

# OBSERVATIONS

List in the left-hand column commands for right behavior or commands against wrong behavior cited in Exodus 23:1-9. Then illustrate with a potential contemporary offense.

Behavior Commanded or Forbidden	Potential Contemporary Offense
v. 1	
v. 1	
v. 2	
v. 2	
vv. 4, 5	
v. 6	
v. 7	
v. 7	
v. 8	
v. 9	

## Introspection

Which of the above do you have the hardest time with? How will you correct this? Jot ideas below:

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## A CHANGE OF HEART

Some of us may not be sensitive to injustices experienced by others. Use the acrostic on the right to create a prayer for your own awareness and sensitivity or a commitment to change a behavior. The completed acrostic on the left is a sample. Make your own prayer different from this one.

**J**ust as  
 yo**U** love the  
**S**tranger, I  
**T**oo  
 w**I**sh to learn to  
 rea**C**h out in love to those of  
 another cultur**E**. Help me, Lord. Amen.



**J**  
**U**  
**S**  
**T**  
**I**  
**C**  
**E**

# SEARCHING FOR LIFE-CHANGING WORDS

God's will is that we live lives sensitive and responsive to other people. Find 16 of the words from today's text, Leviticus 19:9-18, 33-37, in the puzzle below. As you do, you will see in the unused letters a key word for understanding this passage and God's will.



C O M P R W A D S S S I O N C  
 O M P A A A S G U S I O N C O  
 M P E G T A N V T A S S I O N  
 C W E P O I I S M W R P A S S  
 S S Y I N N E O N C E F O M P  
 A G S A E V S I O N C I E O M  
 E P E Y R A Y S S I O N G D C  
 O L A A J L E N A F O R P H M  
 G R H P E U D N A L A S S I T  
 D O N S C O D M P A S S I O N  
 C O L M P A S G S I L A E T S  
 O A N C O M P A E S S I O N C  
 F E T A H O M P G R U D G E A  
 S S I O N C O M P A S S I O N  
 C O M P A S S C U R S E I O N

**Words to Find**

- Curse
- Defraud
- Egypt
- Falsely
- Gleanings
- Grudge
- Harvest
- Hate
- Judge
- Land
- Profane
- Steal
- Swear
- Vineyard
- Wages
- Weight

**The hidden message is**

## ACTING WITH COMPASSION

Select one of the Scriptures below to memorize. Choose one that reminds you of a behavior or value you need to change. Recall it several times daily during the coming week.

Do not swear falsely by my name and so profane the name of your God (Leviticus 19:12).

Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great (Leviticus 19:15).

Do not go about spreading slander among your people (Leviticus 19:16a).

Do not . . . bear a grudge against one of your people (Leviticus 19:18a).

Love your neighbor as yourself (Leviticus 19:18b).

Keep all my decrees and all my laws and follow them. I am the LORD (Leviticus 19:37).



**Honesty check:** Why did you pick the one you did?

How does your selected passage speak to you in a way that the others don't?

## DISCOVERING THE FACTS

The Year of Jubilee is a fascinating concept and a blessing from God. Use the next few questions to sort out the facts about this special event in the Israelite calendar.

1. How often was Israel to practice the Year of Jubilee? (Leviticus 25:8, 10)
2. When and how was the Year of Jubilee to be announced to the Israelites? (Leviticus 25:9)



