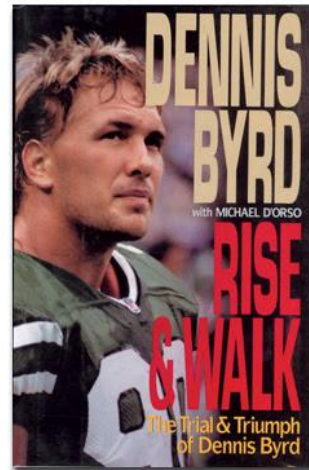


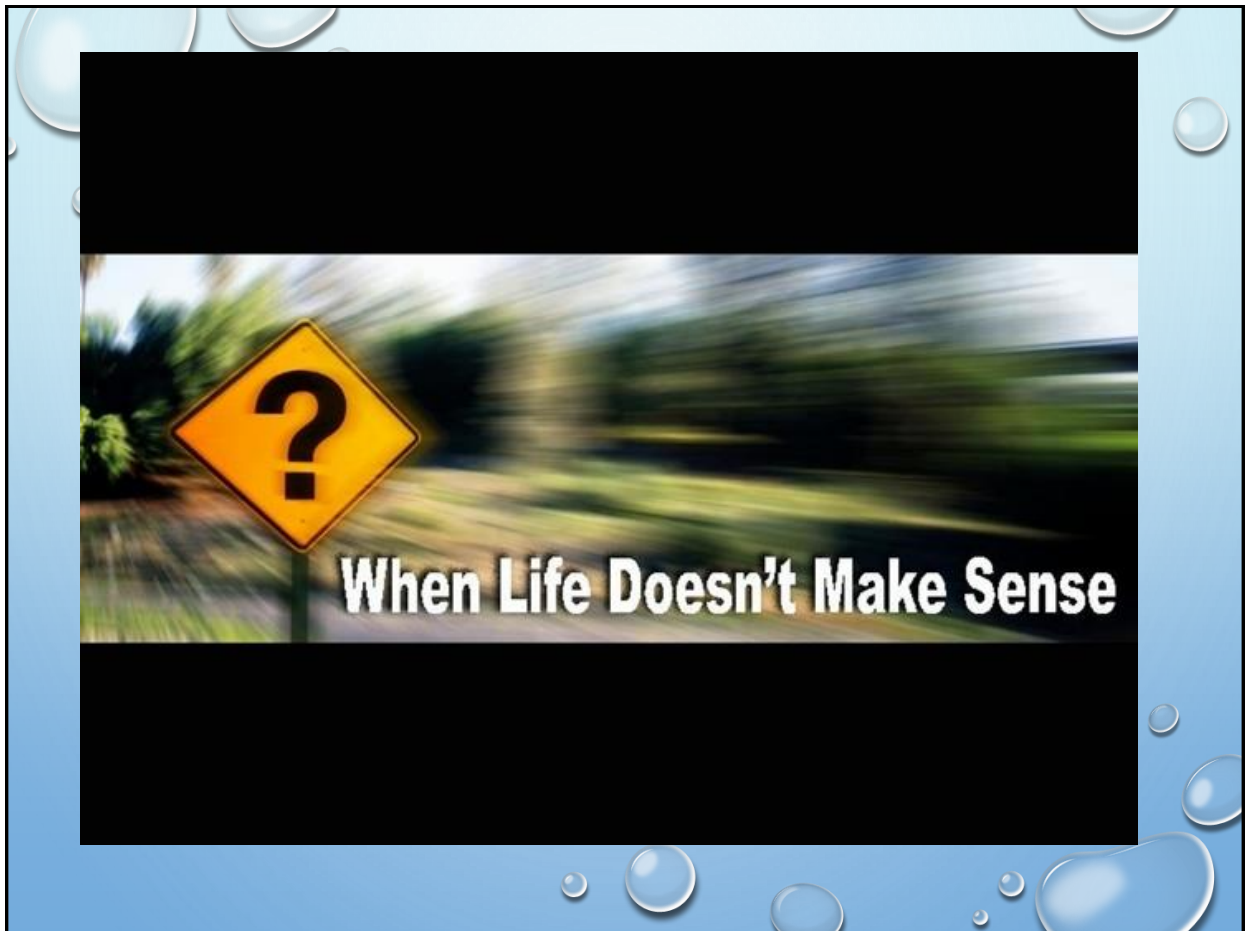


# LIVING WITH PURPOSE

LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS







## ACTS 11:19-30

1. CHRISTIANS SCATTERED BY PERSECUTION PREACH THE GOSPEL 11:19-21
  - <sup>NIV</sup> **ACTS 11:21** THE LORD'S HAND WAS WITH THEM, AND A GREAT NUMBER OF PEOPLE BELIEVED AND TURNED TO THE LORD.
2. BARNABAS AND SAUL SPEND A YEAR IN ANTIOCH 11:22-26
  - <sup>NIV</sup> **ACTS 11:26** ...THE DISCIPLES WERE CALLED CHRISTIANS FIRST AT ANTIOCH.
3. PAUL AND BARNABAS SENT TO JUDEA ON RELIEF MISSION

