

PREFACE

*"It was amazing the way the Spirit of God was with pastor in the evening session. Though most of the things I have heard many times, but I feel that the Spirit of God convicted me of this truth again. Pastor is not just giving us the overview of 1 Samuel but also showing us the Gospel and the preparatory work. I marvel at the way pastor preached and related this to the prayer of Hannah. I just realise how blessed I am to hear this from presiding pastor. Pastor showed us the role of the law. I felt that this is my greatest portion to receive the law through the direct preaching of presiding pastor. This is the fastest way to repent of my sins. Though God allowed the law to prepare my heart through providence yet it is very difficult when God deals thus with me (e.g. sickness). That time I tend to give excuses so that I do not need to repent. The place of preaching is where sin is exposed. We are so blessed to have the servant of God. I feel very much blessed to hear pastor and I felt like pastor may just go on to reprove more and more. Though pastor did not chide us strongly yet in his gentleness, the message was very cutting. It was a very blessed moment. The reality is how difficult it is to be saved. I was very much struck when pastor showed the example of Christ from Isaiah 53. God in His providence was pleased to prepare Yeshua Christ through the law. Christ was afflicted and His face was marred. I cannot take the law and affliction. I want to resist and push away the law. Today pastor showed me how grievous it is. I am taking it lightly. When I push away the law that comes through preaching or providence, I am grieving the Holy Spirit. That is very scary. Many times I grieved Christ. Many times I cried but I feel that I have failed to come to repentance. Pastor showed that it is the work of God in conviction, compunction and conversion. How difficult it is to be saved. Pastor said he does not know how to describe it and what is the standard of God. It is not enough for me to cry one day but it is a continual process. I feel that today's message came with the strength of the Holy Spirit. Really the preparatory work is necessary. There is no short cut. I feel how important the law is. Also pastor made clear the role of the law through the example of Moses. God only allowed Moses to look at the Promised Land. In this way pastor showed me that I need to welcome the application of the law which is the work of the Spirit. Thank God for this message in which pastor elaborated on the life of Joseph, Jacob, Moses and David. This is the way of God. I must accept the law so that I will not grieve the Holy Spirit. Thank God for this understanding pastor has brought to us through the help of the Holy Spirit. **Again, I was disturbed when pastor said why I go back to my vomit again and again. I am repeating the same sin again and again, I have not really repented.** Thank God for pastor giving us this heart searching message. It is very appropriate. I need the law and the Spirit of God to work in my heart because I need the fear of God. I deserve hell. I must see and confess my actual state. I am the bad ground. Yet I am encouraged that even the first ground can be turned to become the good ground. Just pray that God may grant me grace so that I will not do it by my own strength but the law may work in me. Thank God for this message."*

Eliezer Pandey; Eliezer is our missionary pastor from Kathmandu, Nepal. The foregoing were responses to pastor's discourse on Preparatory Work, Part 1; the message was a follow up on pastor's overall exposition of 1 Samuel, Green Mansion, Naigaon, Thane, Maharashtra, India; 5 May AD 2014