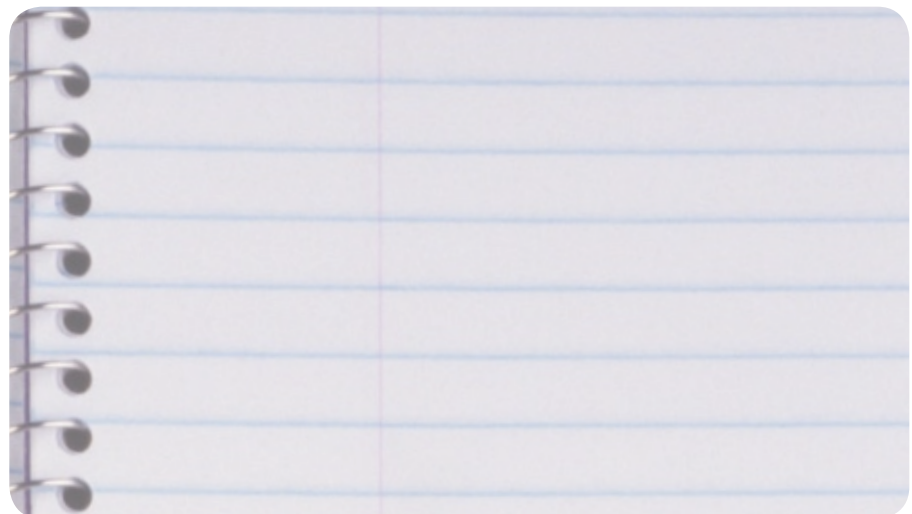
3. What were the instructions God gave concerning the land in the Year of Jubilee? (Leviticus 25:11, 12)
4. How were the poor given a fresh start in the Year of Jubilee? (Leviticus 25:25, 35, 39, 40)

5. What were the constraints God gave about loans? What is the purpose of these constraints? (Leviticus 25:36, 37)
6. If an Israelite had become a servant to a foreigner, what was to happen in the Year of Jubilee? (Leviticus 25:47, 48, 55)



## MY JOURNAL NOTES

Here is an opportunity to practice journaling as a spiritual discipline. Sometime in the week ahead, reread today's lesson text of Leviticus 25:8-12, 25, 35-40, 47, 48, 55. Jot notes about how you feel about the principles of the Year of Jubilee. Why did God include this in His book for you to read in the New Testament era? What does He wish you to learn about values, practices, and behaviors?



# LOVE GOD—HOW?

Defining love for God is important because the Old and New Testaments stress such love as the top priority of life! Today's text gives some clues to the mind-set and behavior involved in our love for God. Write the scriptural teaching in the middle column, realizing that some verses have more than one imperative. Jot a note in the rightmost column about how to interpret or apply this Scripture. One is given to get you started.

	<b>Scriptural Teaching</b>	<b>Interpretation or Application</b>
Deuteronomy 10:12	<i>"Fear the Lord your God."</i>	<i>Have an appropriate reverence for God.</i>
Deuteronomy 10:12		
Deuteronomy 10:12		
Deuteronomy 10:12		
Deuteronomy 10:13		
Deuteronomy 10:16		
Deuteronomy 10:19		
Deuteronomy 10:20		
Deuteronomy 10:20		
Deuteronomy 16:18		
Deuteronomy 16:19		
Deuteronomy 16:19		
Deuteronomy 16:20		

# LOVE PEOPLE

Our Bible study makes it clear that godly people love people. If you had to summarize how or why it is important that believers love others, what short, pithy phrase could you use? Put that encouragement on the bumper sticker below. Example: "Love God, Love Others."



# OUT OF ORDER

Family, church, and government can be said to be “out of order” in various ways today. Under the images, write one or more ways that suggest how this may be so. Then indicate how a return to godly principles can help fix the problem(s).



*Sorry!*  
**OUT OF ORDER**  
*—The Management*

How is it out of order?

How to fix and rededicate:



*Sorry!*  
**OUT OF ORDER**  
*—The Management*

How is it out of order?

How to fix and rededicate:



*Sorry!*  
**OUT OF ORDER**  
*—The Management*

How is it out of order?

How to fix and rededicate:

# A PROMISE AND A RESPONSE

In 1 Samuel 7:3, Samuel affirms the relationship covenant between God and His people. Use the following phrasing from that verse to personalize a relationship statement between you and God.



If I am returning to the Lord with all my heart, then I will rid myself of . . .

I will prepare my heart to serve him only, and he will deliver me out of the hand of . . .

## FEELING LIKE DAVID?

Do you feel like David, fully confident in God's abiding presence and power, as seen in today's text? Check off the statements below that apply to you.

- I sense that I have been exalted by God in Christ.
- I feel like one anointed by God's Spirit.
- I can readily speak the words of the Spirit as written.
- My dealings with all are in righteousness.
- I live in the fear of the Lord.
- Those who know me are refreshed, for I am like a morning rain that nourishes.
- I am part of his eternal covenant.
- Salvation is mine in him.
- All my desires are met in him.
- No one will consider me a thorny weed, an intruder in God's garden.

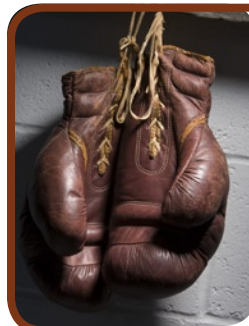
For the ones you didn't check, how will you make corrections in those areas? Jot your plan below:



## CONFIDENT LAST WORDS

Near the end of his earthly life and ministry, the apostle Paul eloquently and confidently wrote 2 Timothy 4:6b-8a. It is shown in the box to the right.

Realizing that the "time of departure" may be nearer than we think, how will you "fight, finish, and keep" your life for Christ today? List three specific ways:



The time has come for my departure.  
I have fought the good fight,  
I have finished the race,  
I have kept the faith.  
Now there is in store for me  
the crown of righteousness.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

== Student Reproducible Page for Lesson 6, "David Embodies God's Justice" (2 Samuel 23:1-7; 1 Chronicles 18:14, NIV) ==

## WHO'S ON THE BENCH?

Lawyers are always concerned about what judge will be sitting on the bench to judge the case at hand. The ideal judge best resembles God as judge. Check each of these texts to see why/how God is the Judge Exemplar. Fill in your ideas.

Genesis 18:25b

Deuteronomy 32:36

Job 40:1, 2

Psalms 9:8

Psalms 94:9-11

Matthew 25:31-34, 41

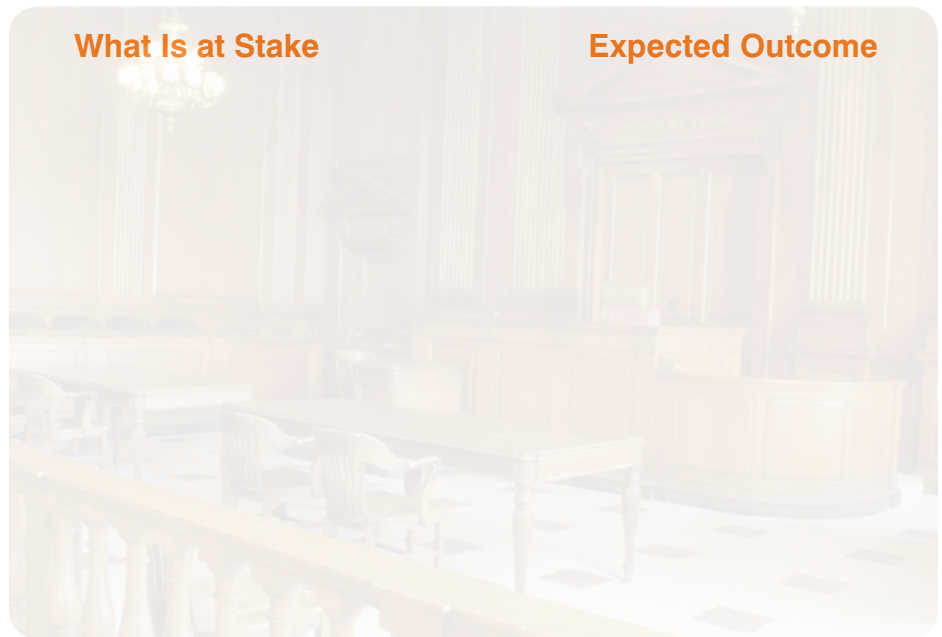
John 7:24

1 Peter 1:17

Revelation 19:11, 12

What Is at Stake

Expected Outcome



## SO YOU WANT WISDOM?

Solomon's only request when God offered him a "blank check" (1 Kings 3:5) was for "a discerning heart . . . to distinguish between right and wrong" (3:9). James 3:17 characterizes the wisdom that comes from Heaven with the attributes below. How do you see yourself with regard to these? For each entry, give yourself an honest grade: A, B, C, D, F.

