

PACES, STEP, STEPPED, STEPPETH, STEPPING, STEPS

Jacob took **steps** to make sure that when strong livestock conceived, their offspring would belong to him and not Laban.

- **Genesis 30:41:** "And it came to pass, whensoever the stronger cattle did conceive, that Jacob laid the rods before the eyes of the cattle in the gutters, that they might conceive among the rods."

Jacob took **steps** to make sure that Laban's livestock were weak.

- **Genesis 30:42:** "But when the cattle were feeble, he put them not in: so the feeble were Laban's, and the stronger Jacob's."

When Joseph's brothers saw him approaching, they decided to kill him. (Since Simeon and Levi had *already* massacred all the males in an entire town, murdering their brother wasn't a big **step** for them.)

- **Genesis 37:18:** "And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him."

Under the Mosaic Law, God's altars couldn't have **steps** that led up to them.

- **Exodus 20:26:** "Neither shalt thou go up by steps unto mine altar, that thy nakedness be not discovered

thereon."

Under the Mosaic Law, if someone owned an animal that killed someone, they were only liable if the animal had attacked people in the past, and the owner knew about it but didn't take any **steps** to prevent further attacks. (In that case both the animal *and* its owner were put to death.)

- **Exodus 21:29:** "But if the ox were wont to push with his horn in time past, and it hath been testified to his owner, and he hath not kept him in, but that he hath killed a man or a woman; the ox shall be stoned, and his owner also shall be put to death."

Under the Mosaic Law, if someone owned an animal that killed another person's animal, they were only liable if the animal had attacked in the past, and the owner knew about it but didn't take any **steps** to prevent further attacks. (In that case the owner had to pay for the dead animal, and it then belonged to him.)

- **Exodus 21:36:** "Or if it be known that the ox hath used to push in time past, and his owner hath not kept him in; he shall surely pay ox for ox; and the dead shall be his own."

Under the Mosaic Law, the first **step** in being consecrated as a priest was to be washed with water.

- **Leviticus 8:6:** "And Moses brought Aaron and his sons, and washed them with water."

Under the Mosaic Law, the Israelites were required to care

about the lives of others, and take reasonable **steps** to protect other people from death. (Since the roof was considered to be living space, people were required to put up some type of railing to keep people from falling off the roof.)

- **Deuteronomy 22:8:** "When thou buildest a new house, then thou shalt make a battlement for thy roof, that thou bring not blood upon thine house, if any man fall from thence."

God cared about the purity of Samson while he was still in the womb. The Lord took **steps** to ensure that his Nazarite vow wouldn't be broken before he was born (by telling his mother not to drink any grape products).

- **Judges 13:4-5:** "Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing: For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines."

After the Israelites defeated the Benjamites, they took **steps** to utterly eradicate the entire tribe of Benjamin. (They later regretted this.)

- **Judges 20:48:** "And the men of Israel turned again upon the children of Benjamin, and smote them with the edge of the sword, as well the men of every city, as the beast, and all that came to hand: also they set on fire all the cities that they came to."

A superstition developed after Dagon (the Philistine idol) fell

down before the Ark of the Covenant, which caused people to avoid **stepping** upon the threshold within the temple of Dagon in Ashdod. That superstition was still being observed when the book of 1 Samuel was written.

- **1 Samuel 5:4-5:** "And when they arose early on the morrow morning, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the ground before the ark of the Lord; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands were cut off upon the threshold; only the stump of Dagon was left to him. Therefore neither the priests of Dagon, nor any that come into Dagon's house, tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod unto this day."

When Samuel told Saul that he was no longer the rightful king of Israel, he didn't **step** aside. Instead he demanded that Saul *honor him*. He never relinquished the throne, even though God had taken it from him and given it to David.

- **1 Samuel 15:28, 30:** "And Samuel said unto him, The Lord hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou. ... Then he said, I have sinned: yet honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God."

There are times when God tells people to go do something, but He doesn't give them all the details until after they've obeyed the **steps** He's already given them. (God told Samuel to go to Jesse to anoint one of his sons as king; however, God didn't tell Samuel which son to anoint until after he was with him.)

- **1 Samuel 16:3:** "And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will shew thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt anoint unto me him whom I name unto thee."

David told Jonathan that as truly as the Lord lives, there was only a **step** between him and death. (In other words, Saul was trying to kill him).

- **1 Samuel 20:3:** "And David sware moreover, and said, Thy father certainly knoweth that I have found grace in thine eyes; and he saith, Let not Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved: but truly as the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, there is but a step between me and death."

Saul knew that God had taken the kingdom away from him and given it to David. However, Saul refused to **step** down and allow David to reign. Instead Saul spent the rest of his life trying to kill David.

- **1 Samuel 24:16, 20:** "And it came to pass, when David had made an end of speaking these words unto Saul, that Saul said, Is this thy voice, my son David? And Saul lifted up his voice, and wept. ... And now, behold, I know well that thou shalt surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in thine hand."

When David transported the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem, once the people who were carrying the Ark from the house of Obbedom to Jerusalem had taken six **steps**, David sacrificed oxen.

- **2 Samuel 6:12-13:** "And it was told king David, saying, The Lord hath blessed the house of Obbedom, and all

that pertaineth unto him, because of the ark of God. So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obbededom into the city of David with gladness. And it was so, that when they that bare the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed oxen and fatlings."

David said that God enlarged his **steps** under him. (In other words, God kept him from falling.)

- **2 Samuel 22:37:** "Thou hast enlarged my steps under me; so that my feet did not slip."

Solomon's throne had six **steps**.

- **1 Kings 10:19:** "The throne had six steps, and the top of the throne was round behind: and there were stays on either side on the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the stays."
- **2 Chronicles 9:18:** "And there were six steps to the throne, with a footstool of gold, which were fastened to the throne, and stays on each side of the sitting place, and two lions standing by the stays:"

On Solomon's throne, there were two lions on each of the six **steps** (for a total of twelve lions).

- **1 Kings 10:20:** "And twelve lions stood there on the one side and on the other upon the six steps: there was not the like made in any kingdom."
- **2 Chronicles 9:19:** "And twelve lions stood there on the one side and on the other upon the six steps. There was not the like made in any kingdom."

When Elisha raised the woman's child from the dead, it was a complicated procedure that involved multiple **steps**.

- **2 Kings 4:33-35:** "He went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the Lord. And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm. Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes."

Job said that God numbered his **steps**.

- **Job 14:16:** "For now thou numberest my steps: dost thou not watch over my sin?"

Job said that he had walked in the **steps** of God. (In other words, Job said he had walked in God's ways and done what was right.)

- **Job 23:11:** "My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined."
- **Job 31:7:** "If my step hath turned out of the way, and mine heart walked after mine eyes, and if any blot hath cleaved to mine hands;"

Job said there was a time when he washed his **steps** with butter. (In other words, he was wealthy before he was afflicted.)

- **Job 29:6:** "When I washed my steps with butter, and the rock poured me out rivers of oil;"

Job said that God counted all of his **steps**. (In other words, he believed that God knew everything that he did.)

- **Job 31:4:** "Doth not he see my ways, and count all my steps?"

Job said he wanted to tell God the number of his **steps**. (In other words, he wanted to tell God about all the good deeds he had done in his life.)

- **Job 31:37:** "I would declare unto him the number of my steps; as a prince would I go near unto him."

God said that ostriches aren't wise enough to realize that since their eggs are on the ground, someone may **step** on them and crush them.

- **Job 39:14-15, 17:** "Which leaveth her eggs in the earth, and warmeth them in dust, And forgetteth that the foot may crush them, or that the wild beast may break them. ... Because God hath deprived her of wisdom, neither hath he imparted to her understanding."

The psalmist said that God has enlarged our **steps** so that we don't slip.

- **Psalms 18:36:** "Thou hast enlarged my steps under me, that my feet did not slip."

The Lord guides the **steps** of the righteous. He determines the path they take in life.

- **Psalm 37:23:** "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way."

God prevents the **steps** of the righteous from sliding.

- **Psalm 37:31:** "The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide."

We must remain humble about our lives. Instead of getting caught up in the cares of this world, we need to **step** back and understand how empty the things of this world are so that we might remain humble before God and focused on the eternal things that really matter.

- **Psalm 39:6:** "Surely every man walketh in a vain shew: surely they are disquieted in vain: he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them."

The psalmist said the **steps** of the Jews hadn't turned away from God.

- **Psalm 44:18:** "Our heart is not turned back, neither have our steps declined from thy way;"

David said his enemies watched his **steps** (so they could attack him).

- **Psalm 56:6:** "They gather themselves together, they hide themselves, they mark my steps, when they wait for my soul."

David said that his enemies had prepared a net for his **steps**. (They were trying to trap him and kill him.)

- **Psalm 57:6:** "They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down: they have digged a pit before me, into the midst whereof they are fallen themselves. Selah."

Asaph said that his **steps** had almost slipped. (He had almost fallen into sin because he envied the wicked.)

- **Psalm 73:2-3:** "But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped. For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked."

The psalmist said that righteousness would cause the Jews to follow in the **steps** of the Messiah.

- **Psalm 85:13:** "Righteousness shall go before him; and shall set us in the way of his steps."

The psalmist prayed that God would order his **steps** in His word. (In other words, he wanted God to cause him to walk in His commandments.)

- **Psalm 119:133:** "Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me."

Wisdom can guard our **steps**.

- **Proverbs 4:11-12:** "I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths. When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest,

thou shalt not stumble."

As we walk through life, God guides each of our **steps**.

- **Proverbs 16:9:** "A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps."
- **Proverbs 20:24:** "Man's goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way?"

Those who are simple minded don't take **steps** to avoid problems, and so they suffer (needlessly).

- **Proverbs 27:12:** "A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished."

People don't control the **steps** that they take throughout their life. Instead God is the one who's in control.

- **Jeremiah 10:23:** "O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."

In the millennial temple, the little chambers of the outward court will have seven **steps**.

- **Ezekiel 40:22:** "And their windows, and their arches, and their palm trees, were after the measure of the gate that looketh toward the east; and they went up unto it by seven steps; and the arches thereof were before them."

In the millennial temple, there will be seven **steps** that go up to the southern gate.

- **Ezekiel 40:24, 26:** "After that he brought me toward the south, and behold a gate toward the south: and he measured the posts thereof and the arches thereof according to these measures. ... And there were seven steps to go up to it, and the arches thereof were before them: and it had palm trees, one on this side, and another on that side, upon the posts thereof."

In the millennial temple, there will be eight **steps** that go up to the southern gate.

- **Ezekiel 40:24, 31:** "After that he brought me toward the south, and behold a gate toward the south: and he measured the posts thereof and the arches thereof according to these measures. ... And the arches thereof were toward the utter court; and palm trees were upon the posts thereof: and the going up to it had eight steps."

In the millennial temple, there will be eight **steps** that go up to the gate. (The inner court will be accessible from the south, the east, and north. The inner court will be raised eight steps above the outer court.)

- **Ezekiel 40:34:** "And the arches thereof were toward the outward court; and palm trees were upon the posts thereof, on this side, and on that side: and the going up to it had eight steps."

In the millennial temple, there will be eight **steps** going up to the outer court.

- **Ezekiel 40:37:** "And the posts thereof were toward the utter court; and palm trees were upon the posts thereof, on this side, and on that side: and the going up to it had eight steps."

Ezekiel was brought up the **steps** of the millennial temple by the man with the measuring reed.

- **Ezekiel 40:49:** "The length of the porch was twenty cubits, and the breadth eleven cubits, and he brought me by the steps whereby they went up to it: and there were pillars by the posts, one on this side, and another on that side."

God said that because the Israelites worshiped Baal and walked in the **steps** of Omri and Ahab, He was going to make them bear reproach and make their land desolate.

- **Micah 6:16:** "For the statutes of Omri are kept, and all the works of the house of Ahab, and ye walk in their counsels; that I should make thee a desolation, and the inhabitants thereof an hissing: therefore ye shall bear the reproach of my people."

God commanded the Jews to **step** out on faith and lay the foundation of the second temple in spite of their terrible circumstances. The Jews didn't rebuild the temple in good and prosperous times.

- **Zechariah 8:9-10:** "Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Let your hands be strong, ye that hear in these days these words by the mouth of the prophets, which were in the day that the foundation of the house of the Lord of hosts was laid,

that the temple might be built. For before these days there was no hire for man, nor any hire for beast; neither was there any peace to him that went out or came in because of the affliction: for I set all men every one against his neighbour."

If someone sins against you and won't repent, the next **step** is *not* to ignore it. Instead you must bring additional people with you and confront them again. (The goal is to get the person to repent and make things right.)

- **Matthew 18:16:** "But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established."

There was a time when so many people gathered to see Jesus that they **stepped** on one another.

- **Luke 12:1:** "In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy."

After an angel made the water of Bethesda move, the first person who **stepped** into the pool was cured of any disease that they had.

- **John 5:4:** "For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had."

Jesus deliberately took **steps** to fulfill the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah.

- **John 13:18:** "I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me."

One of the recurring themes of the Bible is that God tells people what they must do, but He doesn't always tell them what will happen after that. He commands people to take the next **step**, but doesn't give further information until they've done that. (When Paul encountered God on the road to Damascus, the Lord told him he would receive further instructions after he went into the city.)

- **Acts 9:6:** "And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do."

Instead of taking revenge when we're wronged, we must **step** back and give space for God's wrath.

- **Romans 12:19:** "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

Our life was determined before we were born. God made us and predestined our **steps**.

- **Ephesians 2:10:** "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

The reason Epaphroditus was trying to meet Paul's needs (which almost killed him) was because the Philippian church hadn't met them.

- **Philippians 2:30:** "Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me."

When we suffer for doing good, we're following in the **steps** of Christ.

- **1 Peter 2:21:** "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps."