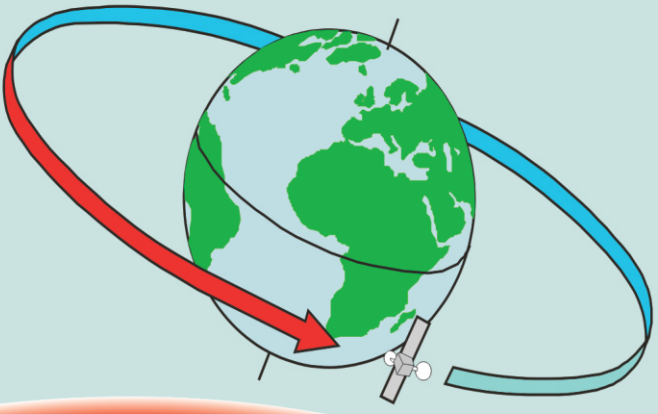
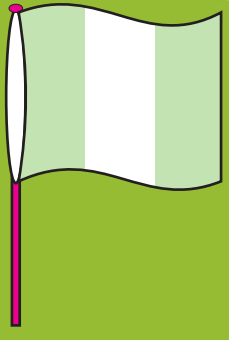
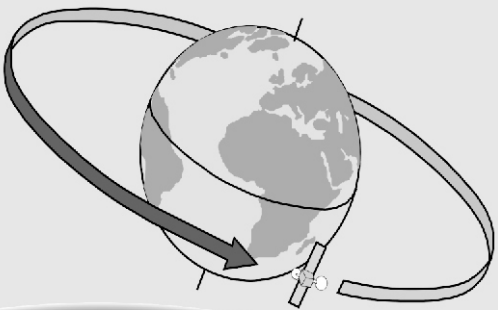


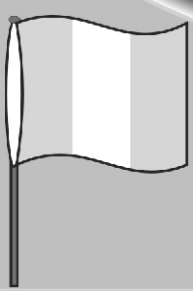
RULERS, GOVERNANCE *and* ACCOUNTABILITY



AFOLABI OLADELE



RULERS, GOVERNANCE *and* ACCOUNTABILITY



AFOLABI OLADELE

Copyright © 2011

Revised Edition © 2011

THE CHRISTIAN BRETHREN CHURCH

All rights reserved. No part of this Book may be reprinted by process whatsoever, without written permission of the Copyright owner.

It is a short version of the series run on LTV in Lagos. The full version in DVDs are available.

All enquiries should be directed to:

THE CHRISTIAN BRETHREN CHURCH
P. O. Box 4898,
Marina, Lagos. Nigeria.
Tel: 01-8963452, 234-(0)8033628796
E-mail: brethrenlagos@yahoo.com

NOT FOR SALE

RULERS, GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The task of governance is a shared responsibility between the rulers and the citizens. Divinely ordained, this task includes seeing that order, justice, freedom and equity are maintained for the smooth running of the nation's affairs. It is therefore the duty of each citizen not to stand aloof and watch things derail under faltering or failed leadership. The 6th National Assembly had come and gone and the bad taste it left in our mouths still linger to present an opportune occasion for the current and upcoming generation of Nigerians to take personal responsibility for their government, just as much as the government must for the citizens.

But how do we all develop this sense of responsibility for one another? What are the things we need to know and learn towards contributing our individual

and collective parts to the common good of our nation Nigeria? What are the divine prerequisites for seeking leadership and the consequences of abuse of the position? These are the issues to be addressed in this exposé.

OBJECTIVES

Something that most people have not fully taken cognisance of is defining responsibilities; for ourselves as the church of the living God, for the citizens and for the rulers of our nation. We will address this looking at what the scriptures tell us concerning what our responsibilities are? I would also show you that bad governance is not just happening today, it had been, even in the days of the Bible. God ordained governance, and set some things in motion, in terms of the way His servants ought to relate to the question of bad governance, so that we do not find ourselves walking out of line, particularly in terms of the instructions that God Almighty Himself has given.

When we have gone through that, I would like to show you **the Nigeria case,** and in dealing with the Nigeria case you will be able to judge for yourselves, where Nigeria is standing today. And if you understand the place of Nigeria in governance today, and what our responsibilities are, we would have no further excuse doing the things that are contrary to the word of God.

With respect to what our responsibilities are, let me say this: this word is coming for two specific reasons:

1. To arouse the conscience of those who are the aspiring leaders of tomorrow, or those who are currently there; appeal to their conscience by showing them what the word of God says about rulers and;

2. Present information to those who are exercising leadership. Because until a people know, can you condemn them? When God raised up Jonah, Nineveh was a powerful nation on the face of the earth. It was a nation that had made conquests in different places and when God

> spoke concerning the wickedness of Nineveh; if you check their history, the manner in which they killed their captives was so horrible, so gruesome that God could just have destroyed the kingdom of Nineveh. But did He just destroy it? No! What did He do? He sent the man Jonah. And that is the nature of our God, He gives the opportunity to repent before judging in His fury. But can a people repent except they know what they have done wrong?

And here is a charge for which all of us, church leaders etc, we stand culpable, and I mince no words in saying that. It is not good enough for us to preach great sermons inside our assemblies, and complain and say all kinds of horrible things about those who are ruling us, without taking the pains to show them what the word of God says? Who has taken the pains to tell them, "Hey! You may have gotten to this position one way or the other, but this is what God says your responsibilities should be, if you are a leader!" When a people know the truth but does

contrary to the word of God, God is at liberty to do what He needs to do. We can preach all the sermons we want inside our four walls and praise God for that. We can talk about the principles of righteousness that we need to live by to make the kingdom of heaven, but how many of those who are ruling the nations, how many of those who are aspiring to be rulers understand what the demands of governance are? And if they don't live up to their responsibilities, you can grumble from here till kingdom come, you are guilty, I am guilty; we are guilty of not telling them what the word of God says concerning "rulership".

We will sort that out, with the help of God as we continue, but what is crucial for us is that we do not just hear or read this word and let it stay with us. You no longer have an excuse that you don't know, but when you have known, do something about it. It is time for us to take action. But what action should we be taking?

One of the things that stunned me as I began to search the word of God concerning this is that we cannot substitute God's own way for dealing with a matter

with the way the world will deal with it. That is where we have a problem today. If God has set a pattern on the way He is going to deal with a matter, you cannot use your logic or what the world wants to substitute what God has said. If you do that, you will be worse than a sinner because you knew the truth, but you chose not to walk according to the truth. When we in the church understand and we can declare the same across the length and breadth of this nation, we would be discharging our duties.

Let's press forward in terms of defining what our responsibilities are, and I am going to start from:

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHURCH IN GOVERNANCE

1 Tim. 2:1 "*I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life*

in all godliness and honesty."

There are responsibilities that God has given to the church - to you, to me. How often do we pray for our leaders if we say we are people of the word of God? God's purpose is that all men be saved, including our rulers. Should they die because they are rulers? That is not God's will. God's purpose is that all men be saved; that will lead to a peaceable life, a life that is in peace. So if you have no reason at all to pray, just obey what the word of God says by praying for them. I am trying to define the responsibilities of the church for us so that when we understand what our responsibilities are, the impetus or motivation to act will come, especially if we have been lukewarm in this area of our Christian life.

One of the things that caught my attention the most, from the scripture we read is that it said that prayers should be made first of all *for kings, for all that are in authority that you may lead a peaceable and quiet life in all godliness and honesty*. I want you to see and understand and indict yourselves concerning this.

1 Tim. 2:3 *"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour."* Where else in the scriptures do you find the phrase ***good and acceptable***? Romans 12:2 *"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that* ***good, and acceptable,*** *and perfect, will of God."* If you tie those two scriptures together, you will find out that part of your offering a sacrifice to God is that you do that which is ***good, and acceptable*** before Him. If you are not praying for your rulers, you are not fulfilling this scripture. And therefore you cannot tell me that you are presenting your bodies as a living sacrifice unto God. Paul was speaking to his son, Timothy, Pastor of Ephesus, when he told him, "Pray for your kings and rulers, for this is good and acceptable in the sight of God". When I understood this, it was like God slapping me and saying, "then don't tell me that you can substitute a human solution for what I have given a solution for, and then think you are presenting your body as a living sacrifice to me". In other words, for anybody who has an issue with respect to any government at all, if you are not following what God has

said by praying for them earnestly, but you choose another way to try and address your issue, you are not fulfilling scriptures. God's chosen way in dealing with rulers as far as my responsibility and yours is concerned, is first of all to pray. To choose any other means is working contrary to the principles that God ordained.

Either God cannot fulfil what He says He will fulfil when He says pray, and we choose something else or we are the ones who have become unbelievers, carried away by the passion that we have to get results. And as I said to the congregation when we were looking at the principles by which God causes changes to be, we want things to happen preferably yesterday; but that is not the way of God because God is a God of process. In time, He will bring His purposes to stand.

What Paul spoke to Timothy his son about his responsibility to rulers, Peter began to say exactly the same thing in1 Pet. 2:13-15, where he said almost the same words - two different apostles, of two different backgrounds of knowing the word of God, working in

unity, in one Spirit: Verse 13. *"Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well."*

What does this say to us? That we submit ourselves to the ordinance of the government! And except in cases where you are asked to deny your faith or to compromise your faith, God says that we submit ourselves to them, for they are ministers of God. The government are ministers of God for a specific thing. Pray for them to fulfil God's mandate. I want you to understand your responsibility as defined by God in relation to governance and those who are in authority. I have a responsibility to pray for those who are in positions of authority, I have a responsibility to support them in the ministration of good things, the way the word of God has put it.

So we understand our responsibilities as those that God has revealed His word to, to pray for those He has set over us with the clear understanding that God Himself is the one who is in charge and He will make

whatever changes that needs to be made. I cannot now substitute worldly methods for what God says is the way to go; otherwise I would not be pleasing Him in the manner that His word has spoken about. If we understand that, let's take a few other things.

GOVERNANCE IN THE BIBLE DAYS

The word of God is perfect, it balances things for us as believers, in terms of what our responsibilities are to the government, and what the responsibilities of the government are to its people. And you see this, right from the Old Testament. Two examples come to mind: Darius and Artaxerxes who facilitated Israel's return Babylon. In Ezra 6:10, Ezra 7:23, you will see where the different kings were saying 'let us make offerings unto God in praying for the life of the king and His sons'. People generally understood that it was in their place to pray for the kings and the life of the king's son. In Romans 13: 1-7 you will see where you have the overlap in terms of the responsibilities of the people and the responsibilities of the rulers. The

whole objective is so that you and I would evaluate ourselves on the basis of what God says are our responsibilities. If God says we are failing, let's correct ourselves. By the same token, when we see the responsibilities of the government, and the government hierarchies are not living according to what those principles are, then it is our duty to point it out to them, as I will show you in the word of God.

Rom. 13:1 *"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation"*. Being subject to higher authority cuts across the home, the church, the office, and the nation. Can we then find ourselves in a place where the word of God says do this and for whatever reasons, we then begin to resist God? Then we are making a lie of what we say we believe. That is why in one of the scriptures God said in I Peter 2: 16, "Do not use your liberty as a cloak for maliciousness". See also I Cor. 8: 9. So when I then say because I am Pastor, I can rain horri-

ble things on people, I had better be sure that I am not falling short of the scripture.

Verse 3 "*For rulers are not terrors to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:"* In this scripture, you see one of the first responsibilities set for the government itself. Every government understands that it has a responsibility to punish evil and to support good. Every government; in my house, in the church, in the office or in the society, recognises a God-given responsibility that stands out - they are to punish evil and to reward good. And as long as a government is doing that, you have no basis to begin to challenge it.

Verses *4-6 "For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing".* Another

responsibility of everybody is that you pay your tax, to support the cause of the government in resisting evil and promoting good. True government is a minister of God in attending to, promoting the general welfare of the people, protecting them and ensuring that evil does not prevail.