- \_\_\_ pure
- \_\_\_ peaceable
- \_\_\_ gentle
- \_\_\_ easy to be intreated
- \_\_\_ full of mercy
- \_\_\_ full of good fruits
- \_\_\_ without partiality
- \_\_\_ without hypocrisy

What can you plan for your "spiritual curriculum" that will help you "get your grades up"?



# ALL THE GREAT THINGS ELISHA HAS DONE

As soon as Elisha received Elijah's mantle (2 Kings 2:13), God enabled him to do miracles. The king asked about all those great things in 2 Kings 8:4, part of today's text. Examine each text reference below and write the miraculous event at the hand of Elisha. All references are in 2 Kings.

2:14	2:19-22
2:23, 24	3:14-20
4:1-7	4:14-17
4:32-36	4:38-41
4:42-44	5:14
6:4-7	6:15-17
6:18-20	6:24-7:20

Today's study in 2 Kings 8 refers back to an event in one of the texts above. Which one? Circle it.

## EVIL PEOPLE AND RIGHT BEHAVIORS

In today's study, an evil king of Israel does the right thing. Answer the following questions about such circumstances.

Are you surprised when evil people do the right thing? Why, or why not?

Are evil people reflecting an intrinsic godliness when they do the right thing? Why, or why not?

Are evil people able to recognize injustice? If so, why do they not always oppose it?



## WIDOWS INDEED IN NEED

Read 1 Timothy 5:3-13 to see the Spirit's word to the church regarding its widows. Then answer these questions:

1. What is our congregation doing for "widows who are really in need"?
2. What else needs to be done?
3. How can I help personally in this area?

# JUDGE'S CHECKLIST

Consider the following as a checklist for a worthy judge. These are all part of Jehoshaphat's "installation ceremony" for the judges of Judah in 2 Chronicles 19:4-11.

- ✓ 1. Always have the courage of your convictions; verse \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ 2. Avoid even the hint of bribery; verse \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ 3. Consider each case with care; verse \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ 4. Consider that crimes are sins against God as well as against men; verse \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ 5. Do your job wholeheartedly, honoring its seriousness; verse \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ 6. Faithfully execute your duty; verse \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ 7. Fear the Lord, the righteous judge of all; verse \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ 8. Remember: there is a higher power to whom you answer; verse \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ 9. Remember: to allow injustice or bribery is a sin for you; verse \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ 10. Show absolute impartiality; verse \_\_\_\_\_
- ✓ 11. Submit to the authorities under whom you serve; verse \_\_\_\_\_

Match each expectation to a verse of the text. How might you use such a list as you evaluate judicial candidates for receiving your vote when election time comes?

# COMMISSIONED AND CHARGED

Few of us are set apart formally as judges, but all Christians are commissioned as priests (1 Peter 2:5). When Aaron and his sons were ordained as the priests of Israel, Moses challenged them to "do what the Lord requires, so you will not die" (Leviticus 8:35). Charles Wesley expressed our obligation in the hymn poem to the right:

What phrases from this hymn remind you of thoughts in today's text of 2 Chronicles 19:4-11?



*A charge to keep I have,  
A God to glorify;  
A never-dying soul to save,  
And fit it for the sky.*

*To serve the present age,  
My calling to fulfill;  
O may it all my pow'rs engage  
To do my Master's will!*

*Arm me with jealous care,  
As in Thy sight to live,  
And O, Thy servant, Lord, prepare,  
A strict account to give!*

*Help me to watch and pray,  
And on Thyself rely,  
Assured, if I my trust betray,  
I shall forever die.*

Will you sing this song as an indication of your acceptance of your role within the priesthood of believers (1 Peter 2:5)?

