

# JOURNEY FREEDOM!



**DEALING** with the **GIANTS**  
and **STRONGHOLDS**

**J2F Book 6**

Let the walls  
come crashing  
down!

Let the giants  
be slain!

# Amanda Buys' Spiritual Covering

This is a product of *Kanaan Ministries*, a non-profit ministry under the covering of:

- Roly, Amanda's husband for more than thirty-five years.
- *River of Life Family Church*  
Pastor Edward Gibbens  
Vanderbijlpark  
South Africa  
Tel: +27 (0) 16 982 3022  
Fax: +27 (0) 16 982 2566  
Email: [sharmain@rolfc.co.za](mailto:sharmain@rolfc.co.za)

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For further information or to place an order, please contact us at:

P.O. Box 15253  
Panorama  
7506  
Cape Town  
South Africa

27 John Vorster Avenue  
Plattekloof Ext. 1  
Panorama 7500  
Cape Town  
South Africa

Tel: +27 (0) 21 930 7577  
Fax: 086 681 9458  
E-mail: [kanaan@iafrica.com](mailto:kanaan@iafrica.com)  
Website: [www.kanaanministries.org](http://www.kanaanministries.org)

Office hours: Monday to Friday, 9 AM to 3 PM

## Kanaan International Website

Website: [www.eu.kanaanministries.org](http://www.eu.kanaanministries.org)

# Overview of the Journey

- J2F1 “MAN’S PURPOSE AND THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT”

We discover that each and everyone of us have been created by **GOD the Father** with a **UNIQUE** purpose and destiny. In fulfilling this **purpose**, GOD has placed within each of us a special combination of **gifts**. When we discover our gifts, and **develop** them, we are able to walk in **GOD’S Destiny** for us ... as well as being able to bless and **help others**. We also learn how to **protect** our gifts from attack.

- J2F2 “GENERATIONAL BLESSINGS”

Each and every one of us have been given a **piece of land**, a garden. This land represents ourselves, as well as our **family**. We study the important and vital role of the **father** — how it is his job to keep, protect, and **nurture** the garden of our family.

As **priest** of the home, a father has a mandate to **bless** his children. This **blessing** is not simply speaking words of encouragement — but **role-modelling**, training, and **teaching** our children to walk in **GOD’S Ways** and **SH’MA** His Voice in **LOVING** obedience. It is a father that establishes our **identity** and gives us **significance** ... and it is a father’s **purpose** to bring up his children in the LORD, leaving behind a **generational legacy** of righteousness.

- J2F3 “BLESSINGS AND CURSES OVER MOTHERHOOD”

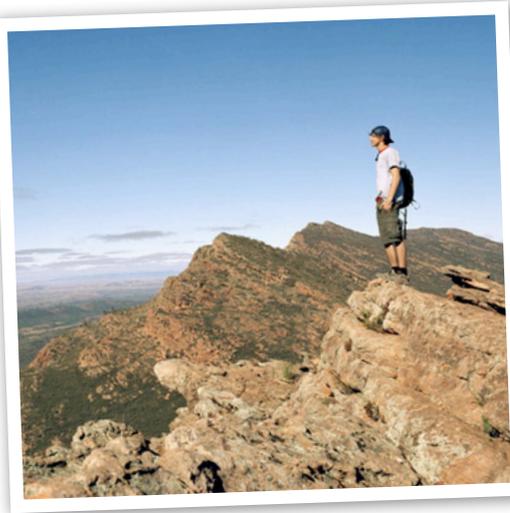
Just as important is the role of the father, so is the role of the **mother** to **nurture** and bond with her children. It is from our mothers that we learn to **develop** and interact in **relationships** ... we learn to either **LOVE** or FEAR, depending on our mother’s nurturing.

- J2F4 “UNDERSTANDING WATER BAPTISM (MIKVAH) AND THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT”

In order to possess and enter our land, we must be **empowered** and equipped! Both the water baptism [**mikvah**] and baptism in the **Holy Spirit** set us apart as unto the LORD, and empower us to walk this journey with **success**.

The baptism in water (mikvah) of repentance is our declaration of **following Messiah** Y'shua<sup>1</sup> (Jesus) as King and LORD ... it is our “change of status” from slavery and bondage to **NEW life** in Messiah. Baptism in the Holy Spirit is our receiving our own **special** prayer language — we now speak GOD's Language! The Holy Spirit is also our **Perfect Counsellor**, directing and guiding our steps on this journey. He guides us into all **Truth**, strengthens us, and brings us **refreshing**.

- **J2F BOOKS 5 - 6**



Like Israel in the Book of Deuteronomy, we are stand at the **border**, looking into the land. We have **come out** of Egypt, been through the Red Sea (**mikvah**), received the **Covenant** at Mount Sinai, and learnt the lessons of the **wilderness**. We are ready to enter and POSSESS the land. We have seen the **giants** and places of strongholds — and yet we know we have the **VICTORY** in Messiah! He will **lead us** into battle, and grant us the victory. Are you **ready** for the battle?

In this manual, we explain the **warfare** ... just who/what the enemy is, how he and his kingdom **operate**, and the **weapons** we have in **Messiah** to fight. GOD has given us the land — His Fullness, Wholeness, and **FREEDOM** in Messiah — but we must **possess** it, we must fight. Are you **prepared** to take action? The **WILL** to possess the land is going to be one of the most important factors in gaining the **VICTORY**. The rest is just basic, straight-forward, **battle tactics** and warfare strategy. The motto? **Know** your enemy ... and be on the **offensive**.

---

\* *Y'shua* (Hebrew) is Jesus' real name, which means “Salvation”. We have no problem with the name “Jesus” — it is merely the Greek transliteration of “Y'shua”. Jesus is the name most of us grew up with. Remember though, Y'shua was a Jew, of the Tribe of Judah, not a Greek. It's sort of like this ... when you come to know someone's real name, you want to use it, hence the use of *Y'shua* instead of Jesus. Another powerful reason to use Y'shua is that every time you say His Name, you are proclaiming “Salvation”. You will also note in some places, we have used the real Name of the FATHER, YHVH. The Name is made up of the Hebrew letters, **Y**od-**H**ey-**V**av-**H**ey, and is most commonly pronounced “Yahweh” or “Jehovah”. Again, we have chosen to use this, as YHVH is the FATHER's Name.

*Deuteronomy 1:21* "21 Behold, the LORD your GOD has set the land before you; go up and possess it, as the LORD, the GOD of your fathers, has said to you. Fear not, neither be dismayed."

