

The Tsunami Blessing, Inside and Out, Part 62

The failure to thrive makes you believe you have had to fight all of your life. However, when Jesus Christ, the Conqueror enters the battle, it becomes the Great Reversal; the last will be first and the first will be last. He repositions you as more than a conqueror by the force of favor. With the winning position, you can now boldly say, I am the head, not the tail. I am above only, not beneath ever. I will come behind in no good thing because of the flood of favor. That the Tsunami Blessing!

If at any time, you think the Lord has abandoned you, Holy Spirit is ever-present to comfort you. If at any time you think all the odds are against you, Holy Spirit is ready to unleash the miraculous power, everlasting love, and wisdom of God that is already resident.

The anointing makes you be still and know He alone is God. On the other hand, it makes the enemy slip, slide, and shake, so he loses all the ground he thinks he owns. Really, it is not satan's world. Your enemy becomes the Lord's enemy and your adversary His adversary. You are the eyewitness of His glory when God is your hiding place.

Now give Jesus Christ the right of way. Allow Him to command the battle for you that may be in you and/or all around you. You won't come home empty-handed. All the spoils of war are yours! That's fighting from the place of victory because God always causes you to triumph. His vowed promises to you ended all strife that may ever be against you.

God's Vowed Promises Ended All Strife

Hebrews 6:9-20 Living Bible (TLB)

⁹Dear friends, even though I am talking like this I really don't believe that what I am saying applies to you. I am confident you are producing the good fruit that comes along with your salvation. ¹⁰For God is not unfair. How can he forget your hard work for him, or forget the way you used to show your love for him—and still do—by helping his children? ¹¹And we are anxious that you keep right on loving others as long as life lasts, so that you will get your full reward.

¹²Then, knowing what lies ahead for you, you won't become bored with being a Christian nor become spiritually dull and indifferent, but you will be

anxious to follow the example of those who receive all that God has promised them because of their strong faith and patience.

¹³For instance, there was God's promise to Abraham: God took an oath in his own name, since there was no one greater to swear by, ¹⁴that he would bless Abraham again and again, and give him a son and make him the father of a great nation of people. ¹⁵Then Abraham waited patiently until finally God gave him a son, Isaac, just as he had promised.

¹⁶When a man takes an oath, he is calling upon someone greater than himself to force him to do what he has promised or to punish him if he later refuses to do it; the oath ends all argument about it. ¹⁷God also bound himself with an oath, so that those he promised to help would be perfectly sure and never need to wonder whether he might change his plans.

¹⁸He has given us both his promise and his oath, two things we can completely count on, for it is impossible for God to tell a lie. Now all those who flee to him to save them can take new courage when they hear such assurances from God; now they can know without doubt that he will give them the salvation he has promised them.

¹⁹This certain hope of being saved is a strong and trustworthy anchor for our souls, connecting us with God himself behind the sacred curtains of heaven, ²⁰where Christ has gone ahead to plead for us from his position as our High Priest,^[a] with the honor and rank of Melchizedek.

Footnotes:

- a. [Hebrews 6:20](#) from his position as our High Priest, literally, "having become our High Priest."

Hebrews 7 Living Bible (TLB)

¹This Melchizedek was king of the city of Salem and also a priest of the Most High God. When Abraham was returning home after winning a great battle against many kings, Melchizedek met him and blessed him; ²then Abraham took a tenth of all he had won in the battle and gave it to Melchizedek.

Melchizedek's name means "Justice," so he is the King of Justice; and he is also the King of Peace because of the name of his city, Salem, which means

“Peace.” ³Melchizedek had no father or mother^[a] and there is no record of any of his ancestors. He was never born and he never died but his life is like that of the Son of God—a priest forever.

⁴See then how great this Melchizedek is:

(a) Even Abraham, the first and most honored of all God’s chosen people, gave Melchizedek a tenth of the spoils he took from the kings he had been fighting. ⁵One could understand why Abraham would do this if Melchizedek had been a Jewish priest, for later on God’s people were required by law to give gifts to help their priests because the priests were their relatives. ⁶But Melchizedek was not a relative, and yet Abraham paid him.

(b) Melchizedek placed a blessing upon mighty Abraham, ⁷and as everyone knows, a person who has the power to bless is always greater than the person he blesses.

⁸(c) The Jewish priests, though mortal, received tithes; but we are told that Melchizedek lives on.

⁹(d) One might even say that Levi himself (the ancestor of all Jewish priests, of all who receive tithes), paid tithes to Melchizedek through Abraham. ¹⁰For although Levi wasn’t born yet, the seed from which he came was in Abraham when Abraham paid the tithes to Melchizedek.

