

FROM THE DARKNESS OF THE PIT...TO THE PRAISE OF OUR GOD.

(Prisoners of Hope)

Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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**Zechariah 9:11-12-AMP**

As for you also, because of and for the sake of the [*covenant of the Lord with His people, which was sealed with sprinkled*] **covenant blood, I have released and sent forth your imprisoned people out of the waterless pit.**

12 Return to the stronghold [*of security and prosperity*], you ***prisoners of hope***; even today do I declare that I will restore double your former prosperity to you.

The “pit” represents **the darkest day of your life.**

**Psalms 88:4-NKJV**

4 I am counted with those who go down to the pit; **I am like a man who has no strength...**

**Psalms 30:3-NKJV**

3 O LORD, **You brought my soul up** from the grave; **You have kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.**

**Isaiah 38:17-KJV**

17 You have in love **delivered my soul from the pit of corruption...**

**Isaiah 38:18**

18 For Sheol cannot thank You, Death cannot praise You; **Those who go down to the pit cannot hope for Your truth.**

**Job 33:29-30-AMP**

29...Behold, God does all these things twice, yes, three times, with a man,

30 **To bring back his life from the pit [of destruction], that he may be enlightened with the light of the living.**

**Genesis 37:23-24-NKJV**

23 So it came to pass, when Joseph had come to his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the tunic of many colors that was on him.

24 **Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit was empty; there was no water in it.**

Shechem – back, shoulder: a place of burdens, to carry a burden.

If we hope in the Lord:

**Romans 5: 3-5-AMP**

3 Moreover [*let us also be full of joy now!*] **let us exult and triumph in our troubles and rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that pressure and affliction and hardship produce patient and unswerving endurance.**

4 And endurance (fortitude) develops maturity of character (approved faith and tried integrity). And character [*of this sort*] produces [*the habit of*] **joyful and confident hope** of eternal salvation.

5 **Such hope never disappoints or deludes or shames us,** for God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who has been given to us.

KJV - “hope maketh not ashamed,” which means ***that we will not be disappointed for our hope in the Lord.***

Passion – 3 But that’s not all! ***Even in times of trouble we have a joyful confidence, knowing that our pressures will develop in us patient endurance.***

4 And ***patient endurance will refine our character, and proven character leads us back to hope.***

5 And ***this hope is not a disappointing fantasy, because we can now experience the endless love of God cascading into our hearts through the Holy Spirit*** who lives in us!

**Jeremiah 31:15-17**

15 Thus says the LORD: "A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation and bitter weeping, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted for her children, Because they *are* no more."

16 Thus says the LORD: "Refrain your voice from weeping, And your eyes from tears; **For your work shall be rewarded, says the LORD,** And they shall come back from the land of the enemy.

17 **There is hope in your future,** says the LORD, That *your* children shall come back to their own border.

**Psalms 40:2-3-Passon**

2. **He stooped down to lift me out of danger from the desolate pit I was in, out of the muddy mess I had fallen into.** Now he’s lifted me up into a firm, secure place and steadied me while I walk along his ascending path.

3 **A new song for a new day rises up in me every time I think about how he breaks through for me! Ecstatic praise pours out of my mouth until everyone hears how God has set me free.**