of God.

(5)【Fear and obey the command and God bestows His power】(Rev 2:26) 15-22 We ought to be watchful to cry out and to keep the Lord's Word firmly and do not sin. Do not put men's words in the heart but press forward the Lord's Way.

(6)【Seek continually and obey to act the Lord's word】23-29 Shun away from the adulterous and wicked path and be humble to seek grace. Do not care for men's desire but the Lord's mercy. Do not consider yourself yet to have taken hold of it, but to forget what is behind and strain toward what is ahead to advance to pursue and obey God's will.

**Central point of the wheels: Be bold to obey the Word, intercede with love and save men to avoid death**

Dear Lord, may you let me be steadfast to obey your Word and meditate it day and night without swerving to the left or right, to consider your mind and intercede for the sinners.

**Jos 2 / Am 8**

**Main theme: The result has come, therefore hide deeply in the Lord and deny yourself to save men**

**-The result / Save men (Grab the grace / grab the world)**

Golden verses: Jos 2:18-19 Am 8:11-12

A discussion on the result and saving men – on one side it concerned the city of Jericho was guilty of monstrous crimes which represented the end of the world had come. Joshua sent two spies to look over the land. On the other side it concerned the Israelites were filled with evil like the ripen fruit in summer. The result has come. The whole family of Rahab, the prostitute was favored represented the sinners were saved. The good act of Rahab who boldly received the spies due to her faith was remembered by God forever. She had a share in the genealogy of Jesus. (Matt 1:5) The end of all things is near. We ought to consider God's mind to imitate the two spies and Amos to risk our lives to save men, be bold to rebuke evil and hide to protect ourselves.

1. **The end is near, risk your life to save men and be bold to rebuke evil**

Save men (Jos 2:1-14) – Rebuke evil (Am 8:1-8)

1.【Be sent to look over the land】1-3 The city of Jericho represented the world with heinous sins and the result had arrived! Joshua was filled with God's Spirit and His Word. He was full of wisdom and counsel. In order to gain the land and save people from the power of sin, he sent two spies to look over the land secretly. They came to Jericho, the house of a prostitute. God's salvation has come to seek and to save what was lost. (Lk 19:10) The king of Jericho was controlled by the devil and wishfully hope to destroy God's will. He sent his people to investigate and wanted the woman to bring out the spies. Workers must hide in order to be protected.

※【Is ordered to warn】1-3 Amos also saw something in the spirit. He was shown by God and saw the vision of a basket of ripe fruit. This showed the people had sinned deeply and their result had come. God would no longer forgive them. On one side was the result of the world had come. We ought to be sent to save the sinners. On the other side was the result of the people had come. We ought to warn people lest the place is littered with corpses and the result is tragic!

2.【Plead for salvation】2-13 The prostitute was originally under the bondage of sin. Her spirit grieved and thirsted to seek to know God and revere Him. On one side she was bold and witty to hide the spies. On the other side she grasped the chance to plead for God's grace. When the pursuers went out of the city, the gate was shut. She immediately went up on the roof to show her mind. She knew the deeds of God on Israel, so no one of his enemy had the courage. Not only she thirsted for salvation, she also pleaded to be shown kindness to her family to be saved too.

※【Reject salvation】4-6 The chosen people ought to have compassion and save people. But they were sinful and trampled the needy. The prostitute grasped the chance to plead for salvation. But they had waited right after the New Moon they would indulge in wickedness and be crafty for money. They oppressed and blackmailed people. The prostitute knew God and understood herself was a sinner. But the people did not know God. They did all kinds of evil and rejected salvation. Rahab denied herself and sacrificed to hide the spies. But the chosen people fattened themselves and were blindly greedy.

3.【Risk your life to save men】8-14 Under the power of Jericho, the spies hid themselves on one side lest they might be killed. On the other side they risked their lives to save the whole family of the prostitute. They promised to treat her kindly and faithfully only if she would not tell what they were doing. They assured her 'our lives for your lives' exhibiting Christ's love to deny Himself.

※【Warn severely】4-8 God's people had sinned monstrously and rejected salvation again. Thus the prophet warned them severely. The Lord has sworn by the Pride of Jacob, He will never forget anything they have done. So they were in turmoil, in torment and sorrow. The prostitute thirsted for salvation. She risked her life to hide the spies. Thus God would not forget her goodness and she was finally saved. But the people looked down on salvation and were finally destroyed. God seeks the sinners for repentance with kindness and punishes the wicked who are unwilling to repent with righteousness! This teaches us we ought to risk ourselves to save men lest we will be judged for our sin.

**B. Listen and believe will be favored, do not listen will faint, save yourself and save others**

Grab the grace (Jos 2:15-24) – Be obedient (Am 8:9-14)

1.【Grab the salvation】15-20 So the woman let them down by a rope through the window and told them to go to the hills to hide themselves for three days from the pursuers until they returned, then they might go on their way. The woman did good and was remembered by God. The spies instructed her to tie a scarlet cord in the window representing the redemption of the cross so the whole family gathered and were rescued due to faith. (Exo 12:22)

※【Abandon God's words】9-11 The prophet declared their religious feasts would turn into mourning. they would wear sackcloth and shave their heads like mourning for an only son. This exhibited the majesty of God's judgment. The people renounced God's words. So when the days came, God would send famine through the land. The prostitute listened to the words of the spies and the whole family was favored. While the people were not a famine of food or a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the Lord. Many people despise God's words and suffer spiritual hunger. They are unwilling to listen to God's words and grab His salvation.

2.【Listen and believe will be favored】21 Rahab the prostitute welcomed the spies due to faith. She hid them and obeyed their order. She kept her promise without disclosing. Then she tied the scarlet cord in the window and obeyed in trembling. She was favored and led her whole family gained the salvation. Thus she was not killed with those who were disobedient. (Heb 11:31; Jas 2:25)

※【Do not listen will faint】12-13 Alas God's people would not listen to His words. When famine came, they staggered from sea to sea and wandered, searching for God's words but they would not find it. They were rebellious. Not only were themselves disfavored, even the lovely young women and strong young men would faint because of thirst. The prostitute was watchful and obedient. She grabbed the salvation and would not let herself faint due to sin. So the whole family was favored. God's law is perfect, reviving the soul. If we give a deaf ear, we will faint to death.

3.【The enemies are filled with crimes】22-24 The beginning and ending of the dispatch of the spies had to hide and be watchful to avoid the enemy's pursuit. They hid on the hill for three days and experienced the death and resurrected life, then they would not be injured by the enemy. They went back to Joshua and told him what had happened. The sins of Jericho were heinous. The enemy melted in fear for God had surely gave the whole land into their hands.

※【Will fall】14 The judgment of the righteous and jealous God toward the sinful elect was strict. Just like when the Amorites had sinned to the full measure, the righteous and faithful God would give the Canaanites into the hands of the Israelites. (Gen 15:16) They who swore by the shame of Samaria, or said, 'As surely as the god lives, O Dan,' or "as surely as the god of Beersheba lives' would fall, never to rise again. The people who gained the land had to remove all detestable idols and other gods. Then they might truly gain the promised good land to serve God in a consecrated and godly manner.

**Ecc 8 / Rev 20:12 Main theme: We are all judged by what we do; honor God and obey His Word will be blessed**

**-Obey the Word / Judge**

When the time comes everyone will be judged according to the book recorded in heaven

(1)【Be wise and obedient for the future】1-9 Everything on earth will pass away but obeying God's command will endure. We ought not be discouraged to ask for the favor to obey the will, to deny ourselves to shun evil and be obedient. Then when we meet the Lord we may avoid punishment but be rewarded.

(2)【Fear persistently and labor diligently in the Lord】10-15 Do not mind the wicked will flourish while the righteous suffer. Know deeply that those who truly revere the Lord will finally go better. Therefore be joyous to do good all your life for there is reward by laboring in the Lord.

(3)【Consecrate and seek fervently will be able to understand】16-17 By men's power, we cannot find out the affairs of everything. But by consecrating, to love the Lord, and obey His orders, the Lord will reveal to us. Then we may be discerned in the spirit (Dan 12:8-10) and lead many to prepare for the future.

**Central point of the wheels: Turn from evil and obey the Word, hide deeply in the Lord and risk your life to save men**

Dear Lord, may you let me fear you all my life, keep your Word firmly, hide myself away, risk my life to save men so I may be free from the judgment.

**Jos 3 / Am 9**

**Main theme: Listen to the command and consecrate, deny your life to follow the Lord and God does wonders**

**-Cross the river / Revive**

Golden verses: Jos 3:4 Am 9:11

A discussion on crossing the river and revival – on one side it concerned Joshua followed God's order to lead the people to cross the River Jordan by faith. They had to experience life and death and the miracle to come out from the dry land. On the other side it concerned Amos prophesied that after God's judgment, the house of Israel would return and revive. This shows that God's will on the chosen people would definitely be fulfilled. His promise is forever faithful. Our old self ought to die with Christ on the cross by faith so that the sinful body will be destroyed and every action has the pattern of the new life. (Ro 6:1-11)

1. **Prepare to cross the river, consecrate and follow the Lord for we cannot escape from sin**

Turn from sin (Jos 3:1-8) – Be judged (Am 9:1-7)

1.【Turn from sin and follow the Lord to go forward】1-4 Early in the morning Joshua woke up and led the people out of Shittim (Num 25:1) which was the place of temptation of sin. They escaped from the crafty scheme of the Baal of Peor and waited to cross the river. This was a very crucial step! They all followed the Ark with the Lord's Word as the standard. Step by step they followed forward. (Isa 8:20)

※【We have nowhere to escape if we do not turn from sin】1-4 Amos saw the Lord standing by the altar, a vision of executing the judgment. The chosen people would not turn from evil, thus no one could escape from God's judgment. God would strike the tops of the pillars so those who were left would be killed by the sword. Though they dug down to the depths of the grave, or climbed up to the heavens or hid themselves on the top of Carmel, God's hand would hunt them out. If the people stayed a distance from the Ark according to God's measurement, and they followed God onward, they would be successful. Those people who sinned would be in disaster even if they hid in the sea.

2.【Consecrate and stand firm】5-8 Joshua ordered the people that before they crossed the river, they had to consecrate themselves. He also said to the priests to take up the ark of the covenant and pass on ahead of the people. The priests had to be in one heart and the same footpath to exalt the truth, to deny themselves to suffer and be the example of the people. Further they had to disregard the environment and go down the Jordan by faith. They had to stand in the river, that was to stand firm by God through storms and waves. Then they would see God did amazing things. God made Joshua be exalted. He would be with him as He was with Moses.

※【Self-deceiving and be judged】1-7 The Lord, the Lord Almighty is great and awesome. As the chosen people were unwilling to consecrate, they would mourn like the rising and sinking of the river without peace. The priests obeyed to stand firm in the river. The chosen people sinned and were self-deceiving, thus trouble would overtake them and they could not stand up. The Lord who created heaven and earth, the Lord is His name, that is the Word of God. Alas, the Israelites were redeemed out of Egypt, but are now wayward and self-deceiving not unlike the Gentiles. They would be judged.

**B. Die to live out, return and revive, believe and you will see God's glory**

Listen and believe (Jos 3:9-17) – Revive (Am 9:8-15)

1.【Listen and believe in God's words】9-13 The ark of the covenant of God represented God, that was the Word, was among the people leading them forward. If they listened and believed in God's words, they would see God's glory. The priests had to value God's word more. They had to obey to go down the river. Then the water would stop flowing. It piled up in a heap. God's word is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Whoever listens and believes in God's word, everything works for the good of it and he will see miracles turning danger into safety!

※【God's words will be fulfilled】8-10 Surely the eyes of God are on the sinful kingdom and would destroy them. Yet He would not totally destroy the house of Jacob. God would give the command to shake them among all the nations as grain was shaken in a sieve, and not a pebble would reach the ground. This showed God's love never changed! But all the sinners among His people disregards His word. Thus they were overtaken by disaster. We ought to listen to God's word in trembling for His word will fulfill.

2.【Die to live out】14-17 Therefore the people left where they stayed and got ready to cross the river. The Jordan was at flood stage and it looked dangerous. The priests carried the ark by faith and God's promise but did not care about the environment. When their feet touched the water's edge, the water from upstream stopped and piled up in a heap a great distance away. The water flowing down was completely cut off. The priests stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, while the people passed by on dry ground. God made the Jordan flow backward. The people were like rising from the dead. God did a great deed!

※【Revive and build up】11-15 The exiles were revived similarly because God worked miracle. In that day, God would restore David's fallen tent. The kingdom of Christ will come. The people returned just like rising from the dead and like crossing the Jordan. God promised they would extend their territory, gain the inheritance of the nations, be fruitful and abundant and never be uprooted again. We ought to accept His promise with faith and see His wonderful effect! Those who cross the Jordan and overcome the power of death will be the ones who breach the gap and rebuild Zion.

**Ecc 9 / Rev 20:13 Main theme: Listen quietly and consecrate, be diligent and willing to work, so we may be free from punishment but be rewarded**

**-Listen and act / Reward and punishment**

(1)【Whatever man does God knows all】1 On the day of judgment, the deep sea, death and Hades would give up the dead. They would be judged according to what they had done. So how holy and godly we ought to be.

(2)【There is hope if we turn from evil and unite with God】2-6 It seems that the good and the evil will share a common destiny. In fact, there is a great difference. Those who consecrate to sacrifice to serve the Lord and swear to do good will be mightily used by God and be rewarded when the time comes. (Mal 3:14, 17-18) While those who are unclean and do evil, they will be rejected and punished.

(3)【Consecrate and rejoice, do good by grace】7-10 We ought to turn from evil and do good while we live. Make all effort to do the Lord's work willingly. Do not take pleasure in eating and drinking but to obey to do God's will. Lead men to righteousness and accomplish His work as your satisfaction.

(4)【By grace we may be free from disaster and be blessed】11-12 It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy. Thus, be humble to live one's life by grace.

(5)【Imitate the Lord to be a poor and wise man】13-16 The Lord's was despised. But He laid down His life to be our redemption. He is our Savior. We ought to learn from Him to deny ourselves and save men.

(6)【Listen quietly to the Lord's words and remove all evil】17-18 Only one thing is needed, that is to listen to the Lord's word, then we will be able to do beautiful thing to comfort the Lord. We ought to search our Achan each day to remove our sin lest we may be troubled and provoke the Lord.

**Central point of the wheels: Die completely and revive, work with all your effort and save men with wisdom**

Dear Lord, may you let me experience resurrection after death, so I may have revival and save men zealously to repay your rich goodness!

**Jos 4 / Ob 1**

**Main theme: Die to live out and see God's majestic power; arrogant and be punished**

**-Living stone / Stubborn stone (New self / Old self)**

Golden verses: Jos 4:18 Ob 1:21

A discussion on the living stone and the stubborn stone – on one side it concerned God ordered to pick twelve pieces of stones from the River Jordan and place them in Gilgal representing to live out the new self and be an everlasting remembrance. He also ordered that twelve pieces of stones be put back in the river representing the old self was buried in the river. On the other side was the prophet discussed on the wickedness and judgment of Edom representing that the old self ought to be buried and then we might have the new life after resurrection and become a new creation. (2 Cor 5:17) Edom is the descendant of Esau. He represents our flesh and old self (Heb 12:16-17) and also the foreign nations who are anti-God which have to be judged, fall and then the glorious kingdom of Christ will come!

1. **Remove and destroy evil, bury the old self and live out the new self**

Bury (Jos 4:1-10) – Remove evil (Ob 1:1-9)

1.【Live out the new self】1-7 Joshua ordered the twelve tribes of Israel to select one man from their tribe to take up one stone from where the priests stood and placed it in Gilgal, forever as a memorial representing they had crossed the Jordan and lived out the new creation. In future , they were to witnessed to their children the experience of crossing the Jordan by faith. The Lord is the living Stone. If we die with the Lord, we will also become the living stone. Christ was nailed on the cross for us, so we die to sin by faith and live for righteousness. (1 Pe 2:4-5, 24)

※【Overcome the old self】1-4 Obadiah the prophet said about the disasters of Edom due to their pride and deceit. God called on the nations to go against her for battle. Though they made nest among the stars, God would bring them down to be the smallest. Edom also represented the flesh and the old self who is haughty. God hated this and he would be humbled. We must die and live with God to overcome the flesh and live out the new creation.

2.【Bury the stubborn stone forever】8-10 Joshua also set another twelve pieces of stones in the Jordan representing the old stubborn stone would forever be buried. Those who live with Christ, they no longer live, but Christ lives in them. Their lives are changed and become a new creation. (Gal 2:20)

※【Destroy the old self】5-9 The prophet prophesied Edom would be cut down. His hidden treasures would be pillaged. God would raise an enemy against him and his allies would deceive and set a trap for him. God would destroy the wise men and the warriors so they would hurt themselves by their evil. Our old self and the desires of the flesh must also be removed to be buried forever in the river. Then we may become a living stone to be built into a spiritual house. We must be like Paul to live out the new creation and let Christ be our surpassing greatness.

**B. Devour evil, be sanctified and gain the land, witness God's glory**

Resurrect (Jos 4:11-24) – Sanctify (Ob 1:10-21)

1.【Help the brothers】11-14 As soon as all the people had crossed, the ark of the Lord and the priests came to the other side while the people watched. The two and a half tribes did according to Moses' order to help the brothers to fight to gain the land. They were armed with weapons. They fulfilled their promise. They put others before themselves without abandoning their brothers. (Num 32:28-32) They listened to Joshua just as they had listened to Moses. God exalted Joshua in the sight of all the Israelites.

※【Without compassion】10-16 The sins of Edom were heinous. He gloated over his brothers. He was violent and seized their wealth. He stood aloof and hit them when they were down. He took revenge and gave them to their adversary. Thus God would punish them. On one side was fulfilling the promise to help the brothers to attack the enemy to gain the land. On the other side was selfishness without compassion. The nations were the same to the chosen people. They too would be punished and turn to nothing.

2.【The witness of resurrection】15-24 Joshua commanded the priests who carried the ark to come up out of the Jordan. When their feet set on the dry ground, the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and ran at flood stage as before. God's deed and deliverance were exhibited right before their very eyes. Then they set the twelve pieces of stones in Gilgal and told their children their experience of crossing the Jordan on dry ground. So all nations knew God's hand has great power and all the people of the land shall revere Him.

※【The witness of sanctification】17-21 The elect would be sanctified after refinement like the process of sanctification of the people who crossed the Jordan. They will die to sin and live for God. On Mount Zion will be deliverance. They would return and gain the original inheritance. The people were refined and returned. Their lives were transformed to be jealous and hated sin. They would be a fire to consume the house of Esau, filled with the witness of resurrection and sanctification. They would gain the land as their possession. On one side was to witness to the children how they crossed the Jordan on dry ground. On the other side was the people were refined and sanctified. They returned to the mountains of Esau and the kingdom would be the Lord's. People of all the land will revere Him.

**Ecc 10 / Rev 20:14 Main theme: Check erroneous ideas at the outset, be diligent to pursue, lest we will go down to the lake of fire**

**-Folly / Lake of fire**

(1)【Guard against the small things and the yeast】1-4 Just a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough, so a little folly makes people die and die again and be thrust into the lake of fiery sulfur. We ought to have a spirit to suffer without following the lust but obey God's will. If we are caught in a sin, we ought to stand before God for deliverance and He will have mercy.

(2)【Darkness is in control, so be watchful to pray to avoid being led astray】5-7 We ought to have the faith and perseverance. Blessed are those who stand firm in the truth till the end.

(3)【Wisdom is beneficial】8-11 The path of life leads upward for the wise, so press toward the goal every day. The fools are lazy and turn back. They will be hurt by the enemy.

(4)【Be godly and blameless】12-15 Make every effort to be mature and be the spokesman of God's word to lead men to the holy city but not the fiery lake.

(5)【Be diligent to pursue in love】16-20 Do not set yourself in feasts and be lazy. Be diligent and watchful to be transformed in the Word, the Spirit and love. Be abundant in the truth and life to glorify God and benefit man. Love not only your brothers, but also the kings and the sinners.

**Central point of the wheels: Remove all the folly, live out the new self and die completely to save men**

Dear Lord, may you let me become a new creation to witness your salvation and to save others from folly lest they will go down to the lake of fire.

**Jos 5 / Jnh 1**

**Main theme: Remove the evil and obey the command to be holy; evade God's will and becomes rough and wild**

**-Circumcision / Fish's belly (Listen to the command/rebellion)**

Golden verses: Jos 5:13-15 Jnh 1:17

A discussion on circumcision and the fish's belly – on one side it concerned God ordered Joshua to circumcise the new Israelite fighting men so they might remove the inner filth to be a warrior and become the people of God's covenant. On the other side it concerned Jonah was rebellious and evaded God's will. Thus he was blown by the strong wind and waves, and finally thrown into the sea. God used the suffering of the strong wind and the belly of the big fish to circumcise Jonah. This teaches us that our heart ought to be circumcised to accept the dealing of the cross so we will not be rebellious but be humble to obey and accomplish God's will.

1. **Do not be rebellious, do not be sunk in sleep, be circumcised and roll away the reproach**

Circumcision (Jos 5:1-9) – Rebellion (Jnh 1:1-10)

1.【Full of all kinds of sins】1 The sins of the Amorites were heinous. God promised His people to gain the land. When the kings west of Jordan heard of God's people went through on dry ground, their hearts melted and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites.

※【Guilty of monstrous crimes】1-2 The great city of Nineveh was full of monstrous crimes. Their evil reached God like the Amorites. The result of their evil had come. But the merciful God would still give the chance of repentance to the sinners. Before He made this city fall, He sent Jonah the prophet to give them the warning.

2.【Obey to accept circumcision】2-9 Joshua obeyed to make flint knives to circumcise the generation who were born in the desert, ready to go to battle and gain the land. God would roll away the reproach of Egypt so they might be circumcised to be God's holy people. We ought to accept Christ's circumcision on the cross to put off the sinful nature to be a new creation in Christ. (Col 2:11; Gal 6:14-16)

※【Rebellious to evade God's will】1-3 Jonah was a patriotic prophet. As Assyria had repeatedly afflicted God's people, he was unwilling to obey God to preach in Nineveh. So he ran away from the Lord to Tarshish. Jonah was rebellious and did not obey God's will. He was unwilling to be circumcised. He led his old self be the king and evaded God's will.

3.【Fall for not listening】6 Though the army of Israel who exited Egypt had the circumcision, their hearts were not circumcised. Thus they did not listen to God's word and fell in the desert. God swore that not one of them would see the promised land flowing with milk and honey. (Num 14:26-30)

※【Rebellious and faced the severe wind】4-10 God sent a great wind and violent storm on the sea like a flint knife to the rebellious Jonah to circumcise him. Due to the great wind and storm, all the people in the ship were terrified and each cried out to his own god. They also threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship. But Jonah had gone below deck and fell into a deep sleep. They cast lots and found out it was due to him. He was rebuked and had to acknowledge he ran away from the Lord. The rebellious people fell in the desert because they despised God's grace. Thus they were unable to enter Canaan. But God wanted to save Nineveh, He waited for Jonah's return without rebellion. His heart was circumcised and obeyed God's will.

**B. Abandon the old self, God be the commander and submit completely**

Take off the sandals (Jos 5:10-15) – Be devoured (Jnh 1:11-17)

1.【Enjoy the peace and abundance】10-12 How blessed it was for the people to enter the good land to enjoy peace and abundance! They camped at Gilgal on the fourteenth of the first month and celebrated the Passover to remember the love of redemption of God without forgetting. They obeyed to remove the yeast and observe the feasts. They remembered God's love and recollected their transgression and were inspired. There they began to eat the produce of the land. They enjoyed the peace and abundance in the spirit. Manna stopped and they ate solid food. Their life grew up and ended the wandering life in the desert. (Heb 5:13-14)

※【The sea grows wilder than before】11-13 Jonah was hard-hearted. He met this stormy sea but still did not repent. He failed God's love. How could he have peace if not in the will of God? The sea grew even wilder than before and his heart was all the more rebellious! The men did their best to row but was unsuccessful. Jonah knew well this was all because of him. But he was unwilling to turn back. Instead he told them to throw him into the sea. As a prophet of God, he forgot about the great love of the sacrifice of the Lamb of the Passover. He did not bear the mind of God, not only to save his people but also to save the nations who were against God. (1 Co 5:7)

2.【Obey God as the commander】13-15 Joshua looked up and saw the Lord who had a drawn sword in his hand to be the commander of the army. Then he fell facedown to the ground in reverence. He obeyed to take off his sandals. From then he went a path that set apart for the Lord. He obeyed God as his commander who led the Israelites to battle.

※【Obey and do not be rebellious again】14-17 The people trembled and threw Jonah overboard. The raging sea grew calm. The men greatly feared the Lord. They offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows to Him. But Jonah did not fear God. He rebelled to death and became a deserter. But God loved Jonah. He provided a great fish to swallow Jonah. Through the suffering inside the fish for three days and three nights his heart was circumcised and he died completely to his old self. He surrendered before God without rebellion. He took God as his commander and put off his sandals which ran his own way. From then he ran an obedient path.

**Ecc 11 / Rev 20:15 Main theme: Banish anxiety and remove evil, sow day and night lest men will be destroyed**

**-Sow / Be destroyed**

Those who listen and obey the Lord's will, their name will be written in the book of life. Those who are rebellious and do evil will be thrown into the lake of fire. We ought to consider God's mind and save men day and night.

(1)【Sow often to please the Spirit】1-2 Prepare the grain and sow by faith. Plead for all nations and preach to many.

(2)【Wait in the will of God】3-5 Pray and preach in the designated place of the Lord.

(3)【Labor day and night】6-8 Labor diligently in the Lord's work day and night. Be joyous to do good and be a witness for the light.

(4)【Banish anxiety, remove evil and live for the Lord】9-10 Banish anxiety and cast off the troubles. Bring your heart to the Lord and make every effort to sow and save men. Prepare to meet the Lord.

**Central point of the wheels: Do not be rebellious and obey God's will, remove evil and be diligent to save men**

Dear Lord, may you let me be obedient to your will, take you as my commander, be your warrior, sow with tears and rejoice in harvest!

**Jos 6 / Jnh 2**

**Main theme: Regardless of everything implore the Lord persistently and give thanks to fulfill your vow**

* **Faith / Prayer**

Golden verses: Jos 6:17-18 Jnh 2:15, 17

A discussion on faith and prayer – on one side it concerned Jericho fell not due to a sword or a soldier. It was by obeying God's order and by faith to grab His promise to march around the city and pray fervently in one heart. Then we would see God's miracle. On the other side it concerned Jonah was in the fish for three days and three nights. He cried to God in suffering and desperation. He put hope in Him and vowed to give thanks, thus he was miraculously saved by God. This teaches us to attack and overcome our inner and outer stronghold. Implore persistently by faith regardless of the environment and do not forget to give thanks to fulfill your vow!

1. **Trust God's promise, pray and march around to attack and plead fervently in trouble**

The spiritual war (Jos 6:1-14) – Plead fervently (Jnh 2:1-5)

1.【March around the city by faith】1-3 The great city of Jericho represented the sinful world. All their hearts were tightly closed. They resisted the truth and rejected salvation. But God promised to give the kings and the fighting warriors to the hands of the Israelites. Therefore they did not care for the environment but by the promise of God and faith. They marched around the city once a day. They did this everyday to attack by prayer.

※【Call in trouble】1-2 Jonah fell inside the fish. It was dark and bitter, and hard to bear. Then he called to the Lord. Though his heart was high and firm like Jericho and his old self became the king which was hard to besiege, under such great affliction, he was forced to call to God from the depths of the grave. God still listened to him. The people marched around the strong city and prayed in one heart. God also answered.

2.【Be watchful and pray fervently】4-7 Joshua obeyed to order seven priests to blow the trumpets in front of the ark. They blew as they marched. They carried the ark and exalted God's name. They cried in one heart and were alert without weary. Every day the people marched around the city once. They did not mind the effect but by faith. On the seventh day they had to march for seven times and to sound a long blast on the trumpets. Then all the people gave a loud shout and the city collapsed.

※【Pray fervently with all effort】3-4 Jonah was like being hurled into the deep. All the waves and breakers swept over him. He was forced to pray deeply in such agony and despair. He struggled to catch God. He would no longer fall asleep but was watchful to cry out like the people marched around the city. Thus he said, 'I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.' The strong city in Jonah's heart was not blown by just one or two times of prayer. Therefore we ought to persist and be watchful, and to push to cry out.

3.【Follow the ark to march around the city】7-14 It is not by flesh to attack Jericho but by striving in the spirit. It does not take a single soldier. The armed guard went ahead of the ark of the Lord. They had to use the spiritual weapon and the power before the throne to demolish the strongholds of Satan and the power of evil. (Eph 6:10; 2 Co 10:3-5) The ark of the covenant of the Lord was the center of this spiritual battle. The guarantee to success was the presence and the togetherness of the ark. It was the ark of the Lord that marched around the city. Thus when the time came, God's will triumphed. The priests and the people were dutiful. They attacked the city by faith and were the same for six days.

※【Call to God fervently】5 Jonah was in the deep and he was nearly drowned. The seaweed was wrapped around his head. He still called like the seven priests who ran as they blew the trumpets by faith. The armed guard were at the front with the ark. They triumphed by faith. Jonah also prayed inside the fish. He also overcame the painful environment and his old self by faith. (2 Co 2:14; Col 2:15)

**B. Be careful to obey, destroy the city and save men, give thanks and fufill the vow**

Save men (Jos 6:15-27) – Be saved (Jnh 2:6-10)

1.【Destroy the enemy and save men】15-25 On the seventh day, the people obeyed to march around the city for seven times. Though for a time they did not see any effect, they still cried out persistently by faith. On the seventh time, the priests made a long blast and the people gave a loud shout. They overcame and triumphed by faith. The wall collapsed. The people charged straight in. They destroyed everything in the city just as God ordered. Only Rahab the prostitute and her family evaded from the disaster and lived, fulfilling the promise of God.

※【Fulfill your vow and save men】7-9 Inside the fish Jonah was like sinking down to the roots of the mountains facing despair. But he broke through the door of the death by faith. God saved him from the pit. Though his life was ebbing away, he remembered the Lord. His prayer rose to the holy temple. He offered a song of thanksgiving and fulfilled his vow without abandoning his God who had compassion on him. Salvation comes from the Lord. God's heart does not want any of the sinners of Nineveh or the prostitute of Jericho to perish. Jonah's heart was controlled inside the fish. All his inner enemies were destroyed. Then he was willing to fulfill his vow to save men. The whole family of Rahab the prostitute was shown mercy to turn from the worthless idols. They were delivered by God. Jonah's prayer also experienced the triumphant faith. (2 Co 2:14)

2.【Be careful to obey】18-27 Joshua ordered the people that when they attacked the enemy, they had to be obedient not to keep the devoted things lest they might bring about their own destruction and bring trouble to the whole camp. However, the articles of gold and silver had to be set apart for God. The people obeyed. They destroyed the enemy and took the city with a complete victory. Finally Joshua told the people to swear an oath never to rebuild the city of Jericho lest they might be cursed. God was with Joshua and his fame spread throughout the land.

※【Obey completely】10 Jonah was thoroughly refined after three days and three nights inside the fish. He was no longer stubborn. He obeyed carefully and set himself apart like the gold and silver to the Lord. When he gave thanks to God and fulfilled his promise, God commanded the fish to vomit Jonah onto dry land. He had risen from the dead. He was alive to experience God's presence. From then, he obeyed in trembling and became the miracle of the age. (Mt16:4; Lk 11:30) On one side they swore not to rebuild Jericho. On the other side he swore to obey completely without rebellion. We ought to consider God's heart to save the people of Nineveh and many prostitutes and sinners to repent and turn to God.

**Ecc 12 / Rev 21:1 Main theme: Grab the chance to repay the kindness, seek and preach the Word, and enter the new heaven and earth**

**-Do good / Renew**

Believe in the Lord and be reborn, through the Holy Spirit be renewed and overcome, be holy and become the new creation. Enter the new heaven and earth in future but do not receive the rich grace in vain. We ought to honor God and save men, and repay the Lord's kindness.

(1)【Grab the chance to remember the Lord】1-8 Make every effort to work more for the Lord in your days of your youth and during the day when the environment allows. When darkness is in control, then we cannot work. (Jn 9:4; Mt 24:7-25) The Lord laid down His life and shed His blood to save all people. We ought to learn from Him to deny ourselves to save men to comfort our Lord.

(2)【Seek, obey and preach the Word wholeheartedly】9-11 First ponder and search out the Lord's words, then we may preach God's holy words beneficial to men.

(3)【Ought to take the warning】12 Do not replace God's truth with men's philosophy or basic principles of the world. (1 Ti 6:20-21) Every word of God is powerful which cannot be added or subtracted, or be explained by men's interpretation. Avoid to preach the knowledge of the head.

(4)【Be godly, obedient and do good often】13-14 It is never useless to labor in the Lord for He will remember.

**Central point of the wheels: Honor God and obey the Word, pray fervently and overcome, and enter the new heaven and earth**

Dear Lord, may you raise up prayer warriors, control our hearts to obey your will, attack the stronghold and snatch back men's heart to come back to you!

**Jos 7 / Jnh 3**

**Main theme: Probe before God, confess and remove evil, God's anger turns away**

**-Confess /Turn from sin (Lose the fight / win the fight)**

Golden verses: Jos 7:25-26 Jnh 3:10

A discussion on confession and turning from sin – on one side it concerned the Israelites sinned due to Achan who brought trouble on them. God was angered and thus they were routed before the enemy. On the other side it concerned Jonah announced God's judgment. The whole city of Nineveh confessed and turned from evil and God's anger also subsided without overturning them. This teaches us that we ought to probe our Achan and destroy evil severely. Then God will be with us and overcome the enemy. “He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.”(Pro 28:13)

1. **We will lose if we have sinned, obey the command to preach the Word and lead others to consecrate**

Rout (Jos 7:1-13) – Attack and win (Jnh 3:1-5)

1.【We will rout if we have sinned】1-5 Someone from the Israelites took the devoted things, thus God was angered. Further they thought there were few people in Ai. They despised the enemy and were self-deceitful. They only sent three thousand men to fight. As a result they were defeated before the enemy and their hearts melted.

※【Attack evil】1-2 Jonah confessed and consecrated himself inside the fish. God's words came to him for the second time. He obeyed to be sent and declared God's warning to the people of Nineveh. God was with him so he was strong and bold to attack the sinful city. If the people were sinful, how could God be with them. Thus they ran in embarrassment even before the little city of Ai.

2.【Forced to come before God】6-9 Joshua tore his clothes and the elders sprinkled dust on their heads and fell facedown to the ground before God. They cried out to God why were they defeated before the enemy. They called to God to do for His own great name.

※【Ought to confess quickly】3-4 Jonah obeyed to preach the Word. But he was burning with impatience. With a three day distance, he only ran for one day. He proclaimed to the people, 'Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned.' God's warning urged men to repent quickly and be forced to come before Him. Then we would be favored. The people were defeated so they would be forced to come before God to examine and confess their sins. God's anger lasts only a moment, but His favor lasts a lifetime! (Ps 30:5)

3.【Consecrate and remove evil】10-13 Someone in Israel sinned and broke the covenant. He stole and was crafty. He took some devoted things. Thus they had to turn back and escape before their enemy. They could not stand firm and were cursed. Therefore God told Joshua to go and lead the people to consecrate themselves and remove the sin.

※【Humble and be contrite】5 The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast. All of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth and confessed humbly. God also told Joshua to get up to lead the people to consecrate and remove their sins like the Ninevites. Then they could turn defeat to victory.

**B. Investigate and turn from sin to avoid the disaster and glorify God**

Investigate the crime (Jos 7:14-26) – Turn from sin (Jnh 3:6-10)

1.【Examine the crime】14-18 So Joshua woke up early in the morning and led the people to examine their sins before God. They came by tribe, by clan and by family. They examined man by man. As a result they found Achan from the tribe of Judah. The righteous God searches the minds and hearts. Can anyone hide in secret places so that God cannot see him? (Ps 7:9; Jer 23:24)

※【Turn from sin completely】6-9 The king of Nineveh also confessed humbly. He rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat on the dust. He confessed and was contrite before God. He proclaimed to the whole city, men and beast to be covered with sackcloth. They should not eat or drink but confessed completely and called on to God. They were to give up their evil ways and their violence. Similarly, Joshua told the people to examine their sins carefully. Then they might turn from sin and go forward because the curse would be where there were sins.

2.【Confess and defeat the crime】19-26 The crafty Achan refused to acknowledge his wrong. He wishfully thought he might muddle through. But now he was forced to give an account of his action without hiding. He had to take out what he had stolen, the beautiful robe, the gold and the silver and where they were placed. Achan sinned and brought trouble to the whole camp. This sin had to be completely removed. Then God would turn from His anger. (1 Jn 1:9)

※【Turn from sin and be free from disaster】10 God saw what the Ninevites did. He saw that they did not only confessed and were contrite, they also turned from their evil ways. He had compassion and did not bring the destruction upon them. He will freely pardon. The people removed the sin of Achan and God also turned not to bring anger. God is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love and faithfulness!

**SS 1 / Rev 21:2 Main theme: Thirst and seek, plead to follow the footpath of the Lamb and be prepared to meet the Lord**

**-Prepare / Follow**

How to prepare to meet the Lord's coming:

(1)【Thirst for righteousness】2-4 Thirst for the Lord's name (that is the Word, the Lord's name is like the perfume, Rev 19:13; SS 1:3). May the Lord lead us to the depth of the truth and we will taste the sweetness of God's love is beyond comparison.

(2)【Seek without ceasing】5-7 In spite of men's despise and anger, I will continue to search the Lord whom I love. I am willing to dwell and work with Him.

(3)【Follow the footpath of the Lamb】8-11 Imitate the good example of the saints, listen to the Lord's word and be adorned. Then we may be the bride of the Lord.

(4)【Truly love the Lord and always obey the Word】12-14 No matter if we encounter hardship or trials, keep the Lord's word in mind without turning back or be led astray.

(5)【Fix your eyes on the Lord】15 Be wholehearted in love like the dove and press toward the goal like Elisha.

(6)【Unite with the Lord】16-17 Obey the Word and overcome, unite with the Lord and be the pillar (Rev 3:12) of the temple to build God's house.

**Central point of the wheels: Remove Achan, turn from the evil way, thirst to follow the Lord and be the bride**

Dear Lord, may you make me be consecrated to prepare and wait for your coming to be your bride! Lead others to turn from evil and come to God!

**Jos 8 / Jnh 4**

**Main theme: Be watchful and obedient, lead others to obey the Word; be angry will be beaten**

**-Overcome / Fail**

Golden verses: Jos 8:28 Jnh 4:10-11

A discussion on triumph and failure – on one side it concerned Joshua was watchful and obedient. He mobilized the whole army and used a tempting military strategy to attack Ai with one blow. On the other side it concerned Jonah became a defeated general after winning the fight. He did not consider the love of God but God still built him up through all things (Ps 119:91) so he might understand His great love. This teaches us we ought to be humble and take lesson. We must die completely to our old self to consider God's love and be His warrior to overcome in truth and love till the end.

1. **Be watchful and obedient, control our old self and do not be the defeated general**

Warrior (Jos 8:1-17) – Defeated soldier (Jnh 4:1-5)

1.【Be watchful to standby】1-2 After the people had removed Achan, God told Joshua to lead the army to take the city and to encourage them to believe in God's promise without fear. God had already given the king of Ai and his people to the hands of the Israelites. Joshua first set an ambush behind the city. They were to hide in prayer to attack the enemy. They stood in wait watchfully to match with the front to prepare to take the city.

※【Be angry and seek death】1-3 Jonah had great effect on his mission. But he was not watchful after he won. His old self broke out and he was displeased that God relented to send calamity on the Ninevites. He knew God was abounding in love but he did not bore His heart. He was unreasonable to God. He was angry and even asked God to take away his life. Jonah's heart was more stubborn than the city of Ai and hard to besiege. This teaches us we ought to be alert after we have won and lost our battle. We have to guard against the unseen enemy and our hidden old self.

2.【Lead the troops forward】3-17 Joshua took the lesson after the failure. He obeyed humbly to attack the city of Ai. He arranged everything in detail and mobilized the whole army. He selected the able men and led them forward. That night Joshua went into the valley. Before the battle, Joshua retreated deeply before the Lord to pay the price to pray. When the best fighting men pretended to escape before the enemy to lure them away from the city, the ambush went up and took the city. The king of Ai and all the people in the city were lured away. Not a man remained in Ai who did not go after the Israelites.

※【Fail on the old self】4-5 First Jonah was the victor, but now was defeated! He thought he had the right to be angry. So he went out of the city and made himself a shelter. He sat under the shade and set his eyes to see what would happen to the city. He could not understand God's mind to forgive sinners. He only cared for the dignity of his old self. But Joshua was humble and obedient. He stood by and waited for the command watchfully. He was willing to sacrifice himself and denied himself. (Pro 16:32)Though Jonah had won, he was defeated by his old self.

**B. Be humble and take lesson, understand God's love deeply and destroy the enemies completely**

Give thanks (Jos 8:18-35) – Take lesson (Jnh 4:6-11)

1.【Destroy the enemy and triumph】18-29 Joshua was not only a faithful warrior, he was the leader of the spiritual army. He had great power. He was witty and courageous. He held out his javelin and commanded the whole army. The ambush rose to burn the city and fought against the enemy with the warriors on both sides. The people of Ai were surrounded and had no way to escape. They continued to fight and destroyed them completely. They took the king alive and the plunder. Joshua kept his position and was faithfully alert till the end. He held out his javelin and had a complete victory.

※【Faint and seek death】6-8 Jonah was very happy when a vine gave him the shade. But when the vine withered, he was scorched by the east wind and blazed by the sun. He fainted and sought death. On one side was the people had a great victory under the leading of the spiritual leader. On the other side was the old self of Jonah causing trouble. He fainted and failed tragically.

2.【Announce the Lord's words】30-35 Joshua built an altar for God after they had taken Ai. They sacrificed and gave thanks to glorify God. He copied on stones the law of Moses. Then he read to the people the blessings and the curses so the people would be careful to obey for generations, to fear God and be blessed for long.

※【Be humble and take lesson】9-11 After Jonah won, he did not give thanks or glory to God. Nor did he keep the law in his heart. He thought he had the right to be angry. But God was patient with him. Through everything He had arranged, He made him humble to take lesson and to understand God's love. He had concern on a vine which was not tended by him. It sprang up and died overnight. How much more concern would God have on the great city of one hundred twenty thousand Ninevites with sinners who could not tell their right hand from their left? Joshua read the law so the people would take lesson and learn to revere and love God. Therefore we ought to bear the mind of God's love. On one hand we read the law to all the people including the women, the children and the aliens. On the other hand we ought to love the sinners of Nineveh.

**SS 2 / Rev 21:3 Main theme: Eat the holy word, snatch the wolf, dwell and walk with the Lord**

**-Guard on the least / Dwell together**

God's intention is to dwell and walk with men

(1)【How to gain the presence of the Lord】1-7 Be quiet to accept the Lord's word, take the bread of life, pursue God's love and holiness and God will be with you. After we have experienced this, tell it to others. Only if we will love and obey the Word, we will be loved. There is no other way to gain His love.

(2)【The Lord is seeking and observing】8-9 The Lord is very jealous for Zion. He is secretly examining and seeking those whose heart are with Him and walk with Him.

(3)【The Lord's calling comes】10-14 When revival comes, the Lord chooses those who are wholehearted to love God (like doves), who take root in His words, who bravely obey God's will without turning back (like Stephen whose face looked like an angel), whose voice is tender and respond to the Lord's arrangement with Amen.

(4)【Guard against the enemy strictly and be watchful to wait for the Lord】15-17 The enemy is pervasive. Thus we ought to be always watchful and pray momentarily to seize the little foxes by the Lord, to see through and pierce through them and be faithfully watchful for the Lord.

**Central point of the wheels: Love the souls, attack crime, dwell and walk together with the Lord**

Dear Lord, may you make me consider your love, be in one heart with you to walk and live so I may be watchful and obedient all my life and belong to you forever!

**Jos 9 / Mic 1**

**Main theme: Set your eyes on men or listen to men will be trapped; seek and inquire of the Lord will discern**

**-Be trapped / Discern**

Golden verses: Jos 9;14-15 Mic 1:6

A discussion on being trapped and discerning - Joshua and the leaders did not retreat to God to inquire of Him when they faced the deception of the Gibeonites who pleaded for a treaty of peace. Thus they fell into the trap and violated God's law. They made peace and signed a treaty with the enemy whom God ordered to destroy. While Micah the prophet was discerned in the spirit. He announced God's judgment and rebuked Judah and Israel for their evil. (2 Ch 28:2-4, 2 Ki 17:7-8) This teaches us we ought to discern the deception of the wicked in truth and in the Spirit. We ought to retreat to the Lord and judge not by what we see with our eyes or decide by what we hear with our ears. (Isa 11:2-3)

1. **Not by what we see, discern in the spirit lest we will fall into the enemy's trap**

Be trapped (Jos 9:1-15) – Discern (Mic 1:1-9)

1.【Not by what we see】1-13 The kings of Canaan united to make war against the Israelites. But the people of Gibeon resorted to a ruse. They went as a delegation and pretended to come from afar to make a treaty with the Israelites. They brought moldy bread and worn-out old wineskin. They wore old and patched clothes and sandals. They came full of lies to deceive. Costumed enemies are more dangerous. How can we see only with the eyes and easily believe them? Remember Jesus' warning, 'Watch out that no one deceives you.' (Mt 24:4)

※【Discern in the spirit】1-2 Micah (who is like the Lord) the prophet had a vision. He was discerned in the spirit which concerned the sins and judgment of Samaria and Jerusalem. He learned this not by the eyes or heard by the ears. Therefore he called to the people to listen. The Sovereign Lord witnessed against them from His holy temple. As a leader, Joshua was not discerned in the spirit to identify the lies and ruse of the people of Gibeon. Nor did he inquire of God. Thus they lost.

2.【Have peace talk with the enemy】3-15 Joshua did not retreated before God but only decided by what he saw externally. He easily fell into the trap and violated God's prohibition. He made a treaty with the Canaanites whom God instructed to be destroyed. (Deu 7:1-4)

※【Announce the judgment】3-9 Micah the prophet declared the judgment of God on Samaria and Jerusalem for their sins of the idols and high places. Joshua only saw with the his eyes and could not visualize the pretence and the lies of the people of Gibeon and was deceived and thus made a treaty with them. But Micah was able to see in the spirit the Northern and southern kingdom worshiped idols and committed adultery. They lied and were deceitful. He declared God's severe judgment. The wound of Samaria was incurable and she was finally subjugated and brought to exile. This also came to Judah. They would be attacked by the enemy. The disaster came straight like the Israelites facing the attack of the enemy. How horrible it was! Due to this, the prophet wept and wailed. He personally prophesied that the people would weep in shame.

**B. Take lesson and wailing**

Curse (Jos 9:16-27) – Taken captive (Mic 1:10-16)

1.【Too late to repent】16-21 Three days after they had made the treaty, they came to know they were deceived. The Gibeonites were their neighbors. The assembly grumbled against the leaders. But as they could not revoke the oath sworn before God, they were too late to repent. They could only continue to let them live and leave a future trouble. This was a great lesson to Joshua and the leaders.!

※【No way to remedy】10-12 The prophet advised not to tell it to the enemies because disaster had come from the Lord and could not be remedied. Similarly if we make peace or take the enemy as our friend, it will be too late to repent. If the church unite with the pretending enemy and compromise in their faith, or even changed qualitatively, unless we make a halt and come out from the falsities, it will be an lasting future trouble.

2.【Forever be cursed】22-27 The Gibeonites ought to have been destroyed like the Canaanites, but as they feared death, they cunningly sought peace. Though they were not destroyed, they were cursed forever. Thus they were to serve as woodcutters and water carriers for the house of God, forever as a slave.

※【Be deprived completely】13-16 God's people ought to have come for battle. But due to their sin, they had to escape from the enemy's pursuit embarrassingly. Many cities of Judah came to the hands of the enemy. Their previous glory became barren. They were completely deprived. The Gibeonites sought peace cunningly and were cursed. Judah sinned and was unable to turn from the fate of subjugation and exile like the northern kingdom. They were punished for their sin. This teaches us we ought to control the outer enemies by truth and the Holy Spirit, to learn from Paul to beat our body to make it our slave. Be a holy people of God and we will enjoy a complete victory. (1 Co 9:26-27)

**SS 3 / Reve 21:4 Main theme: Experience the suffering, so be watchful to seek and is comforted by the Lord**

**-Seek the Lord / Receive the comfort**

(1)【We ought to be more watchful in darkness】1-4 The saints ought to be watchful at all times. They have to more watchful to pray and keep the Word in times of darkness, then they may overcome to glorify God. If they slumber in Gethsemane, they will fail and weep like Peter. After the suffering the bride ought to get up to seek the Lord. But she cannot find Him on the bed or in the squares of the world. It is useless even if she asks others. Only by leaving the throng of people, then she may meet with the Lord. By then she will treasure the Lord and the spiritual fellowship with God in the room.

(2)【The suffering experience becomes the benefit of others】5-11 After we have failed and turned back, we may tell others to persist in the love of the Lord and be strong to fight the spiritual battle for Him at night and to wait watchfully for the Lord's coming.

**Central point of the wheels: Discern in the spirit, do not fall into the trap, seek the Lord and receive His comfort**

Dear Lord, may you let me hide before your throne, unite with you, discern the enemies' plot and guard the Word boldly to satisfy your heart!

**Jos 10 / Mic 2**

**Main theme: Be bold and powerful to destroy the enemies, retreat and consecrate, the remnants will revive**

**-Attack the enemies / Attack crime (Destroy evil / Revive)**

Golden verses: Jos 10:12-13 Mic 2:13

A discussion on attacking the enemies and defeating crimes – on one side it concerned Joshua followed God's promise and led the fighting warriors to attack the united army of the five kings. By faith and prayer, the sun and the moon worked for the good and overcame the enemies completely – almost to a man. On the other side it concerned Micah the prophet boldly attacked the sins of the Israelites and prophesied that the remnants would return.

1. **Pray with faith, attack the enemies fiercely and plot evil will be disastrous**

Overcome (Jos 10:1-21) – ruined (Mic 2:1-6)

1.【Obey to attack the enemies】1-11 Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem heard that Joshua had destroyed Jericho and took Ai and that the people of Gibeon had made a treaty of peace with the Israelites. They were alarmed. Thus they united with four kings to attack Gibeon. God encouraged Joshua not to be afraid. God had already given the enemies to his hands. Joshua obeyed to march all night and fought courageously against the enemies. God fought for them and hurled large hailstones down on them. Thus more of them died from the hailstones than were killed by the swords.

※【Ordered to attack crimes】1-3 The prophet was ordered to attack the heinous crimes of the chosen people for they plotted evil on their beds. Woe to those who plan iniquity! Similarly woe to the five kings who indulged against God and united to attack God's people. They defrauded and seized. They forced to occupy other's houses and inheritance. Thus God sent disasters and made the enemy rule over them so they could no longer walk proudly and be saved. The two servants of God were bold and obeyed to fight against the enemies and crime. God's words came to them and they worked under His will.

2.【The sun and the moon stand still and gain a complete victory】12-21 Joshua had great faith in his battle. He prayed that the sun would stand still and the moon stopped till the nation avenged itself on its enemies. God surely heard his prayer and fought for the people so the sun and the moon worked for the good of it. They killed the enemy and caught the five kings alive. They continued to destroy them and had a complete victory.

※【Lose everything and completely ruined】4-6 The prophet prophesied the people would be utterly ruined due to their sin and sing mournfully. God heard Joshua's faithful prayer and fought for the people so they sang a victorious song. They were greedy and seizing and thus were seized. Their land and possession went to others and everything was lost. The prophet declared again that God destined them to be exiled so they would not divide the land by lot. But they were stirred up by the false prophets to prohibit the true prophet to prophesy. They were extremely savage. Like Micah the prophet, Joshua fought fiercely against the enemy and overcame the anti-God power of the kings. God's will must triumph and the truth will triumph. All the power of the heresies and anti-God will be ruined just like Joshua led his army. No one uttered a word against the Israelites.

**B. Annihilate the enemies, return and gain the land, and God will reign**

Annihilate the enemies (Jos 10:22-43) – Gain the land (Mic 2:7-13)

1.【Put the five kings to death】22-27 The people brought the five kings before Joshua. The army commanders obeyed to put their feet on the necks of the kings. They were to destroy the heads of the enemy and hang them on the trees to be cursed forever. We should also do the same to our flesh and old self and to put Satan and sin under our feet without mercy. (Mi &:18-19; Ro 16:20)

※【Attack the false prophets】7-11 On one side the prophet sighed the people did not understand God's perseverance. They did not value God's words. On the other side he rebuked their violence, deceit and indulgence in evil and the oppression on the innocent women and children. Thus the land was defiled and they would be evaded from the good land. Therefore we ought to hate every evil and trample it under the feet so it will turn to nothing.

2.【Destroy the enemies and gain the land】28-43 That day Joshua continued to destroy the enemy. He took the cities of the five kings including the hill country and the plateau. He destroyed all the enemies and left no survivors. Joshua conquered all the kings and their land in one campaign because the Lord fought for Israel.

※【Return and gain the land】12-13 In the last days the prophet prophesied God will bring the chosen people together like a flock in its pasture. God will break through the gate like one who breaks open the way to deliver His people. God will be their King to lead before them so they may enjoy rest. God will fight for the Israelites, to deliver them and to gain possession of the land. Joshua led the people enter God's abundance.

**SS 4 / Rev 21:5 Main theme: All renewed, without blemish, deny yourself to follow and be full of choice fruit**

**-All perfect / Renew**

(1)【All renewed by grace】1-7 God saves us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit so we may become a new creation due His grace to change our thoughts, eyes, words and action. And He also makes our life abundant and mature to nurture the flock, to proclaim God's blessings and words of warning so men may have life. We may then arrive perfection and a flawless level due to faith and by grace.

(2)【Deny yourself to follow the Lord】8-16 After a lot of hardship, love has caught the Lord's mind. We ought to bear more choice fruit for the Lord without fear for the northern wind or the southern wind. We may stand firm in the truth by the Lord and send forth fragrance to satisfy the Lord's heart.

**Central point of the wheels: Be bold to attack crime, pray to destroy the enemies, and renew and be perfect**

Dear Lord, may you grant me the faith to pray, be renewed and changed by You to overcome the inner and outer enemies and be perfect!

**Jos 11 / Mic 3**

**Main theme: Be diligent to obey the Lord's words and be full of spiritual power to attack and destroy the enemies**

-**Faithful and courageous / Self-deceiving (destroy the enemies / attack crime)**

Golden verses: Jos 11:15 Mic 3:8

A discussion on being faithful and courageous, and self-deceiving – on one side it concerned Joshua took God's promise as weapon. He was faithful and courageous to annihilate the kings of Canaan and their troops. Thus he gained all the land. Joshua left nothing undone of all that the Lord commanded Moses. On the other side it concerned Micah the prophet rebuked the leaders of Israel and the false prophets for their evil and deception. They thought disasters would not come but they would finally be punished. The two servants of God were full of God's spirit and words. They were faithful without slackening and overcame till the end.

1. **Grab the promise, attack and destroy the enemies, full of spiritual power without slacking**

No slackening (Jos 11:1-15) – By the spiritual power (Mic 3:1-8)

1.【Grab God's promise will overcome the enemies】1-14 Jabin king of Hazor joined forces with other kings of Canaan and their army as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They had large number of horses and chariots and came menacingly to fight against the Israelites. God promised to give the enemies to the hands of the people to be destroyed completely. He would ruin all the weapons of the enemies. They ought not fear. Joshua obeyed to destroy with one fell swoop. He seized the city and took the plunder, not sparing anyone that breathed.

※【Snatch wealth and benefit and become a slave of sin】1-4 The leaders of the house of Israel hated good and loved evil. They were blindly covetous. They tore the skin from the people and the flesh from their bones. They ferociously grabbed wealth and became the slave to sin. But they did not know disasters had come on them. Similarly, the Canaanite kings joined to fight but did not know the result had come. On one side were the greedy evil leaders had their severe rebuke. On the other side was Joshua, the people's leader who denied himself to sacrifice. He grabbed God's promise and had a complete victory.

2.【Faithful to God's assignment without slackening】6-15 Joshua was God's faithful servant. As the Lord commanded Moses, Joshua did it. He left nothing undone of all that the Lord commanded Moses. He was worthy of the leader of all the people, a successor of Moses.

※【Do not shrink back by God's spirit】5-8 By the Spirit of God, Micah was full of power, justice and might. Not only did he declare the transgression of the people, he boldly exposed the hypocrisy of the false prophet without flinching, just like Joshua was filled with God's spirit of wisdom (Deu 34:9) full of power. He obeyed God's orders without slackening. The false prophets took godliness as a means to financial gain. In order to obtain some gain, they proclaimed 'peace'. Therefore night would come over them. They would be disgraced and face covered by divination.

**B. Destroy the enemies, take all the land, not self-deceiving lest we may be led astray**

Contend (Jos 11:16-23) – Self-deceiving (Mic 3:9-12)

1.【Overcome the various kings】16-20 Joshua took all the land as God told him. He caught the kings and killed them. God hardened the hearts of the enemies so that he might destroy them totally, exterminating them without mercy. The battle between the Spirit and the lust is the same. If we trust in the Holy Spirit, we will win completely and enjoy peace and abundance.

※【Rebuke evil】9-11 Again the prophet rebuked the leaders for their evil and distorting all that was right. They built Zion with bloodshed. They taught and made judgment for a price. Their flesh was corrupt and their hearts stubborn. They were unwilling to trust in the Holy Spirit, then how could they overcome wickedness. They were full of evil and would be punished. They would not be shown mercy like the result of the Canaanite kings.

2.【Take the land as inheritance and enjoy peace】21-23 Joshua totally destroyed all the Anakites (the giant). He and Caleb had a different spirit. They continued upward though it might be hard. They completely removed the Anakites. (Jos 15:14) and their cities. They took all their land as directed by God and gave to the tribal divisions. Then the land had rest from war.

※【Self-deceiving, in trouble without peace】11-12 The leaders did evil and were self-deceiving. They trusted in God only in the mouth and thought God was with them and no disaster would come upon them. They were unwilling to consecrate and remove their evil. Certainly there would be no peace. Zion would become a heap of rubble. While Joshua destroyed the enemies and gained the land. Their land rested from war. The two servants of God fought courageously against the inner and outer enemies in the Spirit and overcame in the truth!

**SS 5 / Reve 21:6 Main theme: Unloosen and lose the grace; thirst for the Lord and follow Him closely, He is outstanding among ten thousand**

**-Slacken / Thirst to drink**

Everything will be accomplished by the Lord. All we need is to thirst for the living water and follow Him closely. (Isa 66:1-2)

(1)【Complacent and slackening】1-8 The beloved slackened without going forward because of the victorious experience after suffering, the message from the Most Holy Place and the abundant spiritual provision, just like Jeremiah wanted to go back to his home town to gain his land (Jer 37:15) Thus he was beaten. We ought to bear the Lord's mind to extend our territory without any boundary so more may be blessed due to us.

(2)【Take lesson and love the Lord above everything】9-16 After the lesson, love the Lord above everything. Thirst to drink the living water and lead many to the Lord to follow Him.

**Central point of the wheels: Thirst for the living water without slackening, full of spiritual power and overcome the enemies**

Dear Lord, may you let me be diligent without slackening all my life, thirst for your living water, overcome by you and accomplish your work!

**Jos 12 / Mic 4**

**Main theme: Contrite and be redeemed, completely destroy all enemies and all nations return to the Lord**

**-Overcome /In power (destroy the enemies / return)**

Golden verses: Jos 12:6-7 Mic 4:1-2, 4

A discussion on triumphing and in power – on one side it recorded Moses and Joshua led the people win over the various kings east and west of River Jordan successively and gained the land for their inheritance. On the other side it concerned Micah the prophet prophesied Zion would revive. God would reign and the people would return and be given power to smash the nations. This exhibited God's faithfulness. His promise would be fulfilled when the time comes. We ought to overcome our inner enemies by the Holy Spirit and exalt the Lord as King, and then we would enjoy His peace, abundance and revival.

1. **Overcome the enemies and gain the land, seek the Word of the Lord and return to revive**

Gain the land (Jos 12:1-10) – Revive (Mic 4:1-5)

1.【Overcome the two kings and gain their land】1-6 By God's promise the Israelites defeated the two kings east of Jordan. They were the strong adversaries of Sihon the Amorite king and Og king of Bashan. They took all their land and Moses divided them to Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh as their inheritance.

※【Ascend God's mountain and receive His law】1-2 God's promise is always faithful. How He gave the land of the two kings east of Jordan, He will lead His peoples stream to the mountains and Jacob to his house to receive His law in the last days. God's words are the everlasting possession of His people. (Deu 3:4; Ps 119:111) In order to overcome the world and to ascend to the spiritual mountain, we need the faith and God's promise, then we will gain it. (Deu 2:31; 3:2; 1 Jn 5:4)

2.【Destroy the various kings and enjoy abundance】7-10 Joshua led the people and conquered the kings west of Jordan also by faith and God's promise (Jos 1:2-4) He divided the land and gave to the people by tribes and clans. They were able to enjoy the abundance of flowing milk and honey. God's promise never fails.

※【The Lord reigns and we will enjoy peace】3-5 When Christ comes again to judge the nations, His people will not train for war. Christ will reign and His people will live in joy and peace and no one will make them afraid; just like Joshua had defeated all the enemies and the people enjoyed peace and prosperity! The Lord has spoken and He will accomplish this! The returned people enjoy peace and have their eternal possession. In all their actions, they will do in the name of the Lord. (Eph5:20; Col 3:17)

**B. Completely destroy the various kings, be contrite and redeemed, and exalt the Lord as King**

Destroy completely (Jos 12:11-24) – Be contrite (Mic 4:6-13)

1.【Destroy the enemies completely】11-24 The kings of Canaan represented our flesh, our old self and the world. We can destroy them completely only by the Holy Spirit, to die with the Lord, live out the life of Christ to overcome and triumph by the cross. (Col 2:15)

※【Exalt the Lord as King】6-8 In the last day God will gather the lame and assemble the exiles to be a strong remnant. When Christ comes again to reign, Mount Zion will restore her kingship. Therefore we must destroy the enemies totally and make our old self die completely! When sin reigns, men will die. Only when righteousness reigns, men will live. Let Christ reign in our lives! (Ro 5:17-21)

2.【Trust in the Lord and overcome everyday】12-24 By the power of God and not by the flesh, Joshua defeated thirty one kings of Canaan. Thank be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ to overcome month by month and triumph every day! The prince of this world is coming, he has no hold on me. (Jn 14:30) Joseph, Mordecai and Daniel were able to overcome their trials everyday by God. We too ought to die to sin and live for God everyday by the Holy Spirit!

※【Contrite and return to overcome】9-13 The prophet prophesied that the Daughter of Zion had to labor in pain like a woman. Then they would repent and be redeemed to be freed from the enemy. (Zec 12:10) Judgment has come to the nations and the people must be strong to trample the enemies and the nations to pieces and devote the plunder to the Lord of all the earth. Those who repent and turn from sin everyday and overcome by the Lord will devote all the glory, praises and thanks to God. Their live will be renewed.

**SS 6 / Rev 21:7 Main theme: Overcome and gain inheritance, turn our heart after the Lord and walk with Him**

**-Overcome / Perfection**

(1)【Lead others to belong to the Lord】1-3 Those whom God considers as the most beautiful will overcome and obey. They will gain the promised power. They can tell God browses among the lilies and lead men to love the Lord with a pure heart and follow Him to shepherd the flock.

(2)【Perfection exceeds others and is favored by the Lord】4-9 Those who completely obey the Lord's words, strive to perfection, have no flaw in their speech and be His spokesmen will be bold to deny their lives to follow the Lord closely. They will fix their eyes to look up to the Lord like Paul who pressed toward the goal and was favored by the Lord.

(3)【Shine outwardly】10 Be righteous and holy, merciful and tender, mighty and courageous and go to the ends of the world to witness for the Light.

(4)【Take root below】11-12 To advance to the depth of the truth, to care for the work of the Lord and turn according to the Lord wherever His Spirit may take us.

(5)【Be bold to go forward without turning back】13 Though men repeatedly cried, do not turn back ultimately. Be bold to obey God's will and accomplish His work.

**Central point of the wheels: Destroy evil completely, be favored and return, and overcome to be perfect**

Dear Lord, I am willing to belong to you forever and be yours completely, trust in you and overcome, be favored by you and accomplish your work!

**Jos 13 / Mic 5**

**Main theme: Gather to face the enemies, take root in the Lord and gain the land by the Spirit**

**-Gain the land / Attack the enemies**

Golden verses: Jos 13:1 Mic 5:2

A discussion on gaining the land and attacking the enemies – on one side it concerned when Joshua was old and well advanced in years, God ordered him to divide the land among the nine and a half tribes who have not had their inheritance. On the other side was Micah the prophet prophesied Christ would come on earth. His kingdom extended till the ends of the earth. The remnants would return and overcome the enemies. Both of them were given the land and prophesied by faith.

1. **Divide the land by faith, gather to become an army and be bold to attack the enemies**

Divide the land (Jos 13:1-14) – Have control over the enemies (Mic 5:1-6)

1.【Attack the enemies by God's promise】1-7 When Joshua was old and well advanced in years, God told him to allocate the land of Philistia and Canaan to be taken over by faith to the nine and a half tribes as their inheritance. God promised He would drive the enemies out of their land.

※【Gather to become an army to attack the enemies】1-3 The prophet prophesied the enemies would besiege Israel. He called the Israelites to marshal to attack and overcome them. Faced with the various enemies, the nine and a half tribes also needed to marshal and pray fervently in one heart so they might gain the power from on high to attack them by faith and seize the possession promised by God. The prophecy of the birth of Christ in Bethlehem and the promise of the inheritance would be fulfilled. He would rule so the Gentiles might return and gain the salvation with the people. We ought to receive God's promise by faith.

2.【Do not leave any future trouble】8-13 The two and a half tribes had already had the land east of Jordan as their possession. But the Israelites did not drive out the people of Geshur (the arrogant bystander) and Maacah (dismayed). They still lived among the Israelites. The Israelites did not destroy the enemies completely and finally caused a future trouble. They were induced to follow the foreign gods. God had already warned them before they took the land. (Deu 7:1-4)

※【Control over the enemies】4-6 Christ would shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord so they would live securely. God would raise seven shepherds, even eight leaders of men against the anti-God might of Assyria. He would use His power to destroy the land of Nimrod (rebellion). God promised to deliver His people. The people thus ought to destroy the Canaanites by the power of God without leaving any trouble.

**B. Destroy evil completely, gain the land and serve the Lord**

Serve the Lord (Jos 13:14-33) – Destroy evil (5:7-15)

1.【Cut off the hidden trouble】14-23 When Moses gave the inheritance to the tribe of Reuben, they first had to remove Sihon the Amorite king and the five Midianite chiefs. They put Balaam who practiced divination to the sword to avoid the hidden trouble. Balaam had once put stumbling blocks before the people and trapped them to sin and thus provoked God to anger. (Rev 2:14)

※【Remove the evil】7-12 The remnant of Jacob would be like showers and strong like a lion. They had to destroy all their enemies and their strongholds and also their witchcraft so their result would be like the Midianites and Balaam the false prophet. Phinehas was jealous like a lion. He destroyed Balaam's evil plot and was given the everlasting covenant of peace. (Num 25:6-13) We ought to hate what God hates and terminate every evil in the heart, cut off all hidden trouble and serve God forever.

2.【Set apart to be holy and serve the Lord wholeheartedly】24-33 Moses had divided the land for the two and a half tribes. They took the great cities and the villages. But to the tribe of Levi, no inheritance was given to them because they were chosen to set apart for God. The Lord was their inheritance. They would delight in God, serve Him faithfully and enjoy in God's abundance. (Deu 18:1-5)

※【Remove the idols and serve the Lord wholeheartedly】13-15 When the remnant returned, they also had to set apart for God. They had to destroy all carved images and sacred stones and no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. (Eph 4:17-18) But they ought to live like the Levites to set apart to be holy, serve the Lord wholeheartedly and take God as their portion and cup. (Ps 16:5) Then God would take vengeance in anger upon the nations that had not obeyed Him. As the two and a half tribes did not obeyed God's order thoroughly to remove the evil and idols, they had the retribution from God and were the first to be exiled. (1 Ch 5:25-26)

**SS 7 / Rev 21: 8 Main theme: Remove the various evil, enter into abundance, deny yourself to follow and be fruitful**

**-Abundance / Do evil**

The result of those who are coward, unbelieving, and the vile will die and also face the second death. But those who believe and overcome by faith will glorify God and benefit men to gain rich reward.

(1)【An abundant life】1-9 Put on the shoes of gospel of peace with beautiful feet to shepherd the flock and be firm to obey God's will. Let your spiritual eye be discerned and be watchful every moment to deny and be obedient, attaining the full measure of stature. May the mouth speak of God's words to satisfy the Lord and awaken men.

(2)【Value the spiritual communication will be fruitful】10-13 Let our body, heart and soul belong to the Lord, only the Lord without me. May the Lord's desire is for me. May we have the intimate fellowship with the Lord in the quiet place of the countryside and the villages. Every morning let us consider only the matters of the Lord, for the church and intercede for all nations to bear choice fruit for Him.

**Central point of the wheels: Destroy evil, completely belong to the Lord, take root in His word and gain the land**

Dear Lord, may you save me from all evil so I may serve you wholeheartedly, to grab to save the sinners to escape from the result of the fiery lake!

**Jos 14 / Mic 6**

**Main theme: Follow the Lord wholeheartedly and gain the best land; do evil and become desolate**

**-Follow wholeheartedly / Walk together**

Golden verses: Jos 14:10-11 Mic 6:8

A discussion on following wholeheartedly and walking together – on one side it concerned Caleb of the tribe of Judah had a different spirit to follow the Lord wholeheartedly. He first came to request for inheritance and was blessed by God. On the other side it concerned the Israelites were ungrateful. They swerved from God and followed the statutes of Omri and the plot of Ahab's house. Thus they were cursed. We ought to act justly, to love mercy, to follow the Lord wholeheartedly and to walk humbly with Him. (Mic 6:8)

1. **Do not be ungrateful, take lesson, obey, overcome and be favored**

Overcome (Jos 14:1-5) – Take lesson (Mic 6:1-5)

1.【Overcome and be favored】1-4 Eleazar the priest, Joshua and the heads of the tribal clans did according to the order of God and allotted the land to the nine and a half tribes. After long period of tribulation and trials Joseph feared God and shun evil. He overcame by God. He was given the rights of the firstborn and a double portion of blessings. He also gained the inheritance for two tribes. (1 Ch 5:1; Deu 21:17)

※【Violate the command and lose the grace】1-5 The prophet cried out to the people to listen to God's words. God wanted them to plead their case because they were ungrateful after they had entered the good land given by God. They did not listen to God and remember what Balak counseled and the evil plot of Balaam. (Num 25) They forgot the righteous deed of God and thus lost His grace. The priest and the heads allotted the land to the nine and a half tribes before God because they listened attentively to His words. Joseph had suffered for a long period and overcame completely. He feared God and listened to His order and thus received blessings upon blessings.

2.【Obey the command completely】1-5 The Israelites obeyed God's order and did not allot any land to the tribe of Levi. But they had the towns to live in so they might set apart to be holy for God and serve Him wholeheartedly. (Num 35, Jos 21) How God ordered Moses, they did everything as told.

※【Never take lesson】1-5 The prophet called to the Israelites to listen to God's words. God wanted the mountains and hills to witness how did He burden them. The people did exactly as God told Moses while the Israelites did not take the lesson though they experienced God's deed. They did not listen and failed God's great love!

**B. Grab the promise, pray wholeheartedly, follow the Lord and walk with Him**

Follow wholeheartedly (Jos 14:6-15) – Pursue evil (Mic 6:6-16)

1.【Is not in vain to grab the promise】6-12 Caleb (wholehearted, courageous) grabbed the oath which Moses promised him which was the land on which his feet had walked would be his inheritance and that of his children forever. Thus he came over to see Joshua for the inheritance.

※【To sacrifice offering presumptuously is in vain】6-7 God wanted His people to come before the Lord and bow down before the exalted God. How could they offer a presumptuous offering. Would the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil, or their firstborn for their transgression? To obey is better than sacrifice. Caleb obeyed and valued the inheritance of God. But they did not believe or listen and offered in vainly.

2.【Follow the Lord wholeheartedly】9-12 Caleb followed the Lord wholeheartedly forty five years like a day. Though the road was difficult with a lot of trials, he affirmed the will of God from the start till the end. He followed by faith and had a beautiful path. Till now he was still strong as the beginning. He was just as vigorous to go out to battle now as was then. His strength equaled his days. (Deu 33:25) Thus he pleaded to gain the promised inheritance. He was full of faith and boldness. He would be able to drive out the Anakites that were the most tenacious enemy. (Num 13:32-33; 14:9)

※【Walk together with the Lord】8-13 Not only Micah walked with God himself, he also showed a way for men and God's chosen people a way to walk with God. The goodness that God wants is to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with God. The chosen people were deceitful and unrighteous. They made their fortune violently. They were unrighteous and merciless. They were presumptuous and sinned. How could they walk with God?

3.【Gain the good land and be blessed】13-15 Caleb had a different spirit. He followed God wholeheartedly. Thus Joshua blessed him and gave him Hebron (ally, friendship) as his inheritance. Though Hebron had the greatest man of the Anakites, he believed and was not afraid. He would drove them all out. (Jos 15:14)

※【Pursue the evil statutes and be cursed】14-16 As the chosen people observed the statutes of Omri and all the practices of Ahab's house, God would destroy them without pity. God called them to fear His name and be a wise man like Caleb. But they acted foolishly and were stubborn-hearted. Thus they encountered famine, the sword and disgrace. On one side was to obey God, gain the good land and be blessed. On the other side was rejecting God and followed the evil scheme and were cursed.

**SS 8 / Rev 21: 9 Main theme: The love of the bride is as strong as death, be faithful to the Lord's assignment and thirst for His coming**

**-Strong love / The bride**

The love of the bride is as strong as death. It can break through extreme difficulties and grab to save men to avoid the disasters and gain everlasting life.

(1)【Love zealously and trust in the Lord completely】1-5 The bride loved zealously and was out of her mind for the sake of God and in her right mind for men. (2 Co 5:13) She cared for all the people like the priest bore the pomegranates (spiritual fruit) to satisfy the Lord. Not by might and not by power but by the Almighty God to accomplish the Lord's work.

(2)【The love is as strong as death】6-7 Love is valuable for it is wholehearted and firm. It cannot be extinguished by any temptation or affliction. It cannot be exchanged by any price just like Paul was willing to risk any danger to obey God's will courageously to proclaim the truth to grab the lost sheep.

(3)【Care for the weak ones】8-9 To intercede watchfully day and night and to exhort timely, to protect them against the injury of the enemy.

(4)【Life becomes abundant and wait watchfully for the Lord's coming】10-14 Be faithful in all God's house and provide the way of life to men. To repay God's goodness exceeding His desire to satisfy the Lord's heart. Be alert every moment and thirst for the Lord to come soon.

**Central point of the wheels: Follow wholeheartedly, love the Lord firmly, walk a good way and thirst for the Lord's coming**

Dear Lord, may you let me love you wholeheartedly, follow you till the end, be just and merciful, walk with you humbly and thirst for your early coming!

**Jos 15 / Mic 7**

**Main theme: Awake and do good to gain more land, and ensure to destroy all remaining enemies**

**-Pray for the land / Pray for grace (Defeat crime / Revive)**

Golden verses: Jos 15:19 Mic 7:18-19

A discussion on praying for the land and praying for grace – on one side it concerned the tribe of Judah took lot to gain the land. Within them the whole family of Caleb was favored. They prayed together for their inheritance. On the other side it concerned Micah the prophet considered God's mind and pleaded to God. Thus God turned from punishment to deliverance and promised to show mercy to the people. This teaches us we ought to value God's inheritance and confess and intercede by faith and love for the people of God and we will be granted.

1. **After being contrite we will first gain the land; but if we are full of sins, God will punish**

Pray for the land (Jos 15:1-19) – Do evil (Mic 7:1-6)

1.【After being contrite we will first gain the land】1-12 Judah (praise) once failed and was depraved. But after his repentance he was the strongest among his brothers. (1 Ch 5:2) Thus his descendants first allotted clan by clan just like Paul was deeply contrite and was chosen to preach the gospel widely and gained an extensive inheritance. God planned their territory and they just needed to gain the good land flowing with milk and honey by faith. (Exo 3:8)

※【Full of monstrous crimes and will be punished】1-4 The prophet sighed the land of Judah was desolate like the summer fruit at the gleaning of the vineyard. The godly has been swept from the land and no one did good. All men lied in wait to shed blood and there was monstrous crimes without knowledge of repenting. On one side was punished for evil and confusion and on the other side was the first to gain the land to give thanks and praises.

2.【The whole family pray together for inheritance】13-19 After Caleb gained the land, he drove out the three Anakites and overcame the three enemies. Then he was able to live in Hebron and led a spiritual life. (1 Jn 2:16) The whole family of Caleb was favored. His daughter and his son-in-law were in one heart and valued God's inheritance. (Ps 16:5-6) His daughter asked for springs of water while his son-in-law asked for a field. May our life be abundant flowing with the living water and unceasing praises!

※【The whole family hate each other】5-6 The prophet prophesied that the current situation was perilous. There was mutual hatred in each family. There was no confidence within wives and friends; fathers and sons, mothers and daughters rejected one another. All these will be fulfilled before the Lord comes. (Mt 10:34-36) We ought to imitate the gracious example of Caleb's family to serve the Lord in one accord, to offer ourselves to grab the souls and gain the inheritance!

**B. Destroy the enemies and gain the land, be contrite and revive**

Destroy the enemies (Jos 15:20-63) – Be contrite (Mic 7:7-20)

1.【Destroy the enemies and gain the land】20-44 The inheritance of Judah included the southernmost towns, plateau and villages. We must remove all the tribes of Canaan. Our flesh and desire must be dealt by the cross, then we may gain the land and enjoy the abundance in Christ.

※【Be contrite and return】7-13 The prophet confessed and interceded for the people. He watched in hope and waited for God his savior and was answered. This reflects the mind of God. He is waiting for the sinners to repent and turn back to Him. The enemy could no longer gloat over them. Due to faith, the people would turn from darkness and enter the light. They would see the enemy's downfall. Similarly, Judah would gain the inheritance after removing the enemies. The people returned and would rebuild the walls and extend their territory.

2.【Did not gain finally for disbelieving】45-47 According to God's promise, the land of Philistia would be in the territory of Judah. But they did not have the faith to get it as God promised. Thus the Philistines became their trouble for generations.

※【Prayed for favor due to faith and was granted】14-17 The prophet turned the prophecy he saw of the revival to a faithful prayer. He prayed God to show His grace by shepherding His flock which lived by itself and enjoy His abundance. God would answer his plea and manifest His wonders like the times of old so the enemy would be disgraced and turn in fear to surrender. God's prophecy and promise are faithful. If we do not believe or do not ask, we will not receive it. The greatest enemy is the unbelieving heart. (Heb 3:12) Thus we must be careful to obey in trembling and destroy all inner and outer enemies by faith.

3. 【Cannot drive away the stubborn enemies】48-63 Unfortunately, after Judah gained the land, they could not dislodge the Jebusites in Jerusalem. They allowed the enemy to stay with them till David reigned. Then they were completely driven out. He captured Zion as his fortress by faith and God. (2 Sam 5:6-10) This also represents Christ gives us a victory ultimately. (1 Co 15:57)

※【Praise and triumph due to faith】18-20 The faithful prayer of the prophet became a praise and triumph. He deeply understood the Lord God. He praised 'who is a God like You, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression, who do not stay angry forever and tread our sins underfoot and hurl into the depths of the sea. No matter how stubborn are our sins, only by faith and lifting up to the cross, they will be destroyed without future trouble. We can never stay in harmony with evil and the secular. Therefore we ought to die to sin and live to God. God will deliver and be merciful again. Hallelujah!

**Isa 1 / Rev 21:10 Main theme: Turn to the right path and be redeemed to be the holy city; rebellious and be ruined**

**-Return to the right / The holy city**

Those who hate evil and love good, and their spiritual mind are at the peak will be able to discern in the spirit.

(1)【The holy city is filled with sin】2-15 Deprave in grace, turn back without going forward, do evil and sin, do not take discipline repeatedly, only show the ceremony in serving without actual godliness. Though there are lots of sacrifice and prayers, God will abhor.

(2)【Consecrate, stop the evil and do good】16-17 Confess in humility, consecrate thoroughly by the blood and the Word, seek justice, redress for the afflicted, intercede for everyone and proclaim the salvation to all people.

(3)【Two types of ending】18-31 The penitent ones will be redeemed and consecrated. They will turn to new creations of faithfulness and righteousness. They will glorify God and benefit men. The rebellious and sinful ones will be disgraced and ruined. All their work will burn together without value.

**Central point of the wheels: Consecrate and turn to the right will be redeemed and gain the good land**

Dear Lord, may you cleanse my heart to become your glorious dwelling, be bold to overcome by you and gain the promise inheritance.

**Jos 16 / Na 1**

**Main theme: Trust in God in times of trouble to destroy all the enemies and gain double the land**

**-Gain double property / Take refuge in God**

Golden verses: Jos 16:10 Na 1:12-13

A discussion on gaining double the inheritance and taking refuge in God – on one side it concerned Joseph was able to overcome thoroughly under long term suffering and was blessed. His descendants gained double the inheritance. On the other side it concerned Nahum (comfort) the prophet prophesied Nineveh plotted to attack God and would be punished and completely destroyed. The message of the prophet brought comfort to the people of God. We ought to be like Joseph to take refuge in God in trouble. God is our refuge and we will overcome to the end.

1. **Take refuge in God in times of trouble and prosper; commit sin and turn against God will be punished**

Be favored (Jos 16:1-5) – Wither (Na 1:1-8)

1.【God gives blessing】1-4 Joseph had a different spirit. He feared God and shun evil. He trusted in God wholeheartedly. No matter under what hardship, God was with him. Thus he overcame all sufferings and trials. He gained the rights of the firstborn. (1 Ch 5:1) Thus his sons Manasseh and Ephraim both gained the inheritance in Israel. (Gen 48:15-16, 21-22)

※【God takes vengeance】1-6 Nahum the prophet gained the oracle of Nineveh concerning God was a jealous and avenging God! The crimes of Nineveh had reached to the top, thus God had to avenge. Joseph was jealous and overcame sin, thus God would bless him. When God rebuked, all the rivers ran dry. The richest land of Bashan and Carmel withered. The mountains quaked and the hills melted away. Who can withstand? Only those like Joseph who feared God and overcame evil would have the presence of God. Then he may withstand.

2.【Gain double property】1-5 Though Joseph was not the firstborn, he was godly in everything and separated from other brothers. He was favored to replace Reuben as the firstborn. Thus he was given the blessings on earth and in heaven. (Gen 49:22-26) He gained a double portion of the inheritance with blessings upon blessings.

※【God be our refuge】6-7 Who can endure God's fierce anger? The flood overwhelmed the enemy. The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in Him. Just like Joseph who trusted in God in his trouble, thus he experienced the presence of God all his life who made him the ruler after releasing from the jail. He had double the grace.

**B. Destroy the enemies thoroughly and do not leave any future trouble, observe the feast and fulfill the vow**

Destroy the enemies (Jos 16:6-10) – Fulfill the vow (Na 1:9-15)

1.【First suffer, then prosper and gain more land】6-9 Joseph suffered a lot in his life. God made him prosper after his hardship like a fruitful vine (Gen 49:22) and even his descendants were blessed. The descendants of Ephraim (prosper) were favored and gained the land that ended at the sea. They also had some towns and villages in the inheritance of the Manassites.

※【Cut off the enemies and have comfort】8-13 The people of Nineveh plotted against God. Thus God would bring them to an end. Verse 11 pointed out that the man of lawlessness , anti-Christ would be revealed in the last days. He would exalt himself and attack God. But he would be doomed to destruction. (2 Th 2:3-8; Rev 19:20) God promised the people of Judah no more affliction. God would break the yoke from their neck like Joseph prospered after his hardship and be filled with His comfort. Joseph gained the comfort and he also became a comfort and blessing to the whole house of Judah and all the hungry people of the land.

2.【Let down God's grace】10 After the Ephraimites gained the land, they were unable to dislodge the Canaanites living in Gezer (very steep). Our sinful nature must be crucified together with the Lord, (Gal 5:24) otherwise we will harm our descendants, leave future trouble and fail God's grace. We ought to imitate David to experience God's great victories. He did not turn back till his enemies were destroyed. (Ps 18:37)

※【Give thanks and fulfill the vow】14-15 God had given a command to destroy the enemy and their carved images. There on the mountains, the feet of one who brought good news, who proclaimed peace and declared the return of the people of Judah, they would give praise and celebrate the festivals and fulfill their vows. No more would the wicked invade them and they would be completely destroyed. Ephraim ought to give thanks and fulfill his vow. But they could not destroy the enemies completely. Later on, they followed the foreign nations to commit adultery and worship idols. Thus they greatly provoked God and failed in God's grace.

**Isa 2 / Rev 21:11 Main theme: Return and be refined to honor God solely and be full of God's glory**

**-Refine / God's glory**

The holy city exhibited God's glory. Its brilliance was like a jasper, tender and without defect and clear as crystal.

(1)【Refine and be exalted】2-4 Refine to be righteous, humble and be a spokesman of God so all nations will stream to it.

(2)【We ought to abandon the dark and come to light】5-21 God would punish as they were filled with the customs, sorceries, silver and gold, chariots and idols of the Gentiles. They were lofty and arrogant. They harmed others or were their support and took God's position.

(3)【Die thoroughly by the Lord】22 Through hardship and great shaking, exalt only the Lord. It is useless to trust in man. Only by the Lord may we put off our sin and remove all evil, be refined to radiate and reveal God's glory. Thus all people may be blessed.

**Central point of the wheels: Suffer and overcome, destroy evil and be translucent and more blessings will come**

Dear Lord, may you let me have a spirit to suffer and overcome till the end to be a translucent instrument to exhibit your glory!

**Jos 17 / Na 2**

**Main theme: Be bold to pray for inheritance and destroy the enemies by God for grabbing the world is empty**

**-Pray for inheritance / Covet for wealth (be granted/become nothing**

Golden verses: Jos 17:17-18 Na 2:2

A discussion on praying for inheritance and coveting for wealth – on one side it concerned the descendants of Joseph and the five daughters of Zelophehad came boldly for property and were granted and accepted by God. On the other side it concerned Nineveh was blindly greedy. They snatched God's inheritance and were turned to desolation in an instant and became nothing. We ought to abandon the secular and only pray for spiritual inheritance to gain the land and save men which will never fall!

1. **Wealth is empty; grab God's promise and be bold to ask for inheritance**

Pray for inheritance (Jos 17:1-11) – Pursue the world (Na 2:1-7)

1.【Pray for inheritance boldly and is granted】1-6 The five daughters of Zelophehad, descendant of Manasseh boldly asked Moses for their inheritance by faith and were granted. They did not care for the environment or themselves. (Num 27:1-11, ch 36) Now they came in one heart before Joshua and asked for their inheritance among the brothers of their father as God promised. Due to faith, they were granted. Thus the daughters of the tribe of Manasseh received an inheritance among the sons and opened a new page in history.

※【Snatch away God's inheritance and is taken captive】1-7 Nineveh (the dwelling of the goddess) was evil. He seized God's inheritance and would be subjugated and captivated. An attacker would advance against him though he might guard his fortress and prepare for war and set all kinds of defense. He would finally be turned down. His palace collapsed and the queen was carried away. On one side was asking for inheritance courageously and thus granted. On the other side was doing evil wantonly and grabbing the people of God and thus taken captive. Therefore we ought to consider the world as rubbish and let the Lord and His will be our surpassing greatness!

2.【Gain more land】7-11 The descendants of Manasseh were given an extensive territory by God and there were towns belonging to Ephraim lying among the towns of Manasseh. Further, there were also many towns of Manasseh within the territory of Issachar and Asher. We ought to bear the mind of God to gain more land and save more souls just like Paul won as many souls as possible. (1 Co 9:19, 22)

※【Gain revival】2 After being exiled and destroyed, God promised His people to restore the splendor of Jacob so the wasted and ruined vines and the land would return to its glory. Everything is meaningless except God's promise of restoration. To take possession of the land and to save the souls never fail.

**B. Do not be greedy, save more people, destroy the remaining enemies completely by God**

Pray more for inheritance (Jos 17:12-18) – Wealth is empty (Na 2:8-13)

1.【Become a trap if we do not destroy completely】12-13 Though the descendants of Manasseh had a lot of inheritance, they could not drive out the Canaanites in their towns. The enemy insisted to live in that region just like our flesh and old self which were hard to control. If we do not deal with the old life thoroughly, they will finally become our trap. We ought to learn from Paul to beat the body and make it my slave. The life I live is no longer me but Christ lives in me. (Gal 2:20)

※【Turn to nothing in an instant】8-10 Since ancient times, Nineveh had been plundering gold and silver and gathering all treasures. But by the blink of a moment everything was pillaged and stripped. Their hearts melted and they escaped in terror. This teaches the people they ought to destroy all their inner enemies. Do not be a slave to money and die completely to all worldly treasures, lest we will be trapped in horror and turn to nothing.

2.【Pray more for inheritance and be granted】14-18 The descendants of Joseph were a numerous tribe. Thus the land was too small for them. So they came before Joshua and asked for more land (Isa 54:2-3) and they were granted the forested hill country. Joseph also encouraged them not to be afraid of the anti-God power. They would surely drive them out and gain the land by the power of God. (Ps 60:11-12)

※【Be violent and greedy will be burned up】11-13 The people of Nineveh were violent and covetous like a brutal lion conquering the nations. They devoured and tore. They were against God. Thus God was against them and burned up their chariots, turning them to a desolation. Therefore we need not be afraid of the power of the chariots of the enemies on the plateau. We can certainly drive them out. Do not covet anything on earth but we must open wide our mouth to save more people like the descendants of Joseph to satisfy God's heart.

**Isa 3 / Rev 21:12 Main theme: Do not be proud and glorify yourself but lead men to righteousness and be the wall and gate**

**-Glorify oneself / Be attentive**

The holy city has high and great wall with twelve gates. God's people ought to set apart to be holy, preach salvation extensively and lead men to righteousness.

(1)【The holy city on the earth does not have any walls or gates】1-12 They depended on material things, men's power and ability. They did not trust in the Almighty God. They attended to trifles to the neglect of essentials. They did not walk the Lord's path and oppressed one another. They considered crimes as glory and led men ran a wrong path. Thus they were ruined in disasters. Blessed are the righteous who do good.

(2)【God will judge and strip off】13-26 When the time comes God will judge and avenge and He will strip off all the spiritual ornaments on those who are arrogant in grace, glorify themselves with their gift, show off themselves, be an idols of others. Then they will be disgraced and fall down in desolation.

**Central point of the wheels: Destroy evil, pray for inheritance, save more people and enter the gate of salvation**

Dear Lord, may you make me not to pursue the world any more, to set apart to belong to you forever, grab to save the sinners and satisfy your heart!

**Jos 18 / Na 3**

**Main theme: Be wicked and disgraced; control over the enemies and gain the land quickly**

**-Be sent / Be punished (Gain the land / Ruined)**

Golden verses: Jos 18:3-4 Na 3:1

A discussion on being sent and be punished – on one side it concerned Joshua considered God's mind and expedited the remaining seven tribes to gain their land quickly without delay. On the other side it concerned Nahum the prophet was thoroughly discerned in the spirit. He announced that Nineveh was guilty of monstrous crimes and his ending would be overturned. This teaches us that the world is full of crimes and our ending is near. We ought to gain the land quickly and grab to save the souls to avoid being destroyed.

1. **Guilty of monstrous crimes; be sent to gain the land without delay**

Gain the land quickly (Jos 18:1-10) – Full of crimes (Na 3:1-7)

1.【Gain the land without delay】1-3 Joshua was already well advanced in age but he deeply bore the mind of God. He called to the people to go and take possession of the land God promised without delay. Open your eyes and look, the harvest is ripe and can be reaped! Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field! (Mt 9:37-38; Jn 4:35)

※【Woe, the ending has come】1-3 Woe to the city of blood and warlike with the glint and flash of swords. They were filled with deception, seizing and violence. Dead bodies were numerous. Their crimes were heinous and they would be punished. The result had come! Similarly, the time for the people to take their land had come without delay! We ought to consider God's love and rush to grab the dying souls. Those who will take possession of the land must first overcome the inner enemy by God and become holy, then they may save men from death to enter life.

2.【Write a description of the land】4-10 Joshua ordered each tribe to appoint three men to make a survey of the land, write a description of it and discern in the spirit, according to the inheritance of each. They were to record it in detail and make a report so he might divide the land before God.

※【Disclose the sinful act】4-7 Nineveh was like a harlot. She enslaved the nations by adultery and sorceries. God was against her so she would show her shame and detestable nature. Nineveh would become desolate with a tragic ending. All the representatives of the tribes drew a detail description and Nahum the prophet disclosed the shameful crime of Nineveh were the discernment of the spirit. They hated evil but loved God and men. They were able to reveal God's heart.

**B. Gain the land by God; go against God and be destroyed**

Gain the land (Jos 18:11-28) – Ruined (Na 3:8-19)

1.【Gain the land by God's right hand】11-20 Benjamin was God's son of the right hand. Their allotted territory lay between the tribes of Judah and Joseph. The little brother was guarded by the elder brothers and gained the inheritance by God. He was also loved by God and lived peacefully with God.

※【By man's strength and finally be captivated】8-10 Thebes depended on Egypt and Cush who were her boundless strength. The Put was also her ally. But they could not escape the fate of captivity. The result of Nineveh was the same. Benjamin gained the land by the right hand of God and His might and they would triumph. (Ps 44:3-4) Whenever Benjamin did not trust in the power of the right hand of God or did not dwell with God, he too did vicious ugly things like a ravenous wolf. (Gen 49:27) We ought to take this as a warning!

2.【A profound lesson】21-28 Though Benjamin was allotted with a lot of towns and villages, he lost the blessings of God as his descendants could not keep the inheritance. The people of Gibeah did a disgraceful thing. (Jdg 19:1-21) Since Jeroboam reigned, Bethel became a center of idol worship. (1 Ki 12:28-32) Their results are our warning.

※【A miserable ending】11-19 Due to the attack of the enemies, Nineveh sought his refuge. All his fortresses were like shaken fig trees and fell into the mouth of the enemies. Nineveh would be devoured by fire. Their merchants and leaders fled without a trace. Their result was tragic. They and the evil descendants of Benjamin are our warnings! Therefore we ought to come back to our senses and do not do evil again.

**Isa 4 / Rev 21:13 Main theme: Seek together for the root, cleansed by the Spirit and be sanctified and preach salvation extensively**

**-Pray zealously together / Preach the Word extensively**

The holy city is a square with three gates on the four sides. The holy people ought to consider the Lord's mind and preach the gospel towards the four sides and lead men to enter the gate of salvation. The Lord does not want anyone to perish.

(1)【Pray fervently with one heart】1 After all the battles, hardship and death, do not desire for smattering things. The seven churches plead in one accord to unite with the Lord. They pray to remove the shame of being barren. They pray to open a door for the message and may all the people turn to the Lord.

(2)【The Holy Spirit comes and the whole land is revived】2-6 Like the prayer in one accord in the upper room, the Holy Spirit comes down. There is the presence of God. No matter it is day time or at night, there is a canopy of God and no one can hinder the proclamation of the gospel.

**Central point of the wheels: Full of crimes, gain the land quickly, grab the root and save all the people**

Dear Lord, may your Holy Spirit cleanses and incinerate my heart so I may be sanctified to consider your mind and save men fervently!

**Jos 19 / Hab 1**

**Main theme: Raise up the enemy and punish the wicked, seek to turn from evil and gain the land greatly**

**-Gain the land / Lose the land (by faith / seek)**

Golden verses: Jos 9:49 Hab 1:5

A discussion on gaining the land and losing the land – on one side it concerned the Israelites obeyed God's will and had divided the land for the seven tribes as their inheritance. They all gained the land by faith. On the other side it concerned Habakkuk (embrace of love) the prophet confessed for his country. He sought God's will and understood God raised up the Babylonians for punishing the chosen people. But he rather fretted and did not understand why God allowed the enemy to forcibly occupy their land so they were captivated and suffered. After they had taken the lesson, they would value God's inheritance and return to gain the land. This teaches us to gain the land and seek by faith and not by what we see with our eyes.

