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GLOBAL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP (VIA WHATSAPP)
U.S.A, GHANA, LIBERIA, & NIGERIA
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COURSE TITLE: BIBLICAL EXEGESIS

LESSON #12

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TOPIC: **PRACTICAL BIBLICAL LIVING:**

INTRODUCTION:

In this lesson, we will look at man's greatest needs concerning God's salvation. The church has been plagued with a high level of ignorance, which is the reason behind our destruction and defeats in life. However, if we, the people of God, humble ourselves and be disciplined under the mighty hands of God, we could go a long way. Today, we are going to be looking at the word Discipline. Why is it important? God's true intent is to use the process of discipline to renew us and clothe us with our originally created nature, which brings honor and respect to the Character of God, whom we represent on this earth before all his creations. Lastly, our salvation through Christ Jesus, our Lord, is directly tied to God's disciplinary actions and methods. Let us pray: Heavenly Father, we come before you, asking you for your mercy and kindness. Thanks for the provision and thank you for everything you will do in my life. I ask that you open my eyes as I go through this lesson. Amen. Now, let us get into the topic Discipline

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DISCIPLINE:

Hb Strongs #4149

Moserath (a place in the Desert)

According to the ancient records of the Hebrew people who lived a nomadic lifestyle and culture, the ideology of Discipline is far different from ours. There were rules governing the family, allowing it to function as God intended it to be. Everyone within a nomad Household has a specific function and a task to carry out. This means that the family was structured in such a way that it brought honor and respect to the name of God. Moserath or Mosera, the Hebrew word for Discipline, means “ **a place in the Desert.**”

Strongs #4149H. To better understand Discipline, we must first investigate a Desert from an ancient Biblical perspective. In doing so, we will be reading our bible through the eyes of the ancient world and not forgetting; seeing that the concrete meaning of Discipline speaks of a place; therefore, we must take into consideration that we are going to be looking at the Function of the place and not the geographical description of a desert. Our modern definition of a desert reads as a dry, barren area of land, especially one covered with sand, that is characteristically desolate, waterless, and without vegetation. (Oxford English Dictionary) This modern definition speaks of the geographical description of a place and not the Function of said location, as the concrete Hebraic definition may define the word.

The Hebrew word popularly used for the word Desert is “midbar,” translated as a wasteland. *Deut. 2:7. All along the way, I, the Lord your God, have blessed your every effort. I have been attentive to your travels through this great wasteland. These forty years I have been with you, you have lacked for nothing.* Speaking of the midbar, Madeleine S. and J. Lane Miller described it in this manner quote: The midbar was that particular area surrounding Palestine on the south and east, where farming could not be carried out because of insufficient rainfall, generally speaking, the farther one moved south or east, the more barren and desolate the midbar become, and land without habitation—end quote.

One may ask, what does a wasteland have to do with Discipline? It has everything to do with Discipline and speaking concretely. A wasteland has no life but hunger, lack of water, and no life found there. However, the quietness, the balance of creation, the calmness, and the orderliness of things are seen in a desert. In short, it is a place of balance. *This is what the LORD says: In this place you say is a wasteland without man or beast, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of*

Jerusalem that are deserted—inhabited by neither man nor beast—there will be heard again. Jeremiah 33:10. Our cities, towns, and neighborhoods lack the proper order of God’s creation and his orderly balance for his creation and creatures.

Therefore, the Function of a wasteland, or I can safely say Discipline, is to bring about a righteous balance within our lives.

Giving us inner peace and empowering us to control our actions, Heb12:11 *Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.* God intends to bring out the fruit of righteousness that our lives should be governed by the right thoughts, producing exemplary character.

However, seeing that our world is now imprisoned by sin, by the way, which means “to miss the mark.” Our evil hearts carry out to always sink deeper into evil because of our arrogance toward God and ignorance about his will and word.

Now, the question remains, and that is, what does a Desert (a wasteland) have to do with our discussion relating to Discipline? In Ezekiel 20:35-38 God points out His strategies for Desert life in connection with Discipline. *And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face. Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord God. And I will cause you to pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant: And I will purge out from among you the rebels, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the Lord. Ezekiel 20:35-38 KJV.*

The first fact we recognize from Ezekiel 20:35-38 is that God is bringing his people into the wilderness. **(the wilderness of the people might also mean a scarcity of people within a specific location).** However, the fact remains that God is using an expression that carries the ideology of lifelessness, barrenness, thirstiness, hunger, and darkness and lacks our fleshly human comfort. Therefore, one must ask why. The wilderness (Desert, wasteland) is a place of balance, harmony, orderliness, and peace. Using the wilderness figuratively, God only speaks of his intentions for his creatures.

Moreover, that gives us that balance, harmony, inner peace, and orderliness we once shared with all creation and God before the fall. *God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day. Genesis 1:31.* God went on and said that He would cause Ezekiel to pass under the rod; this figurative expression is intended to relate to one of the nomad shepherd’s responsibilities. As the sheep go through the narrow gate at night, they are numbered in the sheepfold by the shepherd’s rod or his staff. Those obedient

sheep that grazed throughout the day and were wary of their journey and work were counted into the sheepfold at night to get rest, protection, and peace and lie in the presence of the shepherd. However, the rebels were cast out of the sheepfold. This method was also used to mark every tenth of the sheep that passed under the rod. Moreover, the tenth one was considered as a tithe to God. Now, about our discussion, when we open our hearts to God's Discipline and allow him to take us through the Desert of life. He then leads us into a place of rest, where we are numbered, but before I go any further, it amazed me to say I now understand what Jesus Christ meant when he said, quote: *But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: John 10:26-27KJV—end quote.*

God knows his sheep because he has numbered them. He does this by disciplining them, a process that is not punitive but transformative. Through Discipline, God teaches his sheep the character he intended them to have since creation, inspiring hope and a sense of purpose.