The summary of all I have said so far is that as the church has responsibility towards the government, so also the government has responsibility toward the people. And beyond the church understanding its responsibility to pray, has the church done what it ought to do in terms of letting those who are in governance or those who are aspiring to be, understand what their responsibilities are, as demanded by God? Do they know? We can all assume and presume that they know. But I am asking you by instruction from the Lord, it doesn't cost anything for you to tell them, and let them understand what the word of God says, in relation to their responsibilities; because you cannot condemn a man for what he doesn't know.

Many of you already know that the government is supposed to promote good, to protect the people,

and to promote their welfare; but our government in Nigeria doesn't do that. You can come to that conclusion and I won't fault you, but what do the scriptures teach us in terms of the relationship of a believer of God to bad governance? That is where we have a big question, which we are addressing.

I have chosen to deal first and foremost with the issues that relate to us as the people of God - understanding what the word of God says to us with respect to our responsibilities before looking at government itself. When we know what we ought to do and begin to respond aright, you will see how God Himself will begin to do the things that will promote all our desires. We have approached it wrongly and we need to correct it. Is it only in Nigeria that there is bad government? No!

CEASAR, HEROD AND OTHERS

Let's look at the word of God and see examples of bad governance, then we will go on to the example of the

Lord Jesus Christ Himself and learn from Him. Then we will be able to understand what we ought to be doing that we are not doing right.

Luke 3: 1-5 *"Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene, Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins; As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth;"*

Caesar operated a military dictatorship; so the scriptures actually show us that there is military government in the word of God. Then there was Pontius

Pilate, Herod, etc. the civil governors, and the high priest (religious government). So it is not just now that we have the military government, governors or religious leaders; they existed even long before John the Baptist showed up.

The military of those days are not different from the police of today. They had a specialty in bribery. By the time you see what John began to say concerning each one of these groups that we have identified, you will begin to see that bad governance existed in the days of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is not just now that it began with governors who are rip-offs, who live their lives in sinful lasciviousness.

From John the Baptist we learn: The first response of the eternal God in the Bible to bad governance was the preaching of repentance: condemnation of their evil ways, followed by open and public call to repentance. This was the ministry of John the Baptist, in fulfilment of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, *"the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall*

be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth;" (Isaiah 40: 3-4).

Matthew 3:1-3, 7 *"In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"*

The first people that came were the religious people themselves. So when we are beginning to point fingers, let us first clean our own houses. Have we as a body followed the principles that are laid down in the word of God? Our nation needs change. The ones that can bring change about are substituting the ways and the principles of the world for the word of God; because the word of God tells us how to deal with this matter. And if this is going to be worth anything at all, I

plead with you, take this information, understand it and declare it in the nation, in your homes, in you villages; spread the word all over the land. God has chosen to favour this nation but we have to walk according to His principles.

For every category of the people that came to him, he told them their fault before telling them to repent. Unto the soldiers he said, "Don't extort more than is due to you" - the same bribery we are crying against Policemen. And that's how it went for every one of the categories of Government. Repent, repent, was his song. So don't think that bad government is only here in Nigeria. It existed even in the days of the Lord, but let us learn from what the Apostles and men of old taught so that we can follow the path of the Lord and do what will move God to action.

Luke 3:11 "*He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise. Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed*

you."

The Publicans were the civil servants; they were slammed with extortion. Bribery and corruption has been from old, it is a spirit, a system which only the word of God, (not civil action, seminars or threats) can deal with. When Jonah went to Nineveh, I am sure he was shocked that the people could repent. How else can we explain his outbursts against God? Perhaps many of us feel like him, after all the injustices we have suffered. Never mind, let's just take God for His word and tell the people to repent? We don't have to assume that they cannot change; that was not Jonah's business, as it's not our business; our job is to tell them to change from their evil ways. God is not going to use stones; He is going to use a people who understand what His word says. We can hide our heads inside our churches and say all kinds of bad things about them, but God will hold us accountable because we have seen the pattern in His word, but we chose to use the system of the world to impose it on the things that relate to the kingdom of heaven. It can't work. Let's go back to the principles of the

scriptures. It is a hard sell, but it is the only God given option..

BAD GOVERNANCE: HOW JESUS REACTED

Compassion - Mark 6:30 "*And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught. And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat. And they departed into a desert place by ship privately. And the people saw them departing, and many knew him, and ran afoot thither out of all cities, and out went them, and came together unto him. And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things."*

After a massive crusade Jesus said it was time to rest. And the scriptures show us that many people ran to Jesus. Note the words, 'He saw much people'. He was moved with compassion and then He made a land shaking comment "They were as sheep not having a shepherd." Wherever He speaks about sheep and shepherd, He was speaking of leadership, and those who were being led. Jesus saw this multitude as though they were sheep without rulers. But were there no rulers in the land? Yes, there were. In fact, prior to this statement, in chapter 5, you'd see Herod who had taken his brother's wife and was prepared to kill a prophet on the platitude of just satisfying his lust. Bad governance was there. Jesus saw bad governance. There were rulers in the land but **the true ruler is one who is driven by compassion**. Rulers must understand that one of the fundamental things that God expects in their life is compassion and care for the people over whom they are set.

He began to do something that was very significant. He began to teach them many things. **Jesus' next response to bad governance was teaching**. His

first response after compassion which is an innate emotion was that He began to teach them - getting them to understand how to deal with leadership. Compassion in the heart of the leader sees to the welfare of the people. Can you compare this to our attitude towards people and bad governance? We are to teach the people and the leaders what is right. This goes back to buttress what Paul and Peter said about the responsibility of every government being to promote the general welfare of its people. Don't make them to become like sheep without shepherd.

I am trying to get you to understand a few principles here. First of all, apart from praying, you have a responsibility in terms of showing the leaders where they are wrong by preaching repentance to them. Jesus here was showing us a third point where He was showing that it is our responsibility to teach the people how to cope with bad leadership.

THE TWO KINGDOMS AND THEIR PRINCIPLES

Mark 6: 37 *"He answered and said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they say unto him, Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat? He saith unto them, how many loaves have ye? Go and see. And when they knew, they say, five loaves, and two fishes."*

These were a group of people who had been with the Lord to hear His word, and afterwards became hungry, but there was nothing for them to eat. Jesus then asked His disciples the land shaking question: "How many loaves do you have? Give you them something to eat". Here, you begin to see Jesus introducing very carefully the principles of the two kingdoms. When it came to trying to feed the people, all that the disciples could think about was the logic of buying and selling and money. But there comes a time when the principles of this world cannot solve a problem and that is where we find ourselves today. When people don't understand the principles of

God's kingdom, they fall prey to the principles of the world and that is why there is so much trouble.

The young lad had the five loaves and the two pieces of fish, and what did he do? *He gave it; he didn't sell it because he understood that the principle of heaven is based on sharing, not on selling.* If we don't understand and cannot show it to the rulers of our nation, then we are in trouble. The principles of this world are based on buying and selling, which speaks to our greed and the struggles we have. "I will kill so I can get there"- that mentality is not of God's kingdom. We as the people of God need to understand this and tell it to the nation, that God is the one who multiplies; there is no shortage in His kingdom. Live according to the principles of the kingdom and you will see the eternal God doing the things that we thought were unthinkable. Try it in your homes, try it in your local assemblies, cast your bread upon the waters, after many days, it will come back to you (Eccl. 12:1-2). Though the scriptures don't tell, after they had shared and finished eaten, if it were you that was in charge, who would you have given all the twelve baskets

remaining to? Of course, you would have given it back to the boy. He came with five loaves and two pieces of fish and he went back with twelve baskets; what kind of multiplication would you call that? Some of you, in your individual lives have learnt to share even the little thing that you have and you have seen how God works back. If God can do it at the individual level, why can't He do it on a national level? He can, and He is willing to do it. I have His sure word that He is willing to do it if the people are willing to break the "grab, grab" mentality that has prevailed on them.

So we see in the life of John the Baptist, in his ministry, we see in the life of the Lord Jesus Christ our King, our Saviour what it was that He taught. And He taught the people how they ought to live. I personally have experienced that. Everything that is related to this world is based on greed, manipulation, on me! Me!! Me!!! The "Me" mentality, the "entitlement" mentality are the things that are killing our nation. This little lad did not think of himself; he wasn't looking at himself. That "entitlement" and "me"

mentality is the reason our rulers are willing to kill and to maim, just to get into office. And until we are able to show them and make them to understand that the only way God's blessings can come upon our nation is by following the principles of God, we are culpable. Others have fallen prey to the same thing, always looking after their own gain; which is why every tribe wants to be President, so that the gains of government (rightly deserved or not), would be theirs. That's the underlying factor behind zoning. But that is not the way of God. If a President arise who will meet the yearnings and aspiration of everybody: nobody will care about his tribe.

God has His own principles which have to prevail if we are going to see the changes that God wants to give this nation. And until we begin to tell this truth and push it so that our people will understand, all these grabbing and grabbing that amounts to nothing will only lead them to tales of judgement, and we would have failed to get the people to understand what the Lord wants for our nation, in terms of a change for the better.

LEADERSHIP PATTERN AS SET BY GOD

Looking at the pattern for the exercise of leadership; the scriptures tell us that God instituted the cascading levels of authority. Moses was a type of governor, or president. In order not to burn himself out, he was instructed to delegate duties to several others under him. These men were chosen by God: what did God do afterwards? The word says He took of the spirit that was upon Moses and put it on them. (Numbers 11: 16-17). This implies that they were not to be different from Moses; the principles of the life of Moses, He expected would drive their lives, in terms of their responsibility towards God, their compassion for the people they led, and the way in which they led them.

That standard never once changed, as David emphatically stated: *"Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who*

was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said, The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue. The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God. And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain." (2 Sam. 23: 1-3).

Every man that is aspiring to be a ruler: local government chairman, a senator or you are in the house of assembly, in the state or at the federal level, the same principles apply - **He that rules over men must be just and also rule in the fear of God.** Is there a heart that fears God among our rulers? Have they been told what God demands of them, that they have to be just and they have to rule in the fear of God? There is something that is an outflow from these two principles that you will see. 'He will be like the light of the morning'. What does the light do? It reveals the way to walk so that a person does not stumble. Every

man that God sets to be a leader understands that he has a role to provide transparent leadership unto the people. This will translate into general development and individual growth of the citizenry. Every leader thus recognises his responsibility as a mentor. We need to tell our leaders and cause them to see that very grievous things happen when leaders fail in their mentorship role and transparency that is required in the manner in which they lead people.

WHO HAS TOLD THEM?

Just as it is true in the home, so it is in the church, in the office and in the nation at large, that everybody that aspires to be a leader must understand that he has to be just and lead in the fear of God. In taking on the responsibility he must know that is not just leading a people, he is leading them in the path that will cause something to grow in their lives. And until we begin to show that the principles of delegation and shared responsibility is founded upon the fear of God and the propagation of integrity, then we will continue to

have the kind of things that we are seeing around us in government.

My issue is who has told those who are aspiring to be leaders their responsibilities? Has anybody told them? All we love to do is to curse them, criticize them; is that what God requires of you? That is why I am bringing out these things to you, so you cannot claim ignorance any longer. If these words die with you, you are accountable to God. But if you share the word and preach it in your assemblies, in your offices, villages, and wherever you are, God will reward you for it.

Sometime ago, I was on a charity trip, raising funds to help the poor. It was an environment devoid of facilities; yet they had a Local Government, a Federal Honourable and a Senator, with all of them collecting Constituency Allowance for Community Projects. And until you begin to tell, not because you want to raise any rebellion, but to appeal to people to understand the things that He requires of them, Positive changes will continue to elude the Nation.

THE PATHWAY TO BLESSING

All true blessings, whether for individuals or nations are tied to the promises of God. For example, in Numbers 13, "God said to Israel, choose from amongst you twelve leaders (from the 12 tribes) to go and see the land that I have promised you." There was a promise that God had put upon Israel that He will bless them, but the leaders that were appointed, who went to see the land God was to give them did not help matters. They went and saw the land, and they brought the evidence of what they saw: they brought fruits from the land to show that the word of God was true, but in their report they discouraged the people from fighting for the land as instructed by God.

In the same way I say assuredly, God chose to bless this country called Nigeria but our leadership has to work in alignment with what God wants to do.

Towards the end of Numbers 13, the leadership broke

into two, when some began to tell stories of how they saw giants in the land, and how they were like grasshoppers before them. What did those stories cause to grow among the people - ***rebellion and fear.*** That stands against what David experienced in his life. He said the path of the leader must be as a cloudless morning: presenting only that thing that will cause the people to grow in their confidence in God. While the major part of the leadership began to stir up rebellion against God, the minority stirred up faith. And by the time you get to chapter 14, the entire nation of Israel began to cry. Num. 14: 1-4 "*And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.* They thought they were talking to Moses and

Aaron; little did they know that God was listening. They also did not know that if you stir up rebellion in the heart of the people against God, there is a price to pay, because Numbers 14 verse 20 records that every one of the errant leaders died in that place. Every leadership that caused people over whom they reign to get into rebellion against God ended up dead. They didn't have to wait a long time, God exercised the judgement instantly. So you'll begin to understand all those ones that have fallen by the wayside in the 'rulership' of this nation. I have no desire to see any further death, but because of the reason of this word that is going forth, God will accompany it with judgement if we will do our bit. I am not a murderer; I am a preacher of the word: one sent to save souls. Do your part. Let the world know; let them understand that there is a price to pay for doing what is wrong. This word needs to go out, and you the people of God are the ones to carry it out, to the Councillor or the Chairman in your ward, the House of Reps member, the Senator, the Governor, House of Assembly person at the State level, or the President himself - everybody.

THE PROMISE OF GOD STANDS

Many of us have agonized for our nation, and sometimes seem to get a little respite, but then we are back in the doldrums again. From the scripture we read above, God caused me to see that whereas He will judge the leadership, God never withdraws the promise God gives unto the people. What does He do? He keeps pushing it forward until He finds a generation that will do His will. And that is where this nation has been in trouble. All of the people, who murmured against God, from the ages of twenty and above, died in the wilderness according to the word of the Lord; but His promise did not fail, the next generation got to the promised land. Likewise the promises of God concerning Nigeria cannot fail, but I am pointing out to you what has caused this postponement of blessing that we are seeing; it is because generation after generation have followed the path of evil leadership. We continue to steal because our fathers stole. We continue to destroy because our

fathers destroyed; and unknowingly, we have been responsible for pushing away the promises of God. It has to stop.

God is saying to the young ones, "You cannot set your teeth upon the grapes that your fathers have eaten, without experiencing the same repercussion - barrenness. If you want this nation to experience the blessings of God, you who are watching over our young people, you have to get them to understand the key to bringing the transformation: the promises that God have given to this nation lies in their hands, and the only way it will be exercised is if they stop doing the evil things that their fathers have done. That is the only way. That your fathers stole and had big cars and houses is no reason for you to steal. Stop it. You are only postponing the goodness of the Lord from the land.

In our schools, in our homes, wherever it is, let's declare it and say it to the people, don't follow the evil ways of our leaders. Otherwise we are going to be moving like a roller coaster (going round and round in circle), but the promises of God remain true, they

never change. When Israel was to enter into the Promised Land, the half tribe of Manasseh and Rueben wanted to set their own camp at Jordan when Moses cried out to them; "You want to be like your fathers? Don't rebel like they did!" They understood and went along with their brethren to the end. Oh, you young men and women coming out of school, stop stealing, stop doing the things that are wrong, the key to bringing the promise of God to pass in our lives rests upon you.

Leaders of our land, you need to understand that God will hold you responsible. You need to understand the demands of God that you be good examples for those who you are leading. If all we do is to fight at the House of Assembly, what should our children be doing? God set this nation for a purpose. We risk failing that purpose and the buck stops with what you do with this word you are reading. It may look like a joke, as if you are not part of it, let's take the bull by the horn and do what we need to do. Leaders' lives, leaders' testimonies must draw people to God and not turn them against God. What is our testimony

now? What is our nation doing now?

I see that there is such huge movement in terms of what the church is doing to address the ills in government, but when placed against what the word of God speaks, there seems to be a disparity - they don't align. It is not in my place to speak about any servant of God, because we are one body, but let us correct ourselves together and return to the basics of what God is saying: on our knees and declaring the counsel of God every which way we have, not just on television now, because I have found out that television just go to those who are the elites; plus, the TV Stations will not air facts against their paymasters.

OUR DUES FROM GOVERNMENT / LEADERS

Go through the states making up Nigeria, over and over, and at the lower levels you can see the agony, the wretchedness; yet we have leaders who are living in affluence because the people who are living below

them don't even know their God-given expectations from government. The poor, illiterate masses need to be shown how their leaders lie to them and get them to sell their birthright for pittance (little pay - reward). The elites alone cannot change this country and it is not going to come by their way, it will come by the way of the Lord.

Let us look into Ezekiel 34 to see the things that God requires us to do if we are going to move forward and see Him bring His promise to pass concerning our people. Ezekiel 34:1- *"And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks?"*

The leaders of Israel, whether they were the kings or the rulers of the different cities, God took it upon Himself to speak against them. What was He indicting them over? They were looking after their own interests alone. The "me" mentality had taken over them, even if it meant killing the sheep in their care. They

forgot that it is not their sheep, it is God's sheep. Oh Mr. Governor, who thinks that it is his right to take the taxes of the people to foster his own interests, hear the word of the Lord, "Woe unto the rulers of Israel who feed themselves". The responsibility of the ruler is the welfare of the people, to protect them, to provide for them. The responsibility of our rulers is to feed the sheep, but instead of feeding the sheep, they feed themselves. But the reaction of church is crucial at this time. We have to react rightly, and point them to what the word of God says, that there is sure judgement that will come, and that our desire is not for them to perish because God wills all men to be saved (2 Peter 3: 9).

Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock.

The leaders eat the fat, which represents all the labours of the people, all their struggles by way of eating their taxes, and instead of clothing them, that is protecting the people, they are left unprotected.

Verse 4 "*The diseased have ye not strengthened,*

neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them.

There is a young man named Precious in Enugu state, who sustains himself doing all sorts of daily labour work. He had an accident and became paralysed. There is a Local Councillor in his area, there is an Assembly man that represents his area, there is a Senator that represents his area, and all these people are collecting tons of money as constituency allowances, yet they don't even know him, not to talk about helping him out.

There is another woman who is a widow and childless, whose house has been burnt in a fire, and she is bedridden with a leg that is refusing to heal. She sent a picture of herself in the hospital, crying for help. We can name many others more; they cut across the length and breadth of our nation. They have Local Councillors and Assembly representatives who collect money out of the resources that God has

blessed this nation with, and are supposed to look after their welfare, but what have they done? Would you call these ones rulers?

Many women applying legitimately for jobs are jobless; because they have refused to sleep with officials in Government. This shows that we have a lot of work to do in our nation. There is evil in the land and we cannot shut our mouths, rather, we will point out the evil to the people and tell them to repent. For these men who rule over us, we must call them to order by witnessing to them, by our preaching and declaring what the word of God says. If we don't do that, we would only be joking to expect a change.

Do you know how many of our daughters are in Spain and Italy as prostitutes? Children who have education but because there was nothing to do in the land, they went away and became prostitutes? The scriptures declare and speak to all these things but because they don't touch you, you think they don't exist. It ought not to be so. Isn't their fatherland blessed with so much, and they live as outcasts in other lands? Yet we have leaders. Did you not read in

the papers of recent how many Nigerians were executed in Libya? What did our leaders say, what did they do? Nothing!

Verse 5 "*And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered.*"

Every where that a Nigerian goes, people look at you with so much distrust. I was privileged to appear in an international business network where I was promoting Nigeria and after that, my lawyers called me and asked me if I had my head in the right place. They felt that I shouldn't have identified with my country because it is known for fraud; and with my reputation in their country, canvassing for support and investment for that nation (Nigeria) was ill-advised. I had spoken as I thought it ought to be for the nation of my birth, but the things that have preceded us as a people in this nation have destroyed any form of goodwill that we should enjoy. Where are our leaders-Religious or political?

What have our religious leaders done in making

known the standard that the word of God demands of those who ought to be leaders? It is easy to point fingers. Except you take the bull by the horn and elect credible leaders, you will see the old gang return, and the promise is further postponed. For this cause, God has arisen with this word that there will arise a people who understand what it is that God wants of them and they will go out there and declare it. This is not an elite issue; it is an issue for all and sundry, until God brings His word to pass. Our land is in need of help but the first helpers are you and I because we know the word and we ought to tell it to those who are aspiring for leadership or those who are still there.

POLITICAL EMPLOYEES: DO THEY DESERVE SO MUCH?

As an employer, if you were paying so much to a people, you have a right to expect and demand set (appreciable) results, because the word of God even tells us that *to whom much is given, much is required*

(Luke 19:11-22). If as much as ₦1m per day is spent on a Senator in Nigeria where 90% of it's population lives on less than ₦300 per day, should we not expect better from them?

How many laws have been passed since the so called return to democracy? What is the quality of the laws that have been passed in terms of improving the lives of the people? What is the impact of these laws on the general populace? And whose interest are these laws serving? In 10 years of democracy, from 1999 to 2006 under Obasanjo's regime, you can see the number of laws that were passed on an annual basis, and I just wonder, what work do they do to deserve all the money they receive? Who is asking questions? Who knows that he should lift his voice and say enough is enough? In the most immediate past, in all of 2008, only 4 laws were passed, in 2009 only 1. We all can see that the amount of work done is inversely proportional to the amount of money that they are taking from the central purse. These things ought to shock you to your knees: to cry to God for repentance amongst our leaders; to cry to God to help us and

send us leaders who will do what is right; leaders who would fear God and would do the things that are principled.

PROTECTING THEMSELVES

Let's look at the quality of the laws, what about the Fiscal Responsibility Act? Is it not that people can be held accountable for whatever they have done with money? Nobody wants to be held accountable. We read earlier in God's word that those who rule a people must be just and must rule in the fear of God; that their paths must be like a cloudless morning. Fiscal responsibility only speaks to the issue of transparency? Why would I take that which is of common purse and I consume it; and when I'm asked to give an account, I then say, it is security vote? Because we trivialize these things, we just let them pass, they continue to do it. What have they done with those charged for corruption? Nothing! They just push it here and there and it has come to nought.

What of the Freedom of Information Act? Thank

God, that has been passed and now signed into law. But will they let it work? Knowing that in Nigeria, a section of the society believe that they are above the law. If the information favours them, be sure they will release it, but if it's not bringing down their enemies, they will not. Only a few people would speak and show the evil that the leaders have done in private. But is that not where it usually ends? What will you do about all the evil in our land? Will you just sit down and fold your arms and grumble? You think you are protected? Don't you know that God hates murmurers? God does not want us to murmur, He's given us a key in terms of what we need to do. Can we test this God and go on our knees and cry concerning this nation and cry for repentance, as we preach the word; knowing the things that the word of God says.

Look at the recent amendment to the Constitution. They talk of appointing educated people to be in the National Assembly, but our leaders don't want that. There are different things that Justice Uwias put in that Constitution Bill that they have just thrown out because they know it will challenge their opportunity

of continuing in that position. How many more shall we list? I've just taken the ones that are significant. If there were enough job opportunities here, why would a young woman become a servant and then goes to Italy and become a prostitute? Why would a young man, strong and able, abandon the place of heritage and go to become a scumbag in another land? And we sit as if God has not blessed this country. God has blessed this country.

In eleven years of democracy, how many in a constituency can actually identify who is their Assembly person? What good has he/she brought to them? Many citizens don't even know that every Senatorial district has a project account which they are to benefit from. We have a responsibility to speak up, and stand to do that which is right. To speak up for what God wants and do that which is right for our nation. God has a purpose for this nation, and as far as the word of God is concerned, if we don't get it right, He would pass us by. That is not our desire. That you may know and be aroused unto things that God would have you do, is all I desire.

The 2010 Appropriation Act showed you how much is being spent on a senator in a year to be ₦351,000,000. In other words, in 365 days which is in a year, a Senator gets ₦1million per day; whereas, 90% of Nigerians are surviving on less than $2 a day; $2 a day is ₦300. God have mercy upon our rulers. We fold our hands; the newspapers push us this way and that way, as if God is blind. **God is not blind; the people may be blind but the veil is being taken away, not for rebellion, but that we may go back to our knees and accept the portion that God has given to us in terms of responsibility**. The hand of our God is not shortened that He cannot see; it is our iniquities that have separated us far from him. Every one of us has this same "me" mentality, in one form or the other. We also want our relatives to be in the place of power, so that things can be better for us. But does that really happen? When they get there, they don't even remember you. Except we repent and turn to the things that God asks of us, we'll only be joking.

Of those living on less than $1 - 150naira a day,

Nigeria ranks number 2 with over 70% of its population living on less than $1 a day. And a Senator has expended on him on a daily basis ₦1million. Is he 30 times better in life than other Nigerians? These are World Bank and Federal Government statistics, available on the internet. The State governments are even worse, they are accountable to nobody. We have work to do, and God will not come down to do it for us. Who is praying? Who is crying for repentance of our nation? Who is taking the bull by the horn and crying out and getting the people to understand. Calling our leaders to repentance before the sword of the living God falls heavily upon them is what we are trying to do.

We say that 45% of the expenditure of the government is put on paying public servants. How then can the economy grow? How many states at the moment have failed to pay the minimum wage that has been approved many years ago, and now another minimum wage, ₦18,000 has been approved. What can we expect from Labour? Strikes and more strikes. All we see around is either teachers going on strike or

another group is going on strike. Is that the atmosphere in which our children will grow, and we say the future belongs to our children? What do they see of us that should inspire them? Our Representatives fighting on live television? What have we done to take care of these children, to show them the right way? We are not even remorseful and God is saying, first to the church, "Wake up; do your part, do your part!

There are two levels of constituency allowances; every Senator and every Local Assembly member gets a certain amount of money as constituency allowance that is intended for him to be able to sensitize the people in his constituency to the goings on of the government. The other relates to Constituency Projects which Senators and Honourables get funds to execute to better the lives of those who elected them (in the constituencies). **But where have they put the money? We can't see it, except they tell me that the exercise books and sewing machines they distribute have become community projects.**

Whose interest are our rulers serving? Newspapers

report that the House of Assembly or Reps is considering collapsing a portion of the budget so that they can share more money for them to go and prepare for election. How can this be happening in a land where people are living in the dump site? Whose interest are they serving? God's command for leadership is to be just and to rule in the fear of God.

This word goes not only to those who are in governance, but also to the rich. Going go back to Ezekiel 34, God spoke, aside the shepherds who refused to take care of the sheep, He went on to make a difference between the strong sheep and the weak sheep. How are you relating to the issues raised? God's standards for leaders apply to you too.

Ezekiel 34:13 "*For thus said the Lord God, behold I even I will build my sheep and seek them out. As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that is among the sheep that are scattered"* God says He will care for His sheep, even if the leaders and the rich people fail. So then, we need to do our part in pointing out to the leaders and the rich that they have a responsibility that God has put upon them which they

are failing, and for which God will hold them accountable. The strong sheep, God says will I look upon you kindly because you are strong, you have drawn from the waters and then you muddy up the water so that the weak sheep cannot drink from it (Ezek. 34: 18-19). Are you like that? God is raising His voice in our land to call people to repentance so that they will do what is needful.

WHO IS SEEING MR LAZARUS

Luke 16 tells us the story of Lazarus. In Luke16, from verse 19. *"There was a certain rich man,* (and this is the typical example of the strong sheep), *which was clothed in purple and fine linen; And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus which was there at the gate full of sores and decided to be fed by the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass that the beggar died.....*

The rich man had royalty: royalty in clothing, in

eating; and these are the things we all love to show off. Do I condemn that? No! But your attitude is what God is speaking to, particularly, those who are rich in this nation. God was not even asking how this rich man came about his riches; He didn't even talk about that. But it is the attitude and responsibility that he had towards his poor neighbour, Lazarus that God is bringing under scrutiny here.

Examples of the Lazarus' were shown on two BBC documentaries, "The Scavengers" and "Makoko". They were people that nobody noticed, feeding from gabbage and without hope for a better tomorrow. What struck me in the scripture we just looked at is that when the time came, this man recognized Lazarus; he knew him. In other words, he saw him everyday in his house as he was going out, and when he was coming in. He pretended as if Lazarus was not there. But when the time came, he knew that Lazarus existed. How many of you walk with your eyes shut to the needs of those who around you? Those are the Lazarus(es) that the word of God is showing you that nobody cares about?

There are members of the House of Assembly, Senators, Governors, and those who are rich who pass the dumpsite and Makoko regularly; who is seeing the Lazarus(es) in our land? God is teaching us believers to understand that we are members of the same body. Don't shut your eyes to the neighbour and victimize him. Your life is not your own, you were bought with a price, that you may be able to show the goodness of God to those who surround you. That's a cry from heaven; from the heart of God.

God takes care of those who are in the dump site, because when Lazarus died, the scriptures said, he was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; ending up in hell. Rich man or President, Mr. Honourable, Governor, Local Government Chairman or the ordinary businessman who is rich, what have you done when you have passed those who are lower to you? Maybe you don't even want them to breathe. It's time for us to search our hearts, to seek God.

Our legislators are aware of the cases of destitute and the homeless in their constituencies for whom they

receive so much allowance. They may say that they give out scholarships, how do these improve the lives of the people? Scholarships everyday, the streets are full of jobless graduates; no work. **That is why God has given us His children, the job to pray for this nation. Confrontations, rallies and strikes are not God's ways to address these issues.** And this is to turn us back to the word of God that says, *"Be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may do that which is good, the acceptable and the perfect will of God.* **It is good and pleasing to God when we pray for our rulers, that they may come to repentance and be saved.**

A REMINDER TO THE NATION, CHURCH AND YOU.