¹¹(e) If the Jewish priests and their laws had been able to save us, why then did God need to send Christ as a priest with the rank of Melchizedek, instead of sending someone with the rank of Aaron—the same rank all other priests had?

¹²⁻¹⁴And when God sends a new kind of priest, his law must be changed to permit it. As we all know, Christ did not belong to the priest-tribe of Levi, but came from the tribe of Judah, which had not been chosen for priesthood; Moses had never given them that work.

¹⁵So we can plainly see that God’s method changed, for Christ, the new High Priest who came with the rank of Melchizedek, ¹⁶did not become a priest by meeting the old requirement of belonging to the tribe of Levi, but on the basis of power flowing from a life that cannot end. ¹⁷And the psalmist points

this out when he says of Christ, "You are a priest forever with the rank of Melchizedek."

¹⁸Yes, the old system of priesthood based on family lines was canceled because it didn't work. It was weak and useless for saving people. ¹⁹It never made anyone really right with God. But now we have a far better hope, for Christ makes us acceptable to God, and now we may draw near to him.

²⁰God took an oath that Christ would always be a Priest, ²¹although he never said that of other priests. Only to Christ he said, "The Lord has sworn and will never change his mind: You are a Priest forever, with the rank of Melchizedek." ²²Because of God's oath, Christ can guarantee forever the success of this new and better arrangement.

²³Under the old arrangement there had to be many priests so that when the older ones died off, the system could still be carried on by others who took their places.

²⁴But Jesus lives forever and continues to be a Priest so that no one else is needed. ²⁵He is able to save completely all who come to God through him. Since he will live forever, he will always be there to remind God that he has paid for their sins with his blood.

²⁶He is, therefore, exactly the kind of High Priest we need; for he is holy and blameless, unstained by sin, undefiled by sinners, and to him has been given the place of honor in heaven. ²⁷He never needs the daily blood of animal sacrifices, as other priests did, to cover over first their own sins and then the sins of the people; for he finished all sacrifices, once and for all, when he sacrificed himself on the cross. ²⁸Under the old system, even the high priests were weak and sinful men who could not keep from doing wrong, but later God appointed by his oath his Son who is perfect forever.

Footnotes:

- a. [Hebrews 7:3](#) *Melchizedek had no father or mother.* No one can be sure whether this means that Melchizedek was Christ appearing to Abraham in human form or simply that there is no *record* of who Melchizedek's father and mother were, no *record* of his birth or death.

Backfired: The tomb that instigated death brought forth new life from womb instead

Genesis 3:14-16 Amplified Bible (AMP)

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,
You are cursed more than all the cattle,
And more than any animal of the field;
On your belly you shall go,
And dust you shall eat
All the days of your life.

¹⁵

“And I will put enmity (open hostility)
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed (offspring) and her [Ⓜ]Seed;
He shall [fatally] bruise your head,
And you shall [only] bruise His heel.”

¹⁶To the woman He said,

“I will greatly multiply
Your pain in childbirth;
In pain you will give birth to children;
Yet your desire *and* longing will be for your husband,
And he will rule [with authority] over you *and* be responsible for you.”

Footnotes:

- a. [Genesis 3:15](#) Many consider this verse the *protevangelium*, the first announcement of the gospel. This is the first prophecy about the Messiah (Christ), who through His death on the cross and resurrection would ultimately defeat satan, the power behind the serpent, with a death blow. See Is 9:6; Matt 1:23; Luke 1:31; Rom 16:20; Gal 4:4; Rev 12:17.

Genesis 3 King James Version (KJV)

¹Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

²And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

³But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

⁴And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

⁵For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

⁶And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

⁷And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

⁸And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

⁹And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

¹⁰And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

¹¹And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

¹²And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

¹³And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

¹⁴And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

¹⁵And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

¹⁶Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

¹⁷And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

¹⁸Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

¹⁹In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

²⁰And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.

²¹Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

²²And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever:

²³Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the Garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

²⁴So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Revelation 12:1-11 King James Version (KJV)

¹And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:

²And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.

³And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

⁴And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

⁵And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

⁶And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

⁷And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

⁸And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

⁹And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the devil, and satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

¹⁰And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

¹¹And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

2 Timothy 1:7 King James Version (KJV)

⁷For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind [wisdom].

Galatians 5:22-23 King James Version (KJV)

²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

²³Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Love Believes the Best

1 Corinthians 13 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

¹If I [can] speak in the tongues of men and [even] of angels, but have not love (that reasoning, intentional, spiritual devotion such ^[a]as is inspired by God's love for and in us), I am only a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

²And if I have prophetic powers (^[b]the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose), and understand all the secret truths *and* mysteries and possess all knowledge, and if I have [sufficient] faith so that I can remove mountains, but have not love (God's love in me) I am nothing (a useless nobody).

