

## In Times of Trouble

December 4, 2016

**Deuteronomy 8:2-5 NASB**

2 "**YOU SHALL REMEMBER ALL THE WAY WHICH THE LORD YOUR GOD HAS LED YOU IN THE WILDERNESS THESE FORTY YEARS, THAT HE MIGHT HUMBLE YOU, TESTING YOU, TO KNOW WHAT WAS IN YOUR HEART, WHETHER YOU WOULD KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS OR NOT.**

3 "He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, **THAT HE MIGHT MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT MAN DOES NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT MAN LIVES BY EVERYTHING THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF THE LORD.**

4 "Your clothing did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years.

5 "**THUS YOU ARE TO KNOW IN YOUR HEART THAT THE LORD YOUR GOD WAS DISCIPLINING YOU** just as a man disciplines his son.

### **SEASONS OF WILDERNESS ARE...**

- times of trials, temptations, loneliness, confusion, stress, suffering and pain.
- God's chastening, discipline and training.
- to humble us, revealing our weaknesses, faults, failures, sins and need.
- to test our obedience, which can only be proven in trial and suffering.
- lessons we are to always remember and never forget.

## **SEEK GOD - NOT A QUICK FIX TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES**

***Seeking God first in times of trouble brings unwavering faith and supernatural deliverance when going through the trial.***

**Psalm 27:1-8 NASB**

1 A Psalm of David. The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life; Whom shall I dread?

2 When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh, My adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell.

3 **THOUGH A HOST ENCAMP AGAINST ME, MY HEART WILL NOT FEAR; THOUGH WAR ARISE AGAINST ME, IN SPITE OF THIS I SHALL BE CONFIDENT.**

4 **ONE THING I HAVE ASKED FROM THE LORD, THAT I SHALL SEEK: THAT I MAY DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE, TO BEHOLD THE BEAUTY OF THE LORD AND TO MEDITATE IN HIS TEMPLE.**

5 **FOR IN THE DAY OF TROUBLE HE WILL CONCEAL ME IN HIS TABERNACLE; IN THE SECRET PLACE OF HIS TENT HE WILL HIDE ME; HE WILL LIFT ME UP ON A ROCK.**

6 AND NOW **MY HEAD WILL BE LIFTED UP ABOVE MY ENEMIES AROUND ME**, AND I WILL OFFER IN HIS TENT SACRIFICES WITH SHOUTS OF JOY; I WILL SING, YES, I WILL SING PRAISES TO THE LORD.  
7 **HEAR, O LORD, WHEN I CRY WITH MY VOICE, AND BE GRACIOUS TO ME AND ANSWER ME.**  
8 WHEN YOU SAID, "**SEEK MY FACE,**" MY HEART SAID TO YOU, "YOUR FACE, O LORD, I SHALL SEEK."

Psalm 23:5 NASB

5 YOU PREPARE A TABLE BEFORE ME **IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES**; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows.

*Seeking a quick fix instead of seeking God first can lead you out of God's will.*

Matthew 26:36-44 NASB

36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to His disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."  
37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed.  
38 Then He said to them, "**MY SOUL IS DEEPLY GRIEVED, TO THE POINT OF DEATH**; remain here and keep watch with Me."  
39 And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "**MY FATHER, IF IT IS POSSIBLE, LET THIS CUP PASS FROM ME; YET NOT AS I WILL, BUT AS YOU WILL.**"  
40 And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour?  
41 "Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."  
42 He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, "**MY FATHER, IF THIS CANNOT PASS AWAY UNLESS I DRINK IT, YOUR WILL BE DONE.**"  
43 Again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.  
44 And He left them again, and went away and prayed a third time, **SAYING THE SAME THING ONCE MORE.**

Daniel 3:25-27 NASB

25 He said, "Look! **I SEE FOUR MEN LOOSED AND WALKING ABOUT IN THE MIDST OF THE FIRE WITHOUT HARM, AND THE APPEARANCE OF THE FOURTH IS LIKE A SON OF THE GODS!**"  
26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the furnace of blazing fire; he responded and said, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, come out, you servants of the Most High God, and come here!"  
Then Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego came out of the midst of the fire.  
27 The satraps, the prefects, the governors and the king's high officials gathered around and saw in regard to these men that **THE FIRE HAD NO EFFECT ON THE BODIES OF THESE MEN NOR WAS THE HAIR OF THEIR HEAD SINGED, NOR WERE THEIR TROUSERS DAMAGED, NOR HAD THE SMELL OF FIRE EVEN COME UPON THEM.**

*Seeking a quick fix instead of seeking God first can forfeit the greater good and the greater miracle.*

**Matthew 26:47-54 NASB**

47 While He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, came up accompanied by a large crowd with swords and clubs, who came from the chief priests and elders of the people.

