

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-E8 Like stars, shine through the dark night sky

DISCLAIMER:

Some stories (if any) used in **Star Light** write ups are a creation of the imagination of the writer. Any resemblance to persons, living or dead, events, or locale are purely coincidental.

Promotion? or Demotion?

When God rejected Saul from being king (1 Samuel 15:23b; 16:1), God instructed Prophet Samuel to anoint the young David king over His people, Israel (1 Samuel 16:1, 12-13). But from that point on, things quickly took a turn towards the south! David that was at one point a favourite of King Saul (1 Samuel 16:22) became his arch enemy (1 Samuel 18:8-11, 24-25; 19:10, 17). The enmity got so bad that King Saul could call his own son, Jonathan, the son of a whore (1 Samuel 20:30) and was ready to kill him for siding with David (20:33). Saul did everything in his power to kill David. One is tempted to ask, was this anointing for kingship a promotion or demotion? This is considering how Saul hounded David from wilderness to wilderness, forcing him to flee his homeland; “Why are you chasing me? What have I done? What is my crime? ... For they have driven me from my home, so I can no longer live among the Lord's people, and they have said, 'Go, worship pagan gods.' Must I die on foreign soil, far from the presence of the Lord? Why has the king of Israel come out to search for a single flea? Why does he hunt me down like a partridge on the mountains?” (1 Samuel 26:18-20 NLT). But what happened next is the subject of this write up.

Afraid for his life, David, the King-in-waiting left his home and people and went to Israel's enemy, the Philistine territory, and joined himself to their King, Achish. In one of their discussions, King Achish told David, “I will make you my personal

bodyguard for life” (1 Samuel 28:2 b NLT). This is where the question comes, was King Achish promoting David or demoting him? It is very easy to answer this question as it touches David because we can see his great end after this discussion with King Achish, but it is not always so easy to answer when it concerns us, as we look at the microcosm of our life through the lenses of happenings today.

Let us see how this concerns and applies to us; David is a representation of each and every one of us. God sent His son to earth to take you, a nobody, lounging in the wilderness of sin and make you his people and a god; “For at one time you were not God's people, but now you are. ...” Peter 2:10 TPT); “I have said, Ye are gods; And all of you are children of the most High” (Psalm 82:6 KJV). We are like David, a king-in-waiting (Matthew 19:28). So who is King Achish? Our arch enemy the devil, our adversary, “Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8 NLT). King Saul represents the circumstances of life we face each and every day.

The Saul of sickness, joblessness, lack of career growth, meaninglessness of life, etc has been on our heels chasing us from place to place. If only I get to the USA, UK, or Canada, if I can get a new job, or get a promotion, then this financial lack will end. If I can get an MSc or PhD, a job will be certain. If only I meet Apostle so and so, I will be healed. But after running to all these places, it seems we are no better off and “Saul” is still very much after

us, seeking our life as his reward!

When David (that is you and I) saw all these, he considered within himself *“Someday Saul is going to get me. The best thing I can do is escape to the Philistines. Then Saul will stop hunting for me in Israelite territory, and I will finally be safe”* (1 Samuel 27:1 NLT). It didn't end there, he acted on his thoughts and moved his family and his people with him to Philistine (vs 2-4). King Achish was happy to receive him and even encouraged him (David) to make enemies with his people, the Israelites (1 Samuel 27:8-12) very much like the devil captures our attention and makes us enemies of God through sin. What did King Achish bring to the table? David, rather than running from place to place, waiting for God's time, the day King Saul will die a natural death and you will have a chance to ascend the throne to which God has anointed you, come *“I will make you my bodyguard for life”* (1 Samuel 28:2b NLT). Forget about this God crap, come and serve me for life.

Let us take a look at some people who received this same package and their responses:

1. **The Lord Jesus:** In one of the temptations of Jesus, the devil requested of Him; *“Then the devil took him up and revealed to him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 'I will give you the glory of these kingdoms and authority over them, because they are mine to give to anyone I please. I will give it all to you if you will worship me'”* (Luke 4:5-7 NLT). Jesus, there is no need to suffer all that persecution, betrayal, beating and cruel death on the cross to gain authority, I can give you this authority now, just worship me! But here's the thing, it was through Jesus that all things were created (John 1:1-4). Jesus knew this too well, so he told the devil *“The Scriptures say, 'You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him’”* (Luke 4:8 NLT). Fast forward to his life after the resurrection, *“Jesus came and told his disciples, 'I have been given all authority in*

heaven and on earth’” (Matthew 28:18 NLT), *“Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth”* (Philippians 2:9-10 NLT).

2. **Joseph:** Here was a young lad who saw a dream of his future; sitting in a place of honour and authority with his family bowing to him. But no sooner was this dream revealed that things went sour; Joseph was almost killed by none other than his brothers out of hatred (Genesis 37:18-20), sold into slavery by his brothers (Genesis 37:25-28). It was in slavery, under his Master Potiphar that the proposal came through Potiphar's wife. You're a fine boy Joseph, use what you have to buy yourself some reprieve from the harsh realities of slavery; *“Come and sleep with me”* (Genesis 39:7 NLT). Joseph, you were meant to be a leader, come by my boyfriend, I will make sure you lead this household forever, and you will enjoy your life here for the rest of your days in slavery. But Joseph responded; *“How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?”* (Genesis 39:9 NKJV). When Joseph waited for God, he received a position that placed him above that of his former master who imprisoned him!

What can we say of men like Prophet Micaiah (2 Chronicles 18:1-34), Daniel and his three friends (Daniel 1:8, 18-20; 3:1-20)? How about Ezra who refused help from enemies whose only purpose was to stall and if possible bring to a complete stop the work of rebuilding the Temple of God in Jerusalem? (Ezra 4:1-5).

In the next edition, we will look at those who were not able to resist this offer of demotion packaged as promotion out of the present troubles of life. We would also look at what it takes to make the right choice. **See you then.**