



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Romans 8:33-39
- Psalms 42-44
- Isaiah 54:13-17

NO WEAPON SHALL PROSPER

- Sheep to the Slaughter
- More than Conquerors
- Bonus Material

SEED:

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are **accounted as sheep for the slaughter."**" Romans 8:35-36 NKJV

"For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39 NKJV

FRUIT:

"If we had forgotten the name of our God, Or stretched out our hands to a foreign god, Would not God search this out? **For He knows the secrets of the heart.** Yet for Your sake we are killed all day long; **We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.**" Psalms 44:20-22 NKJV

"**No weapon formed against you shall prosper,** And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. **This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord,** And their righteousness is from Me," Says the Lord." Isaiah 54:17 NKJV

NARRATIVE FOR TODAY'S SCRIPTURES: ROMANS

The assurance is staggering, a revelation that you should revel in as a Christian for all the days there is breath in your lungs, from the moment you were born-again, until your final heartbeat. And here we are again with the need to address thoughts of predestination and what it means to be "the called" of God. But this time Paul identifies God's people as "the elect." What we have established thus far is that Yahweh has the foreknowledge of all things. He knows everything from eternity past to eternity future. Therefore, God already sees who has responded to His invitation to spend that eternity future with Him.

He calls them His elect, and about them He says this, "They are Mine. I Am the One who sacrificed My Son for them. I Am the One who raised Y'shua from the grave and made a place for Him, here next to Me at My right hand. From this place, as does the Holy Spirit, He intercedes for them until all things are restored, after which He will return for His bride, My elect, to bring them to the place He prepared for them. I Am the one with the authority to justify and I Am the one with the authority to condemn, so if someone else brings a charge against My elect, it is legally null and void."

And thus the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled; "No weapon formed against God's elect shall prosper, and every tongue which rises in judgment against His chosen people, God shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of Yahweh, and their righteousness is from God."

First, be reminded of Paul's heritage, "The stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee." Paul is a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee, an expert in the law, brought up at the feet of Gamaliel, maybe the most renowned Torah scholar of his day. So when such a challenge as, "Who shall bring a charge against God's elect?" is proffered, you must remember Paul's heritage, and notice what he does so well, and so often. Paul sees through the lens of Pharisaical Judaism, and now he

does so along with the magnificent revelation of, “that which is through faith in Christ.” As a Christian, he considers any charge against God’s elect as an attempt to separate you from the love of Christ! Don’t overlook this revelation because he is about to bring us on a rabbinic journey into the Psalms to open our hearts to what they were pointing all along! That’s what rabbis do. They hint at a passage and it is the student’s job to explore further.

Let’s dive deep, so you don’t miss a thing. Remember what you just learned. Even in the midst of great suffering, it will all work out for good to those who love God and walk in His purpose. And if God is on your side, then what does it matter who opposes you? Your victory is guaranteed because the price God paid to ensure your success was the life of His own Son! Sure a time of suffering and trials and temptation are part of the plan, but that is not meant for your defeat; but instead is God’s path to triumph and conquest through you! The secret is to surrender your life, so you can have the life God planned for you!

As such, when charges come against you, one of God’s elect, and those indictments hope to sever your connection to the heart of the Father, and the circumstances and accusations appear devastating, ripe with: misfortune, overwhelming anxiety, hostility, extreme scarcity, and embarrassing exposure. When you face serious and immediate danger, even death threats, and you feel

defenseless—where does Paul focus your attention to prove you are safe? He repeats his history, which is your history; he reminds you of your roots; that is where the remedy to your crisis resides. But this time you must keep your life in Christ front and center, as you interpret the words of the Psalmist. “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

Paul draws the explanation of his remedy from Psalm 44, but it is critical we first understand the context for why the sons of Korah are singing, beginning in Psalm 42. And you must make it personal, so you can feel it in your bones. Your soul thirsts for the living God. If you camp in front of the throne of God, and now in Paul’s mind picture that as praise, worship and thanksgiving at the foot of the cross, you will have no reason for anxiety. It is God in whom you are drowning, not your troubles. Go to the alter, to the cross, with exceeding joy, and your countenance will become light. God will cast down your enemies every time! God will make them ashamed and not you! So, even at times when you feel like you have become the sacrifice, a sheep for the slaughter: don’t forget God; don’t violate your agreements with Him; don’t turn away from Him; don’t even take one step off the path He has for you; run the race to the end. And if we take a peek into the prophetic, as much as Y’shua was our Passover Lamb, a sheep to the slaughter, who never strayed from His Father’s will, even when tempted at every turn, you too

must remain steadfast when “you are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

Paul, at times, writes as we’ve just seen, verses that explode with layer upon layer of meaning. And at other times the following verse feels like a punctuation! Every difficulty upon which he just elaborated—the extreme lengths he traveled to guarantee you comprehend your victory—ends with an exclamation! God’s love for you is so complete, so infinite that it will not only defeat anything that comes against you, it will overwhelm your adversaries as if you had access to a firehose to extinguish a candle! We saw this type of exceeding power earlier in this very letter when we learned that where sin abounds, grace abounds exponentially.

All this leads to a natural conclusion. Paul is persuaded and he is the expert, so why not you? No ruling spiritual force, nor natural authority; nothing right now or from your past, nor anything that threatens your future; it matters not how overwhelming, nor how complicated, nor how deeply rooted—nothing can sever you from God. Nothing can detach your life, your hope, your fate, your future, your destiny, your purpose, nor your reason for living, from the God who loves you. God is love and you will never be apart from Him. So, rest in God’s sovereignty, His election. Nothing that exists was created outside of God’s will. That is a conclusive fact beyond any indictment. It matters not how many enemies you can

name, or how many weapons are stockpiled against you, the answer to the question, “Can any of these things separate me from God?” is “No!”

If we end where we began, in Isaiah’s prophecy, we learn that even as God created all things, and without Him nothing was created—we can conclude that no weapon formed against you shall prosper: not demonic forces nor evil men; not things in your past nor fears for your future; nothing that might seem insurmountable in size, nor as devastating as hell itself can prosper against you, once you have been saved by faith. Nothing can separate you from God when you are basking in His love. And that is who you are!

“Think in Bible.” DJH

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY’S MESSAGE:

It won’t always seem true, but feelings can be fickle. It’s not that they are bad, or that you shouldn’t have them, but feelings oftentimes can’t be trusted. And there is no inspiration more effective or deceptive, than trouble, when we consider its effect on emotions. A good o’fashioned trial, complete with attacks from every direction, pressing in on every side, is all the fuel you need to lose confidence in God, to let your feelings run amuck, and to allow your emotions to rule the day.

Weeping and sorrow may last through the night, but joy comes in the morning. That is precisely why God's heart is for you to hold tight to His promises. It looks bad; don't worry. You're in danger; don't fear. There is no way out; don't panic. It's too much to bear; don't lose hope. The burden is too heavy; don't cave. The doors keep slamming in your face; don't give up. The temptation is too great; don't surrender. The answer is nowhere to be found; don't stop asking. The solution is too confusing; God is your mathematician. What to do is a complete mystery; God is your spiritual detective. And now, make it really personal!

I'm too sick to be well; God is my healer. The price is too high and I can't cover the cost; God will reconcile my accounts. I'm too dirty to ever be clean; the Lord of all will exchange my garments for His. My sins are too many, too often, too big, and too ugly; God says to me, "Do over!" The circumstances of my life are beyond complicated; I am at the end of myself, the limit of my understanding. It all feels like an enigma wrapped in a conundrum. Excellent, that is precisely where God wants me!

Nothing that exists in the entirety of creation can be, if the God over all of creation had not allowed it to be. He is sovereign over your suffering and your solution! No weapon formed against you shall prosper; every enemy that rises against you God will defeat. But there is one "not so subtle nuance" that might be your

greatest victory in times of trouble. You are more than a conqueror in Christ Jesus. God does not just defeat your enemies—He obliterates them, as if to spray a firehose at a matchstick!

SHEEP TO THE SLAUGHTER

1. Never Stray from the Father's Will

A. Only Christ

(1) God's elect cannot be indicted by anyone other than Him!

(a) The assurance is staggering!

1. **"Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us."** Romans 8:33-34 NKJV

2. This should bring you great peace!

a) You should revel in this revelation as a Christian for all the days there is breath in your lungs, from the moment you were born-again, until your final heartbeat.

b) Predestination and what it means to be "the called" of God.

1) Paul identifies God's people as "the elect."

- 2) We have previously established that Yahweh has the foreknowledge of all things.
 - 3) He knows everything from eternity past to eternity future.
 - 4) God already sees who has responded to His invitation to spend eternity future with Him
- (2) He calls them His elect, and about them He says this...
- (a) *"They are Mine. I Am the One who sacrificed My Son for them. I Am the One who raised Y'shua from the grave and made a place for Him, here next to Me at My right hand. From this place, as does the Holy Spirit, He intercedes for them until all things are restored, after which He will return for His bride, My elect, to bring them to the place He prepared for them. I Am the one with the authority to justify and I Am the one with the authority to condemn, so if someone else brings a charge against My elect, it is legally null and void."*
 - (b) No one has authority over God's elect...
 1. **He sacrificed His only begotten Son for us:** "He who did not spare His own Son, **but delivered Him up for us** all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" Romans 8:32 NKJV

- a) The price God paid to make sure you had everything you need was the life of His only begotten Son.
 - b) If He was willing to pay that much to ensure you have the winning hand, how on earth can you imagine under any condition that you don't?
2. **Raised and Sitting at His Right Hand:** "that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ **when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,**" Ephesians 1:17-20 NKJV
- a) The Father raised the Son from the grave with His immeasurable power, and sat Him at His right side, a place of authority and power.
 - b) He has made that power available to those who believe through His limitless grace!

3. **The Holy Spirit also makes intercession:** "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but **the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.** Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God." Romans 8:26-27 NKJV
- a) It's an intercessory dynamic duo. Both the Holy Spirit and the Son of God are praying for you!
 - b) Think of it as if you have two perfect spiritual attorneys pleading your case and telling you exactly what you should testify at all times!
4. **Christ remains in heaven until the church restores creation:** "and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, **whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things,** which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began." Acts 3:20-21 NKJV
- a) You are being prepped much like a star witness is prepped in a legal case, so his testimony can produce a winning verdict.

- b) And that victory yields both the permission and the resources to finish the job that Christ started!
 - c) *“because the **creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.**”* (Romans 8:21)
 - d) For a detailed teaching on the topic of restoration please see: [The Unveiling](#)
5. **We are His betrothed and He has gone to prepare a place to bring His bride:** “In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. **I go to prepare a place for you.** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that **where I am, there you may be also.**” John 14:2-3 NKJV
- a) The Church is promised to be the bride of Christ, but we are not yet married to Him; that comes at the very end. In biblical terms that means we are betrothed to be married. Betrothal is a covenant to marry, as binding as marriage itself, minus two factors: cohabitation and sexual relations.
 - b) Y’shua has gone away in the period of betrothal to prepare a home for His bride. He will come again for His bride when she is ready (when she has

completed her task of restoring all things), at which time the wedding will take place.

c) *“Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for **the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.**”* Revelation 19:7 NKJV

6. **Yahweh alone is our Lawgiver and Judge, not the unbelieving world:** “Look upon Zion, the city of our appointed feasts; Your eyes will see Jerusalem, a quiet home, **A tabernacle that will not be taken down; Not one of its stakes will ever be removed,** Nor will any of its cords be broken. But there the majestic Lord will be for us A place of broad rivers and streams, In which no galley with oars will sail, Nor majestic ships pass by (**For the Lord is our Judge, The Lord is our Lawgiver,** The Lord is our King; He will save us);“
Isaiah 33:20-22 NKJV

a) You need not concern yourself for anything the world says about you or how they judge you. What the unbelieving world thinks is not relevant other than they should actually despise you if you are doing your job well!

b) *“**If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.** If you were of the world,*

*the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, **therefore the world hates you.***“ John 15:18-19

NKJV

7. **There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy, so don't condemn your fellow believer: "**

Therefore **submit to God. Resist the devil** and he will flee from you. **Draw near to God** and He will draw near to you. **Cleanse your hands**, you sinners; and **purify your hearts**, you double-minded. **Lament and mourn and weep!** Let your **laughter be turned to mourning** and your **joy to gloom. Humble yourselves** in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. **Do not speak evil of one another**, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. **There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy.** Who are you to judge another?“ James

4:7-12 NKJV

- a) When it comes to condemnation, no Christian should EVER condemn a fellow Christian. We should correct and admonish one another, but

NEVER condemn. In fact, correcting your brother for sin is how we show love for one another. And with our words we can impart God's grace and even turn a fellow believer from sinful mistakes.

- b) *“**You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin** because of him. You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but **you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.**”* Leviticus 19:17-18 NKJV
 - c) *“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, **that it may impart grace to the hearers.**”* Ephesians 4:29 NKJV
 - d) *“Brethren, if anyone among you **wanders from the truth**, and someone turns him back, let him know that **he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.**”* James 5:19-20 NKJV
8. **However, you will eventually judge the world for sin!** “Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not

before the saints? **Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?** And **if the world will be judged by you**, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that **we shall judge angels?** How much more, **things that pertain to this life?**” I

Corinthians 6:1-3 NKJV

- a) We will eventually condemn the unbelieving world and even angels.
- b) So, in matters of everyday life, we can easily make just rulings among believers.
- c) However, in order to be effective judges of the world, we must first become radically obedient to God, and we do so by taking every thought captive and putting on the mind of Christ.
- d) *“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.”* II Corinthians 10:4-6 NKJV

- e) *"Let this mind be in you **which was also in Christ Jesus,**"* Philippians 2:5 NKJV
- f) *"For "who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" **But we have the mind of Christ.**"* I Corinthians 2:16 NKJV

9. **And thus the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled: "No weapon formed against you shall prosper,** And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. **This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord,** And their righteousness is from Me," Says the Lord." Isaiah 54:17 NKJV

- a) God's elect are protected and nothing that comes against them shall have the ultimate victory over them. Quite the opposite, anyone who rises against His chosen people in word or deed will be judged by God and condemned.

B. Nothing can separate you!

(1) Accounted as sheep for the slaughter...

(a) Not SEPARATION but PREPARATION

- 1. **"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are**

accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”“ Romans
8:35-36 NKJV

2. “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Paul’s answer is rooted in OUR history!
 - a) First, be reminded of Paul’s heritage: The stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee.
 - 1) **Paul is a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee, an expert in the law:** *“But when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, “Men and brethren, **I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee;** concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead I am being judged!”*“ Acts 23:6 NKJV
 - 2) **Paul was brought up at the feet of Gamaliel, maybe the most renowned Torah scholar of his day:** *“I am indeed a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but **brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel,** taught according to the strictness of our fathers’ law, and was zealous toward God as you all are today.”* Acts 22:3 NKJV
3. When such a challenge is proffered, “Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect?”

a) You must remember Paul's heritage (which is your heritage). What Paul does so well, and so often. He sees through the lens of Pharisaical Judaism.

1) **Know your history, but DO NOT repeat their mistakes!** *"Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe. **Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!**"* Philippians 3:1-2 NKJV

b) Paul has connected His faith as a Jew with his relationship to Christ. He has had the critical revelation that without Christ, his faith falls crucially short.

1) **But do not mistake this revelation for a repudiation of his history as a Jewish scholar. Paul sees his history as advantageous:** *"For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: **circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a***

*Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the **law**, a Pharisee; concerning **zeal**, persecuting the church; concerning the **righteousness** which is in the law, blameless.*“ Philippians 3:3-6 NKJV

2) *“What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? **Much in every way!** Chiefly because to them were committed **the oracles of God.**”* Romans 3:1-2 NKJV

c) But now he connects his faith along with the magnificent revelation of, **“that which is through faith in Christ.”** All else is rubbish in comparison!

1) **Yes, his heritage and previous knowledge is great, but when compared to that same heritage and knowledge now being filtered through his faith in Christ—well, there is just NO COMPARISON!** *“But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for **the excellence of the knowledge of Christ** Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and **count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ** and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, **but***

that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;"

Philippians 3:7-9 NKJV

(b) Any comparison Paul makes to his history and heritage, in this case about persecution and suffering, **MUST** now be interpreted through a Christian understanding.

1. **From his History:** *"Yet for Your sake we are killed all day long; **We are accounted as sheep for the***

slaughter." Psalms 44:22 NKJV

2. **For the Christian:** *"As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are **accounted as sheep for***

the slaughter." Romans 8:36 NKJV

a) Any charge against God's elect is an attempt to separate you from the love of Christ!

b) Don't overlook this revelation because he is about to bring us on a rabbinic journey into the Psalms to open our hearts to what they were pointing all along!

c) That's what rabbis do. They hint at a passage and it is the student's job to explore further.

3. Let's dive deep, so you don't miss a thing.

a) Remember what you just learned. Even in the midst of great suffering, it will all work out for

good to those who love God and walk in His purpose.

1) *“And we know that **all things work together for good** to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”* Romans 8:28 NKJV

b) And if God is on your side, then what does it matter who opposes you?

1) *“What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?**”* Romans 8:31 NKJV

c) Your victory is guaranteed because the price God paid to ensure your success was the life of His own Son!

1) *“He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, **how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?**”*
Romans 8:32 NKJV

4. Who shall separate us from God’s permanent love?

a) When charges come against you, one of God’s elect, and those indictments hope to sever your connection to the heart of the Father...

- 1) When the circumstances and accusations appear devastating: misfortune, overwhelming anxiety, hostility, extreme scarcity, and embarrassing exposure.
- 2) When you face serious and immediate danger, even death threats, and you feel defenseless—where does Paul focus your attention to prove you are safe?
- 3) He repeats his history, which is your history; he reminds you of your roots; that is where the remedy to your crisis resides.
- 4) But now, as a Christian, you must keep your life in Christ front and center, as you interpret the words of the Psalmist. *“For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”*

(c) Paul draws the explanation of his remedy for

*“**tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword**”* from Psalm 44.

1. It is critical we first understand the context for why the sons of Korah are singing, beginning in Psalm 42.
 - a) Make it personal, so you can feel it in your bones.
2. Your soul thirsts for the living God.

- a) *“As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. **My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.** When shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my food day and night, While they continually say to me, “Where is your God?””* Psalms 42:1-3 NKJV
3. If you camp in front of the throne of God, and now in Paul’s mind picture that as praise, worship and thanksgiving at the foot of the cross, you will have no reason for anxiety.
- a) *“When I remember these things, I pour out my soul within me. For I used to go with the multitude; **I went with them to the house of God, With the voice of joy and praise,** With a multitude that kept a pilgrim feast.”* Psalms 42:4 NKJV
4. Go to the alter, to the cross, with exceeding joy, and your countenance will become light.
- a) *“Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, **for I shall yet praise Him For the help of His countenance.** O my God, my soul is cast down within me; Therefore I will remember You from the land of the Jordan, And from the heights of*

*Hermon, From the Hill Mizar.” Psalms 42:5-6
NKJV*

5. You will have no reason for anxiety. It is God in whom you are drowning, not your troubles.
 - a) *“Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls; **All Your waves and billows have gone over me.** The Lord will command His lovingkindness in the daytime, And in the night His song shall be with me— A prayer to the God of my life.” Psalms 42:7-8 NKJV*
6. God will cast down your enemies every time! God will make them ashamed and not you!
 - a) *“I will say to God my Rock, “Why have You forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?” As with a breaking of my bones, My enemies reproach me, While they say to me all day long, “Where is your God?” Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? **Hope in God; For I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.**” Psalms 42:9-11 NKJV*
7. Prayer in the time of Trouble! (All of Psalm 43)

a) ***“Vindicate me, O God, And plead my cause against an ungodly nation; Oh, deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man! For You are the God of my strength; Why do You cast me off? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy? Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me; Let them bring me to Your holy hill And to Your tabernacle. Then I will go to the altar of God, To God my exceeding joy; And on the harp I will praise You, O God, my God. Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; For I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.”*** Psalms 43:1-5 NKJV

(d) This is why we take the rabbinic journey into the Psalms. It opens our hearts to what they were pointing to all along:

1. ***“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.””*** Romans 8:35-36 NKJV

a) *"We have heard with our ears, O God, Our fathers have told us, The deeds You did in their days, In days of old: You drove out the nations with Your hand, But them You planted; You afflicted the peoples, and cast them out. For they did not gain possession of the land by their own sword, Nor did their own arm save them; **But it was Your right hand, Your arm, and the light of Your countenance, Because You favored them.** You are my King, O God; **Command victories** for Jacob. **Through You we will push down our enemies; Through Your name we will trample those who rise up against us.** For I will not trust in my bow, Nor shall my sword save me. **But You have saved us from our enemies,** And have put to shame those who hated us. In God we boast all day long, And praise Your name forever. Selah" Psalms 44:1-8 NKJV*

2. Even at times when you feel like you have become the sacrifice, a sheep for the slaughter:

a) *"But You have **cast us off** and **put us to shame,** And You do not go out with our armies. You make us **turn back from the enemy,** And those who hate*

*us have **taken spoil** for themselves. You have **given us up like sheep intended for food**, And have **scattered us among the nations**. You **sell Your people for next to nothing**, And are not enriched by selling them. You **make us a reproach** to our neighbors, A **scorn and a derision** to those all around us. You **make us a byword** among the nations, A shaking of the head among the peoples. My **dishonor** is continually before me, And the **shame** of my face has covered me, Because of the voice of him who reproaches and reviles, Because of the enemy and the avenger.” Psalms 44:1-17 NKJV*

3. All this has come upon us; we are as sheep to the slaughter, and yet:
 - a) *“All this has come upon us; But **we have not forgotten You, Nor** have we **dealt falsely with Your covenant**. Our heart has **not turned back, Nor have our steps departed from Your way**; But You have severely broken us in the place of jackals, And covered us with the shadow of death. If we had forgotten the name of our God, Or stretched out our hands to a foreign god, Would not God*

*search this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart. [22] **Yet for Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.** Awake! Why do You sleep, O Lord? Arise! **Do not cast us off forever.** Why do You hide Your face, And forget our affliction and our oppression? For our soul is bowed down to the dust; Our body clings to the ground. **Arise for our help, And redeem us for Your mercies' sake.**"*
Psalms 44:18-26 NKJV

- b) Any yet, we...
 - 1) Don't forget God
 - 2) Don't violate your agreements with Him
 - 3) Don't turn away from Him.
 - 4) Don't take one step off the path He has for you
 - 5) Run the race to the end.
- 4. And if we further take a peek into the prophetic we see this magnificent imagery...
 - a) **Our History:** *"Yet for Your sake we are killed all day long; **We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.**"* Psalms 44:22 NKJV

b) **Our History:** “As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are **accounted as sheep for the slaughter.**”” Romans 8:36 NKJV

1) As much as Y’shua was our Passover Lamb, a sheep to the slaughter, who never strayed from His Father’s will, even when tempted at every turn, you too must remain steadfast when “you are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

(2) Suffering is part of the plan...

(a) A time of suffering, trials and temptation are part of the plan, but that is not meant for your defeat; but instead is God’s path to triumph and conquest through you!

1. Whoever loses his life for God’s sake in **tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?** (Romans 8:35) will find his life.

2. The secret is to surrender your life, so you can have the life God planned for you!

a) “...***If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.***” Matthew 16:24-25 NKJV

3. The secret is to follow the example of Y'shua who was tempted every step of the way...

a) "...He learned obedience **by the things which He suffered**. And having been perfected, He **became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him**," Hebrews 5:8-9 NKJV

(3) Y'shua's Temptations to quit, to abandon the mission, to go His own way, to return to His heavenly place.

(a) In the Wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11)

1. "Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness **to be tempted by the devil**. And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me."" Matthew 4:1, 9 NKJV

a) Tempted in the wilderness to avoid what was coming, but only if He'd take second seat to the Devil. "Y'shua says NO!"

(b) In the Garden (Luke 22:41-44)

1. "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; **nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.**" Luke 22:42 NKJV

a) Tempted to abandon the mission in the Garden when He sweat blood. "Y'shua says NO!"

(c) At His Betrayal (Matthew 26:47-56)

1. *"But Jesus said to him, "**Put your sword in its place,** for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will **provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?"**"* Matthew 26:52-54 NKJV
 - a) Tempted during His betrayal and arrest to call down thousands of warring angels to protect Himself. *"Y'shua says NO!"*
- (d) During the Religious Trial (Matthew 26:57-67)
 1. *"And the high priest arose and said to Him, "**Do You answer nothing?** What is it these men testify against You?"* But **Jesus kept silent.** And the high priest answered and said to Him, *"I put You under oath by the living God: **Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!**"* Jesus said to him, *"**It is as you said.** Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."*" Matthew 26:62-64 NKJV

- a) Tempted to defend Himself during His secret overnight trial in the religious court. *“Y’shua says NO!”*
- (e) During the Roman Trial (John 19:5-16)
 - 1. *“Then Pilate said to Him, “Are You not speaking to me? **Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?”** Jesus answered, “You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin.””* John 19:10-11 NKJV
 - a) Tempted in the Roman trial to submit to Pontius Pilate who would be happy to release Him.
“Y’shua says NO!”
- (f) On the Cross (Luke 23:26-43)
 - 1. *“Then Jesus said, “Father, **forgive them, for they do not know what they do.**” And they divided His garments and cast lots.”* (Luke 23:34 NKJV) *“The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, and saying, “**If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself.**””* Luke 23:36-37 NKJV

a) Tempted to saved Himself and come down off the cross. *“Y’shua says NO!”* Instead, He forgives His tormentors.

(4) Will you join Him in saying ,*“No!”* when you are tempted to abandon the mission?

(a) The Fellowship of His Suffering

1. *“that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and **the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.***

“ Philippians 3:10-11 NKJV

a) Will you do what it takes to display the love of Christ NO MATTER how much suffering it takes?

(b) The upward call in Christ Jesus

1. *“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; **but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.***

*Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, **forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.** Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in*

anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, **let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.**“ Philippians 3:12-16 NKJV

2. Will you forget the past and focus instead on why Y’shua called you and what He called you to become—His Christlike representatives in thoughts, words, and actions?

a) *“Now then, **we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.**”* II Corinthians 5:20 NKJV

(c) Your citizenship is in heaven.

1. “Brethren, **join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.** For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things. **For our citizenship is in heaven,** from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that **it may be conformed**

to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.” Philippians 3:17-21 NKJV

2. When you feel like a sheep being led to the slaughter...
 - a) ...when the circumstances and accusations appear devastating: misfortune, overwhelming anxiety, hostility, extreme scarcity, and embarrassing exposure come against you—when you face serious and immediate danger, even death threats, and you feel defenseless—remember, nothing shall separate you from the love of Christ!
 - b) Are you willing to see Paul’s life as an example of how you should live, and to use it as a pattern for your life?
 - c) One day you will inherit a glorified body and everything will be conquered by Christ.
 - d) You are already a citizen of heaven; act like one now!

MORE THAN CONQUERORS

2. Nothing can separate you from God!

A. The Exclamation Mark!

- (1) At times, Paul writes as we've just seen, verses that explode with layer upon layer of meaning.
- (a) And sometimes it's just a punctuation!
1. "Yet **in all these things we are more than conquerors** through Him who loved us." Romans 8:37 NKJV
 2. In ALL these things...
 - a) Every difficulty upon which he just elaborated—the extreme lengths he traveled to guarantee you comprehend your victory—ends with an exclamation!
 - b) God's love for you is so complete, so infinite that it will not only defeat anything that comes against you, it will overwhelm your adversaries as if you had access to a firehose to extinguish a candle!
 - c) We saw this type of exceeding power earlier in this very letter when we learned that where sin abounds, grace abounds exponentially.
 - 1) *"Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But **where sin abounded, grace abounded much more**, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* Romans 5:20-21 NKJV

(b) How do you do it? How do you become more than a conqueror through Him who loved us?

1. "and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but **that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith**; that I may know Him **and the power of His resurrection**, and **the fellowship of His sufferings**, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, **I may attain to the resurrection** from the dead." Philippians 3:9-11 NKJV

2. That which is through faith in Christ!

a) We saw this earlier and here it is appropriate to emphasize—we must filter every circumstance and situation, every trial and tribulation, every question and decision, through faith in Christ.

b) "...***To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: [5] But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith...***" II Peter 1:1, 5
NKJV

B. Are you persuaded?

(1) The natural conclusion!

(a) Paul is persuaded and he is the expert, so why not you?

1. "For **I am persuaded** that **neither death** nor **life**, nor **angels** nor **principalities** nor **powers**, nor **things present** nor **things to come**, nor **height** nor **depth**, nor **any** other **created thing**, shall be able to **separate us from the love of God** which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39 NKJV
2. What does "more than conquerors" look like?
 - a) No ruling spiritual force, nor natural authority...
can separate you from the love of God!
 - 1) "*Having **disarmed principalities and powers**,
He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.*" Colossians 2:15 NKJV
 - b) Nothing right now or from your past, nor anything that threatens your future... **can separate you from the love of God!**
 - 1) "***He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
Nor punished us according to our iniquities.**
For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;
As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.*"
" Psalms 103:10-12 NKJV

- c) It matters not how overwhelming, nor how complicated, nor how deeply rooted—nothing **can separate you from the love of God!**
- 1) *“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because **He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.**”* 1 John 4:4 NKJV
- d) Nothing can detach your life, your hope, your fate, your future, your destiny, your purpose, nor your reason for living, from the God who loves you—nothing **can separate you from the love of God!**
- 1) *“for **in Him we live and move and have our being...** ‘For we are also His offspring.’”* Acts 17:28a NKJV
- e) God is love and you will never be apart from Him.
- 1) *“And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. **God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.**”* 1 John 4:16 NKJV
- f) So...rest in God’s sovereignty, His election.
- 1) *“as **His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the***

knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,” II Peter 1:3 NKJV

3. Nothing that exists was created outside of God’s will.
 - a) That is a conclusive fact beyond any indictment.
 - 1) It matters not how many enemies you can name, or how many weapons are stockpiled against you, the answer to the question...
 - 2) “Can any of these things separate me from God?” is “No!”
4. If we end where we began, as we will affirm in the fulfilling of Isaiah’s prophecy...
 - a) We know that God created all things, and without Him nothing was created.
 - 1) *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. **All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.” John 1:1-5 NKJV*
 - 2) By *“The Lord by wisdom **founded the earth**; By understanding He **established the heavens**; By*

His knowledge the depths were broken up, And clouds drop down the dew.” Proverbs 3:19-20 NKJV

3) *“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.** And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, **that in all things He may have the preeminence.**” Colossians 1:15-18 NKJV*

4) He created thrones and dominions and principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him—even such things that may cause tribulation.

b) In other words, He is the author of both your trials and your solutions.

1) *“All your children shall be taught by the Lord, And great shall be the peace of your children. In righteousness you shall be established; You shall*

*be far from oppression, for you shall not fear;
And from terror, for it shall not come near you.
**Indeed they shall surely assemble, but not
because of Me. Whoever assembles against you
shall fall for your sake. "Behold, I have created
the blacksmith Who blows the coals in the fire,
Who brings forth an instrument for his work;
And I have created the spoiler to destroy. No
weapon formed against you shall prosper, And
every tongue which rises against you in
judgment You shall condemn. **This is the
heritage of the servants of the Lord,** And their
righteousness is from Me," Says the Lord.***" Isaiah
54:13-17 NKJV

- 2) As such, even though Yahweh is the Creator of the fire and the instruments who come against you, He also created them to be destroyed!
5. And thus, no weapon formed against you shall prosper!
 - a) Not demonic forces nor evil men...
 - 1) *"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand*

*against the wiles of the devil. **For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.***

*Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you **may be able to withstand in the evil day,** and having done all, to stand.” Ephesians 6:10-13 NKJV*

b) Not things in your past, nor fears for your future...

1) *“Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, **forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,**”*

Philippians 3:13 NKJV

c) Nothing that might seem insurmountable in size, nor as devastating as hell itself can prosper against you, once you have been saved by faith.

1) *“**above all,** taking the **shield of faith** with which you will be able **to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;” Ephesians 6:16-17 NKJV*

d) Nothing can separate you from God when you are basking in His love.

1) *“But **above all** these things **put on love**, which is **the bond of perfection.**”* Colossians 3:14 NKJV

e) And that is who you are!

1) *“Yet **in all these things we are more than conquerors** through Him who loved us.”*
Romans 8:37 NKJV

(b) It might seem that all is lost at the moment, but joy come in the morning...

1. *“I will extol You, O Lord, for **You have lifted me up, And have not let my foes rejoice over me.** O Lord my God, **I cried out to You, And You healed me.** O Lord, You brought my soul up from the grave; You have kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit. **Sing praise to the Lord, you saints of His,** And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name. **For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning.**”* Psalms 30:1-5 NKJV

2. It won't always seem true, but feelings can be fickle.

a) *It's not that they are bad, or that you shouldn't have them, but feelings oftentimes can't be trusted.*

- And there is no inspiration more effective or deceptive, than trouble, when we consider its effect on emotions. A good o'fashioned trial, complete with attacks from every direction, pressing in on every side, is all the fuel you need to lose confidence in God, to let your feelings run amuck, and to allow your emotions to rule the day.*
- b) *Weeping and sorrow may last through the night, but joy comes in the morning. That is precisely why God's heart is for you to hold tight to His promises.*

Summary: SHEEP TO THE SLAUGHTER

1. Never Stray from the Father's Will

A. Only Christ

- (1) God's elect cannot be indicted by anyone other than Him!
- (a) The assurance is staggering!
1. This should bring you great peace!
- a) You should revel in this revelation as a Christian for all the days there is breath in your lungs, from the moment you were born-again, until your final heartbeat.
- b) Predestination and what it means to be "the called" of God.

- 1) Paul identifies God's people as "the elect."
 - 2) We have previously established that Yahweh has the foreknowledge of all things.
 - 3) He knows everything from eternity past to eternity future.
 - 4) God already sees who has responded to His invitation to spend eternity future with Him
- (2) He calls them His elect, and about them He says this...
- (a) *"They are Mine. I Am the One who sacrificed My Son for them. I Am the One who raised Y'shua from the grave and made a place for Him, here next to Me at My right hand. From this place, as does the Holy Spirit, He intercedes for them until all things are restored, after which He will return for His bride, My elect, to bring them to the place He prepared for them. I Am the one with the authority to justify and I Am the one with the authority to condemn, so if someone else brings a charge against My elect, it is legally null and void."*
 - (b) No one has authority over God's elect...
1. **He sacrificed His only begotten Son for us:**
 - a) The price God paid to make sure you had everything you need was the life of His only begotten Son.

b) If He was willing to pay that much to ensure you have the winning hand, how on earth can you imagine under any condition that you don't?

2. **Raised and Sitting at His Right Hand:**

a) The Father raised the Son from the grave with His immeasurable power, and sat Him at His right side, a place of authority and power.

b) He has made that power available to those who believe through His limitless grace!

3. **The Holy Spirit also makes intercession:**

a) It's an intercessory dynamic duo. Both the Holy Spirit and the Son of God are praying for you!

b) Think of it as if you have two perfect spiritual attorneys pleading your case and telling you exactly what you should testify at all times!

4. **Christ remains in heaven until the church restores creation:**

a) You are being prepped much like a star witness is prepped in a legal case, so his testimony can produce a winning verdict.

b) And that victory yields both the permission and the resources to finish the job that Christ started!

5. We are His betrothed and He has gone to prepare a place to bring His bride:

- a) The Church is promised to be the bride of Christ, but we are not yet married to Him; that comes at the very end. In biblical terms that means we are betrothed to be married. Betrothal is a covenant to marry, as binding as marriage itself, minus two factors: cohabitation and sexual relations.
- b) Y'shua has gone away in the period of betrothal to prepare a home for His bride. He will come again for His bride when she is ready (when she has completed her task of restoring all things), at which time the wedding will take place.

6. Yahweh alone is our Lawgiver and Judge, not the unbelieving world:

- a) You need not concern yourself for anything the world says about you or how they judge you. What the unbelieving world thinks is not relevant other than they should actually despise you if you are doing your job well!

7. There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy, so don't condemn your fellow believer:

a) When it comes to condemnation, no Christian should EVER condemn a fellow Christian. We should correct and admonish one another, but NEVER condemn. In fact, correcting your brother for sin is how we show love for one another. And with our words we can impart God's grace and even turn a fellow believer from sinful mistakes.

8. **However, you will eventually judge the world for sin!**

- a) We will eventually condemn the unbelieving world and even angels.
- b) So, in matters of everyday life, we can easily make just rulings among believers.
- c) However, in order to be effective judges of the world, we must first become radically obedient to God, and we do so by taking every thought captive and putting on the mind of Christ.

9. **And thus the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled:**

- a) God's elect are protected and nothing that comes against them shall have the ultimate victory over them. Quite the opposite, anyone who rises against His chosen people in word or deed will be judged by God and condemned.

B. Nothing can separate you!

(1) Accounted as sheep for the slaughter...

(a) Not SEPARATION but PREPARATION

1. "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Paul's answer is rooted in OUR history!

a) First, be reminded of Paul's heritage: The stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee.

1) **Paul is a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee, an expert in the law:**

2) **Paul was brought up at the feet of Gamaliel, maybe the most renowned Torah scholar of his day:**

2. When such a challenge is proffered, "Who shall bring a charge against God's elect?"

a) You must remember Paul's heritage (which is your heritage). What Paul does so well, and so often. He sees through the lens of Pharisaical Judaism.

1) **Know your history, but DO NOT repeat their mistakes!**

b) Paul has connected His faith as a Jew with his relationship to Christ. He has had the critical

revelation that without Christ, his faith falls crucially short.

- 1) **But do not mistake this revelation for a repudiation of his history as a Jewish scholar. Paul sees his history as advantageous:**

- c) But now he connects his faith along with the magnificent revelation of, **“that which is through faith in Christ.”** All else is rubbish in comparison!

- 1) **Yes, his heritage and previous knowledge is great, but when compared to that same heritage and knowledge now being filtered through his faith in Christ—well, there is just NO COMPARISON!**

- (b) Any comparison Paul makes to his history and heritage, in this case about persecution and suffering, **MUST** now be interpreted through a Christian understanding.

1. Any charge against God’s elect is an attempt to separate you from the love of Christ!

- a) Don’t overlook this revelation because he is about to bring us on a rabbinic journey into the Psalms to open our hearts to what they were pointing all along!

- b) That's what rabbis do. They hint at a passage and it is the student's job to explore further.
2. Let's dive deep, so you don't miss a thing.
- a) Remember what you just learned. Even in the midst of great suffering, it will all work out for good to those who love God and walk in His purpose.
 - b) And if God is on your side, then what does it matter who opposes you?
 - c) Your victory is guaranteed because the price God paid to ensure your success was the life of His own Son!
3. Who shall separate us from God's permanent love?
- a) When charges come against you, one of God's elect, and those indictments hope to sever your connection to the heart of the Father...
 - 1) When the circumstances and accusations appear devastating: misfortune, overwhelming anxiety, hostility, extreme scarcity, and embarrassing exposure.
 - 2) When you face serious and immediate danger, even death threats, and you feel defenseless—

where does Paul focus your attention to prove you are safe?

- 3) He repeats his history, which is your history; he reminds you of your roots; that is where the remedy to your crisis resides.
- 4) But now, as a Christian, you must keep your life in Christ front and center, as you interpret the words of the Psalmist. *“For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”*

(c) Paul draws the explanation of his remedy for

*“**tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword**”* from Psalm 44.

1. It is critical we first understand the context for why the sons of Korah are singing, beginning in Psalm 42.
 - a) Make it personal, so you can feel it in your bones.
2. Your soul thirsts for the living God.
3. If you camp in front of the throne of God, and now in Paul’s mind picture that as praise, worship and thanksgiving at the foot of the cross, you will have no reason for anxiety.
4. Go to the alter, to the cross, with exceeding joy, and your countenance will become light.

5. You will have no reason for anxiety. It is God in whom you are drowning, not your troubles.
 6. God will cast down your enemies every time! God will make them ashamed and not you!
 7. Prayer in the time of Trouble! (All of Psalm 43)
- (d) This is why we take the rabbinic journey into the Psalms. It opens our hearts to what they were pointing to all along:
1. Even at times when you feel like you have become the sacrifice, a sheep for the slaughter:
 2. All this has come upon us; we are as sheep to the slaughter, and yet:
 - a) Any yet, we...
 - 1) Don't forget God
 - 2) Don't violate your agreements with Him
 - 3) Don't turn away from Him.
 - 4) Don't take one step off the path He has for you
 - 5) Run the race to the end.
 3. And if we further take a peek into the prophetic we see this magnificent imagery...
 - a) As much as Y'shua was our Passover Lamb, a sheep to the slaughter, who never strayed from His Father's will, even when tempted at every turn, you

too must remain steadfast when “you are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

(2) Suffering is part of the plan...

(a) A time of suffering, trials and temptation are part of the plan, but that is not meant for your defeat; but instead is God’s path to triumph and conquest through you!

1. Whoever loses his life for God’s sake in **tribulation**, or **distress**, or **persecution**, or **famine**, or **nakedness**, or **peril**, or **sword**? (Romans 8:35) will find his life.
2. The secret is to surrender your life, so you can have the life God planned for you!
3. The secret is to follow the example of Y’shua who was tempted every step of the way...

(3) Y’shua’s Temptations to quit, to abandon the mission, to go His own way, to return to His heavenly place.

(a) In the Wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11)

1. Tempted in the wilderness to avoid what was coming, but only if He’d take second seat to the Devil.
“Y’shua says NO!”

(b) In the Garden (Luke 22:41-44)

1. Tempted to abandon the mission in the Garden when He sweat blood. *“Y’shua says NO!”*

(c) At His Betrayal (Matthew 26:47-56)

1. Tempted during His betrayal and arrest to call down thousands of warring angels to protect Himself.

“Y’shua says NO!”
- (d) During the Religious Trial (Matthew 26:57-67)
 1. Tempted to defend Himself during His secret overnight trial in the religious court. *“Y’shua says NO!”*
- (e) During the Roman Trial (John 19:5-16)
 1. Tempted in the Roman trial to submit to Pontius Pilate who would be happy to release Him. *“Y’shua says NO!”*
- (f) On the Cross (Luke 23:26-43)
 1. Tempted to saved Himself and come down off the cross. *“Y’shua says NO!”* Instead, He forgives His tormentors.
- (4) Will you join Him in saying ,*“No!”* when you are tempted to abandon the mission?
 - (a) The Fellowship of His Suffering
 1. Will you do what it takes to display the love of Christ NO MATTER how much suffering it takes?
 - (b) The upward call in Christ Jesus
 1. Will you forget the past and focus instead on why Y’shua called you and what He called you to become

—His Christlike representatives in thoughts, words, and actions?

(c) Your citizenship is in heaven.

1. When you feel like a sheep being led to the slaughter...

- a) ...when the circumstances and accusations appear devastating: misfortune, overwhelming anxiety, hostility, extreme scarcity, and embarrassing exposure come against you—when you face serious and immediate danger, even death threats, and you feel defenseless—remember, nothing shall separate you from the love of Christ!
- b) Are you willing to see Paul’s life as an example of how you should live, and to use it as a pattern for your life?
- c) One day you will inherit a glorified body and everything will be conquered by Christ.
- d) You are already a citizen of heaven; act like one now!

Summary: MORE THAN CONQUERORS

2. Nothing can separate you from God!

A. The Exclamation Mark!

- (1) At times, Paul writes as we've just seen, verses that explode with layer upon layer of meaning.
 - (a) And sometimes it's just a punctuation!
 1. In ALL these things...
 - a) Every difficulty upon which he just elaborated—the extreme lengths he traveled to guarantee you comprehend your victory—ends with an exclamation!
 - b) God's love for you is so complete, so infinite that it will not only defeat anything that comes against you, it will overwhelm your adversaries as if you had access to a firehose to extinguish a candle!
 - c) We saw this type of exceeding power earlier in this very letter when we learned that where sin abounds, grace abounds exponentially.
 - (b) How do you do it? How do you become more than a conqueror through Him who loved us?
 1. That which is through faith in Christ!
 - a) We saw this earlier and here it is appropriate to emphasize—we must filter every circumstance and situation, every trial and tribulation, every question and decision, through faith in Christ.

B. Are you persuaded?

(1) The natural conclusion!

(a) Paul is persuaded and he is the expert, so why not you?

1. What does “more than conquerors” look like?

a) No ruling spiritual force, nor natural authority...

can separate you from the love of God!

b) Nothing right now or from your past, nor anything that threatens your future... **can separate you from**

the love of God!

c) It matters not how overwhelming, nor how complicated, nor how deeply rooted—nothing **can**

separate you from the love of God!

d) Nothing can detach your life, your hope, your fate, your future, your destiny, your purpose, nor your reason for living, from the God who loves you—

nothing **can separate you from the love of God!**

e) God is love and you will never be apart from Him.

f) So...rest in God’s sovereignty, His election.

2. Nothing that exists was created outside of God’s will.

a) That is a conclusive fact beyond any indictment.

1) It matters not how many enemies you can name, or how many weapons are stockpiled against you, the answer to the question...

- 2) “Can any of these things separate me from God?” is “No!”
3. If we end where we began, as we will affirm in the fulfilling of Isaiah’s prophecy...
 - a) We know that God created all things, and without Him nothing was created.
 - 1) He created thrones and dominions and principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him—even such things that may cause tribulation.
 - b) In other words, He is the author of both your trials and your solutions.
 - 1) As such, even though Yahweh is the Creator of the fire and the instruments who come against you, He also created them to be destroyed!
4. And thus, no weapon formed against you shall prosper!
 - a) Not demonic forces nor evil men...
 - b) Not things in your past, nor fears for your future...
 - c) Nothing that might seem insurmountable in size, nor as devastating as hell itself can prosper against you, once you have been saved by faith.

- d) Nothing can separate you from God when you are basking in His love.
 - e) And that is who you are!
- (b) It might seem that all is lost at the moment, but joy come in the morning...
- 1. It won't always seem true, but feelings can be fickle.
 - a) *It's not that they are bad, or that you shouldn't have them, but feelings oftentimes can't be trusted. And there is no inspiration more effective or deceptive, than trouble, when we consider its effect on emotions. A good o'fashioned trial, complete with attacks from every direction, pressing in on every side, is all the fuel you need to lose confidence in God, to let your feelings run amuck, and to allow your emotions to rule the day.*
 - b) *Weeping and sorrow may last through the night, but joy comes in the morning. That is precisely why God's heart is for you to hold tight to His promises.*

BONUS MATERIAL

3. Romans Eight is a Passover and Exodus Story!

A. Romans and Exodus

(1) Line-by-Line

(a) We are predestined to be conformed into the image of His Son.

1. This is the picture of the revealed sons of God being perfected, the prophetic destination of the firstborn. And this is a work of the Spirit in us.
2. We must be justified first (made right by His work), which then leads us to glory, the revealing of the sons of God (and this is our work).

B. Put on your best prophetic hat!

(1) Romans 8:18-39 are pregnant with prophetic insight and speaks of the Exodus and the Passover.

(a) The focus is on the Lamb which brings redemption.

1. Look at the final imagery as you recall the Passover story.
2. Paul draws from the musings of Psalm 44.
3. It is a stark reminder that it is Yahweh alone who pushes back our enemies and it is Yahweh alone who makes us a reproach.
4. And Paul chooses the words in the sober psalm that recall the Passover. *"We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."* Psalm 44:22.

- (b) But in the end, who shall bring a charge against Yahweh's people? Whose condemnation shall stand?
1. Egypt's couldn't. Could tribulation or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword separate us from His plan?
 2. No, even the angel of death could not conquer His love and plan for His people. Yahweh will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your house. It is the Passover.
- (c) Think for a moment; to what event is Paul alluding when he use phrase such...
1. Groaning in labor?
 2. Unwilling subjects of futility (bondage to the curse)?
 3. His Called and His Elect?
 4. Delivered from bondage?
 5. Eagerly waiting for redemption?
 6. Sons being revealed?
 7. Deliverance into freedom?
 8. Firstborn like Messiah?

C. He is talking about the Exodus and the PASSOVER!

- (1) Let's draw the parallels from the Exodus story. See how the numbers above, when inserted into the Exodus passages, connect Exodus to Romans.

(a) Exodus 6:5-8

1. And I have also heard the GROANING [1]
2. of the children of Israel whom the EGYPTIANS KEEP IN BONDAGE [2],
3. and I HAVE REMEMBERED MY COVENANT [3].
4. Therefore say to the children of Israel: 'I am the LORD; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I WILL RESCUE YOU FROM THEIR BONDAGE [4],
5. and I will REDEEM YOU WITH AN OUTSTRETCHED ARM [5] and with great judgments.
6. I WILL TAKE YOU AS MY PEOPLE [6], and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.
7. And I will BRING YOU INTO THE LAND [7] which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you as a heritage: I am the LORD.

(b) Exodus 6:5-8

1. And it came to pass, when Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go, that the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast. Therefore I sacrifice to

the LORD all males that open the womb, BUT ALL THE FIRSTBORN OF MY SONS I REDEEM [8].'"

D. See the Romans and Exodus line-by-line comparison chart!

PASSEVER LANGUAGE EXODUS 6, 13 & ROMANS 8	
1	<p>Heard the groaning: And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel whom the Egyptians keep in bondage. (Exodus 6:5)</p> <p>Groaning in labor: And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel whom the Egyptians keep in bondage... (Romans 8:22)</p>
2	<p>In bondage to the Egyptians: ...the children of Israel whom the Egyptians keep in bondage... (Exodus 6:5)</p> <p>In bondage to the curse of sin: For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected in hope; (Romans 8:20)</p>
3	<p>Israel (overcomes with God)—His covenant people: ...and I have remembered My covenant. (Exodus 6:5)</p> <p>Church (overcomes with God)—His called/elect: We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? (Romans 8:28, 33)</p>
4	<p>Rescued from bondage: Therefore say to the children of Israel: 'I am the Lord; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians... (Exodus 6:6)</p> <p>Delivered from bondage: Because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption... (Romans 8:21a)</p>
5	<p>Redeemed with an outstretched arm: ...I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. (Exodus 6:6)</p> <p>Eagerly waiting for redemption: We also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. (Romans 8:23)</p>
6	<p>Taken as His people: I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. (Exodus 6:7)</p> <p>Revealed as His sons: For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. (Romans 8:19)</p>
7	<p>Brought into the land of promise: And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you as a heritage: I am the Lord. (Exodus 6:8)</p> <p>Delivered into glorious freedom: ...into the glorious liberty of the children of God. (Romans 8:21b)</p>
8	<p>Firstborn sons redeemed: ...Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all males that open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem. (Exodus 13:15)</p> <p>Firstborn among many: For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. (Romans 8:29)</p>

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. What should reveal in the revelation, as a Christian, for all the days there is breath in your lungs, from the moment you were born-again, until your final heartbeat.

A. Consider Romans 8:33-34

2. Use the following passages to explain this statement: (Romans 8:26-32; Ephesians 1:17-20; Acts 3:20-21; John 14:2-3; 15:18-19; Revelation 19:7; Isaiah 33:20-22)

A. *“They are Mine. I Am the One who sacrificed My Son for them. I Am the One who raised Y’shua from the grave and made a place for Him, here next to Me at My right hand. From this place, as does the Holy Spirit, He intercedes for them until all things are restored, after which He will return for His bride, My elect, to bring them to the place He prepared for them. I Am the one with the authority to justify and I Am the one with the authority to condemn, so if someone else brings a charge against My elect, it is legally null and void.”*

3. Write an Essay comparing Romans 8:35-36 to Psalms 42-44.

A. Use the following passages to explain why Paul is able to connect these two areas of Scripture. (See: Acts 23:3-6; Philippians 3:1-9; Romans 3:1-2)

4. Suffering is part of the God’s plan, and yet we are never meant to abandon the mission in the midst of temptation.

A. How can you succeed by drawing from Matthew 16:24-25?

B. Christ was perfected by His suffering (Hebrews 5:8-9). Write a narrative showing how Y’shua overcame the temptation to quit every step of the way using the following passages. (See: Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 22:41-44; Matthew 26:47-67; John 19:5-16; Luke 23:26-43)

5. Will you join Him in saying ,“No!” when you are tempted to abandon the mission? How do you become more than a conqueror through Him who loved us?

A. Use Philippians 3:1-21 to craft your personal answer?

6. What does “more than conquerors” look like?

A. Use Colossians 2:15; Psalms 103:10-12; I John 4:4; Acts 17:28; I John 4:16; II Peter 1:3; and Isaiah 54:13-17 to craft your answer.

7. Why can you be certain that no weapon formed against you shall prosper?

A. Use Ephesians 6:10-17; Philippians 3:13; Colossians 3:14; and Psalms 30:1-5 to craft your answer.