³Even if I dole out all that I have [to the poor in providing] food, and if I surrender my body to be burned *or* ^[c]*in order that I may glory*, but have not love (God's love in me), I gain nothing.

⁴Love endures long *and* is patient and kind; love never is envious *nor* boils over with jealousy, is not boastful *or* vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily.

⁵It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) *and* does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights *or* its own way, *for* it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy *or* fretful *or* resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong].

⁶It does not rejoice at injustice *and* unrighteousness, but rejoices when right *and* truth prevail.

⁷Love bears up under anything *and* everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening].

⁸Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end]. As for prophecy (^[d]the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose), it will be fulfilled *and* pass away; as for tongues, they will be destroyed *and* cease;

as for knowledge, it will pass away [it will lose its value and be superseded by truth].

⁹For our knowledge is fragmentary (incomplete and imperfect), and our prophecy (our teaching) is fragmentary (incomplete and imperfect).

¹⁰But when the complete *and* perfect (total) comes, the incomplete *and* imperfect will vanish away (become antiquated, void, and superseded).

¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; now that I have become a man, I am done with childish ways *and* have put them aside.

¹²For now we are looking in a mirror that gives only a dim (blurred) reflection [of reality as ^[e]in a riddle or enigma], but then [when perfection comes] we shall see in reality *and* face to face! Now I know in part (imperfectly), but then I shall know *and* understand ^[f]fully *and* clearly, even in the same manner as I have been ^[g]fully *and* clearly known *and* understood ^[h]by God].

¹³And so faith, hope, love abide [faith—conviction and belief respecting man’s relation to God and divine things; hope—joyful and confident expectation of eternal salvation; love—true affection for God and man, growing out of God’s love for and in us], these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Romans 8:26-39 King James Version (KJV)

²⁶Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

²⁷And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

²⁹For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

³⁰Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

³¹What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

³²He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

³³Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

³⁴Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

³⁷Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

³⁸For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

³⁹Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Timothy 1:7 King James Version (KJV)

⁷For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind [wisdom].

Isaiah 11:2 King James Version (KJV)

²And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

⁵ And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

¹⁰ And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

Wisdom Chooses the Best

James 3:16-18 King James Version (KJV)

¹⁶ For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

¹⁸ And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

Proverbs 8 The Voice (VOICE)

¹ Isn't Lady Wisdom calling?

Listen; don't you hear the voice of understanding crying out?

² She's taken her stand at the highest place in the city,
at the crossroads *where everyone can see her*.

³ There, and at the gates, at the entrance to the city,
right in front of the city doors she cries out:

⁴ **Lady Wisdom:** O people! I am calling *to you*;
I have a message for all humanity.

⁵ You gullible people, acquire insight.
You naive ones, cultivate a heart that truly understands.

⁶ Listen, for I am about to tell you of unparalleled excellence *and beauty*;
what I am about to say will set things right.

⁷ I will only speak the truth;
I despise evil, so it will not pass through my lips.

⁸ Everything I say promotes justice;
not one word is crooked, and nothing is distorted.

⁹ Each and every word is straight talk to perceptive people,
upright *and honest* to knowledge-seekers.

¹⁰ Accept my correction as being more valuable than your prized possession,

authentic knowledge more valuable than pure gold.

¹¹ You see, no gem is more precious than Lady Wisdom—
your most extravagant desire doesn't come close to her.

¹² **Lady Wisdom:** I make my home with prudence;
I obtain knowledge and sound judgment.

¹³ If you respect the Eternal, you will *grow to* despise evil.
I despise wretched, vile talk
and ways of pride and arrogance.

¹⁴ *Good* counsel is mine, and also true wisdom.
I am understanding, and strength belongs to me.

¹⁵ It's because of me that kings wield power
and authorities decree what is right.

¹⁶ It's because of me that leaders and their agents govern
and all judge according to what is right.

¹⁷ I love those who love me;
those who search hard for me will find me.

¹⁸ Riches and honor are *the benefit of* following me;
so are lasting wealth and justice.

¹⁹ My reward is better than gold, even the purest gold;
and my profit is greater than the highest quality silver.

²⁰ I follow the way of right living.
Follow me along the path to find justice;

²¹ I'm ready to meet those who love me, bestow *true* riches upon them,
and fill up *their lives until* their treasuries *overflow*.

²² The Eternal created me; it happened when His work was beginning,
one of His first acts long ago.

²³ Before time He established me,
before the earth *saw its first sunrise*.

