

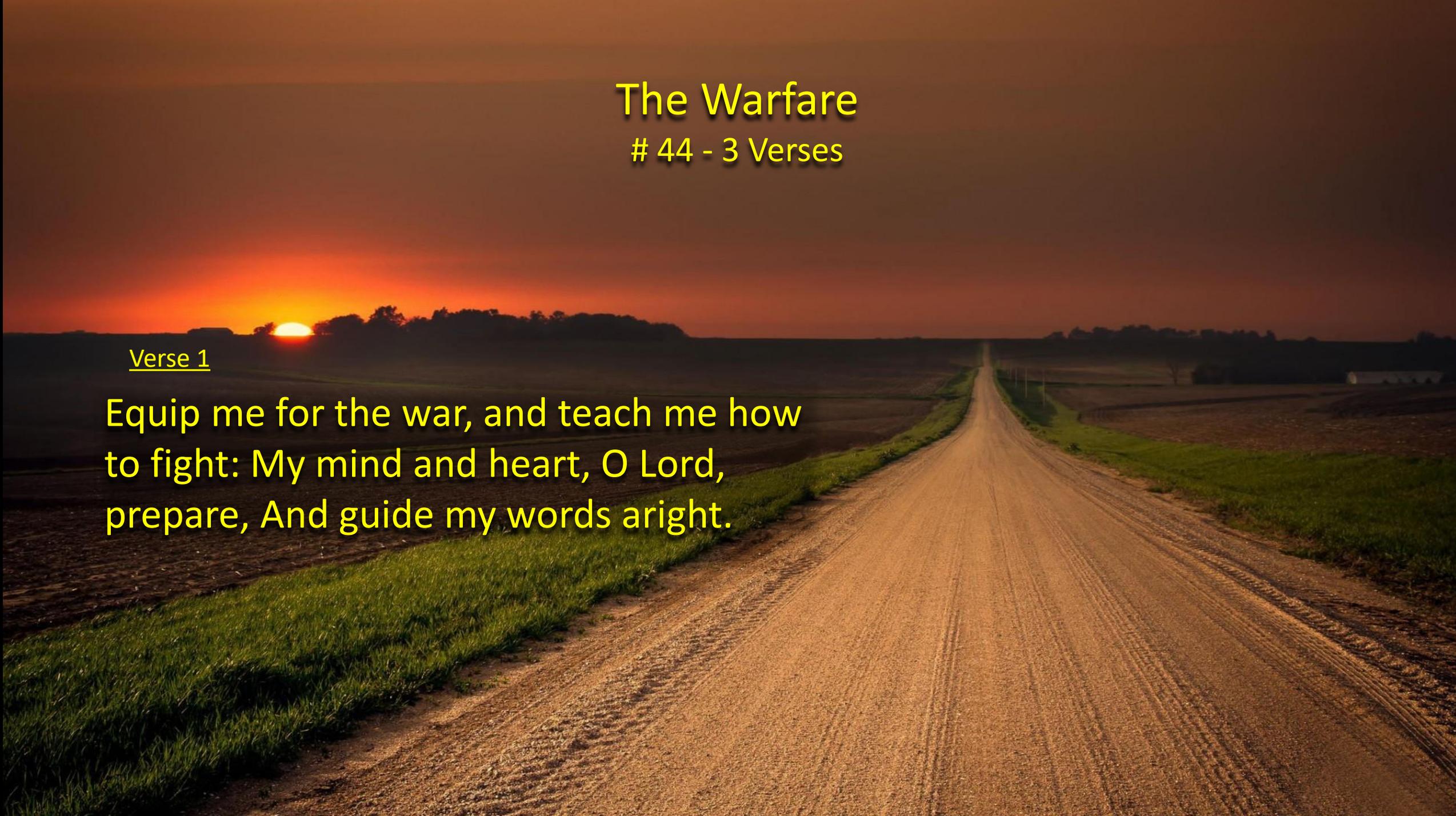


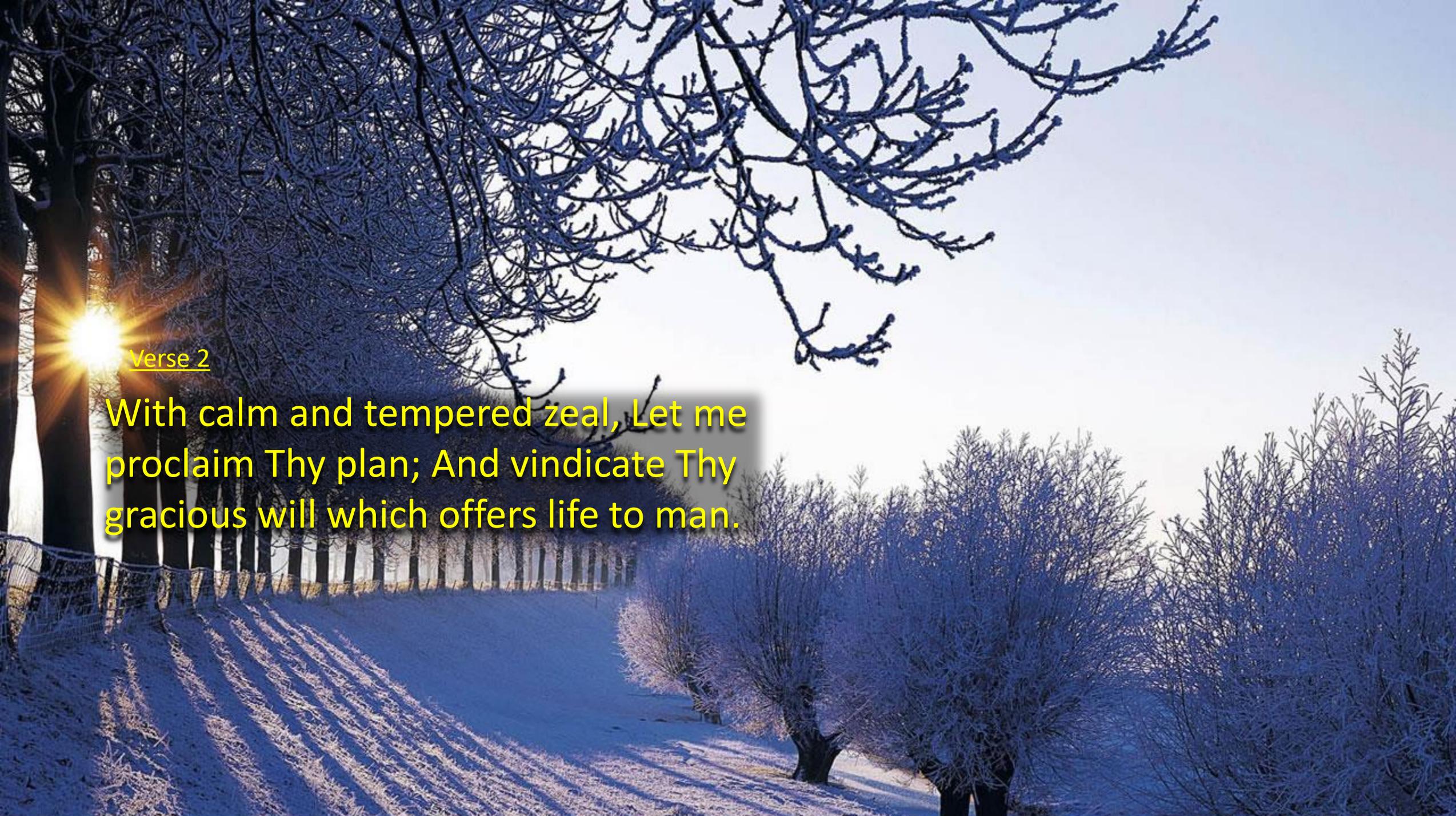
The Warfare

44 - 3 Verses

Verse 1

Equip me for the war, and teach me how to fight: My mind and heart, O Lord, prepare, And guide my words aright.



A winter landscape with snow-covered trees and a bright sun low on the horizon. The sun is positioned on the left side, creating a lens flare effect. The trees are covered in snow, and the ground is a mix of snow and shadows. The sky is a pale, clear blue.

Verse 2

With calm and tempered zeal, Let me
proclaim Thy plan; And vindicate Thy
gracious will which offers life to man.

Verse 3

O! May I love like Thee, in love declare
Thy ways, And help the blinded ones to
see Thy truth declares Thy praise.





Prison Experiences



Prison Experiences

A large, dark silhouette of a man is positioned on the right side of the slide. He is shown from the waist up, facing left, with his hands pressed against a grid of vertical bars that represent prison bars. The background is a dark gray with a lighter gray grid pattern, suggesting a window or a wall behind the bars.

Joseph — Genesis 39

Samson — Judges 16:21

David — Psalm 142:7

Jeremiah — Jeremiah 37:4, 15

John the Baptist — Matthew 11:12; 14: 3-12

The Apostles — Acts 5:17

Peter — Acts 12

Paul & Silas — Acts 16:16

Brethren of the Gospel Age — Revelation 2:10

Prison Experiences

A silhouette of a man in profile, looking out from behind vertical prison bars. The background is dark, and the bars are light gray, creating a grid pattern.

Joseph — Genesis 39

Samson — Judges 16:21

David — Psalm 142:7

Jeremiah — Jeremiah 37:4, 15

John the Baptist — Matthew 11:12; 14: 3-12

The Apostles — Acts 5:17

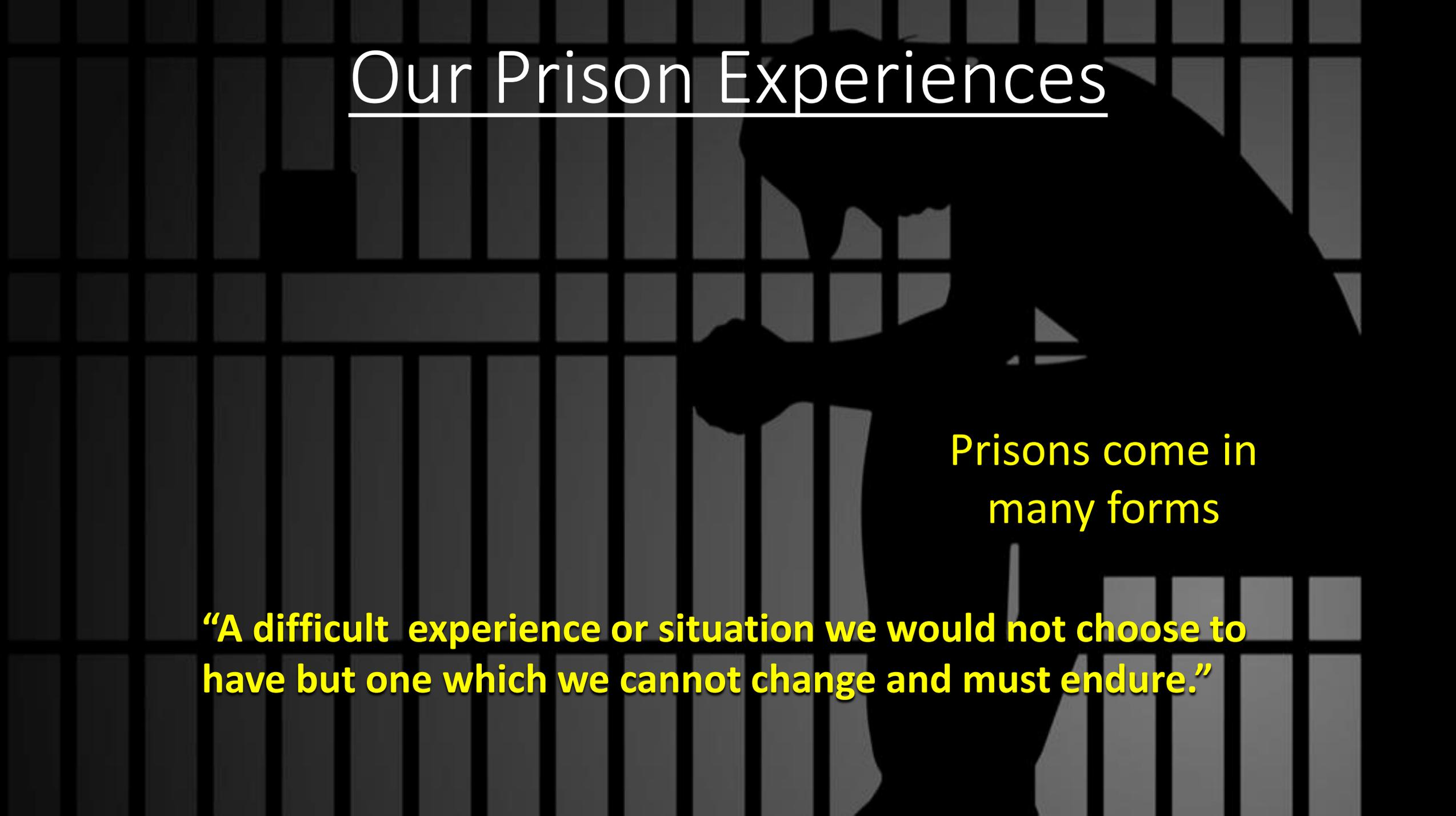
Peter — Acts 12

Paul & Silas — Acts 16:16

Brethren of the Gospel Age in prison — Revelation 2:10

**Prisons come in
many forms**

Our Prison Experiences

A silhouette of a person is shown from the chest up, standing behind a grid of vertical and horizontal bars that represent prison bars. The person's head is tilted slightly to the right, and their right arm is raised, with the hand resting on one of the vertical bars. The background is a dark, solid color, and the bars are a lighter shade of gray, creating a strong contrast.

Prisons come in
many forms

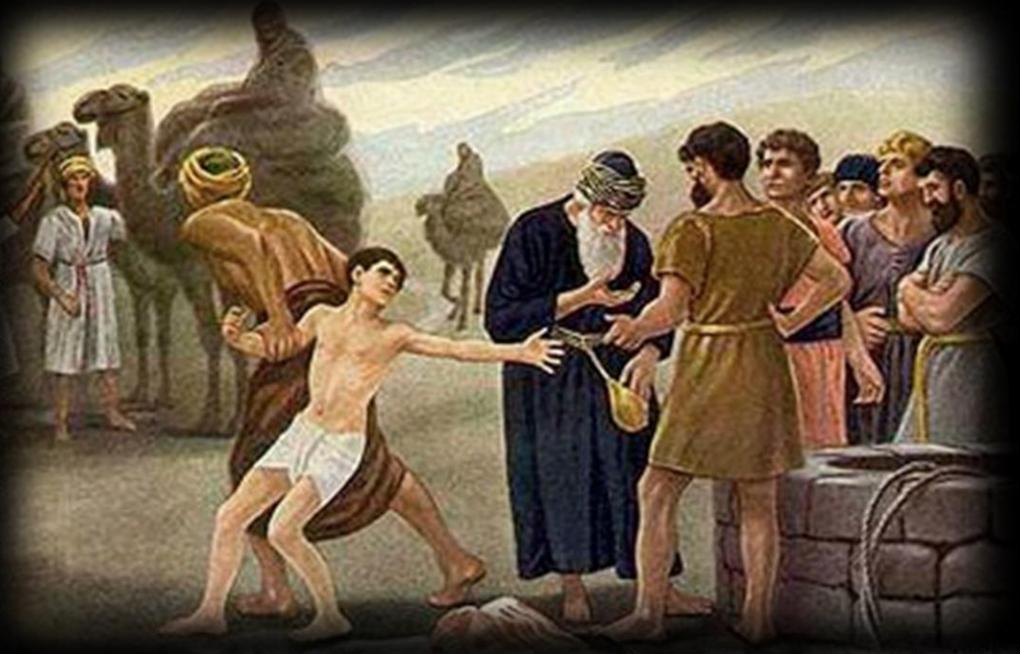
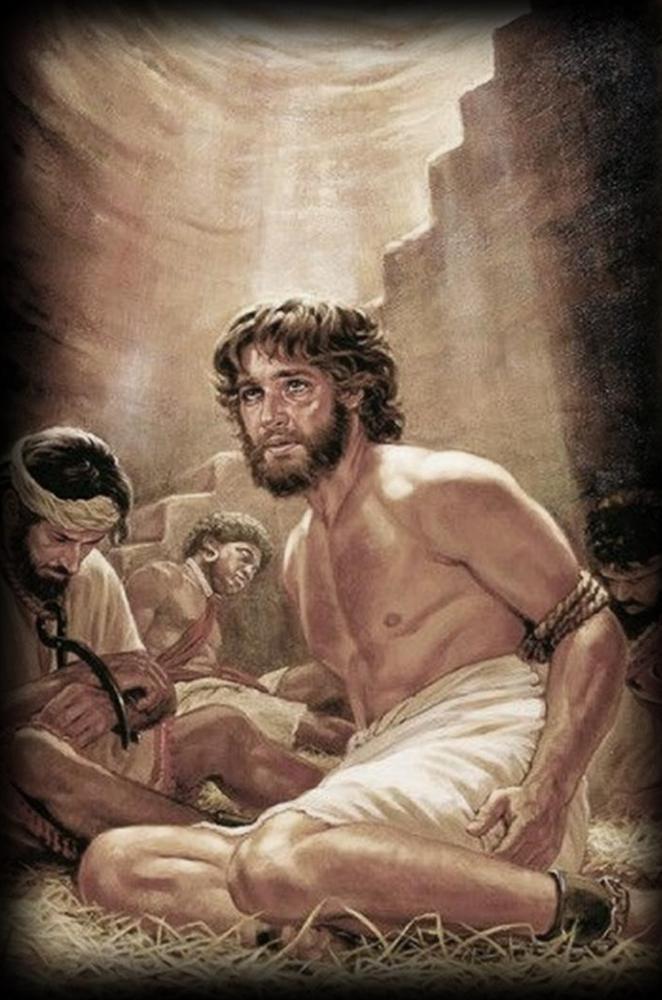
“A difficult experience or situation we would not choose to have but one which we cannot change and must endure.”

Joseph

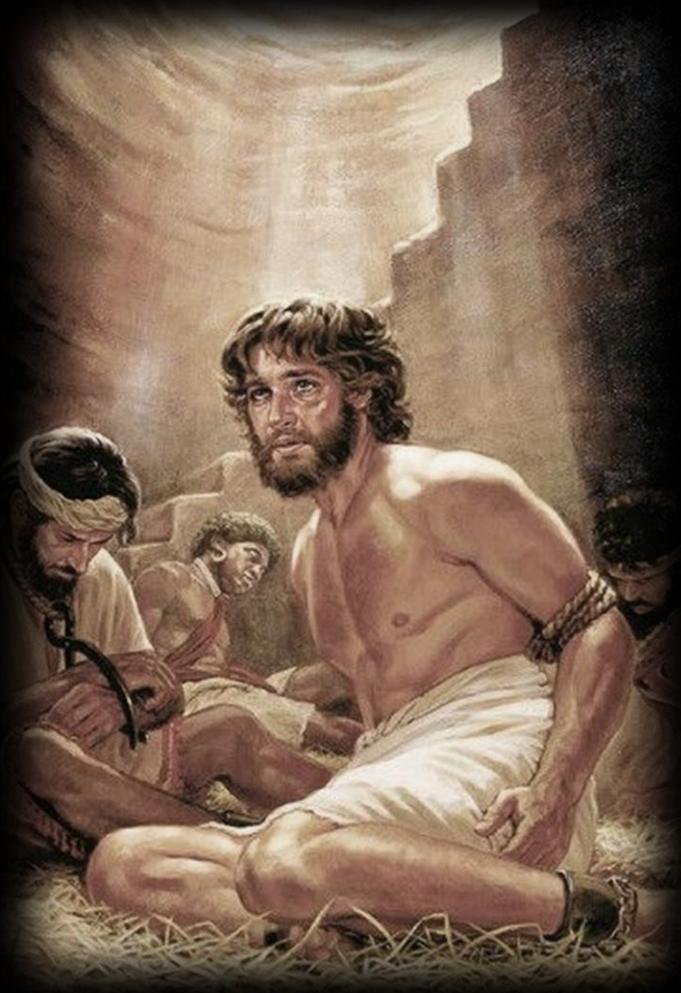
Joseph



Joseph

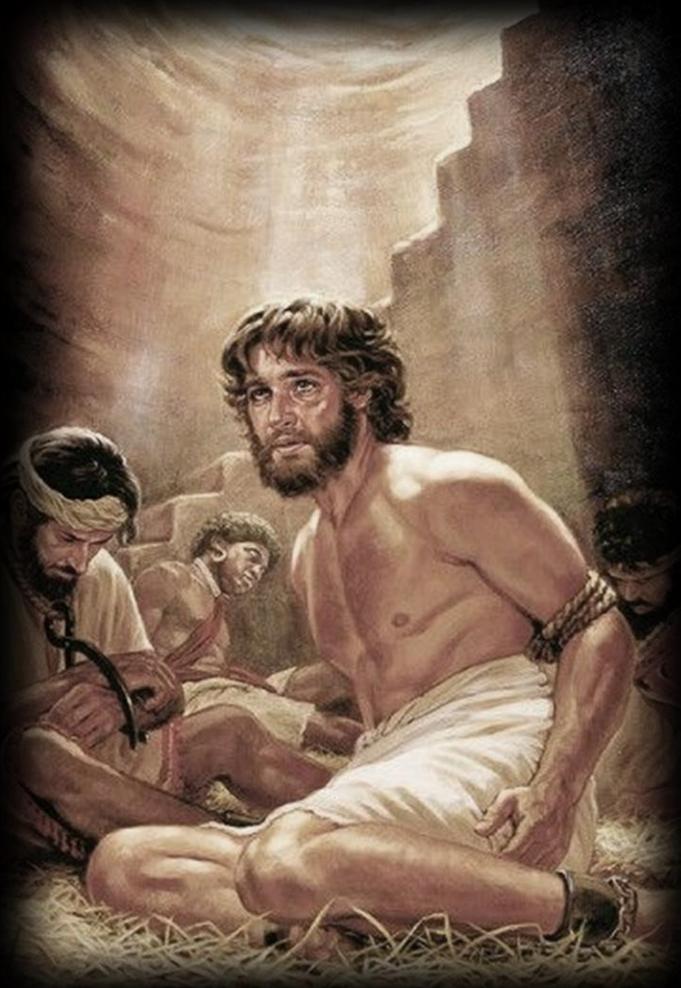


Joseph



Psalms 105:18, 19

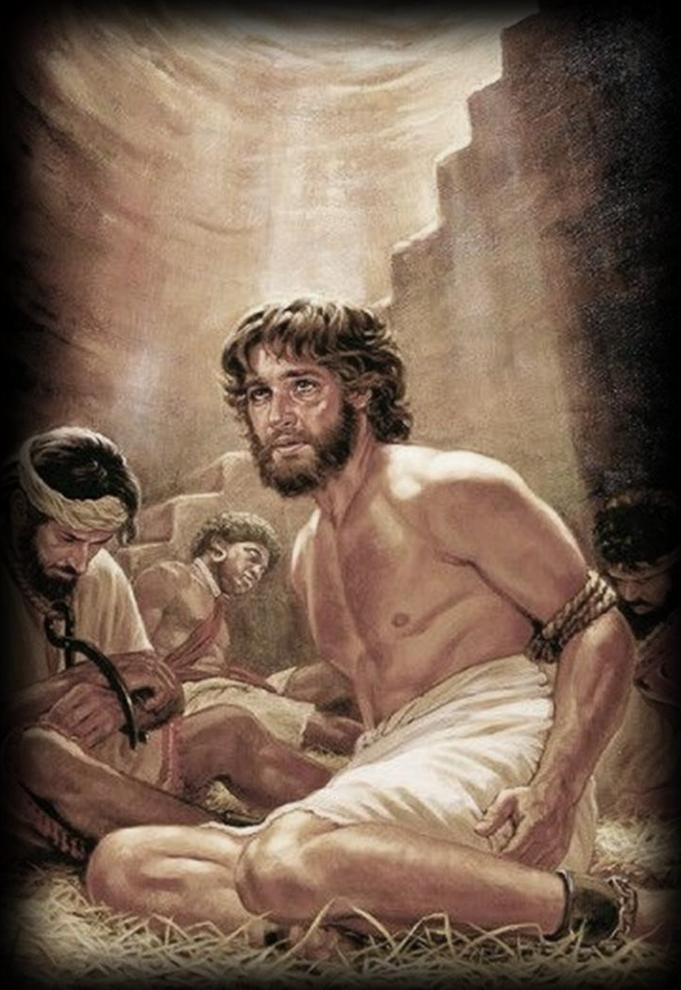
Joseph



Psalms 105:18, 19

Joseph

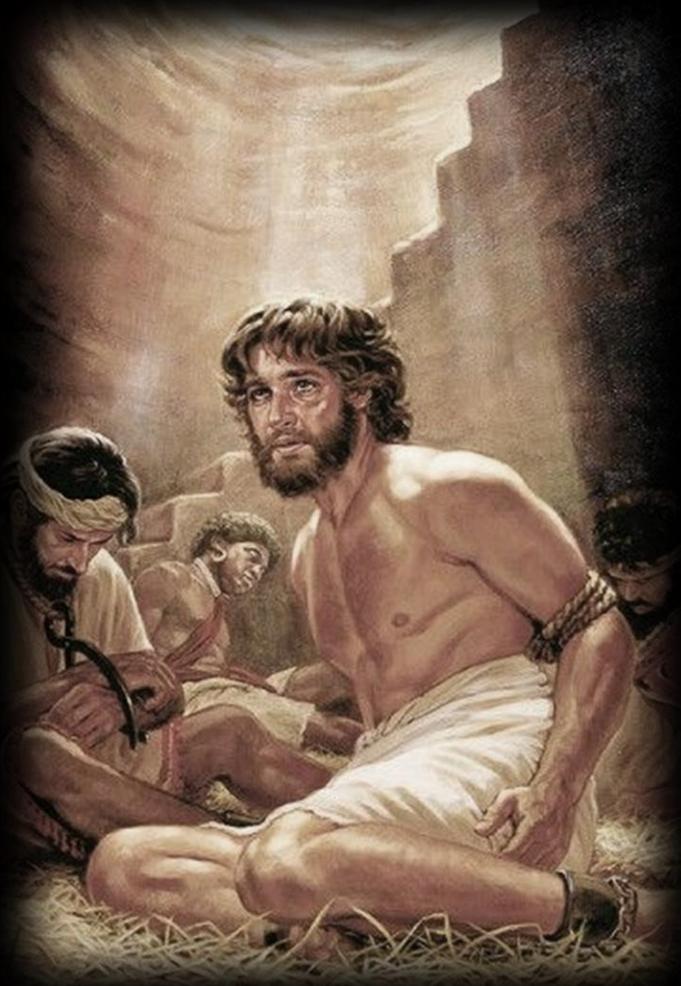
“His feet they hurt with fetters, his person was laid in iron; Until the time that his word came to pass, the word of the LORD tested him.”



Psalms 105:18, 19

Joseph

“His feet they hurt with fetters, his person was laid in iron; Until the time that his word came to pass, the word of the LORD tested him.”



“They forced into a fether his foot,
Into the iron entered his soul.”

(Rotherham)

Psalms 105:18, 19

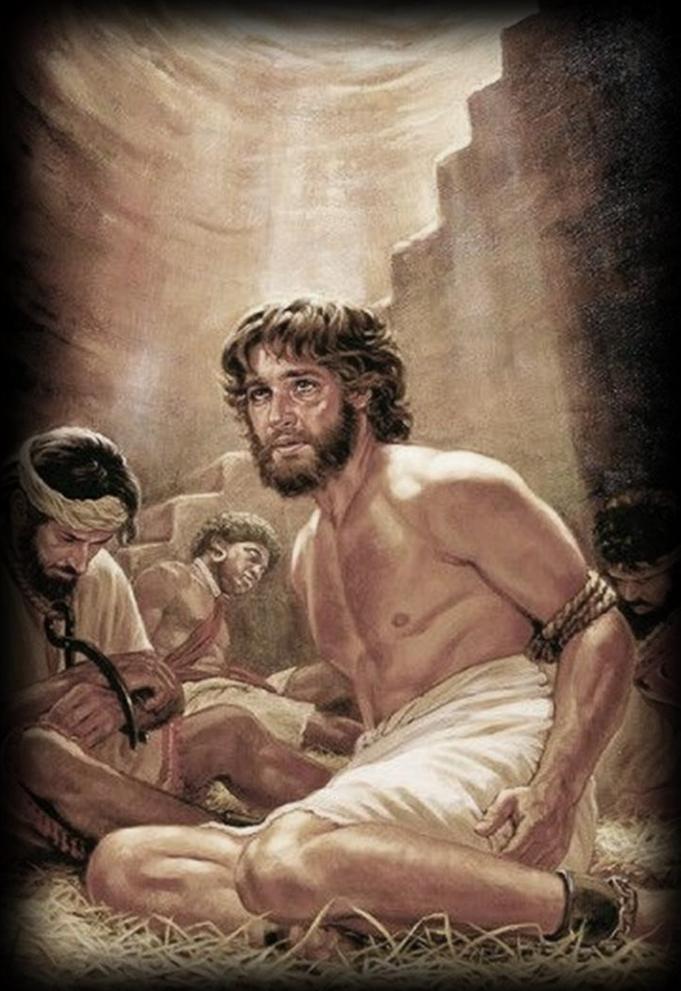
Joseph

“His feet they hurt with fetters, his person was laid in iron; Until the time that his word came to pass, the word of the LORD **tested** him.”

↓
To refine

“They forced into a fetter his foot,
Into the iron entered his soul.”

(Rotherham)



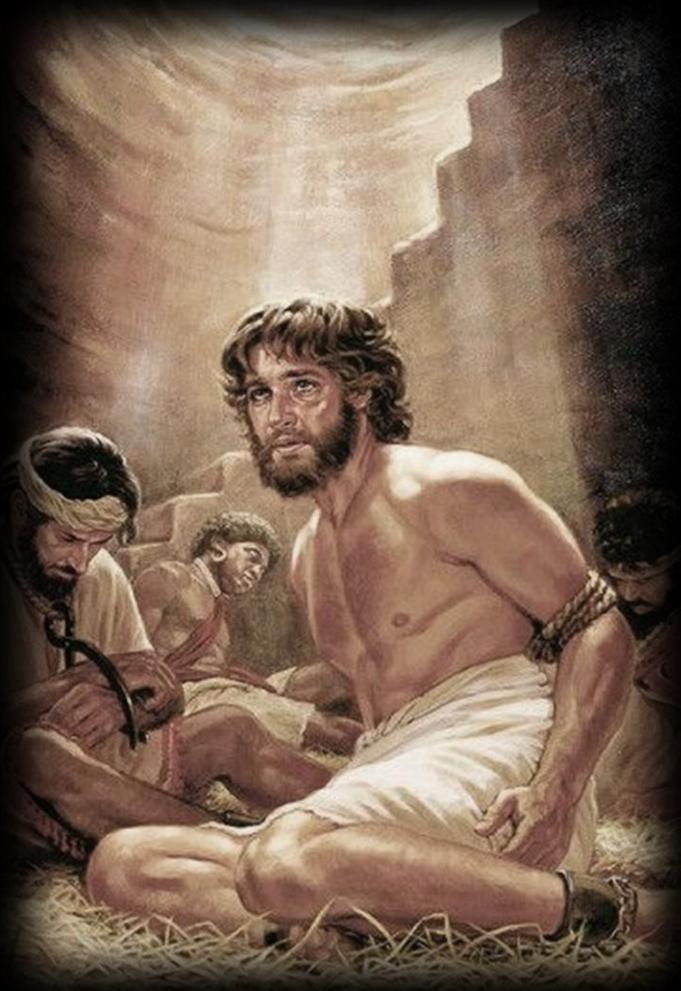
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To refine

“The word is commonly applied to metals in testing their genuineness and purity.” Barnes



Psalms 105:18, 19

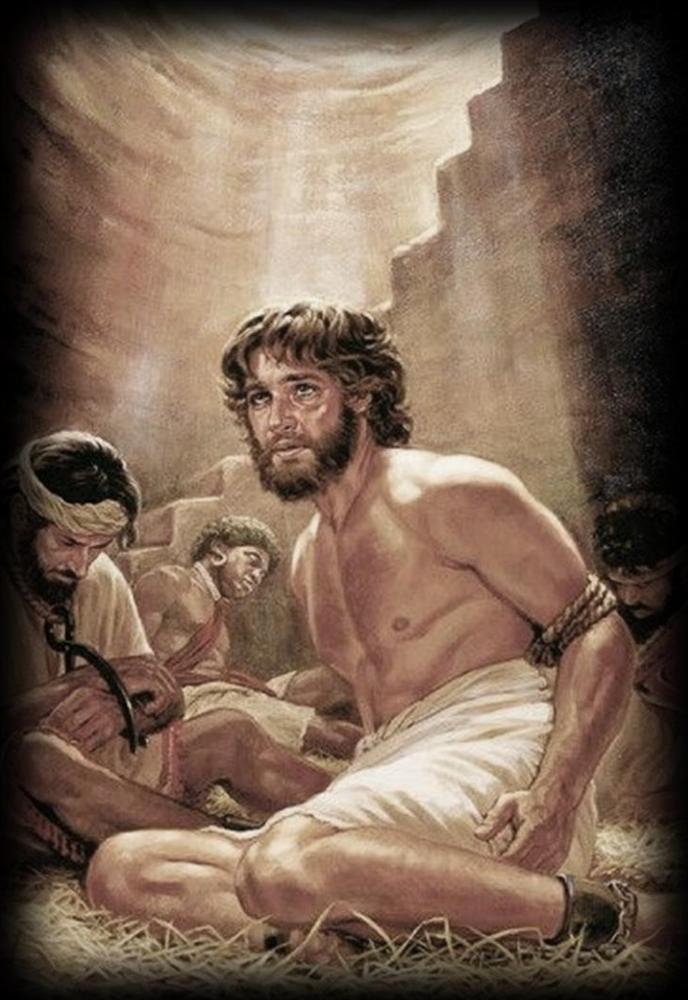
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To refine

“The word is commonly applied to metals in testing their genuineness and purity.” Barnes

Was his faith in God pure, was it genuine?
How would it be refined?



Gifts of the Spirit

1 Corinthians 12: 8-11

- ✓ Wisdom
- ✓ Knowledge
- ✓ Faith
- ✓ Healing
- ✓ Miracles
- ✓ Prophecy
- ✓ Discerning of spirits
- ✓ Interpretation of tongues

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The refining of Joseph's faith illustrates how faith can be a gift.





“But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it.

The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the LORD was with him. And whatever he did, the LORD made it succeed.” Genesis 39:21-23



A key to Joseph's success was that he did not allow the wrong doing of others to undermine his faith in God.

“But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

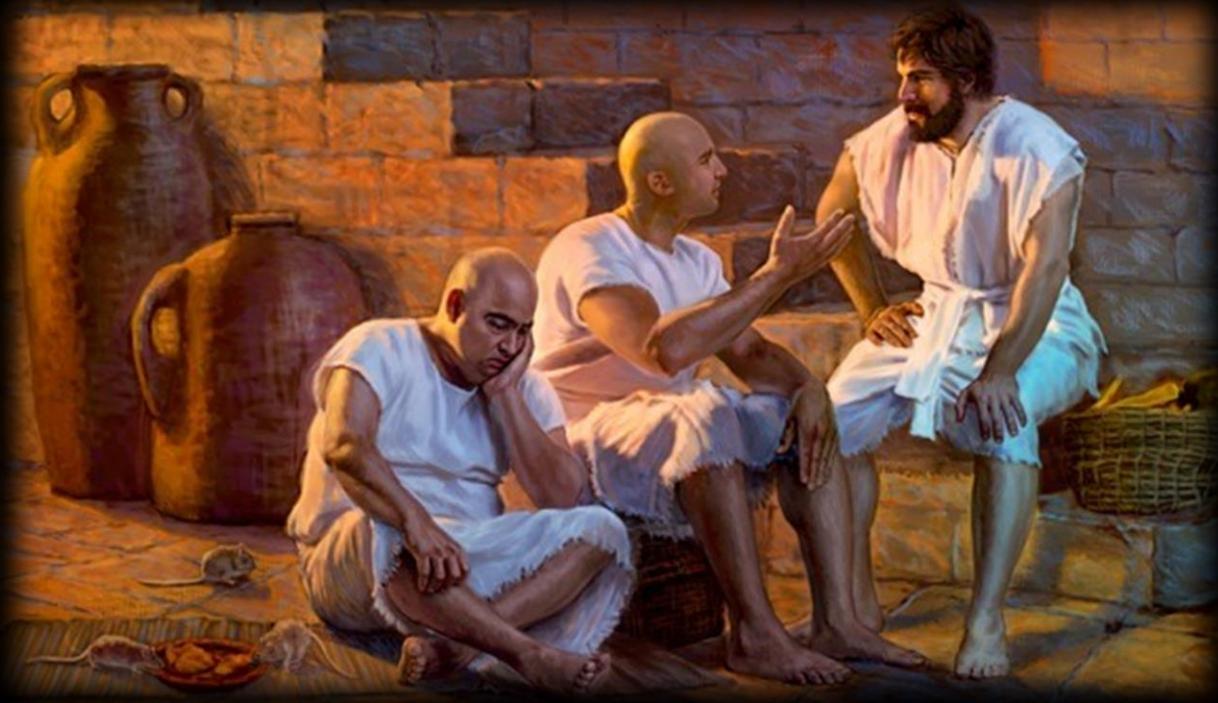
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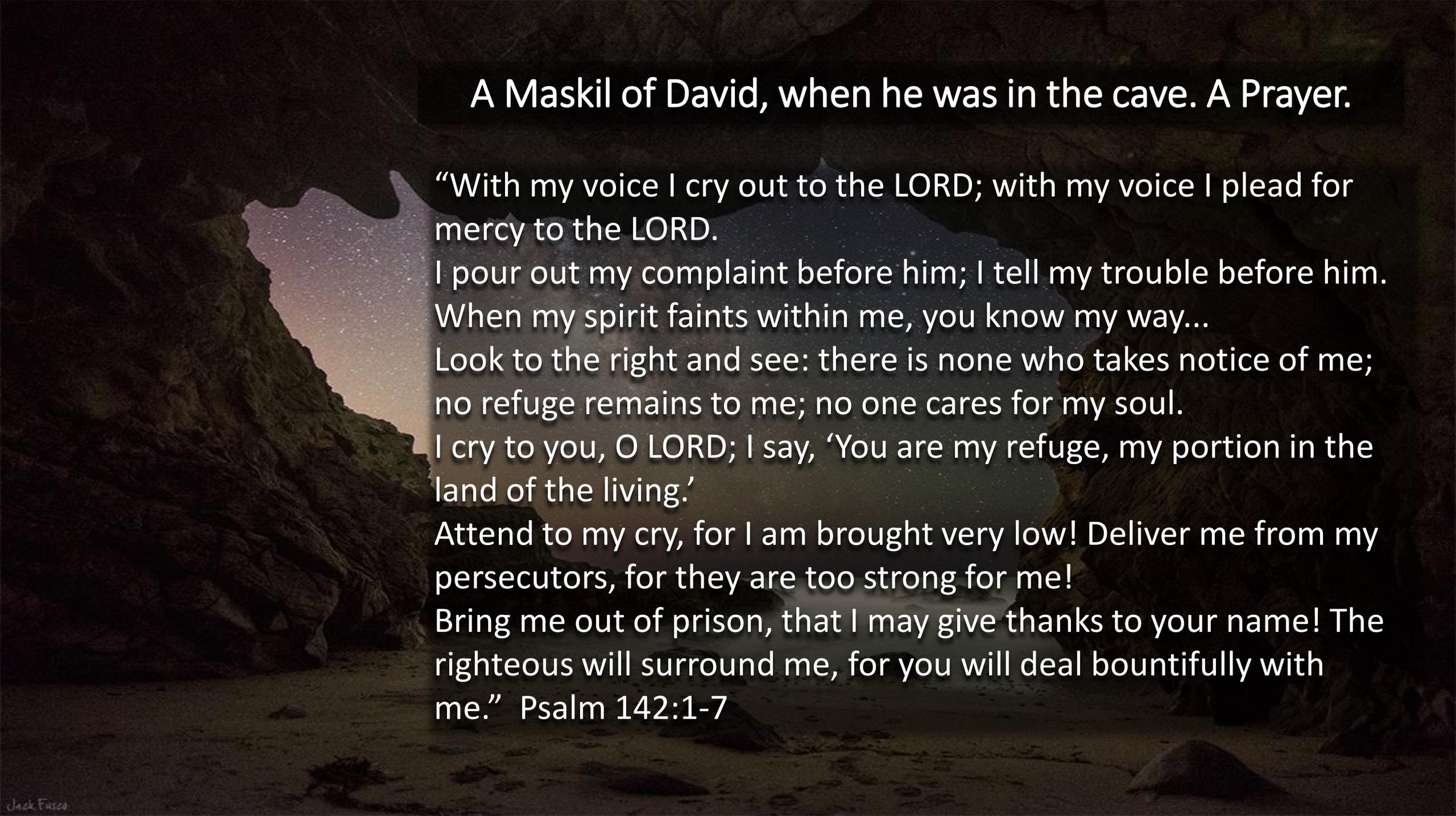
“The captain of the guard appointed Joseph to be with them, and he attended them. They continued for some time in custody.”

Genesis 40:4 (ESV)



“When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they were troubled. So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were with him in custody in his master's house, ‘Why are your faces downcast today?’”

Genesis 40:6, 7 (ESV)

A dark, cavernous interior with a large opening on the left side. Through the opening, a bright, starry night sky is visible, contrasting with the dark, textured rock walls of the cave. The overall atmosphere is somber and contemplative.

A Maskil of David, when he was in the cave. A Prayer.

“With my voice I cry out to the LORD; with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD.

I pour out my complaint before him; I tell my trouble before him. When my spirit faints within me, you know my way...

Look to the right and see: there is none who takes notice of me; no refuge remains to me; no one cares for my soul.

I cry to you, O LORD; I say, ‘You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.’

Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low! Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me!

Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name! The righteous will surround me, for you will deal bountifully with me.” Psalm 142:1-7

A Maskil of David, when he was in the cave. A Prayer.

Maskil = Instructive
Psalm 142 is an
instructive poem

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Written to teach how to
deal with experiences
where we feel trapped
by them.

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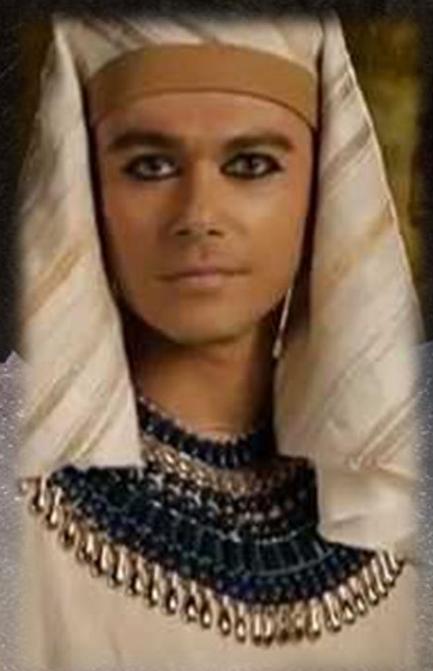
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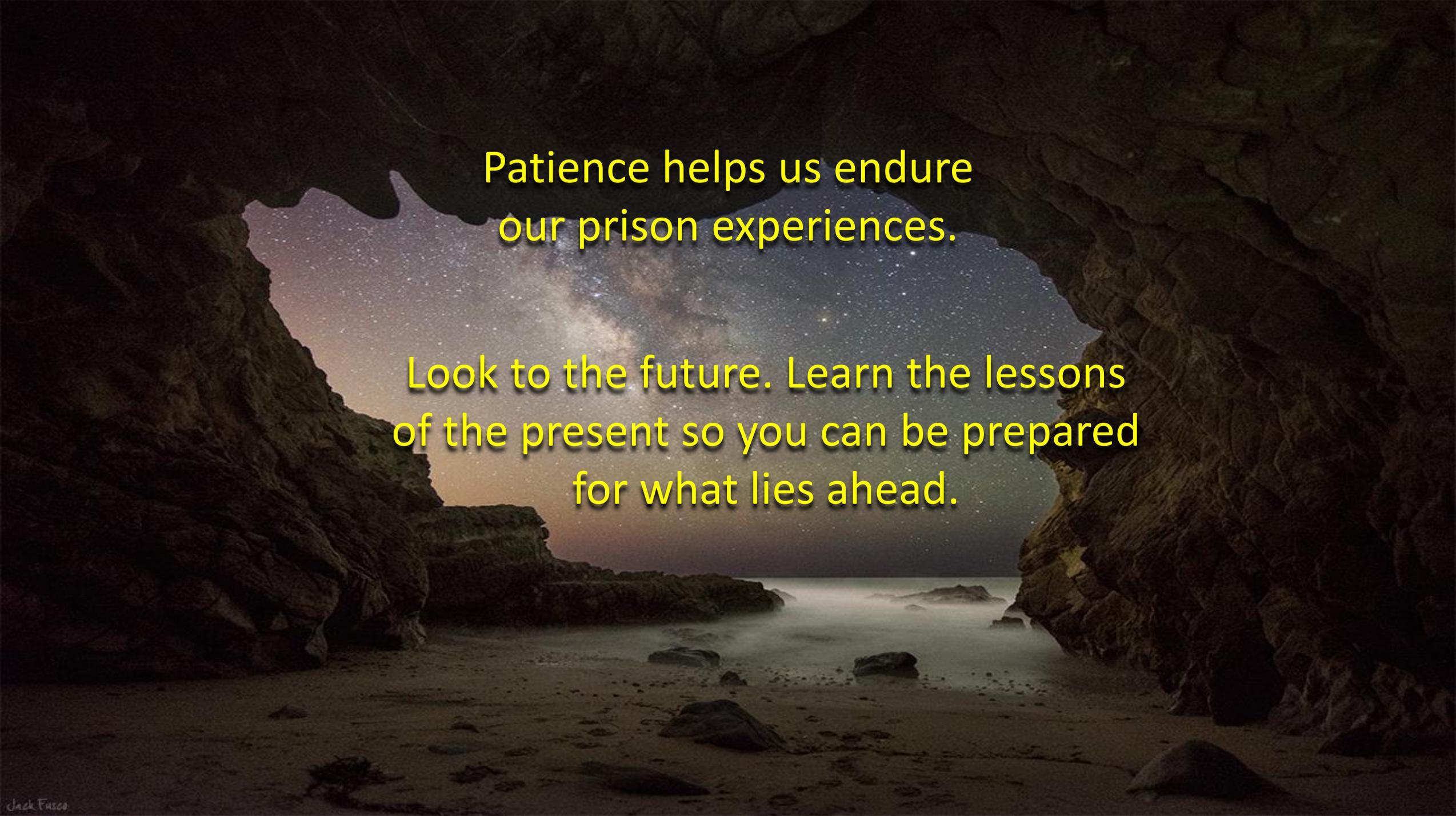








Patience helps us endure
our prison experiences.

A photograph of a cave opening looking out onto a beach at night. The sky is dark with the Milky Way galaxy visible. The beach is sandy with some rocks. The cave walls are dark and textured.

Patience helps us endure
our prison experiences.

Look to the future. Learn the lessons
of the present so you can be prepared
for what lies ahead.





“If this is the will of God,
then I gladly accept it.”



“And when he came near unto the den, to Daniel he cried with a lamentable voice; the king spake and said to Daniel, ‘O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?’

Then said Daniel unto the king, ‘O king, live forever. My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, and they have not hurt me; forasmuch as before Him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.’

Then was the king exceeding glad, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den.



So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he had trusted in his God.

And the king commanded, and they brought those men that had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces, before they came to the bottom of the den.

Then king Darius wrote unto all the peoples, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth: 'Peace be multiplied unto you.

I make a decree, that in all the dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel; for he is the



living God, and steadfast forever, And His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed; and His dominion shall be even unto the end. He delivereth and rescueth, and He worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.'



So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.” Daniel 6:20-28



Our actions, both positive and negative, have an effect on others, especially on our families.





“Therefore, I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.

Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon.” Daniel 3:29, 30



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The way we endure our prison experiences is a witness to those around us.





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Hearts can be so deceived that even miracles cannot change them.



“We must obey God rather than men.”



God overrules a prison experience
when a greater good needs to be
accomplished.



“And when he had considered *the thing*, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together and were praying.

And when he knocked at the door of the gate, a maid came to answer, named Rhoda.

And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for joy, but ran in, and told that Peter stood before the gate.

And they said unto her, ‘Thou art mad.’ But she confidently affirmed that it was even so. And they said, ‘It is his angel.’



But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened, they saw him, and were amazed.

But he, beckoning unto them with the hand to hold their peace, declared unto them how the Lord had brought him forth out of the prison.

And he said, 'Tell these things unto James, and to the brethren.' And he departed, and went to another place." Acts 12:12-17



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Pray for them and encourage them and make sure they know we sympathize with their experience.





“But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns unto God, and the prisoners were listening to them; and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison-house were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened: and every one's bands were loosed.” Act 16:25, 26



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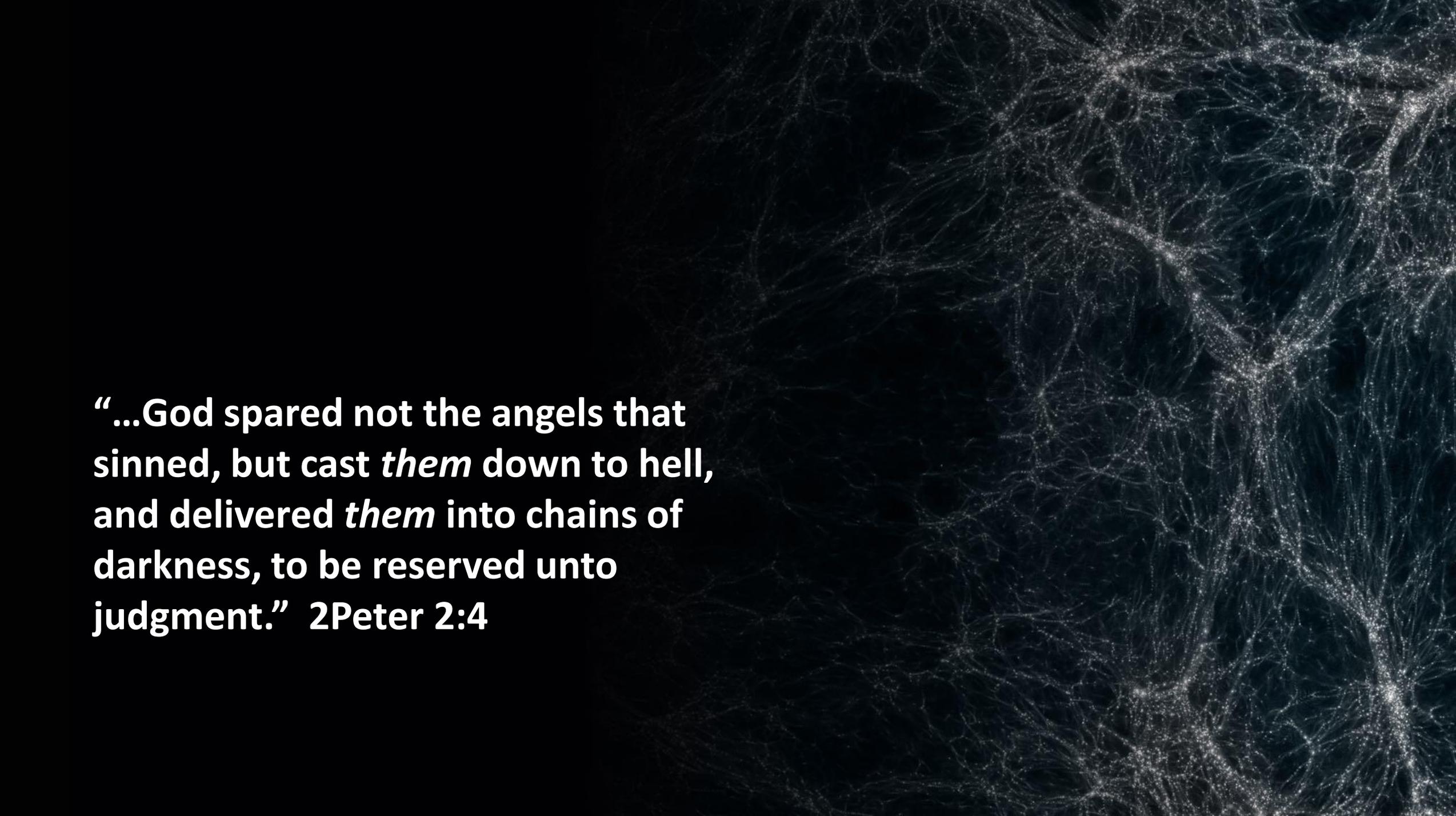
“A sorrow shared is half a sorrow, a joy shared is twice a joy.”



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We are made stronger when we are with those of like mind.





“..God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast *them* down to hell, and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.” 2Peter 2:4

Tartaroo - from Greek mythology as the name for a dark abyss or prison.

“God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast *them* down to hell, and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.” 2Peter 2:4

“Because Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God; being put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; in which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison.” 1Peter 3:18, 19



God, “will have all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” 1 Timothy 2:4

“Because Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God; being put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; in which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison.” 1Peter 3:18, 19



“I the LORD have called thee in righteousness,
and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee,
and give thee for a covenant of the people, for
a light of the Gentiles;
To open the blind eyes, to bring out the
prisoners from the prison, *and* them that sit in
darkness out of the prison house.” Isaiah 42: 6, 7



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and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee,
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To open the blind eyes, to bring out the
prisoners from the prison, *and* them that sit in
darkness out of the prison house.” Isaiah 42: 6, 7

“...The LORD hath anointed me to preach good
tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to
bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty
to the captives, and the opening of the prison
to *them that are bound*.” Isaiah 61:1



➤ Joseph made the best of his prison life



- Joseph made the best of his prison life
- David turned to God for help and encouragement

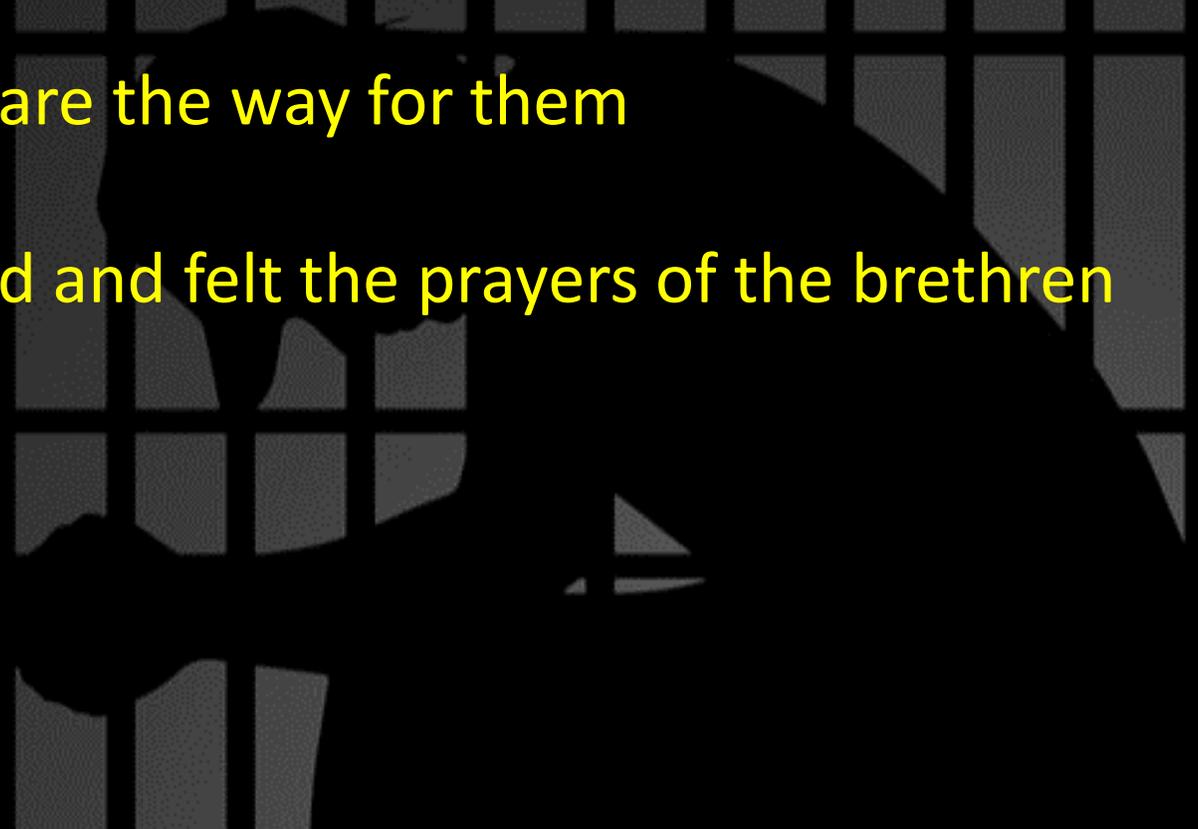


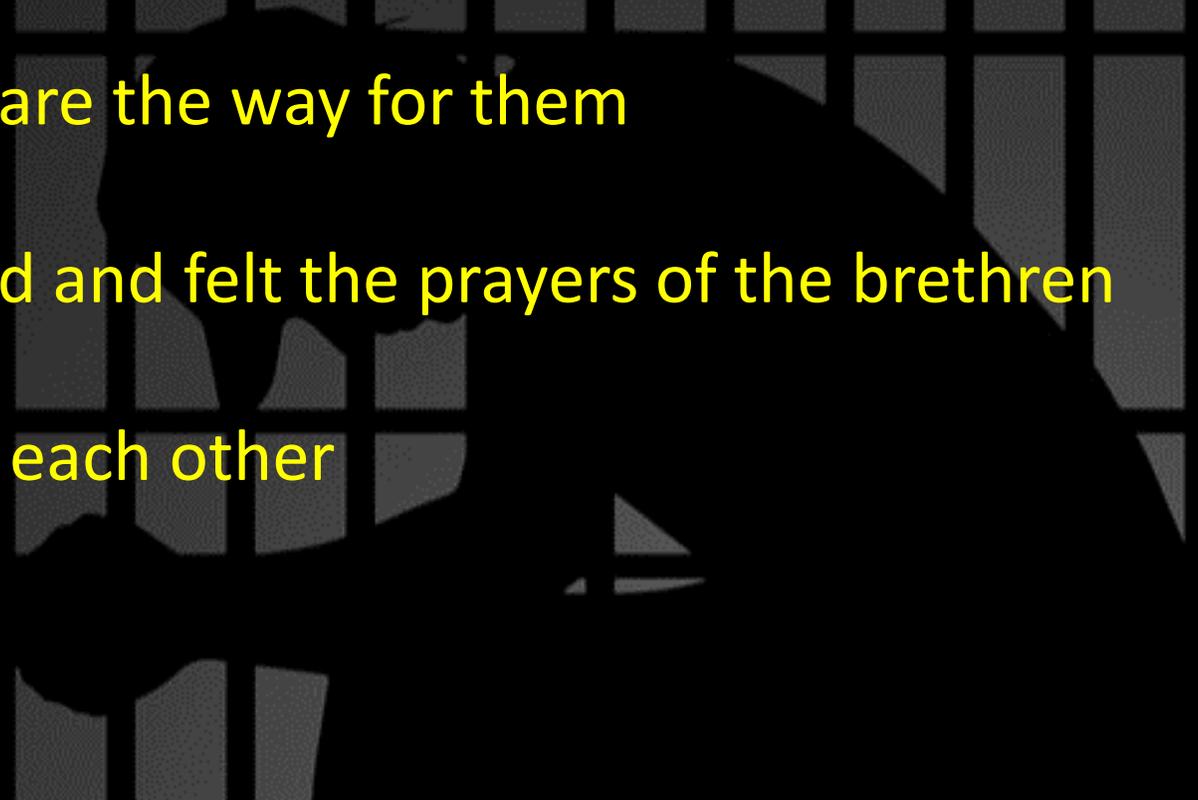
- Joseph made the best of his prison life
- David turned to God for help and encouragement
- Daniel never questioned the hand of providence

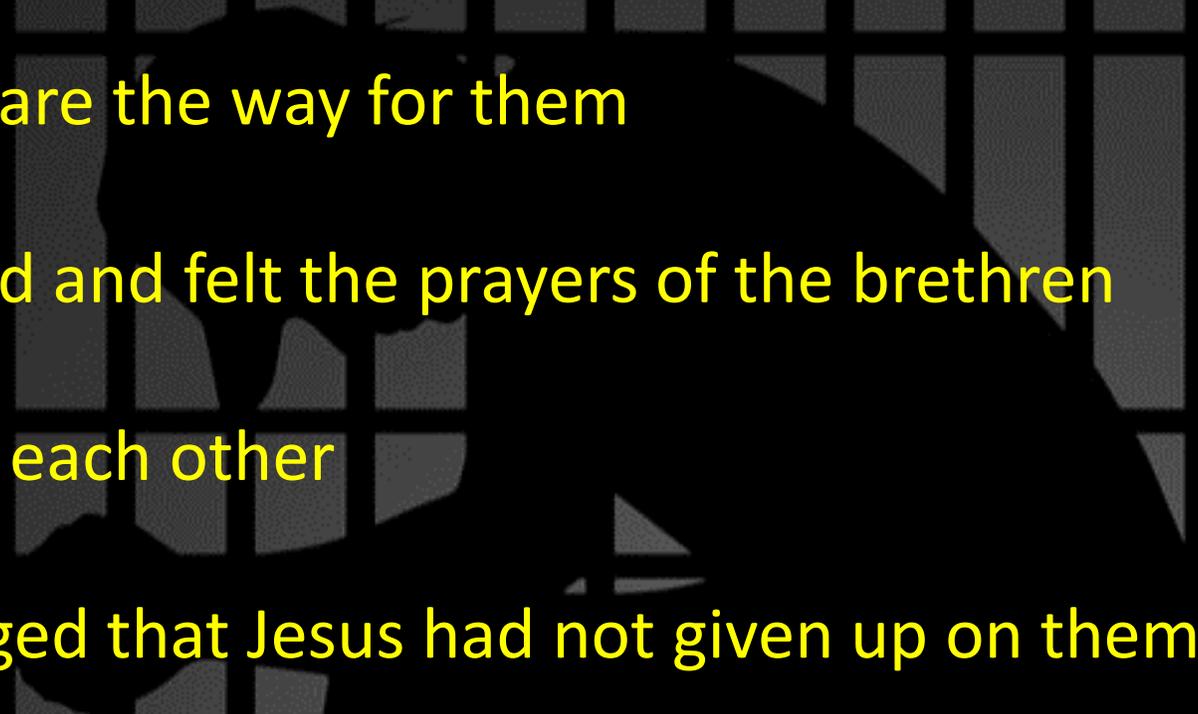


- Joseph made the best of his prison life
- David turned to God for help and encouragement
- Daniel never questioned the hand of providence
- The apostles saw that God prepare the way for them



- 
- A silhouette of a man in a prison cell, looking out through the bars. The man is wearing a cap and has his hands on the bars. The background is a grid of vertical and horizontal bars, representing the prison cell.
- Joseph made the best of his prison life
 - David turned to God for help and encouragement
 - Daniel never questioned the hand of providence
 - The apostles saw that God prepare the way for them
 - Peter witnessed the hand of God and felt the prayers of the brethren

- 
- A dark silhouette of two men in a prison cell, one standing and one sitting, against a background of vertical bars.
- Joseph made the best of his prison life
 - David turned to God for help and encouragement
 - Daniel never questioned the hand of providence
 - The apostles saw that God prepare the way for them
 - Peter witnessed the hand of God and felt the prayers of the brethren
 - Paul & Silas drew strength from each other

- 
- A silhouette of a man in a suit, looking out from behind vertical prison bars. The background is dark, and the bars are light gray, creating a grid pattern.
- Joseph made the best of his prison life
 - David turned to God for help and encouragement
 - Daniel never questioned the hand of providence
 - The apostles saw that God prepare the way for them
 - Peter witnessed the hand of God and felt the prayers of the brethren
 - Paul & Silas drew strength from each other
 - The fallen angels were encouraged that Jesus had not given up on them

This life is our moment to trust God

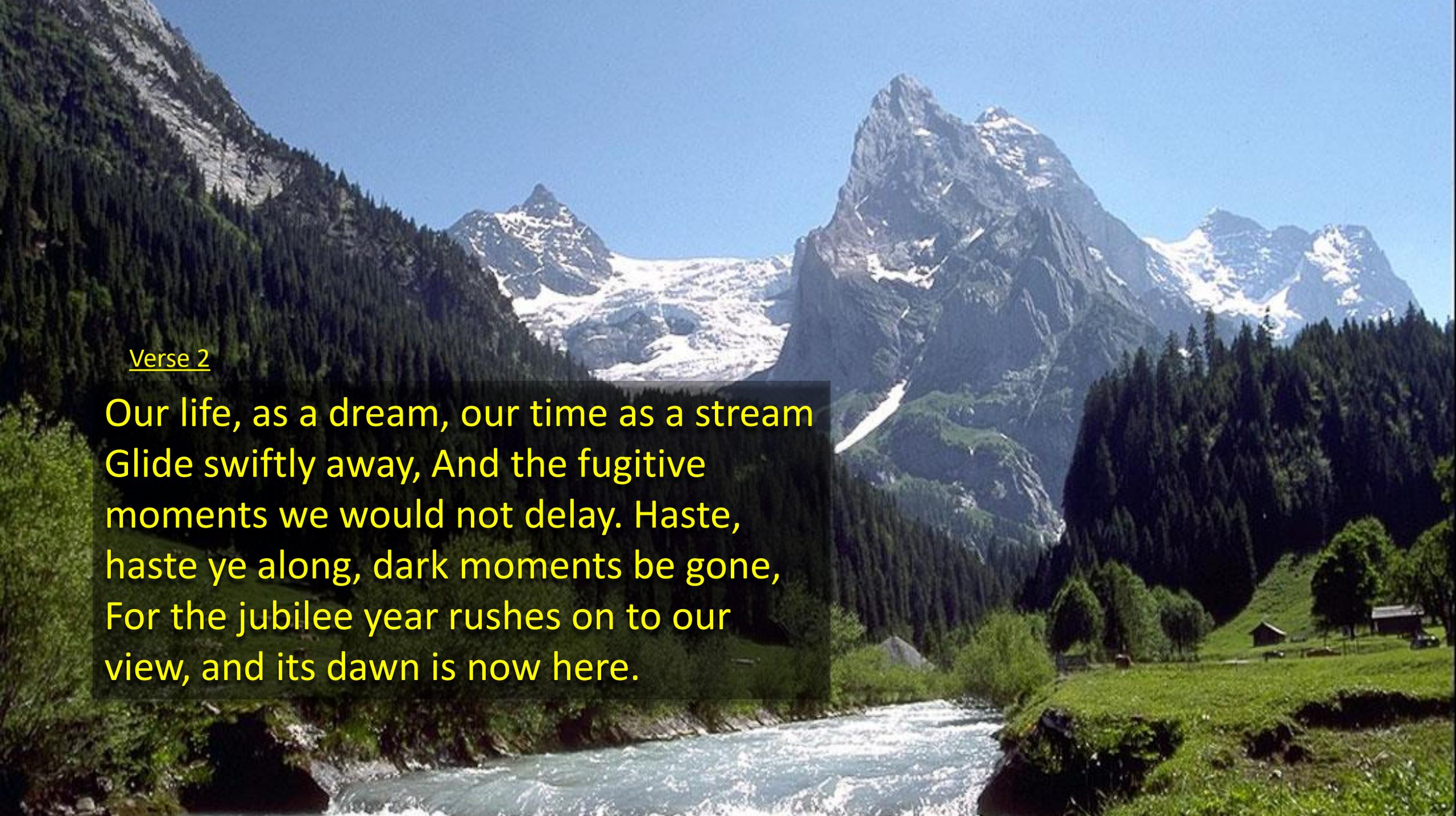
Renewed Devotedness

34 - 3 Verses

Verse 1

Come let us anew our journey pursue,
Roll round with the year, and never stand
still till the master appear. His adorable
will let us gladly fulfill, And our talents
improve, by the patience of hope, and
the labor of love.





Verse 2

Our life, as a dream, our time as a stream
Glide swiftly away, And the fugitive
moments we would not delay. Haste,
haste ye along, dark moments be gone,
For the jubilee year rushes on to our
view, and its dawn is now here.

Verse 3

O! at close of our day may each of us say,
“I have fought my way thro’; I have
finished the work thou didst give me to
do!” O! that each from his Lord may
receive the glad word, “Well and
faithfully done! Enter into my joy, and sit
down on my throne!”





