



A QUESTION OF CHARACTER

LESSON 9

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WORD FOR THE JOURNEY

• **James 1:21-22** Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

• Doers: *poietai*: a performer; especially a poet

• Hearers: *akroatai*: those who listen without participation

• **LEARNING GOAL FOR THIS CLASS:**

Learning to hear God and respond to Him in such a way that His purposes can be fulfilled in us

**EACH OF US IS UNIQUELY CREATED
AND GIFTED FOR OUR PURPOSE**

PURPOSEFUL LIVING

- **Psalm 139:13,16** For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb... Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written the days that were ordained *for me*, when as yet there was not one of them.
- **Psalm 119:73** Your hands made me and fashioned me; Give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT GOD HAS A PLAN AND PURPOSE FOR OUR LIVES INVOLVES TRUSTING GOD AND ACKNOWLEDGING HIS SOVEREIGNTY

- **Luke 4:8** Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'"
- You cannot serve someone wholeheartedly and willingly if you do not have a relationship of trust

GOD MIGHT PLACE US IN MINISTRY TO

WHO DO YOU TRUST?

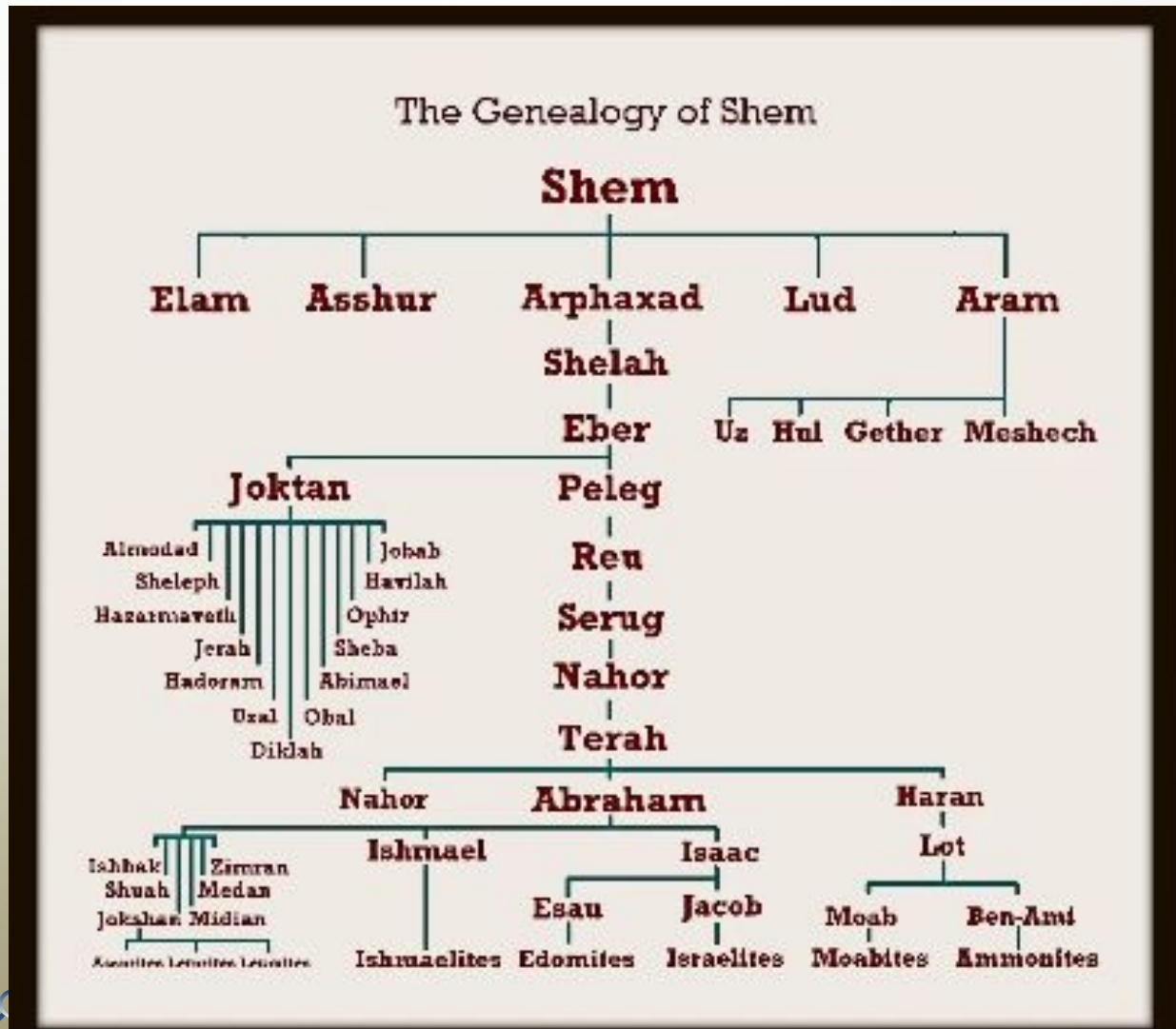
- We cannot always trust other people
- We dare not trust our own strength and ability, especially in difficult circumstances
- **2 Corinthians 1:8-11** For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came *to us* in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; who delivered us from so great a *peril of death*, and will deliver *us*, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us, you also joining in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed on us through *the prayers of many*.

TRUSTING IN THE FLESH

• **Philippians 3:2-6** Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision; for we are the *true* circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh, although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

• **Colossians 3:23-24** Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

EBER'S DESCENDANTS (HEBREWS)



GOD ORDAINED

- **Psalm 139:16**...in Your book were all written the days that were ordained *for me*, when as yet there was not one of them.



THE CECROPIA MOTH STRUGGLES TO BE FREE OF THE COCOON; HOWEVER, THE STRUGGLE BUILDS THE MOTH'S BODY AND GETS FLUIDS INTO THE WINGS, EXPANDING THEM. SHORTCUTTING THIS SEQUENCE LEADS TO THE MOTH'S DEATH

- **Romans 5:3-5** And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our

THE VALUE OF TRIALS

• **2 Corinthians 6:4-10** ...but in everything commending our-selves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses, in beatings, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in hunger, in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in genuine love, in the word of truth, in the power of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left, by glory and dishonor, by evil report and good report; *regarded* as deceivers and yet true; as unknown yet well-known, as dying yet behold, we live; as punished yet not put to death, as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing yet possessing all things.

• **James 1:2-4** Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have *its* perfect result so that you may be perfect and complete

JOY IN ADVERSITY?

- The adversity is not the cause for joy
- The hope of the results cause us to rejoice
- **Hebrews 12:2-3...** fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.
- **Psalms 94:14-17** For the LORD will not abandon His people, nor will He forsake His inheritance. For judgment will again be righteous, and all the upright in heart will follow it. Who will stand up for me against evildoers? Who will take his stand for me against those who do wickedness? the LORD had not been my help, my soul would soon have

AUTHOR AND PERFECTER

- **Philippians 1:6** *For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.*
- Will perfect: *etileseipi*: will complete, will perform
- **Hebrews 13:20-21** Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, *even* Jesus our Lord, equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.
- Perfecting involves not only dealing with struggles but also the willingness to be equipped to accomplish our purpose
- **1 Corinthians 12:4-7** Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all *persons*. But to each one is given

PURPOSEFUL LIVING

- **2 Timothy 1:8-9** Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with *me* in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity...
- Calling: *klesis*: from *kaleo*: to be invited or summoned
- **1 Corinthians 1:1-2** Paul, called *as* an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, to the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their *Lord* and ours:

WHAT IS GOD DOING?

- **1 Chronicles 12:32** Of the sons of Issachar, men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do, their chiefs *were* two hundred; and all their kinsmen *were* at their command.

**INSOFAR AS YOU CAN SEE WHAT GOD IS DOING,
MAKE HIS PURPOSE YOUR PURPOSE**

- **1 Samuel 13:10-12** As soon as he finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him *and* to greet him. But Samuel said, "What have you done?" And Saul said, "Because I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the appointed days, and that the Philistines were Assembling at Michmash, therefore I said, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not asked the favor of the LORD.' So I forced myself and offered the burnt offering."

LEARN FROM EXPERIENCE

LOOK FOR PERTINENT PASSAGES FROM THE BIBLE THAT APPLY TO YOUR SITUATION

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

REMEMBER THE LESSONS LEARNED FROM TIMES OF ADVERSITY

- **John 15:1-5** "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.