## ACTS 12:1-24

1. THE AFFLICTION OF JAMES 12:1-2
2. THE AFFLICTION OF PETER 12:3-17
3. HEROD'S WRATH 12:18-19
4. HEROD'S REWARD 12:20-23
5. THE VICTORY OF THE LORD 12:24



## CURRENT CONDITIONS

- <sup>NAS</sup> **ACTS 9:31** SO THE CHURCH THROUGHOUT ALL JUDEA AND GALILEE AND SAMARIA ENJOYED PEACE, BEING BUILT UP; AND, GOING ON IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD AND IN THE COMFORT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, IT CONTINUED TO INCREASE.

## 1. THE AFFLICTION OF JAMES 12:1-2

- <sup>NIV</sup> **ACTS 12:1** IT WAS ABOUT THIS TIME THAT KING HEROD ARRESTED SOME WHO BELONGED TO THE CHURCH, INTENDING TO PERSECUTE THEM. <sup>2</sup> HE HAD JAMES, THE BROTHER OF JOHN, PUT TO DEATH WITH THE SWORD.



## 2. THE AFFLICTION OF PETER 12:3-17

- A. PETER'S ARREST V3-6
- B. PETER'S DELIVERANCE V7-10
- C. PETER'S TESTIMONY V11-17

## A. PETER'S ARREST 12:3-6

- <sup>NIV</sup> **ACTS 12:3** WHEN HE SAW THAT THIS PLEASED THE JEWS, HE PROCEEDED TO SEIZE PETER ALSO. THIS HAPPENED DURING THE FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD. <sup>4</sup> AFTER ARRESTING HIM, HE PUT HIM IN PRISON, HANDING HIM OVER TO BE GUARDED BY FOUR SQUADS OF FOUR SOLDIERS EACH. HEROD INTENDED TO BRING HIM OUT FOR PUBLIC TRIAL AFTER THE PASSOVER. <sup>5</sup> SO PETER WAS KEPT IN PRISON, BUT THE CHURCH WAS EARNESTLY PRAYING TO GOD FOR HIM. <sup>6</sup> THE NIGHT BEFORE HEROD WAS TO BRING HIM TO TRIAL, PETER WAS SLEEPING BETWEEN TWO SOLDIERS, BOUND WITH TWO CHAINS, AND SENTRIES STOOD GUARD AT THE ENTRANCE.

## B. PETER'S DELIVERANCE V7-10

- <sup>NIV</sup> **ACTS 12:7** SUDDENLY AN ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED AND A LIGHT SHONE IN THE CELL. HE STRUCK PETER ON THE SIDE AND WOKE HIM UP. "QUICK, GET UP!" HE SAID, AND THE CHAINS FELL OFF PETER'S WRISTS. <sup>8</sup> THEN THE ANGEL SAID TO HIM, "PUT ON YOUR CLOTHES AND SANDALS." AND PETER DID SO. "WRAP YOUR CLOAK AROUND YOU AND FOLLOW ME," THE ANGEL TOLD HIM. <sup>9</sup> PETER FOLLOWED HIM OUT OF THE PRISON, BUT HE HAD NO IDEA THAT WHAT THE ANGEL WAS DOING WAS REALLY HAPPENING; HE THOUGHT HE WAS SEEING A VISION. <sup>10</sup> THEY PASSED THE FIRST AND SECOND GUARDS AND CAME TO THE IRON GATE LEADING TO THE CITY. IT OPENED FOR THEM BY ITSELF, AND THEY WENT THROUGH IT. WHEN THEY HAD WALKED THE LENGTH OF ONE STREET, SUDDENLY THE ANGEL LEFT HIM.