²⁴ I was born before the deep existed,
before any springs poured out their water,

²⁵ Before the mountains were placed *on their foundations*,
before the hills *rolled across the land*—

yes, before all this, I was brought forth.
26 When the earth was yet unformed and the fields *were not yet nestled beneath the wind*—
even before the first dust of the earth—
27 When He created the heavens, I was there.
When He drew a circle in the deep, *dividing the oceans and the sky, I was there.*
28 *I was there* when He established the sky.
I was there when the springs in the deep were fortified;
29 I witnessed Him lay down the shore as a boundary
and put limits on the water
And determine the foundations of the earth.
30 *All this time* I was *close* beside Him, a master craftsman.
Every day I was His delightful *companion*,
celebrating every minute in His presence,
31 Elated by the world He was making and all its fine creatures;
I was *especially* pleased with humanity.
32 So now listen to me, my children:
those who live by my ways will find *true* happiness.
33 Pay attention to my guidance, *dare to* be wise,
and don't disregard my teachings.
34 The one who listens to me,
who carefully seeks me in everyday things
and delays action until my way is apparent, that one will find
true happiness.
35 For when he recognizes *and follows* me, he finds *a peaceful and satisfying* life
and receives favor from the Eternal.
36 But *heed my warning*: the one who goes against me will only hurt
himself,
for all who despise me are *playing with fire and* courting death.

2 Timothy 1:7 King James Version (KJV)

7For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind [wisdom].

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 King James Version (KJV)

⁷But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

⁸For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

⁹To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

¹⁰To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

¹¹But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

Power Expects to Receive the Best

1 Peter 1:1-5 King James Version (KJV)

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

²Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

⁴To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

⁵Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

2 Peter 1:1-9 King James Version (KJV)

Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

²Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

³According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

⁴Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

⁵And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

⁶And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

⁷And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

⁸For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁹But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

Ephesians 3 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

¹For this reason [^[a]because I preached that you are thus built up together], I, Paul, [am] the prisoner of Jesus the Christ [^[b]for the sake *and* on behalf of you Gentiles—

²Assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace (His unmerited favor) that was entrusted to me [to dispense to you] for your benefit,

³[And] that the mystery (secret) was made known to me *and* I was allowed to comprehend it by direct revelation, as I already briefly wrote you.

⁴When you read this you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ.

⁵[This mystery] was never disclosed to human beings in past generations as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles (consecrated messengers) and prophets by the [Holy] Spirit.

⁶[It is this:] that the Gentiles are now to be fellow heirs [with the Jews], members of the same body and joint partakers [sharing] in the same divine promise in Christ through [their acceptance of] the glad tidings (the Gospel).

⁷Of this [Gospel] I was made a minister according to the gift of God's free grace (undeserved favor) which was bestowed on me by the exercise (the working in all its effectiveness) of His power.

⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints (God's consecrated people), this grace (favor, privilege) was granted *and* graciously entrusted: to proclaim to the Gentiles the unending (boundless, fathomless, incalculable, and exhaustless) riches of Christ [wealth which no human being could have searched out],

⁹Also to enlighten all men *and* make plain to them what is the plan [regarding the Gentiles and providing for the salvation of all men] of the mystery kept hidden through the ages *and* concealed until now in [the mind of] God Who created all things *by Christ Jesus*.

¹⁰[The purpose is] that through the church the ^[c]complicated, many-sided wisdom of God in all its infinite variety *and* innumerable aspects might now be made known to the angelic rulers and authorities (principalities and powers) in the heavenly sphere.

¹¹This is in accordance with the terms of the eternal *and* timeless purpose which He has realized *and* carried into effect in [the person of] Christ Jesus our Lord,

¹²In Whom, because of our faith in Him, we dare to have the boldness (courage and confidence) of free access (an unreserved approach to God with freedom and without fear).

¹³ So I ask you not to lose heart [not to faint or become despondent through fear] at what I am suffering in your behalf. [Rather glory in it] for it is an honor to you.

¹⁴ For this reason [^[d]seeing the greatness of this plan by which you are built together in Christ], I bow my knees before the Father *of our Lord Jesus Christ*,

¹⁵ For Whom every family in heaven and on earth is named [that Father from Whom all fatherhood takes its title and derives its name].

¹⁶ May He grant you out of the rich treasury of His glory to be strengthened *and* reinforced with mighty power in the inner man by the [Holy] Spirit [Himself indwelling your innermost being and personality].

¹⁷ May Christ through your faith [actually] dwell (settle down, abide, make His permanent home) in your hearts! May you be rooted deep in love *and* founded securely on love,

¹⁸ That you may have the power *and* be strong to apprehend *and* grasp with all the saints [God's devoted people, the experience of that love] what is the breadth and length and height and depth [of it];

¹⁹ [That you may really come] to know [practically, ^[e]through experience for yourselves] the love of Christ, which far surpasses ^[f]mere knowledge [without experience]; that you may be filled [through all your being] ^[g]unto all the fullness of God [may have the richest measure of the divine Presence, and ^[h]become a body wholly filled and flooded with God Himself]!

²⁰ Now to Him Who, by (in consequence of) the [action of His] power that is at work within us, is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly, far over *and* above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams]—

²¹ To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen (so be it).

Conquered Captivity

Isaiah 9:1-7 The Voice (VOICE)

When God's people haven't seen a hint of light or hope of day, God will do something new.

¹But there will be no more gloom for those who knew such hardship. In times past, God humbled the land of Zebulun and Naphtali; later, He will restore the *honor and glory* to the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee, home of the nations.

²The people who had been living in darkness
have seen a great light.

The light of life has shined on those who dwelt
in the shadowy darkness *of death*.

³*And You, God, will make it happen.* You bolstered the nation,
making it great again. You have saturated it with joy.

Everyone in it is full of delight in Your presence,
like the joy they experience at the harvest,
like the thrill of dividing up the spoils *of war*.

⁴For as You did back in the day when Midian *oppressed us*,
You will shatter the yoke that burdens them,
You will lift the load that weighs them down,
You will break the rod of their oppressor.

⁵*It's true.* All the fabric of war will go up in flames:
the troops' heavy boots *that stamped us down* and *their* blood-soaked
garb

Will all be burned *beyond recognition or use*.

There will be a new time, a fresh start.

⁶*Hope of all hopes, dream of our dreams,*
a child is born, *sweet-breathed*; a son is given to us: *a living gift*.

And even now, with tiny features and dewy hair, He is great.

The power of leadership, and the weight of authority, will rest on His
shoulders.

His name? His name *we'll know in many ways—*

He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Dear Father everlasting, *ever-present never-failing*,
Master of Wholeness, Prince of Peace.

⁷His leadership will bring such prosperity *as you've never seen before—*

sustainable peace for all time.

This child: God's promise to David—a throne forever, *among us*,
to restore sound leadership that cannot be perverted or shaken.

He will ensure justice without fail and absolute equity. Always.

The intense passion of the Eternal, Commander of *heavenly* armies,
will carry this to completion.

Midian H4080

from H4079 brawling, contention; from H4066 a contest or quarrel;
brawling, discord, strife; from H1777 to rule, to judge (as umpire; to strive
(as at law); contend, execute (judgment), judge, minister judgement, plead
(the cause), at strife, strife

cruelty; dens, mountains, caves, strongholds, marauders, destroyed crops;
plundered countryside; famine – stole sheep, oxen, donkeys; increase of the
earth; fear/dread/terror/oppression; reduced to abject poverty; 7-year cycle

Princes of Midian

Oreb was killed at the rock

A mosquito (from its swarming/diver sorts of flies, swarm. From H6148 to
braid; intermix, to barter, to traffic; to give or be security (as a kind of
exchange): engage, (inter-) meddle (with), mingle (self), mortgage, occupy,
give pledges, be(-come, put in) surety, undertake.

Zeeb was killed at the winepress

To be yellow [deceit]; a wolf deceiver; false person; seeks to destroy

Kings of Midian

Zebah to slaughter an animal (usually in sacrifice) kill, offer, sacrifice, slay

Zalmunna shade has been denied; H6738 defense from H6751 hovering
over to shade; begin to be dark shadowing; H4513 to debar from benefit or
injury; deny, keep (back), refrain, restrain, withhold

Judges 6-8 Living Bible (TLB)

6 Then the people of Israel began once again to worship other gods, and once again the Lord let their enemies harass them. This time it was by the people of Midian, for seven years. ²The Midianites were so cruel that the Israelis took to the mountains, living in caves and dens. ³⁻⁴When they planted their seed, marauders from Midian, Amalek, and other neighboring nations came and destroyed their crops and plundered the countryside as far away as Gaza, leaving nothing to eat and taking away all their sheep, oxen, and donkeys. ⁵These enemy hordes arrived on droves of camels too numerous to count and stayed until the land was completely stripped and devastated. ⁶⁷So Israel was reduced to abject poverty because of the Midianites. Then at last the people of Israel began to cry out to the Lord for help.

⁸However, the Lord's reply through the prophet he sent to them was this: "The Lord God of Israel brought you out of slavery in Egypt, ⁹and rescued you from the Egyptians and from all who were cruel to you, and drove out your enemies before you, and gave you their land. ¹⁰He told you he is the Lord your God, and you must not worship the gods of the Amorites who live around you on every side. But you have not listened to him."

¹¹But one day the Angel of the Lord came and sat beneath the oak tree at Ophrah, on the farm of Joash the Abiezrite. Joash's son, Gideon, had been threshing wheat by hand in the bottom of a grape press—a pit where grapes were pressed to make wine—for he was hiding from the Midianites.

¹²The Angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, "Mighty soldier, the Lord is with you!"

¹³"Stranger," Gideon replied, "if the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us? And where are all the miracles our ancestors have told us about—such as when God brought them out of Egypt? Now the Lord has thrown us away and has let the Midianites completely ruin us."

¹⁴Then the Lord turned to him and said, "I will make you strong! Go and save Israel from the Midianites! I am sending you!"

¹⁵But Gideon replied, "Sir, how can *I* save Israel? My family is the poorest in the whole tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least thought of in the entire family!"

¹⁶Whereupon the Lord said to him, "But I, Jehovah,^[a] will be with you! And you shall quickly destroy the Midianite hordes!"

¹⁷Gideon replied, "If it is really true that you are going to help me like that, then do some miracle to prove it! Prove that it is really Jehovah who is talking to me! ¹⁸But stay here until I go and get a present for you."

"All right," the Angel agreed. "I'll stay here until you return."

¹⁹Gideon hurried home and roasted a young goat and baked some unleavened bread from a bushel of flour. Then, carrying the meat in a basket and broth in a pot, he took it out to the Angel, who was beneath the oak tree, and presented it to him.

²⁰The Angel said to him, "Place the meat and the bread upon that rock over there, and pour the broth over it."

When Gideon had followed these instructions, ²¹the Angel touched the meat and bread with his staff, and fire flamed up from the rock and consumed them! And suddenly the Angel was gone!

²²When Gideon realized that it had indeed been the Angel of the Lord, he cried out, "Alas, O Lord God, for I have seen the Angel of the Lord face-to-face!"

²³"It's all right," the Lord replied. "Don't be afraid! You shall not die."

²⁴And Gideon built an altar there and named it "The Altar of Peace with Jehovah." (The altar is still there in Ophrah in the land of the Abiezrites.) ²⁵That night the Lord told Gideon to hitch his father's best ox to the family altar of Baal and pull it down, and to cut down the wooden idol of the goddess Asherah that stood nearby.

²⁶"Replace it with an altar for the Lord your God, built here on this hill, laying the stones carefully. Then sacrifice the ox as a burnt offering to the Lord, using the wooden idol as wood for the fire on the altar."

²⁷ So Gideon took ten of his servants and did as the Lord had commanded. But he did it at night for fear of the other members of his father's household, and for fear of the men of the city; for he knew what would happen if they found out who did it! ²⁸ Early the next morning, as the city began to stir, someone discovered that the altar of Baal was knocked apart, the idol beside it was gone, and a new altar had been built instead, with the remains of a sacrifice on it.

²⁹ "Who did this?" everyone demanded. Finally they learned that it was Gideon, the son of Joash.

³⁰ "Bring out your son," they shouted to Joash. "He must die for insulting the altar of Baal and for cutting down the Asherah idol."

³¹ But Joash retorted to the whole mob, "Does Baal need *your* help? What an insult to a god! You are the ones who should die for insulting Baal! If Baal is really a god, let him take care of himself and destroy the one who broke apart his altar!"

³² From then on Gideon was called "Jerubbaal," a nickname meaning "Let Baal take care of himself!"^[b]

³³ Soon afterward the armies of Midian, Amalek, and other neighboring nations united in one vast alliance against Israel. They crossed the Jordan and camped in the valley of Jezreel. ³⁴ Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet as a call to arms, and the men of Abiezer came to him. ³⁵ He also sent messengers throughout Manasseh, Asher, Zebulun, and Naphtali, summoning their fighting forces, and all of them responded.

³⁶ Then Gideon said to God, "If you are really going to use me to save Israel as you promised, ³⁷ prove it to me in this way: I'll put some wool on the threshing floor tonight, and if, in the morning, the fleece is wet and the ground is dry, I will know you are going to help me!"

³⁸ And it happened just that way! When he got up the next morning, he pressed the fleece together and wrung out a whole bowlful of water!

³⁹Then Gideon said to the Lord, "Please don't be angry with me, but let me make one more test: this time let the fleece remain dry while the ground around it is wet!"

⁴⁰So the Lord did as he asked; that night the fleece stayed dry, but the ground was covered with dew!

7 Jerubbaal (that is, Gideon—his other name) and his army got an early start and went as far as the spring of Harod. The armies of Midian were camped north of them, down in the valley beside the hill of Moreh.

