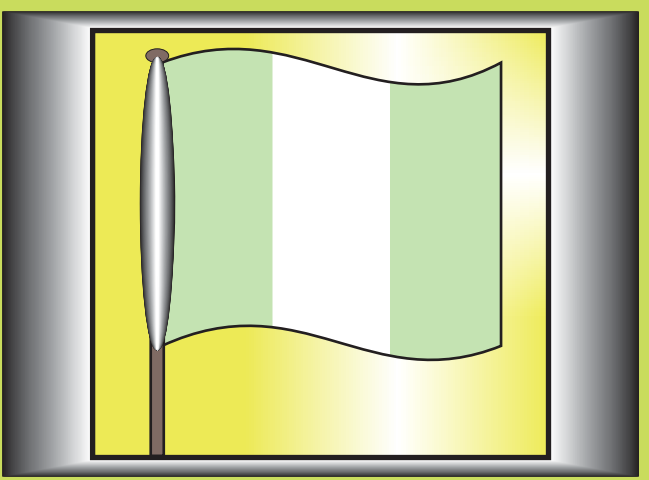
THE TIMES,

THE CHURCH

and our

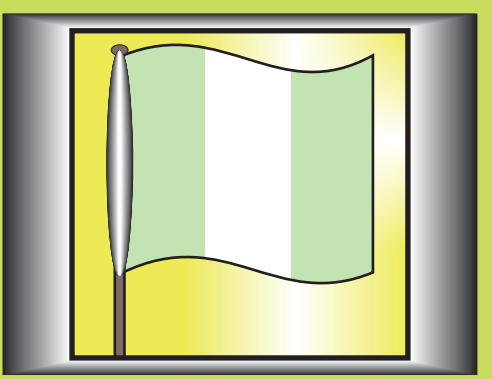
NATION-NIGERIA

AFOLABI OLADELE



THE TIMES,
THE CHURCH
and our
NATION-NIGERIA

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THE CHRISTIAN BRETHREN CHURCH

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NOT FOR SALE

OUTLINE

- INTRODUCTION
- UNDERSTANDING NIGERIA FROM THE COAT OF ARMS
- AS THE ALMIGHTY DESIGNED IT
- NATION IN DESTINY
- WHERE IS THE CHURCH IN NIGERIA?
- UNDERSTANDING THE PATTERNS OF INTERVENTION
- DELIVERERS AND
- ENFORCERS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
- DANGERS TO WATCH
- DOING IT RIGHT
- WATCHING OVER ONE ANOTHER FOR GOOD AND PRAYING

INTRODUCTION

It's all about Nigeria, our great country and moving Nigeria forward, the right, scriptural way. Pressure groups have sprung up diversely, for and against the Government, and the Church is not left out. Church leaders have voiced different shades of opinion to correct Government, to move governance to favour their whims and caprices and sometimes to favour the masses.

Too many things have happened in Nigeria because people have no understanding of what they are talking about. Paul was saying in 1Corithians 14:7-8, *if the trumpet sounds uncertainly or a mixed sound, how can you prepare for battle*? I've been challenged by negative utterances from people that we advocate only prayers as the instrument of change in governance. How I wish they knew the ways of the living God. He says, what fertilizer and water is to the seed and plant, that is the way prayers and the word of God is to believers. All we are doing is to plant that seed of the word; and when the

seed of the word is planted, we have a responsibility to water it, otherwise, we won't see the fruits. That's the importance of prayer; but can you put fertilizer or water on a seedless ground? It will produce weed. And you know what the word of God speaks concerning weeds, it should be burnt. I don't pray that your works should be burnt because I don't want mine burnt. The seed of the word is what we have sought to bring back to the confines of those who ought to know. The parable that Jesus began to speak in Mark 4 explains this further: "*He said the kingdom of heaven is as a man who castest seeds into the earth and day and night he sleepeth and waketh. First, he says there is a blade then he says there is a blossoming.* ***What can I do to bring God's purpose to pass? Nothing, other than to pray and believe Him. Men have not gotten to understand that the timings of God are His timings, they are not mine. I can only fit into what God wants to do, and it's important for us to get this.***"

We seek to bring to your understanding what Nigeria really is. I'll show you the pattern and the way that the Almighty set it, to demonstrate to you in the scriptures that this is a nation in destiny. It doesn't matter what man does, except we make the right choices, we are not

going anywhere. That is our challenge in the times in which we are, and if the church gets it wrong, we will be the first to be whipped by God. We will look at who or what Nigeria is and what Nigeria is supposed to be, as the Almighty designed it from the pages of the scriptures and then, look at the nation in destiny. We will look at where the church is in Nigeria, we will understand the patterns of intervention as ordained by God so that we will bring correction where necessary. That the entire body of the Lord in this nation will understand. Afterwards, let the chip fall where it's going to fall. We would have done what God commands us to do. We'll speak about the dangers to watch out for and we will talk about doing it right. There is a purpose that God allows you to read this, and you better fulfil that purpose. That purpose is to take the word wherever it is that God gives you the opportunity to take it. The debate is on everywhere, and that is the whole intention: that God will raise an army of people who will take the word and move with it. And if we (you and I) only put these information in our pockets, we have failed in those responsibilities towards God. That is my appeal to you. What will you show when you get to the kingdom as what you have done as a part of God's

agenda for this country. As I sought the Lord, it was then that I understood that it is beyond putting food on the table for Nigerians. God does that too. But that is a secondary objective, and as we show you the nation in destiny, perhaps you will be able to step into what God really has called the nation into, and with all your heart give yourselves to the Lord and be accountable to Him as we go forward. A hymn says "*Christian, seek not yet repose, hear your guardian angel say, you are in the midst of foes, watch and pray*." Watch the words carefully, because as you do and tune your hearts to these things, I believe there will be a response from your heart to do what God has called us to in the times in which we are. That is the Lord's appeal to you.

UNDERSTANDING NIGERIA FROM THE COAT OF ARMS

Every currency bears the insignia of a nation. The insignia of any nation, called the coat of arms contains the heraldic symbols; and a heraldic symbol actually tells you not only the progeny, in terms of whatever the antecedence of the country or the person, it also tells you concerning the future. How many people truly understand Nigeria? I don't know if they still teach Civics in schools? I hope we are teaching it with the right motives, because civics or government as they call it speak to two things in particular: it speaks to the obligations and the benefits of every individual. The moment we begin to throw aside the responsibilities as well as the rights and benefits, then that nation no longer exists. Chaos takes over. Every nation has an insignia. And it turns out that the insignia of Nigeria is

the **COAT OF ARMS.**

COAT OF ARMS



Three distinct parts that represent the optimum basis for effective administration but alas in the cry for self-determination (note the words) and greater development we inflicted upon ourselves - Isaiah 9:3

Eagle with feet on a holding wood that appears to hold things together at the top! The eagle signifies strength, but there is more - Ex. 19: 4; Deut. 32: 11

The horses are said to reflect readiness for employment by king and country; a reflection of selfless service: the glue needed to hold together what is falling apart, but self, greed and avarice have prevailed.

I want to break this down to show the distinct features, so that we will no longer be ignorant concerning the nation that God has designed for us. I want to take them one after the other. First, the nation God put in the hearts of the designers had 3 distinct parts set up to be the ultimate basis for administering the nation. For those that God gave the responsibility of putting this nation together, there was an optimum number in terms of administrative units that would bring the effects that were intended. But alas, like the word said in Isaiah9:3, "*Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil*," Nigeria cried for self determination: ***"we want more states,"*** because we thought it was going to bring more developments, but having gotten more states, what has happened to our nation? What has happened to the people? What have we seen in multiplying more states? It has become an avenue for the common wealth to be cornered by few. Who is "building" commensurate to the revenue coming in? And now they say they want 30 more states to be created. Out of what? A people who are already impoverished. You increase the nation but has the joy in it increased? What have we done? We threw away the

principle of building; every man wants to grab, to take. The ones who are crying for more states on the pretext that it is going to develop the country are looking out for their own self interest. At least, that's what we have seen so far - from the North to the Niger Delta.

When a people do not understand the purpose and intent of their antecedent, they make errors; and that's what we want to bring out to all of us that we may take the trumpet and cry aloud, ***"that's not the way it ought to be."*** We created more states; we had more schools and more illiterates coming out of the schools. We had more buildings that are collapsing on the heads of the people because the things that have been built are built of inferior materials etc. No matter the good intentions of those speaking about creating more states, the fundamentals of it are wrong. They seek self-interest above the common goals of building.

We have built a nation of vagabonds, untutored because our teachers have lost their passion. We have more schools, universities, edifices of learning, etc. but a bunch of teachers who have no passion anymore, because we killed the passion in them. They saw the way they robbed the nation blind and they wondered,

"Why am I wasting my life teaching the children? I also want to find something that I can do that will give me huge money quickly too." We increased the nation but there was nothing that came out of it. Tell them to look back to the rock from which they were hewn; at the foundations that have been laid in the coat of arms. And the coat of arms is on the currency, so that every man, whether big or small has a witness in his pocket.

Going away from the distinct parts on the shield, you will find 3 other definitive things that are outlined there. What are the animals you see on the sides there? Horses. What do they signify and what have they (our leaders) turned them to? Let's see the mind of God for Nigeria from the Bible. Job 39:19-21, "*Hast thou given the horse strength? Hast thou clothed his neck with thunder? Canst thou make him afraid as a grasshopper? The glory of his nostrils is terrible. He paweth in the valley, and rejoiceth in his strength: he goeth on to meet the armed men*." I want you to see the description of the horse. A horse is intended to serve the king and nation by selfless rendering of its life and service to build what has been given to us.

The two horses are positioned to hold steady the shield (Nigeria). Meaning that the glue that will hold the

nation together is selfless service. We talk about self-determination yet what has been given to us as seen on our coat of arms is selfless service. Going on with the scripture, "*He mocketh at fear, and is not affrighted; neither turneth he back from the sword. The quiver rattleth against him, the glittering spear and the shield*." Will it back out in the day of battle? Not the horse. Where is selfless service in our country? Where is selflessness in the schools, homes, governments, etc. Every man is looking out for himself. We walk contrary to what has been designed by God for us.

When you go away from the horses, there are two more things that you will see. You see on the top an eagle and on the floor, the greenness of hibiscus. You find on top the eagle, holding the shield (the nation) as though it is the one holding everything together. The eagle signifies strength. You'll find in the word of God, there are two animals that the eternal God himself associates with. The first one is the lion. The lion is neither the tallest animal in the forest, nor the strongest. But when the lion roars, everyone stands still. The race is not to the strong, it is for who God has chosen. The Lion of the tribe of Judah, innocuous, as men looked at Him when He came

to the face of the earth. They despised Him, but in Him the fullness of God dwelt. The lion is not the largest, tallest or strongest animal but because of appointment, he is the king of the forest. If you don't understand the

Two animals the creator identifies Himself with Ezekiel 1 :10, Rev. 4: 1 - 9 (Numbers 2: 1 - 30).

- **The Lion**
- **The Eagle**

That makes understanding the nature and attitudes of these animals important. Both are kings in their domains.

foundation, you cannot fully see where the conclusion came from that Nigeria is a nation in destiny.

According to Numbers 2, service in the house of God is position specific. You will find that in the camping around the tabernacle, each side had 3 tribes: on the east, you had Judah as the lead tribe for the conglomerate of 3 tribes. In the north, you had Dan as the chief tribe of the 3 tribes. In the south, there was

Reuben with 2 other nations; and in the west you had Ephraim leading another pack of 3 tribes. But the symbols of each one of those tribes spoke something, which helps you understand that everything in the word of God is by design. We may criticize the Britons for whatever it is, but when you understand who the Britons are and understand who the Americans are, we will understand why we share certain things together with them. But alas, we are a blind people; a blind people because we don't understand our roots and we make the wrong choices. Congregating around the tabernacle of God, you will find that on the east Judah had a symbol of the lion, and on the west Ephraim, the symbol of the ox; in the south, Reuben had the symbol of man and in the north was Dan with the symbol of an eagle. When you see the gospels, you'll see that the lion was typed in the gospel of St. Mathew, Jesus Christ the king. In the book of Mark, Jesus Christ the servant, represented in the ox. You will find in the south, Jesus Christ the son of man represented in the gospel of St. Luke. In the north, Jesus Christ, the son of the living God, the light of the world, the bread of life, the comforter, is the one represented in the eagle. No wonder when you saw the throne in the book of Ezekiel,

he said, "I *saw the angels there; one like the face of man, one like the face of an ox, one like an eagle and the other like the face of a lion*." (Ezek. 1: 10)

Numbers 2: 1 - 30/ THE GOSPELS

		Symbol	Gospel
East	Judah	Lion	Mathew (Jesus as King)
West	Ephraim	Ox	Mark (Jesus as the Servant)
South	Reuben	Man	Luke (Jesus as the Son of Man)
North	Dan	Eagle	John (Jesus as the Son of God, Comforter)

There is a divine pattern in the setting of symbols, not just for Israel but also for the nations of the world. I'll show you a bit more so that you can understand where the issues are with Nigeria. Can you see that only a few tribes have what I call, multiplicity of character. Judah, the lion, the rod and Manasseh for examples (see page 20). And then you can look at the symbols that you find in Nigeria. It has nothing to do with Judah, everything is in Dan. Two of the characters you will see there are the eagle and the horse; and there is a hidden one, the

serpent, that you find in the lush grass. That is the choice that we have made - the serpent spirit, the corrupter and the briber - the root of corruption. And its influence has now sadly relegated the other positive elements in the Coat of arms.