48 Now he who was betraying Him gave them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the one; seize Him."

49 Immediately Judas went to Jesus and said, "Hail, Rabbi!" and kissed Him.

50 And Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you have come for." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him.

51 And behold, one of those who were with Jesus reached and drew out his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear.

52 Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword.

53 **"OR DO YOU THINK THAT I CANNOT APPEAL TO MY FATHER, AND HE WILL AT ONCE PUT AT MY DISPOSAL MORE THAN TWELVE LEGIONS OF ANGELS?**

54 **"HOW THEN WILL THE SCRIPTURES BE FULFILLED, WHICH SAY THAT IT MUST HAPPEN THIS WAY?"**

***Seeking a quick fix instead of seeking God first forfeits a deeper intimacy and union with God.***

**Psalm 23:4 NASB**

4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, **FOR YOU ARE WITH ME;** Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

**Philippians 3:10 NASB**

10 **THAT I MAY KNOW HIM AND THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS, BEING CONFORMED TO HIS DEATH.**

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10 NASB**

7 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me--to keep me from exalting myself!

8 **CONCERNING THIS I IMploRED THE LORD THREE TIMES THAT IT MIGHT LEAVE ME.**

9 And He has said to me, "**MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU, FOR POWER IS PERFECTED IN WEAKNESS.**" **MOST GLADLY, THEREFORE, I WILL RATHER BOAST ABOUT MY WEAKNESSES, SO THAT THE POWER OF CHRIST MAY DWELL IN ME.**

10 **THEREFORE I AM WELL CONTENT WITH WEAKNESSES, WITH INSULTS, WITH DISTRESSES, WITH PERSECUTIONS, WITH DIFFICULTIES, FOR CHRIST'S SAKE; FOR WHEN I AM WEAK, THEN I AM STRONG.**

***Seeking a quick fix instead of seeking God first forces impetuous actions causing (sometimes) life-long consequences.***

**Psalm 37:1-9 NASB**

1 A Psalm of David. Do not fret because of evildoers, Be not envious toward wrongdoers.

2 For they will wither quickly like the grass And fade like the green herb.

3 **TRUST IN THE LORD AND DO GOOD; DWELL IN THE LAND AND CULTIVATE FAITHFULNESS.**

4 **DELIGHT YOURSELF IN THE LORD; AND HE WILL GIVE YOU THE DESIRES OF YOUR HEART.**

5 **COMMIT YOUR WAY TO THE LORD, TRUST ALSO IN HIM, AND HE WILL DO IT.**

6 **HE WILL BRING FORTH YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS AS THE LIGHT AND YOUR JUDGMENT AS THE NOONDAY.**

7 **REST IN THE LORD AND WAIT PATIENTLY FOR HIM; DO NOT FRET** because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who carries out wicked schemes.

8 **CEASE FROM ANGER AND FORSAKE WRATH; DO NOT FRET; IT LEADS ONLY TO EVILDOING.**

9 For evildoers will be cut off, **BUT THOSE WHO WAIT FOR THE LORD,** they will inherit the land.

#### **Genesis 16:10-12 NASB**

10 Moreover, the angel of the LORD said to her, "I will greatly multiply your descendants so that they will be too many to count."

11 The angel of the LORD said to her further, "Behold, you are with child, And you will bear a son; **AND YOU SHALL CALL HIS NAME ISHMAEL,** Because the LORD has given heed to your affliction.

12 **"HE WILL BE A WILD DONKEY OF A MAN, HIS HAND WILL BE AGAINST EVERYONE, AND EVERYONE'S HAND WILL BE AGAINST HIM; AND HE WILL LIVE TO THE EAST OF ALL HIS BROTHERS."**

Muslims believe:

- Ishmael was the first-born of Abraham, the rightful heir, not Isaac.
- Muhammad was a descendant of Ishmael, the founder and "holy prophet" of Islam.
- The Quran was revealed to Muhammad.

***Seeking a quick fix instead of seeking God first is self-serving and leads to abandoned faith.***

#### **Mark 4:16-17 KJV**

16 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, **WHEN AFFLICTION OR PERSECUTION ARISETH FOR THE WORD'S SAKE, IMMEDIATELY THEY ARE OFFENDED.**

#### **2 Timothy 1:15-17 KJV**

15 This thou knowest, **THAT ALL THEY WHICH ARE IN ASIA BE TURNED AWAY FROM ME;** of whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.

16 The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and **WAS NOT ASHAMED OF MY CHAIN:**

17 But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found [me].