1. **Do not fix your eyes on the environment, pray and seek, and gain the land by faith**

Gain the land (Jos 19:1-31) – Pray (Hab 1:1-10)

1.【Obey, take lesson and gain the land】1-9 Simeon (hear) once was with Levi killing violently. Jacob in his last prophecy said they would scatter in the land of Israel. (Gen 49:5-7) Thus the allotted land of Simeon was within the territory of Judah. His descendants ought to take this as their lesson without rebellion. Then they will be favored to gain the land.

※【Do not listen to the violent and those who commit evil】1-4 Habakkuk the prophet was fully embraced with love. He had an oracle from God and saw the people was full of violence, evil and strife. Thus the righteous were hemmed in. The prophet sighed and asked God why He saw them but did not care. The law was paralyzed and justice was perverted because people did not listen and take lesson. The descendants of Simeon listened and took the lesson. Thus they gained the land.

2.【Dwell with God and gain the land】10-31 The tribe of Zebulun (dwell together) had the third lot. Issachar (reward, wages) had the fourth lot. Asher (blessed) had the fifth lot. Therefore we have to obey God's will and gain the land by faith and dwell with God, then we will be blessed with reward.

※【Abandon God and lose the good land】5-10 God replied the prophet in an oracle. He would use the ruthless and impetuous people of Babylon to punish Judah. They would sweep across the whole earth and seize God's inheritance. On one side was the people of Judah turned from God and sinned without dwelling with God. Thus they were exiled and lost the good land. On the other side was Zebulun was blessed and gained the good land as he dwelled with God.

**B. Deny yourself and be faithful to your assignment will be rewarded; covet and violent will be punished**

Deny yourself (Jos 19:32-51) – Fatten yourself (Hab 1:11-17)

1.【Worship the idols and be cursed】32-48 The tribe of Naphtali took their lot and gained the land. They and the descendants of Zebulun were willing to sacrifice. They were willing to risk their life to die and contended with the enemy. They had a complete victory. (Jdg 4:1-5) The tribe of Dan (the judge) crossed their original boundary and killed and burned. They seized others inheritance and the whole tribe worshiped idols. They set a shrine and did detestable things (Deu 17:2-7) to provoke God to anger. Finally they were cursed and exiled tragically. (Gen 49:17; Jdg 18:27-31)

※【God appointed that the people be punished】12-14 The Lord is the Rock. He is from everlasting. The prophet believed God is righteous and will take care of the righteous. But he fretted why God did not care when He saw the violent men used violence as god and seized. God had ordained the enemy to punish the people of Judah. But the tribe of Dan followed the foreign nations to worship idols. So they were exiled. This showed God was righteous and zealous to the chosen people.

2.【Be faithful to the Lord's assignment and deny yourself completely】49-51 After Joshua had finished dividing the land. He was given the town of Timnah Serah. He built up the town and settled there. He truly was a faithful leader who denied himself and loved his people. He put others before himself.

※【Kill to fatten yourself】15-17 The army of Babylon caught God's people like a net. They sacrificed to their net and gave glory to power. The whole life of Joshua's work was by the Holy Spirit and God's promise. The prophet asked God why He tolerated the wicked. They always destroyed nations without mercy and enjoyed the choicest food.

**Isa 5 / Rev 21:14 Main theme: Woe for oneself, deny yourself to follow the Lord and your name will be on the foundation**

**-Indulge / Deny yourself**

Those apostles who deny themselves to follow the path of the Lamb are the foundation of the holy city. They will be remembered forever. How blessed! Woe to those who indulge in grace.

(1) 1-10【Buy a lot of houses and garden for oneself】

(2) 11-17【Pursue drinks and feasts day and night】

(3) 18-19【Those who drag sin along with cords of deceit have Achan in them】 (4) 20【Reverse good and bad, bright and dark, and bitter and sweet】

(5) 21【Be wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight】

(6) 22-30【Those who do not fear God, bold to drink, indulge in grace, accept bribery, call evil as righteous, and snatch the justice from the righteous will provoke God's anger. They abandon and belittle God's words. Thus God quickly gather the enemies to attack them. They indulge in grace and will come down to such a dark ending.】

**Central point of the wheels: Deny yourself to obey the Word and gain the land by faith; be wayward will be punished.**

Dear Lord, may you let me understand your will deeply, to confess and intercede for my nation, to remove all evil completely and inherit the everlasting inheritance!

**Jos 20 / Hab 2**

**Main theme: Enter into the Lord, listen to the judgment, discern the enemies' plot and save all people**

**-City of refuge / Revival**

Golden verses: Jos 20:4, 6 Hab 2:3

A discussion on the city of refuge and revival – on one side it concerned God ordered the Israelites to set up the city of refuge so all those who killed unintentionally could go in to avoid being killed innocently. On the other side it concerned Habakkuk stood at his watch and had the revelation that the Chaldeans greatly sinned and would be disastrous. He also prophesied that in the final days revival would come to all the land. God is our refuge. We ought to escape to Him and be guarded. We also need to stand at the watch and to discern and plead thoroughly in the spirit.

1. **Enter the city of refuge, stand at the watch and gain life by faith**

Escape to (Jos 20:1-4) – Seek (Hab 2:1-9)

1.【Enter the city of refuge】1-3 After the Israelites had entered the land of Canaan, God ordered them to designate the cities of refuge so those who killed unintentionally might flee there lest they would be killed. This shows God's great love. The Lord is our refuge. We may enjoy peace without disasters in the Lord. (Jn 16:33) Just like David, he escaped to the cave of Adullam when he was pursued by Saul. He himself was protected and others were also blessed due to him. (1 Sam 22:1-2)

※【Stand at the watch】1-3 Habakkuk stood at his watch and waited for God's revelation. He came to know the revelation awaited an appointed time. Though it lingered, it would speak of the end. The workers ought to enter the city of refuge. Not only they themselves are protected, they have to stand on the watchtower to pray and seek to understand God's will, to proclaim God's revelation and accomplish His work. (Isa 21:8)

2.【Preserve life】3-4 Though those who killed accidentally and did not have the intention to kill, they had shed the blood. (Deu 19:4-6) Then they had to escape to the city of refuge to be protected to avoid being killed and die innocently. The Lord has prepared the salvation like a city of refuge. Those who killed unintentionally entered the refuge had to pour out their evil and would be forgiven by faith and grace.

※【Disastrous due to sin】4-9 Woe, the Babylonians were deceptive and puffed up. They were greedy and never satisfied. They captured all the nations and God would avenge so they would be captivated. The wicked would be in disasters but the righteous would live by his faith. Woe to the wicked who were proud and wanton. They were self-deceiving. They set their nest on high to escape the clutches of ruin. Those who killed accidentally and confessed their unintentional killing would also live by their faith. They were blessed without disasters.

**B. Listen humbly to the judgment, confess and turn from evil and revival will come**

Listen to the judgment (Jos 20:5-9) – Be silent (Hab 2:10-20)

1.【Listen humbly to the judgment】5-6 When the one who killed unintentionally entered the city of refuge, he had to stand before the assembly to stand the trial humbly. The Lord's words are the righteous judgment. He had to take lesson in trembling, consecrate his inner being, understand himself had killed unintentionally and be contrite. Then he would be favored.

※【Self-deceiving and harm oneself】10-11The Babylonians plotted the ruin of many peoples. As a result they were disgraced and harmed themselves. The stones of the wall had witnessed their sin. Even the unintentional killer had to confess their sin, let alone the Babylonians who plotted to kill. They were not humble and did not take lesson. They were self-deceiving and harmed themselves. They would receive severe judgment. As elders, they had to bear the mind of God to rescue them from death. Further they had to lead men to take lesson and hear the judgment of God.

2.【Die thoroughly and come out】6 When the one who killed unintentionally entered the city of refuge, he had to stay until the death of the high priest who was serving at that time. Then he might be released. The Lord is our Chief Priest. We experience to die with the Lord and to live with the Lord in the city of refuge. Our life is changed and the old self dies completely and become a new creation. Then we may come out to where we have fled.

※【Revive all the land】14 The prophet prophesied that when Babylon was punished, all the earth would have the knowledge of God. Glory be to God! The Holy Spirit comes to revive the land as the waters cover the sea. Those who killed unintentionally would retreat thoroughly and die completely in the city of refuge. They would bring the resurrected life and gain the Holy Spirit. The living water would flow in them and lead men to know God. Just like Paul, he retreated to the desert of Arabia. For three years God revealed to him so he deeply knew the mystery of the gospel. He died completely and came out to become an angel of the gospel and an apostle to the Gentiles.

3.【Set up the city of refuge】7-9 The Israelites obeyed God's order to designate three cities of refuge each in east and west of Jordan so those who killed unintentionally might escape there to be guarded without defiling the good land God has given. This shows how great was God's love on the Israelites. God will dwell among them. (Num 35:33-34)

※【Build the city with man's blood】12-20 Woe to the Babylonians who built their city with bloodshed. They would be burned. They captivated the nations and forced them to drink. They took shame as joy. They prostrated and worshiped the idols. God's wrath would come to them. When all the people on earth see the righteous judgment of God, they will be filled with deep veneration! On one side was to build the cities of refuge to avoid innocent blood defiling the good land. On the other side was to build a city with bloodshed shedding innocent blood. God will not tolerate any nature of killing of the devil.

**Isa 6 / Rev 21:15 Main theme: Measure by the holy word, be contrite and cleansed to be sent fit for use**

**-Need to measure / Be cut down**

Everything in the holy city must be according to the measurement and be measured by the rod of gold which is the holy word of God as the standard. (Isa 8:20)

(1)【Humble to seek and fit for the Lord's use】1-8 The prophet sought and found. He was humble and contrite. He saw himself unclean and incomplete but was immediately forgiven. He was cleansed by the spiritual fire. He was sent out by God and fit for His use. We ought to seek the Lord without stopping and press on toward the goal. We should not be like Uzziah and Solomon who stopped seeking after they were greatly favored. Then they turned to evil.

(2)【The calloused heart will be cut down】9-13 If we love something other than God, then we will not be able to listen or understand God's words. Anyone not according to the measurement of the holy words will be cut down, until one becomes the most desolate like a stump. But if one is willing to turn back to God, one will be healed and be favored again.

**Central point of the wheels: Escape to the Lord, be cleansed and sent, and see the revival**

Dear Lord, may you let me escape into you to hide from the flood of sin, be sent by you and lead men to enter the holy city!

**Jos 21 / Hab 3**

**Main theme: Grab the promise, sing at night and gain all the promise land**

**-Pray for the promise / Pray for revival**

Golden verses: Jos 21:45 Hab 3:17-18

A discussion on praying for the promise and for revival – on one side it concerned the Levite tribal leaders grabbed God's promise and came to ask for the towns to dwell. Thus the various tribes gave the Levites 48 towns to them according to God's promise. (Lev 25:33-34) On the other side it concerned Habakkuk the prophet grabbed God's promise for revival. While waiting he sang at night by faith. We too should not believe by what we see with our eyes but by faith. May God make His deeds known in our time.

1. **By faith pray for the promise and for revival**

Promise (Jos 21:1-40) – Faith (Hab 3:1-15)

1.【Pray for the promise】1-3 The family heads of the Levites approached Eleazar the priest and Joshua for the promise of the towns to live which Moses affirmed. They were the forty eight Levite towns. As the Levites did not have any inheritance in Israel, God was their inheritance. The forty eight towns were given to the Levites to live in as their everlasting inheritance.

※【Pray for revival】1-2 Habakkuk stood in awe. He prayed God to renew them in their day and in their time make them known; in wrath remember mercy! The heads of the Levites and Habakkuk the prophet prayed by faith and their request pleased God. The whole land must be renewed and God's workers must all the more be renewed!

2.【Obey and accomplish God's will】4-40 Thus the Israelites did according to God's order and each tribe gave out some towns from their inheritance totaling forty eight towns. They gave to the three tribes of Levi and the descendants of Aaron. They were willing to obey God's will so the Levites lived in the Levite towns and enjoyed God's abundance. They had quiet fellowship with God. They served wholeheartedly and took God as their inheritance.

※【Everything listen to God's command】3-7 The prophet praised the deed of God was majestic and awesome. Heaven and earth are filled with the glory and praise of God. Everything would listen and work for the good of God so the chosen people might experience the Red Sea broke open and the sun and the moon stood still. God contended for them and delivered them from the enemies. The various tribes all obeyed to give the towns to the Levites to settle to accomplish God's will. The three tribes of Levi had to unite with God to be obedient completely and stand at their position. They submitted to God's power and were able to enjoy God's inheritance.

3.【God's faithfulness】41-42 The three tribes of Levites gained the forty eight towns and the surrounding pasturelands inclusive of the six cities of refuge ready for those who killed unintentionally. How faithful is God promise! It will happen just as He has told so as to let the Levites delight in God. They had no desire apart from the Lord and they were completely won by God because God sees the worker himself more important than all his work.

※【God's power】8-15 The Almighty God rode with His horses on His victorious chariots (Ps 45:1-3) and was angry with the rivers. Whatever He swore to all the tribes was trustworthy. Similarly, the Levites gained the forty eight Levite towns also displayed God's will could not be rejected. His promise is forever trustworthy.

**B. Wait joyfully and believe in God's promise will never fail**

Fulfill (Jos 21:41-45) – Wait (Hab 3:16-19)

1.【God's promise will be fulfilled】43-45 The Israelites were able to live on the promised good land of God with rest on every side. Not one of their enemies withstood them. This showed not one of all the Lord's good promises to the house of Israel failed and every one was fulfilled.

※【Wait by faith and sing】16-19 The prophet heard of the former deeds of God. He thought of the calamities that were to come upon Judah and became afraid and trembling. But he still waited by faith and sang in the night. Though everything before his eyes was withered and a desolate scene, he still rejoiced in the Lord. He firmly believed God's promise would be fulfilled just as He promised the people to gain the land of Canaan which would never fail. Those who hope in Him will not be disappointed. (Isa 49:23) As he firmly believed in God's promise, thus he was able to run fast and go on the heights without falling. The prophet's prayer turned to a praise and brought faith, hope and revival to the people in the dark!

**Isa 7 / Rev 21:16 Main theme: Abandon evil and choose good, believe firmly and obey the Word, and the grace overflows in the holy city**

**-Measure the city / Stand firm**

The holy city will be measured by the holy words of God. He who has gone through trials and firmly keeps the Lord's words will make the people from the four directions be favored because of him.

(1)【Abandon evil and choose good and be firm in his belief】1-17 No matter what, if we come before the Lord to reject the wrong and choose the right and to stand firm in the truth, God will be with us. There is nothing too hard for Him. He could make a virgin give birth and turn nothing to something. He could let the dead arise. If we do not believe but to trust on men, we will encounter disasters.

(2)【Abundant in grace and full of briers】18-25 If we take the lesson in hardship and are willing to turn back and exalt God as holy, we will be favored with abundance. We will also let people from all direction be favored because of Him. But if we are determined to be rebellious like Ahaz, we will be full of briers and thorns. We harm ourselves and others.

**Central point of the wheels: Listen and believe, abandon evil and choose good, pray for promise and revival**

Dear Lord, may your holy words measure me, so I will be humble to take lesson, to grab the promise and sing at night by faith and pray for revival among the land!

**Jos 22 / Zep 1**

**Main theme: Not by man's idea, seek God's will and attack the remaining evil**

**- Man's idea / God's will (flesh / discernment)**

Golden verses: Jos 22:34 Zep 1:7

A discussion on man's idea and God's will – on one side it concerned the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half tribe of Manasseh built an imposing 'Witness Between Us' in Canaan before they crossed the river by their own idea. Joshua and the leaders did not seek God's will and contended by flesh. Later on they heard their explanation and were pleased. On the other side it concerned Zephaniah (a man that God hides) the prophet was discerned in the spirit and preached God's will. He prophesied that the great day of God's anger would come to remove the heaps of rubble. This teaches us we ought to hide deeply in the Lord and take God's Word which is His law and testimony to lead our whole life to build it up (Isa 8:20, Ac 20:32), so we may judge not by what we see or hear but according to God's will like Zephaniah the prophet.

