



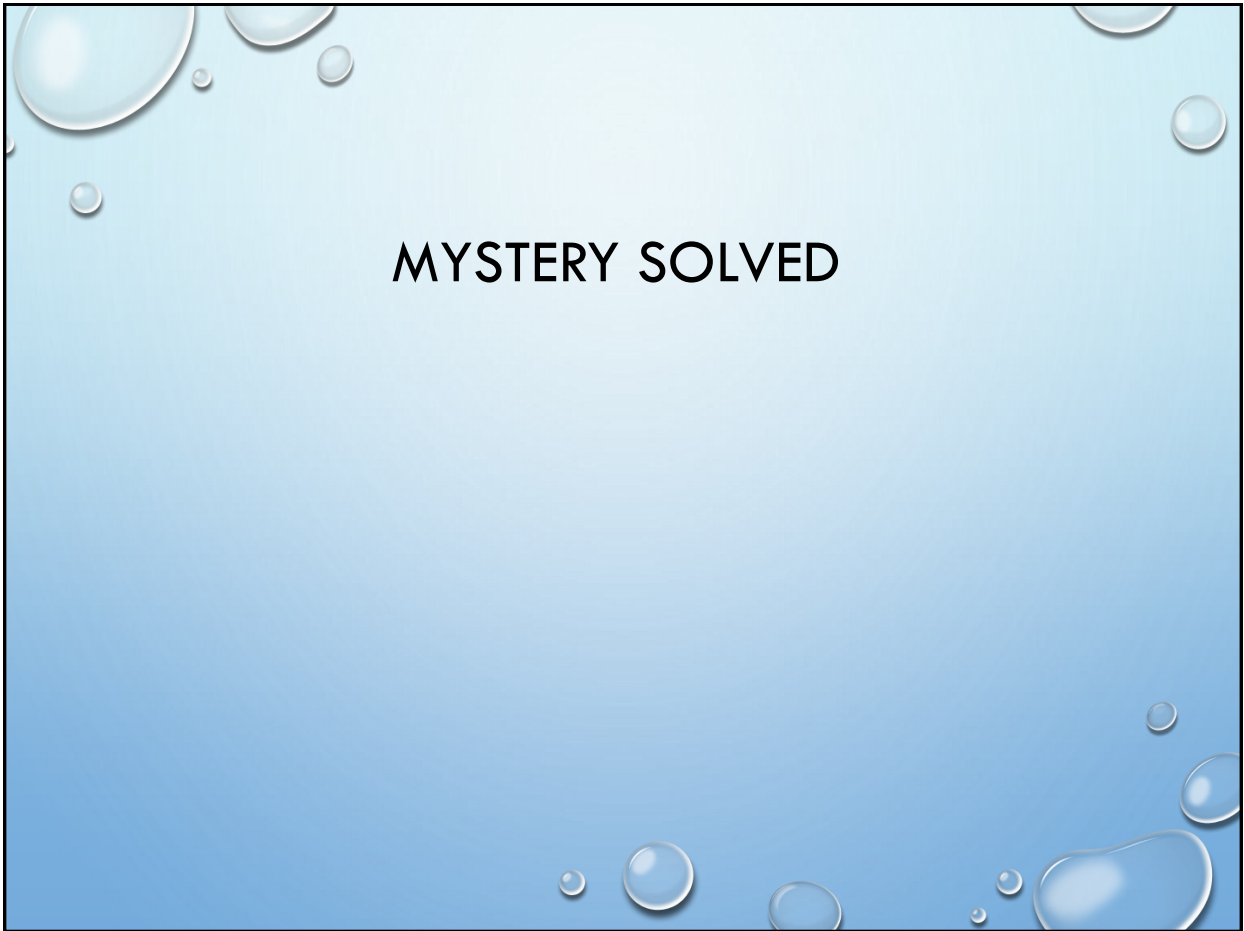
LIVING WITH PURPOSE

THE STRENGTH OF HIS MIGHT









PAUL'S END IS COMING

- ^{NAS} **ACTS 20:22** "AND NOW, BEHOLD, BOUND IN SPIRIT, I AM ON MY WAY TO JERUSALEM, NOT KNOWING WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME THERE, ²³ EXCEPT THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT SOLEMNLY TESTIFIES TO ME IN EVERY CITY, SAYING THAT BONDS AND AFFLICTIONS AWAIT ME.... ²⁵ "AND NOW, BEHOLD, I KNOW THAT ALL OF YOU, AMONG WHOM I WENT ABOUT PREACHING THE KINGDOM, WILL SEE MY FACE NO MORE.

