

HOMES THAT HONOR THE LORD

Valley Bible Chapel

July, 2003

I. Introduction and Explanation of our Study

The character of this study is to offer observations on homes in the Bible where the Lord was honored in a specific way. Intended is the concept that we can learn from these homes and be better able to see our own homes as places where the Lord is honored and His commitments fulfilled.

None of the homes to be studied may be classed as "perfect homes". All will have faults of their own but in spite of failure in some areas will be able to show the glory of God in others. Our point is not that we should arrive at a level of perfection but that we should learn how the Lord is honored and apply that learning in our experience. The weaknesses that will be exhibited in these homes will, in most cases, be apparent, but these human foibles do not spoil the reality of what was positively accomplished. They merely show us that the persons involved were weak in themselves as we are but the weakened areas did not prevent them from exercising strong areas as well.

The homes to be studied are all sociologically isolated to other times. But human nature and behavior change very little, if at all, in the passage of time. Realizing that the domestic situations occurred long ago does not remove them from the path of human experience and we can very easily feel as they felt. The mechanisms of society and culture do not change the foundational concepts that honor the Lord.

Five particular characteristics have been identified in my study of this work and these will be discussed with Biblical homes as illustrative material. The participation of the class is most welcome and the points to be noted are these:

- Homes where God was (is) welcome.
- Homes where God's people are nourished.
- Homes where God's order is respected
- Home where the testimony of God is primary
- Homes that continue the witness of the Lord.

There is some overlapping, of course, and there are other aspects probably of equal importance. But these are the areas where we will work and trust the Scripture to give us guidance in the process.