## C. PETER'S TESTIMONY V11-17

- <sup>NIV</sup> **ACTS 12:11** THEN PETER CAME TO HIMSELF AND SAID, "NOW I KNOW WITHOUT A DOUBT THAT THE LORD SENT HIS ANGEL AND RESCUED ME FROM HEROD'S CLUTCHES AND FROM EVERYTHING THE JEWISH PEOPLE WERE ANTICIPATING." <sup>12</sup> WHEN THIS HAD DAWNED ON HIM, HE WENT TO THE HOUSE OF MARY THE MOTHER OF JOHN, ALSO CALLED MARK, WHERE MANY PEOPLE HAD GATHERED AND WERE PRAYING.... <sup>17</sup> PETER MOTIONED WITH HIS HAND FOR THEM TO BE QUIET AND DESCRIBED HOW THE LORD HAD BROUGHT HIM OUT OF PRISON. "TELL JAMES AND THE BROTHERS ABOUT THIS," HE SAID, AND THEN HE LEFT FOR ANOTHER PLACE.

### 3. HEROD'S WRATH 12:18-19

- <sup>NIV</sup> **ACTS 12:18** IN THE MORNING, THERE WAS NO SMALL COMMOTION AMONG THE SOLDIERS AS TO WHAT HAD BECOME OF PETER. <sup>19</sup> AFTER HEROD HAD A THOROUGH SEARCH MADE FOR HIM AND DID NOT FIND HIM, HE CROSS-EXAMINED THE GUARDS AND ORDERED THAT THEY BE EXECUTED. ...

## 4. HEROD'S REWARD 12:20-23

- <sup>NIV</sup> **ACTS 12:21** ON THE APPOINTED DAY HEROD, WEARING HIS ROYAL ROBES, SAT ON HIS THRONE AND DELIVERED A PUBLIC ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE. <sup>22</sup> THEY SHOUTED, "THIS IS THE VOICE OF A GOD, NOT OF A MAN." <sup>23</sup> IMMEDIATELY, BECAUSE HEROD DID NOT GIVE PRAISE TO GOD, AN ANGEL OF THE LORD STRUCK HIM DOWN, AND HE WAS EATEN BY WORMS AND DIED.

## 5. THE VICTORY OF THE LORD 12:24

- <sup>NIV</sup> **ACTS 12:24** BUT THE WORD OF GOD CONTINUED TO INCREASE AND SPREAD.



## A MIGHTY FORTRESS

- A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD, A BULWARK NEVER FAILING;  
OUR HELPER HE, AMID THE FLOOD OF MORTAL ILLS PREVAILING:  
FOR STILL OUR ANCIENT FOE DOTH SEEK TO WORK US WOE;  
HIS CRAFT AND POWER ARE GREAT, AND, ARMED WITH CRUEL HATE,  
ON EARTH IS NOT HIS EQUAL.
- THAT WORD ABOVE ALL EARTHLY POWERS, NO THANKS TO THEM,  
ABIDETH;  
THE SPIRIT AND THE GIFTS ARE OURS THROUGH HIM WHO WITH US  
SIDETH:  
LET GOODS AND KINDRED GO, THIS MORTAL LIFE ALSO;  
THE BODY THEY MAY KILL: GOD'S TRUTH ABIDETH STILL,  
HIS KINGDOM IS FOREVER.



# DELIVERANCE

- GOD DELIVERED BOTH JAMES AND PETER
  - JAMES WAS DELIVERED THROUGH HIS AFFLICTIONS
  - PETER WAS DELIVERED OUT OF HIS AFFLICTIONS



- DELIVERANCE THROUGH AFFLICTIONS

## SOMETIMES WE HAVE TO ENDURE AFFLICTIONS

- <sup>ESV</sup> **DANIEL 3:17** IF THIS BE SO, OUR GOD WHOM WE SERVE IS ABLE TO DELIVER US FROM THE BURNING FIERY FURNACE, AND HE WILL DELIVER US OUT OF YOUR HAND, O KING. <sup>18</sup> BUT IF NOT, BE IT KNOWN TO YOU, O KING, THAT WE WILL NOT SERVE YOUR GODS OR WORSHIP THE GOLDEN IMAGE THAT YOU HAVE SET UP." <sup>19</sup> THEN NEBUCHADNEZZAR WAS FILLED WITH FURY, AND ... HE ORDERED THE FURNACE HEATED SEVEN TIMES MORE THAN IT WAS USUALLY HEATED.