We are in very difficult times; men's hearts are failing for fear… and for looking at those things which are coming ON THE EARTH. (Luke 21:35-36). Nigeria is also part of the Earth being spoken of here and if we don't turn our ways and heart to fit God's purpose, everything spoken will come upon us too.

The question we need to ask ourselves is: What exactly are we looking for? First as an individual, then as a Church and also as a Nation, because we have this false notion that Change comes easily, and thinking this way is nothing but foolishness. Change is not easily handed down to us; we've got to FIGHT FOR IT!!! In Genesis 15:18, God told Abram "I've given you this land" but we see in Deuteronomy chapter 2& 3, that the Israelites didn't possess the land until they fought for it.

If we don't as a Nation plug ourselves in obedience by fighting for the desired Change, the promise can skip over us to another, God will replace us with our next door neighbor (Ghana), Just like Prophet Samuel said to Saul. For the Lord has rent the Kingdom out of thy hand ……..and given it to thy neighbor (1 Samuel 15:17). This admonition is not just for the Nation but also for the church and individuals too. Watch your lives, whatever it is that God has given you to do; if you fail, you'll be replaced.

Righteousness and Justice are the Pillars on which God's throne is built (Psalm 89:14), therefore we must stand vehemently against unrighteousness and injustice if we want to attain to Destiny. The Bad Politicians won't stop their evil deeds. The pressure is on; zoning, turn by turn politics, things that lead to appointing the wrong people. President Goodluck is under pressure because of the choices that are before him. But the choice God deliberately put there: Righteousness and Justice; that he has to decide upon and if he fails, God will visit his judgment on him - he'll end up like his predecessors. But if he does the right thing, the Lord will exalt him above all that has ever

been before him.

This Nation must fight for her destiny and take it away from men who are robbers, who are sold to the devil; sold to their own selves. Remember, national welfare, like personal destiny is tied to Godliness. And it starts with you, it starts with me, Are you a Senator? Local Government Chairman? Councilor? Governor? Whoever you are, whatsoever you are doing, you must do it in the fear of God, for Nigeria to be a blessing first to her Citizens and then to the rest of the world. I'm not recommending a revolution like in Tunisia, but we must understand the truth that there is a call from God upon us all to stand and declare what we stand for and SPEAK against unrighteousness. It is essential to SPEAK because in Proverbs 11: 11 ...A city is overthrown by the MOUTH of the wicked. This implies that if we want our Nation to be exalted the upright too must SPEAK! The greatest pain belongs to the people (i. e the Church) who just sit and watch, thinking it is not their buisness. Let us not wait for institutions like the EFCC and ICPC. STAND UP, SPEAK AGAINST UNRIGHTEOUSNESS, FIGHT FOR THE CHANGE YOU WANT.

We have established in previous teachings that this Nation, Nigeria is likened to the tribe of Ephraim. When God started with the Israelites it was Joshua (who was of the tribe of Ephraim) and Caleb (who was from Judah) that started the race, and Shiloh was in Ephraim, they had the oracles, the leadership was upon them but we read of them in Psalm 78: 9… being armed, carrying bows, Ephraim turned back in the day of battle, because they were not STEADFAST WITH GOD (vs.7). These were the people of which God said: Ephraim is mine (Psalm 60: 7), the strength of my head (Psalm 108: 8), my firstborn (Jeremiah 31: 9); but we also see God questioning in Jeremiah 31: 20 is Ephraim my dear son? This is the state of this nation now; the question now is upon this Nation, Is this Nation my nation? By the time we get to Hosea, we see God began to distance himself, Ephraim became joined to idols (Hosea 4: 17) and God said LET HIM ALONE. He became oppressed and broken in judgment (Hosea 5: 11), mixed himself among the people, became a cake not turned (Hosea 7: 8-9) and was likened to a silly Dove without heart (Hosea 7: 11): their confidence was no longer in the Living God.

Remember this Nation has a dual nature, the serpent and the eagle. It is a choice where it wants to be. They deeply corrupted themselves (Hosea 8: 11-14). Their root was dried up (Hosea 9: 16). But all hope was not lost for Ephraim, and all hope is not lost for Nigeria too. For God said in Hosea 10: 11 *"I will make Ephraim to ride"*. God is giving us grace to reshape our Nation but remember the change we desire must be fought for, we must keep fighting until Righteousness and Justice is established. God's desire to use Nigeria to flag off revival in Africa and beyond will not wait forever. Go to Ghana to see where God's standard: righteousness and justice is being applied in governance. If Nigeria does not shape up, the principle of replacement which saw Paul replacing Peter in the work among the Gentiles may also sway our portion towards Ghana. Let's stand up to prevent that!

Can we count
On you
to be with us
NEXT SUNDAY?
FOR WORSHIP
AND PRAISE

THE VENUE:
No. 16, Brethren Close/Avenue,
Iyana Ejigbo Bus Stop,
Off Egbe Road,
Ejigbo Isolo, Lagos.
(Sundays 9.30 a.m.,
Tuesdays and Fridays 6.30p.m.)

OR *WRITE:*
THE CHRISTIAN BRETHREN CHURCH
P. O. BOX 4898,
MARINA, LAGOS.
NIGERIA.

This message was taken from a magnetic tape recording and is printed and distributed for the propagation of the Gospel of our LORD JESUS CHRIST.



About the Author

PASTOR AFOLABI RASAQ OLADELE was born into a Muslim family. He was a Muslim till he met the Lord via a Lutheran Christian programme on the Radio. That was in his teens. Since then, he has not looked back; blazing the trail as a minister of the gospel in his University days at the then University of Ife.

His zeal and commitment to the Lord he took with him to NNPC, where he rose to the high position of Group Executive Director in charge of Petrochemicals and Refineries. His peers and colleagues still say they never saw a man displayed so much integrity, fair play and accountability in a world where corruption thrives.

He has been pastoring the Brethren Fellowship since 1986 and brings to you over 35 years of experience in studying and ministration. His vast knowledge and in depth revelation of the word of God will surely amaze you and bless you.

He is married with Five children.