

Walk Upon My High Places

Habakkuk 3:19

YOUTH MEETINGS - SWINDON, UK

Introduction

The Lord our God wants youth to live a life above the level that is filled with doubts, fears and defeats. This higher ground is the life where you can experience and enjoy the joyful, abundant and victorious life in Christ.

YOUTH MEETING

1. “Walk” upon my high places (Habakkuk 3:19) - JOYFUL LIFE

- Habakkuk - Wrestled with God
- Habakkuk - Embraced God
- From the testimony of Habakkuk, we learn who God is and “walk” into the sequels of the of salvation.
 - Knowing God
 - Embracing God to walk on high places

2. “Ride upon” high places (Deuteronomy 32:13) - ABUNDANT LIFE

- Jacob - Striving alone in hardship
- Jacob - Found and trained by God

From the account of the life of Jacob, we learn from the Lord to “ride” above the worlds of hardship.

- Learning from God the skills to handle the failures
- Relying upon the Lord to ride upon high places

From the account of the life of Jacob, we learn from the Lord to “ride” above the failures

3. “Set upon” my high places (Psalm 18:33) - VICTORIOUS LIFE

- David - Fought with many enemies
- David - Victorious in every battle

From the experiences of David, we learn how to fight with the spiritual enemy and “set upon” the ground of victory.

- Warfare with the enemy
- Set on high places through victory in Christ

Message -1

Walking on High Places

Habakkuk's Experience

10 April 2023, 10:30-11:30

Walk On My High Places

Habakkuk and God

Context:

In 721 BC Kingdom of Israel was taken captive by Assyrian Kingdom.

Around 625BC, Kingdom of Judah rejected God. As a result wickedness and evil was on rampant. There was violence, iniquity, grievance, lawlessness and no judgment. It was an extremely unpleasant time.



Walk On My High Places

Habakkuk and God

During that time Habakkuk wrote his book. It is an interesting book in the sense that the writer had a message for himself from the Lord and he wrote it in his book. It was a personal account or testimony. Interestingly, the book of Habakkuk has a close association with the meaning of the name of the writer.

Habakkuk means “**wrestled**” or “**embraced**”.

He “**wrestled**” with God and finally “**embraced**” God.

Walk On My High Places

Habakkuk Wrestled With God

Wondered -

Why are you not hearing me? Habakkuk questioned the Lord, *“How long shall I cry and Thou wilt not hear?”* (Habakkuk 1:2). Habakkuk thought that the Lord is indifferent, not bothered about wickedness the people of God and therefore not doing anything!

God answered him, “I will work a work” (1:5-11).

The sinful Jonah will be punished. I will punish them by the Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar!

Why do you use the wicked people to punish more righteous people than them? Habakkuk asked God, *“Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?”* Habakkuk (1: 13).

Walk On My High Places

Habakkuk *Wrestled With God*

Watched -

Habakkuk waited on the Lord and watched Him to give a solution to his puzzles. He thought, what will the Lord say and what will I answer? Habakkuk waited, “I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved” Habakkuk 2:1

Walk On My High Places

Habakkuk Wrestled With God

GOD answered: It was a vision for the appointed time

1. **The Just shall live by faith** (Habakkuk 2:4) - The righteous God justified His judgements. Proud will be punished, just will live by faith.
2. **The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God** (Habakkuk 2:14) - Though the earth was filled with the violence, wickedness and evil, the Lord would fill it with the knowledge of the glory of God.
3. **The Lord is in His holy Temple** (Habakkuk 2:20) - Though the kingdom of Judah failed and seemingly the wicked kingdoms were raising, ultimately the Lord is reigning from His Temple and He is in control of everything.

Habakkuk's bewilderment was gone and his puzzle was solved when he understood the vision and understood God.

Walk On My High Places

Habakkuk *Embraced* God

Habakkuk was

Enlightened (Understood God):

God is the Righteous - He is not indifferent but will judge the proud.

God of Glory - He will make earth be filled with the knowledge of the Glory of God. He gives glory to His people inlance of the shame.

God is Sovereign, the Ruler - He is the King reigning from His Temple.

Walk On My High Places

Habakkuk *Embraced* God

Encountered (Related himself to God):

- Prayed God to revive His work (Habakkuk 3:2)

O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy. Habakkuk 3:2

- God is God of my Salvation (Habakkuk 3:18)
- God is God of my Strength (Habakkuk 3:19)

Walk On My High Places

Habakkuk *Embraced* God

Habakkuk was

Experienced (God's work in him):

Rejoiced in the joy of Salvation (Habakkuk 3:18)

Walked on his high places with the strength of God who make his feet like hinds feet (Habakkuk 3:19)

Although the ¹fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall ²fruit be in the vines; the ³labour of the olive shall fail, and the ⁴fields shall yield no meat; the ⁵flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be ⁶no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. Habakkuk 3;17-19.

Walk On My High Places

Questions

1. What is the matter that troubled Habakkuk (as seen in the beginning of the book)?
2. What aspect of God Habakkuk did not understand?
3. What did he understand about God later on?
4. How did he embrace God?

Message -2

Walking on High Places

Making Habakkuk's Experience As Your Experience

10 April 2023; 16:15-17:15

Walk On My High Places

Knowing God

You can make Habakkuk's experience as your experience and you can walk on your high places.

