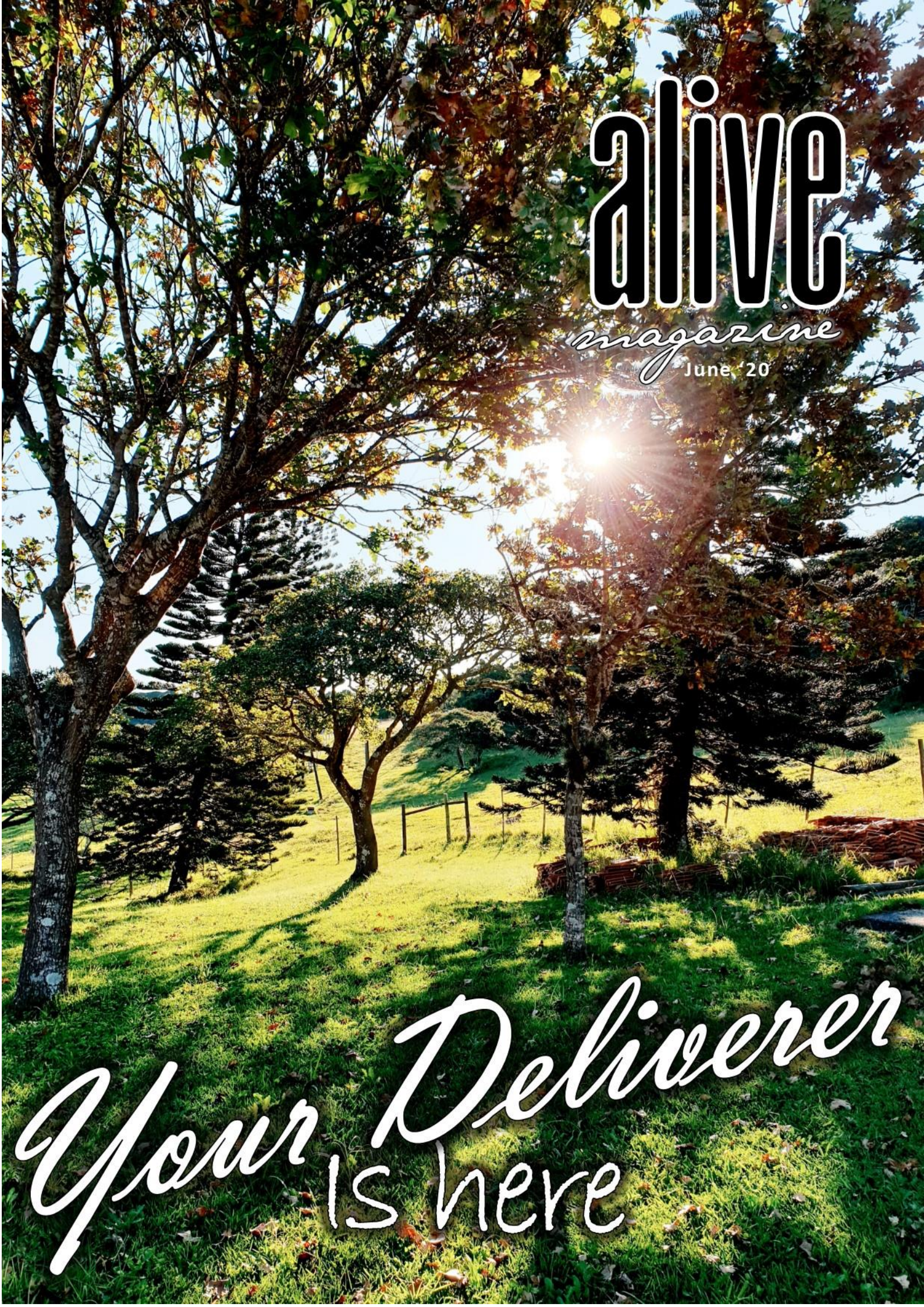

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Contents

+ featured articles

4 **YOUR DELIVERER IS HERE**
- Andrew Roebert –

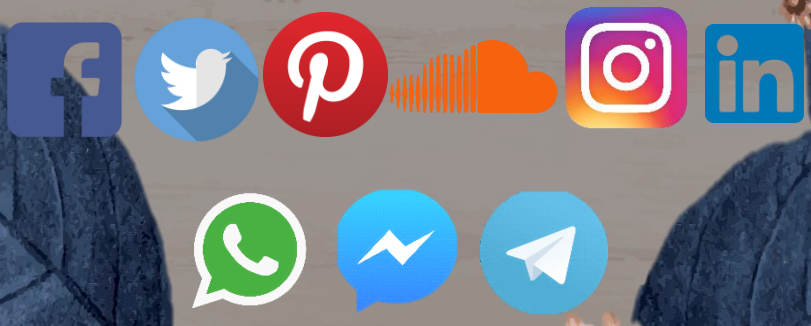
8 **FOUNDATIONS**
- Ellel Ministries–

10 **JESUS OUR DELIVERER**
- Andrew Roebert –

14 **STAND YOUR GROUND**
- Ellel Ministries–

16 **RESCUED**
- Andrew Roebert –

18 **RESCUED BY GOD**
- Baxter Clark –



Your Deliverer is Here

By: Andrew Roebert

The story of the exodus of the Nation of Israel from bondage in Egypt to the promised land is the greatest story of deliverance. It is a story about a nation of people, once celebrated in the land, now tolerated and subjugated into slavery. It is also a story about the Lord's remarkable connection with His people and how He steps into their situation and delivers them It is recorded for us in the Bible, in the book of Exodus in the Old Testament. There are so many remarkable correlations between this story and what people go through during life. There are also many correlations that we see people facing in the world today. What we know for sure is that the Lord never changes, and therefore we can draw strength from this remarkable story, and we can anticipate that the Lord will be faithful to us, as He was then, to His people.

The good times

We all go through seasons in life where things seem to go smoothly or seemed to have gone smoothly. Perhaps that is why people often refer to 'The good old days.' In the story in the book of Exodus, Joseph become the prince in Egypt and brings his whole family to live in an area called Goshen. Goshen was a region of ancient Egypt, east of the Nile delta: it was given to Jacob and his descendants by the king of Egypt and they inhabited it until the exodus. (Genesis 45:10) It was a place of comfort, security and plenty. It is symbolic for us of a good time and a good place. During this season, people thrived and multiplied. Originally only 70 individuals came to Goshen, but they enjoyed good times and during this season they flourished and prospered.

Exodus 1:7 'Their descendants had many children and grandchildren. In fact, they multiplied so greatly that they became extremely powerful and filled the land.'

It is as if they were living through a boom time. It was a veritable population explosion, and with that came increased influence and power. They became a force to be reckoned with. Perhaps you can remember a time when you or your family were really doing well? Perhaps things were going from strength to strength and you never imagined that things could change? We all go through periods or season of good times. We must make the most of these times and realise that the Lord is blessing us for a reason.

We should make the best use of the good times, and as the old proverb says; 'We should make hay while the sun shines.'

The tide turns

In the story in the book of Exodus we see how things began to change. Something happened that upset the equilibrium and the result was that the 'tide turned' and things took a turn.

Exodus 1:8 'Eventually, a new king came to power in Egypt who knew nothing about Joseph or what he had done.'

The favour, peace and prosperity that they had lived under turned into a vastly different scenario, and they could not do anything about it. The truth was that the new king of Egypt felt threatened because of how well the people of God were doing. His greatest fear was that they would rise up against him and threaten him and his nation.

Exodus 1:9 He said to his people, 'Look, the people of Israel now outnumber us and are stronger than we are.'

We live a life where constant change is the only thing, we can be sure of. We can feel as secure as 'houses' the one day, and then find that we are sitting exposed in a vulnerable position the next. It was on 27 February 2020, when my church prayed for me and released me into the destiny that the Lord had prepared for me. It was a special and wonderful moment. The church was full, and everyone was enjoying singing, praying and listening to the sermon. Little did we know that a virus, that we had heard almost nothing about, was about to invade our lives and change life as we knew it. Within less than one month we would be in complete lockdown and no church services would be permitted. At the time we thought it would be a week or three, but we did not realise it would continue for months. Months later, as I sit here today, the effects are still being felt and we are being advised that it could still have an impact for years to come. The tide had turned, things had changed. My late father would always tell us that 'constant change is here to stay!' Things can and inevitable will change. Change is something we are incapable of avoiding or evading. It is for this very reason that we must trust God so completely. He is the anchor in the voyage of life, and He is with us in the 'boat' of our lives, so we can keep moving forward.

The hard times (the season of difficulties)

I do not think I have ever lived through such a time as now, when so many people are struggling all around me. People are losing jobs, incomes, careers and many are losing hope. Many people do not even have food to put on the table, and just a few months ago we had no idea it would even happen. In the story of the exodus we see how that once the tide had turned, people faced hard times.

Exodus 1:10 'We must make a plan to keep them from growing even more. If we don't, and if war breaks out, they will join our enemies and fight against us. Then they will escape from the country.'

Often, change can bring with it a difficult season. If you think of some of the changes that people go through and the resultant difficulties. Think about divorce, bankruptcies, retrenchment or even the death of a family member. This is how it happened in the exodus account.



Exodus 1:11 'So the Egyptians made the Israelites their slaves. They appointed brutal slave drivers over them, hoping to wear them down with crushing labour.'

Hard times are never easy. Regardless of what we face, we can know that God is with us.

Psalm 46:1 'God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.'

We are not exempt from hard times, or as the Bible calls it, trouble or storms, but the greatest joy is to know that even when we face these things, we are not alone, our Deliverer is right there with us.

Thriving, in the face of challenges

Despite the great hardship that the nation of Israel faced, they continued to thrive.

Exodus 1:12 'But the more the Egyptians oppressed them, the more the Israelites multiplied and spread, and the more alarmed the Egyptians became.'

The concept of thriving under hardship seems a contradiction in terms. It appears that the more they were oppressed, the more they thrived. I have concluded that when God is in the equation of our lives, our thriving can be in direct proportion to our hardship. In other words, to the same degree that we are facing hardship, we can see an equal and opposite blessing on our lives. It may sound impossible, but that is what happened in this situation. In fact, the thriving was even greater than the suffering, so that even in the suffering, the progress they made was visibly greater. This distressed their enemies greatly. It says that the Egyptians became even more alarmed. Imagine, that even while you are facing great challenges, you can still make so much progress, that the enemy becomes alarmed. I believe that this is possible as we continue to trust our Deliverer. The Lord was with the nation of Israel, giving them success and growth, despite the challenges they faced. I know it may seem like an impossibility, and you may say that I do not know what you are facing, and that is true, BUT if God steps in and changes the dynamics, you can thrive in the face of challenges. This is my prayer for you, that you will thrive, in the face of challenges.

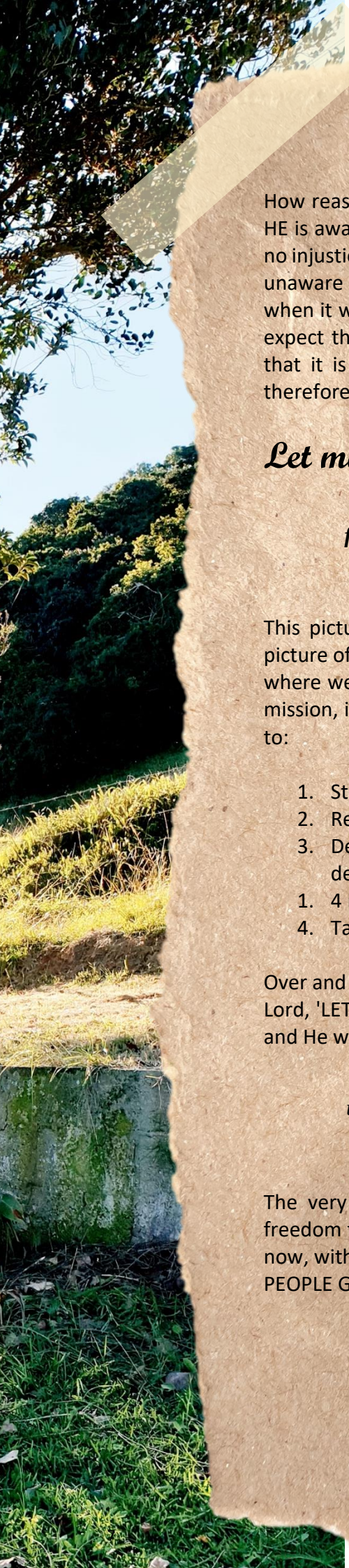
God sees all and hears all

When we go through difficulties, it can sometimes feel like God has abandoned us. We may even feel as if our prayers are 'bouncing off the ceiling..' But the truth of the matter is that God sees all things and hears all things.

Exodus 3:7 Then the LORD told him, 'I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering.'

This verse tells us all about the character of God. e never forsakes or abandons us. He never leaves us or forgets us, and He sees what is going on and what we are going through, and He hears our prayers, cries and calls for help, and in His time, He will act.

Exodus 2:23-25 'Years passed, and the king of Egypt died. But the Israelites continued to groan under their burden of slavery. They cried out for help, and their cry rose up to God. God heard their groaning, and He remembered His covenant promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He looked down on the people of Israel and knew it was time to act.'



How reassuring it is to know that HE hears, HE sees, HE remembers, HE is aware, and HE acts. Nothing that we go through, struggle with, no injustice, no cruel treatment and no hardship that we endure, is HE unaware of. Just as we see in the above Scripture, there came a time when it was time for the Lord to act on behalf of His people. We can expect the Lord to exhibit the same character towards us. I believe that it is time for Him to act in the situations we are facing and therefore we can be expectant.

Let my people go - God's plan!

Exodus 3:8 'So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land. It is a land flowing with milk and honey.'

This picture of the Lord 'coming down' to rescue His people, is a picture of divine intervention. I believe we all go through things in life where we need 'DIVINE INTERVENTION'. But it was not just a rescue mission, it was a rescue and restoration mission. The Lord's plan was to:

1. Step into the situation.
2. Rescue His people.
3. Deliver them from the power of the thing that wanted to destroy them.
1. 4 Lead them out and away from the situation.
4. Take them into a wonderful future of promise and provision.

Over and over, in the book of Exodus, we see the instruction from the Lord, 'LET MY PEOPLE GO!' To be free, is God's desire for His people, and He wants to intervene to bring it to pass.

Galatians 5:1 'It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.'

The very purpose for which Christ came to earth was to ensure freedom for His people. It is what the Lord wants to do for you. Even now, with all the challenges that the world is facing, He says: 'LET MY PEOPLE GO! LET MY CHILD BE FREE!' Know it, believe it and expect it!

FOUNDATIONS

By: Ellel Ministries

One of the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa, opened in Dubai in January 2010. This building stands at 828 meters high and is twice the height of the renowned Empire State building. It captured several world records at the time, e.g. the tallest man-made structure, the building with the most floors (160+), and fastest elevators (10 meters per second). But although most of the focus is on the height of this lofty structure, the more important fact to consider is what lies beneath this impressive building. The foundation of this building is more than 50 meters deep and it took almost a year just to lay this foundation, using 12 500 cubic meters of concrete weighing about 12 000 tons! The foundation was subjected to rigorous testing as, even the slightest rotation in the foundational structure, would be magnified at the top, with disastrous consequences!





Matthew 7:24-25 says, “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.” At times we wonder why God allow us to go through tough trials – the rain, the floods and the winds of life - and why He sees fit to prune us in uncomfortable and painful ways. We go through seasons of prayer and fasting, of pressing in and of persevering through difficulties, and yet we may not seem to experience the breakthrough we are trusting for. We may be spending time with Him and studying His Word, standing on His promises, and do everything we know to do, and still not always see His hand! What could possibly be the reason for this?

God needs us to have a very deep and solid foundation in order for Him to trust us with the weight of His particular calling our lives. What may seem to us as time wasted, painful testing of our faith and needless tears shed in the process, is to God the laying of a strong foundation, preparing us to be useful and effective in our walk with Him.

A.W. Tozer said, “God never uses anyone greatly until He tests them deeply.” All though the scriptures the lives of the great men and women of God are testimony of this fact. David had to face the lion and the bear before facing the giant that brought promotion to his life. Abraham had to face the altar of obedience upon which his son lay, before God could entrust him with the promise of greatness for all generations. The apostle Peter had to face his humanity and propensity to failure before the Lord could entrust the message of salvation and the establishment of the New Testament church to him alongside his fellow disciples.

We should, therefore, not grow despondent at our current situation, look back and despise the trials that are behind us, or dread what we see ahead of us. Supporting any truly great life is a solid foundation, built on a hard work, obedience to God’s Word, faith, perseverance and testing, but even more importantly, built on the Rock! God loves us more than we can imagine and His plans are always to prosper us. He sees the impressive end result when we only see the messy ‘building rubble’ underneath. Let His truth be our foundation and anchor while He builds our life’s foundation to be strong and unmovable.

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Jesus
Our Deliverer

By: Andrew Roebert

What is a deliverer?

A rescuer. One who saves us – lifesaver. A person who liberates – Nelson Mandela. One who leads another to a place of safety (refuge). One who provides. Someone who brings release. One who provides a way of escape. One who brings VICTORY. One who gives HOPE.



The Lord is our Deliverer!

2 Samuel 22:2 – 'The Lord is my Rock, my Fortress and my deliverer.

From what have we been delivered?

We have been delivered from our enemies – Psalms 18:17 – 'He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes who were too strong for me.' What are those things that have become too strong for you: BAD HABITS, SIN, DRUGS, GAMBLING, TEMPER, ABUSE or ALCOHOL. These are things that can be enemies to us, to our families, to our lives. God wants to deliver each one of us. We have been delivered from our fears – Psalm 34:4 – 'I sought the Lord, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears.' What are the fears in your life today: CRIME, VIOLENCE and DEATH OF A LOVED ONE, RETRENCHMENT, or DISABILITY. God wants to deliver each one of us from our fears.



We have been delivered from our troubles – Psalm 34:6 – 'This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; and saved him out of all his troubles.' What are the troubles in your life today: FINANCIAL, EMPLOYMENT, REJECTION (Divorce), RESULT OF WRONG DECISIONS, HEALTH, and RELATIONAL TROUBLES. God wants to deliver us from our troubles. Psalm 34:17,19. We have been delivered from death – Psalm 56:13 – 'For you have delivered my soul from death….' Do you fear DEATH or DYING? God wants to deliver each one of us from death. He also wants to give us salvation and eternal life. We have been delivered From Evil – The Lord's Prayer says that we should request that we be delivered from evil and God has the capacity to spare us from the ravages of evil.

Examples of people God delivered

- David – from Goliath
  (1 Samuel 17:37)
- The Hebrew men – from the furnace
  (Daniel 3:27)
- Daniel – from the lion's den
  (Daniel 6:22)
- Apostle Peter – from jail
  Acts 12:7
- Paul and Silas – from jail
  Acts 16:26

Deliverance applies to us for the length of our lives

Isaiah 46:4 – 'Even to your old age and grey hairs I am He, I am He who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.'

Young and old can know the delivering power of God at any stage of life.



Image: Tony Dove 2020

Stand your Ground

By: Ellel Ministries



A few years ago, my husband and I, together with a friend visiting us, found ourselves in a situation where our lives were in danger and our safety violated. The incident left us somewhat shaken and feeling quite vulnerable. The morning after this distressing event, I woke up with Ephesians 6:13 (AMPC) in my spirit: "Therefore put on God's complete armour, that you may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil day [of danger], and, having done all [the crisis demands], to stand [firmly in your place]." Three truths in this scripture struck me:

1. The reason why we need to be wearing the full armour of God is because the "evil day of danger" is bound to come in some shape or form during our journey here on earth. Jesus said, "I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33 – NIV)

James 1:2-3 (NIV) says, “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.” As long as we live in this fallen world, we are bound to be faced with trials and troubles of varying degrees. But the great news is that, when we are positioned IN JESUS, covered with His armour, we will be able to stand our ground in the face of adversity.

2. The second part of Ephesians 6:13 (AMPC) says, “…and having done all the crisis demands, to stand firmly in your place.” I don’t believe that the Lord intends for us to live with our heads in the sand when trouble comes, and to pretend we are not affected by the brokenness and distress it often brings. As God’s children we may be under the impression that we should move on very quickly from a traumatic event, a loss or even a relationship where we have been wounded. We are to continue to keep that smile on our face, put the “coping mask” on, and forge ahead. But this verse speaks about the fact that the crisis may demand some things that need to be done, some realities needing attention. This may include practical things like taking time out to recover, asking for prayer support while you are processing something, or perhaps getting godly council and ministry to bring God’s healing.

3. Thirdly we are encouraged to “stand firmly” in our place after we have done all. I read an article about Cheetahs – those beautiful wild cats. It explained what to do, should you encounter a Cheetah while you are on foot in the Wild. One of the warnings in the article is not to run or show any signs of fear, because if you run, the Cheetah will instinctively chase you. You are encouraged to stand your ground and slowly move to safety. The Bible speaks of our enemy roaming around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. “…Withstand him; be firm in faith [against his onset—rooted, established, strong, immovable, and determined]…” (1 Peter 5:8-9 – Amplified). God’s Word and His promises is our anchor when we are walking through difficult experiences. It is the Sword with which we can fight the enemy. The name of Jesus is our Strong Tower where we can find shelter, and His love is our safe place which drives out all fear. We are positioned IN HIM.
For us as God’s own, there is nothing the enemy can bring across our way that God is not able to work together for good, and for His glory. Genesis 50:20 (NKJV) says, “But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring about as it is this day, to save many people alive.” Let us take comfort in the One Who is within us, and so much greater than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4).

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RESCUED

By: Andrew Roebert

God is our rescuer. I once watched a TV program about person who fell into a frozen lake. Someone came a rescued this person and risked his life BUT saved the person. Have you ever felt like you were sinking and needed a rescuer? God wants to be that for us.

GOD WANTS TO RESCUE US FROM THINGS

At times in our lives we are faced with getting involved with things that we should not get involved with. This could be sin. It could also be something we could regret. Often we come very close to doing things that could effect the rest of our lives. This is dangerous! It is like standing on the edge of a waterfall, and once we have fallen over we can never return or returning will be very difficult. God wants to rescue us from these things. Before they happen. Like a father who does not want His child to bump his head. He wants to rescue us by not letting us enter it in the first place.

GOD WANTS TO RESCUE US OUT OF THINGS

Sometimes, as things turn out, we end up caught up in things. Things that we should never have got involved with. Choices we make plan a vital role. But now we are in it. But now we are in it. Can we make that impossible trip up the waterfall?

God wants to do it for us. He wants to rescue us out of things that have swallowed us up. He wants to rescue us out of things that have already caught us. Maybe things have got the better of you? Then you need a rescuer. And God is ready and able!

WHAT DOES GOD WANT TO RESCUE US FROM

Every trap we face. A trap is something that has the potential of catching and ensnaring us. In other translations the word snare is used. An animal only discovers a snare when it is in it. It is something that holds us back. It is something that could lead to our destruction.

Psalm 91:3 For he rescues you from every trap.

What a great thought! That God wants to rescue us before we make that final step into the trap. And that God wants to rescue us out of the trap we may have already stepped into.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE TRAPS IN LIFE?

Sin. Despair or a loss of hope – leading to suicide. Wrong choices and decisions. Anger and hatred. Bitterness and hardness of heart. A destroyed conscience. God wants to deliver us from and out of all of these conditions.

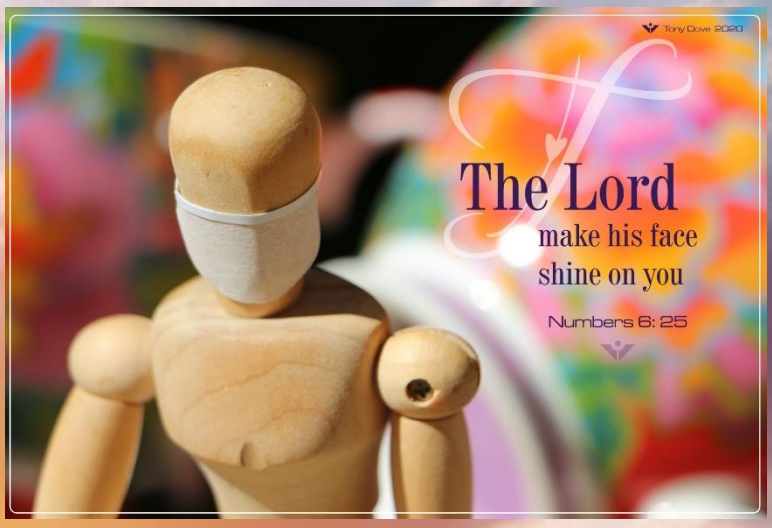


Image: Tony Dove 2020

Psalm 91:3 Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.

THE DEADLY PESTILENCE

Psalm 91:3 Surely He shall deliver you from ……the deadly pestilence.

What is the deadly pestilence? It is that thing that has the potential in it to kill. It could be that we physically died or that we die on the inside. Whatever it is it is deadly. God wants to deliver us from that as well.

WHAT HAS GOT A HOLD ON YOU TODAY

Is there something that has a hold of you today? It may be something big – like a wrong lifestyle.

It may be something small like fear. God wants to rescue you. Perhaps it feels like there is something that is getting a foothold in your life. You know it is there. Maybe you have even been fighting it off. God wants to rescue you. We have a great God! He loves us!

PRAYER

Dear Lord, you know my condition and you know the circumstances and situations in my life. I want to be free and I need you to rescue me. I ask you to step into my life and rescue me! Thank you Lord for the miracle that you are about to do in my heart and life. Amen.

Rescued By God

By: Baxter Clark



I gave my life to Christ about seven months before I was sentenced to a three-year prison term for a crime that I had committed. Even in the brutal, and dangerous prison environment, the Lord had His hand on me. In time, other prisoners would come to me with prayer requests for their families, or themselves. We also managed to have various pastors visit us on Sundays for church meetings. Never once in prison was, I threatened or harmed in any way.

On coming out of prison I joined a church and got involved with a rehab program for people like me. The Lord has seen fit to give me a lovely wife, a beautiful daughter, and a very blessed life. I have a great love for motorcycles. My daughter and I do the toy run on my big bike, and I have a scooter that I use to work and back. On Monday the eleventh of May 2020 I was riding home on the scooter. I was looking forward to getting home and having a cup of tea with my wife and daughter at the new fishpond we have just built in our yard. I was overtaking a truck that was in the right only turning lane, when suddenly it turned left right in front of me.

I almost had no time to brake. I grabbed the brakes so hard that the front wheel locked up, and the scooter fell over onto its side and slid under the truck. I do not remember much of what happened next. I felt my head hit something. I think it may have been the curbing on the sidewalk, and I heard more than I felt, as the scooter impacted the truck. I got myself out of the wreckage and walked to the side of the road. There I checked myself for injuries. I discovered that I was alright, I got the truck driver to help me get the scooter out from under his truck.

I told the driver that he could go. I phoned my wife and asked her to fetch me at my workplace. I then proceeded to push the scooter to my workplace. While I was pushing the scooter back to work, I offered up a prayer of thanks to the Lord. I ended up having only superficial wounds. The Lord has once again protected me from harm. Without His hand on me, I would not have walked away from that wreck. Please never doubt His love for you, nor His ability to protect you.

We serve a mighty God.
God bless,
Baxter Clark.





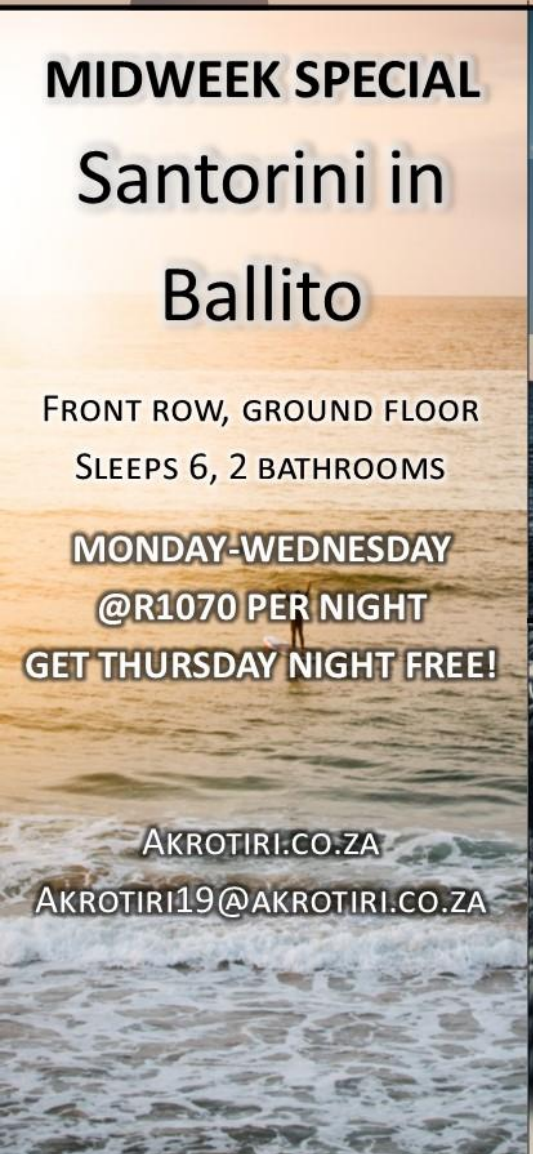



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