

## Great Increase in Times of Distress

### Key to Greatness in the Sight of God

Key to do Great **Exploits** in midst of Distress

Last week – back in time - **Adulam**  
– darkest hr – but was the beginning – great breakthrough - **400** – debt, distress, discontented – came – transformed – key?  
William Carey – worst time – printing plant burnt down – but turning point  
In 3 months – able to complete a better translation

Finances poured in as never before  
Gimpse – Psa 34  
At all times I will bless Him  
His praise will be in my mouth  
My soul makes its boast in the Lord  
The humble man will hear of Him  
The afflicted will be glad  
And join with me to magnify the Lord  
400 were **observing** **Chee kwai**  
– how come – no grumbling – abnormal – when he did best, king did the worst  
Let us exalt His Name Together forever,  
I sought the Lord - He heard me  
And delivered me - From my fears  
...O sing His praises - Magnify the Lord  
Praise – usher - **Presence of the Lord** - empowers us to **step out** of our distress  
Vision – dreams - faith - hope  
**2 Sam 23:8-21**

8 These are the names of David's mighty men: Josheb-Basshebeth, was chief of the Three; he raised his spear against eight hundred men, whom he killed in one encounter.

**8> 1 spear – killed 800 – one single battle**

20 Benaiah was a valiant fighter from Kabzeel, who performed great exploits. He struck down two of Moab's best men. He also went down into a pit on a snowy day and killed a lion.

**20> Pit – snowy day – killed a lion**  
**Man 2 legs – disadv – joker 4 legs**

21 And he struck down a huge Egyptian. Although the Egyptian had a spear in his

hand, Benaiah went against him with a club. He snatched the spear from the Egyptian's hand and killed him with his own spear.

**21> Stuck a giant Egyptian with his own spear**

Notice the **exploits** very similar to one person

Who? - David – how become

Had been in the **PRESENCE** David – the Giant killer – **mix right – everything rises**

Impt – mix w right peo  
Everything rises and falls upon the **LEADERSHIP**

**400 men – recorded of their great achievement - HS**

Holy Spirit recorded down for us  
**Hebrews 6:10**

10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

God **records** down – what you do  
**Some recorded – some not?**

**What make us great in His eyes**

### THE 400 ARE LISTED AS GREAT BECAUSE THEY SEE THE HEART OF DAVID

**Amazing – conspicuously absent – great general – Joab**

Not mentioned – even Uriah – the Hitite – Joab's sons

Why? **Position / great exploits** – fought and won many battles – including Jeru

– does **not** have the **heart** of David- **distracted** by many things

Did things **independently** – eg revenge - killed Abner – Amaza

### 1. Distracted with busy activities but not what really matters

Mary – **Martha**

Luke 10:40-42

40 But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made.

She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

41 "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, 42 but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Martha was busy so many activities – doing a long of things – didn't do the one thing

**Martha – distracted - didn't see the heart of Jesus**

Lot's of **activities** – do doing what Christ wants – **BEST**

### How we can be distracted with lots of activities and not doing what Christ wants us to do?

**Wife – work very hard – cook great meal – but don't know husband's heart**

– husband didn't seem to appreciate – disappointed - May well be – what he need – good rest – good time with you

**Notice – even VYS – Sat afternoon 4 Time with parents Sat and Sun**

Parents if your kids out – say ch – bluffing  
**Of course – occasional Ev meeting – wedding dinners, etc**

**Don't just go with friends – dinners here and there – neglect children**

We want them focus on the family – only 20-30 years – treasures them

**Even young couples – need time together alone**

Parents – nice – **holidays** – few families – end – **prob:**

Dad talk dad, mum and mum, kids and kids  
**No time to time enjoy kids**

Ps 127:3

3 Behold, children are a **heritage** from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a **reward**. 5 **Happy** is the man who has his quiver full of them; ... NKJV

**Kids are gifts - to be enjoyed - Never meant to be a burden – prayed play**

Aiya – nowadays – very hard raise kids – why? – treat home – **boot** camp – father drill sergeant

**DRIVE** them – tuition, piano

Family that **prays** together – stays together – play

Have you played marble – oh mahjong  
**FUN – LEARN**

Real winner – not one that won – one that enjoys the process

**FUN – kids will come BACK**

If – **DOMINATING** like Sarai – see you – run

Hey – woman – divorce

**Kwaa chee**

### 1. Distracted with focusing on the wrong people

Proverbs 12:26

26 A righteous man is **CAUTIOUS** in friendship, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

1 Corinthians 5:9-11

9 I have written you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people- 10 not at all meaning the people of this world ...

11 But now I am writing you that you must not associate with anyone **who calls himself a brother** but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler. With such a man do not even **eat**.

Not just believers – unbelieving believers

Oh – but got to give **face** – respect

Ask: how many – give respect – **robber**

A person – pour negative – no respect for you – treat you like rubbish bin – smell – rob

### How does eating rob us of God's blessings?

**Eating w lady – non stop bad mouthing lots of people.**

Found unconsciously agreeing with her – later Holy Spirit rebuked – when eating – often unguarded

**Dinner – a man keep talking negative – after a while – he looked at an elderly pastor**

– 90 – strong health – what is the secret of your long healthy life – talk less –

**Psalms 34:11-13**

11 Come, my children, listen to me;

I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

12 Whoever of you loves life

and desires to see many good days,

13 keep your tongue from evil  
and your lips from speaking lies.

Prov 13:20

20 He who walks with **WISE** men will be **WISE**, But the companion of fools will be **destroyed**. NKJV

1 Kings 3:16-27

Sol's son **Rehoboam** listen to the wrong people - lost his kingdom

Opportunity for Jeroboam to instigate a rebellion

Pas – I **THOT** we suppose to **forgive**:

To be **sure** - unforgiveness is the most **DESTRUCTIVE** force in your life – esp bitter **vengeful** spirit – **Joab**

Destructive – esp when **REVENGEFUL** – **Joab**

– didn't catch heart of David – kill – bitter hatred against Abner that killed his bro

**Bitterness** – allow peo that hurt us – to **CONTINUE** to hurt and destroy us

Whatever we **BIND** – bound – loosed – loosed in heaven

Matthew 18:18

18 "I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

I hate my dad – you will become the same drunken man you hate

Forgiveness does not imply we are FORCED to ...

forget,

trust,

or to entrust. Why?

One reason can't forgive: wrong idea – I can't forgive – I can't **forget** **WHO** ask you to forget; God **only** says forgive

**D added** – keep us from releasing ourselves

When you forgive

– you **may** forget – may still **remember** the past - wont **hurt** – **REVENGEFUL** – that destroys

When you forgive - not mean you **obligated to trust**

**Kids** - very good at this – you don't trust me ah

Say: I love you – it is **YOU** that have broken trust – but I will give you oppor to earn back trust – accountability

Trust is earned not borned

When you forgive - not mean you **entrust**

**Rapist** – back to house; **accountant** that cheated you – bring back to company -

**'Generous'** but **jeopardize** the lives of others - missionaries affected

Why is "sentimental kindness" so destructive?

What was the cause of Absalom's rebellion – Joab! Sentimental kindness.

David had sent Absalom on exile. Being a shepherd – he knew his sheep and child – what kind of person Absalom is Joab – out of good heart (sentimental kindness) – stir David to bring Absalom back

As the result Joab gave Absalom the opportunity to instigate a major rebellion Eventually – Joab had Absalom killed – against the heart of David

Fact – Absalom need not had been killed if not for the sentimental kindness of Joab

**Don't take risk with lives – esp when it comes to leadership**

**Same** with marrying a non believers – gamble bad enough – life can't afford to gamble

When we eat with them as a leader, we are endorsing those who had caused rebellion and the young may trust them – becous of you

Why was **Judas** hanged and Peter **RESTORED**

**Judas** does not have a heart for Jesus: slander, insult Jesus' character – despise him as not worthy of the best The perfume should have been given to the poor

**Peter** a heart for Jesus – tho – only using his own strength

Wrong understanding of grace and love – tough love

Interesting – **first** thing – when peter was restored, Jesus entrusted - Feed **my** lamb – why?

John 21:15

15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

**Priority** to lamb – young sheep – **new** **peo**

Not necessary young people but new people instead of those that had been causing troubles – move on with the new **Jesus'** sheep – he may entrust to them local ch pastors as shepherds

1 Corinthians 4:15

15 Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.

**Context:** chap 1 – some people were claiming – I belong to – Peter – Barnabas – Apollos etc  
Some did that – out of **flattery**; most did it out of gratitude – over those that had disciplined them

But **consciously** they are causing divisions in the church

– eventually there would be no loyalty to the local church pastor, as their focus is on another spiritual father

Paul says – I had begotten you thru the **preaching** of the Gospel – the good news

The shepherd is the one that **feeds**  
The spiritual father is the one that **feeds** the sheep weekly (and the manna as in RLC)

The cell leaders and disciple makings are **guardians** and not fathers or mothers

This is God's **ORDER** for harmony and unity and the commanded blessings

A country cannot have two PM, a company cannot have 3 CEO's and a house cannot have 2 fathers and 2 mothers

When – sheep **migrated** or move to another church – we must release them and entrust them to new shepherd – don't still say – my sheep

Create disloyalty to their new church

So don't get **distracted** with all kinds of wrong peo and associations

Don't focus on wrong peo – focus on the **lamb** entrusted

**1. Distracted with wrong focus**

**Joab** never focus on God or David

How are we distracted with the wrong focus?

Sometimes, **couples** start their first day of married life with a wrong focus – the **romance** part of the wedding

Garden pool cruise ship etc ... chose to start the very first hour in a garden instead of **asking God's** blessing for the manifest **presence** of the Lord  
Of course God is everywhere – but his manifest presence is in a place – consecrated – set apart for uncommon use

Deuteronomy 12:13-14

13 Be careful not to sacrifice your burnt offerings anywhere you please. 14 Offer them only at the place the LORD will choose in one of your tribes, and there observe everything I command you.

Sometimes, **even** in the church sanctuary – couple want hall decorated with balloons, ...

Need to focus on his presence and not distracted with the deco

Over **familiarity** – Abinadab - Uzza

Why – think own **strength** – romance -can sustain

Eyes **blink** – sweetie pie – destiny in the making

**Not** that we are **controlling** the whole service

We do allow for special performances and additional personally written vows but everything must be done according to **Phil 4:8** – if anything – noble, right, excellent ...

**Wedding Dinners** – couples don't focus on inviting the presence of Jesus – key to miracle in their new life!

Hence, we prepared a very anointed background music – great testimony to God's presence and blessings

On the other hand when they should be focusing on the romance, they never properly plan for their

**honeymoon**

– sign up for tour 14 countries – 7 days  
Spend so much money on the flowers, photographs but not a proper honey moon

**Prov 5:18** So be happy with your wife and find your joy with the girl you married. TEV

Meant to be a time to get **know** each other **physically** – lot of rest

Man in particular – don't have to project that you know it all – superman - Ok to fail at first try

**Prepare** the atmosphere – lesson 7  
Deuteronomy 24:5

5 If a man has recently married, he must not be sent to war or have any other duty laid on him. For one year he is to be free to stay at home and bring happiness to the wife he has married.

**1st year:** not just do the usual thing – every nite - **TARIK** with all friends – all the birthdays - all in laws (cousins, nephews, aunts)

Parents of course OK

I still want to have times with my kaki - don't marry!

Matt 19:5

For this reason a man will **LEAVE** his father and mother and be **united** to his wife,

and the two will become **ONE FLESH**? 6 So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has **JOINED** together, let man not separate."

Note the three key words:

**LEAVE** – let go – new **priorities**

Particularly mentioned – father and mother - even ch friend - buddies – games, sports  
In – fut - even kids

If kids – center – there would be nothing left – when kids leave

**ONE FLESH** - New **unit** of society – new leadership

Physical, emotional and spiritual oneness.

Man called to take up leadership – honour can care yes but not control – lesson 10 – **how**

When have kids – all we think –

**success:**

send/go to tuitions, piano – no time to send for VYS

Prov 9

10 For the reverence and fear of God are basic to all wisdom. Knowing God results in every other kind of understanding. TLB

**GREATEST** things you can do – love kids and wife – make God the focus

Miss great blessings: His manifest presence, releases great opportunities for youths in the VYS

**The VYS provides great opportunities for youths:**

**Expose** to the things of God

**Grow** with proper values

**Develop** relationship skills

**Fun** with other youths

**Develop** their vision and prosper

**Reach** out to their peers

**Serve** and develop character

**Wrong focus on discipline kid**

Behave ah – I am a cell leader, pastor, somebody in society – so behave

– children don't live for you – end up

hating you

**Sin** – against heaven – destroy them

Disc – their benefit – not your benefit

Eli – judged – not wicked – not disc – if

you have a real prob – **seek help**

**Wrong focus** – distracted – **BGR**

Proverbs 24:27

27 Finish your outdoor work and get your fields ready; after that, build your house.

27 Develop your business first before building your house. TLB

**Est career first, study hard – not 5c - at least able to raise a family**

**Studies shown** – hooked up too early – not happy – even if married – sometimes, out of guilt. **Changes** – when working – exposed to more opportunities.

In any case – break up engagement better than a broken marriage

**How can we understand the heart of David?**

Why talk so much about **David?**

What is David in today's context

In a small way, the local ch pastor is a pict of David

Be attention to the weekly messages and understand his heart – flow with the vision that God has deposited in him – receive the commanded blessing

In a much larger context, Jesus is a pict of the David, Jesus is the Greater David

**Rejected** – Jesus was rejected

**Giant killer** – Jesus – greater Giant Killer

David took – skull of Goliath – buried in hill in Jeru – thou of years later – great David – cruci on Golgotha – skull hill – crushed the head of the greater Goliath

**Focus on Him**

Psalms 32:8-9

I will instruct you. I will teach you the way that you should go. I will instruct you. I will teach you the way that you should go. I will advice you as my eyes watch over you. GW

Do not be as the horse or as the mule, which have no understanding. Whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check , otherwise, they will not come near you. NASB

**Prob – horse** – too fast - hold back - bit and bridle

Sometimes – we **wild horse** – great strength

But the strength - got to be broken – otherwise – useless for master

Don't see heart of master – can't be great in his eyes

**Prob – mule** – too slow – pulled

**Key – focus on eyes of God**

4 ladies – real challenge – real blessing

we man – dirty – dust not ribs -

Buffet – glance of eyes – put down the plate

Wrong kind of instrument

Sometimes – glance and a signal

May be dirt here or there