1. **Know who God is:**

No one can understand or know God unless He reveals Himself to us. God Revealed Himself in three ways:

- a. CREATION (General Revelation): God revealed Himself through the creation He created (Psalms 19:1-3; Romans 1:19-20; Acts 17:24-30)
- b. SPOKEN or WRITTEN WORD (Special Revelation):
SPOKEN WORD (Hebrew - **Dabar**) - Exodus 3:14; Exodus 6:3; 1 Samuel 3:7, 21
WRITTEN WORD (Greek - **Logos**) - Deuteronomy 6:4
- c. JESUS CHRIST (Special Revelation): Jesus Christ came into the world to reveal who God is: John 1:18; Colossians 1:15-17; John 14:9
(See 1 Corinthians 4:4-6)

Walk On My High Places

Knowing God

GOD IS

1. Great (Transcendent - Greatness):

Omnipotent; Omniscient; Omnipresent
Eternal, Sovereign
Spirit

2. Good (Immanent - Goodness):

Love, Merciful, Gracious, Kind
Faithful, Gentle, Long-suffering
Holy, Righteous, Just

Walk On My High Places

Embracing God

To make Habakkuk's experience as your experience, you need to embrace God through Salvation experience.

THE MESSAGE TO HABAKKUK WAS - "THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH" (Habakkuk 2:4)

Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11 and Hebrews 10:38 - IT SPEAKS OF SALVATION EXPERIENCE

SALVATION EXPERIENCE

- a. NEW BIRTH - "Born-again" or "new birth" can be experienced by accepting Lord Jesus Christ as your personal saviour (John 3: 1-13; John 1:12-13; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 5:1) - Without this experience you can not relate yourself to God.
Christ was born in this world for you.
- b. FORGIVENESS - Pardon or Remission for sins (Ephesians 1:7; Matthew 9:2-6; Hebrews 9:22). Forgiveness for sins can be received through repentance or confession of sins (1 John 1:9) - Without forgiveness of sins you are enemy to God without peace (Isaiah 1:18).
Christ shed His blood for the remission of your sins.
- c. JUSTIFICATION - Punishment of sins is taken away - Not being under the condemnation of eternal hellfire - John 3:18; John 5:24; John 8:11; John 3:18; John 5:24; Romans 5:18; Romans 8:1. Without justification you are under the wrath of God condemned to eternal hellfire.
Christ took your punishment.

Walk On My High Places

Embracing God

SALVATION EXPERIENCE (CONTD)

- a. REDEMPTION - Deliverance from the bondage (of Satan and Sin) - 1 Peter 1:18, 19; Colossians 1:13. Without redemption, you are in the power of darkness, slave to sin. Christ paid the price of your redemption.
- b. QUICKENED - Made alive (Ephesians 2:1-5). Without quickening, you are dead in your sins and trespasses.

Christ died and rose again to revive the dead spirit.

*Yet **I** will rejoice in the LORD, **I** will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. Habakkuk 3:18-19*

Walk On My High Places

Embracing God

SALVATION RESULTS IN -

*Yet I will **rejoice** in the LORD, I will **joy** in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my **feet like hinds' feet**, and he will make me to **walk upon mine high places**.*

Habakkuk 3:18-19

1. JOY - Joy of salvation (Psalm 51:); - It is unspeakable and full of glory (1 Peter 1:9)
- It makes you REJOICE (Habakkuk 3:18)
2. HOPE - In tough times - Because God is Sovereign and King (in control of every situation, Habakkuk 2: 20) - Walk upon high places.
3. Many other things such as Life (New, Abundant and eternal), Peace etc.

Walk On My High Places

NEW LIFE

Knowing God

Embracing God Through Salvation

Message -3

Ride Upon High Places

Jacob's Experience (Deuteronomy 32:10-14)

11 April 2023; 10:30-11:30

Ride Upon High Places

Jacob and God

Context: People of Israel have come out of Egypt and wandered in the wilderness for forty years. Moses spoke to the second generation mostly born during the wilderness journey.

The book of Deuteronomy is the message of God to Israelites including today's passage Deuteronomy 32: 10-14. It tells us about the life of Jacob also.

Jacob mean **supplanter**.

But God transformed him to be **Israel** (prevail with God or God prevails)

It is a perfect story of man and God working together to prevail!

Ride Upon High Places

Jacob and God

Deuteronomy 32: 10-13

He **found him** in a ¹desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he ²led him about, he ³**instructed him**, he ⁴kept him as the apple of his eye. As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: So the ⁵LORD alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him. ⁶He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and ⁷he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock;

Ride Upon High Places

Jacob and God

1. GOD FOUND JACOB

Desert land and in howling wilderness (lonely, exposed to dangers, vulnerable and helpless...)

2. GOD TRAINED JACOB

Led him about, instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye; LORD alone did lead him,

3. GOD MADE HIM TO RIDE UPON HIGH PLACES

He made him ride on the high places of the earth ...he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock;

Unlike Habakkuk's personal account in his book, this is God's account of Jacob.

Ride Upon High Places

Jacob and God

Jacob's challenges - God's Training

His Situation

Lonely

Vulnerable

Unskilled

Insecure

His Nature

Fear

Deceiving

Self-confident or self-willed

Scheming

No other character in the Holy Bible represents more clearly than Jacob, the conflict between lower and higher nature.

Ride Upon High Places

Jacob and God

GOD'S TRAINING

As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings.



Jacob is a perfect example of God and man working together to prevail!

Ride Upon High Places

Jacob and God

GOD'S TRAINING - 1: BETHEL

Genesis 28: 7

Genesis 28: 10-22

God made a Covenant;
Promised His presence

Lonely; Vulnerable,
Unskilled; insecure

Jacob made a vow
(Commitment)

Deceiving
Scheming ↓

↑
Obedience
Desired
Blessings

GOD

JACOB

Ride Upon High Places

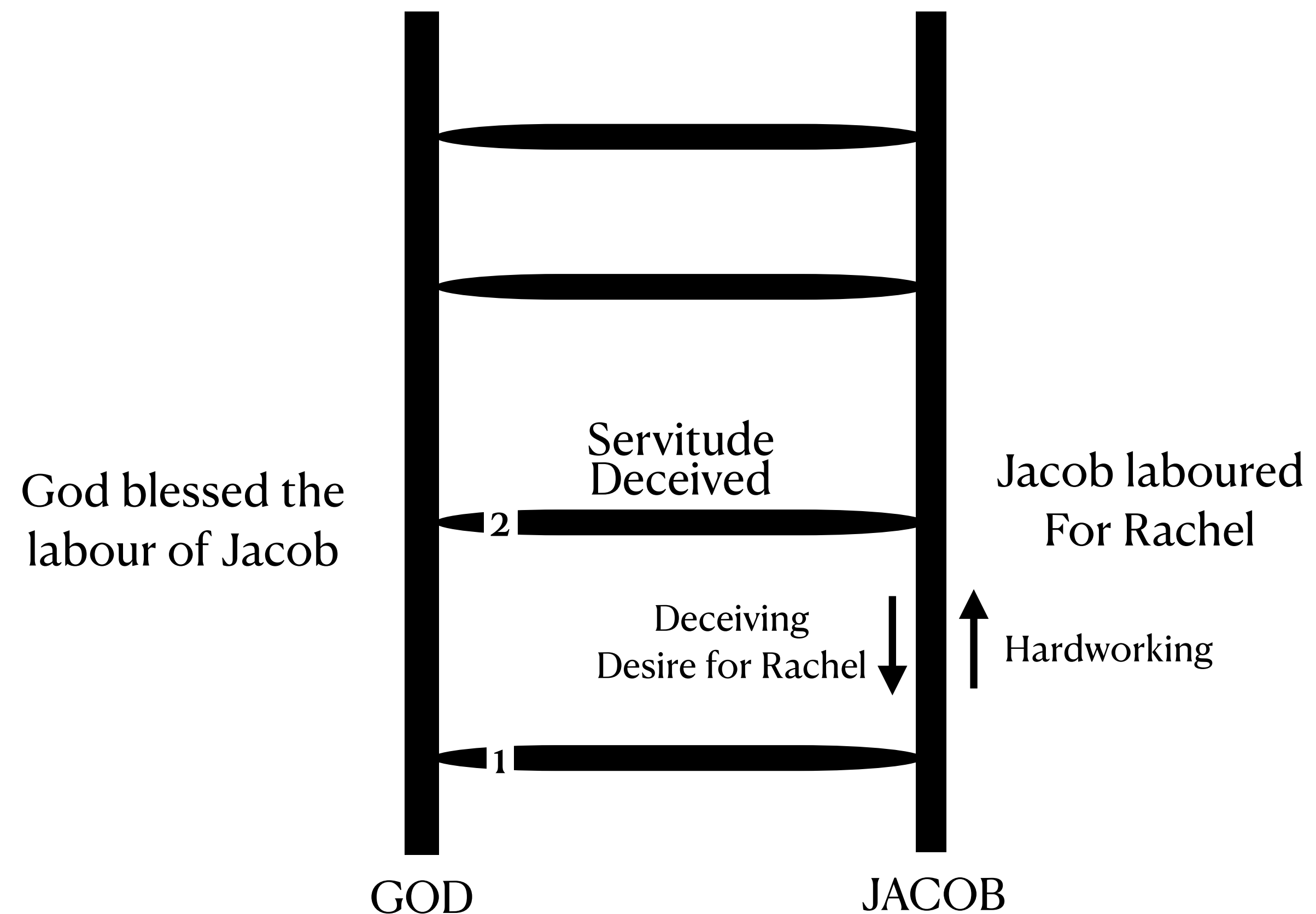
Jacob and God

GOD'S TRAINING - 2: PADANARAM

Genesis 29

Genesis 29: 14-20

Genesis 29: 27



Ride Upon High Places

Jacob and God

GOD'S TRAINING - 3: PENUEL

Genesis 32

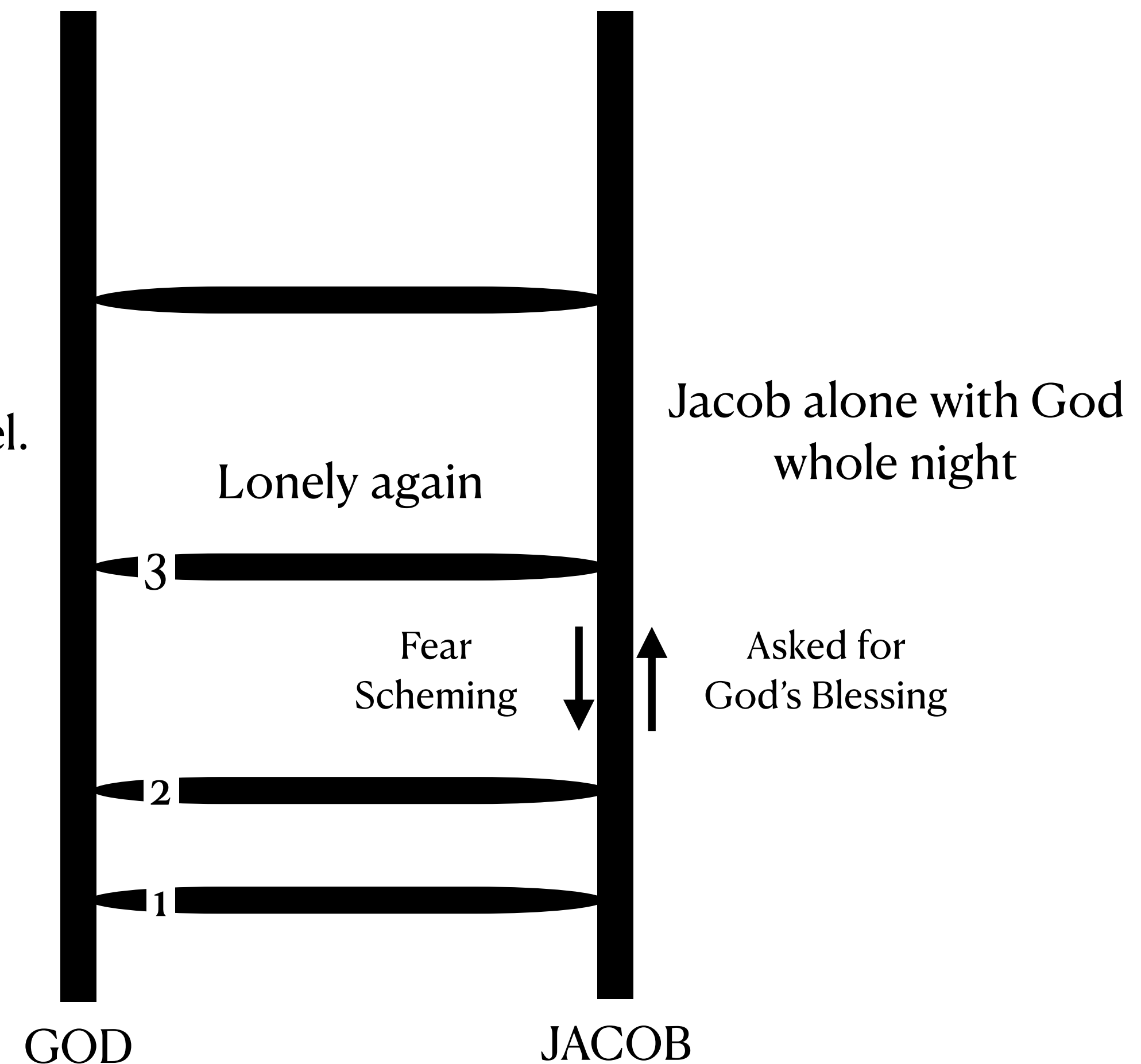
Genesis 32: 1-2

Genesis 32: 3-7

Genesis 32: 24-30

Genesis 32: 25, 31-32

God blessed Jacob
Changed his name to Israel.
God touched his thigh...



