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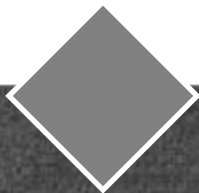
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# **Thomas Was Not There**

**DISCOVER, PURSUE AND OCCUPY  
YOUR PLACE IN GOD**

**Rev. Ntia I. Ntia**

Thomas Was Not There  
(Revised Edition)  
By Rev. Ntia I.Ntia

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Designed and published by  
Full Life Publishers  
08023879282

ISBN: 978-060-449-9

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All Scriptures are from the King James Version of the Bible, except otherwise stated. All emphasis on Scripture used, By the author.

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## DEDICATION

**I** dedicate this book to fellow travelers through life who have had to toil painfully through the night seasons of destiny.

I dedicate this book to you who have had to labour on silently but faithfully, yet seeing little or no change.

My heart goes out to you, dear wounded soldier, who is striving on in pursuit of heavenly visions, despite opposing forces within and without.

I share this light with those who are fighting deep-seated questions and attacks of discouragement, discredit and disqualification.

To you in despair and despondency, rise up and receive a new vision, a new hope, a new strength and a new beginning.

To all the good people who have made bad mistakes, there is another chance for you.

YOUR SUN WILL SHINE AGAIN.

To all those who have survived great odds and contradictions, who have risen from the ashes of yesterday and have recovered to continue in the good old way; you are living proof that THE WORD WORKS.

KEEP DREAMING

KEEP STRIVING

KEEP PUSHING

THERE IS A PLACE CALLED "THERE".



## INTRODUCTION



**V**ictory is never for those who quit or flee from the battles of life. It is only those who stand strong determined to endure, persevere and overcome, that win in life.

Consider Moses' charge to the children of Israel in the face of glaring danger:

*And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will show to you today: Exodus 14:13a*



“ *Your spiritual consistency determines your divine efficiency.* ”

Your inner persuasions, decisions and determinations in the face of life's storms, battles and challenges matter a lot. They determine if you will possess your God-given victory or not. God cannot show His victory to people

who continually shift out of their place due to doubts and fears. Your spiritual consistency determines your divine efficiency.

In James chapter 1, the Bible exhorts us to ask in faith, nothing wavering "... for let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord (verses 6, 7).

Note this: Your standing firm in faith ensures your receiving from God. Stand firm with God, and you will stand tall before men.

This book has come to stir up knowledge in you so that your strength in God can be greatly increased and established.

It is time to stand strong in the strength of God so you can receive and enjoy God's victory harvest in every area of your life. God's blessing is for the strong in faith, the strong in spirit.

*... he shall divide the spoil (booty) with the strong:*  
Isaiah 53:12a

The tests you failed, the battles you lost and the opportunities you missed yesterday could have been avoided if only you had been sensitive to discover and apply what you are about to read now.

Well, that was then, and this is now. It is now time to prepare adequately for tomorrow's victory. Tomorrow's victory is secured by today's preparation. It is time to stand strong in your place.



Thomas the great apostle, whose beginning was so awesome, was found fainting and falling at the time it mattered most.

*The horse is prepared against the day of battle ...*  
Proverbs 21:31a

Now is your time to prepare ...

1



**INNER STRENGTH IS IT**

ONE



Chapter **1**

**INNER  
STRENGTH**  

---

**IS IT**

**H**ow strong a person stands in the face of life's challenges and storms is a direct function of the inner strength he or she had already stored up before the adversity came.

*If thou faint in the day of adversity,, thy strength is small.*

Proverbs 24:10

God's word here is very clear as to why people faint, stumble and fall in life, **THEIR STRENGTH IN THAT AREA WAS SMALL**; be it spiritual, social, occupational, marital or financial. It matters the amount of strength you have stored up. How much prayer and word strength have you stored up for tomorrow?



“ *How much prayer and word strength have you stored up for tomorrow?* ”

## NEVER TOO LATE

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Too many people waste precious time regretting past mistakes and losses. It is of no use continuing in sadness and depression over past failures. All the misfortunes of the past have already happened. The lost opportunities are gone. Stop living in regrets.

You might have lost your yesterday, but it is still possible to make good use of what you have left: TODAY. You must do something profitable with your today. YOU STILL HAVE LIFE TODAY.

*For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope*  
Ecclesiastes 9:4a



“ Use your today in partnership with God to make your tomorrow better than your yesterday. ”

You see, it is not too late to make something good out of today; because you are still alive, you are not hopeless. In fact, you are going to use your today in partnership with God to make your tomorrow better than your yesterday. The Bible says,


*... Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof:  
and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.*  
Ecclesiastes 7:8

Do not conclude your case negatively. Do not surrender

to your past. It amounts to spiritual pride before God. You are using a yesterday you've already known to draw conclusions on a tomorrow you have not yet known. Stop telling yourself in your mind that you cannot become anything again. Only God can determine what your tomorrow will be. Therefore, open your heart and listen to God. He is still speaking. He has a plan for your turn around.

*Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the Lord, and my judgement is passed over from my God? Isaiah 40:27*

In the above Bible passage, God was rebuking Israel as a nation for concluding prematurely that their tomorrow was already destroyed because of a wasted yesterday. The same applies to us too.



“ God can make your end better than your beginning. ”

Don't give up on your life. God has sent this life-changing word to you. God can make your end better than your beginning. Many people have bounced back from being gross failures to becoming great successes. God did it for them and can do the same for you.

## CHECK YOU STRENGTH

---

You fainted and fell in the past because your stored up strength was small. Now that you are ready to rise up and start out again with God, your first task should be to ask God to show you how small your strength really is, and how you can build it back up. Until you know your present state, you are not yet set to seek and secure fresh strength from God. This is where you need to start from.

*Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am*  
Psalm 39:4

You need to know how weak and frail you are, in and of yourself. Without Him you can do nothing.

That realization is what pushes you to seek God for His own greater strength. The best of your own human strength without God is vain and futile. How strong are you in God?

The issues of self examination, to discover from God your present level of divine strength, must be taken very seriously.

*But let a man examine himself ...* 1 Corinthians  
11:28a

This was Paul's challenge to the Christians in Corinth. He was calling on every man to examine himself, not his neighbor. We waste so much time and effort trying to

examine others when our first and most important priority should be self-examination.

Still writing to the Corinthian Church, Paul says:

*Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith; prove your own self. Know ye not your own selves ...*

II Corinthians 13:5

Can you see how seriously Paul takes this all-important issue. He considered it worthy of repeated mention, though writing to the same people. God has not finished with you. It is time to burn with a fresh spiritual fire.

Bow your head and pray right now; ask God to show you the level of divine strength you command.

## DON'T PRESUME

---

Presumption is the attitude or conduct of daring to take decisions without considering due facts and principles applicable to that area. It is wrong before God to audaciously and prematurely draw conclusions and take action in any area of your life without first checking out the principles of God's word covering that area.

*Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: ...*

Psalm 19:13

Faith is not presumption. David here was praying that he be not trapped in that presumptuous mentality where

people act in violation of God's word and still think God will back them up.

God will not break his word for anything and anybody. His word is forever “settled in heaven” (Psalm 119:89), “... and the scripture cannot be broken” (John 10:35).

Presumption takes God's principles for granted, ignores Gods warning and instructions, thus exposing you to demonic danger and divine judgement. Presumption breaks our hedge.

In Numbers 14:42, God's instruction to Israel was,

*Go not up, for the LORD is not among you; that ye be not smitten before your enemies.*

*In response to that clear directive from God, the Bible says, But they presumed to go... THEN the Amalekites came down, ... and smote them, and discomfited them ... Verses 44, 45.*

In 1 Samuel 4:3 Israel had lost God's presence because of continuous sin and compromise. When there arose a battle against the Philistines, they brought the ark of God to the camp thinking to use the ark without the presence of God. That was empty presumption.