It was needful to get you to see this, so that in understanding the issues of Nigeria, I want to show you not only that God has Nigeria as a nation in destiny, but because of the choices that we make, it has swung in a contrary direction. That was the issue with Dan (the tribe), that is why Dan ended being postulated by some as the linage that will produce the antichrist. Dan had all the potentials of the eagle and the horse, but by the choice that Dan made, he chose to begin to reflect the characteristics of the serpent. Lo and behold, that is the dilemma of Nigeria. You can see the symbol of Dan, the eagle on the extreme right, the horse right in the centre and at the left, the serpent (page 20). Two out of the three symbols represented on the coat of arms of Nigeria are taken from there. The roots of the issues of Nigeria are based on the choice that we make. A split personality that was represented in Dan, and even though the serpent is not on our insignia, by imbibing the traits of

satan the serpent we have added it. You will understand this when you consider what God began to speak concerning Satan in the book of Ezekiel 28: 16 "b*y the multitude of your merchandise, you corrupted your sanctuaries.*" When Satan was planning to get the

Specifically on the eagle, to fully appreciate the scriptures, we need to comprehend three defining characteristics of the eagle:

The strong vision-when it sights a prey ,no matter the obstacle it not will move its focus until it gets it Isa. 42: 4 describes God likewise.

The only bird that loves the storm- Isa. 50: 4-7 says the same about Jesus on the way to the cross.

The manner of teaching its eaglets to fly-it is hard trials until independence to fly is achieved. Consider the scriptures.

- **Exodus 19:**
- **Deuteronomy 32:1-14**

rebellion of the angels, he said, "*you better give me your loyalty and I'll give you this place to rule*." That was how one-third of all the angels went behind him. The same spirit you see at work: they get you to sell your votes; they call themselves godfathers in politics - they offer their support in exchange for contracts etc. by the same trickery and treachery of Satan. That is the way Satan has sought to rule this nation, and it has to stop. It must stop by the force of spiritual arms; by the knowledge of the word of God that you are reading, that you know that Nigeria is a nation in destiny that God Himself ordained. When you understand it, you can take your place and say, ***"no, we will not have the nature of the serpent; selfless service will prevail and the strength, focus and power of the eagle, will be brought to bear."*** This nation can and will be great if we will do what it is that God asks us to do.

Let's now look at the issue of the eagle; it was important for me to lay this foundation as clearly as possible, to convince you that the symbols in our coat of arms were put there by God. The eagle is what you find in America and you find that in Manasseh. Look at England, Ephraim, you see on one hand the lion and on the other

A more complete list of the emblems of Israel- Nu 2:1-30

Figure 5

hand, the horse and on the top, the crown and the lion. (See page 22). We share some divine heritage with America, in the eagle. Let's look at two scriptures that defines and speaks on the eagle. Job 39:27-29, "*Doth the eagle mount up at thy command, and make her nest on high? She dwelleth and abideth on the rock, upon the crag of the rock, and the strong place. From thence she seeketh the prey, and her eyes behold afar off.*" In the place where it stands, it has a vision that is far and nothing takes that vision away. The eagle is focused and until it gets its prey, nothing can shift its focus. The eagle is the only bird that likes the storm. When the storm comes, the eagle gloats; it floats with the wind. It speaks to something that this nation unknowingly has been experiencing, otherwise how come Nigeria has not broken up? We had civil war, didn't we? We've had so many crises in this nation that the minds of everybody will say that this nation cannot survive it, but has the nation survived or not? It has survived because of the principle of the scriptures. It said, "*I brought you to myself on the wings of an eagle*." Why does the eagle flutter her nest? When an eagle is building its nest, the first layer up is comfortable, then it has thorns beneath. What is it trying to achieve in doing that? When it is time for the eaglet to fly, the mother

A "great nation" and a "company of nations"
that can trace their heritage back to Israel.

Abraham

Isaac

Jacob

Joseph





Manasseh

Ephraim





eagle pulls off the comfortable layer from the nest so that the place is uncomfortable for the eaglet and it wants to move. At that point the mother will use her beak to take the eaglet out of the nest and then drop it. The eaglet will struggle but before hit the ground, the mother eagle comes to carry it. What is it trying to do? To get the eaglet to begin to flap its wings. It does it repeatedly that the eaglet may understand that independence come from dependence. That was important when God was saying that, "*I brought you to myself on the wings of the eagle*." Everything God was trying to do in the journey of Israel up on till that point was for Israel to understand the eternal God Himself. Everything that has happened to this nation so far has been to the intent that this nation should turn to God.

Do you think it was for nothing that this nation doesn't have a moon, crescent or a star? Did they (the British who designed the coat of arms) not know that there were Muslims in this country? Look at the insignia of most of the Islamic nations; it is the crescent and the star. Why is it absent in this nation? Because this nation is not given to them. I am not whipping up religious sentiments, I just need the people to know their

antecedent, or else how can they fight the devil: corruption, nepotism, ethnic and unbridled corruption? What will you stand on if you don't know the truth concerning yourself? Check out the currencies of many of the Islamic nations, except Dubai that has a bird, they all carry a crescent (moon) or star. And will you call Dubai a truly Islamic nation? I tell you, nay, because it is powered with foreign money, and there are more foreigners than citizens there.

I have started this way that so you will understand who you are; and if you know who you are: how heaven has designed you to be; what heaven has designed Nigeria to be, perhaps you will no longer walk in darkness and begin to step into the rightful place that God has put us (the church)

If we have now come to the point of understanding Nigeria and what belongs to us, I want you to pay attention to this scripture, Deut 32:11-14, "*As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: So the LORD alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him. He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to*

suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock; Butter of kine, and milk of sheep, with fat of lambs, and rams of the breed of Bashan, and goats, with the fat of kidneys of wheat; and thou didst drink the pure blood of the grape."

Let us analyse these things:

1. Eat the increase of the fields.

I am not pretending that Nigeria fits Israel; Nigeria is not Israel, but there are some certain common heritages. First, the greenness of the field; this nation today, feeds itself with less than 20% of cultivable area even touched. Oil out of the flinty rock: This nation has thrived on oil for more than five decades. This nation will continue to thrive if we chose to be satisfied with what we have. We would have no reason to import any rice if our leaders have done the right things. Everything is to demonstrate to you that this nation is a nation in divine destiny. Then you will understand the battle for its soul; the struggle concerning the serpent's characteristics and the eagle and the horse characteristics. We cry about corruption only because we choose the characteristics of the serpent. As the servant of the Lord in the house says, we are always one choice away from our destiny or

being an outcast. The sad part is does the church know the heritage given to it within which it is to operate? We all carry the money in our pockets but who has an understanding of what God has intended this nation for, embedded in the coat of arms.

DOES THE CHURCH IN NIGERIA KNOW

There is a heritage that God has given to this nation, Nigeria to demonstrate that it is a nation in destiny for which God has a purpose, but alas, the church itself does not know. Rather, what has the church been doing? It has pre-occupied itself with minors, forgetting the majors: if it's not getting involved in politics, it is pre-occupied with unbalanced teachings on prosperity. In Luke 8 when He was speaking concerning the parable of the sower, He took the case of the seed that fell among thorns and said the thorns were cares, riches and pleasures of the world. "*And that which fell among thorns*

are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection." Luke 8:14 The church that ought to understand where its heritage is, is in the fore front of preaching thorns into the lives of its hearers. Prosperity; 11 formulas to prosperity, etc. How long will you allows thorns to be preached into your lives? There will be no transformation into the image of Christ. The principle in the Bible says what you behold is what you change into (II Corin. 3: 17-18; Col. 3: 1-10). No wonder what we have today are houses of illusion filled with crocodiles, scorpions and serpents that we call congregation in churches. We preach thorns into them so much that they cannot hear or hold the word of God. Am I against prosperity? No because God speaks about it. "*I am the Lord that giveth thee power to get wealth.*" (Deut. 8: 18). When you found your wealth upon the principles of the eternal God, you will not be listening to the things by which the church had been taken captive. Satan understood very well and sold us the dummy: thorns being preached and the principles of righteousness being thrown aside. If the church itself is preaching the characteristics of Satan, why then would evil not wrap its tentacles around the nation?

This nation will be great but it has to start with you and I. I hold no bars in challenging you today to understand the purpose of God concerning this nation and change the word that you preach, not because somebody is forcing you, but because you have come to an understanding of the principles of righteousness. It is righteousness that exalts a nation; sin is a reproach unto any people. We preach thorns; we ally ourselves to Satan and we are building big buildings; fantastic buildings. I'm not against fantastic buildings, but let the lives of those who are there measure up to the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Independence rises from dependence. Look at the wars that happened in Nigeria, look at the Anti-corruption crusade that started with EFCC; all of this happened for only one purpose: that the people may turn to God.

Pray, Don't Complain

The church should know everything we are talking about, because the Bible says we should not be ignorant of the devices of the Devil (II Corin. 2: 10-11). But alas, Satan took advantage of us and sold us a dummy. With all sense of responsibility, the battle for the soul of

Nigeria, has been stepped up in different dimensions that most of us see and we take light of it. Thank God for the power of prayers. Towards the end of 2010 the news broke of a large shipment of arms discovered at the Lagos Port in Nigeria. When it was discovered that it came from Iran, the Iranian Government said they were destined for Hamas (Palestinians) to fight Israel. Don't you understand that when Nigeria is dragged against Israel, you turn yourself into the enemy of God? And we sit down and fold our hands as if nothing has happened, but thank God for men of understanding, we have discharged and acquitted Nigeria from the court before God. This nation is not an enemy of Israel. Satan wanted to draw the wrath of God on us by presenting us as an enemy of Israel. He knows God blesses those who bless Israel and curse those who curse Israel.

The Gospel of Inclusion

This is a new one from the pit of hell. It advocates that there are other ways to getting to heaven, aside Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "*I'm the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the father but by me*" (Jn. 14: 6). I see all kinds

of funny exchanges on the internet on the subject and my heart bleeds that notable men of God are not only buying the latest scheme of satan, they have become willing tools to spread his obnoxious, antichrist gospel. It is not an intellective thing we are talking about, it is the word of the living God. I was born into an Islamic family, but it pleased God who separated me from the children of my parents to show me the light. I don't hate Muslims, but I will not twist the word of God to include them in the sonship. They don't have life, as long as they don't have Christ. My mother, on her sick bed, by the grace of God gave her life to God, and there was evidence of it as she passed on; you could see the joy on her face. My father, 94 is still alive, I refuse for him to die until he receives Christ Jesus. I was born in a set of 13 children, about 7 of us are now Christians, so don't tell me I hate Muslims. I don't hate them, but I will not include them. If they reject the word of God, they go to hell. This gospel of inclusion that is cutting across, better watch out because I will show you from the word of God that when the enemy is done with you, he will turn against you.

THE PLACE OF THE CHURCH

What is the place of the church? We need to understand what God has committed to us. I have shown you that the church itself is ignorant but ignorance is being taken away now, that the church may understand what it is that God has called it into. It is enough about this prosperity of a thing; believe me, by the time I show you the word, this prosperity in your hand will become a cup that the devil wants to use to take you away. Look at the woman (a type of the religious systems - organizations) in Revelation 17, the great world whore; she had in her hands a golden bowl with which she was doing different things, riding upon the beast - a symbol of her association with the political system. But later on in that same scripture, the same beast that she was riding turned against it and devoured it.

The Book of Malachi addresses the shortcomings and ills of the people, especially the Priesthood, which made God to reject them. Let's see the similarities with us, the Church in Nigeria. Malachi 1:6-7, 10-12 says, "*A son*

THE CHURCH IN NIGERIA

God's expectation of church leadership in Nigeria

- **First in being examples to the people within the confines of the churches; - Malachi 1:6-7/10/12/ Mal 2:1-9, 2 Cor 2: 17, 2cor 4:2**
- **Teaching and enforcing that there is a minimum standard of acceptable behaviour as G*od's* representatives; - Math 5:13-16, Mark 9: 49-50**
- **Communicating G*od's* Vision to the Nation - Habbakuk 2:1-3; and - Prov 14: 34.**

BUT ALAS WHERE IS THE CHURCH TODAY?

Rev 3:14-22 speaks.

honoureth his father and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? And if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name. And ye say wherein have we despised thy

name?" You despise his name because you choose not to appreciate - practice all the principles of His word, the word that He has given you as His constitution to guide the conduct of affairs in His body - the Church. By the time you go back to Deuteronomy 32: 21 you will find out that this is the same accusation made by God. Don't take this word lightly; it was in the time of so much abundance that this nation opened the gate for many demons, in what they called, FESTAC 77 (Festival of Black Arts and Culture). It was a Christian president that we had in Nigeria then, was it not? But they didn't know; now you cannot say you don't know. Principalities and powers are waiting for your unguarded moments. It was during the unguarded hour of this nation, under a Christian President, that Satan came in full force. We brought them from Brazil and all over the world under the festival of art and culture. Ask Anthropologists, they will tell you that peoples' culture are directly tied to the deities (demons) they associate with.

Malachi 1: 7 "*Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, the table of the LORD is contemptible*. I'm not in the position to judge

the Christians indicted in Banking fraud/collapse, but their works will judge them. It didn't matter that they sponsored the propagation of the gospel, but the damage has been done. Those are the ones that we can see, what of the ones that we cannot see? Let's not make a mountain out of a molehill, let's search ourselves, everyone who calls himself/herself people of God. I was in Abuja speaking with a woman who happened to be one of my staff who said while she was in one of the major churches there, lesbianism was the order of the day. And in the text I got later, a lady said she wanted to give a testimony, having now dedicated herself to the battle against lesbianism. She went on to say wives of Pastors have done it with her.

Let's put ourselves before the mirror, so that we don't have to look far to see the corruption that has entered - the degree of how Satan has afflicted the church. How come we got this far, how did it happen? Let us return to our God. It is easy to bring big money to the church, nobody asks you how you got the money. If you are riding a car, and we don't see your visible means of income, my Church Elders will say, something is wrong, tell me, what work did you do? I'm not saying

we are perfect, but we bring ourselves before the mirror. Search me oh Lord and know my heart today, try me oh Lord and know my heart I pray, see if there have been any evil way in me, cleanse me of every sin. Break the yoke oh Lord. If you need to break my back, break it, if you need to break my leg, break it, if you need to break my head, break it because you can easily put it together again and mend me back. I'm not praying that God should destroy anyone but simply showing the need to submit ourselves to Him, He can help you. The church has to come back alive.

"If we don't understand the state of the church in Nigeria, then we will not come out of this. Don't forget the title of our discourse: The Times, The Nation, and the Church: defining the boundaries. We have looked at the nation; we are putting the mirror before ourselves as the church in Nigeria."

Malachi 1: 10-12 "*who are there even among you that would shut the doors for nought? Neither do ye kindle fire on mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand. But ye have profaned it, in that ye say, the table of the LORD is polluted; and the fruit thereof, even his meat, is*

contemptible".

Malachi 2: 1-9 "*And now, O ye priests, this commandment is for you, If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart*".

How can we glorify God? By this shall men know you: by bringing forth fruits, fruits of righteousness - evidence of grace. What is the grace that the church is bringing forth? They have big cars. I'm ashamed when I see Christian pastors going around with police escorts. Whom did you steal from that is coming after you. The state of the church: we preach thorns into the life of our people; those of us who have been set forth as leaders, it is now that the word of life should be heard from our mouths?

Malachi 2:3-9 "*Behold, I will corrupt your seed, and spread dung upon your faces, even the dung of your solemn feasts; and one shall take you away with it. And ye shall know that I have sent this commandment unto you, that my covenant might be with Levi, saith the LORD of hosts. My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave them to him for the*

fear wherewith he feared me, and was afraid before my name. The law of truth was in his mouth, and iniquity was not found in his lips: he walked with me in peace and equity, and did turn many away from iniquity. For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts".

Can we say that we match all these words? Is the law of truth coming out from our mouths as a people of God? We can pay lip service to it, our messages now is watch my lips, don't worry about my life, because our lives don't prove it. The reason that the church has a standing before God is that she fears God. Where is the fear of God in the house of God? The priests' lips should keep knowledge and the question that I asked earlier on, those of us who are the priests; did we know the destiny of Nigeria as explained? How then can we teach senators what we don't know? Yet it is on the pages of the scriptures. Let's return to our maker. Simply, asking Him to help our nation, confessing that we don't know what more to do, asking, 'Where are we missing it Lord?' In His kindness, He will open our eyes and help us to press forward.

Good Examples

Let's retrace our steps and go to the presence of Him who is able to save us. But first, we need to be examples to the people within the confines of the church. 2 Corinthians 2: 17 says, "*for we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ*." The Message translation says we do not water down the word of God and make commerce of it. We have word of prophecy for everybody so that we can be known as prophet and they can give us things. With that in mind I laughed when a young man sent a text to me: "You have a high anointing, I don't like my job again, speak some word into my life." I was laughing until the Spirit of God said stop that nonsense. If he knew better, would he have done what he has done? It was then I picked up my phone and responded to him that you have the same access to God as I have. Just kneel down where you are and tell God what you want and I'm backing you here, because you have the same access as anyone that claims he is a prophet. If we don't teach them the truth and continue to make merchandise of them, for self aggrandizement, we are making ourselves taller than

the One who gave us the gift. We need to charge our selves in the light of the word. 2 Corinthains 4:2 says, "*But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God*." By the word of God, I'm saying that God's expectation of the church in the leadership of Nigeria, first and foremost is that we are examples to God's people within the churches.

Acceptable Behaviour

Teaching and enforcing that there is a minimum standard of acceptable behaviour as God's representatives is the second assignment we have as men of God. Those people in your assembly, not only will God hold you responsible for ensuring that you live a life that is acceptable, but that you enforce the word. When it is time to rebuke sin as boldly as it needs to be rebuked, we owe it a responsibility to God to do so impartially. When the people refuse and we just pat them, like Jesus said, we are making them twice the children of hell and preventing them from entering the

kingdom, when you yourself know you are entering. There is a minimum standard of acceptable behaviour as God's representatives in the house of God. Matthew 5:13-16 says "*ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost its savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house*".

That is the place that the church ought to be. That is the only way that the church will fulfil Ephesians 3:10. "*To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,*" It's by being the light and the salt: being the examples those men see. You walk into a place, gossips keep quiet because they know that a righteous man is in their midst.

Talking To The Nation

The third part of the Church's responsibility is communicating God's vision to the nation. The

leadership itself is confused, not knowing the pattern of God's intervention and then we that should know better teach the wrong things. Lo and behold, Revelation 3:14-22 comes upon us; "*And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches*." That is the Laodicea church, a good portrait of the Church today.

Blind, yet claiming to see. Poor and wretched, yet claiming to be rich and full. The only church without commendation, yet proud to call herself a church: engrossed with self preservation, self righteousness, false riches and false security.

GOD'S PATTERN

MOSES AND PHARAOH

What is God's pattern of intervention in the affairs of nations? Let us look at the conduct of Moses and Pharaoh so that when we as leaders of the church of God understand the patterns, then we will be able to do things the way it is supposed to be done. God gave the word to Moses who knew the in and out of the workings of the kingdom of Pharaoh. Remember, he was inside there before, he was in fact counted as a prince of Egypt until he said no, I will choose to suffer affliction with the people of God. I did not see any signs of alignment between Moses and Pharaoh at any point in time. He stood only on the word of God that God put in his

PATTERNS OF INTERVENTION

- **DELIVERERS**
  - MOSES IN EGYPT (MOSES/PHAROAH)
  - ELIJAH IN ISRAEL (ELIJAH/AHAB)
  - THE LORD JESUS
  - APOSTOLIC TIMES
- **ENFORCERS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**
  - JOSEPH IN EGYPT
  - DANIEL IN BABYLON
  - DAVID/HUSHAI VS. ABSALOM/AHITOPHEL
  - 2 Sam15:19-37, 2 Sam17: 1-22; 18:

mouth, and believe me, it looked like it was not going to work. He struck from one to ten plagues until the Supreme One came and killed the first born of Pharaoh. This man, Moses, did not seek to have a common ground with Pharaoh. The lines were drawn, and that was the example of bringing God's people out of physical bondage.

Ahab and Elijah

Ahab and Elijah, you saw the conduct of Elijah with Ahab. Even when Ahab wanted to become his friend, this man knew and he drew the lines. He knew the word that was given to him that those who are contending for excellence, they don't mess themselves up sleeping with dogs, colluding with dogs etc. He spoke the word without seeking a common ground. The only common ground we have is that the word of God should prevail and that the purpose of God should stand. Not in either of these cases did you find an occasion of saying let us sit down and talk. But do we have the word of God as a church or we don't? The standard of righteousness, do we have it? The things that God has spoken for us to declare unto the nations, do we have them anymore? Why have our weapons of warfare turned carnal when we have the power of heaven, the power of the written word, the power of the spoken word? All traceable to our complacency, watering down of sermons and generally deviating from the call God gave us.

Jesus and the Apostles

On that mount of transfiguration, when Peter woke up, he saw Elijah, Moses and Jesus; the conference of deliverers discussing the finishing of the work. While one came to deal with physical bondage (Moses), Elijah came to deal with spiritual bondage, while Jesus came to deal with total redemption of man. In the course of His work, did you hear Jesus confronting the Herod of His days? Only by the word. Even when Herod wanted to see Jesus, when he had killed John the Baptist, the scriptures said that Jesus went away. I want nothing with you, that my ministry be not tarnished. And in the Apostolic times, the people actually sacrificed themselves that the word of God and spiritual deliverance may prevail. I want you to see the transition in time. Physical bondage, spiritual bondage, eternal and full redemption. Because in the Apostolic times, what mattered the most was that the people be saved and turned to God. Has it changed now? Are we no longer in the Apostolic times now?

Two Special Patterns

I need to bring two things to you that you can see the two patterns that are set forth in the word of God, that I call **Believers and Enforcers of righteousness.** Where we are in God's time and plan today require a combination of the two; where our emphasis is to seek spiritual deliverance for the nation and also enforce righteousness in the systems. That is where the Josephs and the Daniels comes in. Was it in a righteous kingdom that Joseph was Prime Minster? He was in an unrighteous system, but this man had been trained to sacrifice himself to stand for the truth. He refused to sleep with his captain's wife and he went to jail for it. I like the way the servant of God put it. When you are disobeying the government, be ready for the consequences. For refusing to sleep with his master's wife, he went to jail but he went to jail for the sake of righteousness. Those are the enforcers of righteousness. That is where we are in times now. Many of you will be called upon to come and serve in government, but don't go there thinking that you are representing your mandate. It is not because you are brilliant or superior that you are called to serve, it is because God has a

DOING IT RIGHT

- Our leaders in the churches must stay in the place God put them, declaring the word of righteousness to hold both their congregations and political rulers accountable to those words, and must not without God's specific instruction to do so, sacrifice their lives by associating with godless men who will use them to satisfy their selfish ends.
- Those men called upon to serve in government establishments and who belong to any of God's assemblies' must understand that their mandates go beyond themselves; they must accept their responsibility first to God as his instruments and to their shepherds in ensuring that they stand for the truth they have been taught-and be ready to return to give account of their conduct on demand.

divine purpose for you to be there. And if you don't understand that, you will fail, because that distinction is important. You then can link that to the fact that inside the church of God, a minimum standard of acceptable behaviour must be taught to every man and woman because tomorrow, you may be called upon to come and serve as the Minister of Information. It is not because of your grey hair and age, but it is because God wants to use you in the place. Your mandate is from God, so you will stand to represent God. When they decide to do the wrong thing, you stand up and say as my God liveth; you will not do this thing, not on my watch.

If we are talking about change coming, the starting place for the change coming is in the instructions we give people in the house of God. That, when my spiritual son becomes the Minister of Finance, he is not there because he has studied books and he knows about finances, he is there first and foremost as God's servant; and when they ask you to come and spend money on things that you cannot justify, you tell them "S*orry sir, I am not even resigning, you have to sack me first. This thing we will not do it*." And then you know that the mandate that you have taken is from God and your church is

backing you up in prayers. Not because you are bringing in money or because you are showing that you came from that church, but because you have a mandate from God.

If the church does not understand that, all of you who are running for positions will fail. God is looking for enforcers of righteousness to bring about the change. God is looking for those who understand the purpose of God.

NIGERIA IN DESTINY

We are running and challenging the system because they have ripped us off. But I want to tell you the good news. What God wants to use this nation for is bigger than bread on the table. I was going to Kenya, and as I was travelling in the plane, I was reading a book "T*he Prophecies Concerning Israel*". There was a young man across the aisle and he looked at me and began to ask me questions concerning the book that I was reading. I perceived that he was a believer. He was a Nigerian and he was going to Mombasa to deliver the word of God. I

got to Kenya and on the only Christian Television station that was airing, who was preaching? A Nigerian preacher was speaking concerning the rapture. We have gone the length and breadth of South Africa, we have gone round Africa, it is only the blind and the dumb that does not understand that God selected this nation to be a platform for Him in Africa. It is not bread and butter gospel that He gave us. Many of those who have gone out and have failed, it is because they mixed it up. God will give Nigeria bread and butter but I am saying to you that what God set this nation for is beyond bread and butter. It is that this is the platform that God has chosen for the work of redemption to go across the length and breadth of this continent. If we will understand the destiny for which God called us, then we will know the destiny for which we are born.

This however does not say we focus outside and abandon the kingdom (Nigeria) to evil. Because when Absalom drove his father out of Israel, David said to Hushai, go back, we cannot leave the kingdom to Satan. There must be enforcers of righteousness who will be there, who will defeat the counsel of Ahitophel. Ahitophel was there ready to disgrace his king, ready to

WATCHING OVER ONE ANOTHER FOR GOOD

WE ALL MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY TO PRAY FOR THESE ENFORCERS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR DIVINE WISDOM AND PROTECTION AND COURAGE AT ALL TIMES THAT THEY ARE IN SERVICE AND BE READY TO STAND UP IN THEIR DEFENCE WHEN THEY STAND UP FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

turn the kingdom over to hell, but God positioned a Hushai so that at the time Ahitophel was giving a counsel, there was a Hushai who was present to counter it. Bible says the heart of the king is in the hands of the Lord, He moves it withersoever He wants like a river. (Prov. 21: 1). Who told Absalom to turn to Hushai to seek a second opinion? And God caused it to be that the counsel of Hushai prevailed. Ahitophel committed suicide and so was the kingdom of God restored, because Israel remained.

We are not talking about non-participation. But I am saying you are participating only on the mandate of heaven, and that you have been taught in the house of God that righteousness exalts a nation and sin is a reproach to any people. Carry this word anywhere you go. We fight no man, we contend with no man but we must set the records straight because the word of God has been given to us as a light so that we walk in it and we don't fall. These are the things that we must communicate to ourselves concerning the nation, concerning the church and what God expects of the church. These scriptures are given to you that you might understand it. But let me say something here, it is not a participation that is without price. For thirteen years, Joseph was in the dungeon, from one trouble to another. They will call you names, this one is mad etc. Because he's not conforming. Daniel, you know how many times they clamped him, but you will see at the end the glory of God being openly declared. Dan. 6: 25-28, *"Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be*

destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end. He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions". Ps. 106: 16-18, *" They envied Moses also in the camp, and Aaron the saint of the LORD. The earth opened and swallowed up Dathan, and covered the company of Abiram. And a fire was kindled in their company; the flame burned up the wicked.* Ps. 106: 22, "*Wondrous works in the land of Ham, and terrible things by the Red sea."* Actually, you will find also in the case of Daniel that all the astrologers eventually became his servants. Because superior wisdom was found in him. That is what the church is to be in this nation. That is the role and the place of the church in the times in which we are.

MY DIFFERENT APPROACH

Why is my approach to the issues of governance and the role of the Church different to that of majority of preachers? It has to do with a simple understanding that I got from God on the parable of Persevering Prayer in Luke 18: 1-8.

Luke 18: 1-2

And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:

The purpose and intent of this parable is that men always ought to pray and not to faint. He didn't say any other thing. In other words, the panacea to the events that Jesus was going to discuss here was persistent prayers. This judge feared not God. I want you to be able to relate this to the events that are going on in the world today, after all the theme is the church, the nation, the times. If he says this man doesn't fear God, he is simply saying he does not recognize God as his master. Anyone that does not fear God is simply saying, God I have nothing to do with you. And nothing defines better the state of the kingdoms of this world today. A couple of months ago I was at the world energy conference, in Ontario, Canada and all the problems that they were foreseeing, the strategies and so on, do you know that for three days nobody thought about, can we go and ask God to please forgive us so He can give us energy. Not once. I was simply amazed to the point of being dumbfounded. People can see obvious solutions and

they just ignore it. Why am I emphasizing this thing? Brother, no matter how friendly they are, a godless ruler is always a godless ruler. And you who are servants of God would come to parley with a godless ruler; he will rubbish your God when the time comes. The patterns are there in the scriptures, it scared me when I saw it. Do you remember Joram the son of Ahab, who lived in the days of Elisha? How many times Elisha worked things to favour him. In the day that they sent army to come and capture Elisha, what did Elisha do? He took the entire army and went and gave it to Joram. What more can a person do? I deliver your enemy to you, what more can I do to say I am your friend? (2Kings 6: 9-23). Did Joram remember when it was time to go and kill Elisha? If God had not shown it to Elisha, he would have killed him: 2 Kings 6: 31-32 *Then he said, God do so and more also to me, if the head of Elisha the son of Shaphat shall stand on him this day. But Elisha sat in his house, and the elders sat with him; and the king sent a man from before him: but ere the messenger came to him, he said to the elders, See ye how this son of a murderer hath sent to take away mine head? look, when the messenger cometh, shut the door, and hold him fast at the door: is not the sound of his master's feet behind him?* He would have killed Elisha for nothing. I am not fighting anybody but due to revelation and an

understanding of the word of God, I was grieved. A godless man is always a godless man. No matter the amount of good that you do to him or much more that you seek for him, he will do what is in his heart when the time comes. He will dispense with you with immediate alacrity.