- **J2F BOOKS 7-9**

We end the J2F series by looking at "the **other side** of the coin" — dealing with EMOTIONAL roots and pain. Satan does not only put us in bondage ... but he also **bruises** us. These bruises grow roots, which we will **need to face** and root out of our lives. In J2F7, we look at the roots of bitterness, **rejection**, rebellion, and pride.

We work through **forgiveness** and learn to **let go** of the past so that we can **embrace** our PURPOSE and destiny in Messiah Y'shua (Jesus)! In the last two books (Book 8 and Book 9) of J2F, we continue to look at understanding emotional pain/wounds, and how to walk the journey of healing/restoration ...

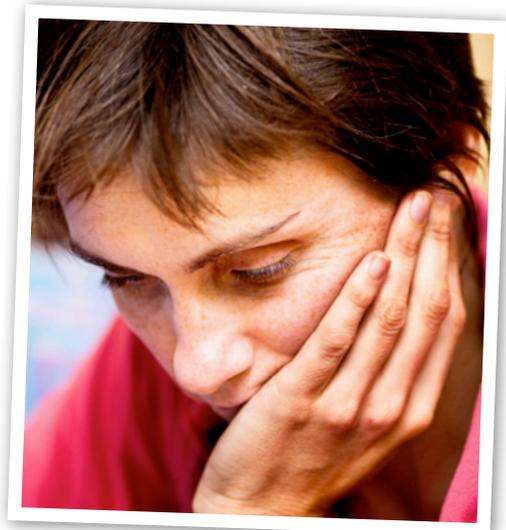
- **J2F BOOK 8 AND 9**

As Kanaan Ministries continues to learn MORE, we again and again realize the IMPORTANCE of **bonding** and building **JOY-capacity** in childhood, and just how ESSENTIAL it is to address **childhood** pain on the journey to freedom and **RESTORATION** ... when we are emotionally bruised and hurt in childhood, and these wounds are NOT dealt with ... we will be **ARRESTED** in our development, **unable** to MATURE as GOD designed ... to **love** and grow within family and community.

Have you realized ALL pain  
is RELATIONAL?

**WHY?!** We were created for RELATIONSHIP and FELLOWSHIP, right from the Beginning, when GOD **walked** with Adam in the Garden, in the **cool** of the day ... within each and everyone of us is the **DESIRE** and NEED for family, fellowship, and **COMMUNITY** ...

So what's **WRONG?!**



When I'm **hurt** in childhood — either through **rejection**, abuse (sexual, emotional, physical), and/or trauma — I **loose** trust and become a SURVIVOR ...

**“I can’t trust ANYONE!”**  
**“If I don’t look out for MYSELF, who else will?!”**  
**“I’m not going to let ANYONE hurt me like that again!”**

And so we **waver** between **desperately** wanting LOVE and fellowship (co-dependency), and putting up walls around us (isolation). NOT healing the wounds of childhood **perpetuates** the destructive family CYCLES of **brokenness** and hurt, from generation to generation ...

Unable to **cope** with life, we turn to B.E.E.P.S. — **Behaviors, Events, Experiences, People, and Substances** — anything that brings comfort or **“escape”** from the pain ...

In J2F8, we learn the development stages of **childhood**, and how our brains are literally wired through **BONDING** ... this is so important for PARENTS! We also learn about the **lies/pain** of childhood, and how we carry this **BAGGAGE** into adulthood, which keeps us in ARRESTED development ...

J2F9 is the **follow-on** from J2F8, and discusses more specifically MOTHER-bonds, and how, if our mother-bonds were **weak** or **unhealthy/un-Godly**, we will be open to abuse and DECEPTION, particularly in the **FALSE prophetic** ...



As with the entire J2F series, J2F8 and J2F9 deal with **addressing** the **ROOT** issues ... this is the **only** way for true/complete RESTORATION!

Y’shua (Jesus) said He came to put an **AXE** to the **ROOT** — if you only look at dealing with the FRUIT (drugs, depression, eating disorders, anger, and so forth) and not the roots that **PRODUCE** the **fruit**, you will **not** walk in lasting victory and wholeness ...

*Y’shua (Jesus) came to heal the **BROKEN** hearted!*

In J2F8 and J2F9 we learn to address the **ROOTS** of pain, hurt, and lies in our childhood — and what the **building blocks** are to grow to MATURITY — and the steps in the HEALING journey ...

Armed with these TOOLS, you can start to **pray** that these missing building blocks (of Godly **bonding**, building joy-capacity, **family**/community, and **mentorship**) be put back into place, that you can walk in greater **intimacy** with GOD the Father, and others! That you can MATURE and walk in WHOLENESS!

## *A word on the prayers of renunciation ...*

Our books of prayers of renunciations work **IN-CONJUNCTION** with the J2F series (as you work through the materials) — they are not designed to be used on their own ...

And we want to **EMPHASIZE** the importance of working through the entire J2F series, in order to get the full understanding/teaching/background of dealing with generational curses and deliverance, how the spiritual realm works, and inner healing -- that you can pray so much more **EFFECTIVELY!**



**PLEASE NOTE!** In our years of experience/ministry, we have found that deliverance and inner healing are **NOT** just a prayer — we are **VERY** complicated beings, and there are so many areas one has to explore, to find the roots of so many issues we battle with.

This is why we ask people to work through the entire J2F series — this enables the person to understand what went wrong, to recognize and identify the roots/issue they need to deal with ... and how they are able to receive healing, and keep their deliverance ...

We also strongly encourage those who can, to get the **J2F DVD's**. The manuals are really just the framework for the series, where the DVD's are the real "meat" with Amanda teaching/expounding the material, using real-life examples, as well as slides and diagrams -- we especially encourage everyone to get the J2F6 DVD's, for more detailed explanation in dealing with and breaking generational curses.