Ride Upon High Places

Jacob and God

GOD'S TRAINING - 4: BETHEL

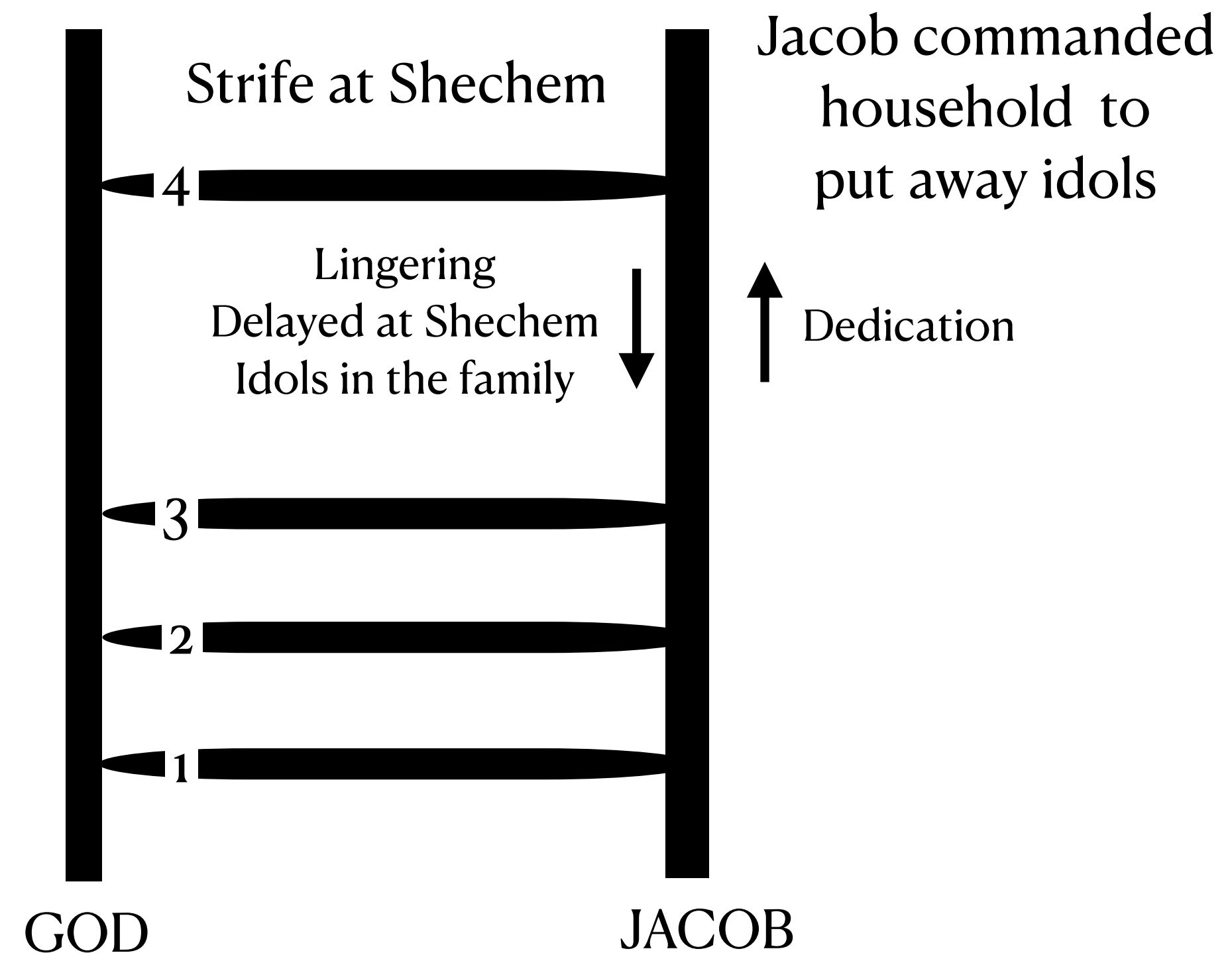
Genesis 35

Genesis 35: 1-3

Genesis 35: 4-7

Genesis 35: 9-15

God established His covenant with Jacob.



Ride Upon High Places

Jacob and God

GOD'S TRAINING

God did not change Jacob's situations, but was with him and transformed him into Israel.

Jacob was the man of troubles (Genesis 47: 8-10; Jeremiah 30:7).

But God made all his troubles as stepping stones or climbing steps.

Jacob learned to lean upon the Lord and ride upon the high places.

Jacob is a perfect example of God and man working together to prevail!

Ride Upon High Places

Questions

1. What are the three things that the Lord had done to Jacob (according to Deuteronomy 32: 10-13)
2. Why did Jacob face all the difficulties?
3. How did God train Jacob?
4. What change God brought in the life of Jacob?

Message -4

Ride Upon High Places

Making Jacob's Experience As Your Experience

11 April 2023; 16:15-17:15

Ride Upon High Places

Making Jacob's experience as yours

God trained and made Jacob to be transformed in the world Jacob lived.

God made him to ride upon high places.

The Lord would like to train you in two aspects as he trained Jacob and transformed him:

1) Your World and

2) Your nature

Ride Upon High Places

Making Jacob's experience as yours

Let us consider Jacob's world and his nature that the Lord transformed.

Jacob's World:

- ❖ It was the world of the children of Heth lived. Heth was the progenitor of "Hittites".
- ❖ Heth means "fear" and Hittites represent "doubts" and "no religion"
- ❖ Esau gave-in or yielded to the norms of the Hittites, when he married the daughters of Heth (Genesis 27:46)
- ❖ It was the society with "no fear of God" and "no religion" like modern Atheism.
- ❖ Esau did not care about birthright and God's blessings (Hebrews 12:16-17)

Ride Upon High Places

Making Jacob's experience as yours

Jacob's World:

Jacob lived in such a Godless world. Probably, there was a pressure on him to be conformed to its norms, as a young man.

However, Jacob did not give in, so he invited troubles. He stayed at home with his mother and father (Genesis 25:27).



Richard Dawkins 2009 London Bus Campaign!

Ride Upon High Places

Making Jacob's experience as yours

Your world:

World (Cosmos) is a system operated by Satan and is against God.

The present world is a broken world, full of darkness - sin and evil:

- Galatians 1:4
- Philippians 2:15-16
- Acts 2:40
- 1 John 2:15-16

It was hostile to the Lord Jesus Christ and also to a child of God. In fact the world around you hates you, if you are a child of God (John 17:14). You can either be conformed to it or be transformed (Romans 12: 1-2). There is a peer pressure every child of God experiences. If you do not confirmed to the dominating norms of the society or the world around you, you'll be isolated. You are "not cool" but a "loser".