Luke 18: 3-

And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, though I fear not God, nor regard man;

This woman was saying I have a right, don't I? Somebody abused my rights; avenge me of my rights, which are the very basic things of government. The scripture said this woman kept going repeatedly. Making him to say, lest this woman weary me. Other translations say that so she doesn't come and beat me black and blue. If you look at the Message Translation, you will see the basis of riot when governments are unable to answer to the rights of the people. The judge was somebody who didn't care about God. God is not in his equation. There was this woman who came and said avenge me of mine adversary. In other words,

somebody is cheating me of my right. You have a right to be employed, don't you? You have a right to medical health, don't you? You have a right to good education for your children, don't you? The basic things that the government should do, but our reaction when the government cannot do it, that is what I am saying. I'll give you examples. In the recent pasts, the French people went on strike for several days because they wanted their rights enforced and the government didn't agree to enforce their rights. When Greece went into trouble, Greece economy was in shambles, many people were laid off, in other to save Greece, nations of Europe had to support it but in supporting it, they demanded so many stringent measures that people's rights were abrogated. Has it occurred to anybody why the bomb parcels that were sent to many embassies of Europe is rooted in that thing? Because people felt that their rights could not be answered to, their answer to it was to send parcel bombs to all the powerful nations that were supporting their government in denying their rights. The message translation says he said, lest this woman beat me black and blue. The basis of riots and all the troubles that are coming is inability of government to uphold the rights of the people.

Message Translation

He never gave her time a day but after this went on, he said himself, I care nothing what God thinks, even lest what people things, but because this widow won't quit badgering me, I better do something and see that she gets justice otherwise, I am going to end up beaten black and blue by her pounding.

So that you understand. Riots aplenty are going to come because the kingdoms of this world cannot answer to the issues that are facing the world, just as going to the government and raising protests will not bring the answer. I want you to see what Jesus said there because He said something. He said, "Will I not listen to my people? In other words, the answer to the issues of now is not in badgering the government, it is going to God to say, My Father, you promised me that you will answer the prayers of the elect. Isn't that what the word of God said? You will answer the prayers of the elect. I need you to see the word of God. Understand what God says is the answer for the hour. It is not in the streets; it is on your knees calling upon the name of the Lord. You can change the situation, you are on my side, and you are my Father. He said that though I bear with them long, I will answer them. I didn't just come here to come and say it is to pray; it is because that is the

revealed word of God for the hour in which we are. It is key to everything we are saying.

WATCH OUT

The dangers that we need to watch, partnering with godless men, will only put your life at risk. I gave you the example of Elisha and Joram. There is also the case of John the Baptist. When it was time for Herod to kill him, he killed him without any guilty conscience; just like that. You may say that is what God appointed, but I like to believe better things of our leaders. So that we understand very clearly the clear boundaries. And I don't want you to deceive yourself that it is because you care for the poor; this is the season for Judas Iscariot where he would want to present his own intentions as something that is laudable and acceptable to everybody. Failing to understand that Mary came to anoint Jesus with all that she had is to claim that Jesus is the only God, the true God, worthy to be worshiped with everything that she had; he contempted it. He said this oil should have been sold for the poor. And do you know that was where he took

DANGERS TO WATCH

- **LESSONS FROM Luke 18: 1-10 (the nations/godless rulers and the church)**
  - **ELISHAH AND JEHORAM - 2 Kings Chapters 5 - 7**
  - **JOHN THE BAPTIST- Math 3:3-10, Luke 3:4-14 Math 14:1-12**
- **JUDAS ISCARIOT-Mark 14:3-21, John 12: 1-8, Rev 17: 1-7, note vs.14, and vs.16.**
- **WITH CLEAR BOUNDARIES DEFINED WHAT SHOULD THE CHURCH BE DOING?**

the first step to the betrayal of Jesus. If you are a student of the scriptures, the scriptures said he left that place, where that happened and when he left, he went straight to negotiate with the rulers. It is time to kill this man. And that will also be the song of the (Antichrist) - the last Judas Iscariot - let's take care of the masses. Judas said he wanted to take care of the poor. But in being the friend of the poor, he ended up

with money for himself.

Rev. 17; the bait of Babylon. The religions mixed with the political to seek answers to the issues that are facing the people, but became her servants. And when John saw that woman, he wondered with great admiration. But in her hands she had the cup full of the blood of the saints. And I hope that does not become the end of those that God has put in leadership, but are parleying with – the political system. Understanding the times, the church and the nation and defining the boundaries. Doing it right. Our leaders in the churches must stay in the place that God put them declaring the word of righteousness to hold both their congregation and political rulers accountable to those words, and must not without God's specific instruction join government, lest they sacrifice their lives by associating with godless men who will use them to satisfy their selfish ends.

That is a sure word from the Lord and those men called upon to serve in government establishments and who belong to any of God's assemblies must understand that their mandates go beyond themselves. They must accept their responsibilities first to God as His

instruments and to their shepherds in ensuring that they stand for the truth that they have been taught, and be ready to return to give account of their calling on demand. That is a sure word from the Lord. Let it be broadcast far and wide; doing it right is to do exactly that. In Luke 18: 1-8, the ultimate answer that Jesus spoke to us concerning the hour is persistent prayers. We must all take responsibility to pray for these enforcers of righteousness for divine wisdom, protection and courage at all times while they are in service and be ready to stand up in defence when they stand up for righteousness. David was on top of the mountain when Hushai was right there. What do you think he was doing on top of the mountain? Enjoying with his wives? He was praying because his survival depended on it. Nigeria is a nation in destiny, set up not just for bread and butter. God will give that but only to achieve God's destined purpose as His voice in restoring righteousness and bringing spiritual deliverance to Africa. WILL YOU BE PART OF THAT WORK? THAT IS THE QUESTION TO ASK YOURSELF AS YOU ASSESS YOURSELF BASED ON THE WORD OF GOD YOU HAVE READ. GOD BLESS.

NIGERIA IS A NATION IN DIVINE DESTINY

- **NIGERIA IS A NATION IN DIVINE DESTINY (WHY THE BATTLE FOR THE SOUL OF NIGERIA?)-Luke 8:7,14;**

  - WITH ASSURED BUMPINESS TO GET IT TO MATURITY;

- **CONSIDER THE STATEMENT IN EX 19:4, ITS PLACEMENT IN TERMS OF EVENTS PRECEDING THE JOURNEY OF ISRAEL UP TO THAT POINT; AND THE LESSONS THAT:**

  - INDEPENDENCE DERIVES FROM DEPENDENCE;

  - LEARN TO MAKE REQUESTS IN CONFIDENCE FROM A GOOD GOD WHO ACTS IN CHARACTER ACCORDING TO HIS WORD; AND

  - YOU GET NOTHING BY COMPLAINING AGAINST GOD OR HIS APPOINTED LEADERS WHO LEAD IN JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS.

NOW WHO SHOULD KNOW THESE THINGS? THE CHURCH OR THE POLITICIANS?

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

THE VENUE:
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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.