THREE THINGS YOU NEED TO THRIVE

1.) Developing a thankful heart v.1-5

After Abimelech there arose to save Israel Tola the son of Puah, the son of Dodo, a man of Issachar; and he dwelt in Shamir in the mountains of Ephraim. :2 He (Tola) judged Israel twenty-three years; and he died and was buried in Shamir. :3 After him arose Jair, a Gileadite; and he judged Israel twenty-two years. :4 Now he had thirty sons who rode on thirty donkeys; they also had thirty towns, which are called “Havoth Jair” to this day, which are in the land of Gilead. :5 And Jair died and was buried in Camon.

In total - for nearly 45 years Israel enjoyed peace and quiet within its borders and without. The enemies of Israel had been held at bay and the Jews prospered. The land and people recovered and became strong and productive again. Everything “seemed” to be going well.

If It Was True for a Nation,
Could It Be True About You and Me - Us Personally?
Developing A Thankful Heart

1a.) Creates an appreciation v.1-2

The Man Tola, the son of Puah, the son of Dodo, a man of Issachar, He judged Israel twenty-three (23) years; and he died and was buried in Sh’amir.

we don’t know much more than that about Tola.

His Name Means = scarlet or red worm. a grub-like worm. The Tola / Worm oDlwø; t towla{, to-law´
a maggot. the crimson-grub. used in the dying of fabric. to color “red” a robe or garment. the crimson, scarlet, worm.

The Death of the Tola, Provided a Red Colored Dye to Stain a Garment.

In Nature, The Tola has a very unique way of birthing its young. it would come out of the earth / make its way up the trunk of a tree / and then wait for the rising of the sun / the sun would cause it to literally “explode” sending its young back down to the earth to develop. the death of the tola worm would leave a crimson red stain on the tree.

A Picture of Jesus Christ for Us to See.

Psalm 22:1-6

My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning? :2 O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear; And in the night season, and am not silent. :3 But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel. :4 Our fathers trusted in You; They trusted, and You delivered them. :5 They cried to You, and were delivered; They trusted in You, and were not ashamed. :6 But I am a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people.

When God the Father Looks at You and I, (independent of our efforts, works, or deeds) He sees us covered in the “red” that Jesus’ blood provided us.
1 Peter 1:18-19
Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; :19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Romans 5:8-9
But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. :9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

Romans 3:23-25b
for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. :24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, :25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness…

Ephesians 1:7-8
In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace :8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence,

He Provided “The Blood” which “Redeems” Us based upon the Act of His “Grace” – That “Brings” Us Salvation!

**DEVELOPING A THANKFUL HEART**

1b.) Calls to action v.2

:2 He (Tola) judged Israel twenty-three years; and he died and was buried in Shamir.

Nothing Else is Known – But there was peace under his leadership.

Developing a Thankful Heart:
We Can Even Take Peace for Granted as a People

1 Thessalonians 5:18
in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Implied here is the call to “Exercise” to agonize, to labor, to work at it…
We Must Decide to be Thankful, to Choose to be Thankful
After him arose Jair, a Gileadite; and he judged Israel twenty-two years.

Psalm 69:30
I will praise the name of God with a song, And will magnify Him with thanksgiving.

Psalm 95:1-2
Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

Psalm 100:4
Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

WE WANT TO ASK THIS QUESTION.
How Do I “Develop” a Thankful Heart?

begin to appreciate what you have now (not “someday” or “when my ship comes in” or when I win the lottery.)

Luke 3:14c
and be content with your wages.

Philippians 4:11
Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

1 Timothy 6:6-9
Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.
begin to adopt an Attitude that is Christ-centered. ”Jesus, I know You’re in this, show me what you want out of this moment. think on what is right and reasonable. Acknowledge what is good

begin to act upon what you know the will of God is. in a word, “obey”

a national failure has occurred.
we are the biggest bunch of whiners of any industrialized nation on earth.
we file lawsuits, we complain, we gripe, we file grievances, that’s offensive, you’re not tolerant and the list goes on…

the call to action is to draw closer to the Lord

Three Things You Need To Thrive

2.) Developing a submissive spirit v.6-16

Then the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals and the Ashtoreths, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the people of Ammon, and the gods of the Philistines; and they forsook the LORD and did not serve Him. :7 So the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel; and He sold them into the hands of the Philistines and into the hands of the people of Ammon. :8 From that year (on) they harassed and oppressed the children of Israel for eighteen years—all the children of Israel who were on the other side of the Jordan in the land of the Amorites, in Gilead. :9 Moreover the people of Ammon crossed over the Jordan to fight against Judah also, against Benjamin, and against the house of Ephraim, so that Israel was severely distressed. :10 And the children of Israel cried out to the LORD, saying, “We have sinned against You, because we have both forsaken our God and served the Baals!” :11 So the LORD said to the children of Israel, “Did I not deliver you from the Egyptians and from the Amorites and from the people of Ammon and from the Philistines? (yes) :12 Also the Sidonians and Amalekites and Maonites oppressed you; and you cried out to Me, and I delivered you from their hand. :13 Yet you have forsaken Me and served other gods. Therefore I will deliver you no more. :14 Go and cry out to the gods which you have chosen; let them deliver you in your time of distress.” :15 And the children of Israel said to the LORD, “We have sinned! Do to us whatever seems best to You; only deliver us this day, we pray.” :16 So they put away the foreign gods from among them and served the LORD. And His soul could no longer endure the misery of Israel.
The Lord had promised Israel that if that nation would honor Him and walk in His commandments, He would in turn – Protect them by “Putting the Fear of them in the hearts of Their Enemies.”

Deuteronomy 11:22-25
“For if you carefully keep all these commandments which I command you to do—to love the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him—:23 then the LORD will drive out all these nations from before you, and you will dispossess greater and mightier nations than yourselves. :24 Every place on which the sole of your foot treads shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the River Euphrates, even to the Western Sea, shall be your territory. :25 No man shall be able to stand against you; the LORD your God will put the dread of you and the fear of you upon all the land where you tread, just as He has said to you.

Girls, Listen Up.
when a man knows that another man can beat him up, there is a peace between those two men.


Later Another American President Would Repeat That, and Ronald Reagan Broke Up The Soviet Union.

No One in Their Right-Mind Slaps the Strongest Guy on the school yard...

On Sunday Morning December 7th 1941, and on Tuesday Morning September 11th 2001, America was Slapped Because the Slapper Understood that America was Weak.

I Can Guarantee You This;
The Next Attack on America Will Take Place, On a day when our enemy believes that we are passive, weak, and more committed to being politically correct, than surviving.
And We Will Lose Without the Lord !!!

If It Was True for a Nation, Could It Be True About You and I – Us Personally?

DEVELOPING A SUBMISSIVE SPIRIT

2a.) By acknowledging Him

If only Israel had remembered their history and all that God had done for them and with them they would not have erred.

History is “His” Story to the World and the truth is, History glorifies God.

After all that God had done for Israel, how could they have rejected Him and turned to love and worship foreign gods? To Invite Foreign Prayers to Foreign Gods That Don’t Exist?

WE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE HIM
(For Our Breath, Our Mind)

Proverbs 14:12
There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

Israel Failed to be Submissive to The Lord.

the nation got confused and lost track of its heritage. Israel began to equate its status and wealth with its pantheism.
pantheism

is the rejection of the One True God
for all the other man-made-gods of the pagan world.

All Humans, Every Human
is Submitted to Something or Someone. We Cannot Function Otherwise.

What is The Driving Passion of Your Life???

when we trust the Lord, submission is no problem.
when we decide not to trust the Lord, we’re no longer submitted to Him.

The Same is Truth in a Relationship.
if I trust that you love me, then I will gladly be submitted to you. If a wife knows and
trusts her husband, she will gladly submit to her husband – Why? because she knows
that he knows the Lord and trusts the Lord and so is Submitted to Christ.

Psalm 103:2
Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits:
if that’s true of nations – can it be true of us
– personally?

the more you personally know and understand the heart of our God,
the more submitted you are to Him.

His Love Melts You Into Submission.
(note this: submission must be “willingly offered up” by us.)

you cannot make someone submit, that’s called rape.

today all around the world people are being threatened to “submit”
to the will of allah and islamofacism - - or off with your hand, foot or head.

that’s not submission, its satanic rape, demonic tyranny.
Submission Can Only be Offered, Extended, Given, Based On Love.
You Cannot Separate Love from Submission

DEVELOPING A SUBMISSIVE SPIRIT

2b.) By loving Him

To Love God is Man’s Greatest Pursuit

DEVELOPING A SUBMISSIVE SPIRIT

2c.) By surrendering to Him

This Will Be True in My Life When...

When I see Him for who He is
then I will see him as my only hope.

When I exalt Him for who He is
then I will exalt him as my only God.

When I love Him for who He is
then I will love him – and He’s my only love.

Ephesians 5:21-25
submitting to one another in the fear of God. :22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. :23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. :24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. :25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

THREE THINGS YOU NEED TO THRIVE

3.) Developing a leadership mind

v.17-18
Then the people of Ammon gathered together and encamped in Gilead. And the children of Israel assembled together and encamped in Mizpah. :18 And the people, the leaders of Gilead, said to one another, "Who is the man who will begin the fight against the people of Ammon? He shall be head over all the inhabitants of Gilead."

**Developing A Leadership Mind**

3a.) Being *willing* to follow

**God was Lacking in Israel’s Leadership.**

Israel Failed to Make the Lord Their Leader.

when that happens, we begin to look to the leadership of man.

Choosing to Be a Follower

is the First Prerequisite to being a Leader.

(if you have to be the leader, it only proves that you haven’t yet mastered the following part)

God Blesses His People with Godly Leadership.

(as a nation, a church, a family, a company)

**Philippians 2:5-7**

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, :6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, :7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men.

A Very Sad Situation was Before Israel.

they had a cause to go to war, they had an army to fight with, they had the money, but they didn’t have a leader.

true leaders

are men and women of quality and character,

of integrity and wisdom.

**A Statesman Is Not A Politician**
a statesman says and does what is right, not what is popular or politically correct. a statesman will sacrifice himself for the greater cause and for what’s best for the people.

**Micah 6:8**
He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?

to learn is to be humble.
humility is the first and greatest characteristic of a true leader.

**Moses** was a Humble man, Yet a Great Leader.
**Winston Churchill** was a Great Leader, Yet a Humble Man
**George Washington** was a Great Leader, But was Known for his Humility.

The Greatest Leader of All Time was Jesus Christ Himself.

**Philippians 2:5-7**
Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus. 
:6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God. 
:7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

**Matthew 21:5**
“Tell the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey; A colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

**Jesus was Humble, Yet He was/is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.**

**Philippians 2:8-11**
And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 
:9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 
:10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 
:11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Developing A Leadership Mind**

3b.) Being **obedient** to answer
Acts 6:1-3
Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. :2 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. :3 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; :4 but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

Developing A Leadership Mind

3c.) Being faithful to serve v.18
And the people, the leaders of Gilead, said to one another, “Who is the man who will begin the fight against the people of Ammon? He shall be head over all the inhabitants of Gilead.”

in the crisis, what did Israel do? 
they called for a man, any man to lead them to victory.

They Never Thought of Calling a Prayer Meeting – they called for a man!

God’s Leaders Are Faithful to Serve in God’s Business

Galatians 5:13
You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.

Matthew 20:27-28
and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; :28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

John 15:12
This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

John 15:13
Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.

End of Study