

**GOING THROUGH A FIERY TRIAL?**

**I PETER 4:12-14**

***DON'T QUIT!***



**GOD NEVER MOVES**

**WITHOUT**

**PURPOSE AND PLAN!**

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## INTRODUCTION GOD'S PURPOSE AND PLAN

Before answering that question, “why” please listen as I point out a Bible truth. Everything that happens in the life of a child of God, happens under the control of God. Concerning trials or testing that Christians go through, God either “sends the trial” or “He allows the trial.” Satan cannot touch a child of God without God’s permission. When God allows Satan to send a “time of fiery trial” God is still in control and he Always uses it for our good. That truth is clearly spelled out and pictured in the Book of Job, chapter one.

*“And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.”*

Every Christian knows that Christians, from time to time, go through trials. Every Christian has gone through various kinds of trials and testing from time to time. Believers go through trials and testing even when we are living pure and godly lives, and doing all we can do to please and to serve our Lord. Through the years, I have had good Christian people share a trial or testing they are going through and have asked, “Why is God letting this happen to me? I have no sin in my life, and I am doing all I can to serve him. Why is this happening?”

Why does God allow his servants to go through trials and testing? He allows us to go through trials and testing because He has a purpose. He allows us to go through trials and testing because He loves us. He allows us to go through trials and testing because He wants us to grow stronger in our faith. He allows us to go through trials and testing because He has a plan to use us in a greater way in the future to bring glory and honor to Him and to His Son, Jesus Christ. God NEVER allows us to go through anything that will hurt or harm us. Trials and testing are “for His glory,” but they are also “for our good.”

Let me share some Scriptures which clearly teach us that truth.

I Peter 4:12-14 says: *“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.”*

Now, let’s look at the book of Job, where Job suffered several trials and testing. Look at Job 23:10, which will be followed by other verses.

*“But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.”*

James, the half-brother of Jesus Christ wrote in James 1:1-4, *“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting. My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”*

One final scripture is in the Book of I Peter. Look first at chapter 1, verses 7-9. *“That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: 9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.”*

Sad to say, through the years, many Christians have been serving God faithfully, but a time comes when they go through a “fiery trial”, and they quit! I personally know of several pastors who quit. I know of a good number of missionaries who have done deputation and gone to the field, but before the end of their first term on the field, they went through a fiery trial, and they quit!

In the next seven chapters we will look at “seven examples” of men in the Bible that went through one or more “fiery trial” but will see that each of those resulted in “God having a purpose and plan” for those men. They all resulted in the trials working for their good and for the glory of God. The results of those “fiery trials” are amazing! The title of this section of the book is:

**GOD NEVER MOVES WITHOUT PURPOSE AND PLAN!**

**DON'T QUIT!**

## CHAPTER ONE THE EXAMPLE OF JACOB

**Jacob went through a “fiery trial” of sleeping in the wide-open spaces and having to use a “stone for a pillow,” but Found the Purpose and Plan of God for his Life.  
Genesis 25 through Genesis 32**

Jacob was one of two twins who were born to Isaac and Rebekah. The other twin was named Esau. That is told us in Genesis 25:19-23

*“And these are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham begat Isaac: And Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian of Padanaram, the sister to Laban the Syrian. And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived. And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the LORD. And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.”*

As you read above, Jacob was the younger of the two twins and it was “foretold” that the elder shall serve the younger. That was not the normal way in those days. The elder son was always the one who had the “birthright.” The “birthright” meant that he would receive the major blessing of all the children of the family. Even though this was “foretold by God,” it was brought about by Jacob “tricking” his brother Esau into selling him his birthright. Genesis 25:27-34 explains how all of that came about.

*“And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents. And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob. And Jacob sod pottage: and Esau came from the field, and he was faint: And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was his name called Edom. And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright. And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me? And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he sware unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright.”*

*Later on in their lives, as their father neared the end of his life, Esau regretted selling his birthright and was angry with Jacob, his younger brother, for tricking him out of the blessing which came with the birthright. He was angry enough that he planned to kill Jacob.*

Genesis 27:41-45 verifies that. Those verses say,

*“And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob. And these words of Esau her elder son were told to Rebekah: and she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said unto him, Behold, thy brother Esau, as touching thee, doth comfort himself, purposing to kill thee. Now therefore, my son, obey my voice; and arise, flee thou to Laban*

*my brother to Haran; And tarry with him a few days, until thy brother's fury turn away; Until thy brother's anger turn away from thee, and he forget that which thou hast done to him: then I will send, and fetch thee from thence: why should I be deprived also of you both in one day?"*

Before that could happen to Jacob, his father Isaac sent Jacob to "his mother's father's house," to Laban who would have been Jacob's uncle, to find a wife. Genesis 28:1-2 and verse 10 tells us that Jacob traveled from "Beer-sheba and went toward Haran," which is where his mother's brother Laban lived. Please make a note of this.

Genesis 28:1-2: *"And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him, and charged him, and said unto him, Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan. Arise, go to Padanaram, to the house of Bethuel thy mother's father; and take thee a wife from thence of the daughters of Laban thy mother's brother."*

Genesis 28:10: *"And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran."*

Please remember this. It is very important. Jacob traveled about 300 miles from Beer-sheba to Haran." In that day, people traveled by walking or riding camels. They could travel, at best, about 20 miles a day. To travel 300 miles, it would take at least 15 days.

Genesis 28:10 – 17 tells of the trip Jacob made to Haran. During his travel to Haran, Jacob traveled alone. He had to stop and sleep in the wide-open spaces, **at least 15 nights**, and maybe more. When he stopped to sleep at night, all alone, he had to use a "stone for a pillow."

*"And Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran. And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.*

This, no doubt, was a long and difficult trip, especially sleeping with his head on a stone. However, as we titled this book, "God never moves without purpose and plan." As Jacob slept, the Bible says he "dreamed." Below is the record of what he saw in that dream.

*And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of. And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not. And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."*

God's purpose for Jacob "sleeping on a stone pillow" was, in part, that Jacob would find the house of God and find that gate of heaven. Amazing! Also, during that dream, God promised Jacob that He would "be with him and would keep him." However, the story of God's purpose does not end there. Let's skip forward to Genesis 32:24-30.

*"And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed. And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there. And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved."*

I ask a question. "Do you know what the name "Israel" means in the Hebrew language? Most people do not know the answer to that question. The word Israel, according to Strong's Hebrew Concordances comes from the Hebrew word "Yisra'el" and means. "He will rule as God."

The result of Jacob going through a "fiery trial" was, "he found the gate to heaven, he met God face to face and was promised that his life would be preserved." That was vitally important because as Jacob traveled on this trip, he was on the way back to his homeland and was going to meet his brother Esau, who had sworn to kill him! Was "sleeping on a stone for a pillow," maybe as many as 15 nights, worth it? Absolutely! We learn that "God never moves without purpose and plan." Israel turned into the name of God's people and continues under that name today.

**GOD NEVER MOVES WITHOUT PURPOSE AND PLAN!**

**DON'T QUIT!**

## CHAPTER TWO THE EXAMPLE OF JOSEPH

**Joseph went through six “fiery trials,” But found the Purpose and Plan of God for His life through all Six!  
Genesis 37 through Genesis 50**

Joseph was Jacob’s son. In Genesis 37:1 – 8 We find that Joseph was only 17 years old when those “Fiery trials began.” That was a very young age to be put through such trials, but “God had a purpose and a plan.”

### **Joseph’s First Trial Being Hated by His Brothers Genesis 37:3-5**

*“Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colors. And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him. And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.”*

If you will stop and think about this, you will realize that Joseph, being 17 years old, and being hated by his 11 older brothers, must have been having a very difficult time in his life. Please remember, God does not move without purpose and plan.

### **Joseph’s Second Trial Being Cast in a Pit by His Brothers and Left to Die Genesis 37:19-24**

Joseph’s brethren were in Shechem keeping their father’s flock. Shechem was about 50 miles from the home of Jacob in Hebron. After a time, Jacob called Joseph and sent him to see how his brethren were doing. (Genesis 37:13-14) When his brothers saw Joseph coming, they planned to kill him. Genesis 37:20-24 recorded their words.

*“And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh. Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams. And Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him. And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again. And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him; And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.”*

Can you imagine how young Joseph felt sitting in the bottom of a cold, dark pit and listening to his own brothers, sitting on the side of the pit, laughing and rejoicing that they had gotten rid of their youngest brother! I am sure he wept and expected to die there. He did not think he would ever see his father or mother again. Please remember, God does not move without purpose and plan.



**Joseph's Third Trial**  
**Being Sold as a Slave to the Midianites**  
**Genesis 37:28**

When the Midianites arrived in Egypt, Joseph was bought by Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and was captain of the guard. *“And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmaelites, which had brought him down thither.”* (Genesis 39:1)

However, God was with Joseph, and Joseph's master, Potiphar, saw that the Lord was with Joseph, and he made Joseph ruler over his entire house. (Genesis 39:3-4) However, that led to Joseph's fourth trial! Please remember, God does not move without purpose and plan.

**Joseph's Fourth Trial**  
**Being Falsely Accused of Sexually Molesting Potiphar's Wife**  
**Genesis 39:7-19**

*“And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God? And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her. And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within. And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out. And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth, That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice: And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out. And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home. And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me: And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out. And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled.*

As you see from reading the entire account that it was Potiphar's wife who tried to seduce Joseph into committing immorality with her, but Joseph refused! After several attempts, she found an opportunity to get Joseph into serious trouble. She lied to her husband and told him that Joseph had tried to force her to “lie with him.” Please remember, God does not move without purpose and plan!

**Joseph's Fifth Trial**  
**Joseph was Cast into Prison for a Sin he did not Commit**  
**Genesis 39:20**

*“And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.”*

Again, the Lord was with Joseph. Genesis 39:21-23 gives us the account of the Lord being with Joseph. *“But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it. The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper.”*

Joseph was in prison for a period of “two full years” (Genesis 41:1). Shortly after Joseph was put in prison, Genesis 40:1-3 tell of Pharaoh's butler and baker being cast into the same prison. *“And it came to pass after these things, that the butler of the king of Egypt and his baker had offended their lord the king of Egypt. And Pharaoh was wroth against two of his officers, against the chief of the butlers, and against the chief of the bakers. And he put them in ward in the house of the captain of the guard, into the prison, the place where Joseph was bound.”*

While in prison, both the butler and the baker both “dreamed a dream.” The record of the butler's dream, and the results, are recorded in Genesis 40:8-14. Please make a note that in verses 14-15, Joseph requested that the butler “think on him” or remember him after he was released and restored to his position as Pharaoh's butler.

**Joseph's Sixth Trial**  
**Joseph was forgotten by the butler**  
**Genesis 40:1-15**

*“And it came to pass after these things, that the butler of the king of Egypt and his baker had offended their lord the king of Egypt. And Pharaoh was wroth against two of his officers, against the chief of the butlers, and against the chief of the bakers. And he put them in ward in the house of the captain of the guard, into the prison, the place where Joseph was bound. And the captain of the guard charged Joseph with them, and he served them: and they continued a season in ward. And they dreamed a dream both of them, each man his dream in one night, each man according to the interpretation of his dream, the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt, which were bound in the prison. And Joseph came in unto them in the morning, and looked upon them, and, behold, they were sad. And he asked Pharaoh's officers that were with him in the ward of his lord's house, saying, Wherefore look ye so sadly to day? And they said unto him, We have dreamed a dream, and there is no interpreter of it. And Joseph said unto them, Do not interpretations belong to God? tell me them, I pray you. And the chief butler told his dream to Joseph, and said to him, In my dream, behold, a vine was before me; And in the vine were three branches: and it was as though it budded, and her blossoms shot forth; and the clusters thereof brought forth ripe grapes: And Pharaoh's cup was in my hand: and I took the grapes, and pressed them into Pharaoh's cup, and I gave the cup into Pharaoh's hand. And Joseph said unto him, This is the interpretation of it:*

*The three branches are three days: Yet within three days shall Pharaoh lift up thine head, and restore thee unto thy place: and thou shalt deliver Pharaoh's cup into his hand, after the former manner when thou wast his butler. But think on me when it shall be well with thee, and shew kindness, I pray thee, unto me, and make mention of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house: For indeed I was stolen away out of the land of the Hebrews: and here also have I done nothing that they should put me into the dungeon.*”

According to the dream, the butler was released, set free, and restored to his position of “chief butler” in Pharaoh’s house; however, he totally forgot Joseph. It is well worth noting at this point, that in spite of going through “six fiery trials” Joseph never once complained, nor did he question God. Even when Joseph did right and honored God by refusing to lie with Potiphar’s wife and was falsely accused, and sent to prison, he never complained! That is amazing. Many Christians today would have said, “If that’s the thanks I get after doing right and honoring God, no thank you! It is just not worth serving God! I quit!” I am not sure all that went on in Joseph’s mind, but I am certain that he “never doubted God.” Somehow, he knew that “God did not move without purpose and plan!” We need to remember that truth daily!

Joseph’s trials concluded after being released from prison and that leads to us seeing “God’s purpose and plan” for a little 17-year-old boy named Joseph. It will be very worth your while to read Genesis chapters 41-50 to fully understand how God used all this for His Glory and Joseph’s good, as well as for “the good of many more.”

### **God’s Purpose and Plan for Joseph Genesis 50:15-20**

*“And when Joseph's brethren saw that their father was dead, they said, Joseph will peradventure hate us, and will certainly requite us all the evil which we did unto him. And they sent a messenger unto Joseph, saying, Thy father did command before he died, saying, So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father. And Joseph wept when they spake unto him. And his brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said, Behold, we be thy servants. And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.”*

**GOD NEVER MOVES WITHOUT PURPOSE AND PLAN**

# **DON'T QUIT!**

**CHAPTER THREE**  
**THE EXAMPLE OF MOSES**  
**Exodus 3:1-5**

**Moses went Through A Fiery Trial but Found the Purpose of God on the  
Backside of the Desert**

**To lay a foundation, or set the stage** for the study of Moses finding the Purpose and Plan of God, let's review Exodus 2:1-10. Moses was born on the banks of the Nile River. Because of the decree of Pharaoh to destroy all of the Hebrew children, Moses' mother protected Moses and placed him in an ark and placed the ark in the Nile River. It might be well to note that the word "ark" means: "A place of Safe Keeping!"

*"And there went a man of the house of Levi, and took to wife a daughter of Levi. And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months. And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink." —Exodus 2:1-3*

Moses' sister had watched from afar off to see what would happen to her brother. The child was found by Pharaoh's daughter.

*"And his sister stood afar off, to wit what would be done to him. And the daughter of Pharaoh came down to wash herself at the river; and her maidens walked along by the river's side; and when she saw the ark among the flags, she sent her maid to fetch it. And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children. Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee? And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother. And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it."*

The recorded history is brief, but from verse 10 through verse 15, it tells us of the first 40 years of Moses' life. He lived in Pharaoh's house in Egypt and became known as "the son of Pharaoh's daughter." *"In which time Moses was born, and was exceeding fair, and nourished up in his father's house three months: And when he was cast out, Pharaoh's daughter took him up, and nourished him for her own son. And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was mighty in words and in deeds."*

**Acts 7:20-22** gives us brief details of his life in Egypt. According to Jewish historians like Josephus, Moses grew up and became the "second most powerful man in the world." He literally ruled the world under the authority of Pharaoh.

At the close of the first forty years of Moses' life, during which time he learned to "be a somebody" he left Egypt and moved to Midian, as he sat down by a well! Moses spent the next forty years of his life in Midian, doing nothing but "keeping sheep" and learning how to "be a nobody!"

At the close of those forty years, Moses was keeping sheep on the backside of the desert. It was there that he “got the call of God to deliver Israel out of bondage in Egypt.” Let’s look at what happened that day on the “backside of the desert.” Exodus 3:1-10

*“Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb. And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. And Moses said, “I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground. Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God. And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites. Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them. O come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.”*

In those days, being “a shepherd” was considered about the lowest form of work a man could do. Everyone looked down on a shepherd. I have pointed that out to say, Moses spent the first 40 years of his life learning “to be a somebody.” The next 40 years he spent learning how “to be a nobody.” Moses was about to learn “what God could do with someone who had learned the first two lessons!”

God called a “poor shepherd man” to lead the entire nation of Israel out of Egypt, across the Red Sea, and to the Promised Land! Exodus 14:13-14 & 21-22.

*“And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.”*

Verses 21-22 tell us what the people saw! *“And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.”*

After the children of Israel crossed over the Red Sea on dry ground, God dealt with the army of Egypt, which sought to follow them and force Israel to return to bondage in Egypt. That is recorded in Exodus 14:27-31.

*“And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them. But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore. And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses.”*

Over the next 40 years, God used Moses to lead the nation of Israel for 40 years, through the wilderness, to the Jordan River where they would later cross over into the Promised Land! During those forty years, God used Moses to build the Tabernacle. Who would have dreamed of God using a man like Moses after he spent 40 years as a “poor shepherd” in the land of Midian! However, God had that purpose and plan for Moses before the foundation of the world! Because

**GOD NEVER MOVES WITHOUT PURPOSE AND PLAN!**

**DON'T QUIT!**

## CHAPTER FOUR THE EXAMPLE OF JOB

### Job 1:1-21

**Job went through the worst “fiery trial” of losing all that he had, including his oxen, his asses, his sheep, his servants, his camels, and his sons and his daughters!**

Let’s begin this chapter by looking at a “fiery trial” that God did not send, but allowed. That is recorded in Job 1:5-12.

### Job’s Background

#### Job 1:1-5

*“There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil. And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters. 3 His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east. And his sons went and feasted in their houses, every one his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them. And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.*

### God gives Satan Permission to put Job through a Fiery Trial

#### Job 1:6-12

*“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.”*

### Job’s Fiery Trial

#### Job 1:13-19

*“And there was a day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother’s house: And there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them: And the Sabeans fell upon them, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from*

*heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house: And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.”*

### **Job’s Losses Job 1:2-3**

Job’s losses are all given in the text above. However, before moving forward with the rest of this study, let’s make a list of all that Job lost. This will be important as we reach the end of Job’s life.

Job lost seven sons and three daughters.  
Job lost 7000 sheep.  
Job lost 3000 camels.  
Job lost 500 yokes of oxen.  
Job lost 500 she asses.

Job also went through the trials of three men, men who claimed to be his close friends, yet, accused him of being a hypocrite! In each of those three discussions, Job honored God and gave God the glory. About halfway through his “fiery trial” of Satan trying to get him to “curse God”, we find that Job knew the truth about which this book is written; God never moves without purpose and plan. Also, he knew that when the trials were over, they would work together for God’s glory and for his good. Job expressed that in Job 19:25-27 and Job 23:6-10.

*“For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.”*

*“Will he plead against me with his great power? No; but he would put strength in me. There the righteous might dispute with him; so should I be delivered for ever from my judge. Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him: On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him: But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.”*

When Job came to the end of the trials, which lasted possibly 6 months, we find the results of Job’s faithful trust and waiting on God. Let’s “fast-forward” to chapter 42 verses 12-16. After we read these verses, we will go back to chapter one and compare the things which Job lost to the things which God gave him back in return.



*“So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses. He had also seven sons and three daughters. And he called the name of the first, Jemima; and the name of the second, Kezia; and the name of the third, Kerenhappuch. And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren. After this lived Job an hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, even four generations.”*

**Job’s Losses**

Job lost seven sons and three daughters.

Job lost 7000 sheep.

Job lost 3000 camels.

Job lost 500 yokes of oxen.

Job lost 500 “she asses.”

**Job’s Latter End**

Seven sons and three daughters

1400 sheep

6000 camels

1000 yoke of oxen.

1000 “she asses.”

If you go back and compare the loss of his possessions, you will find that God gave him back “double” his losses, restored his seven sons and three daughters, and the three daughters were the “fairest of all the women in the land!” The Scriptures further state, that Job lived 140 years and saw his sons, and his sons’ sons, and even four generations.”

One of the main things we learn in the life of Job is “God never allows Satan to touch us without His permission.” Also, we find even when God allows Satan to touch us, “it worked out for the glory of God, and it worked out for Job’s good.” (Job 23:10)

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**CHAPTER FIVE**  
**THE EXAMPLE OF KING DAVID**  
**I Samuel 17:42-45**

Everyone reading this book is familiar with King David. David was a “despised shepherd boy” who was about the age of 17. He was keeping the sheep for his father while all of his older brothers had gone to fight a war with the Philistines. David’s father, Jesse, called David and sent him to where the battle was to “send them food and see how the war was going.” (I Samuel 17:20)

*“And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him; and he came to the trench, as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle.”*

David’s first fiery trial was when he arrived at the battleground and began to ask questions. His oldest brother heard him asking questions. His oldest brother, Eliab, rebuked and mocked him. (Verse 28)

*“And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.’*

Try to imagine the hurt which David felt when his brother “rebuked and made fun of him.” However, there was a reason behind Eliab’s words and actions. Elijah and his other brothers were on “the front line” and Goliath, a nine-foot giant, had mocked the entire army of Israel and challenged them to “send a man to fight him” and no one volunteered to go, including King Saul! NO doubt the King and also the three brothers of David were afraid and embarrassed because they had been intimidated and mocked. Let’s read about that in I Samuel 17:8-11.

*“And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set your battle in array? am not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me. If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us. And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together. When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.”*

Later, David went and spoke to King Saul. That is recorded in Verses 31-37.

*“And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed them before Saul: and he sent for him. And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine. And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth. And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his*

*mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.”*

David, armed with a “slingshot” went to confront the giant. When he came face to face with Goliath, he was again “mocked and made fun of.” Read I Samuel 17: 41 – 44.

*“And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield went before him. And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance. And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And the Philistine said to David, come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field.”*

All of you know the story, how David slew the giant and took the giant’s own sword and cut his head off. The result was, later David was anointed to be the future King of Israel. Before that, the people “exalted David” which caused King Saul to be very jealousy. Because of that jealousy, King Saul tried to kill David on several different occasions. That continued for the next 12-13 years, until Saul died. In II Samuel chapter two, David was accepted by Judah as King.

Of the next few years, David reigned as King of Judah. However, during the time he was king, His own son, Absalom rebelled, became jealous and attempted to over-throw his father’s kingdom, have him killed, and take his place as King of Judah. I cannot imagine going through a “fiery trial” that David, as a father, went through during that time, which seems to have lasted about four years, after which Absalom gathered his troop and declared war on David. One of David’s messengers went to David and warned him of Absalom’s actions. It put both grief and fear in David’s heart. David and his servants rose up and fled. (II Samuel 15:13-14).

*“And there came a messenger to David, saying, The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom. And David said unto all his servants that were with him at Jerusalem, Arise, and let us flee; for we shall not else escape from Absalom: make speed to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly, and bring evil upon us, and smite the city with the edge of the sword.”*

As that war began, but before David’s army went out to battle, we see the “heart of a man named David,” which is declared to be “a man after God’s own heart.” (I Samuel 13:14). Despite his son Absalom coming to make war on him and steal his kingdom, David call Joab, the commander of David’s army, and gave him a commandment to spare his son. II Samuel 18:5.

*“And the king commanded Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Deal gently for my sake with the young man, even with Absalom. And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains charge concerning Absalom.”*

If you follow the verses in II Samuel 18:9-15 you find that Joab and the army of David slew Absalom. When David got word that his son Absalom was dead, he went to his chamber and wept. (II Samuel 18:32-33)

*“And the king said unto Cushi, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Cushi answered, The enemies of my lord the king, and all that rise against thee to do thee hurt, be as that young man is. And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!”*

Can anyone imagine going through a “fiery trial” as severe, trying, stressful, and heart breaking as the one David went through? I seriously doubt if anyone, including the writer, has ever been through a trial of that nature. However, David went on serving God and being faithful and became the greatest king in the history of the Jews! David’s name is recorded in the Bible 969 times!

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**CHAPTER SIX**  
**THE EXAMPLE OF THE APOSTLE PAUL**  
**II Corinthians 12:7-9**

*“And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”*

The apostle Paul went through “fiery trials” as much or more than any one man recorded in the Scriptures. We pointed out at the beginning of this booklet, that many times “God sends fiery trials” in order to purify us, to strengthen us, mold us more into His likeness, and to cause us to grow in faith. However, we also pointed out that God allows Satan to put us through fiery trials in order that the same thing be accomplished in our lives. We saw that in the life of Job. Now we see it again in the life of Paul. Verse seven states, “*there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*”

Regardless of the trials being “sent by God” or “God allowing Satan to buffet us,” all trials end up in the same place. They are “for our good,” and they are for the “glory of God” because either way, God will give us victory and use either type of trial for the good of the cause of Christ.

There are several places in the New Testament where Paul shared “some of the trials he went through. In II Corinthians 11:22-30 Paul shared with the church at Corinth some of those trials.

*“Are they Hebrews? so am I. Are they Israelites? so am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so am I. Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not? If I must needs glory, **I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.**”*

I personally do not know of any person in the world today, 2023, who has gone through the trials which the apostle Paul was allowed to go through. If that happened to any one of us, I could imagine that most Christians, including me, would at least strongly consider quitting, and many would have!

Paul went through other “fiery trials” which he did not mention above. Let’s look at a couple of those trials before moving on. In Acts 14:19-20, the writer Luke recorded one of those trials.

*“And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead. Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.”*

Again, in Acts 16:22-30 Luke records Paul being imprisoned for preaching the Gospel. *“And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them. And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks. And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”*

As you know, the results of Paul and Silas being put in prison were that the “jailer and his household were saved.” Was it worth it? I think it was. Jesus himself, in Luke 15:7 said, “...*that likewise joy shall be in heaven, over one sinner that repenteth...*”

When Paul reached the end of his life, God had used him to write at least 13 of the books in the New Testament, and possibly the book of Hebrews. God had used him to plant and develop a number of churches in the “then known world.” Before he departed, in II Timothy 4:6-8, Paul wrote the following words to young Timothy. *“For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”*

You and I are still reaping the blessings and fruit from Paul’s “thorn in the flesh.” And the Gospel has been preached across the world, and thousands of churches have been planted which continue to preach the Gospel and make disciples. If we could “call Paul back” and ask him this question, “Paul, looking back over all the suffering and trials God allowed you to go through while on earth in the ministry, would you change your mind?” Everyone reading this booklet knows the answer! Paul would answer, “I would not change one dotting of the ‘i’ or crossing of the ‘t’!”. It is WORTH IT ALL!

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**CHAPTER SEVEN**  
**THE EXAMPLE OF THE APOSTLE JOHN**  
**Revelation 1:9**

*“John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.”*

All of you are familiar with the Apostle John. God used this man to write the epistle of John, I, II, and III John, and the Book of Revelation. Coming to the close of his life, we find John on “the isle that is called Patmos.” The Island of Patmos was a deserted island in the Mediterranean Sea where Rome exiled criminals to die for serious crimes they had committed. There was no “habitation” on the island. There is no record of there being any other living people on the island who had been exiled there to die at the time John was there. From the Scriptures, I think it is safe to assume that those who had been exiled there had ceased, and that John was the only living person on the island. John had been faithful to Jesus Christ since the day he received Christ as his Saviour and made him Lord of his life. Now he is sitting on a deserted island, all alone with no hope of the future, except to die! In my opinion this can be called a “fiery trial.”

John, in exile on the island, sat there alone. He had no one to talk with, no one to encourage him, no hope of ever leaving the island, but just sat there waiting to die. All of a sudden, John heard behind him, “a great voice as of a trumpet!” Again, suddenly, John realized that he “was not alone.” The voice behind him said,

*“I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, **What thou seest, write in a book**, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, **I saw** seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.”*

Please note the John not only “heard a voice” but God showed him some things. God then said to John, “**What thou seest, write in a book...**” then, in verse 12, John said, “**I saw...**” That is the first time in his conversation with God where it is said, “**I saw...**” From that time, in verse 12, where John said, “*I saw...*” the words “*I saw*” are recorded 33 times in the book of Revelation!

Following this page, I have added the 33 verses about what John, who was going through a “fiery trial” on the island of Patmos “saw” before he wrote the book of Revelation. It is amazing!

**Rev. 1:12** And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, **I saw** seven golden candlesticks;

**Rev. 1:17** And when **I saw** him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

**Rev. 4:4** And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats **I saw** four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

**Rev. 5:1** And **I saw** in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

**Rev. 5:2** And **I saw** a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

**Rev. 6:1** And **I saw** when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.

**Rev. 6:2** And **I saw**, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

**Rev. 6:9** And when he had opened the fifth seal, **I saw** under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

**Rev. 7:1** And after these things **I saw** four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

**Rev. 7:2** And **I saw** another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

**Rev. 8:2** And **I saw** the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.

**Rev. 9:1** And the fifth angel sounded, and **I saw** a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.

**Rev. 9:17** And thus **I saw** the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.

**Rev. 10:1** And **I saw** another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire:

**Rev. 10:5** And the angel which **I saw** stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven,

**Rev. 13:2** And the beast which **I saw** was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

**Rev. 13:3** And **I saw** one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. {wounded: Gr. slain}

**Rev. 14:6** And **I saw** another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

**Rev. 15:1** And **I saw** another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.



Rev. 15:2 And **I saw** as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

Rev.16:13 And **I saw** three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

Rev. 17:3 So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and **I saw** a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

Rev. 17:6 And **I saw** the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when **I saw** her, I wondered with great admiration.

Rev.18:1 And after these things **I saw** another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

Rev. 19:11 And **I saw** heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

Rev.19:17 And **I saw** an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

Rev. 19:19 And **I saw** the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

Rev. 20:1 And **I saw** an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

Rev. 20:4 And **I saw** thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and **I saw** the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Rev. 20:11 And **I saw** a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Rev. 20:12 And **I saw** the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Rev. 21:1 And **I saw** a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Rev. 21:22 And **I saw** no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

John saw the church age from the beginning of the New Testament with the church of Ephesus through the close of the church age which ended with the church of Laodicea. He “saw” the rapture of the church. He “saw” the tribulation period and all that happened during that seven-year period. He “saw” the second coming of Christ, the 1000 years millennium reign of Christ on the earth, and he “saw” the New Jerusalem and the beginning of all eternity! He SAW that, and he “saw” all that happened between the time he was exiled and sitting alone on the island of Patmos and the end of the world and the beginning of eternity!

In closing, I hope and pray that reviewing the lives of these seven men who went through “fiery trials” but were great blessed and repaid, not only in this life, but in the life to come, I encourage you with the following, “*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable,*

*always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*” —1 Corinthians 15:58

**THE LORD NEVER MOVES WITHOUT PURPOSE AND PLAN**

**DON'T QUIT!**