Ride Upon High Places

Making Jacob's experience as yours

Your world:

The World wants you to be Conformed to it:

1. Worldly cares (Matthew 13:22; Romans 11:12)
2. Wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:20; 3:19)
3. Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:12)
4. Fashion (1 Corinthians 7:31)
5. Elements (Galatians 4:3; Colossians 2:8)
6. Course (Ephesians 2:2)
7. Corruption (2 Peter 1:4; 2:20)

Ride Upon High Places

Making Jacob's experience as yours

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God wants you be transformed in the world:

1. Denying it (Titus 2:12)
2. Unspotted it (James 2:12)
3. No friendship with it (James 4:4)
4. No love for it (1 John 2:15)
5. Overcoming it (1 John 5:4)
6. Be a light and salt to it (Matthew 56:14, 15)
7. Shine as light (Philippians 2:15-16)

Ride Upon High Places

Making Jacob's experience as yours

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7. Shine as light (Philippians 2:15-16)

1. God has chosen you out of it (John 15:19; 17:14, 16)
2. God has sent you or placed you in the world (John 17:18)
3. You are kept safe in the world (John 17:15, 17)
4. You can influence the world (John 17:21)

Ride Upon High Places

Making Jacob's experience as yours

Jacob's nature:

- Deceiving
- Self willed
- Scheming
- Fearful

Ride Upon High Places

Making Jacob's experience as yours

Your nature:

We have inherited a nature from Adam and Eve which is called a “fallen nature” (Romans 5: 12; 15; 19). It is represented as a “old man” in the Bible (Romans 6:6).

We are naturally inclined to sin (Ephesians 2:2-3):

Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, **the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:** Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past **in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind;** and were **by nature the children of wrath,** even as others.

Ride Upon High Places

Making Jacob's experience as yours

Your nature:

Three categories of nature of a person:

Natural

- Spirit is dead
- Body is defiled
- Soul darkened

Carnal

- Spirit is alive but weak
- Body is active
- Soul is active

Spiritual

- Spirit is alive and strong
- Body is subjected to spirit
- Soul is subjected to spirit

Galatians 5:18, 19

Youthful lusts
(2 Timothy 2:22)

Mortifying the deeds of the flesh
Romans 8:13; Colossians 3:5

Ride Upon High Places

Making Jacob's experience as yours

Training of the Lord:

1. God renews inner man - Colossians 3:10
2. God renews our minds - Ephesians 4:23; Romans 12:2
3. God renews our strength - Isaiah 40:31

God gives us new beginnings.

Ride Upon High Places

Making Jacob's experience as yours

- 1. GOD IS SEEKING YOU**
- 2. GOD WANTS TO TRAIN YOU**
- 3. GOD WOULD LIKE TO MAKE YOU TO RIDE UPON
HIGH PLACES**

Message -5

Set Upon High Places

David's Experience

12 April 2023; 10:30-11:30

Set Upon My High Places

He maketh my feet like hinds' *feet*,
and setteth me upon my high places.

Psalm 18:33

Set Upon My High Places

David and Wars

CONTEXT:

King David was delivered by the Lord from all his enemies (Psalm 18; 2 Samuel 22). He praised the Lord for all his victories that the Lord gave him and for setting him upon his high places.

In the Bible, David was introduced to us as a young man, anointed and fought with Goliath, the giant (1 Samuel 16, 17).

- Shepherd boy
- Musician
- Warrior
- Psalmist
- King

Set Upon My High Places

David and Wars

God gave him victory over all the enemies:

1. He fought with a bear and a lion (1 Samuel 17:34, 35)
 - Victory in personal life

2. Battle with Goliath (1 Samuel 17; Psalm 18:37-39)
 - All may know that there is God in Israel (1 Samuel 17:46)
 - Lord seventh not with sword and spear (1 Samuel 17:46)
 - Battle is the Lord (1 Samuel 17:47)

3. King Saul sought to kill David because of envy and jealousy
 - Anointed King
 - Trusted God (Found a perfect security in God - Psalm 18: 1-3; 16-24)

Set Upon My High Places

David and Wars

DAVID AND WARS (CONTD.)

4. Philistines (1 Samuel 19:8)
5. Amalakites (1 Samuel 30:16-20)
6. Jebusites (2 Samuel 5:17-21)
7. Moabites (2 Samuel 8:2)
8. Aramites (2 Samuel 8: 3-12)
9. Edomites (2 Samuel 8: 13-14)
10. Ammonites (2 Samuel 10: 15-18)

Victory (Psalm 18: 26-36)

Set Upon My High Places

David and Wars

DAVID AND WARS (CONTD.)

11. Absalom wanted to kill David (2 Samuel 17:18)

12. Fear (Samuel 22:5-7)
 - Victory Psalm 18:7-27 (Psalm 56: 3, 4)

13. Temptations - sin (2 Samuel 11)
 - Victory (Psalm 51) - Psalm 18:28
 - 2 Samuel 12:13 (1 kings 15:5)

14. Satan (1 Chronicles 21; 1-14; Pride - Psalm 18:25-27)
 - Victory (1 Chronicles 21: 8-9; 10-13; 26-27)

Set Upon My High Places

David and Wars

God gave victory to David over all kinds of enemies.

Made his feet like hinds feet.

Set him upon his high places.

Set Upon My High Places

Questions

1. What was the secret of David's victory over Goliath?
2. How did David get victory over Sin?
3. How did David get victory over Satan?
4. Which battle of David, in your opinion was the toughest? Why?

Message - 6

Set Upon High Places

Making David's Experience As Your Experience

12 April 2023; 13:30-15:00

Set Upon My High Places

Making David's victory as yours

YOUR WAR / BATTLES:

Satan rebelled against God and was cast down.

He beguiled Eve and caused Adam and Eve to disobey God.