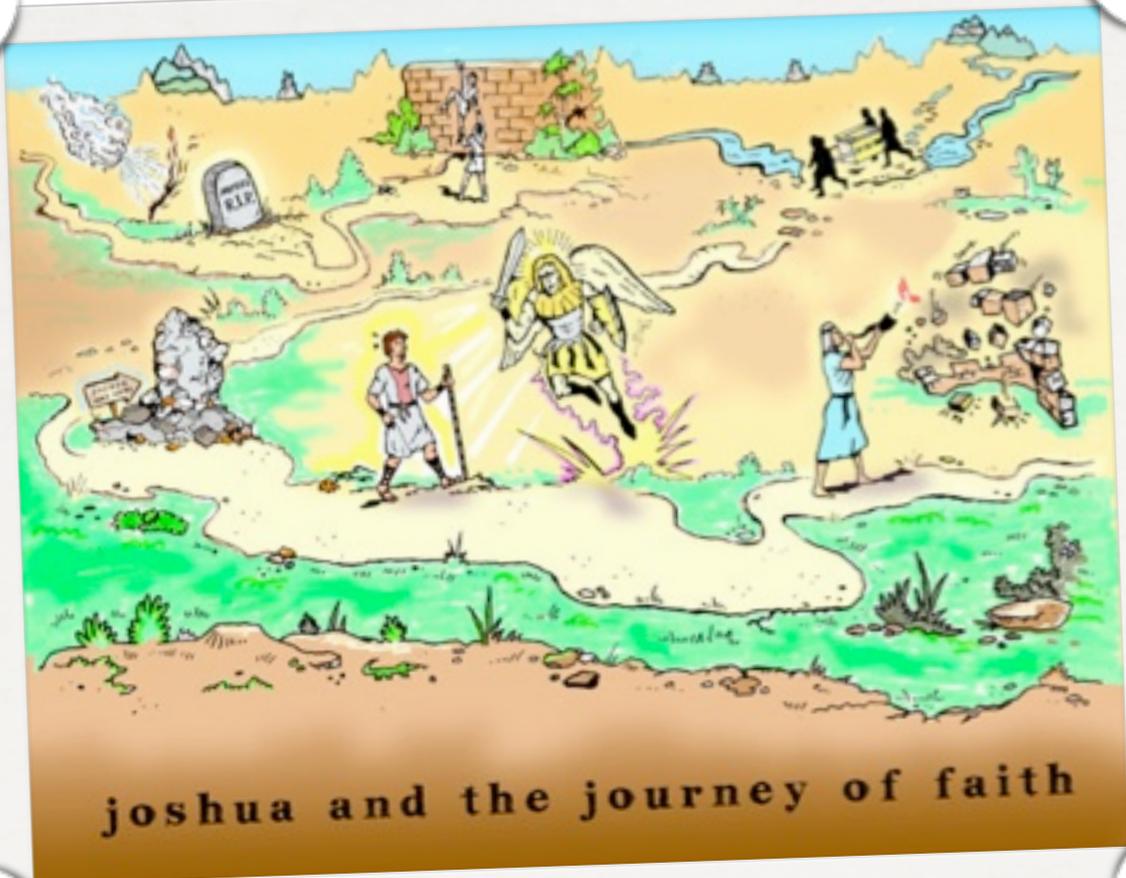
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# INTRODUCTION

We are now at a significant part of our **JOURNEY** and that is to discover how, why, and when we should be taking on the giants and strongholds in our lives – those that keep us restricted and in bondage, so that we are not able to come to our **FULLNESS** in and for Messiah Y'shua [Jesus].

It's time to really get our "hands dirty" – to gear up and walk into the battle ... to truly and fully **POSSESS** the land of our inheritance.



Adam and Eve had the unique opportunity to live in the Garden of Eden – to experience the fullness of a life of blessing. After the fall of man, the Garden of Eden was shut off, guarded by an angel with a flaming sword. This is part of the **JOURNEY** we are on – to get back to something of that holy place of intimacy with our Father, the **FULLNESS** and place of Shalom that was the Garden of Eden.

In the **JOURNEY** thus far, we have learnt that we can approach God through a life of **FAITH**, and walk in **LOVING** obedience to His Commandments.

In this, God has commanded each one of us to take back the land – the land of our minds, souls, spirits, bodies, families, and generations – and bring it unto the **FULLNESS** in and for His Kingdom. We are in the process of transforming from a man of dust ... into a “heavenly” man, who is like His Father.

*To take back and possess our land we must **OVERCOME** the giants and tear down the strongholds!*

For this, we need to distinguish between the **THREE** stages of warfare:

1. **Internal** – the removal of the spots, wrinkles, and blemishes on our Garments of Righteousness.
  - a. Examples include dealing with the “**attitude of Cain**”. This includes both the attitude of physical murder, as well as the act of mental/psychological murder through abuse, gossip, slander, and so forth.
  - b. “**Balaam the false prophet**” – this includes the actions of men to influence, control, manipulate others by their own interpretation of the Truth of the Word.
  - c. The “**rebellion of Korah against authority**” within our hearts – this includes where we decide that we can do everything in our own strength, we are “gods” in the flesh!
2. **Generational** – the dealing with the legacy of the sins of iniquity/idolatry that have plagued our families, and which “feed” the giants and “strengthen” the strongholds:
  - a. Involvement in occult.
  - b. Involvement in bloodshed.
  - c. Involvement in sexual iniquities.
3. **External** – the warfare that a Redeemed Priest must war against the worldviews, culture, and mindsets of Greece, Rome [Esau], and Ishmael.

We must really understand this is a **JOURNEY**! Although we move from [hopeful] victory to victory – the war is NOT over after one or two battles. We will **ALWAYS** be at war. As such:

- We need to discern the battlefield.
- We need to discern the enemy.
- We need to recognize the battle strategy before we enter into the battle!

*Let us be **WISE** and **TACTICAL** warriors!*

As we have seen along the **JOURNEY**, each one of us has a **UNIQUE** gifting/position in the Body [and therefore in the “coporate land”] and a **UNIQUE** prophetic purpose/calling. As such, we will each face different enemies and combinations of attacks – unique to us, our family, and bloodline.

### *Parallel Promised Land and the Body of Messiah ...*

Each Tribe had their own unique piece of the Promised Land. Likewise, the New Testament tells us that we are different parts of a single Body. In his unique piece of land, each Tribe had a different or a different combination of giants to overcome. Likewise, in the Body you have a unique place and you will have to fight the set of giants that are assigned to your position in the Body.

The Books of Joshua and Judges are written to describe the execution of this Commandment to war against the giants. Remember the purpose is not to get the land simply for the sake of ourselves, or for the sake of possession – our purposes are must higher ... like Israel, it is within that land that we are to build the Tabernacle (the place of intimacy, the dwelling of God upon the earth). Remember, the Land that each Tribe got was a sign of the blessing of a relationship of intimacy with God.



### **WARFARE STRATEGY ...**

We must understand, hear, do, and follow the following principles of warfare in order to remove the giants and strongholds with our land:

1. Completely **DESTROY**/kill the enemy. This is not about indiscriminate killing – it is so that we can see and understand that no element of compromise should be tolerated at all! If you leave a “remnant”, the that spirit, giant, curse, stronghold – whatever kind of evil! – **WILL** rise up again in the next generation [as in the example of Amalek].
2. Take control of the **HIGH** places – the mountains. The terrain of our warfare is key. As warriors, we must take control of the high places, the mountains – those places of integrity, respect, righteousness, and humility – so that we can war against the enemy below. Not only do we need to control the high ground [which gives us the best advantage in the battle], but we need also be:

- a. Agile – filled with the Word.
- b. Strong – disciplined in prayer, intercession, and warfare.
- c. Mobile – quick to move on the Instructions/Promptings of the Holy Spirit.