And when the people were come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, wherefore hath the LORD smitten us today before the Philistines? Let us fetch the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of Shiloh unto us, that when it cometh among us, it may save us out of the hand of our enemies.



When the ark was brought, they shouted so loud that the earth rang and shook with their shout. Still they lost the battle and the ark was taken. Don't presume blindly; check out with God's word before you step out.

## SEEK DIVINE STRENGTH:

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*Thus saith the Lord; cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord Jeremiah 17:5*

We can tell where your strength and confidence is by observing what you pursue and promote. God warns us against seeking and relying on the strength of men, talents, connections, family ties and other human abilities. They will all fail.

*It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes. Psalm 118:8-9*

If you put the effort and time you spend seeking human appointment to seek God, your results will be outstanding. There is a strength greater than education and connection, that is divine strength. This is the key to all you want to become and achieve in life.

That is what you need to be able to stand firm and strong in your place. Let's see what the Bible has to say about divine strength ...

*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles (strategies) of the devil. Ephesians 6:10-11*

Finally, my brethren, ... that means this is the final and greatest strength every man needs: THE POWER OF GOD'S STRENGTH AND MIGHT. Once a man puts it on, he'll be able to stand. He can handle anything, anywhere, anytime. Pause and check your strength in God.

*Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. 1 Corinthians 10:12*

This is not the time for arrogant presumption but to fall before God in humble prayers.

The Word says, to take heed lest ... You cannot afford another fall, another demonic attack, another accident, another health crises, another storm, etc. without the back up of stored divine strength. There is a new supply of strength for you in God. RECEIVE IT NOW!

## HOW DO YOU ACCESS THE STRENGTH OF GOD?

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You need to know how to tap into that strength. Here are two basic keys:

## GET BORN AGAIN

The beginning of stored-up divine strength is repentance from sin unto salvation. That is being born again. This is the first deposit of divine power we receive from God.

*But as many as received him, to them gave he POWER TO BECOME the sons of God even to them that believe on his name. John 1:12*



“ If you are born again, you are a born overcomer. ”

This deposit of power in the born-again Christian guarantees total victory over all other powers in the world and beyond. You become a new creature ... (2 Corinthian 5:17), a born overcomer in Christ Jesus. In 1 John 5:4, God's word declares ... For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world ...

If you are born again, you are a born overcomer; the seed of dominion dwells in you. Become aware of this fact and begin to operate in that deliberate consciousness.

## GET THE WORD

The second dimension of stored-up divine strength is in discovering and receiving the knowledge of God through His word.

*The entrance of thy words giveth light: it giveth understanding unto the simple* Psalm 119:130

The knowledge of God multiplies within you as His word increases in you. How much of God's word has entered your mind and thought? Don't forget, we are still checking your inner strength.

*A wise man is strong: yea a man of knowledge INCREASETH strength* Proverbs 24:4

That is it; right there. How can we increase our strength in God? Increase your depth of knowledge in God's word. The command of God to us was for us to ... *be strong in the Lord ... and to ... put on the whole armour of God ... not part, not just a little, but the whole.*

Begin to devour the Word of God today with a hunger and passion like you have never done before. Approach that word with a simple and open attitude, ready to discover and apply new truths ... *it (the Word) giveth understanding to the simple.*

Take note ... to the simple. Not to the arrogant, proud and self-willed seeker. Humble yourself and search the Word today; therein lies your strength.

Hear me. You cannot afford to fall again because of little strength; build it up now through the knowledge of God. Inner strength is the key to standing strong in life.

*... the people that DO KNOW their God shall BE STRONG, and do exploits* Daniel 11:32

2



CREATED ... AND CALLED

TWO



## Chapter 2

# CREATED ... AND CALLED

**S**uch a wonderful relationship existed between Jesus and his disciples. They enjoyed such impartations that just reading about them fills your heart with excitement.

*And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. And he ordained twelve, that they should be with Him, ...*

Mark 3:13-14

At the point of calling the twelve apostles, Jesus the Master has a plan. He wanted them to ... BE WITH HIM. He wanted to specially train and disciple them, that they might receive of His own very knowledge and spirit. He wanted them to BE WITH HIM so that they might BE LIKE HIM. The same applies to us today. If we spend time WITH HIM, we will become LIKE HIM. The time you spend with Him is what empowers you to live like Him.

## CREATED WITH A PLAN

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One basic fact we need to know about God is that He is a master planner. He plans, sets and declares the end from the beginning. He has already mapped out what He wants to do and how He intends to do it, even before He takes the first step. That is how seriously God plans ahead.

*... declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure*  
Isaiah 46:10

God does not work alone. In accomplishing His divine counsel upon the earth, God has divinely determined not to work alone. He chooses to use men, including you. That is why He created you.

He has a place for you to occupy and function in His divine plan and counsel. At the point of planning and designing His will and counsel, God created a place for you like an author writing a script and allocating different parts and lines to different characters.

**SAY THIS OUT LOUD WITH ME, “GOD HAS A PLAN FOR MY LIFE. THERE IS A PLACE FOR ME IN HIS PLAN.”**

Consider this discussion between God and a man called Jeremiah:

*Then the word of the Lord came unto me saying; BEFORE I formed thee in the belly I KNEW THEE; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I SANCTIFIED THEE A PROPHET unto the nations. Jeremiah 1:4-5*



“ You are not a misfit! Your life has a plan and place. Seek it and find it! ”

You were formed by God with all you need to fit into His plan somewhere. What an awesome truth to realize. You are not a misfit! Your life has a plan and place. Seek it and find it!

Life is therefore not about struggling blindly, trying to see what you can make out of it. It is about first coming to a sobering divine awareness that God already created a plan for you. Hence, you are to seek Him on how to discover and fulfill that already set plan.

Read this passage carefully:

*I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. Psalm 139:14*

There is something David discovered about how God created man which filled him with worship and



reverential fear. Your soul needs to grasp this truth too. What was this eye-opening truth?

*Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect;  
and all my members were written, which in continuance  
were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.*  
Psalm 139:16



*You are not a mistake, but a divine product  
created by God to fulfill a divine plan.*



We see here, that God first planned you before forming you. Before your body parts were created and assembled, He had already written out in his book the kind of person He wanted to make of you and the role He wanted you to play. You were divinely created and custom built to fit into the plan God had for you. **YOU WERE FORMED TO FIT.** You are not a mistake, but a divine product created by God to fulfill a divine plan.

## **CALLED WITH A PURPOSE**

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After we are born, God now comes to reveal to us in His time what He had already planned and determined for us in eternity.

God, who Himself planned, formed and packaged us in eternity, seeks us out after we are born and calls us to Himself to fulfill what we were already designed to do.

*And I sought for a man among them ...*  
Ezekiel 22:3

*Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, here am I, send me.* Isaiah 6:8

May you hear God's voice today calling out to you to give your life His own direction and meaning. Stop living your life by trial and error. Ask God to show you his pre-set plan for your life, and you will enjoy his backup as you walk in it. To enjoy the backup, you must discover and follow the plan.



“ *With the plan in place, the blessing is in view.* ”


*AND WE KNOW that all things work together for good, to them that love God, to them who are THE CALLED ACCORDING TO PURPOSE*  
Romans 8:28

That is it, right there! With the plan in place, the blessing is in view. I see you flow in that blessing from now on. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## DIRECTION, NOT COINCIDENCE

Your blessing lies in discovering and following God's call for you, whatever that call might be. Stay on that call

inspite of the level on which that call might be manifesting now. That call comes to reveal to you the purpose God has already determined and designed for you. Obey the call and you will enjoy the covering. Live by divine direction and not by coincidence. Your profiting lies in your carefully following God's plan.



