

Before you read this, I would like you to take a minute to pray this prayer;  
“God, open my eyes to see how this writing applies to me today”.

# **Star Light**

SL/2023-E1 Like stars, shine through the dark night sky

## DISCLAIMER:

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# WELCOME TO 2023

## *It seemed good in our eyes!*

**Y**ears back, I worked as a Computer Aided Graphics Designer in a business center. One day, one of my regular patrons came to design a book cover. To avoid the possibility of me leaving his work to attend to an urgent job that will most likely come along, he sat beside me while I worked. But while he sat there, this man said nothing to me as I worked; no suggestions on what color to use, what background images he considered appropriate, or which fonts to use; his preoccupation was chatting and laughing with one of my colleagues. After about thirty minutes when I considered the work done based on my own assessment, I told him I was ready to print the sample; it was then he started showing me which colors to change, which fonts not to use, which backgrounds to adjust. Exasperated (I must add, this man had an unusual ability and gift to get on people's nerves) by the amount of time we were taking going all

over the design again, I told him; “Sir, you have been here all along but did not say anything while I worked. Now I have finished designing to my taste and you want it corrected.” In response, he said something that changed my entire look at customer satisfaction as a graphics designer. It is this his statement I would like us to consider in today's edition of *Star Light*. He said; “One, you didn't ask my opinion or what I think about what you were doing. Two, you aren't designing for your taste but mine, what you like does not count on this design.”

We most times forget that we were hired and placed on this earth for a purpose and our entire life, from birth to death, is to be lived to the satisfaction of the One who hired us. We must therefore ask at each step if what we are doing is right in His eyes.

A certain people saw death and complete annihilation staring them in the

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face. They had heard stories of how others far stronger than they were completely wiped out of the face of the earth. Afraid for the safety of their lives and the continuity of their corporate existence, they hatched a plan; “But when the people of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, they resorted to deception to save themselves. They sent ambassadors to Joshua, loading their donkeys with weathered saddlebags and old, patched wineskins. They put on worn-out, patched sandals and ragged clothes. And the bread they took with them was dry and moldy. When they arrived at the camp of Israel at Gilgal, they told Joshua and the men of Israel, “We have come from a distant land to ask you to make a peace treaty with us” (Joshua 9:3-6 NLT). This act of deception by the Gibeonites was expected! The people were merely trying to stay alive. God Himself has said “... for the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth...” (Genesis 8:21 KJV). Again God has said “The human heart is **the most deceitful of all things**, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?” (Jeremiah 17:9 NLT). This is who we all are, you and I; **unless transformed by the Holy Spirit, we are wicked and selfish, caring only about self and I!** What came unexpected, however, was the reaction of Israel's leadership at the time; little wonder Jesus said “*for the sons of this age [the non-believers] are shrewder in relation to their own kind [that is, to the ways of the secular world] than are the sons of light [the believers]*” (Luke 16:8 AMP). Joshua and the leaders of Israel interviewed the people and took action without consulting God!

“So the Israelites examined their

food, **but they did not consult the LORD**. Then Joshua made a peace treaty with them and guaranteed their safety, and the leaders of the community ratified their agreement with a binding oath” (Joshua 9:14-15 NLT, emphasis added).

We have started a journey filled with very many unknown detours, the journey called 2023. Are there lessons we can glean from the immediate and remote consequences of the decision of Israel's leaders and how this applies to us today (we would consider two of the consequences I could find in scripture, but for sake of space, we would consider in our next episode how this applies to us today).

1. **Fighting needless battles:** Shortly after this peace treaty, King Adonibezek gathered together four kings with the intention of attacking and destroying Gibeon in retaliation for their alliance with the enemy, Israel, (Joshua 10:3-4). The people of Gibeon sent a distress call to Joshua to come to their aid (Joshua 10:6). The Bible records that Joshua and the army traveled all through the night to get to battle. The alliance brought the battle (Joshua 10:9). This was a battle the people were not prepared for. Glory to God, He helped them and they emerged victorious.
2. **Suffering resulted from a breach of the peace treaty:** “There was famine in the days of David for three consecutive years; and David sought the presence (face) of the LORD [asking the reason].

The LORD replied, “It is because of Saul and his bloody house, because he put the Gibeonites to death.” So the king called the Gibeonites and spoke to them (now the Gibeonites were not of the sons (descendants) of Israel but of the remnant (survivors) of the **Amorites**. The Israelites had sworn [an oath] to [spare] them, but Saul in his zeal for the sons of Israel and Judah had sought to strike down the Gibeonites)” (2 Samuel 21:1-2 AMP). After all, King Saul may have thought, we were supposed to spare no inhabitant of this land “But listen carefully to everything I command you today. Then I will go ahead of you and drive out the **Amorites**, Canaanites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites. 'Be very careful never to make a treaty with the people who live in the land where you are going. If you do, you will follow their evil ways and be trapped”” (Exodus 34:11-12 NKJV).

To consider that these Gibeonites extracted a treaty through deceit yet had

a legal ground to cause a curse to come upon the land when the treaty was broken is scary. God willing, we would consider the implications in our next edition.

But let me ask as we round off this piece; that business partnership, that relationship you want to initiate or end, that investment you want to make, the new business you intend to start, that career switch you intend to make, that marriage proposal you want to make or accept, the relocation (*japa*) plans you have perfected and just waiting for time, have you consulted the Lord? Or like these leaders in Israel at the time, it seems good in your own eyes and that's good enough?

Let us wrap up this edition with these words of God from the Book of Proverbs ; **“There is a way which seems right to a man and appears straight before him, But its end is the way of death”** (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25 AMP).

God give us the grace to always consult Him, in all things (no matter how trivial).



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