Sin entered the mankind resulting in the fall of man.

The Lord God promised a redeemer.

Thereafter, Satan is at war with God and His people.

He uses the “world”, the system driven by him against God's people.

Set Upon My High Places

Making David's victory as yours

SPIRITUAL WARFARE:

Every child of God as soon he or she is born again is in the “Spiritual warfare”.

○ Ephesians 6:12 - Your Enemy

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

○ 1 Timothy 1:18 - Your Warfare

○ 2 Corinthians 10:4, 5 - Your Weapons of warfare

Set Upon My High Places

Making David's victory as yours

SATAN

Warfare - He wants to rule you (John 12:31; 1John 5:19; Matthew 4:8,9)

Target - Your will (Isaiah 14:12-1; 1 Timothy 3:6)

Weapon - Pride (1 Chronicles 21; 1-14)

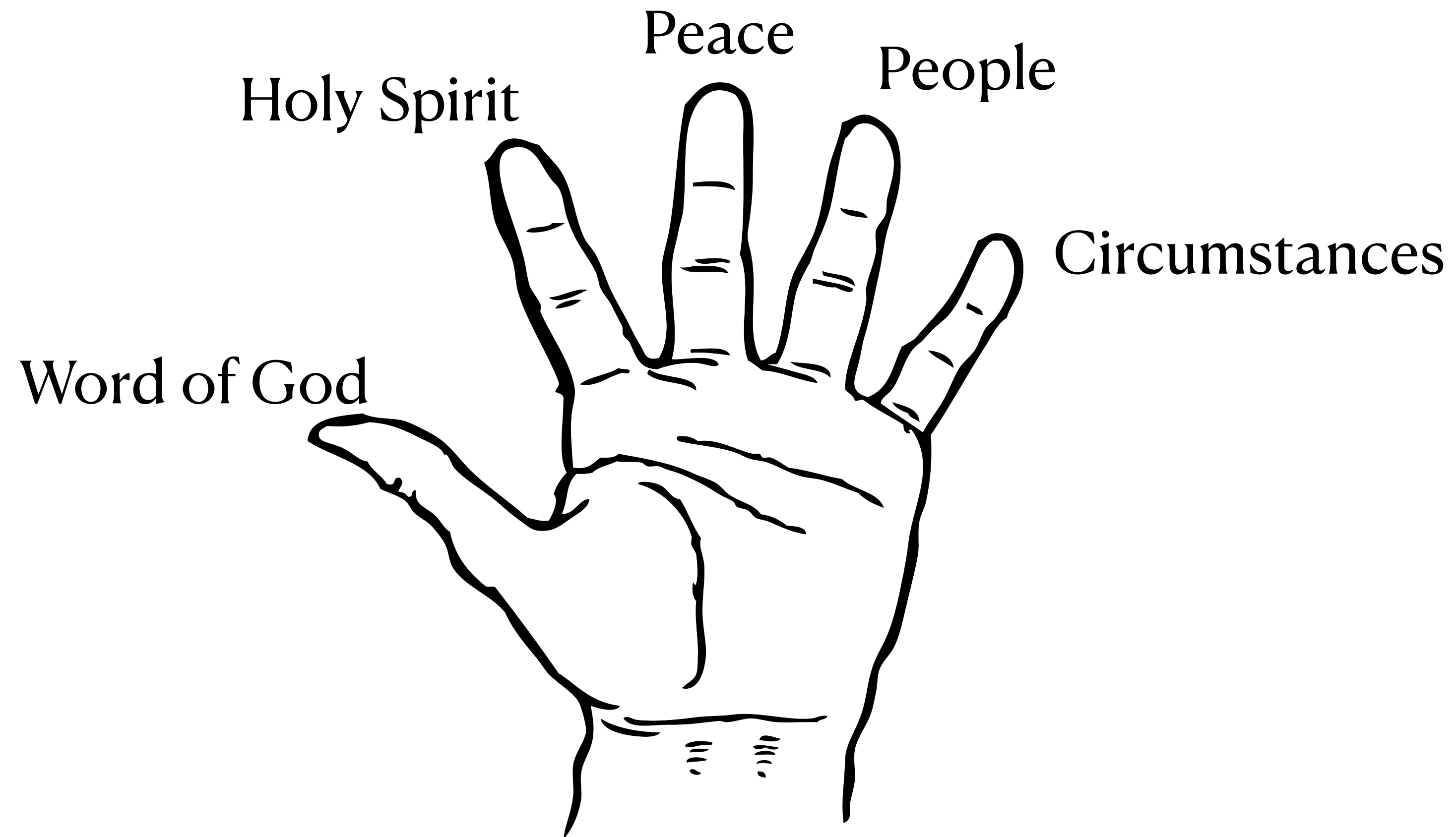
Purpose - To make you independent of God and His will (Psalm 10:4;

Your defence - Humility (James 4:6-7; Romans 12: 2-3; Psalm 18:25-27);

- Doing God's will (Ephesians 6:6; 1 John 2:27)