“ Obey the call and you will enjoy  
the covering. ”

*Thus said the Lord, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: I am the Lord thy God which TEACHETH THEE TO PROFIT, WHICH LEADETH THEE BY THE WAY THAT THOU SHOULDEST GO* Isaiah 48:17

God here says that your profit is tied to His leading. He expects you to follow His way; that is why He gave you His leading. This is talking about divine direction, not accidental coincidence. God has definite blessings for you, and you are supposed to enjoy them, practically, on a daily basis. THERE IS A WAY YOU ARE MEANT TO DISCOVER AND FOLLOW.

You were created to fit, function and flourish somewhere. Discover his direction in the events of your life. Stop seeing everything as a coincidence. Find out what God is trying to say to you through those events and occurrences, especially the ones you had little or nothing

to do in influencing.

There is a divine call tied to your family, career, skills, talents, community, life partner, marriage, children, opportunities, burdens, motivations, dreams, inspirations, etc. In all these areas and more, seek God's direction and follow it faithfully. In the events of your life, there is a path God is trying to point out to you. Follow it, and God's favour will follow you.

*Thou wilt shew me THE PATH of life: in THY PRESENCE is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore. Psalm 16:11*

There is a divine path for you to follow. To enjoy the fullness of God's presence and His divine pleasures, you must receive and follow His path for your life. He is taking you somewhere. Locate the path and follow it diligently. Your fullness is tied to the path of God for your life.

## THOMAS WAS CALLED

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Out of the many that could have been called and chosen, Thomas was picked, along with eleven others. It is a great honour to be called of God.

All the past experiences and encounters in Thomas' life were to bring him to this point of discovering the purpose for which God had formed him. Suddenly the call of God came to him loud and clear, giving a meaning

to all his encounters and experiences.

It is time for you also to discover and obey the call of God upon your life, so that you can enjoy His unlimited covering and backing.

*And He ordained twelve that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, and to have power to heal sickness, and to cast out devils*  
Mark 3:14-15

As you abide faithfully in God's call, He will lead you to the place where you will be flowing in unstoppable power over all opposition and limitations. God's call will give your life a fruitful meaning. Suddenly past puzzles will start fitting together.



3



PURPOSE AND PLACES

ONE



## Chapter 3

# PURPOSE AND PLACES

**J**esus' ministry was tied to key places. He refused to be just anywhere at any time. It mattered to Him that He should be in the right place at the right time. Consider the following statements of the Master :

*They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master) WHERE DWELLEST THOU? He said unto them, COME AND SEE (John 1:38-39)*

*He left Judea and departed again unto Galilee. And He MUST NEEDS go through Samaria. (John 4:3-4)*

*... And the people sought Him, and came unto Him, and prayed Him that HE SHOULD NOT DEPART FROM THEM. And He said unto them, I MUST preach the kingdom of God TO OTHER cities also for THEREFORE AM I SENT. (Luke 4:42-43).*

From the above passages we see Jesus working with a keen sense of discernment concerning the places He should be at each particular moment.

Jesus knew that divine purposes and seasons of flourishing are tied to being in the right places at the right times. We too must realize this and be sensitive to the changing seasons of our lives. Your purpose at a particular time is tied to a particular place. Discover the right place to be and move there fast.

## PLACES BEFORE PEOPLE

---

Right from Adam, the first man, God always picked and prepared the right place before bringing the right person.

*And the Lord God planted a garden EASTWARD IN EDEN, and THERE HE PUT THE MAN whom he had formed. Genesis 2:8*

God did not usher in Adam to the scene, until his right place was prepared.

This might explain that seeming delay in your life. Yes, you are saying that you are ready, and you might be correct. The God that prepared you for the place must also prepare the place for you.



“The God that prepared you for the place must also prepare the place for you.”



God called Abraham out of an old place telling him, "... UNTO A LAND THAT I WILL SHEW THEE (Genesis 12:1). He was to be shown the land in future. He could not take delivery of his promised possession because the place was not yet ready. What did he do?

*By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country; Hebrews 11:9a*

Even your rightful place allocated to you by God will appear strange until its preparation process has been completed. You have been prepared for the place, but has the place been prepared for you? Is the place ready to receive you?

You might need to wait a little longer. Abraham faithfully and patiently pressed on in pursuit of God, looking not just for any place, anywhere, but for THE PREPARED PLACE.

*For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Hebrews 11:10*

## THERE IS A PLACE

---

Places speak of both geographical locations and positional placements. We must keep going and growing in God till we come into the fullness of both. God has a location for you to move into and a position for you to grow into.

There is a level prepared for you from eternity. When Moses cried out for a greater revelation of God's glorious presence and power, God's reply was clear and precise.

*And the Lord said, BEHOLD THERE IS A PLACE by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock:*  
Exodus 33:21

Even his first revelation of God's true purpose for his life could not be given him until he came to the right place.

*“... And (he) came to the mountain of God, even Horeb. And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him (there) ...”* (Exodus 3:1-2)

I charge you to rise up in faith and divine expectation, to seek after God in strong pursuit and patience till you come to THE PLACE.

God is taking you somewhere, to a level and dimension in Him, where all the visions and revelations He gave to you shall be fulfilled.

Elisha kept following Elijah till he came to THE PLACE where his heart-cry was satisfied. They passed through many transitional levels and places like Gilgal, Bethel, Jericho, Jordan ... etc, but finally THEY CAME TO THE PLACE IN TIME which had been predetermined IN ETERNITY.

In 2 Kings 2:9 the Bible records

*And it came to pass, when **THEY WERE GONE OVER**, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee . . . And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.*

The issue of his heart's desire was not addressed anywhere else until, they were gone over. That means they left some levels and places behind and came to the place. Keep seeking and pressing after God. There is a place where your heart's desire will be fully granted. Don't give up or give in. you have come too far and gone through too much to be denied.

You cannot go empty; press on to **THE PLACE**.

## **DON'T SETTLE OUTSIDE DIVINE PLACEMENT**

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You will be tempted not to go all the way with God. Many start out in pursuit of destiny with God but very few hold on all the way.

Job came to that point where holding on and pressing forth in faith and patience seemed almost impossible. But he determined in his spirit to go all the way with God.

*Though he slay me, **YET** will I trust in him: But I **WILL MAINTAIN MINE OWN WAYS** before him. Job 13:15*

In verse 17, Job called that faith confession, his personal “declaration”. You too need to put your emotions, thoughts and spirit in order, fully set to go all the way. Pay the full price, and you will enjoy the full power and provisions.

It is dangerous for the right person to settle in the wrong place. You cannot afford to get tied up with people anyhow, anywhere.



“ It is dangerous for the right person to settle in the wrong place.”

God called Jacob out of the house of Laban to go to Bethel, where he had anointed a pillar (Genesis 31:13). As he went on in his obedience, he enjoyed unlimited angelic covering (Genesis 32:1-2). Greater visitations by God soon followed.

*And he said, thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: For as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and has prevailed. Genesis 32:28*

*And Jacob came to Shechem: Genesis 33:18-20*

The right man now settles in the wrong place. Oh! Look at the avoidable calamities that befell Jacob's family in Shechem. Settling in the wrong place attracts avoidable disasters.

Diana, his only daughter, was raped; war broke out; idolatry entered his household, and lots more.

Beloved, so many great men and ministries have lost the move of God's glory because they settled too soon and got tied up in wrong places: study the following passages.

- \* Moses and the waters of Meribah (Numbers 20:1-13)
- \* Saul and the battle of Amalek (1 Samuel 15)
- \* The young prophet and the old prophet (1 Kings 13)

Every wrong entanglement tying you down is broken now in Jesus' name.

Don't settle for less; press on in God's purpose till you come to THE PLACE.

## JACOB'S RECOVERY

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God in His mercy spake again to Jacob, renewing and restoring his lost focus. Every lost vision is restored now in Jesus' name, begin to see again.

*And God said unto Jacob, ARISE, GO UP TO BETHEL, and DWELL THERE: and MAKE THERE an altar unto God. Genesis 35:1*

Consider the emphasis with which God compels Jacob to move on from where had settled to Bethel, the right place. God's standards have not changed, His dealings in the past are His patterns for us today. His word to Jacob

was simple: Arise, go up...

You cannot bribe God with sacrifices and ceremonies in the wrong place. You cannot build God's altar just anywhere you feel like. You have lost your glory; your fire is gone, Arise, go up...



“ You cannot bribe God with sacrifices and ceremonies in the wrong place. ”

In Revelation 2:4, God speaking to the church in Ephesus said, “Nevertheless (despite all your show, ceremonies and genuinely sincere effort), I HAVE SOMEWHAT AGAINST THEE, ... THOU HAST LEFT THY FIRST LOVE.

What is God saying to you right now? You were not like this before. You have changed; you have gone cold. Sin has drained your hunger and passion for God's raw presence and power. Where is your fire?

Why have you settled for ceremonies. It is time to pack up and move on with God. Thank God Jacob obeyed and recovered his lost glory. His 'ichabod' was wiped away.

*And they journeyed: and the terror of God was upon the cities that were round about them, and they did not pursue after the sons of Jacob. Genesis 35:5*

You too can rise up and recover your lost vision and focus. Cry out to God now to take you to the place he has prepared for you in Him, from eternity.

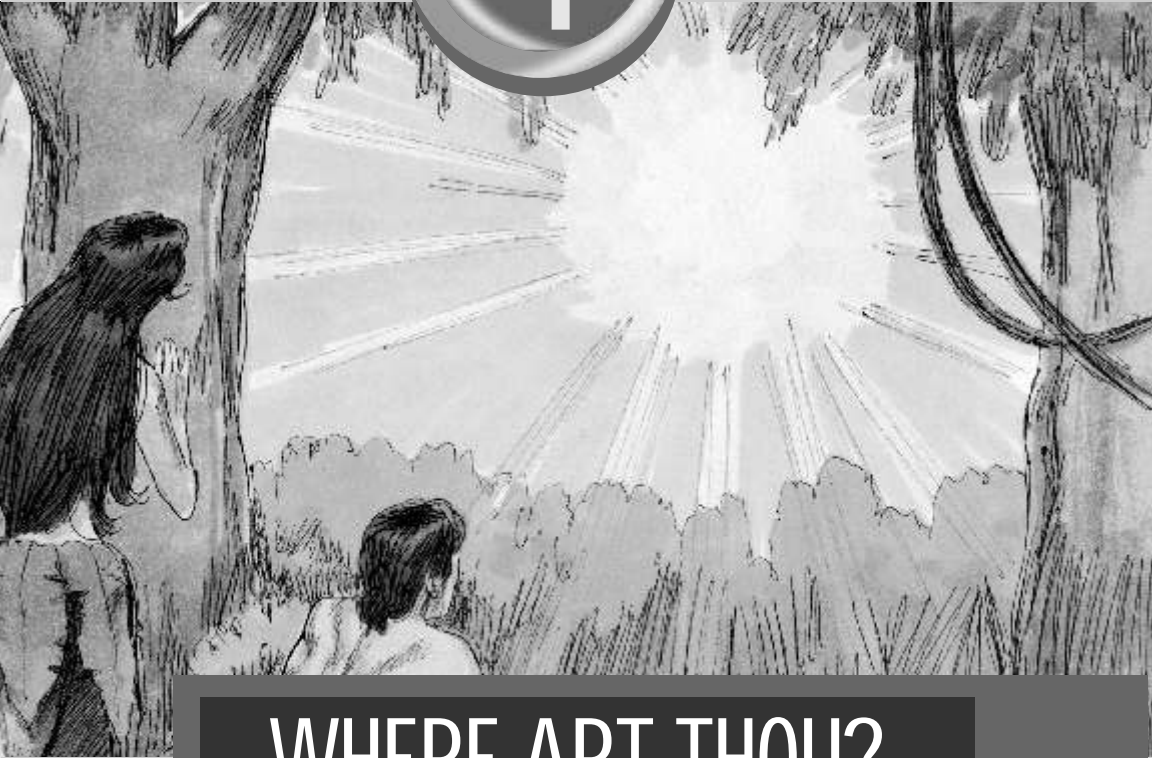
*For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.*

*But now they desire a better country, wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city. Hebrews 11:14, 16*

While you were drifting, your prepared place was waiting. You don't have all the time to waste trying out things that will not work "... digging broken cisterns that can hold no water" (Jeremiah 2:13). It is time to arise and go. Can't you hear God calling your name?

Don't you feel like praying right now?

4



WHERE ART THOU?

FOUR





## Chapter 4

### WHERE ART THOU?

**T**he very first question God ever asked a man was about his place. “Where art thou? God asked Adam” (Genesis 3:9).

Adam and Eve could sense the presence of God coming, seeking for them. God had great blessings for them, but they were out of place. You have been sensing that God wants to bless you, that your miracle is around the corner, that an explosion is about to take place ... but you are in the wrong place. **WHERE ART THOU?**

The blessings of God will only flow as we locate and position ourselves in the right places God expects us to be.

*... the Lord had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground.*  
Genesis 2:5b

Rain in the Bible is a symbol of God's blessings. God refused to pour it out until there was a man in place to till

the ground. The blessing is not being held back because God has refused to move. Heaven is waiting on man to move into the right place. Positioning determines outpouring.



“ positioning determines outpouring.”

## THE CHALLENGE

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There is a two-fold challenge in following God step by step, all the way:

- Knowing where you are in God.
- Knowing where you are supposed to be

God's first question to Adam was not what have you done? Or why did you do it? Yet that seems to be our primary focus as human beings. How we probe and blame ourselves without making progress!

We worry and lament, “Why did I make this kind of mistake?” while sinking deeper and deeper into guilt, regrets, depression and dejection. Or we pursue the other extreme of, “whose fault is all this?” And we waste all the time trying to place blame. Neither self-pity nor self-righteousness can birth repentance and restoration. God is not just interested in what you did. After all that you did, He wants to know where you are NOW.

*Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith: prove your own selves. II Corinthians 13:5*

By examining ourselves, not others, we can know where we are and where we are supposed to be in God.

## WHERE AM I?

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It takes God to direct a man to know his present spiritual standing before God. Most often we think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think, but God's word says "... to think soberly according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith". (Romans 12:3).

Only God in his mercy can show us where we are spiritually per time. He can open our eyes and cause us to see ourselves as we really are before Him.

*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: WHO CAN KNOW IT? I THE LORD search the heart, I try the reins. Jeremiah 17:9-10*

Only God truly knows the state of our heart as we stand before Him. So let us ask Him to search us and try us.

David prayed the same prayer for himself in Psalm 139:23-24:

*Search me, O God and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there by any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

Before God can lead you, He must first try you. So if you are really tired of where you are and are desperate for His leading, fall before Him in humble prayers and call on the one who knows you in and out, and sees your down sitting and your uprising. Ask Him to search you out and then lead you in the right way. He will answer you. But remember, He must try you before He can lead you.

## DON'T COMPARE YOURSELF WITH OTHERS.

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In 2 Corinthians 10:12, Paul declares:

*For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.*

The Bible passage above warns us not to seek and depend on men's approval as a basis for justifying ourselves. A man that cannot even see his own error, how reliable is he in helping you see yours. Men are too defective in themselves to serve as perfect standards for God's expectation of you.

Men can challenge us, stir us, correct us, inspire us, and help us in many ways to grow into the fullness of God, but ultimately we must go to God by ourselves, to show us where we really stand.

## WHAT HAVE I LOST?

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Another signal to discerning life outside of divine placement is to discover that you have lost the precious things you once enjoyed with God. Samson lost his hair and his strength, the signs of the presence of God upon his life (Judges 16:17-20).

*... And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him*

The nation of Israel lost the ark of God's covenant, the symbol of God presence with them as a nation. We read the following words in 1 Samuel 4:21, *“And she named the child Ichabod, saying, The glory is departed from Israel: because the ark of God was taken ...”*

In the time of Joshua, they lost their victory over the enemy. It was a sign that God's presence was no more with them (Joshua 7:11-13).

What have you lost that you once enjoyed with God? That thing that was a sign of your depth of intimacy with God; peace, purity, integrity, testimonies, confidence, spiritual focus, concentration, marriage, children, authority, favour, anointing, respect, ministry, victories what have you lost?

*We see not our signs: there is no more any prophet:  
neither is there among us any that knoweth how long.*  
Psalm 74:9

What were you experiencing with God before which was a sign of His presence and glory upon your life? Are you still flowing in that realm today? Are you still hearing His voice clearly, feeling His power, sensing the freshness of His unction?

What you have lost is a sign that you are out of place with God.

*And when HE CAME TO HIMSELF, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and no spare, and I perish with hunger: I WILL ARISE AND GO... Luke 15:17-18*

When the prodigal son realized all he had lost, he was stirred up to rise up and return to his rightful place with the father. Get provoked today. You have a God-given place which is better than where you are now. It is time to rise up and move into your rightful place in God.

## WHERE AM I SUPPOSED TO BE?

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Every call of God comes with an inner stirring, a revelation and an awareness of the place God has prepared for us and wants to take us to. He called Abram out of a known place, unto a land He will show him after. (Genesis 12:1) Israel was brought out of Egypt to be taken into a land God had promised their fathers.

*And he BROUGHT us out from thence, that he might BRING US IN, to give us the land which he swore unto our fathers. (Deuteronomy 6:23)*

Child of God, brace up in the spirit. God started out with you because He had somewhere He was taking you to. Lift up your eyes; see and perceive that new dimension God has for you.

Already God has been stirring your heart towards that new realm through ideas, dreams, visions, prophecies, messages and His written word.

That consciousness has been building up in your spirit already.

*Behold I HAVE SET the land before you: GO IN AND POSSESS the land. Deuteronomy 1:8*

That is God speaking to you today, as he spoke to Israel in time past. You have not seen the land with your physical eyes, but God says, I have set it before you. It is already in your heart. The awareness is strong in your spirit. Ask yourself, Where am I supposed to be? Press for it. Push towards it. Give yourself no rest and give heaven no rest. Jacob wrestled with the angel and so can you.

In Daniel Chapter 9, when Daniel understood God's prophetic programme for him and his people, he says in verse 3 ... I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting ...

## STEP OUT IN PURSUIT

---

God's part is to reveal that new realm to your spirit, and your part is to step out in pursuit of that new level in

God. Abraham, when he was called to go out into a new place, obeyed and stepped out, to search ... for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God (Hebrews 11:8-10).

He did not know the place nor the way to the place; but he knew the God that had promised and prepared the place. Therefore, in partnership with God, ... he went out, not knowing whither he went, because he ... judged him faithful who had promised. As you step out, God will lead you there.

*I being in the way, the LORD led me into the house of my masters brethren. Genesis 24:27*

*Behold, I send an angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared Exodus 23:20*

The God that prepared the place for you and is preparing you for the place will surely take you there. **STEP OUT IN PURSUIT OF YOUR HIGHER PLACE IN GOD.**



“The God that prepared for you and is preparing you for the place will surely take you there.”

I see you rising up from the ashes of past mistakes, miseries and misfortunes. I see you strengthening yourself again in God and in his word, lifting up your head in faith and your eyes in expectation. I see you



praying again, travelling in the spirit and pushing out the seeds of destiny that God had planted in your spirit from eternity.

I see you breaking forth out of the dry places of lost seasons and misplaced opportunities, into the overflowing streams of new stirrings and fresh opening. I see your river flowing again. I see you recovering from all the devices and attacks of the enemy.

I see you prevail over all the secret working of spiritual wickedness that came to disrupt and distort your divine purpose in God.

I see you triumphing over your past to possess and fulfill and enviable future.

I see you planted and flourishing in your prepared place.

Your sun has risen, never to set anymore. A new day has come. Arise and shine.

5



LOCATE AND OCCUPY

FIVE



## Chapter 5

# LOCATE AND OCCUPY

**A**fter you come to the realization that there is a prepared place, level and realm for you in God, you need to know how to locate and step into it.

Let us consider the road map in Hebrews 11:13-16 closely.

### THE PROMISE

*These all died in faith, not having received the promise.*  
Hebrews 11:13

The first thing you must locate and focus on are the promises of God. Every promise of God is a sure link to the prepared place. Discover the promises of God surrounding your call, and know them intimately.

“Every promise of God is a sure link to the prepared place.”



*Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promise: THAT BY THESE YE MIGHT BE PARTAKERS... 2 Peter 1:4*

When you locate the promise, you qualify to be a partaker. God's word of promise will never fail.

*For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. 2 Corinthians 1:20*

## SEE THEM

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*... but having seen them afar off... Hebrews 11:13*

They saw the manifestation of God's promise long before it came to pass. The eyes of faith sees the future and calls it settled, already done.

Perceive concretely that realm God wants to take you to. See yourself getting there with the eyes of your inner man. See yourself in that place through the eyes of faith. See it while it is still afar off. SEE IT! SEE IT!!

*Lift up now thine eyes and look ... for all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. Genesis 13:14-15*

As you continue to see it, you will take delivery of it from the spirit realm into the physical.

God took Jeremiah through a divine experience of changing his old perception to give a new perception. It

held the key to his dominion, success and ultimate victory. At first Jeremiah was saying ... *Ah, Lord God! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child* (Jeremiah 1:6). He needed a change of perception.

As long as he saw himself as a child, he could not dominate destiny as a man. God's reply came swiftly ... *Say not, I am a child: ... Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, ... See I have set thee this day over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant* (Jeremiah 1:7, 8, 10).

God demands that you see your future before you can possess it. See it and you will have it. See it and you will possess it ultimately.

## BE PERSUADED

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*... (they) were persuaded of them ...* Hebrews 11:13

How real is that future to you? How convinced are you of the reality of your prepared place?

Abraham refused to give attention to the contrary and negative signals that were telling him his promise in God would not come to pass. He held on desperately to God's promise and faithfulness.

*And being fully persuaded that what He had promised,  
HE WAS ABLE ALSO TO PERFORM.*  
Romans 4:21

Doubt your doubts and rebel against your fears. God is faithful over his call and promises ... they are without repentance (Romans 11:29).



“ Doubt your doubts and rebel  
against your fears. ”

Believe God's word until you become ... strong in faith (Romans 11:20). Brood on that call and vision till it becomes real and concrete to you. **DON'T DOUBT, DON'T FRET AND DON'T PANIC. IT IS ALREADY SETTLED.**

## EMBRACE IT

---

*... And embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.* Hebrews 11:13

It is possible to embrace something that is still afar off? **YES, IT IS.** The men of faith in Hebrew 11:13 did not only see the promises of God to the point of being persuaded of their reality, they ... **EMBRACED THEM.**

To embrace means to esteem, to circle with affection. That is what you must constantly do to that vision or call of God for your future. Fall in love with it till your heart is inseparably bonded to it. Hold it in high esteem and high regard. Don't be shy, ashamed or timid about it. Do not let others trifle with or belittle it. What you do not

value cannot add value to you.

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth;*  
Romans 1:16

Others might mock and despise your vision and call. Joseph's brothers despised and hated him over his dreams, but he held on to them in faith "... until the time that his word came: the word of the Lord tried him" (Psalm 105:19). Don't ignore, despise or abandon your dream and your hope of the future. God's word will come true.

For what if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?

*God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar;*  
... Romans 3:4

## CONFESS AND DECLARE

---

Start declaring that future expectation to God, to yourself, to people around you and to the devil himself. Speak it forth boldly and plainly.

*... they confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. Hebrews 11:13-14*

Your declaration and confession positions you to receive that which you seek. Don't keep quiet over where God is

taking you. Your confession accelerates the manifestation of your expectation.



“What you speak establishes what you believe.”

*Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech. II Corinthians 3:12*

What you speak establishes what you believe. Verbal confession is the trigger for physical creation. They had to declare plainly.

*We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believe, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; II Corinthians 4:13*

Right speaking is what validates right believing. Therefore line up your words to back up your expectation. Until you can declare it openly, plainly, boldly and continually, you do not truly believe it.



“Right speaking is what validates right believing.”

## DESIRE IT CONTINUOUSLY

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*But now THEY DESIRE A BETTER country, ... wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; FOR HE HATH PREPARED FOR THEM A CITY. Hebrews 11:16*



You cannot move into tomorrow still looking at your yesterday. You cannot possess your future while being preoccupied with your past. What are you most mindful of? What thoughts fill your mind all day long? No man goes forward successfully who is looking backward continually.

*AND TRULY, if they had been mindful of that country FROM WHENCE THEY CAME OUT, they might have had opportunity to have returned.*  
Hebrews 11:15

The thoughts that dominate your mind, will create opportunity for their performance and ultimate fulfillment. Desire your future continuously.

Desire determines and propels your zeal and pursuits. A strong desire for the future initiates and enforces a smooth separation from the past. Desire for the future will disconnect you from the past.

*Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom.*  
Proverbs 18:1



“ Verbal confession is the trigger for physical creation. ”

Backed up by strong desire, any conceivable future is achievable. Desire it continuously. Don't accept a shift or substitute. The word of God said to ... ask in faith,

nothing wavering (James 1:6). God is warning us that the man that wavers in double-minded instability, should not ... think that he shall receive anything of the Lord (James 1:7).

Let's go through the steps again:

- Locate the promises.
- See them.
- Be persuaded of their reality
- Embrace them; esteem them highly.
- Confess and declare them
- Desire them continuously

YOU ARE NOW ON TRACK

## ABRAHAM'S SEARCH

---

God instructed Abraham to offer his only son, Isaac, as a burnt offering; but He specifically decreed that it be done ... upon one of the mountains which I WILL TELL THEE OF (Genesis 22:2).

The search begins; Abraham rises to go to THE PLACE. It cannot be done just anywhere.

*Then on the third day Abraham LIFTED UP HIS EYES AND SAW THE PLACE AFAR OFF.*  
Genesis 22:4

It is a place yonder, still afar off. He must press on till he comes to the place.

*And they came TO THE PLACE which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar THERE ...*  
(verse 9)

## WHY THE PLACE?

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God's word cannot be implemented, and will not be fulfilled anyhow, anywhere, in any place.

May you hold fast to your vision and call till you come to THAT PLACE, THAT REALM God has for you.

Stepping out prematurely will only lead to sudden disaster. Abraham was believing for a divine intervention. He told his son that "... God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering". He was desperate.



“ You cannot move into tomorrow still looking at your yesterday. ”

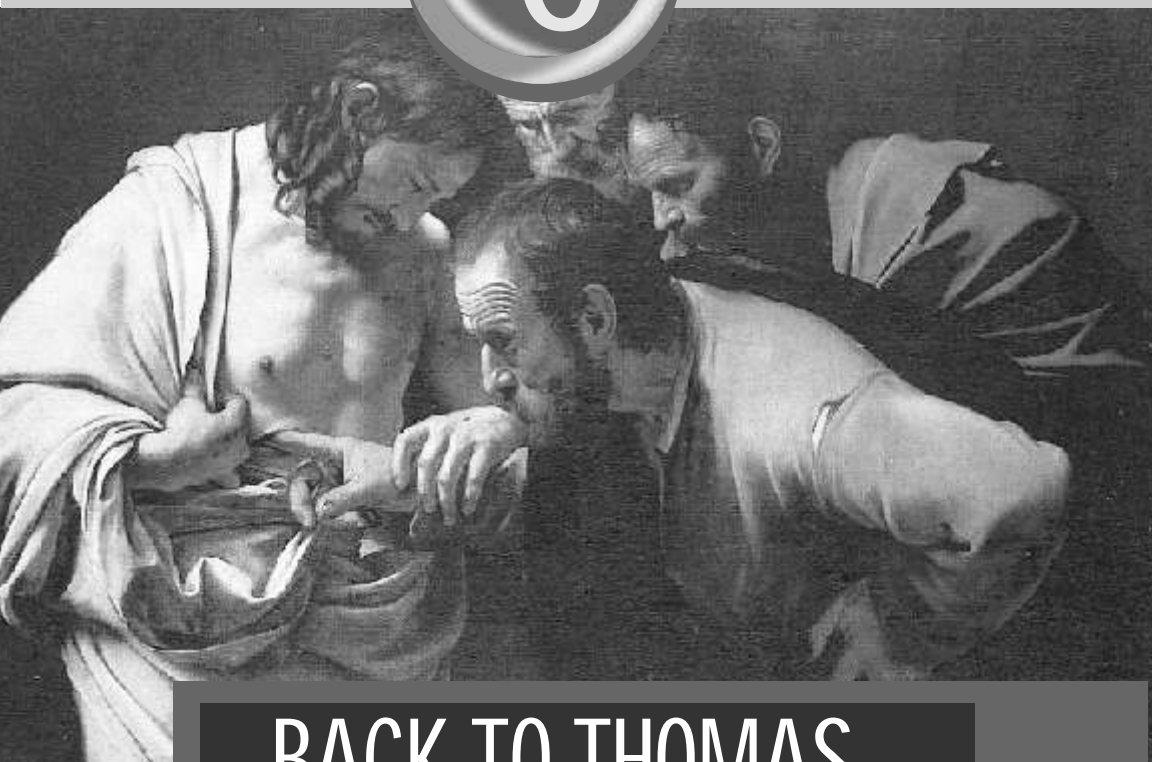
God is a great provider, but can the provisions of God be encountered just anywhere?

Thank God Abraham came to the place, for the provision was tied to the place. You will not settle just anywhere; you must get to the place.

*And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him, a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering IN THE STEAD OF HIS SON*  
Genesis 22:13

The provision is waiting for you IN THE PLACE.

6



BACK TO THOMAS

SIX



## Chapter 6

# BACK TO THOMAS

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*Now the names of the twelve apostles are these, Simon, who is called Peter, and ... Thomas, Matthew 10:2-3*

**H**e is given his right place in the call to apostleship, given to him by Jesus Himself. Thomas' call was clear; his choice was divine. Armed with the conviction of that call, he followed the Master, step by step everywhere.

## HIS LOVE AND FAITH

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Thomas' love for Jesus was complete and absolute. His faith in his Master was up at its peak. Why not? With all the power and miracles he saw? His loyalty was never faulted nor in question at anytime. He was even ready to die with Jesus if need be.

*Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellow disciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him. John 11:16*

## GIVEN TO THE WORD

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The Master's word was Thomas' very consolation. He loved to hear the Master speak. Not only did Jesus know the Word, HE WAS THE WORD.

Thomas never spoke hastily like Peter, nor was he crafty and dubious like Judas. He was not serving the Master with a hidden agenda, nor was he in search of position, like James and John. All he wanted was the Word. Hear him ask:

*Lord we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. John 14:5-6*

## THE KEY TRUTH

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Of all the truths Jesus revealed to his disciples about Himself, He took pains to pass to them the revelation of His coming crucifixion and RESURRECTION. He said once to them:


*Let these sayings SINK DOWN into you ears: for the son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men. But THEY UNDERSTOOD NOT this saying, ... and they feared to ask him of that saying. Luke 9:44-45*

The apostles pursued the words of the Master, until when it came to the truth and revelation of the future that mattered most. Here, they started stumbling.

## YOUR KEY REVELATION

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For every place God intends to take you in destiny, there is a key truth that must be strongly imparted into you. There is a key revelation that will trigger your divine manifestation. Discover it and grab it firmly. Find it in the Word.



“ There is a key revelation that will trigger your divine manifestation. ”

*Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me. Psalm 40:7*

Listen to what God is saying. The key revelation of your life, which defines your place and role in God's programme has already been recorded in The Book. Open the Bible and search through till you make that life-changing discovery.

*And there was delivered to him THE BOOK of the prophet Esaias. AND WHEN HE OPENED the book, he found THE PLACE WHERE IT WAS WRITTEN. Luke 4:17*

God is not asking you to create a fresh revelation for your life. He has already done that and has written it down in The Book somewhere. Search and read TILL YOU FIND THE PLACE where it has been written. You cannot afford to stumble over your key truth. That is the



light you need to shine in your generation.

*Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. Isaiah 60:1*

Until your revelation comes, God's glory does not kick in. Divine light guarantees supernatural flight. Find it in The Book. It is dangerous to stumble over the key revelation of your future place in God. The future ministry of the apostles was to BEAR WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS.

Jesus repeated this truth to them (see Matthew 16:21, 17:9, 12, 22, 23, 20:18-19, etc). This was to be their future ministry.

*And ye shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning John 15:27*

Jesus had so repeated this teaching, that even His enemies could not forget it. It stuck to all hearers, except his disciples.

*Now the next day, that followed...the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, saying, sir WE REMEMBER that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, AFTER THERE DAYS I WILL RISE AGAIN. Matthew 27:62-63*

Even His enemies grabbed this key future revelation; but his disciples, to whom this truth was sent, stumbled over it.

Don't stumble over the key revelation of the future God has prepared for you.

## SENT TO THE PLACE

---

Jesus, Himself, had revealed to them ahead of time, the place He would meet with them. Don't forget divine encounters do not just happen anywhere; you must get to the place, the prepared place.

*Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me.. But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee. Matthew 26:31-32*

The instruction was clear. He never asked or expected them to help keep him from dying or try to work out his resurrection. He even knew they will faint and fail, yet still gave them the revelation for the future.

He did not even ask them to believe or pray it into manifestation. He did not care if they believed or doubted. They were just to bring themselves and their doubts to the place and see what would happen. GO TO THE PLACE. Simple!

God's leadings are the divine directions that connect us to our future visitations. It takes the Spirit of God to lead us to our spiritual lifting. Look away from your understanding and human assessment. Look to God's direction.

*O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that worketh to direct his steps.*  
Jeremiah 10:23



“ Co-operation with divine direction guarantees divine speed. ”

We often suffer unnecessary delays and afflictions because we argue with God's directions. That is what kept Israel in the wilderness for forty wasted years. Co-operation with divine direction guarantees divine speed.

*The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious neither turned away back.* Isaiah 50:5

When God gives you the leading, he will supply the backing. Go to the place God has asked you to go; you will find favour there.

## THE ANGEL'S REMINDER

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After Jesus' resurrection, when they went to the tomb to confirm things for themselves, God had stationed an angel there to remind them of the coming appointment **AT THE PLACE.**

*But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: THERE SHALL YE SEE HIM, AS HE SAID UNTO YOU.*  
Mark 16:7

Despite their doubts, fears, panic, betrayals and denials, the divine appointment with destiny was already fixed and remained valid. Jesus was still expecting them **AT THE PLACE**.

Hear me: You have an appointment with the God of destiny. Drag all your doubts, failures and disqualification with you, if you must; but make sure you **GET TO THE PLACE**. Along the way God will place people, encounters and experiences to remind us of our divine appointment with Him. Be sensitive to discern and be quick to heed His leading and reminders. **YOUR CHANGE IS WAITING FOR YOU AT THE PLACE**. God meant what He said, and said what He meant.

Often while we are straying off in the wrong direction, God is already waiting for us patiently at the appointed place so that He might fulfill His purpose in our lives. Could it be that God has been patiently waiting on you to follow His direction for your life?

*And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him.*  
Isaiah 30:18



“ Don't make a permanent stop out of a temporary resting place.”

That is why God will use various means to remind us until we finally come into His will and purpose for our lives. It is time to become aware and sensitive to God's stirring and prompting in your spirit. Don't make a permanent stop out of a temporary resting place.

## THE D-DAY

---

For every divine appointment there is a time for fulfillment. Every call and purpose has a season for manifestation.

*To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: Ecclesiastes 3:1*

God is a God of times and seasons. All His visitations are tied to specified times known to Him. Sometimes, God chooses not to reveal his specific times to us.

*And he said unto them, it is not for you to know the times or the seasons which the Father hath put in his power: Acts 1:7*

At other times, God would declare his times of visitation to man clearly and openly.

*But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year Genesis 17:21*

Whether clearly revealed or not, God expects us to carefully discern and wisely position ourselves for His

time of visitation. His visitation is sure, and His timing is certain. God gave Abraham this charge concerning the promise and the time of fulfillment.

*And he said I will certainly return to thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sara thy wife shall have a son.*  
Genesis 18:10

God is committed to meeting His deadline. He will show up on the appointed day. It is certain and it is sure. Do not miss your D-Day with God.

Everyone who was sensitive to divine timing enjoyed unstoppable divine visitation. Abraham received his promise. Joseph's dream came to pass. Israel finally got to the promised land and possessed it. That call might look like a dream today, but if you hold onto it, A DAY WILL COME. Just a day, that is all it takes.

*And when the day of Pentecost was FULLY COME, they were all ... IN ONE PLACE.* Acts 2:1

That day will surely come; God is not in trouble and does not need your help or assistance "... God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man that He should repent: HATH HE SAID, AND SHALL HE NOT DO IT? OR HATH HE SPOKEN, AND SHALL HE NOT MAKE IT GOOD" (Numbers 23:19)

The day will surely come, but may the day meet you firmly positioned in the appointed place. Of what use is your survival, endurance, perseverance if that day

ultimately comes; and, because God is faithful, the blessing does show up; but you, the central person in the whole arrangement, are not IN THE PLACE?

YOU SHALL NOT MISS YOUR SEASON. Your package shall meet you in the right place, in Jesus' name, Amen.

## THE ROLL CALL

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The D-Day did come, and Jesus did show up to meet with them as He had promised. It did not matter who was there, how they came or what they dragged there with them. HE CAME.

*Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the door was shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, CAME JESUS and stood in the midst, and said unto them, Peace be unto you. John 20:19*

Despite how they came and what they had done, they were IN THE PLACE. Peter was there despite his record of three denials. John was there despite his past life of anger and aggression. Did Jesus accuse or condemn them? No. He released His love and peace upon them.

Every thing changes IN THE PLACE. The touch of His presence makes all things new. Every curse meets its cure in the place of His presence.

*And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord* John 20:20

He needed to show them His hands and His side. They saw the prints of the nails and the wound in His side. He showed them what they needed to see to turn their doubts to glad worship and their fears to faith. If only THOMAS were there to see for himself as the Master was showing the others.

**BUT THOMAS ...**

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*But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, WAS NOT WITH THEM when Jesus came.* John 20:24

Peter, James, John and the others were there in the right place at the right time. **BUT THOMAS WAS NOT THERE.**

They all had fallen; they all had fled; they all feared; they all doubted; and yet they were there to **SEE AND BE CHANGED.** **BUT THOMAS WAS NOT THERE.** People worse than Thomas carried their disqualification to the place. They dragged their past stories, wounds, hurts, mistakes, disappointments, failures, and every other thing that could have been used to disqualify them, all to the place. **BUT THOMAS WAS NOT THERE.**

Thomas' limitation was not his doubt, his fear nor his past. Closed doors couldn't stop the Master. Peter's



three fold denial could not stop the Master. Certainly, there was enough glory in that room, that day at that time, to change a thousand times more complicated “Thomas”, BUT THOMAS WAS NOT THERE.

He asked to see what the others had seen, but it was at the wrong time.

*And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord. John 20:20*

From the above passage, we see that Jesus showed the disciples His hands and His side, the very same things Thomas asked to see. It was only after the disciples saw the hands and the side of Jesus that they believed and rejoiced. All the disciples doubted until they saw. If only Thomas were there ....

Thomas' request to see would have been granted without rebuke had he only been there at the right time, in the right season, in the right place. He missed his season because HE WAS NOT IN THE PLACE for his divine appointment.

Now he was alone on yesterday's level. All others had moved on with the Master. He was out of place for the first time in his walk with the Master.

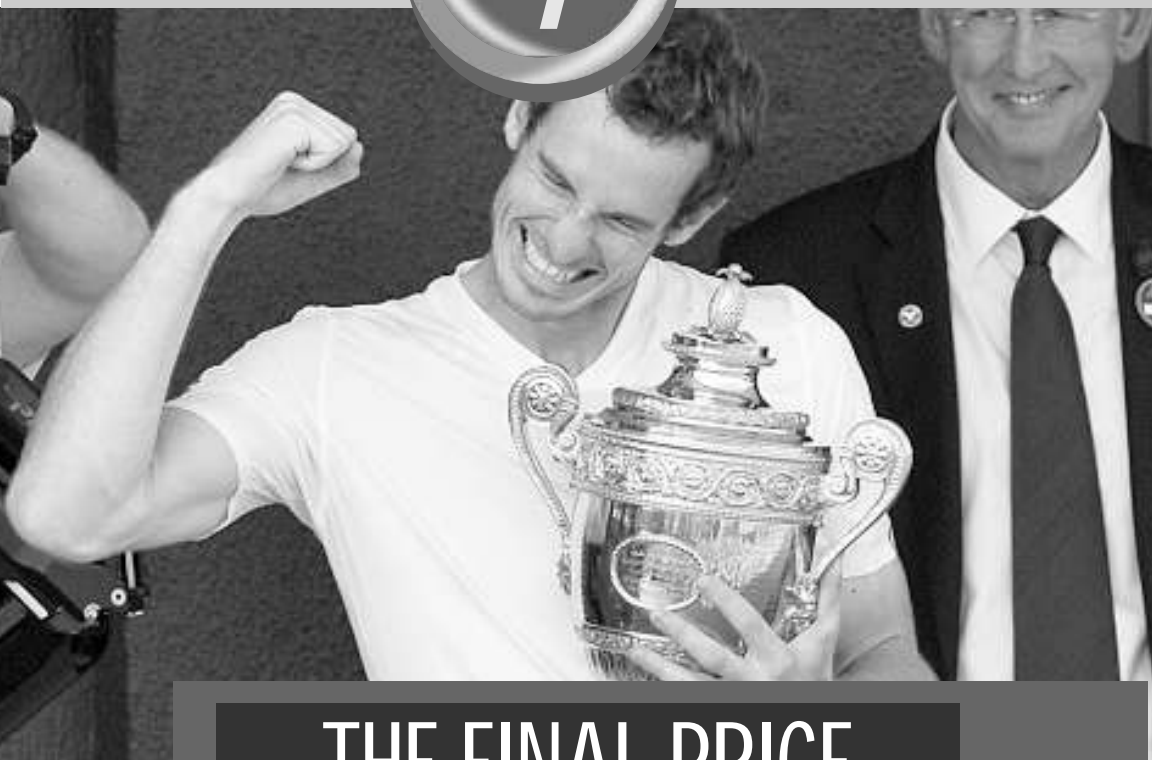
Thomas was there during Jesus' baptism; he saw the heaven open and heard the voice from heaven. He could tell you of countless moments of glory, as the Master

released power to destroy demonic yokes and heal the sick. He saw bread and fish multiplied, the stormy sea calmed and the dead raised to life again. Thomas was with the Master to the very day He was arrested, and went with the other apostles to see the empty grave. But on the day of the divine appointment, the day it mattered most, the D-Day of destiny, THOMAS WAS NOT THERE.

Don't labour like Thomas at your beginning only to miss your place when it matters most. There is A PREPARED PLACE for you, and your day will come. Go with the Master all the way.

May THE DAY meet you IN THE PLACE.

7



THE FINAL PRICE

ONE



## Chapter 7

# THE FINAL PRICE

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**T**hank God for grace and mercy that gives us a second chance. Thomas had a second chance, but he became a pointer to all believers in coming generations. It is best to be in the right place at the right time. **DON'T SETTLE FOR ANYTHING LESS.**

**Q** *“It is best to be in the right place the right time.”*

*For we are made PARTAKERS of Christ. If we hold the beginning of our confidence STEADFAST UNTO THE END. Hebrews 3:14*

Whatever the pursuit of destiny costs you, it will be worth all of that, and more, when you enter finally into **YOUR PLACE IN God.**

*Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. Hebrews 4:11*

## WHATEVER IT TAKES

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Great blessings come at a great price, and great callings are fulfilled at a great cost. Give your calling all it requires, and you will be greatly rewarded in due season.

*Giving no offence IN ANYTHING, that the ministry be not blamed. But IN ALL THINGS approving ourselves as the ministers of God. 2 Corinthians 6:3-4*

In anything and in all things, give it what it takes. Don't hold back from paying any price God and His call demands of you. Study, pray, labour and keep on laboring. SURVIVE ALL! PRESS THROUGH ALL! RECOVER FROM ALL!

Do all to stand in your place with God; "... be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might" (Ephesians 6:10). Give it all it takes, and you will receive all it has to offer.

## CALLED TO CONTINUE

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Our God is both a starter and a finisher. He calls Himself "... the author and the finisher ..." (Hebrews 12:2), "... Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending ..." (Revelation 1:8).

God never stops anything half way or gives up before the task is completed. We are made in His image. For everything God calls us to be and to do, He demands continuity:

*Then shall we know, if we FOLLOW ON to know the LORD: Hosea 6:3a*

Greater discoveries are not for those who just start; they are for those who start and follow on. You are called to continue.

*Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, IF YE CONTINUE in my word, THEN are ye my disciples indeed. John 8:31*

There we see the divine emphasis laid on continuing to the end, that is, going all the way with God. The blessing and reward of starting is received and enjoyed at the end.

*For we are made partakers of Christ, IF we hold the beginning of our confidence STEADFAST UNTO THE END Hebrews 3:14*

The blessing lies at the end. Giving up anywhere before the end disconnects us from our due season and disqualifies us from reaping the promised harvest. In fainting, we are sure to fail; hold on.


*And let us not be weary in well doing: for in DUE SEASON we shall reap, IF WE FAINT NOT. Galatians 6:9*

## HAVING DONE ALL ...

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*... and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore*  
Ephesians 6:13-14

After you have done all that the call demands, STAND. After you have done all you know how to do, STAND. After you have studied, prayed, fasted, believed, gone for deliverance, attended seminars, bought the right books, listened to the right tapes, paid all your tithe, sowed your seeds, confessed, bound, loosed, cast out, uprooted, planted, prophesied to the wind, tarried through the night, ... and anointed yourself with oil, PAY THE FINAL PRICE; STAND.



“ *In fainting, we are sure to fail;  
hold on.* ”

Stand in your place until your change comes. Stand, whether things are working out or not. Wear out the devil with your consistency, continuity, and persistence. Refuse to faint.

Continue to do what you know is right and best. Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all. 1 Samuel 30:18.

I will end with the words of Job; in Job 14:14 “... all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come”.

Your change is sure to come. You have come too far to be denied.

There is a place God has prepared for you and you must get there.