1. **Be careful to obey the Word, remove all evil and seek God's will**

Be careful (Jos 22:1-12) – Seek (Zep 1:1-6)

1.【Be earnest to be careful to obey the Word】1-9 The two and a half tribes had obeyed to help their brothers to contend and take the land. Now they could return to their inheritance. Joshua earnestly told them to be very careful to obey the Word and love God as well as to serve Him with their heart and their soul. Then he blessed them and send them away. Unfortunately Joshua did not urge them to be careful in trembling and not to serve by men's desire.

※【First remove the heaps of rubble】1-3 Zephaniah the prophet obeyed to prophesy. He declared that Judah had sinned and judgment would come. God would sweep away everything. Everything was destroyed due to men sinned. The house of Judah and the two and a half tribes had to remove all the stumbling blocks inside that caused them to fall. Then they might be able to be careful to obey the Word to avoid the disasters and be blessed. (Mt 5:21-30) Therefore we must be extremely careful to obey the Word and deal with ourselves lest we become a stumbling block to ourselves and others. Then we will be in trouble. (Mt 18:6-9)

2.【By our own idea build another Witness】10-12 The two and a half tribes had just arrived at the Jordan and swerved from God's Word. They built an imposing altar by themselves which God did not tell them. The ministry of the Tent of Meeting had only one altar. How could we build an altar outside an altar? Once the Israelites heard the two and a half tribes built another altar, they immediately gathered in Shiloh to go to war against them.

※【Turn away and do not seek God】4-6 The people of Judah and Jerusalem swore by the Lord. But they also swore by false gods. Thus God's hands would attack them and cut off every remnant of Baal and the idol priests and those on the roofs who worshiped the starry host. They turned away and did not seek God, just like the two and a half tribes who turned to his own way doing wantonly. Therefore we ought to continue to seek lest we may do wrong things. Let us imitate David who dwelled in the house of the Lord all the days of his life to seek God's face.

**B. Discern in the spirit, take lesson and be contrite and no longer be self-deceiving**

Discern (Jos 22:13-24) – Search (Zep 1:7-18)

1.【Contend by the flesh】13-16 The Israelites sent Phinehas the priest and the chief men of each tribe to go. They went there by the flesh, full of anger to contend with the two and a half tribes. They severely rebuked them why they broke faith with God and built themselves an altar in rebellion against Him. How could they tolerate them to rebel against God?

※【Be silent before God】7-11 We ought to be silent before the Sovereign Lord and seek Him earnestly for the day of the Lord is near! God would punish the evil princes and the king's sons. They were deceptive and covetous. They were violent and seizing. The merchants and the people would wail. We ought to be silent and seek before God like Zephaniah who declared in the spirit of God's judgment. How can we go by the flesh and contend with the two and a half tribes?

2.【Randomly judge】16-29 The leaders of Israel did not discern in the spirit and judged freely on the two and a half tribes. They rebuked them for building an altar for themselves and committed the sin of Peor and Achan. They ought to fear God's wrath. But the two and a half tribes did not submit after hearing the accusation. They confidently refuted. They were not for sacrifice. On the contrary, it was to be a witness for their descendants. Far be it from them to turn away from God.

※【The Lord's word searches】12-13 God would search all the dregs in Jerusalem with lamps. Commands are a lamp and teaching is a light. (Pro 6:23) The princes of Israel ought to use the Lord's words to judge the right from wrong. The people of Judah were sinful and self-deceiving. They thought the Lord would do nothing, either good or bad. Their wealth would be plundered and their houses demolished. The two and a half tribes built another altar by their own desire for their descendants. This was also self-deceiving and useless. Therefore we must retreat deeply before the Lord, not only we pray that God will search our sins and even the judgment and work of our own desire.

3.【Unable to discern】30-34 Phinehas only had the jealousy but he was not discerned in the spirit. After he heard that he reacted lightly and was pleased with their reply. He returned and reported to the assembly and the Israelites were also pleased. How would God consider this as pleasing to build another altar by men's desire and men's work.

※【Discern in the spirit】14-18 Zephaniah was a prophet hidden by God. He had the insight in the spirit and he was able to discern the future and

proclaim the prophecy. While Phinehas did not retreat before the Lord and he did by the flesh. He did not inquire of God and was not able to discern and thought it was pleasing. The day of the Lord was near. God's wrath was like fire and would consume the whole world. Their silver and gold and the fortified cities would not be able to save them. The two and a half tribes replaced God's will with men's desire. They built an imposing altar and still could not save them from the final fate of captivity. (1 Ch 5:25-26)

**Isa 8 / Rev 21:17 Main theme: The Lord's word is the standard, exalt God as holy, apart from the Lord is darkness**

**- The Lord's words / Measure the wall**

The wall of the holy city must be measured by the standard that had been built (Am 7:7) and according to the holy word as measurement.

(1)【Ought to be solemn at God's words】1-8 God's words are clearly seen. They are recorded by faithful witnesses and the signs of the prophets. When the time comes, they will be fulfilled. Thus we ought to take this seriously lest we may regret but finds it too late. We ought to bear God's great love. He desires that everyone listens and come under His wings to avoid the suffering.

(2)【Ought to exalt God as holy】9-15 Do not be afraid that the nations will go against God like the overflowing of the flood. We ought to exalt the Lord's words as holy. The Almighty God will deliver us wonderfully. But those who do not obey will stumble and fall.

(3)【Ought to take the Lord's words as standard】16-22 Those who are afflicted do not turn to God but consult the mediums and spiritists. Then they will come to the depth of darkness and fearful gloom. Only those who return to obey the Lord's words will be established and have a share in the holy city.

**Central point of the wheels: Abandon evil, take the Lord's words as standard and exalt God as King**

Dear Lord, may you remove the heaps of rubbles in my heart, to live in the light of your face, be discerned in the spirit, obey your will firmly and enjoy the peace within you!

**Jos 23 / Zep 2**

**Main theme: Be extremely careful to obey the Lord's words completely to avoid disasters and be blessed**

**-Be careful / Seek**

Golden verses: Jos 23:7-8 Zep 2:3

A discussion on being careful and seeking – on one side it concerned when Joshua was old and well advanced in years, he gathered all the leaders and exhorted them to be careful to obey the Word without swerving to the left or right lest they might turn a little to follow other gods and be destroyed. On the other side it concerned Zephaniah the prophet called the sinful people to seek humility and righteousness to become the returned remnants, so they might overcome the enemies and gain the land to extend their boundary. The surrounding nations would be punished and God would exhibit His awesome majesty.

1. **Obey the Word without swerving, be just and humble, hide and seek**

Do not swerve (Jos 23:1-7) – Seek (Zep 2:1-7)

1.【The final exhortation】1-5 Though Joshua was old and well advanced in years, he still bore the mind of God at his deathbed. He gathered the officials and leaders and exhorted them that God's promises were faithful. They would certainly gain the allotted land for their inheritance. God would contend for them and drive out the enemies to gain their land.

※【The calling of the prophet】1-5 The prophet cried out to the shameful nation to gather and seek God's righteousness, command and humility. Perhaps they would be sheltered when God was angered. In order for the people to gain the land, they had to seek righteousness and humility and to obey the Word. Then they might live long and be blessed on the good land without destruction. The prophet simultaneously declared God's punishment on Philistia. They were arrogant and against God. They did not pursue righteousness and humility. They would be uprooted.

2.【Obey the Word without swerving】6-7 Joshua encouraged the people to be very strong and be careful to obey without turning aside to the right or to the left. Further they should not associate with those nations that remained among them. They could not invoke the names of their gods, or to serve them or bow down to them. (four 'no's)

※【Return and overcome the enemies】6-7 The remnants of Judah were refined to set apart to be holy. They would no longer serve the idols but were careful to keep the Lord's Word without swerving. Then they would be cared by God and return to gain the land of the Philistines. Philistia would be desolate and deserted. The land by the sea would be a desolation with no one to live.

**B. Be extremely careful to obey the Word and overcome, and then God will punish the enemies**

Be careful (Jos 23:8-16) – Arrogant (Zep 2:8-15)

1.【Hold fast to God】8-10 Again Joshua enjoined them to hold fast to God without fear. God had already drove out the great and powerful nations. No one was able to withstand them. God promised to fight for them. One of them would rout a thousand.

※【Attack God】8-10 Moab and Ammon were proud. They taunted the people of the Almighty God. He also heard them made threats against their lands. God swore 'as surely as I live', they would be punished. God's people held fast to Him, so they would return to take the enemies' land. God would fight for them just as He fought for the people in those years.

2.【Be careful not to swerve even a little】11-13 Joshua also encouraged the people to be very careful to love God and obey His Word. But if they turned away and intermarried with those surviving nations, then they would become their snares and traps until the people perish from the good land. (Deu 7:1-4)

※【All people will submit】11-12 God would be awesome to Moab, Ammon and the Cushites when He destroyed all the gods of the land. The nations on every shore would worship Him. We ought to be very careful and to set apart to be holy completely, then we may see all nations return to worship the only true God.

3.【A solemn warning】14-16 Finally Joshua solemnly warned the people. Not one of all the good promises of God had failed. They would be blessed only if they obey the Word. If they broke the covenant and served other gods, God's anger would burn against them so they would quickly perish from the good land.

※【The ending of going against God】13-15 Cush and Assyria had been complacent. They were proud and against God. They oppressed God's people and He would stretch out His hand against them so they would become desolate and be punished. Their place would turn to be a resting place for the wild animals. God's people ought to be more trembling to take the lesson. They ought to be humble to keep the covenant and keep the Word till the end. Then they will see God avenge on the enemies.

**Isa 9 / Rev 21:18 Main theme: Consecrate in distress, return to the Lord and become jasper and pure gold**

-**Be refined painfully / Pure gold**

The Lord is the light of the Gentiles. We ought to abandon the dark and come to the light and become the glorious holy city. (This prophecy was fulfilled on Jesus. (Mt 4:12-16))

(1)【Consecrate, return to the Lord and be greatly favored】1-7 We ought to learn from Joseph to humble and consecrate in hardship. He saw the great light and was released from prison. All nations gained life because of him. God gave him abundant joy. The Almighty God reigned in him. God was with him and his peace and joy increased without end.

(2)【Unwilling to return to God will encounter severe punishment】8-21 Our ending is self destruction if we are proud and arrogant. The more bitter the more wanton, and we seek our own way out. Or if we do not bear the great love of the Lord's discipline that is all for our good. Or if we blame God and men or even blaspheme God. All believers ought to make every effort to enter perfection to become flawless jasper, refined pure gold and the glorious holy city to glorify God and benefit men.

**Central point of the wheels: Be careful to obey the Word, be just and humble and show the Lord's glorious light**

Dear Lord, may you make me be careful to obey the Word, be just and humble, be refined and hide by you and show your glorious light!

**Jos 24 / Zep 3**

**Main theme: Remove evil and obey the Word, be humble and faithful to serve the Lord, and revive in rejoice**

**-Serve the Lord / Revive**

Golden verses: Jos 24:14-15 Zep 3:17

A discussion on serving the Lord and revival – on one side it concerned Joshua exhorted the people at his deathbed. They ought not to forget God's grace but to remove other gods and serve Him sincerely. Then God would send His blessings. On the other side was Zephaniah solemnly rebuked of the woe to the rebellious and sinful leaders and people. When they were refined and returned, they would revive in rejoice and serve God forever.

1. **Remove evil and take lesson, destroy the enemies, gain the land and do not forget God's grace**

Honor God (Jos 24:1-13) – Serve God (Zep 3:1-8)

1.【Count the grace of God】1-13 Finally Joshua summoned the whole assembly and all the leaders before God. He recollected the grace of God's selection on their predecessors. He used His mighty hands to lead them out of Egypt, crossed the sea and destroyed the nations so they were able to enjoy the good land God had given them. Recollecting God's grace, it was uncountable.

※【Let down the grace of God】1-5 Zephaniah sighed Jerusalem became a rebellious, defiled and oppressive city. Woe to them because they were ungrateful and did evil without listening to God's orders and not drawing near to God. At his deathbed Joshua earnestly and tirelessly taught the people to count God's grace. But these leaders were like lions and wolves. They were covetous and roaring. The prophets and the priests were treacherous and sinful. They did violence to the law. Morning by morning God dispensed His justice but they knew no shame. They did not take any lesson and let down the grace of God.

2.【The enemy's curse turns to blessings】9-13 The king of Moab sent Balaam to curse God's people. But God blessed again and again. He saved the people from the curse of the enemy. After they had crossed the river, the people were faced with the various enemies of Canaan. It was God who brought their enemies into their hands, not by their sword or bow. It was by the power of the Lord. Further, He also made them enjoyed the abundance of the good land at no cost.

※【Do not take lesson and be cursed】6-8 God set His judgment on the nations so the cities were destroyed and the streets were deserted. This was to warn His people to fear God to accept His correction without destruction. But they did not take the warning. They were not sincere to serve God for their hearts had other gods. They were eager to act corruptly. Thus they invited curses and were not able to gain God's blessing.

**B. Throw away other gods, refine and return, and make a covenant to serve the Lord**

Make a covenant (Jos 24:14-33) – Be loved (Zep 3:9-20)

1.【Throw away other gods and serve the Lord sincerely】14-24 Joshua exhorted the people to fear God, serve Him sincerely and remove all other gods. He firmly pointed out, 'as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord'. He became the example for all the people. He pinpointed to the people's reply that if they wanted to serve God, they had to remove others because God is a holy God, a jealous God. If they forsook God, He would turn and bring disaster on them and make an end of them, after He had been good to them. The people replied, "No! We will serve the Lord."

※【Serve God shoulder to shoulder】9 The prophet prophesied the restored people would serve God in one accord with purified lips. They had to remove all evil and bring in their offering. Their hearts would be thankful to offer a sacrifice of praise. (Heb 13:15) God is a holy and jealous God. He would remove those who rejoice in their pride. But He would leave the meek and humble, and who trusted in the name of the Lord to enjoy the abundance and peace. Joshua led the people to pursue holiness and a whole heart to serve God. Thus they would also enjoy the peace and blessings.

2.【Abandon other gods and turn to God wholeheartedly】25-28 On that day Joshua brought the people to remove all foreign gods to yield their hearts to their God. He made a covenant with the people. He recorded the decrees and laws in the Book of the Law and set a stone to witness this. More important he led men to write God's words in the heart, forever to fear God and to love God.

※【Cast off evil and rejoice for God reigns】10-17 The restored people turned from evil and all other gods. They would shout for God reigned. God would remove their punishment without fear. God would save them and quiet them with His love. God's laws were written in their hearts. They would unite with God and forever be a people of the covenant.

3.【Be faithful to accomplish the assignment】29-33 For all his life Joshua had accomplished the work God entrusted him. Then he enjoyed his eternal rest. The Israelites buried the bones of Joseph at Shechem. The beautiful footsteps of God's servant were proclaimed for generations. Regrettably was the Israelites forsook God not long after Joshua passed away. They did not exalt God as the King and fell into a confusing age of the judges.

※【Be given praise and honor】18-20 God would gather those who belonged to Him. He would deal with all who oppressed them. They would no longer be reproached because God let them be praised and honored for keeping the Word. (Deu 26:17-19) Joshua was faithful to God's assignment all his life. Thus he was forever praised and be remembered.

**Isa 10 / Rev 21:19 Main theme: Be disciplined to remove unrighteousness, refined and become the precious stones and the foundations**

**-Refine / Precious stones**

(1)【God raises disasters to remove the unrighteousness】1-4 Due to unrighteousness and oppression, God would reckon His disasters and punishment on His people.

(2)【When the time comes God will punish the enemies】5-19 God used Assyria, His enemy to be a rod of correction for His people. But he was arrogant and haughty. Thus in a moment God would burn him down.

(3)【The remnants will return to God】20-34 Many would be eliminated because they became more wanton in times of hardship. Only those who are humble to trust in God and pour out their evil to remove all unrighteousness, they need not be afraid. The Almighty God will deliver the remnants to become a precious stone and foundation.

**Central point of the wheels: Through painful refinement and be revived to serve the Lord forever**

Dear Lord, may you let me understand your love of discipline deeply, be refined by you, to love you wholeheartedly and serve you forever!