3. The battle is **NEVER** over!

- a. Moses tells us that every father needs to stand and role-model God's Lifestyle and Purpose for the next generation by singing God's Song of Praise until the times are complete.

4. Stay **FOCUSED** on our purpose!

- a. The Book of Joshua and Judges highlights an important **TRUTH**: the Land that each Tribe got was a mark/sign in the spiritual domain that the Israelites achieved their purpose.
- b. **TAKE NOTE**: the Tribes of Gad, Reuben, and half Tribe of Manasseh helped their brothers to fight for the Promised Land ... but chose personally **NOT** to take up the blessing of intimacy with God and settled outside the Land of Covenant!
- c. When we loose direction and/or purpose, we loose the land. If we are not disciplined and focused on keeping the Commandments and reflecting His Light ... then we will open the doors to allow the giants to walk back in. Every generation needs to **TEND** [work] and **KEEP** [be a watchman] the land, to ensure its safety – that the enemy does not enter in again.



Let's continue on the **JOURNEY** with this Scripture in mind:

*Exodus 23:20-33 "20 Behold, I send an Angel<sup>1</sup> before you to keep and guard you on the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared. 21 Give heed to Him, listen to and obey His voice; be not rebellious before Him or provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgression; for My Name is in Him. 22 But if you will indeed listen to and obey His voice and all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries. 23 When My Angel goes before you and brings you to the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, and I reject them and blot them out, 24 You shall not bow down to their gods or serve them or do after their works; **but you shall utterly overthrow them and break down their pillars and images.** 25 You shall serve the Lord your God; He shall bless your bread and water, **and I will take sickness from your midst.** 26 None shall lose her young by miscarriage or be barren in your land; **I will fulfill the number of your days.** 27 I will send My terror before you and will throw into confusion all the people to whom you shall come, **and I will make all your foes turn from you [in flight].** 28 And I will send hornets before you which shall drive out the Hivite, Canaanite, and Hittite from before you. 29 **I will not drive them out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate [for lack of attention] and the wild beasts multiply against you.** 30 **Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased and are numerous enough to take possession of the land.** 31 I will set your borders from the Red Sea to the Sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the river [Euphrates]; for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand and you shall drive them out before you. 32 You shall make no covenant with them or with their gods. 33 **They shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against Me; for if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you.**"*

From this Scripture, we see that God will lead us and guard us and take us to the place that **HE** has prepared for us. On our part, we need to listen and **OBEY** and not be rebellious! God will then deal with our enemies ...

We must not bow down to the gods of the enemy, but **UTTERLY** destroy every trace of their altars and images! **NO COMPROMISE!**

He will provide for every step of the way and remove sickness from our midst. We will fulfill the number of our days and we will **NOT** die before our time.

God will drive out the enemy from before us – little-by-little and step-by-step, lest the land becomes desolate for lack of attention and the demons multiply against us. We need to increase our forces by pushing back the enemy and retaining the land until we are strong enough to **FULLY** possess the Land of Promise!

## **MARCH ON!**

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<sup>1</sup> This was Y'shua [Jesus] Who went before Israel.

Part I:  
Understanding  
iniquity,  
transgression,  
and sin

# Understanding iniquity, transgression, and sin ...

To fully understand the “mess” most of us are in – living with generational curses, occult and demonic influences, sexual iniquities, and so forth – we need to lay the FOUNDATION of understanding the meaning of three key words used in the Scriptures: iniquity, transgression, and sin.

We must remember that the Old Testament was originally written in HEBREW, by HEBREW writers who thought with a HEBREW “mind”, and who lived in an Eastern-Semitic culture. The New Testament is the same. Although the original text was written in Aramaic [and then later translated into Greek] – the universal language of the time – the writers were HEBREWS who again thought with a HEBREW “mind”, and who were schooled in the HEBREW understanding of the Scriptures [the Old Testament being the foundation]. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance that we study to understand the HEBREW [original] understanding of the Scriptures – we trust you will find that this understanding is such a blessing and makes the Scriptures “make sense”!



We must also remember that for the most part, the ENGLISH language is limited. Where the Hebrew language will have several words describing a certain concept [such as the concept of “sin”], the English language will only have one word [for example, the ONE word “sin”]. Again, once we begin understanding the original Hebrew words, we begin to get the FULL picture.

## Iniquity

**Avon** [Strong’s 5771]:  
Perversity and/or twisted.  
Fault.  
Moral evil.

**Aven** [Strong’s 205]:  
To pant, exert oneself.  
Come to naught.  
Vanity, nothingness.  
Unjust.

The Hebrew word for *iniquity* is spelled A-V-N:

- **A** [Ayin] = eyes of man's soul.
- **V** [Vav] = peg or connection, used here as "man's form" – the unity of the Tower of Babel to oppose God.
- **N** [Nun] = what emerges, blossoms, and sprouts – but in the opposite sense to decline, degenerate, corrupt, and disintegrate.

The picture-understanding is then "the eyes of man's soul willingly engage in man's self-effort to stand in unity to oppose God in action which results in corruption and degeneration".

The essence of *iniquity* is defined as the "twisted"<sup>2</sup> nature of man who rejects every evidence of God, who wants to do everything in his own power to prove that God does not exist, and who wants to declare that God will not keep His Word.

The following is an excerpt of an article written by Jeff Benner<sup>3</sup> on the understanding of *iniquity*.

In Genesis 19:15, we find the word "iniquity."

*And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters that are here, lest thou be consumed in the **iniquity** of the city.* (ASV, Genesis 19:15)

Our modern Greco-Roman languages commonly use abstract terms, like iniquity. But as Hebrew is a concrete language, rarely using abstracts, we must understand the word "iniquity" from its Hebraic concrete meaning. The Hebrew word for "iniquity" is *ah-von* [Strong's 5771], which is derived from the verbal root *Ah.W.H* [Strong's 5753]. This verbal root is found in the following passages.

*He hath walled up my ways with hewn stone; he hath made my paths **crooked**.* (ASV, Lamentations 3:9)

*Behold, the LORD will lay waste the earth and make it desolate, and he will **twist** its surface and scatter its inhabitants.* (RSV, Isaiah 24:1)

Already we are beginning to see the "concrete" meaning in the Hebrew word that lies behind the English word "iniquity," it is something crooked or twisted. The first letter in this word is the letter *ayin*. This single letter was originally two different letters when Hebrew was written with a pictographic alphabet; the (*ayin*) and the (*ghayin*).

The *ghayin* is a picture of a twisted cord and is clearly the original letter in this word.

