Held Captive in Babylon

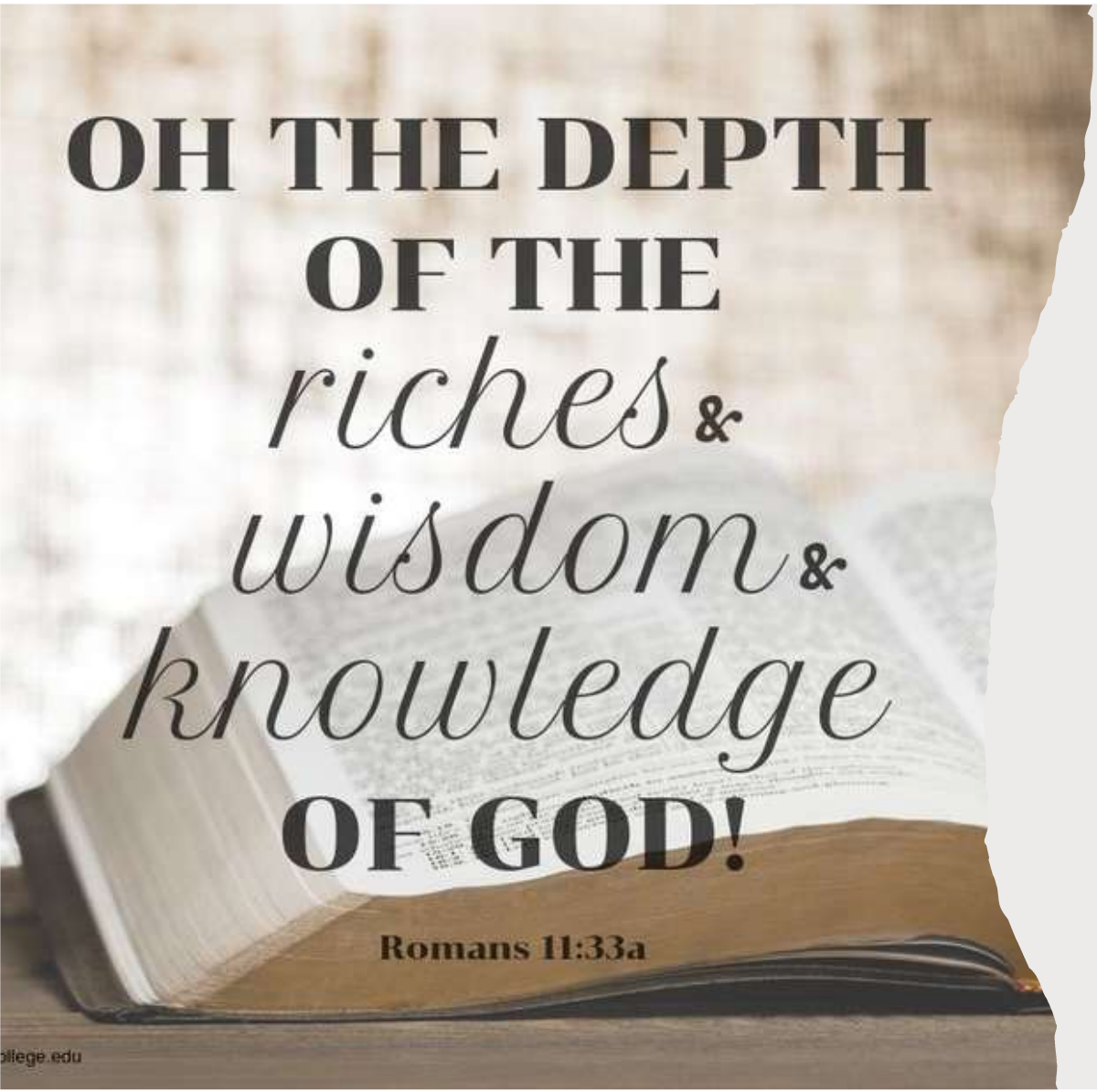
TREASURES
in the Midst of
DARKNESS



- Thus saith the LORD **to his anointed**...**I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight**: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron:
- And **I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD**, which call *thee* by thy name, *am* the God of Israel. Isaiah 45:1-3

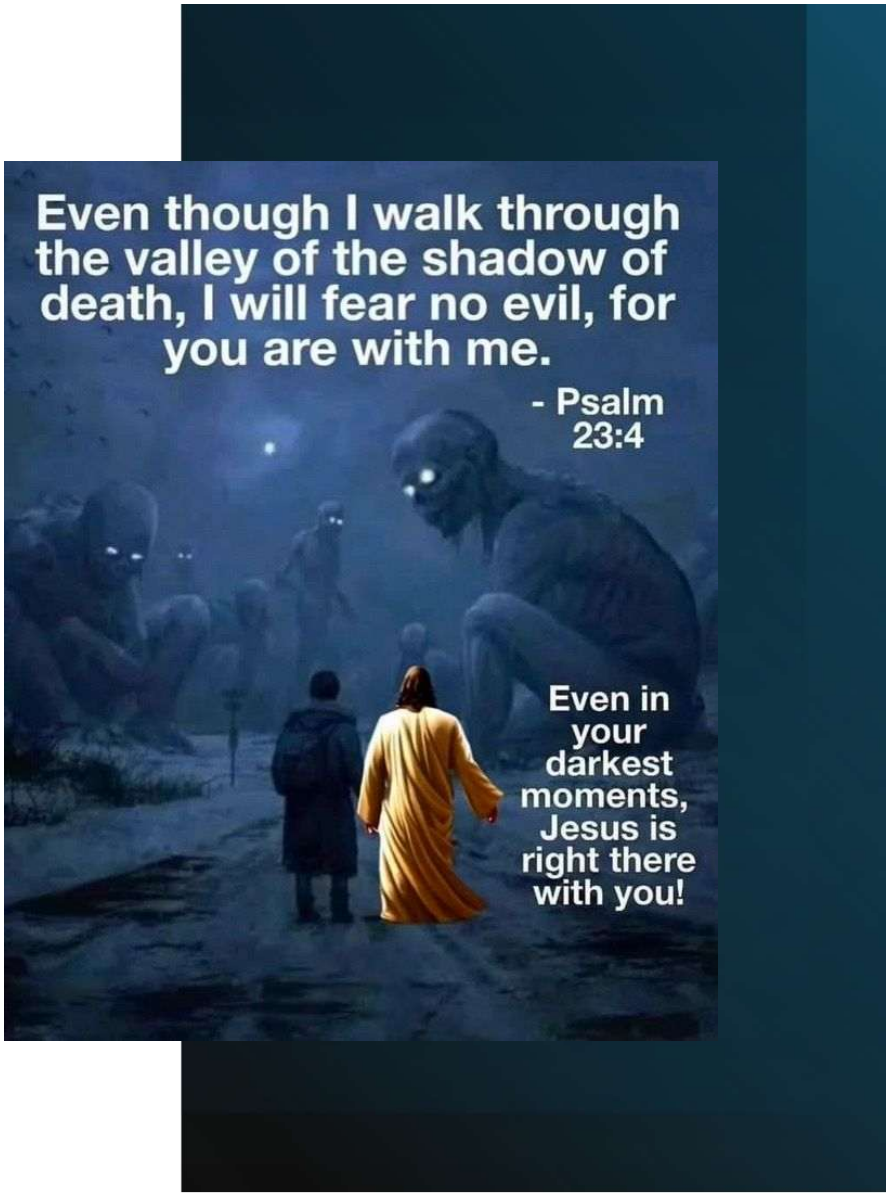
The TREASURES of DARKNESS, and HIDDEN RICHES of SECRET PLACES





- O the depth of the **riches both of the wisdom and knowledge** of God! **how unsearchable *are* his judgments**, and his ways past finding out!
- For **who hath known the mind of the Lord**? Romans 11:33-34
- This scripture identifies **the depth of the riches of God as being in the mind of God.**
- God said He would give us the **TREASURES** of **DARKNESS** and the hidden **RICHES** of **SECRET PLACES.**

- Sometimes it is very difficult for us to keep our faith **when we are going through dark passages and dark places**.
- We like to **stay in the light** where **we can see** the **reason** for **what is happening.**
- We want to live in a **positive realm**.
- Yet the Psalms said that **sometimes our walk would take us through the valley of the shadow of death**, and that God would be there.
  - Yea, **though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death**, I will fear no evil: **for thou *art* with me**. Psalms 23:4
- There are **TRESURES** to be found even in **DARK PLACES** if you have **eyes** to see and **ears** to hear.



Israel's Darkest Time

- By the rivers of Babylon, **there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion**.
- We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof.
- **For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song**; and they that wasted us *required of us* mirth, *saying*, **Sing us *one* of the songs of Zion.**
- **How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land?** Psalms 137:1-4
- They were taken CAPTIVE into Babylon: **how could they sing**?
- How could they **rejoice** or see anything but the **DARKNESS** and **despair** of their horrible experiences?



- The attitude of the Israelites was very heavy with what they were going through, being taken captive.
- Many today in Gaza, Lebanon, Iran, Ukraine, Syria, and other places of **DARKNESS** could possibly identify.
- Their **homes** had been **destroyed.**
- Many of their **loved ones** had been **murdered**.
- Their **temple** was **burned** to the ground.
- The **walls** of their city were **torn down**.
- **Zion**, **the beautiful city of God**, was **DESTROYED**, and they were taken **captive** in chains.
- **Most of them would never see their promised land again.**
- **Yet the Babylonians asked them to sing!**



- I have not **suffered** to this extent as described in the natural.
- You probably have not either. I would say most if anyone growing up in America has.
- But **we can understand** as they were on their way to Babylon, to captivity, **they did not feel like singing**!
- Many times, they most likely **did not know where their children were**.
- In the **confusion** of the **battle** and **being taken captive** into different places in **Assyria**, they wondered **what happened** to their children, their husband, wife, mother or father.
- But in the midst of all that **DARKNESS**, there was a **TREASURE**!



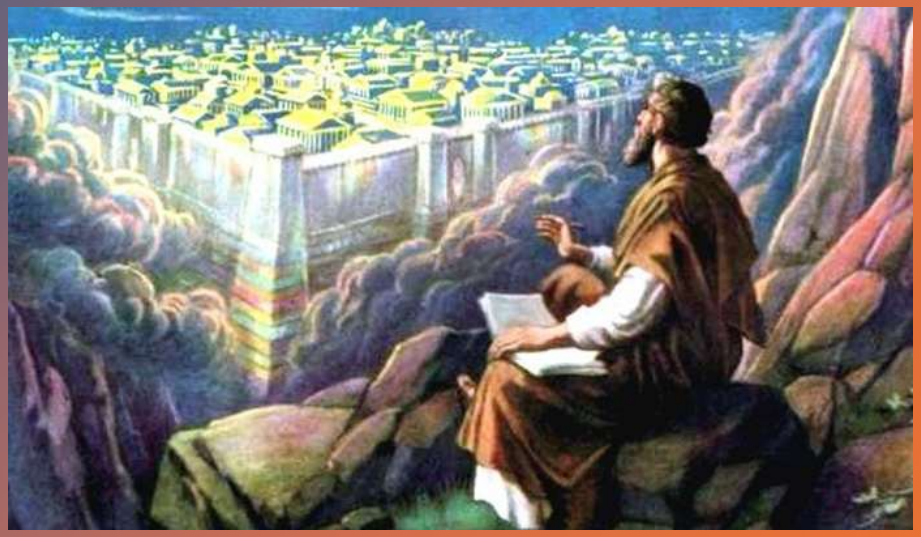
- During this time of great **DARKNESS** for Israel, there was a man who experienced a **TREASURE** he had never seen or heard of before.
- A **TREASURE** so tremendous that it is recorded for 48 chapters in the living Word of God.
- **Ezekiel** was a priest in the temple. If he had a family, they were gone!
- He was there by the **rivers of Babylon**, where the rest of Israel were hanging their harps on the willows.
- **Their heads were down**.
- All they could see was the **DARK** sand of the desert, yet Ezekiel was **LOOKING UP**!



- Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth *month*, in the fifth *day* of the month, as **I *was* among the captives** by the river of Chebar, *that* **the heavens were opened**, and **I saw visions of God**. Ezekiel 1:1
- I wonder how many of the Israelites lifted up their eyes in the midst of all their **DARKNESS** and caught a glimpse of the **TREAURE** that was there in the heavens?
- **Ezekiel** was one man.
- Ezekiel is the only man that I know of that is recorded that in the midst of all the **DARKNESS** and despair, he was **LOOKING UP** and seeing **VISIONS** of God!

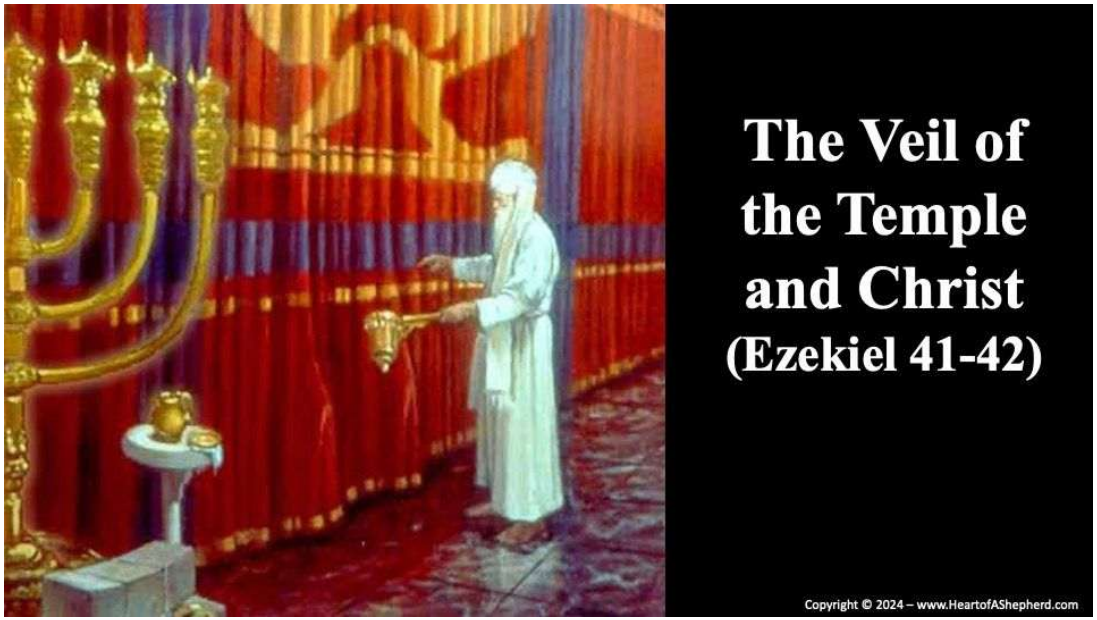






- Ezekiel **changed the course of history** for Israel.
- **He pointed out their sin**.
- He showed them the **rottenness** of the **holy place**; the **filthiness** in the **priesthood**.
- Then Ezekiel showed them God's new temple that was coming in the future. It was the **New Jerusalem**, **filled with the glory of God**.
- He showed them a Zadok priesthood that was going to go **behind the veil** and **minister** right **in the presence of God**.
- Ezekiel saw things that the angels desired to see.
- Ezekiel caught a vision of the **TREASURES** of **DARKNESS**.

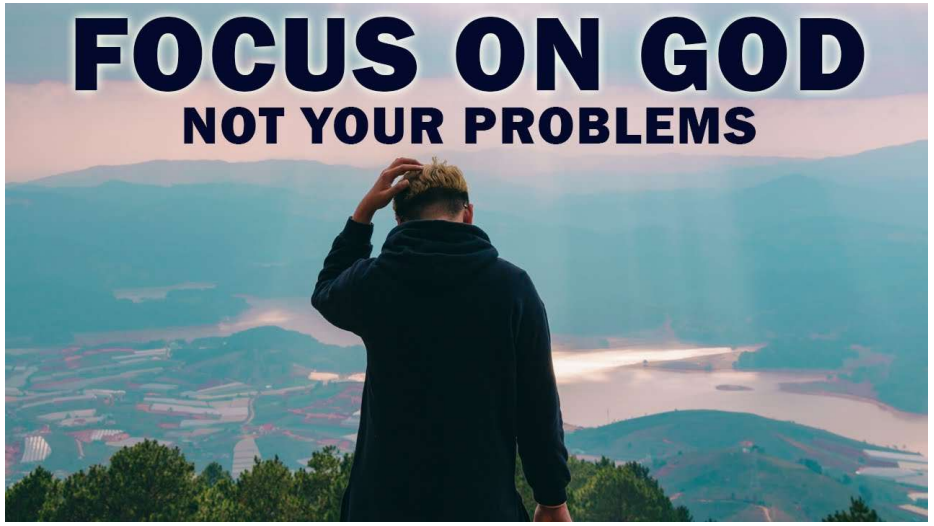
- Angelic beings have never known the **DARKNESS** of losing a loved one or of **being taken captive**.
- Ezekiel was **taken behind the veil**; he saw the **glory** of the new **priesthood** and the **glory** of the **new temple**!
- **Let us follow the example of Ezekiel.**
- Stop **moaning** and **groaning** when we find ourselves in a place of **DARKNESS**.
- **LOOK UP** and **SEE** the **TREASURES** of **DARKNESS** and the **HIDDEN RICHES** of **SECRET PLACES**!





- A saint of God is not raised on a **bed of roses**.
- A saint of God is **developed** in the **fires** of **tribulation**, in the **testings**, **trials**, and in the **DARKNESS**.
- **Yes, God is making saints.**
- God is not giving out reasons, **because God is not required to give a reason for what He does.**
- **God is not required to give us reasons** for what is happening to us.
- He just asked us to **believe** and **trust** that those all things are working together for the good of those who are called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)
- If you can't believe that you are going to miss the **TREASURES** of **DARKNESS** and the **HIDDEN RICHES** of **SECRET PLACES**!

- God has the **TREASURES** of **DARKNESS** and the **HIDDEN RICHES** of **SECRET PLACES**.
- He has them to give to us!
- He **CREATES** the circumstances that bring about an open door **INTO** the **TREASURES** of **DARKNESS**.
- He said, "**I will give to thee**!"
- We get so busy at times looking at each other and at our circumstances that we forget to **LOOK** to **HIM**!
- Ninety percent of our problems would be solved if we would only look to **HIM** and not at our problem or to someone else.

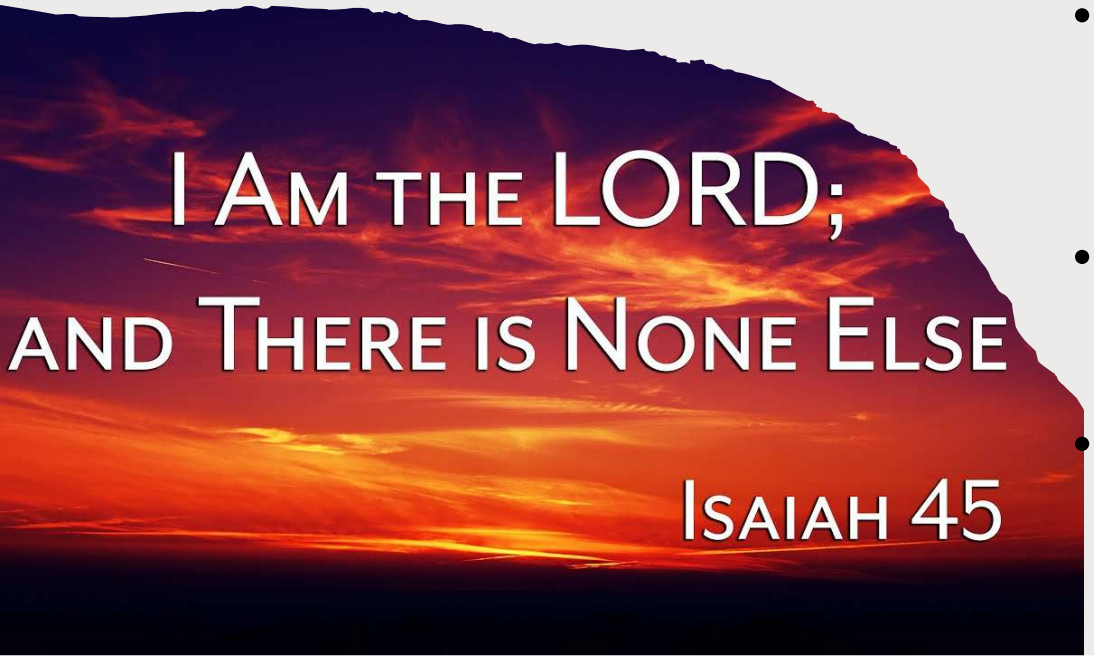


- It is so easy to see the carnality in others, especially when we are frustrated.
- Can we see it within ourselves?
- Often, we are disgusted with other people and often we are disgusted with ourselves!
- If we continue in the path of looking at others **instead of to HIM,** then we will have **bickering, backbiting**, and **devouring** one another until there is nothing left.
  - But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. Galatians 5:15





- The **TREASURES** are **FOUND** when those that are going through **DARK PLACES** places **LIFT** their heads and **LOOK** at **HIM** and **SEE HIM**, even in their brothers and sisters.
- We must have a **HIGH VISION** of **JESUS** and look for him in others.
- The reason God is going to give us **TREAURES** of **DARKNESS** is so that **we will know** that "I, the LORD, **which call *thee* by thy name**, *am* the God of Israel" (Isaiah 45:3)
- **If we don't know who God is, we are in trouble**.
- He wants to do something for us so we **will know who He is**.
- He is going to put us in **DARK PLACES**; He is going to **hide** us away so that we can find the **TREASURES** and **KNOW** that **HE** is **GOD**.
- There is no other way for you to find the treasure, for we can not do it ourselves.

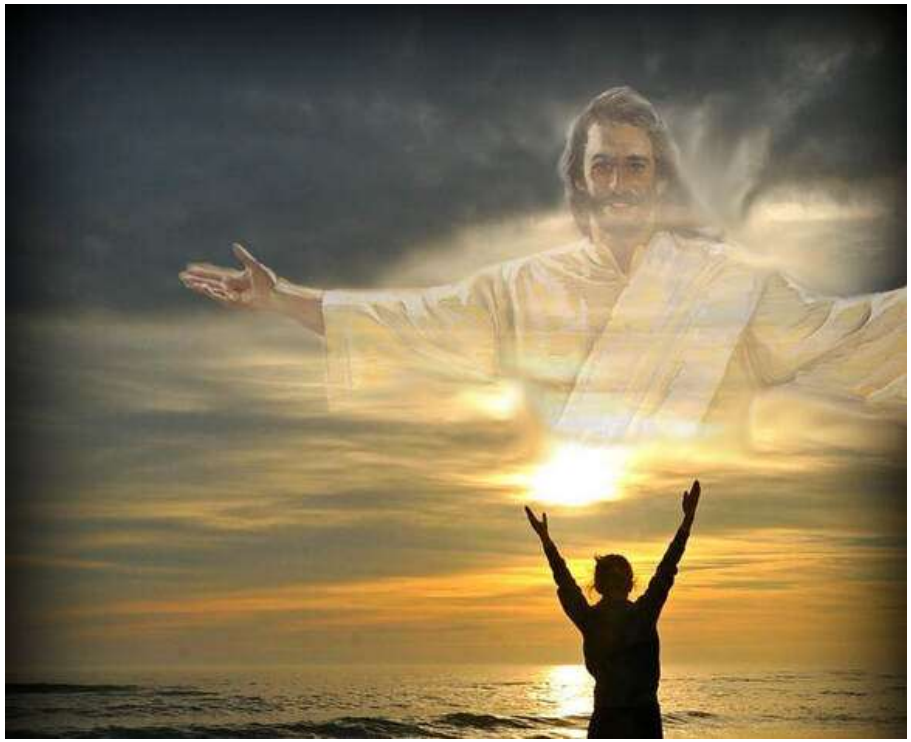


- For **Jacob** my servant's sake, and **Israel** mine elect, **I have even called thee by thy name**: I have **surnamed** thee, though thou hast not known me.
- I *am* the LORD, and *there is* none else, ***there is* no God beside me**: I **girded** thee, **though thou hast not known me**:
- That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, **that *there is* none beside me. I *am* the LORD, and *there is* none else**. Isaiah 45:4-6
- To those who have experienced the Lord, **there is no other power** in the world.
- The devil is **defeated**. He is only alive to those who do not know the Lord.

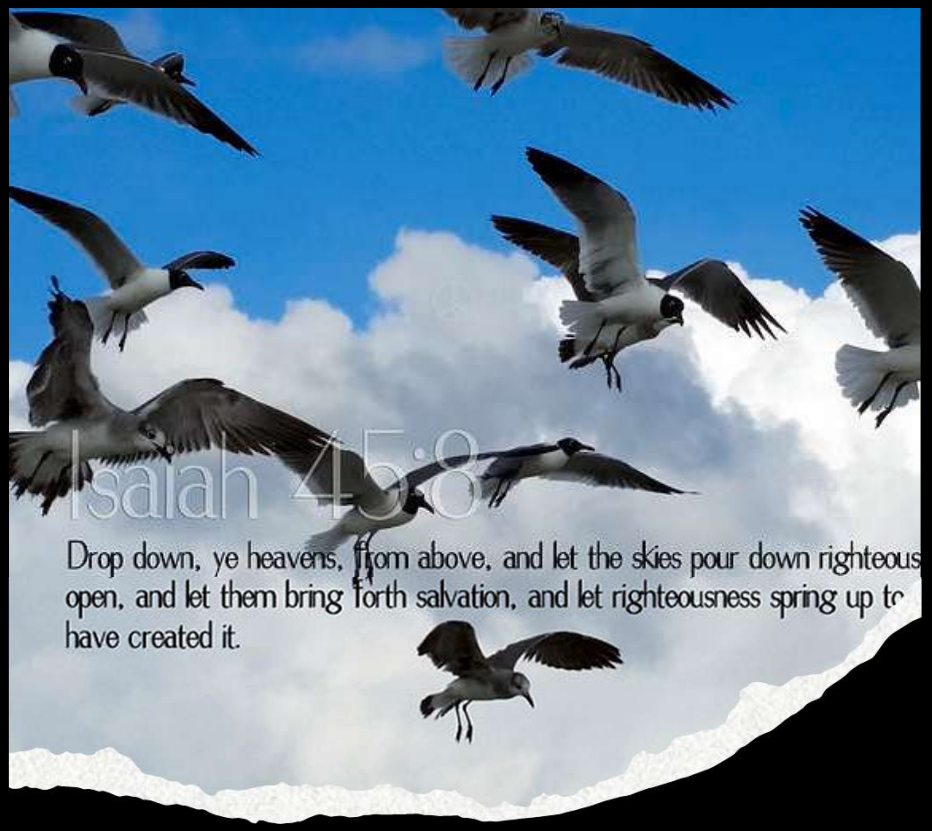


- He said, "**There is no God beside me.**"
- There is **no other force or power**.
- There is **NOTHING** that can touch you because **HE IS GOD**!
- I form the **light**, and create **DARKNESS**: I make **peace**, and create **evil (bad times, misery, distress, disaster)**: **I the LORD do all these *things***. Isaiah 45:7
  - Not moral evil – which is a choice
- Some people want to give the devil the credit for creating the **DARKNESS**.
- **They want to put all their troubles on the devil.**
- But God said "I did it. When you have trouble or **DARKNESS** – I created the **DARKNESS**. I created the circumstances."

- God does not intend for us to be **defeated** in our circumstances or lost in our **DARKNESS**.
- While in our **DARKNESS**, He wants us to find the **TREASURES** of **DARKNESS**.
- In our troubles He desires us to find **VICTORY** that we cannot find in a peaceful land.
- The word “EVIL” in Isaiah 45:7 is the word “rah” in Hebrew, which means **trouble, problems,** or **suffering**.
- It doesn’t mean sin.
- **God does not create sin**.



- Sin is created when you are **tempted out of the lust** of your own **heart**.
- Sin does not come from God, **but problems do**.
- Problems come so that we will find the **TREASURES** of **DARKNESS**.
- Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and **let righteousness spring up together**; I the LORD have created it. Isaiah 45:8
- When there is **a people** that will be so **one with Jesus** that they will know that He is the creator of **EVERYTHING**, this people will have a **VICTORY** that every **POWER** of **DARKNESS** will flee at the very presence of them.

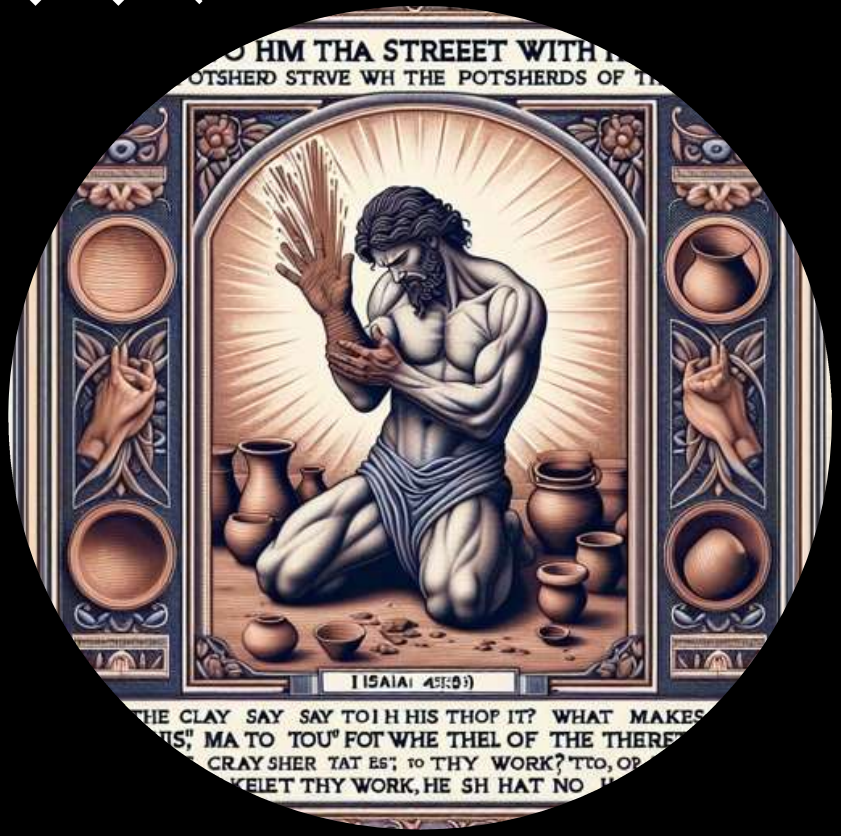




- Babylon, the place of DARKNESS would be OVERTHROWN.
- God sent an ARMY to deliver His people!
- The **King of Babylon** heard them coming.
- Behold, a people shall come from the north, and a great nation, and many kings shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth.
- They **shall hold the bow** and **the lance**: they *are* cruel and will not shew mercy: their voice shall roar like the sea, and they shall ride upon horses, *every one* put in array, like a man to the battle, against thee, O daughter of Babylon.
- **The king of Babylon hath heard the report of them, and his hands waxed feeble: anguish took hold of him**, *and* **pangs as of a woman in travail**. Jeremiah 50:41-43
- The King's loins waxed weak and his knees began to knock.
- The King of Babylon **LOST his STRENGTH** when he heard this GREAT ARMY coming!

- If we can only realize that as we **WALK** in the **SPIRIT**, **we scare the devil to death.**
- Have you ever noticed what happens when a man or woman of God is **filled with the Spirit** and is **walking in the Spirit** and they come into a place where there is evil?
- There may be people cursing, and the man or woman of God doesn't have to say anything.
- He/she doesn't have to do anything. They don't need to start preaching.
- There will be a SPIRITUAL animosity coming from the evil powers. Why?
- The evil powers are frightened by the **ANOINTING of GOD** in the **PEOPLE** who **KNOW HIM** as the **CREATOR**.





Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! *Let* the potsherd *strive* with the potsherds of the earth. **Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou?** or thy work, He hath no hands?

- Woe unto him that saith unto *his* father, What begettest thou? or to the woman, What hast thou brought forth?
- **Thus saith the LORD**, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me.? Isaiah 45:9-11
- This is not a scripture to use to command the Lord to do things for us.
- In fact, it is the exact opposite.
- “concerning the work of my hands command ye me”? In the original language is a question.

- This means, “and would you question me about the future? Would you dictate to me about my work?
- Sometimes we get too big for our britches, and we start commanding this and commanding that, and when it doesn’t work, we say, “You just didn’t have enough faith to receive it”
- **I have made the earth, and created man upon it**: I, *even* **my hands**, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded.
- I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways: **he shall build my city**, and **he shall let go my captives, not for price nor reward**, saith the LORD of hosts. Isaiah 45:12-13



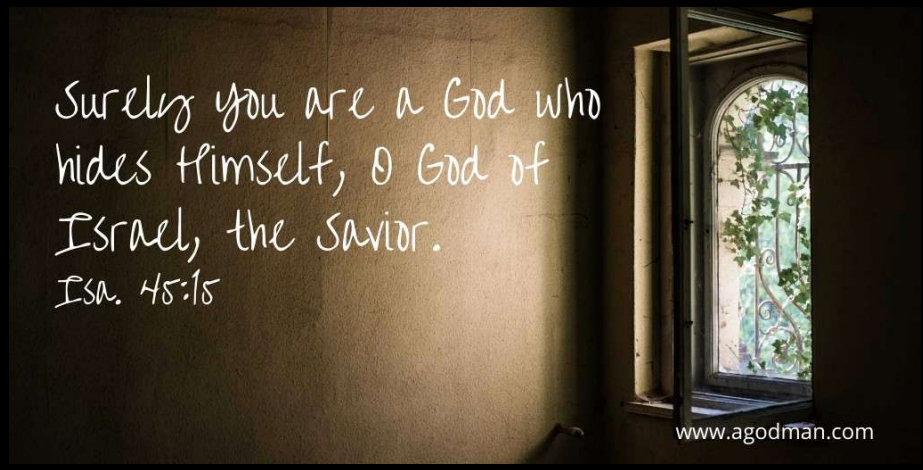
In the DARKNESS



- Who is God talking about?
- **Servants** expect pay for their work, but the **son** doesn't work for pay, because **he is working for his own property**.
- **The Kingdom that belongs to the Father also belongs to the son.**
- The **son** works because he loves the **Kingdom** and the **Father**.
- God is saying that this **son** that **he is raising up** is going to **set the captives free**, and he is not going to do it for a **price** or a **reward**.

- Thus saith the LORD, The labour of Egypt, and merchandise of Ethiopia and of the Sabeans, men of stature, shall come over unto thee, and they shall be thine: they shall come after thee; in chains they shall come over, and they shall fall down unto thee, they shall make supplication unto thee, *saying*, **Surely God *is* in thee**; and ***there is* none else, *there is* no God**.
- Verily thou *art* a God that **HIDEST** thyself, O God of Israel, the Saviour.
- They shall be **ashamed**, and also **confounded**, all of them: they shall go to **confusion** together *that are* **makers of idols**.
- *But* **Israel shall be saved in the LORD** with an **everlasting salvation**: ye shall **not be ashamed nor confounded** world without end.
- For thus saith the LORD **that created the heavens**; God himself that **formed the earth** and **made it**; he **hath established it**, he **created it** not in vain, he **formed it** to be inhabited: **I *am* the LORD; and *there is* none else**.
- I have not spoken in **SECRET**, in a **DARK PLACE** of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right. Isaiah 45:14-19

- In the midst of all that God is saying concerning himself to His people and **unveiling** and **revealing Himself** and **His greatness** to them, the prophet says in Isaiah 45:15, "**You're a God that hides Himself.**"
- Moses wanted to see God one time, but God told him he could not look upon His face. He would not have been able to stand looking upon the face of God.
- God told Moses that he could see his hinder parts, in other words, the **ACTS** that follow the **PRESENCE** of God.
  - And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by:
  - And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen. Exodus 33:22-23



- As the presence of God came through, He h**id Moses in the cleft of the rock** and let Moses see the effects of the passing presence of the Lord.
- **No man can look upon the face of God and live,** but we can see the aftereffects of His presence.
- We can **see souls** that He has transformed, born again, and brought forth in newness of life.
- We can **see the glory** of God shining upon the faces of those He has visited.
- He lets us see Himself **in one another.**
- Still, **art Thou a God that hideth Thyself?**



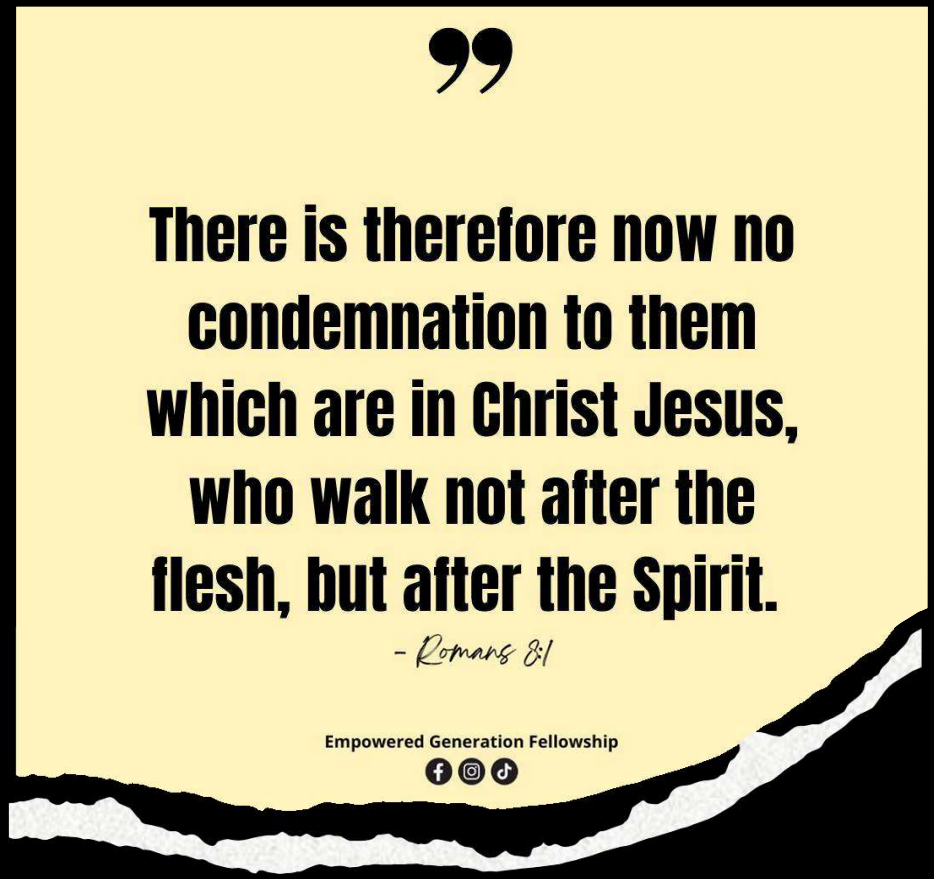
- What does God hide from?
- God hides from the **carnal mind**, for **it cannot see** God.
- But as it is written, **Eye** hath not seen, nor **ear** heard, neither have entered into the **heart** of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.
- But God hath **revealed *them*** unto us **by his Spirit**: for **the Spirit searcheth all things**, yea, **the deep things of God**.
- For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the **spirit** of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the **Spirit of God**.
- Now we have received, **not the spirit of the world**, but the **spirit which is of God**; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 1 Corinthians 2:9-12





- These are those that are of a **SPIRITUAL Mind**.
- We have received the Spirit of God for the purpose of **UNVEILING** to us the things that **God has prepared for His own**.
- The **carnal mind does not understand** these things.
- Which things also we **speak**, not in the words which man's wisdom **teacheth**, **but which the Holy Ghost teacheth** comparing **spiritual** things with **spiritual**.
- But **the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God**: for they are **foolishness** unto him: **neither can he know *them***, because they are **spiritually discerned**.
- But he that is **spiritual judgeth all things**, yet he himself is judged of no man. 1 Corinthians 2:13-15

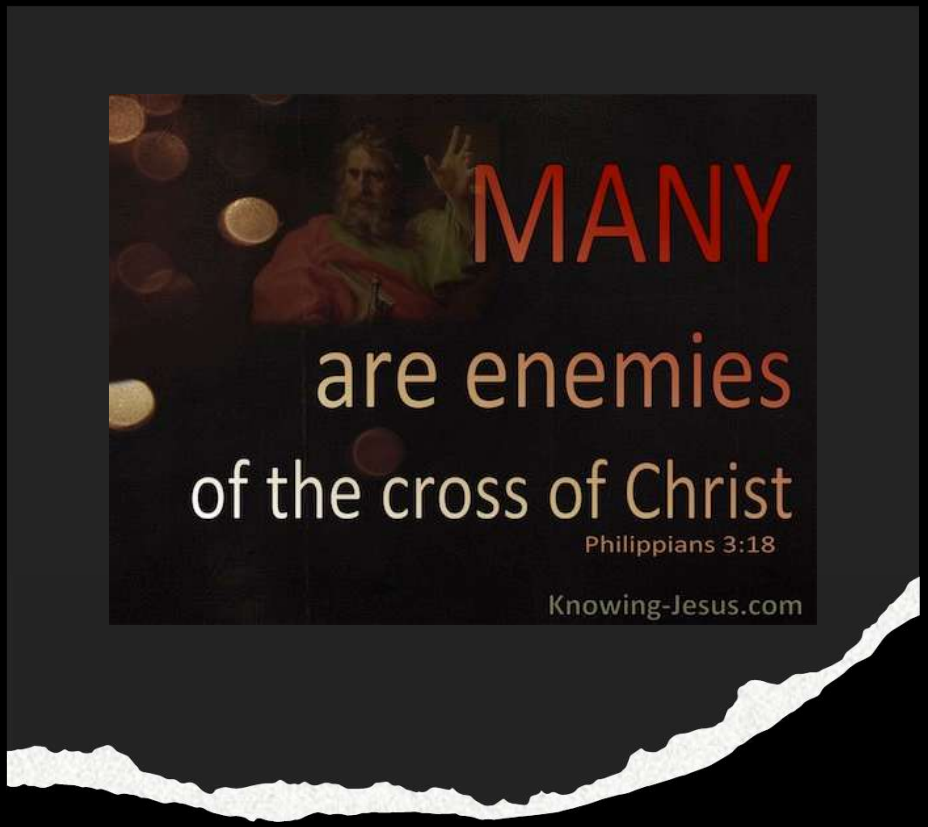
- We must come to the place where criticism for one another is gone, and **we can recognize** when our brother or sister is **walking in the Spirit.**
- We cannot judge a person when he/she is following the Spirit of God.
  - ***There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit**. Romans 8:1
- **If I am walking in the Spirit** and I do something based upon what God is showing me, **I cannot be condemned**.
- I may be **tested** or **examined**, but if I am **walking in the Spirit** there is **no condemnation**.



- Some people may say, “Do you know I saw Brother or Sister so-and-so going here.”
- If I **KNOW** that my Brother or Sister **walks in the Spirit**, then my answer should be, “I don’t know why they are there, but I know the **Spirit led** him/her. I know they are going there because God told them to go.”
- I have to give that to my Brother or Sister **until it’s proven otherwise.**



- God **HIDES** Himself from the natural or carnal man.
- The natural man **cannot absorb** the nature of God as it takes a **revelation** by the **Spirit** of God.
- Even reading the Bible will not help me if I only try to interpret it by **logic** and the **analytical** part of my brain.
- **An unveiling by the Spirit is required to make the Word real to us.**
  - **SEPARATION BRINGS REVELATION**
- Paul refers to some **in the midst of the Philippian church** as the **enemies** of the cross of Christ.
  - (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that* ***they are*** **the enemies of the cross of Christ:**
- Then in the next verse he says, "**Whose end *is* destruction**, whose God *is their* belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame, **who mind earthly things**.) Philippians 3:18-19
- **Carnal men mind earthly things**.
- Their **attention** is given only to the **things of the earth**, and they have **no sensitivity** to the **spiritual things of God**.



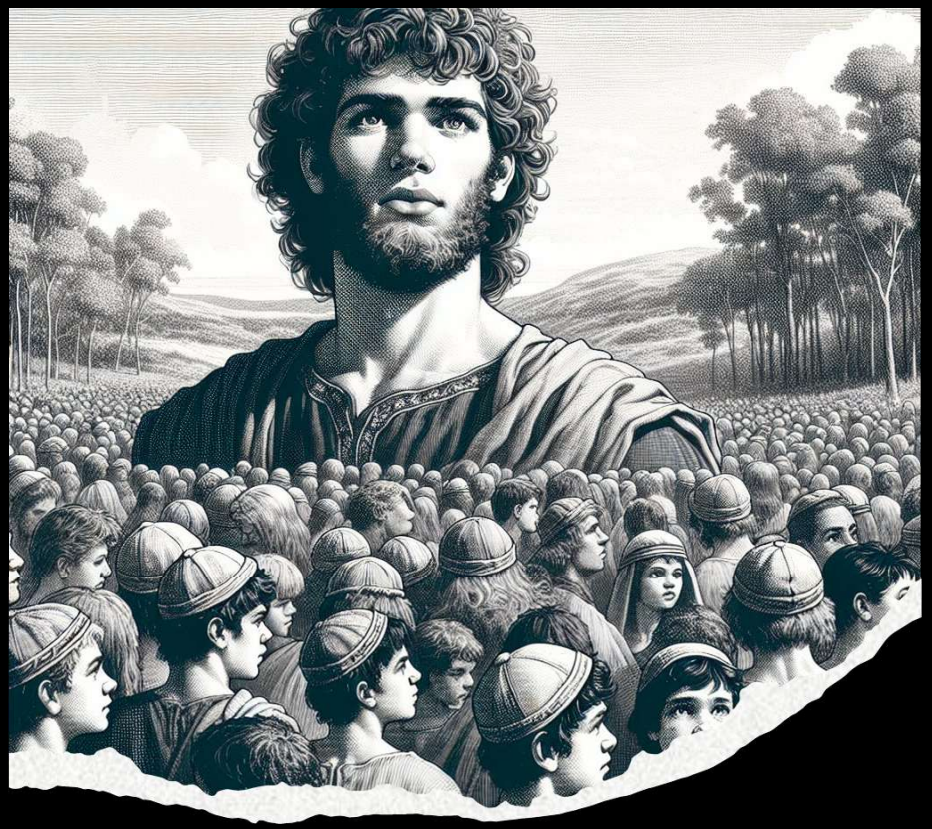
- We have an example in **Jacob**.
- Jacob was the **younger brother**.
- The inheritance belonged to the **firstborn**.
- Jacob and Esau were **twins**.
- By custom the **firstborn** gets the **inheritance**.
- But Esau had **little or no concern for spiritual things**. His belly was his god. His **hunger** motivated hm. His **natural desires** drove him, and he **sold his birthright for a mess of pottage**.
- The churches in America are filled with people who have **little concern for spiritual things.**



- Many in the church are tied to their **traditions**.
- They are **not motivated** by a **hunger** for **God**.
- Esau had **no desire for spiritual things**.
- When the choice came between his **inheritance** and a mess of **pottage**, he chose to feed his belly!
- Therefore, **god would not reveal himself to Esau**.
- God would not let Esau see the **TREASURES** of **DARKNESS**.
- Esau never received a **revelation** of how great the potential of his inheritance was.
- **If he had known what he was selling, he never would have sold it.**
- If people today knew that for a few years of the pleasures of sin, they are selling out eternity with God and the joy that last forever, they would never do it.



- God **hides himself** from those **who are not walking in the Spirit**.
- Why?
- Because their **mind is full of earthly things** and the carnal mind **cannot receive** the things of the Spirit of God.
- King Saul was a man who was head and shoulders taller than anyone in Israel.
    - And he had a son, **whose name *was* Saul, a choice young man**, and a goodly: and *there was* not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward *he was* higher than any of the people. 1 Samuel 9:9



- Saul was out looking for mules when Samuel first met him.
  - And the asses of Kish Saul's father were lost. And Kish said to Saul his son, Take now one of the servants with thee, and arise, go seek the asses. 1 Samuel 9:3
- Samuel told Saul that God said he was going to be the leader of Israel.
  - **Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee *to be* king over his people, over Israel.** 1 Samuel 15:1
- When it came time to anoint Saul before all Israel, **they had to search for him until they found him.**
- Saul had **hidden himself** because he was so shy and humble at the time.



- Then the people began to give Saul **honor and** authority.
- One of the worst things you can do to someone **who is not touched by the Spirit of God** is to give them **authority**, especially in the church.
- Saul was **helped by God while he was little**, but **then he became strong,** and **God HID Himself from him**.
- Saul could not see the glory of God's real kingdom. **He tried to build everything for himself.**
- Saul drafted into his **army** anybody in Israel **that looked good**.
- People worked in his **kitchens** and his **vineyards**.
- Saul was trying to **build up his own treasures**, and he never got a glimpse of the glory of God's kingdom.



- **Abraham** saw a city that had foundations whose builder and maker was God. (Hebrews 11:10)
- After **Abraham saw the city of God**, nothing else in this world could attract him any further. He had seen the **Glory of God**!
- God **revealed** Himself to Abraham (just like he did Ezekiel!), and **he saw the City**!
- Abraham didn't waste time trying to build his own city or kingdom.
- In Philippians, Paul makes one of the saddest statements found in the New Testament.
- After Paul says he is going to send Timothy to them, he adds that Timothy is the only one he can find that is still looking out for the kingdom of God.
  - But I trust in the Lord Jesus **to send Timotheus** shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.
  - For **I have no man likeminded**, who will naturally care for your state.
  - **For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus** Christ's. Philippians 2:19-21



- Everyone else was looking out after their own little kingdom.
- Paul had no one else to send.
- Timothy didn't care about his own profit. He just wanted to bless the people of God.
- I believe there are still some today who are not trying to build their own kingdom and are looking for the Kingdom of God.
- I believe this because God has revealed Himself to them and there are indicators they are walking in the Spirit.



- Sometimes God **HIDES** Himself during our **trial of faith**.
- Who are **kept by the power of God through faith** unto salvation **ready to be revealed in the last time.**
- Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, **if need be**, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:
  - **If need be? Why would I need to be in heaviness, through manifold temptations, even if just for a time?**
  - **Why would anyone have to go through trials, tests, and temptations/**
- Peter went on to say, "**That the trial of your faith**, being much more precious than of **gold** that perisheth, though it be **tried with fire**, might be found unto **praise** and **honour** and **glory** at the **appearing of Jesus Christ**." 1 Peter 1:5-7



- Is there a **trial of your faith** that must come to you **in order** that your faith may result in **praise**, **honor**, and **glory** at the **appearing of Jesus Christ?**
- He is a God that **HIDES** Himself at the time of our trials.
- And we cry out, "**God, where are you?"**
- I wonder how many times God has heard that cry down through the ages?
- Think about the saints of God who became shaky while sitting in a prison cell or on the backside of the desert.
- Wherever they are, as they are going through great temptations or trials, they are saying, "**Oh God, where are You? Why have you left me alone**?"
  - O God, why hast thou cast *us* off for ever? Psalms 74:1
- I doubt there is a day that goes by that he doesn't hear this.
- **Where are you God?!**
- He is there! But he is **HIDING** Himself until your trial completes it's work in you!

"My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me"

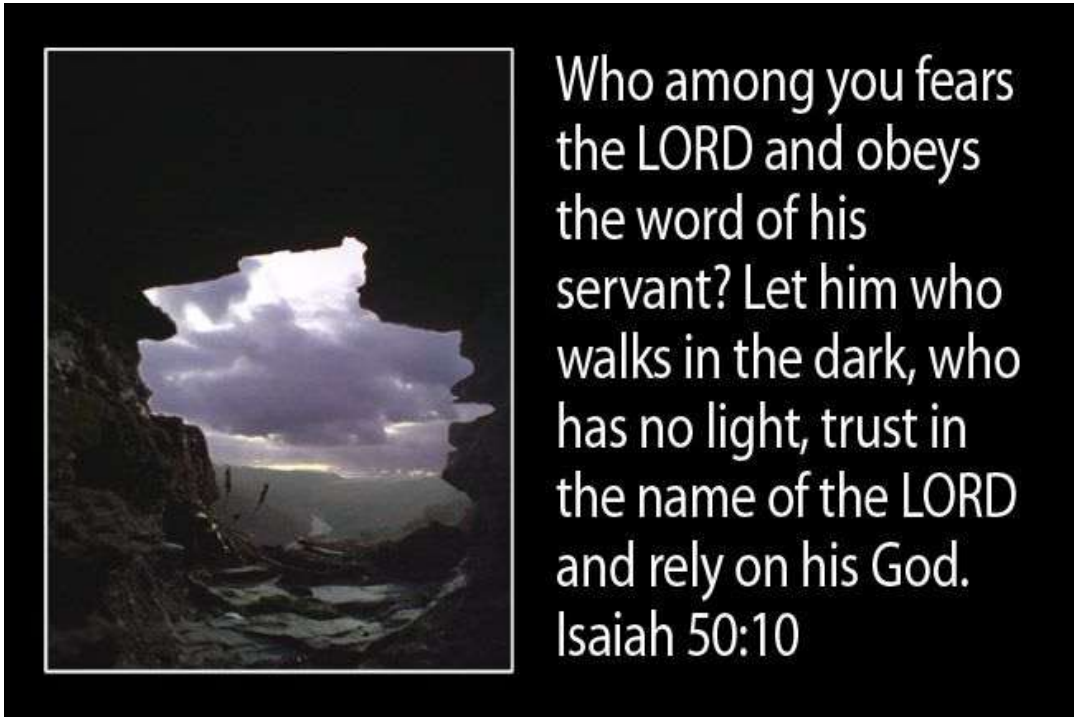
JESUS

Matthew 27:46

- For which cause we faint not; but though our **outward man** perish, yet the **inward *man*** is renewed day by day.
- For our **light affliction**, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory;
- While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are **seen** *are* **temporal**; but the things which are **not seen *are* eternal**. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
- Sometimes we might feel like asking Paul if he knows how heavy our afflictions are!
- Yet, when we read a little farther in 2 Corinthians, we find out that Paul knows plenty about afflictions, and I wouldn't trade mine for his!



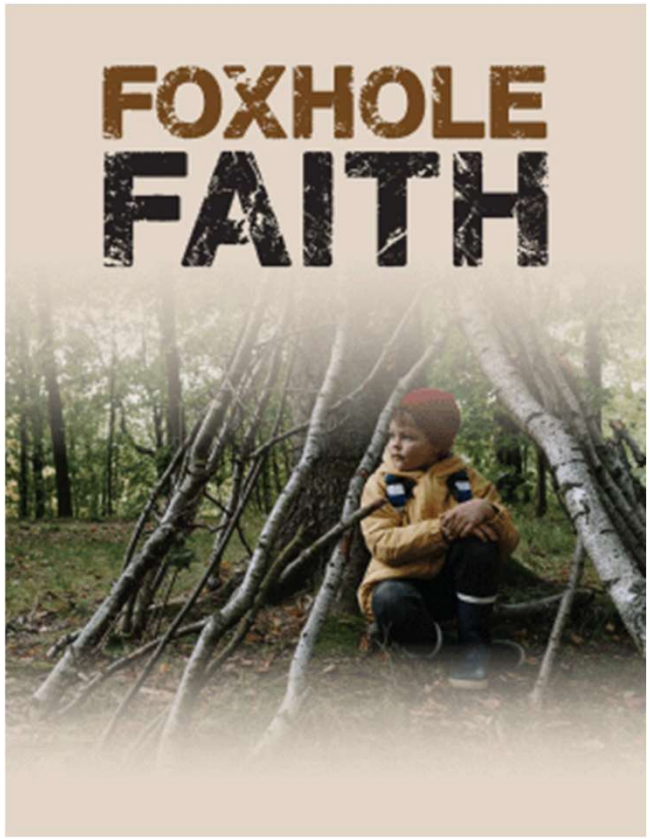
- Paul says that our **light afflictions work** for us while God is **HIDING** Himself from us.
- **In the midst of our afflictions**, when **we do not understand** where God is and why **He is not solving** our problems, He is there!
- But he is **HIDING** Himself!
- Who *is* among you that **feareth** the LORD, that **obeyeth** the voice of his servant, **that walketh *in* DARKNESS**, and hath no light? let him **trust** in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God. Isaiah 50:10
- This is one of the most beautiful scriptures for those who are having problems, helping to understanding where God is in the midst of our troubles.



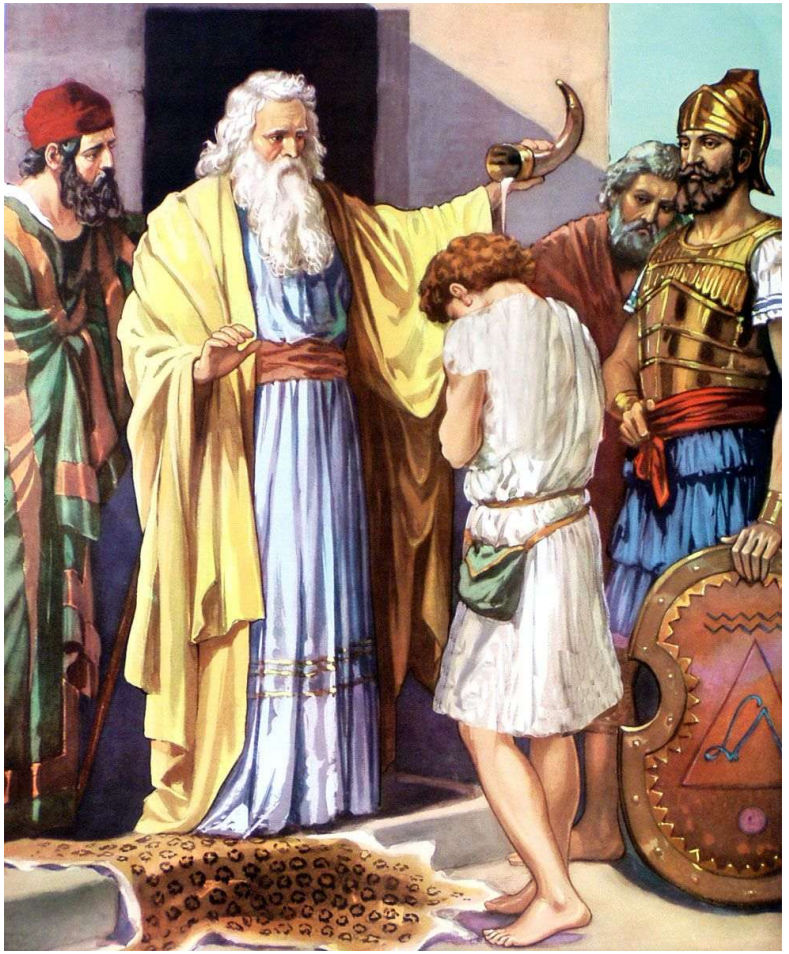
- It may seem like your world is falling apart and you are walking in **DARKNESS**.
- You may be doing the best you can, but have **no light**, and **cannot understand** why God is **HIDING** Himself from you.
- The secret is learning to **TRUST** in the Lord, putting your feet on the rock, Christ Jesus.
- Don't let anything move you into the realm of **doubt** or **fear** or onto that sandy spot of **frustration**.
- **Don't let anything move you**; stay with God and having done all STAND!
  - Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Ephesians 6:13
- If you don't know **how** to walk or **where** to go, then **stand still**! Don't let **ANYTHING** or **ANYONE** move you!



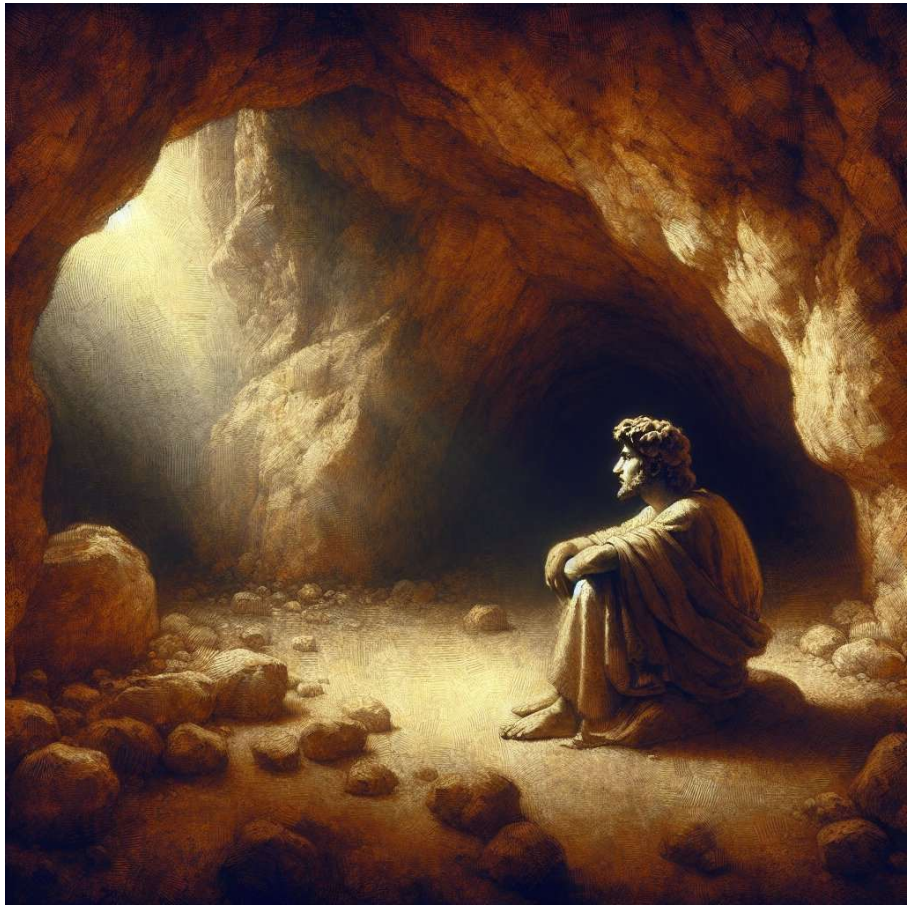
- There are many times that I have had to dig a foxhole and crawl in.
- Sometimes I find myself **under bombardment** by the **powers of DARKNESS**, by **doubts**, **frustration**, and **problems**, and I can't do anything about them.
- I just spiritually get in my foxhole and **wait**. I can't do anything about what's going on.
- There are times that we come to a place where we do everything we can, we obey the voice of God and trust in the Lord, yet there is **DARKNESS** all around.
- In the midst of my trials and tribulations, it seems as if God has a tendency to **HIDE** himself.
- We must keep our trust in God and walk in faith. He will **REVEAL** Himself and soon the light will come shining through.
- He doesn't **HIDE** Himself forever.



- Think about **David** in the cave.
- As a child, **David** had been **anointed** by God through **Samuel** the prophet.
- **Samuel** was a man of God with many years of experience. He was the prophet of the kingdom of Israel.
- **Samuel** was recognized by all of Israel as a man whose words God would not let fall to the ground.
- The prophesies of **Samuel** always came to pass.
- **David**, as a young shepherd boy, came before Samuel, the man of God.



- **Samuel** poured a horn of oil on **David** and said, “Thou art to be the king of Israel.”
  - Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and **the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward**. 1 Samuel 16:13
- After a few years, where do we find David? **He was in a cave HIDING**.
- David was **running** from Saul, **running for his life**!
- I think he might have been saying, “Where are you, Lord? You spoke those words that I was to be victorious! I’m the man who killed Goliath. Israel sang songs about me! Now, look at me hiding in this cave!”



- There was a time when **David** went over to the Philistine camp to keep **Saul** from finding him.
  - And the servants of Achish said unto him, *Is* not this David the king of the land? did they not sing one to another of him in dances, saying, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands? 1 Samuel 21:11
- The king of the Philistines got to thinking that **David could be dangerous**.
- Some of the people began to tell the king that he had better watch David.
- David heard about it and he knew that if they were afraid of him, they would kill him.
- The Philistines were superstitious about insane people. They would never kill a crazy man. They thought it was bad luck.



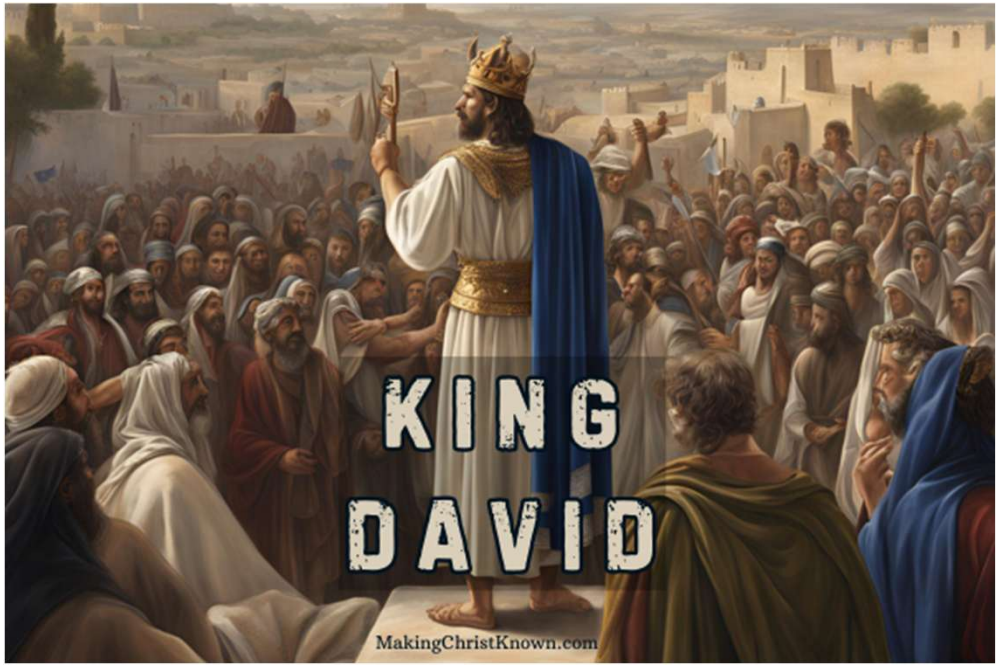
- So David went around **acting like a crazy man**, letting his spit run down over his beard and scratching the walls.
  - And [David] **changed his behaviour** before them, and feigned himself mad in their hands, and scrabbled on the doors of the gate, and **let his spittle fall down upon his beard**. 1 Samuel 21:13
- The Philistines said, "**Is this David that killed Goliath?** We don't need to be afraid of him: don't bother him."
- What a **humbling** process that was!
- Here is the man who had the horn of oil poured on him. **He was anointed to be the king over Israel,** God's nation, and here is acting like a **crazy** man!
- Even the enemy though he was **nutty**.



- You don’t know just how nutty the enemy thinks you are!
- He will challenge you.
- You may even fear for your life as **David** did.
- Yet, **David** went from acting like a crazy man **to taking over some of the enemy’s territory and eventually becoming king over Isarel, as the prophecy over him stated.**
- Look for the **TREASURES** of **DARKNESS** that God will **reveal** during your **trials**.
- Then you will **RISE** in **spiritual authority** and put the **DARKNESS** and the powers of **DARKNESS** under your feet!

There will be times of DARKNESS and CRAZINESS on your way to your DESTINY.

The journey is a shaping and a forming to mold you into who you were called to be!



God has **TREASURES** of **DARKNESS**, hidden riches of **SECRET PLACES** for those who look unto Him and for those who **STAND** on His **WORD**!

- Thus saith the LORD **to his anointed**...**I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight**: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron:
- And **I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD**, which call *thee* by thy name, *am* the God of Israel. Isaiah 45:1-3

The TREASURES of DARKNESS, and HIDDEN RICHES of SECRET PLACES



Take heed my child, have I not called you out of darkness and into my marvelous light. For I am with you through the dark shadow of valley of death. Look to me, not with your natural eye, but with your spiritual eye. For when you seek me with your whole heart you will find me. Seek me while I may be found. Call upon me in your distress and I will answer you. I am with you in the time of trouble, for I will never leave you nor forsake you. Open your spiritual eyes and seek me with your whole heart. Incline your ear to me and I will tell you where the hidden riches are and there you will find the treasures of the darkness. For I am molding you according to my plan that I had for you since the beginning of the foundation of the earth. I am calling you unto myself, for I am nigh unto those who have a broken spirit and a contrite heart. I am LIFE and I bring LIGHT to the darkness. My light is IN YOU. Arise and shine. Your light will shine as you speak and sing my Word, for I will turn your mourning into dancing. As you sing and speak my Word and dance before me, your path will be lit and your burden will be light, for my Word is a light unto your path and a lamp unto your feet. See my child, I am teaching you the way of Victory, the way to overcome. I am teaching you to trust me, to know that I have gone before you and I made the crooked ways straight. As you walk the straight path that I have prepared, I am with you and I will anoint you and you shall be a light to the nations in this time of captivity. The Kingdom of Heaven is WITHIN you and the Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field. Once you BELIEVE and KNOW that I am WITHIN you, you will find JOY and HOPE and VICTORY. These, my child are just some of the hidden riches of the secret place! Do not weep for the things of this world, but focus on the joy that has been set before you. Speak my Word, for my Word is life and my Life is the Light in the darkness.

God will give you a SONG in BABYLON!

By the rivers of Babylon
There we sat down
Yeah, yeah, we wept
When we remembered Zion
By the rivers of Babylon
There we sat down
Yeah, yeah, we wept
When we remembered Zion

Then the wicked carried us away in captivity
Required from us a song
Now how shall we sing the Lord song in a strange land?
Then the wicked carried us away in captivity
Requiring of us a song
Now how shall we sing the Lord song in a strange land?
Let the words of our mouth
And the meditation of our heart
Be acceptable in thy sight, here tonight



BY THE RIVER OF BABYLON // GOSPEL SONG