²The Lord then said to Gideon, "There are too many of you! I can't let all of you fight the Midianites, for then the people of Israel will boast to me that they saved themselves by their own strength! ³Send home any of your men who are timid and frightened."

So twenty-two thousand of them left, and only ten thousand remained who were willing to fight.

⁴But the Lord told Gideon, "There are still too many! Bring them down to the spring and I'll show you which ones shall go with you and which ones shall not."

⁵⁻⁶So Gideon assembled them at the water. There the Lord told him, "Divide them into two groups decided by the way they drink. In Group 1 will be all the men who cup the water in their hands to get it to their mouths and lap it like dogs. In Group 2 will be those who kneel, with their mouths in the stream."

Only three hundred of the men drank from their hands; all the others drank with their mouths to the stream.

⁷"I'll conquer the Midianites with these three hundred!" the Lord told Gideon. "Send all the others home!"

⁸⁻⁹So after Gideon had collected all the clay jars and trumpets they had among them, he sent them home, leaving only three hundred men with him.

During the night, with the Midianites camped in the valley just below, the Lord said to Gideon, "Get up! Take your troops and attack the Midianites, for I will cause you to defeat them! ¹⁰But if you are afraid, first go down to the

camp alone—take along your servant Purah if you like— ¹¹and listen to what they are saying down there! You will be greatly encouraged and be eager to attack!”

So he took Purah and crept down through the darkness to the outposts of the enemy camp. ¹²⁻¹³The vast armies of Midian, Amalek, and the other nations of the Mideast were crowded across the valley like locusts—yes, like the sand upon the seashore—and there were too many camels even to count! Gideon crept up to one of the tents just as a man inside had wakened from a nightmare and was telling his tent-mate about it.

“I had this strange dream,” he was saying, “and there was this huge loaf of barley bread that came tumbling down into our camp. It hit our tent and knocked it flat!”

¹⁴The other soldier replied, “Your dream can mean only one thing! Gideon, the son of Joash, the Israeli, is going to come and massacre all the allied forces of Midian!”

¹⁵When Gideon heard the dream and the interpretation, all he could do was just stand there worshiping God! Then he returned to his men and shouted, “Get up! For the Lord is going to use you to conquer all the vast armies of Midian!”

¹⁶He divided the three hundred men into three groups and gave each man a trumpet and a clay jar with a torch in it. ¹⁷Then he explained his plan. “When we arrive at the outer guardposts of the camp,” he told them, “do just as I do. ¹⁸As soon as I and the men in my group blow our trumpets, you blow yours on all sides of the camp and shout, ‘We fight for God and for Gideon!’”

¹⁹⁻²⁰It was just after midnight and the change of guards when Gideon and the hundred men with him crept to the outer edge of the camp of Midian.

Suddenly they blew their trumpets and broke their clay jars so that their torches blazed into the night. Then the other two hundred of his men did the same, blowing the trumpets in their right hands, and holding the flaming torches in their left hands, all shouting, “For the Lord and for Gideon!”^[e]

²¹Then they just stood and watched as the whole vast enemy army began rushing around in a panic, shouting and running away. ²²For in the confusion

the Lord caused the enemy troops to begin fighting and killing each other from one end of the camp to the other, and they fled into the night to places as far away as Beth-shittah near Zererah, and to the border of Abel-meholah near Tabbath.

²³Then Gideon sent for the troops of Naphtali, Asher, and Manasseh and told them to come and chase and destroy the fleeing army of Midian. ²⁴Gideon also sent messengers throughout the hill country of Ephraim summoning troops who seized the fords of the Jordan River at Beth-barah, thus preventing the Midianites from escaping by going across. ²⁵Oreb and Zeeb, the two generals of Midian, were captured. Oreb was killed at the rock now known by his name, and Zeeb at the winepress of Zeeb, as it is now called; and the Israelites took the heads of Oreb and Zeeb across the Jordan to Gideon.

8 But the tribal leaders of Ephraim were violently angry with Gideon.

“Why didn’t you send for us when you first went out to fight the Midianites?” they demanded.

²⁻³But Gideon replied, “God let you capture Oreb and Zeeb, the generals of the army of Midian! What have I done in comparison with that? Your actions at the end of the battle were more important than ours at the beginning!”^[a] So they calmed down.

⁴Gideon now crossed the Jordan River with his three hundred men. They were very tired, but still chasing the enemy. ⁵He asked the men of Succoth for food. “We are weary from chasing after Zebah and Zalmunna, the kings of Midian,” he said.

⁶But the leaders of Succoth replied, “You haven’t caught them yet!”^[e] If we feed you and you fail, they’ll return and destroy us.”

⁷Then Gideon warned them, “When the Lord has delivered them to us, I will return and tear your flesh with the thorns and briars of the wilderness.”

⁸Then he went up to Penuel and asked for food there, but got the same answer. ⁹And he said to them also, “When this is all over, I will return and break down this tower.”

¹⁰By this time King Zebah and King Zalmunna with a remnant of fifteen thousand troops were in Karkor. That was all that was left of the allied armies of the east; for one hundred twenty thousand had already been killed. ¹¹Then Gideon circled around by the caravan route east of Nobah and Jogbehah, striking at the Midianite army in surprise raids. ¹²The two kings fled, but Gideon chased and captured them, routing their entire force. ¹³Later, Gideon returned by way of Heres Pass. ¹⁴There he captured a young fellow from Succoth and demanded that he write down the names of all the seventy-seven political and religious leaders of the city.

¹⁵He then returned to Succoth. "You taunted me that I would never catch King Zebah and King Zalmunna, and you refused to give us food when we were tired and hungry," he said. "Well, here they are!"

¹⁶Then he took the leaders of the city and scraped them to death^[a] with wild thorns and briars. ¹⁷He also went to Penuel and knocked down the city tower and killed the entire male population.

¹⁸Then Gideon asked King Zebah and King Zalmunna, "The men you killed at Tabor—what were they like?"

They replied, "They were dressed just like you—like sons of kings!"

¹⁹"They must have been my brothers!" Gideon exclaimed. "I swear that if you hadn't killed them I wouldn't kill you."

²⁰Then, turning to Jether, his oldest son, he instructed him to kill them. But the boy was only a lad and was afraid to.

²¹Then Zebah and Zalmunna said to Gideon, "You do it; we'd rather be killed by a man!"^[a] So Gideon killed them and took the ornaments from their camels' necks.

²²Now the men of Israel said to Gideon, "Be our king! You and your sons and all your descendants shall be our rulers, for you have saved us from Midian."

²³⁻²⁴But Gideon replied, "I will not be your king, nor shall my son; the Lord is your King! However, I have one request. Give me all the earrings collected from your fallen foes"—for the troops of Midian, being Ishmaelites, all wore gold earrings.

²⁵“Gladly!” they replied, and spread out a sheet for everyone to throw in the gold earrings he had gathered. ²⁶Their value was estimated at \$25,000, not including the crescents and pendants, or the royal clothing of the kings, or the chains around the camels’ necks. ²⁷Gideon made an ephod^(h) from the gold and put it in Ophrah, his hometown. But all Israel soon began worshiping it, so it became an evil deed that Gideon and his family did.

²⁸That is the true account of how Midian was subdued by Israel. Midian never recovered, and the land was at peace for forty years—all during Gideon’s lifetime. ²⁹He returned home ³⁰and eventually had seventy sons, for he married many wives. ³¹He also had a concubine in Shechem, who presented him with a son named Abimelech. ³²Gideon finally died, an old, old man, and was buried in the sepulcher of his father, Joash, in Ophrah, in the land of the Abiezrites.

³³But as soon as Gideon was dead, the Israelis began to worship the idols Baal and Baal-berith. ³⁴They no longer considered the Lord as their God, though he had rescued them from all their enemies on every side. ³⁵Nor did they show any kindness to the family of Gideon despite all he had done for them.

Footnotes:

- a. [Judges 6:16](#) *But I, Jehovah*, literally, “I Am will be with you.” The same name is used here as in [Exodus 3:14](#). God is telling Gideon that the same one who appeared to Moses and rescued Israel from Egypt (much on Gideon’s mind: see [v. 13](#)) will now do it again, rescuing Israel from Midian.
- b. [Judges 6:32](#) *Let Baal take care of himself*, literally, “Let Baal bring charges,” or used mockingly, “Let Baal be honored!”
- c. [Judges 7:19](#) *“For the Lord and for Gideon!”* literally, “A sword for the Lord and for Gideon.”
- d. [Judges 8:2](#) *Your actions . . . at the beginning*, more literally, “Are not the last grapes of Ephraim better than the entire crop of Abiezer?”
- e. [Judges 8:6](#) *You haven’t caught them yet*, literally, “Are Zebah and Zalmunna already in your hand?”
- f. [Judges 8:16](#) *and scraped them to death*, literally, “he taught the men of Succoth.”
- g. [Judges 8:21](#) *we’d rather be killed by a man*, literally, “for as a man is, so is his strength.” Perhaps the meaning is, “A quick death is less painful.”
- h. [Judges 8:27](#) The ephod was usually a linen pouch worn by the priests on their chests. In this case the ephod evidently was highly decorated with gold, and probably, because of its weight, hung upon a wall.