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<sup>2</sup> It is interesting to note that our very DNA strands are a *twisted* helix.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.ancient-hebrew.org/index.html>

As we have demonstrated, the verb *Ah.W.H* means “to be crooked” or “to be twisted,” therefore the noun *ah-von*, derived from this verb, then means “crookedness” or “twistedness”. Let’s return to our original passage and read this from a more concrete perspective.

*And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters that are here, lest thou be consumed in the **twistedness** of the city.* (ASV, Genesis 19:15)

This same noun is also found in the following passage.

*And Cain said unto the LORD, My **punishment** is greater than I can bear.* (KJV, Genesis 4:13)

Why the translators chose the word “punishment” for this word is a mystery because this translation implies that Cain was saddened by the punishment. The truth is, this word means **twistedness**, and he was instead saddened by his “actions”.



# Transgression

⇒ [Strong's 6556/6588] – **pesha** – meaning “revolt” and “rebellion”.

The Hebrew word for **transgression** is spelled P-SH-A:

- **P** [Peh] = open mouth, speech of man, entrance – it is a container, but without the Hand of God it is empty.
- **SH** [Shin] = the flame of God's Dancing, but in a sense to trample underfoot, to tread down and to oppress.
- **A** [Ayin] = eyes of man's soul.

The picture-understanding is then “man using the freedom that God has given him to proclaim / speak / gossip and slander in such a way as to cause others to be oppressed and put into slavery”.

# Sin

**Chattath** [Strong's 2403]:

Habitual sinfulness.

Offender.

**Chet** [Strong's 2399]:

Crime.

Grievance.

Offense.

The Hebrew word for **sin** is spelled CH-T:

- **CH** [Chet] = chuppah [marriage canopy], a place of covenant.
- **T** [Tet] = a vessel that is closed from view; mud, sludge, or ooze; viper or snake.

The picture-understanding is then “man chooses to fill the container that God is prepared to cut Covenant with, with mud, muck, and sludge until it takes the form of a snake or a viper”.

Additionally, the meaning of the word “**sin**” is “to walk away from the Father's Roots”.



## Additional information<sup>4</sup> on the understanding of iniquity, transgression, and sin ...

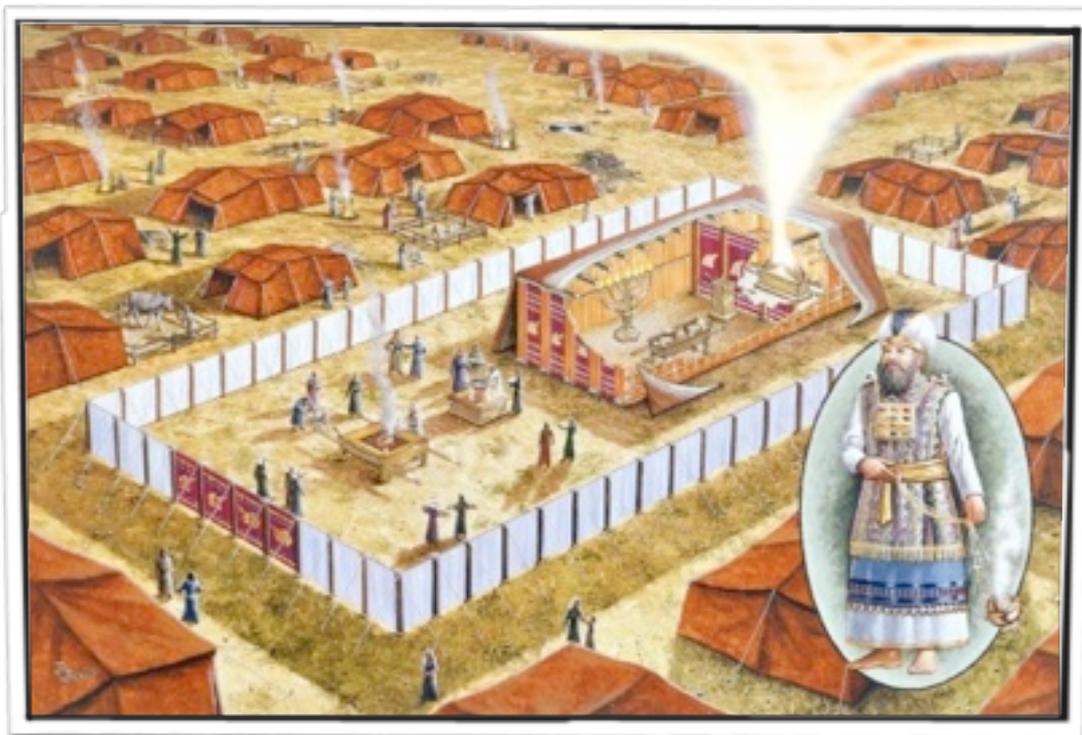
The Hebrew word *avon*, translated "iniquity", refers to how our heart (temperament, disposition, inclination, loyalties) falls short of God's Standards. We are imperfect and flawed, regardless of if we have committed any offenses in God's Eyes or are set apart for God. Since iniquity is internal and not about actions there were not offerings an Ancient Israelite could do to deal with iniquity.

Iniquity could not be forgiven or atoned for. It could only be "borne away" (a phrase never used about evil actions). The only way to rid the world of iniquity is to bear it to Sheol.

The most spiritually significant part of iniquity is what the Apostolic Writings calls "slavery to sin", describing how people who know what is good will sometimes do what as evil even when they do not want to.

### Meaning in Ancient Israel ...

The ancient Israelites knew that the Tabernacle was only a copy of the true, heavenly Tabernacle. It was very holy (set apart for God) but still a flawed and imperfect copy. To deal with this the High Priest wore on his turban a golden plate that bore the iniquity of the Tabernacle and its offerings throughout the year (Exodus 28:38).



<sup>4</sup> Taken from <http://penei.org>

If this sounds strange then picture an immaculate house with museum-quality artwork on the walls, whose refrigerator is covered with the family's children's artwork. That artwork would not fit anywhere else in the house. But on the refrigerator it is cherished and appropriate.

Once each year the rituals of Yom Kippur [Day of Atonement] allowed the community's iniquity to be borne away. Both the iniquity of the Tabernacle stored up on the High Priest's turban and the people's iniquity would be carried to Sheol by a goat (Leviticus 16:21-22). This goat suffered a terrible death in the wilderness. It was called "the goat that departs" (in Hebrew **azazel**). According to Jewish tradition there were two miracles associated with this goat. The first was that the goat would be guided by God within one day to wander through the wilderness to that specific cliff, fall off and die a slow, painful death. The second is that a scarlet thread used to confirm the goat's death (it was broken in half – one piece was tied to the goat's horns and the other was kept with the priests) would turn white so that the people knew the goat was dead. The Talmud records that, in later years, the Israelites lost faith and changed the ritual to pushing the goat off a cliff twelve miles from Jerusalem. It also says that the scarlet thread stopped turning white forty years before the Second Temple was destroyed.

This dramatic cleansing is described as being "purified from all their offenses" in Leviticus 16:30. This type of cleansing happens nowhere else in the Tanach – the phrase only appears elsewhere in Proverbs 20:9, which laments that repentance cannot achieve this state.

Unfortunately, this annual cleansing from iniquity did not last long. The ancient Israelites had old habits and perspectives which would soon lead them into evil. They would again enter "slavery to sin" (John 8:34). So without a complimentary protection from evil being cleansed from iniquity was temporary.

God told Isaiah that the iniquity of the Israelites was causing him to ignore them. In Isaiah 1:13-15 we read:

*"Bring your vain gifts no longer, incense is an abomination to me ... New moon and Sabbath, the calling of assemblies ... I cannot endure iniquity and the solemn assembly".*

Isaiah repeats more poetically in verses 59:1-2 that iniquity separates people from God just as offenses prevent prayers from being answered:

*"Behold, the Lord's Hand is not so short that it cannot save; neither is His Ear so dull that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your offenses have hidden His Face from you, so that He does not hear."*

Isaiah also prophesied (Isaiah 53:5-6) that the suffering Messiah would, like the goat that departs, bear away iniquity:

*"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon him, and by his scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on him."*

Jeremiah prophesied (Jeremiah 31:33-34) about a future Messianic covenant in which inquiry would no longer be an issue.

*"But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD. "I will put My law [Torah – Instructions] within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. And they shall not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD. "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their offense I will remember no more."*

### **Meaning in the First Century ...**

Jewish culture in the first century tried to understand iniquity. In many writings it was described as "the evil inclination" (yelzer ha'ra) although these two concepts are not quite identical (iniquity includes the evil inclination as well as many other ways we fall short of God's Standards).



Sages of that era wondered what iniquity caused God to allow Roman rule over Israel. This was the main issue dividing the Jewish sects of that time. The Pharisees believed the cause was the general population not taking the commandments seriously enough. The Zealots believed it was acceptance of Roman sovereignty when only God should rule his people. The Essenes believed it was the lack of a faithful enough remnant, which they strove to create.

Since Jewish culture knew of no way for iniquity to be permanently removed from people, writings about iniquity urged the pious to subdue or redirect their iniquity. For example, greed could be channeled into caring well for a family, and sexual desires into cherishing your spouse.

Y'shua preached a shocking message about being reborn into a new kind of life that was empowered by God's Spirit and free from iniquity. Not only would those with this new kind of life have their iniquity removed but the indwelling of God's Spirit would provide the previously missing protection from evil to guard against re-entering "slavery to sin".

Paul summarized this more effective purification in Acts 13:32, 38-39:

*"We tell you the Good News: What God promised our fathers he has made complete for us, their children ... by raising up Y'shua ... through Y'shua the forgiveness of offenses is proclaimed to you, and through him everyone who believes is made innocent from everything you could not be made innocent from by the Law of Moses."*

Y'shua did not explain the details of what would happen during his earthly ministry. But after His resurrection, He explained more and his followers recorded those details. In Hebrews 9:28 we read that Y'shua's sacrificial death allowed Him to bear all iniquity to Sheol. In Hebrews 9:11-14, we read that Y'shua then performed in heaven the genuine priestly duties at the heavenly Tabernacle of which the Yom Kippur [Day of Atonement] rituals were an earthly image: He sprinkled His Blood in the heavenly Tabernacle to cleanse our inclination (the Greek word *suneidesis*, usually mistranslated "conscience" in verse 9:14 because of how Paul uses that word) even more thoroughly than the Yom Kippur rituals could do. Only with both these steps could Y'shua ready His followers to be filled with God's Spirit in a new way (John 7:39), through their faith in Him (Acts 2:38), through prayer (Acts 8:16-17) and identifying with Him (Romans 6). Thus was fulfilled the prophecy that Y'shua would "provide victory for His people over their iniquities" (Matthew 1:21).

### **Meaning for Y'shua's followers in Modern Times ...**

Unfortunately, Biblical Greek has only one word, *hamartia*, used to refer to both offenses and iniquity. This linguistic issue has led many Gentile followers of Y'shua to neglect thinking about iniquity.

This blurring of offenses and iniquity as "sin" does not matter too much, for as we read Y'shua dealt with both and in the New Covenant God no longer remembered both offenses and iniquity. However, for explaining the good news clearly the distinction between offense and iniquity is important.

For example, many people do not think they have a "sin" problem because they do not lie, steal, murder, and so forth – but these same people would readily admit that within their hearts they do not meet God's Standards.

Similarly, Y'shua is unique for living without iniquity. Scripture describes other people such as Noah or Job who perhaps never acted contrary to God's Commandments, but these did have iniquity.

A third, related, potential linguistic problem is the concept called "original sin". This confuses people who wonder how an infant could have sinned before birth. What is called "original sin" actually describes iniquity, not offenses.

### *Important distinctions between iniquity, transgression, and sin ...*

It needs to be understood that the passing down of iniquity is just that – the passing down of iniquity. It does put pressure on us (and our descendants), but it **does not force us to sin** – neither does it condemn us to eternal judgment or death.



*Deuteronomy 24:16 "16 The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, **neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers**; only for his own sin shall anyone be put to death (2 Chronicles 25:3-4; Jeremiah 31:29-30)."*

## ⇒ **General rule – each man dies for his own sin.**

Inheriting iniquity is very different from being condemned to death. God makes it very clear, even back in Deuteronomy where the Torah [God's Instructions/Law] is given, that each person is going to die for his **own** sin. In 2 Chronicles, we see this principle applied by the king (2 Chronicles 25:3-4). In Jeremiah, we see it reinforced again (Jeremiah 31:29-30). The entire eighteenth chapter of Ezekiel really spells it out very clearly, how each man will die for his **own** sin, not for his father's, even if his father were a terrible sinner.

## ⇒ **Exception to the rule – children dying for their father's sin.**

While the above are statements expressing the **general** rule, it must be pointed out that the Bible relates some exceptions to this. There are situations when the children do die because of their parents' sin. When we offend God past His Limit of Righteousness, then entire family lines are sentenced to death. Without God's Intervention into His own Laws of Justice, without God Himself paying the penalty for our sin, there would be no hope for us.

*Romans 3:23 "23 Since **all have sinned and are falling short of the honor and glory which God bestows and receives.**"*

But because God did intervene, there is the blessed hope!

*Romans 6:23 "23 For the wages which sin pays is death, **but the [bountiful] free gift of God is eternal life through (in union with) Jesus Christ our Lord.**"*

We will have further discussion about the above themes as we progress through this section.

## **Personal responsibility.**

We cannot "blame shift". We are responsible for our sin.

*Ezekiel 18:1-3 "THE WORD of the Lord came to me again, saying, 2 What do you mean by using this proverb concerning the land of Israel, **The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge?** 3 As I live, says the Lord God, you shall not have occasion any more to use this proverb in Israel."*

Another frequently asked question is, "Why do we have to suffer for what our fathers did?" The answer is, "We don't, if we deal with it God's Way." We will suffer only as long as we neglect to confess their iniquity and break its effect on us. We will suffer only if we "enter into" the same sins that they had, so that we make "their" sins "our" sins.

We use the phrase, "we enter into their sins", to describe the process of taking them on as our own. As we have just read, we then die for our own sin, if we don't receive God's Provision, even though we were setup by our ancestors.

God always requires us to be responsible for our **own** lives! Our response to the pressures, curses, environment, and demonic forces that we inherit determines our personal standing with God.

*Ezekiel 18:14-18 "14 **But if this wicked man begets a son who sees all the sins which his father has committed, and considers and fears [God] and does not do like his father,** 15 **Who has not eaten [food set before idols] upon the mountains nor has lifted up his eyes to the idols of the house of Israel, has not defiled his neighbor's wife,** 16 **Nor wronged anyone, nor has taken anything in pledge, nor has taken by robbery but has given his bread to the hungry and has covered the naked with a garment,** 17 **Who has withdrawn his hand from [oppressing] the poor, who has not received interest or increase [from the needy] but has executed My ordinances and has walked in My statutes; he shall not die for the iniquity of his father; he shall surely live.** 18 **As for his father, because he cruelly oppressed, robbed his brother, and did that which is not good among his people, behold, he shall die for his iniquity and guilt."***

## Inter-relationships among ministry areas.

⇒ How the sins of the fathers and curses are related to strongholds in the mind.

In all likelihood, parents are repeating the sins of their fathers. This may take many forms. They may replicate sinful attitudes, prejudice, and/or values. Their children assimilate these things from their parents. In addition, the parents' sin usually has hurtful consequences in the lives of the offspring, causing them to form wrong or strongholds in the mind based on their hurts.

⇒ How the sins of the fathers and curses are related to inner-hurts.



Sins of the fathers put pressure on the next generation to enter into those same sins. Sometimes, a person, through Godly teaching and commitment, is able to withstand those pressures. Most commonly, however, the sins are continued, with the usual consequence of the hurts being inflicted on others as well as on the person who is sinning. Think of the number of hurts caused by an alcoholic, especially if he is married and has children. Usually, the immediate family, extended family, friends, and business associates, are all affected. The resulting curses seem to always involve some form of alienation, destruction, or death, causing major hurts.

⇒ How the sins of the fathers and curses are related to demonic oppression.

Sins of the fathers and curses work hand in hand with demons to create an ugly, vicious, cycle. The initial sin gives an opening for demons to enter. Then, once established, the demons endeavor to go on down the family line, where they cause pressure on the descendants to sin in the same way as their fathers. The sin is license for the demons to stay, and so the cycle continues generation after generation. Thus, we see that demons may be the agents that carry out the curses that come from the sins of the fathers.

⇒ The generational curse of iniquity is passed onto the children.

**Exodus 20:4-6** "4 **You shall not make yourself any graven image [to worship it] or any likeness of anything that is in the heavens above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 You shall not bow down yourself to them or serve them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, 6 But showing mercy and steadfast love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.**"

This is the generational curse that is placed on the children because of the sin (*iniquity*) of the fathers. Let's analyze this passage in some detail, looking at the understanding of "idolatry", "iniquity", and "fathers".

## **Idolatry.**

God hates idolatry. He hates what it does to us. He hates the problems we get into and the openings we give satan to oppress us. He says to not "make", "bow down", nor "serve" idols. In the NAS, "Not bow down" is translated "not worship them".

As usual, ignorance of the law is no excuse.

Of course, any modern South African, as well as other "civilized" people, will say, "I don't worship idols, I don't even know what an idol is". Of course, one doesn't need to know the definition of the word "idolatry" in order to be involved in it. Ignorance about what constitutes an idol, or what idolatry is, doesn't hinder making idols nor participating in idolatry. In actuality, idolatry is rampant in South Africa, as it was with all of our ancestors, regardless of the country from which they come.

Idolatry occurs whenever we put our trust in the "thing" or "situation" more that we put our trust in God. It occurs as we look for information or fulfillment, or when we put our life energies, in things apart from God. In other words, "What is the focus and basis of our lives?"

Y'shua [Jesus] said, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21, KJV). We can infer from this statement that our hearts and our treasure will be "at the same place".

If that place is not "in" God, worshipping God, serving God, trusting God, and acknowledging Y'shua [Jesus] as Lord, then it must be some other place. To the degree that we are "other" focused more than God focused, we are involved in idolatry.

This includes all of the obvious things – such as spiritualist churches, occultism, cults, and all false religions (any that don't acknowledge the LORD, Messiah Y'shua [Christ Jesus], and His Blood sacrifice for their atonement). This list includes psychics, witchcraft, satanism, and secret societies based on occult (or "hidden" powers), bloody oaths, and exclusive groups that are on the "inside" and that use the rest of the people involved as a deceived "front" (Masons, Shriners, Rosicrucians, and so forth). Idolatry also includes the less obvious things: any excessive love, passion, or veneration of something such as money, possessions, beauty (the body), power, fame, rock stars, un-Godly causes (homosexual rights beyond normal human rights, abortion), and so forth. Do you agree that we live in an idolatrous nation – and idolatrous world?!



God says that we shall not bow down to other things, which means we shall not worship, focus on them, admire, or acknowledge them as superior or as a replacement to God. God says He is a jealous God. He is jealous for our attention, our affection, for our undivided heart.

The word for **jealous** in Hebrew is "qanna". It can be associated with the word "red". God is red in the face with anger when we ignore Him and give to other created things the adoration, honor, and glory due Him (Romans 1:18-32, specifically verse 25).

***Romans 1:25 "25 Because they exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, Who is blessed forever! Amen (so be it)."***

Many times in the Old Testament (Exodus 34:14, Deuteronomy 4:24, 6:15; Joshua 24:19; Ezekiel 39:25; Nehemiah 1:2; Zechariah 1:14, 8:2), God states His zeal, His "redness", toward the children of Israel.

Deuteronomy 6:15 explicitly ties together His jealousy and His anger. He meant business then, and He means it now. Don't mess around with other things that either block your heart from God, or that draws your heart away from God.