- ^{NAS} **ACTS 21:4** AND AFTER LOOKING UP THE DISCIPLES, WE STAYED THERE SEVEN DAYS; AND THEY KEPT TELLING PAUL THROUGH THE SPIRIT NOT TO SET FOOT IN JERUSALEM
- ^{NAS} **ACTS 21:10** AND AS WE WERE STAYING THERE FOR SOME DAYS, A CERTAIN PROPHET NAMED AGABUS CAME DOWN FROM JUDEA. ¹¹ AND COMING TO US, HE TOOK PAUL'S BELT AND BOUND HIS OWN FEET AND HANDS, AND SAID, "THIS IS WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT SAYS: 'IN THIS WAY THE JEWS AT JERUSALEM WILL BIND THE MAN WHO OWNS THIS BELT AND DELIVER HIM INTO THE HANDS OF THE GENTILES.'" ¹² AND WHEN WE HAD HEARD THIS, WE AS WELL AS THE LOCAL RESIDENTS *BEGAN* BEGGING HIM NOT TO GO UP TO JERUSALEM.

PAUL'S RESPONSE

- ^{NAS} **ACTS 21:13** THEN PAUL ANSWERED, "WHAT ARE YOU DOING, WEeping AND BREAKING MY HEART? FOR I AM READY NOT ONLY TO BE BOUND, BUT EVEN TO DIE AT JERUSALEM FOR THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS."
 1. NOTE HIS UNWAVERING FOCUS ON *THE* ONE THING
 2. WHERE DID HE GET THE STRENGTH?



THE BONDAGE; 21:17-26

GOOD START

- ^{NAS} **ACTS 21:17** AND WHEN WE HAD COME TO JERUSALEM, THE BRETHREN RECEIVED US GLADLY.

UNEXPECTED TWIST

- ^{NAS} **ACTS 21:18** AND NOW THE FOLLOWING DAY PAUL WENT IN WITH US TO JAMES, AND ALL THE ELDERS WERE PRESENT. ¹⁹ AND AFTER HE HAD GREETED THEM, HE *BEGAN* TO RELATE ONE BY ONE THE THINGS WHICH GOD HAD DONE AMONG THE GENTILES THROUGH HIS MINISTRY. ²⁰ AND WHEN THEY HEARD IT THEY *BEGAN* GLORIFYING GOD; AND THEY SAID TO HIM, "YOU SEE, BROTHER, HOW MANY THOUSANDS THERE ARE AMONG THE JEWS OF THOSE WHO HAVE BELIEVED, AND THEY ARE ALL ZEALOUS FOR THE LAW; ... ²⁵ "BUT CONCERNING THE GENTILES WHO HAVE BELIEVED, WE WROTE, HAVING DECIDED THAT THEY SHOULD ABSTAIN FROM MEAT SACRIFICED TO IDOLS AND FROM BLOOD AND FROM WHAT IS STRANGLERED AND FROM FORNICATION."

THE ACCUSATION

- ^{NAS} **ACTS 21:21** AND THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD ABOUT YOU, THAT YOU ARE TEACHING ALL THE JEWS WHO ARE AMONG THE GENTILES TO FORSAKE MOSES, TELLING THEM NOT TO CIRCUMCISE THEIR CHILDREN NOR TO WALK ACCORDING TO THE CUSTOMS. ²² "WHAT, THEN, IS *TO BE DONE*? THEY WILL CERTAINLY HEAR THAT YOU HAVE COME.

GUILTY AS CHARGED

- ^{NAS} **1 CORINTHIANS 7:19** CIRCUMCISION IS NOTHING, AND UNCIRCUMCISION IS NOTHING, BUT *WHAT MATTERS IS* THE KEEPING OF THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD.
- ^{NAS} **GALATIANS 5:6** FOR IN CHRIST JESUS NEITHER CIRCUMCISION NOR UNCIRCUMCISION MEANS ANYTHING, BUT FAITH WORKING THROUGH LOVE.
- ^{NAS} **GALATIANS 6:15** FOR NEITHER IS CIRCUMCISION ANYTHING, NOR UNCIRCUMCISION, BUT A NEW CREATION.

- ^{NAS} **COLOSSIANS 2:11** AND IN HIM YOU WERE ALSO CIRCUMCISED WITH A CIRCUMCISION MADE WITHOUT HANDS, IN THE REMOVAL OF THE BODY OF THE FLESH BY THE CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST;
- ^{NAS} **GALATIANS 5:1** IT WAS FOR FREEDOM THAT CHRIST SET US FREE; THEREFORE KEEP STANDING FIRM AND DO NOT BE SUBJECT AGAIN TO A YOKE OF SLAVERY.
- ^{NAS} **1 TIMOTHY 1:7** WANTING TO BE TEACHERS OF THE LAW, EVEN THOUGH THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND EITHER WHAT THEY ARE SAYING OR THE MATTERS ABOUT WHICH THEY MAKE CONFIDENT ASSERTIONS. ⁸ BUT WE KNOW THAT THE LAW IS GOOD, IF ONE USES IT LAWFULLY, ⁹ REALIZING THE FACT THAT LAW IS NOT MADE FOR A RIGHTEOUS MAN, BUT FOR THOSE WHO ARE LAWLESS AND REBELLIOUS, FOR THE UNGODLY AND SINNERS, FOR THE UNHOLY AND PROFANE ...

THE BONDAGE

- ^{NAS} **ACTS 21:22** "WHAT, THEN, IS TO *BE DONE*? THEY WILL CERTAINLY HEAR THAT YOU HAVE COME. ²³ "THEREFORE DO THIS THAT WE TELL YOU. WE HAVE FOUR MEN WHO ARE UNDER A VOW; ²⁴ TAKE THEM AND PURIFY YOURSELF ALONG WITH THEM, AND PAY THEIR EXPENSES IN ORDER THAT THEY MAY SHAVE THEIR HEADS; AND ALL WILL KNOW THAT THERE IS NOTHING TO THE THINGS WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD ABOUT YOU, BUT THAT YOU YOURSELF ALSO WALK ORDERLY, KEEPING THE LAW.

THE NAZARITE VOW, NUMBERS 6:1-21

- ^{NAS} **NUMBERS 6:13** 'NOW THIS IS THE LAW OF THE NAZIRITE WHEN THE DAYS OF HIS SEPARATION ARE FULFILLED, HE SHALL BRING THE OFFERING TO THE DOORWAY OF THE TENT OF MEETING. ¹⁴ 'AND HE SHALL PRESENT HIS OFFERING TO THE LORD: ONE MALE LAMB A YEAR OLD WITHOUT DEFECT FOR A BURNT OFFERING AND ONE EWE-LAMB A YEAR OLD WITHOUT DEFECT FOR A SIN OFFERING AND ONE RAM WITHOUT DEFECT FOR A PEACE OFFERING... ¹⁶ 'THEN THE PRIEST SHALL PRESENT *THEM* BEFORE THE LORD AND SHALL OFFER HIS SIN OFFERING AND HIS BURNT OFFERING. ¹⁷ 'HE SHALL ALSO OFFER THE RAM FOR A SACRIFICE OF PEACE OFFERINGS TO THE LORD

WHY DID HE SAY YES?

- ^{NAS} **ACTS 21:26** THEN PAUL TOOK THE MEN, AND THE NEXT DAY, PURIFYING HIMSELF ALONG WITH THEM, WENT INTO THE TEMPLE, GIVING NOTICE OF THE COMPLETION OF THE DAYS OF PURIFICATION, UNTIL THE SACRIFICE WAS OFFERED FOR EACH ONE OF THEM.
- ^{NAS} **1 CORINTHIANS 9:20** AND TO THE JEWS I BECAME AS A JEW, THAT I MIGHT WIN JEWS; TO THOSE WHO ARE UNDER THE LAW, AS UNDER THE LAW, THOUGH NOT BEING MYSELF UNDER THE LAW, THAT I MIGHT WIN THOSE WHO ARE UNDER THE LAW;



THE DELIVERANCE; 21:27-32

THE REAL DELIVERANCE

- ^{NAS} **ACTS 21:27** AND WHEN THE SEVEN DAYS WERE ALMOST OVER, THE JEWS FROM ASIA, UPON SEEING HIM IN THE TEMPLE, *BEGAN TO STIR UP ALL THE MULTITUDE AND LAID HANDS ON HIM,* ²⁸ CRYING OUT, "MEN OF ISRAEL, COME TO OUR AID! THIS IS THE MAN WHO PREACHES TO ALL MEN EVERYWHERE AGAINST OUR PEOPLE, AND THE LAW, AND THIS PLACE; AND BESIDES HE HAS EVEN BROUGHT GREEKS INTO THE TEMPLE AND HAS DEFILED THIS HOLY PLACE."³⁰ AND ALL THE CITY WAS AROUSED, AND THE PEOPLE RUSHED TOGETHER; AND TAKING HOLD OF PAUL, THEY DRAGGED HIM OUT OF THE TEMPLE; AND IMMEDIATELY THE DOORS WERE SHUT.

UNWAVERING

- ^{NAS} **ACTS 21:39** BUT PAUL SAID, "I AM A JEW OF TARSUS IN CILICIA, A CITIZEN OF NO INSIGNIFICANT CITY; AND I BEG YOU, ALLOW ME TO SPEAK TO THE PEOPLE." ⁴⁰ AND WHEN HE HAD GIVEN HIM PERMISSION, PAUL, STANDING ON THE STAIRS, MOTIONED TO THE PEOPLE WITH HIS HAND; AND WHEN THERE WAS A GREAT HUSH, HE SPOKE TO THEM IN THE HEBREW DIALECT, SAYING, ...



PAUL'S SOURCE OF STRENGTH

PAUL'S STRENGTH

- ^{NAS} **EPHESIANS 6:10** FINALLY, BE STRONG IN THE LORD, AND IN THE STRENGTH OF HIS MIGHT. ¹¹ PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD, THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO STAND FIRM AGAINST THE SCHEMES OF THE DEVIL. ¹² FOR OUR STRUGGLE IS NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST THE RULERS, AGAINST THE POWERS, AGAINST THE WORLD FORCES OF THIS DARKNESS, AGAINST THE SPIRITUAL FORCES OF WICKEDNESS IN THE HEAVENLY *PLACES*. ¹³ THEREFORE, TAKE UP THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD, THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO RESIST IN THE EVIL DAY, AND HAVING DONE EVERYTHING, TO STAND FIRM.

COMMUNITY EFFORT

- ^{NAS} **EPHESIANS 6:18** WITH ALL PRAYER AND PETITION PRAY AT ALL TIMES IN THE SPIRIT, AND WITH THIS IN VIEW, BE ON THE ALERT WITH ALL PERSEVERANCE AND PETITION FOR ALL THE SAINTS, ¹⁹ AND PRAY ON MY BEHALF, THAT UTTERANCE MAY BE GIVEN TO ME IN THE OPENING OF MY MOUTH, TO MAKE KNOWN WITH BOLDNESS THE MYSTERY OF THE GOSPEL, ²⁰ FOR WHICH I AM AN AMBASSADOR IN CHAINS; THAT IN PROCLAIMING IT I MAY SPEAK BOLDLY, AS I OUGHT TO SPEAK.



CONCLUSIONS

- ^{KJV} **PSALM 46:1** ...GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH, A VERY PRESENT HELP IN TROUBLE. ² THEREFORE WILL NOT WE FEAR, THOUGH THE EARTH BE REMOVED, AND THOUGH THE MOUNTAINS BE CARRIED INTO THE MIDST OF THE SEA;
- ^{ESV} **PSALM 59:17** O MY STRENGTH, I WILL SING PRAISES TO YOU, FOR YOU, O GOD, ARE MY FORTRESS, THE GOD WHO SHOWS ME STEADFAST LOVE.
- ^{NAS} **PSALM 62:7** ON GOD MY SALVATION AND MY GLORY REST; THE ROCK OF MY STRENGTH, MY REFUGE IS IN GOD.
- ^{ESV} **PSALM 68:35** AWESOME IS GOD FROM HIS SANCTUARY; THE GOD OF ISRAEL--HE IS THE ONE WHO GIVES POWER AND STRENGTH TO HIS PEOPLE. BLESSED BE GOD!

- ^{NAS} **1 PETER 5:10** AND AFTER YOU HAVE SUFFERED FOR A LITTLE WHILE, THE GOD OF ALL GRACE, WHO CALLED YOU TO HIS ETERNAL GLORY IN CHRIST, WILL HIMSELF PERFECT, CONFIRM, STRENGTHEN AND ESTABLISH YOU.
- ^{NIV} **1 PETER 4:11** IF ANYONE SERVES, HE SHOULD DO IT WITH THE STRENGTH GOD PROVIDES, SO THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE PRAISED THROUGH JESUS CHRIST. TO HIM BE THE GLORY AND THE POWER FOR EVER AND EVER. AMEN.
- ^{NAS} **EPHESIANS 6:10** FINALLY, BE STRONG IN THE LORD, AND IN THE STRENGTH OF HIS MIGHT.