## GOD IS THERE WITH US

- <sup>ESV</sup> **DANIEL 3:25** HE ANSWERED AND SAID, "BUT I SEE FOUR MEN UNBOUND, WALKING IN THE MIDST OF THE FIRE, AND THEY ARE NOT HURT; AND THE APPEARANCE OF THE FOURTH IS LIKE A SON OF THE GODS."
- <sup>NIV</sup> **MATTHEW 8:24** WITHOUT WARNING, A FURIOUS STORM CAME UP ON THE LAKE, SO THAT THE WAVES SWEEPED OVER THE BOAT. BUT JESUS WAS SLEEPING. <sup>25</sup> THE DISCIPLES WENT AND WOKE HIM, SAYING, "LORD, SAVE US! WE'RE GOING TO DROWN!" <sup>26</sup> HE REPLIED, "YOU OF LITTLE FAITH, WHY ARE YOU SO AFRAID?" THEN HE GOT UP AND REBUKED THE WINDS AND THE WAVES, AND IT WAS COMPLETELY CALM.

## ULTIMATE DELIVERANCE

- <sup>NAS</sup> **PHILIPPIANS 1:21** FOR TO ME, TO LIVE IS CHRIST, AND TO DIE IS GAIN. <sup>22</sup> BUT IF I AM TO LIVE ON IN THE FLESH, THIS WILL MEAN FRUITFUL LABOR FOR ME; AND I DO NOT KNOW WHICH TO CHOOSE. <sup>23</sup> BUT I AM HARD-PRESSED FROM BOTH *DIRECTIONS*, HAVING THE DESIRE TO DEPART AND BE WITH CHRIST, FOR *THAT* IS VERY MUCH BETTER; <sup>24</sup> YET TO REMAIN ON IN THE FLESH IS MORE NECESSARY FOR YOUR SAKE.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **2 CORINTHIANS 5:6** THEREFORE, BEING ALWAYS OF GOOD COURAGE, AND KNOWING THAT WHILE WE ARE AT HOME IN THE BODY WE ARE ABSENT FROM THE LORD-- <sup>7</sup> FOR WE WALK BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT-- <sup>8</sup> WE ARE OF GOOD COURAGE, I SAY, AND PREFER RATHER TO BE ABSENT FROM THE BODY AND TO BE AT HOME WITH THE LORD.



## THE PROMISE

- <sup>NIV</sup> **REVELATION 14:13** THEN I HEARD A VOICE FROM HEAVEN SAY, "WRITE: BLESSED ARE THE DEAD WHO DIE IN THE LORD FROM NOW ON." "YES," SAYS THE SPIRIT, "THEY WILL REST FROM THEIR LABOR, FOR THEIR DEEDS WILL FOLLOW THEM."



# CONCLUSIONS

## AFFLICTION

- <sup>ESV</sup> **JOHN 16:33** I HAVE SAID THESE THINGS TO YOU, THAT IN ME YOU MAY HAVE PEACE. IN THE WORLD YOU WILL HAVE TRIBULATION. BUT TAKE HEART; I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD.“
- AFFLICTION IS A CERTAINTY BUT SO IS OUR DELIVERANCE
  - SOMETIMES THROUGH, SOMETIMES OUT OF

## OUR DELIVERER

- <sup>NAS</sup> **DEUTERONOMY 33:26** "THERE IS NONE LIKE THE GOD OF ISRAEL, WHO RIDES THE HEAVENS TO YOUR HELP, AND THROUGH THE SKIES IN HIS MAJESTY. <sup>27</sup> "THE ETERNAL GOD IS A DWELLING PLACE, AND UNDERNEATH ARE THE EVERLASTING ARMS; AND HE DROVE OUT THE ENEMY FROM BEFORE YOU, AND SAID, 'DESTROY!' <sup>28</sup> "SO ISRAEL DWELLS IN SECURITY, THE FOUNTAIN OF JACOB SECLUDED, IN A LAND OF GRAIN AND NEW WINE; HIS HEAVENS ALSO DROP DOWN DEW. <sup>29</sup> "BLESSED ARE YOU, O ISRAEL; WHO IS LIKE YOU, A PEOPLE SAVED BY THE LORD, WHO IS THE SHIELD OF YOUR HELP, AND THE SWORD OF YOUR MAJESTY!

## LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS

- WHAT A FELLOWSHIP, WHAT A JOY DIVINE,  
LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS;  
WHAT A BLESSEDNESS, WHAT A PEACE IS MINE,  
LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS.
- OH, HOW SWEET TO WALK IN THIS PILGRIM WAY,  
LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS;  
OH, HOW BRIGHT THE PATH GROWS FROM DAY TO DAY,  
LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS.
- WHAT HAVE I TO DREAD, WHAT HAVE I TO FEAR,  
LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS?  
I HAVE BLESSED PEACE WITH MY LORD SO NEAR,  
LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS.