

I mentioned in the previous message how chapter eleven parallels this passage. Eleven begins with the two witnesses or lampstands which the first chapter tells us represent the church (1:20ⁱ). The Law tells us that two are necessary to testify, and they are witnesses. Two may also be mentioned because there were two faithful churches which had no rebuke among the seven to which the letter was written. Peter said the end-time pouring out of the Spirit prophecy of Joel took place at Pentecost (Acts 2:16-21ⁱⁱ), but perhaps that was in intermediate fulfillment which will have a final fulfillment in the last seven years. The church proclaims the truth in the power of the Spirit and will be hated and attacked and yet protected until their testimony is finished (12:7ⁱⁱⁱ). Here in chapter twelve, we see the same attack on the people of God but also divine protection so that we can complete our calling. We also see the same 1260 day time period (11:3^{iv}; 12:6^v). I see these chapters going over the same thing from different perspectives.

¹³ And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. Revelation 12:13 In the previous passage we discussed how this was probably at the resurrection of Jesus or His ascension into heaven. There are no grounds now for his accusations against God's people, for Christ bore all the punishment we deserved on the cross. Isaiah wrote 700 years in advance, *⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.* Isaiah 53:6 Jesus' bore the justice for all our iniquity. So, the accuser of the brethren, that great serpent, the devil lost his access to the heavenly throne room (12:9^{vi}). He cannot argue with what Jesus has done for us, so he goes after our minds and bodies here on the earth.

Perhaps the most effective way that he pursues or persecutes^{vii} us is found in the warning Paul told to Timothy. *¹ Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,* 1 Timothy 4:1 I believe those stars that he dragged down with him are the deceitful spirits and demons that teach things contrary to God's Word. They often use the same tools that were used in Paul's day. A little bit of truth mixed with the need to perform in some way, whether obeying the Mosaic laws or performing in some way. The intent is the same. If we can be dependent on our works, then we are not accepting the fulness of what Christ has done for us. **Salvation is Jesus plus nothing!** It is His grace. We simply receive the free gift of salvation by faith, which He enables us to do (Ephesians 2:8,9^{viii}). Our life and desires do change, but the change humbles us rather than puffing us up like the teaching of demons does. Those demons want you to think about yourself and how special you are, comparing your works with someone else's. If pride could bring down Lucifer, it is certainly dangerous for each of us (Isaiah 14:12-15^{ix}). We are special for one reason alone. Jesus died for us, making us sons and daughters of God.

The other way he pursues us is persecution. It is not as effective, because it tends to mature true believers while cleansing the church of those who are Christian in name only. It can deter those who are among us for the wrong reasons. I have met people who told me they knew Jesus was divine, but they were afraid of what would happen to them if they professed faith in Jesus, because the culture in which they lived shunned Christians. It causes people to count the cost and determine if they really want to follow Jesus (Luke 14:28-33^x).

The woman he is pursuing is believers in Jesus, which includes Mary, the mother of Jesus. She was among the faithful who were waiting for a deliverer. It cannot only refer to Mary, for the next verse tells us, ¹⁴ *But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time.* ¹⁵ *The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood.* Revelation 12:14,15. The first readers must have related the dragon to Domitian. In Domitian's time, the Christians did find wilderness areas in which to hide in caves. There are some amazing ones in Turkey with crosses etched into the sandstone and in the Arnon Valley where Christians fled when Titus attacked Jerusalem. Today we can see Christians forced to flee their homelands as national leaders make them a scapegoat (Matthew 10:22^{xi}).

There is obviously symbolism in the wording “two wings of the great evil” and “a river out of his mouth.” One of our favorite verses is Isaiah 40:31. ³¹ *but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.* If we wait on the Lord, He will direct us in ways that protect us until our ministry is done. We saw that with the two witnesses. It was not until their witness was completed that they were killed (11:7^{xii}).

In Exodus 19:4^{xiii} God speaks of bearing up the Children of Israel on eagle's wings to take them out of Egypt. John is using the same language in the same figurative way. The wilderness of this life always has a place of nourishment for us in our prayer closet (Matthew 6:6^{xiv}). The wings of God in the desert wandering were His presence sheltering them by day from the heat of the sun and providing the manna every morning. It is the same for us. It is the presence of the Lord and His Word, the bread of life that gives us assurance and comfort. David prayed for the protective wings of God to cover him and protect him from his persecutors (Psalm 57:1^{xv}; 61:4^{xvi}). That is the sense in this verse.

In this apocalyptic interpretation, the time, times, and half a time represent three and a half years, the duration of Elijah's drought, of Antiochus of polluting the temple, and of Jesus' ministry. In other words, a somewhat short time of hardship followed by victory. It is interesting how the literal time period is repeated in history. It reminds us of 2 Corinthians 4:17 ¹⁷ *For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,* Compared to eternity this short time of troubles are a drop in an ocean. The victory that awaits us is infinitely more precious than our few troubles as we make our way through the wilderness of this life.

Now let us consider another possible interpretation, that of the more literalist dispensationalism. In the Left Behind series, the believers in the tribulation fled from Jerusalem to Petra in Jordan where God miraculously kept them from the attacks of the Antichrist. Petra is in a canyon so a flood could drown those seeking shelter there. A large-scale infantry attack is sometimes referred to as a flood. The earth could swallow up the flood just as it did for those who rebelled against Moses (Numbers 16:30-34^{xvii}).

I have argued that the 69 weeks of Daniel were literally 69 times seven year periods, so why would the last seven years or half of the seven years, 42 months or 1260 days, not be literal as well. Then again, there may be something to both interpretations. If we think there is this end-time period referred to by Jeremiah as the time of Jacob's Trouble (Jeremiah 30:7^{xviii}) and that believers might endure part of it, that is motivation to memorize God's Word and be sure to hold loosely the things of this life. But the same can

be said for the perspective that the world's systems have always been antichrist, and that all who live godly lives will suffer persecution in every era (2 Timothy 3:12^{xix}).

The men's group was just studying the passage in Hebrews where the author wrote that they joyfully accepted the plundering of their property (Hebrews 10:34^{xx}). The recipients of the letter had endured a severe time of persecution and did what Jesus said to do when we are persecuted for His name. ¹² *Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.* Matthew 5:12 I do not think that we can fully accept this mindset unless we get a taste of what those Hebrews endured for the sake of Christ. Unless we take up those wings of faith that we find when we wait on the Lord, our strength will fail. We need to fly to our refuge, our Lord and Savior and know He is sovereign and working all things together for our good (Romans 8:28^{xxi}). We need to trust that Jesus will see us through to His glorious presence.

I lean toward the interpretation that the flood coming out of the mouth of the dragon is his lies and blasphemy toward God and the people of God (Psalm 69:1,2^{xxii}). David used "flood" or "overflow" in that sense many times in the Psalms. The Qumran community used the word "flood" to represent persecution with deception. This corresponds with Daniel 7:25. ²⁵ *He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.* And in Revelation 17:15^{xxiii} we are told that waters represent the people who follow the whore and the beast.

We have seen how the media on board with an antichrist worldview can sway people to believe almost anything. Public figures seem to have no hesitancy to lie when it promotes the view they favor. It is not hard to imagine how the world would turn against Christians and follow a charismatic, emboldened leader. If that is the correct interpretation, it is easy to see how public sentiment could become the flood that would attempt to completely sweep away those who believe the Bible. We have seen it on a small scale in different times and places in history and more recently when ISIS tried to take over the middle east. As I was writing this, I received word that two of the 1300 church planting graduates in India did not make it back to their homes to begin evangelizing. One suffocated on an overcrowded train, the other was stabbed to death by radical Hindus. ¹⁵ *Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.* Psalm 116:15 At the conclusion of their graduation they hold their hands to their necks and vow to live and die for Jesus. To them it is a very real possibility as the Modi government wants India to be completely Hindu, which means persecution of Christians often goes unpunished.

¹⁶ *But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth.* Revelation 12:16 If the language is figurative, then the earth opening up to swallow the flood would be God's divine protection and vanquishing or confounding any who would kill God's servants before their ministry is done. The meaning would be tied to Korah, Dathan, and Abiram's demise in the wilderness. Korah tried to challenge God's appointment of Moses and Aaron (Numbers 16:1-3^{xxiv}). The rebels were challenging God's truth and enticing the people to claim the leadership God had given to Moses and Aaron. The dragon will make the same challenges to try to get God's people to compromise. Just as the two witnesses could not be killed until their mission was completed (11:7^{xxv}), God can protect each of His children. It is like the exodus in which God helped Israel escape Pharaoh by parting

the waters to lead His people through to the Promised Land. God stops the flood so that His people can escape the dragon and make it to the place He has prepared for them (12:6^{xxvi}). Understanding this helps us all make the same vow that those graduates made. If we are here to serve the purpose for which God created us and know that God can protect us until we are done, we should certainly be willing to vow that we too will live and die for Jesus. For most of us that means dying to our old nature and its desires every day (1 Corinthians 15:31^{xxvii}).

Some commentators compare it to Pharaoh ordering the Hebrew baby boys to be thrown into the Nile, and yet that is how Moses found his way into the very palace of Pharaoh. Hamilton comments, *In this connection, Ezekiel 29:3^{xxviii} is very interesting: “speak, and say, Thus says the Lord God: ‘Behold, I am against you, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lies in the midst of his streams, that says, “My Nile is my own; I made it for myself.” John seems to be interpreting the satanic impetus behind Pharaoh’s persecution of Israel in the Old Testament, and he also seems to be saying that the way Satan has opposed the people of God in the past is similar to the way he opposes them now that Christ has come.*

Russell Moore is right: Satan hates babies. Abortion is his work. The struggle against it is not battle with flesh and blood but with the devil himself.^{xxix} Even at this very moment tens of millions of dollars are being spent here in Arizona to get abortion on demand available at any stage in the nine months of pregnancy on the ballot. He is still wanting to devour babies. (You can find out more about this at Choosetovote.org) It is important that as Christians we stand against this evil. No matter your particular nuances in regard to abortion, this bill goes way too far in allowing any “provider” without defining that term, to abort a baby for any reason right up to the time of birth.

¹⁷ Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea. Revelation 12:17 When the dragon’s attempt to sweep away the woman with a flood fails, he is enraged. He has been trying to stop the fulfillment of Genesis 3:15^{xxx} since the day it was predicted. His head will be crushed by the seed/offspring of the woman. I think that Satan must be the most frustrated of all God’s creatures. He wants to stop the One who will be born so he inspires Pharaoh to fear the baby Hebrew boys and orders them to be thrown into the Nile resulting Moses rise to power. He tempts the Jews with the prosperity of their idol worshiping neighbors, instills ferocity in Assyria and Babylon to be brutal in their conquest of Israel, inspires Haman to plot the demise of the Jewish people, stirs up their neighbors to resist the rebuilding of the temple, works on the lust of men to pollute their faith with foreign wives, uses Antiochus to try to end Judaism by trying to Hellenize them. Then when the Messiah was born, he put paranoia in Herod’s heart to try to kill the babies in Bethlehem. Finally, he had his way by brutally killing Jesus on the cross, only to find he had unwittingly helped Jesus conquer death and hell and save our souls.

Since all of that failed, Satan goes after the rest of her seed/offspring a singular word in the Hebrew prediction and in this Greek passage. We can easily see why the prediction was a masculine singular word as it was about Jesus (Galatians 3:16^{xxx1}), but why is the Greek word here singular? It is because we are the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27^{xxx2}). The Apostle Paul predicted that as the body of Christ, God will crush Satan under our feet (Romans 16:20^{xxx3}). That is why we are now his target.

Like the demons who ask Jesus if he has come to torment them (Matthew 8:29^{xxxiv}), Satan now knows his destiny. All he can do is inspire hatred and bigotry towards Jesus' followers. No wonder he is furious. The more he fights, the more victorious we are. The gates of hell cannot prevail against us (Matthew 16:18^{xxxv}). So, he goes to make war on the woman's offspring. I take that to mean young believers. We have noticed that it is the youngest in the Lord or those who are on the verge of making a decision to follow Jesus here at Wayside that are the ones who are drawn away by others teaching a different gospel. It is a gospel that makes you feel like you are better than all those Christians that go to churches. They say "You get it. You have the power. You are a real Christian." Satan knows that those who are not established in the Word are the most vulnerable. But if they keep to the commandments of God, which Jesus defined as loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves (Luke 10:27^{xxxvi}), and hold to the testimony of Jesus, then he cannot move them off that foundation of Jesus. He may kill our bodies, but he has nothing more that he can do (Luke 12:4^{xxxvii}).

Holding to the testimony of Jesus is to stand on the gospel. It is to know that Jesus died for my sins and that He clothes me in His righteousness. It is to know that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone. It is to know that Jesus made a way for us to be right with God and that there is no other way. The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy (19:10^{xxxviii}). That means that we speak forth the Word of God (Hebrews 1:1-3^{xxxix}), proclaiming what Christ has done for us.

The final sentence is an assurance that we have nothing to fear. *He stood on the sand of the sea.* Jesus told us that if anyone builds on the sand, a storm will come and collapse that house (Matthew 7:24-27^{xl}). We are about to see his house collapse in the coming chapters. His house collapses with the storm that is the vials of wrath. It collapses with Babylon the great, the mother of harlots, which is the idolatry of the things of the world. By contrast, if we are in Christ, our house stands on an unshakeable rock (Psalm 27:1-5^{xli}).

From Martin Luther's famous hymn, A Mighty Fortress is Our God

*And those this world with devils filled should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear for God has willed his truth to triumph through us,
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also.
The body they may kill. God's truth abideth still.
And we will win the battle!* (3:21^{xlii}; 2 Timothy 2:12^{xliii})

Questions:

- 1 What are the similarities with chapter 11 and 12?
- 2 How does Satan pursue us?
- 3 Who is the woman?
- 4 What do we learn of "eagle's wings" in other passages?
- 5 How might we interpret the flood from the dragon's mouth?
- 6 How might we interpret the earth swallowing the flood?
- 7 Review Hamilton's comments on Ezekiel 29:3.
- 8 In what ways has Satan's efforts fed his frustration?
- 9 Why does he go after the offspring of the woman? 10 What spoke to your heart?

ⁱ **Revelation 1:20 (ESV)**

²⁰ As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

ⁱⁱ **Acts 2:16-21 (ESV)**

¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ “And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; ¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; ²⁰ the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. ²¹ And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

ⁱⁱⁱ **Revelation 11:7 (ESV)**

⁷ And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them,

^{iv} **Revelation 11:3 (ESV)**

³ And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.”

^v **Revelation 12:6 (ESV)**

⁶ and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.

^{vi} **Revelation 12:9 (ESV)**

⁹ And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

^{vii} The word translated as pursues is translated as persecutes in other NT passages, *dioko*. See Acts 7:52; 9:4; 22:4

^{viii} **Ephesians 2:8-10 (ESV)**

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

^{ix} **Isaiah 14:12-15 (ESV)**

¹² “How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! ¹³ You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ ¹⁵ But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit.

^x **Isaiah 14:12-15 (ESV)**

¹² “How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! ¹³ You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ ¹⁵ But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit.

^{xi} **Matthew 10:22 (ESV)**

²² and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

^{xii} **Revelation 11:7 (ESV)**

⁷ And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them,

^{xiii} **Exodus 19:4 (ESV)**

⁴ You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.

^{xiv} **Matthew 6:6 (ESV)**

⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

^{xv} **Psalms 57:1 (ESV)**

¹ Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by.

^{xvi} **Psalms 61:4 (ESV)**

⁴ Let me dwell in your tent forever! Let me take refuge under the shelter of your wings! Selah

^{xvii} **Numbers 16:30-34 (ESV)**

³⁰ But if the LORD creates something new, and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that

belongs to them, and they go down alive into Sheol, then you shall know that these men have despised the LORD.”

³¹ And as soon as he had finished speaking all these words, the ground under them split apart. ³² And the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the people who belonged to Korah and all their goods. ³³ So they and all that belonged to them went down alive into Sheol, and the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly. ³⁴ And all Israel who were around them fled at their cry, for they said, “Lest the earth swallow us up!”

^{xviii} **Jeremiah 30:7 (ESV)**

⁷ Alas! That day is so great there is none like it; it is a time of distress for Jacob; yet he shall be saved out of it.

^{xix} **2 Timothy 3:12 (ESV)**

¹² Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

^{xx} **Hebrews 10:34 (ESV)**

³⁴ For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one.

^{xxi} **Romans 8:28 (ESV)**

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

^{xxii} **Psalms 69:1-2 (ESV)**

¹ Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck. ² I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold; I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me.

^{xxiii} **Revelation 17:15 (ESV)**

¹⁵ And the angel said to me, “The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages.

^{xxiv} **Numbers 16:1-3 (ESV)**

¹ Now Korah the son of Izhar, son of Kohath, son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men. ² And they rose up before Moses, with a number of the people of Israel, 250 chiefs of the congregation, chosen from the assembly, well-known men. ³ They assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron and said to them, “You have gone too far! For all in the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?”

^{xxv} **Revelation 11:7 (ESV)**

⁷ And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them,

^{xxvi} **Revelation 12:6 (ESV)**

⁶ and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.

^{xxvii} **1 Corinthians 15:31 (ESV)**

³¹ I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day!

^{xxviii} **Ezekiel 29:3 (ESV)**

³ speak, and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, I am against you, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lies in the midst of his streams, that says, ‘My Nile is my own; I made it for myself.’

^{xxix} James M. Hamilton Jr., *Preaching the Word: Revelation—The Spirit Speaks to the Churches*, ed. R. Kent Hughes (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012), 255.

^{xxx} **Genesis 3:15 (ESV)**

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

^{xxxi} **Galatians 3:16 (KJV)**

¹⁶ Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

^{xxxii} **1 Corinthians 12:27 (ESV)**

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

^{xxxiii} **Romans 16:20 (ESV)**

²⁰ The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

^{xxxiv} **Matthew 8:29 (ESV)**

²⁹ And behold, they cried out, “What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?”

^{xxxv} **Matthew 16:18 (NIV)**

¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

^{xxxvi} **Luke 10:27 (ESV)**

²⁷ And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself."

^{xxxvii} **Luke 12:4 (ESV)**

⁴ "I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do.

^{xxxviii} **Revelation 19:10 (ESV)**

¹⁰ Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God." For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

^{xxxix} **Hebrews 1:1-3 (ESV)**

¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

^{xl} **Matthew 7:24-27 (ESV)**

²⁴ "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

^{xli} **Psalms 27:1-5 (ESV)**

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? ² When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

⁴ One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. ⁵ For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

^{xlii} **Revelation 3:21 (ESV)**

²¹ The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

^{xliii} **2 Timothy 2:12 (ESV)**

¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us;