

1 chronicles 12:24 - 34

Arise, Sons of Issachar

SONS



ISSACHAR

20th June
9:30 am till 5pm



Workshops:

- From obscurity to security.
- Breaking away from the crowd who knows my shortcomings.
- making sense of the prophetic words spoken over my life.

Opening Remarks:

Let me first greet you in the name of Jesus Christ our soon coming King. I also extend holy greetings to my pastor and Presiding Bishop, S. A. Dunn. In this last and closing times, God is looking for exemplary men like our Bishop and Daniel, who are willing and able to stand to fight for what is right.

The primary aim of this conference is to set a platform for the '**sons of Issachar to arise**'. We need our sons to take their rightful positions in the house of God. In the planning of this conference, we noted that, many of our smaller branches are struggling to retain young people, in particular young men. Now that we have identified this, what will our response be? By taking action today, we will also be taking action for tomorrow. The Bible is clear that, 'without a vision, the people perish'. This church must continue to have relevance, purpose and the answer to the world's ills. Our united actions will support the building and growth of the church; not just for today, but also for tomorrow.

Let me say, to all our young men, you are the future of the church; you are the leaders that God will use for now and tomorrow, however, you must understand the times that we are living in. As the coming of the Lord draws closer, the righteous are becoming, more righteous and the filthier, filthier still.

The choice is yours to make!

Finally, I encourage you all, to take note of the season that we are living in and make yourselves available to be used in the end times

God bless

Overseer Erick. D. Bailey

Central District Overseer

Preamble:

'Arise, sons of Issachar'

Scripture reading: 1 Chronicles: **12: 24-32**; Genesis 49:14-15

The time has come, the season is upon us, the call has gone out and the atmosphere beckons for the sons of Issachar to arise. Who were the sons of Issachar in the Biblical times and why do they need to arise today and take their position. This is both question and indeed challenge that we now seek to address.

The humble, almost unnoticed beginning of Issachar

The Bible says' "and Reuben went in the days of wheat harvest and found mandrakes in the field, and brought them unto his mother Leah. Then Rachel said to Leah, give me, I pray thee, of thy son's mandrakes." And she said unto her, is it a small matter that thou hast taken my husband? and wouldest thou take away my son's mandrakes also?" And Rachel said, "Therefore he will lie with you tonight for your son's mandrakes." (16).....thou must come in unto me; for surely I have **hired** thee with my son's mandrakes.....and he lay with her that night. (17) And God hearkened unto Leah.....and bare Jacob the fifth son". Genesis 30: 16-18

Issachar was now the **ninth** son of his father Jacob and the **fifth** son of his mother, Leah.

The importance of a name

The name Issachar comes from the Hebrew word *yissakar*. It means "he will bring a reward." It comes from the root word *nasa* meaning "to lift, to advance, arise, bring forth, carry away, exalt high, hold up, lofty, raise up etc." The second root word is *sakar* meaning "**payment of contract, salary, fare, hire, price, reward, and wages.**"

Note, even though there was a prevailing view / culture that, mandrakes, held some potent, almost aphrodisiacal like strength; it was in fact God that opened up her womb for her to conceive this child. You may not be from the 'house of xxx', or from parents who are considered to be one of the founding families / pioneers of the gospel. However, if God has a plan and purpose for your life it shall come to pass.

We shall explore in more details the prophecies that surrounded this, **hired servant**.

Jacob's Prophecy to Issachar

"Issachar is a strong ass couching down between two burdens; And he saw that rest was good and the land that it was pleasant; and bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a **servant unto tribute**". (Genesis 49:14-15)

As everyone knows today, the donkey is a dumb animal. Why would God allow the patriarch Jacob, to associate his ninth son, Issachar, to that of a donkey?

Whatever God does, he does it well!!

There is a tendency in the apostolic arena, to consign, many other ministries to the back of beyond, in favour of the public ministries, i.e. preaching rather than focus on the whole; the Bible says, he gave some..... I pray that you are still with me!!

The Bible has often used this lowly animal to be part of some amazing stories and in a well known triumphant entry. Isaiah 1:3 notes the donkey smarter than Israel; ".....and the ass his master's crib, but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider".

Here are but a few examples when a lowly donkey / ass rose to prominence;

- Jesus and Mary travelled to Bethlehem and Egypt, they did so on a donkey
- God used a donkey to speak to the prophet Balaam (Num. 22: 21-34)
- Samson used a donkey bone as a weapon to slew 1,000 enemy soldiers (Judges 15: 15-16)
- Moses instituted Laws that gave special consideration to the donkey. Just like humans were redeemed by the sacrifice of a lamb, so, the donkey; "and every firstling of an ass thou shalt redeem with a lamb....." Ex. 13:13
- The donkey was there when Abraham prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac. (Genesis 22:3).
- The donkey was part of the pilgrimage made by the brothers of Joseph to request food from Egypt (Genesis 42:27).
- A donkey was with Moses and his small family during their trip back to Egypt to deliver the people from bondage (Exodus 4:20).

But the greatest story of all is the one when Jesus rode into the city of Jerusalem on a donkey. Why did he call for a donkey? He was the "King of King and Lord of Lords", didn't he deserve the best? Didn't He deserve royal treatment? Yes, but Jesus rather chose to identify with the common person.

It can be argued, in this context, that horses may be for those who take pride in their positions, Jesus, on the contrary, took pride in being a servant.

Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. (Matthew 21:1-5). This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet (Zechariah 9:9): **'Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'**"

Issachar is similar to the lowly donkey, not the prettiest, but strong and willing to carry the burden of the gospel. Some use the gospel for self promotion and preservation, Issachar, on the other hand, carried the Lord instead of the Lord carrying him; what a difference!

Moses' Prophecy to Issachar

The Bible declares in Deut. 33: 18-19; "And of Zebulun he said, Rejoice, Zebulun, in thy going out; and, Issachar, in thy tents. They shall call the people unto the mountain; there they shall offer sacrifices of righteousness: for they shall suck of the abundance of the seas, and of treasures hid in the sand.

Zebulun and Issachar are joined in this Mosaic blessing to illustrate the cooperation of brethren. Zebulun was the merchants symbolized by ships while Issachar set up tents to **study the Torah**. One produced material blessing while the other produced spiritual blessing. Issachar was known for their study tents and keeping track of the sun and moon calculations to announce God's appointed times.

Issachar, don't be afraid to accept that you were born to serv. Your characteristics, speaks of humility, being honourable and a servant-man of compassion. Your presence in a crowd is not noticeable; but when you are not around, your absence will be felt. When a job needs to be done, Issachar is always ready to help and do it. This is your calling and your inheritance.

Understanding The Times

Son's of Issachar, the signs and wonders of the current days, is ripe and ready for you to arise and take your positions. The church is under constant and relentless pressure to conform to the world systems. It may be hard for you, to step out from amongst the peer group, it may be hard to leave some of your close family members behind; but, there should be no biological or peer group ties that prevents you from doing the work of God. Don't worry about not being born into a 'noticeable house'; once you are born again in Christ, you have all that you need to be great in God.

Let's remind ourselves of the key issues. In accordance with Jacob's blessing, the tribe of Issachar showed an unusual insight into political situations. The tribe switched allegiance from Saul to David (1 Chr. 12:32) - "men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do-- 200 chiefs, with all their relatives under their command". The sons of Issachar were mighty men in David's army and because of their ability to understand the times, all brethren heeded their command.

Just like the times of old, you too, must understand the times that we are living in. As then, so it is today, that, God is seeking true worshippers that will worship Him in spirit and in truth. In the time of King David, God was seeking a king that would follow after **His own heart** and not one who did his own thing, (there is a way that seemeth right, but the end thereof is death).

They chose to follow King David instead of King Saul even though David's camp was a small minority at that time! They understood the times that God's hand was no longer upon King Saul but was on King David. They chose the tougher and narrow road instead of the broad way where the majority was. They lived up to their name of being a strong fighter and their love of comfort did not cause them to settle for the easy way out.

The house of Bethel Apostolic, calls for the sons of Issachar to arise.

Finally, my beloved Issachar, as you emerge into your purpose as a son of God, it is my earnest prayer that you will now understand why your unique process and indeed journey of coming into being, was tempered with struggles, despair, dismay and challenges that you never knew could be moved. Yet, in spite of these obstacles, it was the hand of God that was shaping, moulding and chipping away at the 'old man' to make way for the son of Issachar to arise and take his rightful place. The coming of the Lord draweth nigh, the body of Christ needs the sons to take his place and to help us to **'make sense'** of the times that we are living in and to know the right course of action to take.

Issachar, now you understand why the similarities with the donkey / ass, now you can re-write your own narrative so that the story you tell, is based on having a clear understanding of the times that we are living in. David was not treated as anyone special; but he too waited for his appointed time.

Arise and take your place and surely, your deeds will be record in the annals of time.

Deacon Gilbert R Pomell

Testimonies:

These are testimonies of two of our young men. They have different stories to tell about their hitherto lifestyles, however, they can both testify of how Jesus, came their way. I urge to you to take the time to read and digest what they have decided to share with us at this moment in time.

Brother Reuben Henderson: Gibson Road

Greetings to all my brothers, saints and readers in the name of Jesus. I've been asked to testify on my awakening and what triggered my will to arise like a son of Issachar.

I grew up in Gibson road church and I had very little interest in church, from singing on the junior choir to attending I was physically there but not mentally. Having my parents in church was a blessing as they always pumped me to go but they didn't really understand some of the things I was going through at the time and where my interest lied. In a result of coming and going the same way I came and not having anybody who could relate to me I ended up leaving and being in a lost state.

The day I came back to church I came with Sister Geralyn, who I had met outside the church. Her common interest gave me insight to what I was missing and made me want to start visiting the church again. She then advised me to get prayer at the altar on a certain brother's night at convocation. From that day I knew that God had a hand on my life as I was anointed and covered in blessings that I didn't even expect to happen. I ended up at a stage where I was physically and mentally there but not spiritually.

As the year went on we decided on marriage and still believe it is and was the best thing for us as two young believers who wanted to live a righteous life. As I had counselling and talks with members of the church such as my father Minister Henderson, Elder McClean, Minister Murray and Deacon Pomell I was starting to realise what type of man I wanted to become. From their experiences and views on the bible I realised that I no longer wanted to be going to clubs and taking part in anything that was against the will of God. I want and still want to pursue my purpose and find out my gift as I've had various prophetic words spoken over my life.

During my engagement I had counselling with Elder McClean and he taught about the qualities of a husband and what a husband's duties are and I realised that by myself it wasn't possible and I couldn't do it but I can do all things through Christ. The more I died daily and let Christ live in me was the more I was becoming what I wanted to be but the question was what does God want me to be? During my engagement I was being attacked by the enemy daily with new challenges and thoughts that were troubling my church life and my ability to stand as a man of God.

4 days before my wedding on Sunday 5th April 2015, I went to the altar with a burden on my life. I couldn't get past a certain stage; I couldn't shake off the enemy. I had asked Minister Murray to pray for me and when we was praying I realised the battle is not mine but the Lords, as Ephesians 6 says For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. I wasn't being honest with myself but I expected God to be honest with me and to give me strength to get through, on that very same Sunday God touched me and when I realised I had overcome I couldn't get stop worshipping as my king of kings had released me from the hand of the enemy.

I realise I still have shortcomings and still have personal imperfections but I'm striving for perfection. I thank God for my wife Sister Geralyn Henderson, who has been behind me every step of my Christian walk and encouraged me, prayed and fasted with me. I truly give God all the glory for great things he has done, saving my soul from certain darkness he has brought me into his marvellous light. I'm still on my journey but it's a new journey as I have risen like one of the 'Sons of Issachar'.

My encouragements to any brothers or believers reading this

- Never have too much pride to think you can't ask and get good council. We have fathers set over us in the gospel to help us.
- Always be honest with yourself and know your shortcomings so you can deal with them.
- Always pray and ask God for guidance.

Brother Eddie Powell: Small Heath Assembly

I've always been aware that there is a God out there. I didn't know who he was, his name or what he was about, but I surely knew he was real.

Growing up I was heavily involved in the drug and gang culture, as that is all I knew and the elders taught me the way. I was my own boss, not tied to anyone; I had no friends, just associates, as trust was an issue. Money was my only aspiration and I would strive for it by any means necessary. There were many unmentionable crimes that I had committed and only my inner man could convince me that I was doing wrong. At this point I realised I had a conscience and decided to regain what I thought was my true identity; this is when I was given the opportunity to work in a Special Educational Needs school, which is when I realised how blessed and fortunate I am by 'the man upstairs'.

~Psalms 37:23 KJV~

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.

Thankfully working with young children helped me to calm down, weaning me off my path of destruction.

I went through a flash flood of experiences in a short space of time which was a huge wake up call. I was ambushed whilst with my mom in her car, where my jaw was broken with a hammer. When I saw the fear on my mum's face I thought to myself "is this what I'm doing to innocent people?" I calmed down once again. I suffered for years with extremely bad bowel problems, where I lost weight to the point where my peers thought I was on hard drugs. I would cry out and ask God to take away my ill-gotten gains to know who he was and to be healed. As I was about to hit rock bottom God placed my now-wife in my life. She helped me stay strong and keep my head up, however we were both on a journey to find ourselves and God.

We decided that Rasta was the way and as we were making our transition I heard a voice say "you've got until the end of the holidays to make a change!" I was left puzzled. Low and behold I was invited to Bethel Small heath, and attended with no expectations. I sat in my chair and the power of the word struck me so hard, it led me to take a long look in the mirror. I was left yearning for more. I attended several more times; there was no denying that the word spoken during service was the truth, whereby I spontaneously requested that I get baptised there and then on the 25th of August 2013. Jesus revealed Himself to me and from that day on I was delivered from my illness and things of my previous nature. My new life became a breath of fresh air, I was set free.

Psalms 27:14

Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

There is no denying that I have had mountainous trials and tribulations; at times not knowing what to do or who to turn to, however I have kept firm knowing that God shall always deliver me. The fact that Death attempted to pay me a visit, with a painful taste of meningitis in January of this year shows me just how God is a healer. I am still here with my faith intact stronger than before and I am wonderfully blessed with my wife Cheraine, a virtuous woman of God and two daughters.

Be encouraged saints as we know that one day we shall be caught up to see Him. Be blessed in the mighty name of our Lord saviour Jesus Christ.

Bro Eddie Powell.

WORKSHOPS:

1. From obscurity to security: Scriptures: Gen. 30:16-18 & 1st Chronicles 12:24-32

Born from a mother who did not feel loved and had to resort to using a mythical potion (mandrakes) to persuade her husband to remain with her for the night. Out of this came a son, whose name was associated with being 'hired'. Can you imagine, his early life of being reminded and may have be taunted for being the son for 'hire'. What can we learn from Issachar's humble and unnoticed beginning to the point where he becomes, the one who 'had understanding of the times'?

In the words of Bishop Dunn, your history can either bind you, or be a source of power. What are your stumbling blocks that is preventing you from moving out of obscurity to security in Jesus and thus reaching your potential?

2. Breaking away from the crowd who knows my shortcomings: Scriptures: Gen. 12:1-9 & Gen. 49:1-28

Issachar was surrounding with other siblings whose patriarchal blessings on the face of it appeared more pronounced and prominent; yet, he waited for his change to come. There are many situations where God used men void of any previous experience and one in particular whose culture and context was steeped in idolatrous living, notably Abram. He was told to get out from amongst them and be ye separated. He could have questioned the call because this type of change meant the break-up of strong relationships, which included family ties. The question begs, what are those ties and who are they, that are causing you to question the very God that brought you out of darkness and into his marvellous light?

How do we move towards our destiny and what ties would we have to sever?

3. Making sense of the prophetic word (s) spoken over my life: Scriptures: Gen. 27: 34-36, Gen. 49: 14-15 & Judges 6: 12-17

"Issachar is a strong ass couching down between two burdens: And he saw that rest was good, and the land that it was pleasant; and bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a **servant unto tribute**". (Genesis 49:14-15). What prophetic words have been spoken over your life to date?

Have you been able to allow that Godly interpretation in order for you to make sense of that prophetic word, that on the face of it may seem concerning, but in actual fact is a blessing

Gideon, had to deal with his low self esteem; Jacob struggled in his early days and was known as a supplanter; Moses said that he was not of good speech to deal with Pharaoh and Jesus was called a wine bidder and a friend of publicans.

This workshop will help you to make sense of the 'waiting / preparation times'.

ITINARY:

9.30 - 10.00am - **Registration**
Opening Prayer - **Minister Boswell Bailey**
10: 05 - 10: 10 - **Welcome Address: Overseer Eric Bailey**
10: 10 - 10.20 - **Setting the scene: Deacon Pomell**
10: 20 - 11.00 - **Praise, Worship and Consecration**
11: - 1.00pm - **Workshops**
1: - 2.30pm - **Lunch**
2: 30- 3.00pm - **Summary Session**
3: 00 - 3. 30pm - **Comfort Break**
3.30 - 4.00pm - **Praise & Worship**
4.00 - 4.30pm - **The Word**
Altar Call - Pastor Narme

HOUSE KEEPING:

Mobile Phones

Are to be switched off during seminar (excluding break times)

Time Keeping

Please be on time at the start of each session and meal times

Food

Only to be consumed in the designated areas

Water

Bottled water is permitted in all rooms

Recording

No unauthorised recording in any of the workshops / session

Confidentiality

What is discussed in the workshops must not be repeated outside of the sessions

Emergencies

See one of the ushers on duty

THANKS & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

PRESIDING BISHOP S. A. DUNN
CENTRAL DISTRICT PASTORS BOARD
ELDER McLean
CONFERENCE TEAM
CONFERENCE FACILITATORS
BROTHER ANDRE BAILEY – LOGO & CONFERENCE BRANDING
GRACE APOSTOLIC CHURCH
ALL DONATORS
PRAISE & WORSHIP TEAM
MUSICIANS