# HALLELUJAH!

## *An Antiphonal Reading*

**Group 1:** Hallelujah! Who is to be praised?

**Group 1:** And who is going to praise him?

**Group 1:** How long will you praise him?

**Group 1:** How long?

**Group 1:** Who is not worthy of trust and praise?

**Group 1:** Why are they not worthy?

**Group 1:** What happens to them?

**Group 1:** And then what?

**Group 1:** But Yahweh is forever!

**Group 1:** Blessed is the one who puts hope in Yahweh.

**Group 1:** He is the Creator of all that is.

**Group 1:** But how does he deal with men?

**Group 1:** He is the great provider of all our needs

**Group 1:** He gives light to those who have been in darkness.

**Group 1:** Hallelujah! Praise him!

**Group 1:** God loves those who pursue righteousness.

**Group 1:** Yahweh's eye is on the alien among us for his good.

**Group 1:** Has he not visited them in their distress?

**Group 1:** O, but have you not seen Yahweh thwart their plans? Hallelujah!

**Group 1:** He is God from one generation to the next.

**Group 2:** The Lord, Yahweh, is to be praised.

**Group 2:** I am, with all my soul.

**Group 2:** I will praise Yahweh all my life.

**Group 2:** As long as I have breath.

**Group 2:** I will not praise rulers. I will not praise mere men.

**Group 2:** They have no help. They cannot save.

**Group 2:** They die. They return to dust.

**Group 2:** All their words and plans are finished.

**Group 2:** Hallelujah! Happy is the one whose helper is the God of Jacob.

**Group 2:** And what is praiseworthy in him?

**Group 2:** He is faithful to his Word forever.

**Group 2:** He is the strong arm of the weak and oppressed.

**Group 2:** He offers freedom to those bound by sin and want.

**Group 2:** Hallelujah! Praise him!

**Group 2:** He raises up those held down.

**Group 2:** What of the stranger and the needy?

**Group 2:** But what of orphans and widows?

**Group 2:** Yet the wicked devise evil for us all.

**Group 2:** Yahweh is the living one. He is the one who is!

**Everyone:** Hallelujah! Praise our God!

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== *Student Reproducible Page for Lesson 10, "Praise for God's Justice" (Psalm 146, NIV)* ==

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# DARKNESS

What characterizes “people walking in darkness” (Isaiah 9:2)? Jot your ideas below.

## What the Writer Saw

## What I Have Seen

Genesis 6:5

Psalms 1:4-6

Proverbs 4:19

John 12:35

Romans 1:21-32

1 Corinthians 6:9-11



**In one sentence, describe your own journey from darkness into light:**



# LIGHT

Christians are the ones who have been called “out of darkness into his wonderful light” (1 Peter 2:9b). What characterizes the one who walks in spiritual light? Jot your ideas below.

## What the Writer Saw

## What I Have Seen

Psalms 118:27

Romans 13:12-14

2 Corinthians 4:6

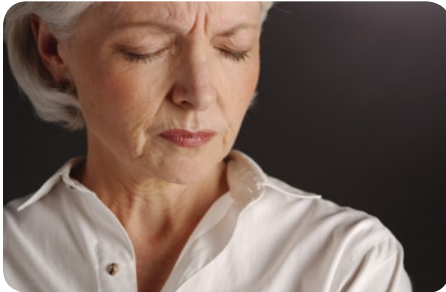
1 Thessalonians 5:5-8

1 John 1:7

1 John 2:8-11

# FROM WOE TO JOY

Jeremiah 23:1 announces woe for the bad leaders of Israel, but woe has come to all people because of sin. The promises of today's texts picture that *woe* will turn to *joy* in the messianic kingdom of Christ. Change one letter in each line below to form a new word, until you have changed *WOE* to *JOY*. Try to use some words you can relate to today's texts. Where you are able to do so, note the relationship to the right. Avoid proper names.



W	O	E	<u>Relationship</u>
—	—	—	_____
—	—	—	_____
—	—	—	_____
—	—	—	_____
—	—	—	_____
J	O	Y	



# GRACIOUS PROMISES

In Jeremiah 33:14, God declares that He “will fulfill that gracious promise” he has promised to his people. Examine the gracious promise given in each of the following texts. Summarize the promise in the space to the right.

- John 14:2, 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- Acts 1:11 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1 Corinthians 15:55 \_\_\_\_\_
- Galatians 6:9 \_\_\_\_\_
- James 1:12 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1 John 2:17 \_\_\_\_\_
- Revelation 22:14 \_\_\_\_\_

# BEAUTIFUL NAMES

The Bible is filled with beautiful and meaningful names for God and his Messiah. What beauty do you see in each of the following titles from Jeremiah 23 and 33, today's texts? To the left of each, identify a verse or verses where it is given or implied. To the right add your personal reflections.

*This name or title is beautiful to me personally because...*

- \_\_\_\_\_ *David*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Righteous Branch*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *King*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *The Lord Our Righteousness*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Savior and Protector*

# WHAT A CONTRAST!

Ezekiel 34:1-10 condemns the bad shepherds of Israel. They had put God’s sheep in peril. The contrasting images of verses 1-10 and today’s text of verses 23-31 are worthy of notice. Write related contrasts under the two headings below. One example is given to get you started. You might not fill all the lines, or you may need to add more lines.

**Situation Under Bad Shepherds**  
(Ezekiel 34:1-10)

*Wild animals devour the sheep (v. 5b)*

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**Situation Under God’s Good Shepherd**  
(Ezekiel 34:23-31)

*He will rid the land of wild animals (v. 25)*

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# “IF THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD, THEN . . .”

David affirms three grand truths that can be claimed by anyone who follows the good shepherd. Complete each of these statements.

If the Lord is my shepherd, then  
I shall not \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 23:1).

If the Lord is my shepherd, then  
I will \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 23:4).

If the Lord is my shepherd, then  
I will \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 23:6).

If you sense these three realities in your own life, sign this affirmation:

“I pledge to live by the fact that the Lord is indeed my shepherd!”

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## Lesson 2 Searching for Life-Changing Words

C O M P R W A D S S S I O N C  
 O M P A A A S G U S I O N C O  
 M P E G T A N V T A S S I O N  
 C W E P O I I S M W R P A S S  
 S S Y I N N E O N C E F O M P  
 A G S A E V S I O N C I E O M  
 E P E Y R A Y S S I O N G D C  
 O L A A J L E N A F O R P H M  
 G R H P E U D N A L A S S I T  
 D O N S C O D M P A S S I O N  
 C O L M P A S G S I L A E T S  
 O A N C O M P A E S S I O N C  
 F E T A H O M P G R U D G E A  
 S S I O N C O M P A S S I O N  
 C O M P A S S C U R S E I O N

Hidden message is *compassion*

## Lesson 4 Love God—How?

10:12, fear / walk / love / serve  
 10:13, observe  
 10:16, circumcise hearts  
 10:19, love aliens  
 10:20, fear / serve  
 16:18, judge fairly  
 16:19, don't pervert justice / no partiality  
 16:20, follow (implement) justice

## Lesson 8 All the Great Things Elisha Has Done

2 Kings 4:32-36 recounts the event referred to in the lesson text of 2 Kings 8:1-6

## Lesson 9 Judge's Checklist

1, verse 11;  
 2, verse 7;  
 3, verse 6;  
 4, verse 10;  
 5, verse 9;  
 6, verse 9;  
 7, verse 7;  
 8, verse 6;  
 9, verse 7;  
 10, verse 7;  
 11, verse 11.  
 (Other answers are possible.)

## Lesson 12 From Woe to Joy

**One possible solution:**  
 WOE, WON, SON, TON, TOY, BOY, JOY

## Lesson 12 Beautiful Names

David, Jeremiah 23:5; 33:17  
 Righteous Branch, Jeremiah 23:5; 33:15  
 King, Jeremiah 23:5  
 The Lord Our Righteousness, Jeremiah 23:6; 33:16  
 Savior and Protector, Jeremiah 23:6; 33:16

## Lesson 13 What a Contrast!

**Possible answers for "Situation Under Bad Shepherds":**  
 weak not strengthened; sick not healed; injured not bandaged; strays not sought; harsh rule.  
**Possible answers for "Situation Under God's Good Shepherd":**  
 tended; safe sleep; rain received; crops abundant; liberated from enslavement; no fear; no famine.