Set Upon My High Places

Making David's victory as yours



Set Upon My High Places

Making David's victory as yours

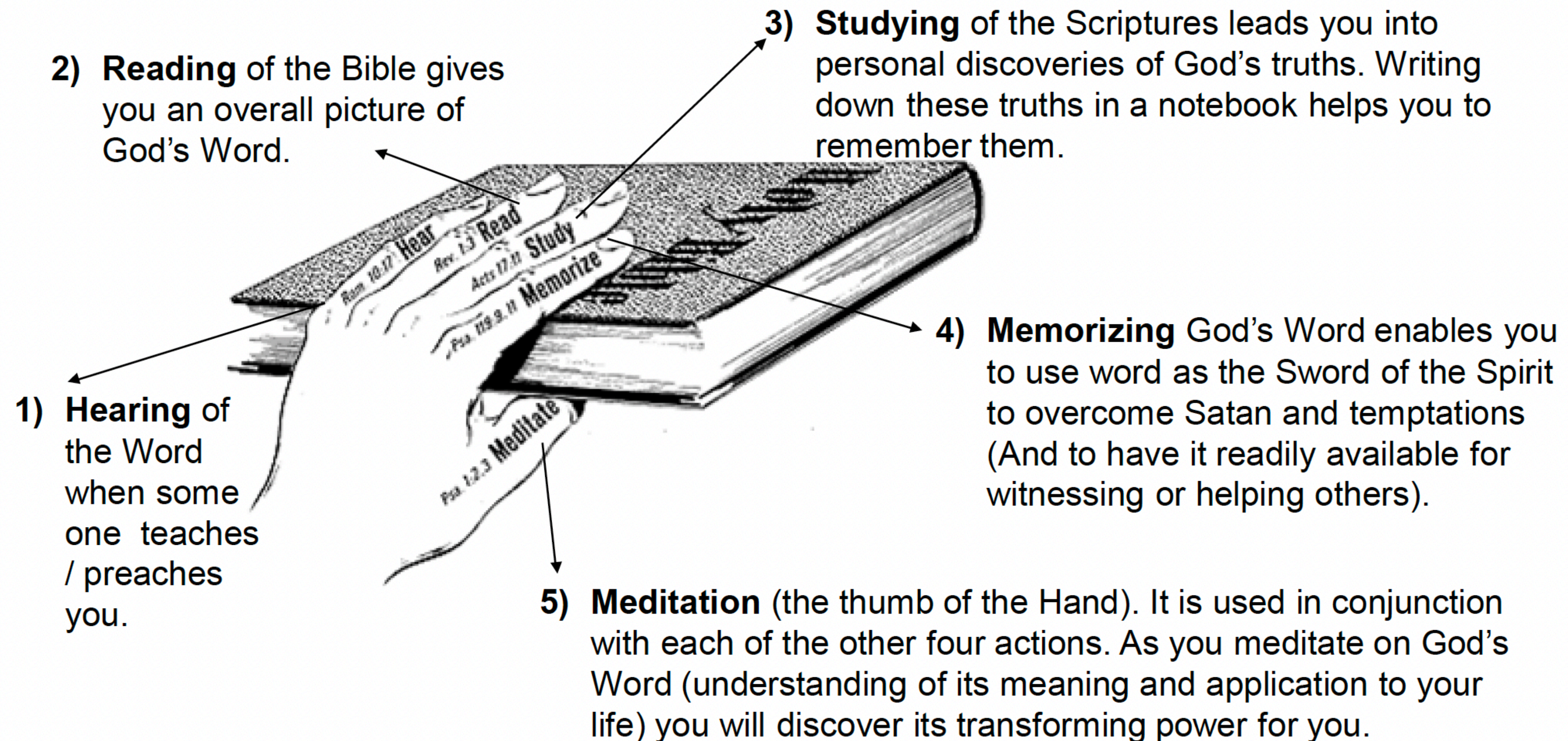
SATAN

- Warfare - He wants to deceive you (Revelation 12:9; 20:10)
- Target - Your mind (2 Corinthians 11:3)
- Weapon - Lies (John 8:44)
- Purpose - To make you ignorant of God and His word

Your defence - Inspired Word of God (Ephesians 6:17)

Set Upon My High Places

Making David's victory as yours



Set Upon My High Places

Making David's victory as yours

SATAN

- Warfare - Accuse you before the Lord (Revelation 12:10)
- Target - Your heart and Conscience (Before and after sin)
- Weapon - Accusation
- Purpose - To make you guilty before the Lord (Zechariah 3: 1-7)

Your defence - Intercessions, and the Blood of Christ (1 John 1: 9- 2: 2; Hebrews 9:14; 2 Corinthians 7:9-10)

Set Upon My High Places

Making David's victory as yours

SATAN

Warfare - He wants to destroy you (1 Peter 5:8; Luke 22:31)

Target - Your body (Flesh - fallen nature)

Weapon - Sufferings, temptations (1 Corinthians 9:27)

Purpose - To make you impatient with God

Your defence - Imparted Grace of God (1 Peter 5:10); Work of the cross (Galatians 2:20; 5:24; 6:14)

Walk Upon My High Places

Habakkuk 3: 17-19

Though the fig tree does not blossom
And there is no fruit on the vines,
Though the yield of the olive fails
And the fields produce no food,
Though the flock is cut off from the fold
And there are no cattle in the stalls,

Yet I will [choose to] rejoice in the Lord;
I will [choose to] shout in exultation in the [victorious] God of my salvation!

The Lord God is my strength [my source of courage, my invincible army];
He has made my feet [steady and sure] like hinds' feet
And makes me walk [forward with spiritual confidence] on my [a]high places [of challenge and responsibility].