## *Do you "hate" God?*

The last phrase of Exodus 20:5 is also relevant. God concludes that we "hate" Him when we are involved in idolatry. "Hate" is a strong word, with the obvious meaning that whoever "hates" is separated or estranged from the one "hated". God considers we are in alliance "with the other side" when we "bow down to" or "serve" idols, and He becomes jealous and angry.

As our ancestors worshipped and/or served other gods, the sin of idolatry resulted in the curse that the iniquity in their hearts would be passed down to the next three or four generations. As these generations then "entered into" the sins of their fathers, they continued the curse unto an additional three or four generations. This cycle continues with each generation, unless and until it is broken by the power of the Cross.

We see this cycle in operation as God spoke to Israel through Jeremiah:

*Jeremiah 16:11-12 "11 Then you shall say to them, [It is] because your fathers have forsaken Me, says the Lord, and have walked after other gods and have served and worshiped them and have forsaken Me and have not kept My law, 12 **And because you have done worse than your fathers. For behold, every one of you walks after the stubbornness of his own evil heart, so that you do not listen to and obey Me.**"*

As we look at the intensity with which God dislikes idolatry, and the obvious destructive effect it has on humans, we can't help wondering if all sin doesn't have its basis in idolatry in one way or another? Having other gods before the True, Living God, steals from His place in our lives. Since satan is behind everything that stirs the iniquity (rebellion) in our hearts (flesh), idolatry in one way or another leads to worshipping satan rather than God.

## **More on Iniquity ...**

The word "iniquity" is an interesting one. It is not in our normal, everyday English vocabulary. All of us have iniquity in our hearts, for none of us had perfect parents or ancestors. All of us have received the "visiting" of our ancestor's iniquity. Just what is it that we have inherited, anyhow?

*Iniquity is the heart intention to oppose God.*

Iniquity is a heart condition, an inner tendency of man to break God's Heart. God created mankind for love, companionship, and fellowship. He wanted and still does want to have a love relation with us. But it has to be under His terms, His conditions. After all, He is God. But He gave us the privilege of free will, so that we can freely choose to love Him and acknowledge Him as Father, under His conditions.

Having free will, we can choose away from God and choose to do our own thing. When Adam and Eve chose to make their own decision about God's requirement and over-rode it, they moved into disobedience – rebellion (read this sad story in Genesis 3:1-7). The tendency of the heart to rebel has been with us ever since.

*Jeremiah 17:9-10 "9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and it is exceedingly perverse and corrupt and severely, mortally sick! Who can know it [perceive, understand, be acquainted with his own heart and mind]? 10 I the Lord search the mind, I try the heart, even to give to every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings."*

The fruits or evidence of iniquity. Iniquity is, "lawlessness, wickedness, depravity, unrighteous, transgression, and perversion." Let's further define these words.



- **Lawlessness**
  - Without, or "outside of", the law, not regulated by or based on law, not restrained or controlled by law, unruly.
- **Wickedness**
  - Morally bad, evil, fierce, vicious, causing or likely to cause harm or trouble.
- **Unrighteousness**
  - Contrary to the right way or thing, unjust, lacks right standing with God
- **Transgression**
  - Crossing the line, going beyond the limits set or prescribed, violating a command or law ... moving outside the Torah [Instructions] of God.

- **Perversion**

- Turning away from what is right or good, corrupt, contrary to the evidence or the direction of the judge on a point of law, obstinate in opposing what is right, reasonable, or accepted – perverting the normal Godly way.

## The fullness of iniquity ...

*Genesis 15:16* “16 And in the <sup>b</sup>fourth generation they [your descendants] shall come back here [to Canaan] again, **for the iniquity of the <sup>c</sup>Amorites is not yet full and complete.** [Josh. 24:15.]”

You will often hear that believers will say “I can not think that God will kill all all of the Canaanites, especially the women and the innocent children”.

Firstly, the Bible tells us that “their cup of iniquity was full” – this means that we have a people who had persisted, generation after generation in walking on a path of idolatry, which resulted in the occult, sexual iniquities and bloodshed. No one had chosen to reverse this lifestyle choice. No-one had stood up to say: “I and my family, we choose LIFE!”

There had not been any form/wave of repentance or restoration to return to the ancient paths and to worship God ALONE!

Secondly, the Bible tells us that at some point in time God’s Judgment on a family kicks in. This description of a family/nation in the Old Testament was an act of physical warfare.

Today we see that a family line falls away when there are no longer male heirs to carry the name. Families who persist in generational iniquity WILL be judged in the same way that God spoke over the Canaanites.

Another very practical example for us in Africa<sup>5</sup> is to look at what happened to us here on our own continent. We have a strong history of slavery ... many people were sold into slavery and taken by ships to many places in the world run by slave-owners.

### *Who sent the ships and why?*

God did! Because the iniquity of idolatry in Africa was FULL and God’s judgment came over Africa. Idolatry results in one loosing your land and going into slavery – just like the Israelites of old! It is a spiritual principle!

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<sup>b</sup>This prophecy was literally fulfilled. Moses, for example, who led the Israelites back to Canaan after their 400 years in Egypt, was “in the fourth generation” from Jacob—Levi, Kohath, Amram, Moses.

<sup>c</sup>The most important and powerful group of that region. The name “Amorite” later became virtually synonymous with that of the inhabitants of Canaan generally.

<sup>5</sup> For additional study, please see the book “No Apology Necessary” by Reverend Earl Carter.

## Summary ...

Finally we need to study the hidden meaning of the word “visiting”. This word is used in the context that God VISITS the *iniquity* on the third and fourth generation.

The Hebrew word for *visiting* [Strong’s 6485] is spelled P-A-Q-A-D and means “to visit, to deposit or give, to count, to deliver or lay up, to avenge”.

- **P** [Peh] = open mouth or the speech of man.
- **Q** [Qof] = a snare or the back of man’s head.
- **D** [Dalet] = a doorway or portal.

The picture-understanding is “the open mouth of man’s actions becomes a doorway, which is a snare for the next generation”.

We see the following ...



### **INIQUITY**

Declared and active work of rebellion against God,  
rejecting any evidence of Him.

Serving other  
gods [breaking  
the **FIRST**  
Commandment.

Spiritual  
confusion  
[breaking the  
**SECOND**  
Commandment]

*The consequence of INIQUITY will manifest itself as a generational curse. TRANSGRESSION* manifests itself in trials and tribulations due to our own choosing against God and thereby *enslaving people*, for example racism, anti-Semitism, sexism, and so forth. Then *SIN*, manifests itself also in trials and tribulations through our *disobedience*, there will be many examples of this.