**FOCUS Bible Study - June 29**

[**VIEW RECORDING - 76 mins (No highlights)**](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB)

[@0:01](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=1.12) - **Luke Huffman**

This meeting is being recorded Morning Luke good morning. Are you doing Rick?

[@0:09](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=9.16) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

I'm blessed.

[@0:09](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=9.92) - **Luke Huffman**

How are you doing? Good.

[@0:11](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=11.78) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Good to hear your blast Always right Julie's in the room here with us. Just can't see her She did say hi he heard her So like it's like a spot table father Yeah, she might cross the screen.

She likes to sometimes get on the computer Good morning. Is this a cat?

[@0:41](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=41.96) - **Owner’s iPhone**

Yes, I can morning good morning.

[@0:44](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=44.96) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

How are you? I'm blessed. How are you doing? I'm doing pretty good Done We are Just one minute away, but people must be running a little slow this morning.

I know I was getting up and getting going this morning That's one of those mornings Don't you live in Lake Geneva?

He went on mute Can't imagine how busy traffic would be then Yeah, this today always right next week and especially with the holiday That's true.

do we're approaching the holiday week. So maybe we'll just have a few people today I'm gonna send an invite to a friend of mine Jackie that was curious about jumping on Let me do that now copy and You

The whole description is up too. Yes, thank you. Jump on to yes. Grab my email. You You Mike coming in.

Good morning, Mike. How are you doing this morning? He's still connecting the audio. Morning, Mike. How are you? Good morning, We'll just give it another couple of minutes, everyone, since we're at 902, 2-3 minutes, okay?

Given that people are still jumping on. Anybody got big plans for the holiday weekend, next weekend?

[@4:15](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=255.76) - **Mike**

Stay out of the traffic.

[@4:18](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=258.26) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Yeah, that sounds like a good plan. Yeah, we'll stay local so we don't have to get mixed up on that either.

I put the description list out there. Can you guys, somebody just confirm that you see it?

[@4:55](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=295.84) - **Luke Huffman**

Yep, see it.

[@4:57](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=297.2) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Perfect. Thank you. I'll just give it one more minute, I appreciate your patience while we wait to see if anybody else jumps on.

Thank you. you Okay, well, I got 905. We might just be yesterday. So let's go ahead and pray and we'll get started.

Okay, everyone. Well, Jesus, thank you for this day. Thank you for bringing us together. God, we just want to open your word so that you can speak to us.

So help us open our hearts to receive it, help us open our minds to be able to perceive what it is you're speaking to us, what it is you're trying to teach us.

God, I thank you for the anointing that breaks every yoke that you said you word would not return without accomplishing your purpose.

doesn't go out there void, it's not meaningless, you have a purpose and a plan for everything God. We trust you.

love you. rely upon you in Jesus name, Okay, we got John from India also jumping on perfect. I'll just wait till he connects before we get in the first picture.

Good morning, John. Thank you again for joining us this time. Good to see you again. We just prayed, so we were just about to get started into the lesson itself, so you haven't missed anything.

Okay, so today we're going to start with Revelation chapter 1, verses 12 through 18. So Revelation chapter 1, verses 12 through 18.

For those who can't see, my wife is also in the room, Julie's here. There's her hand wave, her famous hand wave.

So it is six of us today. So why don't I start with Luke if you don't mind reading for us, 1, verses 12 through 18, please.

[@7:55](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=475.74) - **Luke Huffman**

So sorry, but I do want to read today, but right this moment, I can't.

[@8:00](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=480.0) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

No problem. No problem. I'll come back to you later then. So, Kat, do you mind kicking us off?

[@8:08](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=488.08) - **Owner’s iPhone**

Revelation 1 12 3 team Sure, hang on 12 chapter 1 first And I turn to see the voice that's Spent I guess spoke with me and Being turned I saw seven golden candlesticks and in the midst of the seven candlesticks one Lock into the Son of Man Close with the garment down to the foot and gert about with Paps No gert about the paps with the golden gertle his head and his hairs were like white or

like a wool, as wide as snow, and his eyes were as a flame of fire, and his feet likened to the 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 when a sharp two-edged sword and his countenance was as the sun, shineth, and his strength.

And when I saw him, I fell out 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 forevermore. Amen, and have the keys of hell of death.

[@9:44](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=584.18) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Okay, thank you, So let's set the background little bit. So we're jumping into revelation, and if you recall, revelation was written by the disciple John, one of the one of the twelve disciples, and it's written while he's on the island.

island of Patmos. And up to that point, almost all, I think all the other disciples were martyred at that point.

They tried to kill John as well, but when they boiled him, he didn't die. So they sent him on to this island of Patmos to live out the rest of the days of his life and captivity there.

And so he says at the beginning of the chapter, you turn back there, that he's praying. And as he's praying, sorry about the dog, as he's praying, he gets this revelation.

so it starts with him hearing God's voice speak to him. And so as we opened up with verse 12, he wants to see who's talking to him.

So he turns and he sees. And so what does he see? So in verse 12, he saw seven golden candlesticks.

And if you recall, me being a numbers guy, seven has a meaning. It represents completion. It represents spiritual completion, if you recall, in Genesis God created the world and on the seventh day he had spoken everything to his existence, but on the seventh day he rested, meaning he was complete.

All the work was done. All the spiritual movement that had taken place was complete. So we get the idea of seven.

We also get the idea from the gold description of the candlesticks that this is God, right? Because the gold is pure.

At that point it was the highest known value of metal. So gold represents God. So he sees the spiritual completion of God represented by what?

A candlestick. Was a candlestick to anybody? If I had a candlestick, what would it provide be? Light. So here we see the spiritual completion of God represented by light, right?

By illumination, by revelation, Isn't that what a revelation is? It's an illumination. It's it's helping to understand or reveal something because when you walk into a dark room in Candlestick, what happens?

You're able to see what's in that room now. It's illuminated before you it gets revealed What was once hidden is now revealed?

So When we come into God's presence When we turn to see him instead of turning to see our own path our own Things when we focus our attention on him Revelation comes we start to understand who he really is right, but the seven candlesticks also represents something else We're told if we had kept reading in Revelation in verse 20 that these particular golden candlesticks represents the seven churches that Jesus is going to have John right to So what we also conclude is that we should see light in the church We should find God in the church knows church a building.

No, it's not in reality The word church in Scripture means like the called out ones, it's a body of believers.

So we should see delight in a body of believers who are doing the will and the work of God.

Does that make sense to everybody? So then he goes on and he continues to describe in the middle of the candlesticks, he sees one like into the Son of Man according to verse 13.

And Jesus often calls himself like the Son of Man in the Gospels, right? So we know he's talking about Jesus here.

And we also know that because if we keep reading, most of us have vitals that have red letters when Jesus speaks.

so we see that in this, after this description, Jesus is talking and it's red letters. So we get the idea that he sees Jesus as Son of Man and he describes how he is clothed in verse 13.

He starts to describe it with a garment from the... shoulders down to the foot, right? And he's girt or fastened with something around the paps and it's described as a golden girdle.

Now, in our day and age, we think of a girdle as being around the waist. So what are the paps?

Is the paps the waist? When you dig into that word, it's not, it's referring to the breasts, referring to the upper chest.

So this is really not a girdle because when we think in terms of a girdle, we think it's something that keeps our tummy flat, right?

And I could probably use one given as expanding over the years, but you know, that's not what we're describing here.

We're describing something that goes around the upper chest. Okay. And actually, when you dig into that word girdle, what you see is the root word for purse or a belt or even better a pocket.

So it's something that has a packet. Here in America, and the Native Americans and Native Indians use something called the Pap Pus.

It was something they would strap on to carry a child in. Why was it called the Pap Pus? Because again, it was basically belted around the upper chest.

They could carry a child in the front with it, where they could swing it around and carry the child in the back.

Most pictures of representations we see is the child being carried in the back. But now, given that root word, we have a better understanding of what this golden sash or this golden thing is.

We often see pictures of Jesus portrayed as like the sash running from shoulder down to waist. It could kind of look like that, but that doesn't really do it justice, given this root word.

We get the better idea that this is some kind of piece of fabric that he can stuff a child in, if you will, right, to carry a child.

Okay? And that's important. I'm going explain why in a minute. Then he goes on and he describes his head and his hairs were white like wool, white as snow in verse 14.

And what does white represent? Does anybody have a clue what white might represent purity. That's right. So we realize if we're talking about God in the context here, then of course, God is pure, right?

And all thought, all the word proceeds out of the head, out of the mouth, right? representing the purity, thought of mind, of God and the purity of the word of God.

Okay? And then what is next described? His eyes, right? the end of verse 14, his eyes were as a flame of fire.

Has anybody ever heard the phrase, the eyes of the window to the soul? Ever heard that phrase before? Yes.

Yeah, right. What do you think that phrase means? I don't know exactly what it means, but I think it means it's a reflection of what's going on inside, right?

Yeah, that makes sense. Yeah, so it's a reflection. So eyes are reflection, of really something you're going on with Ian, or going on without.

But typically, if you look at somebody, if you kind of could look in my eyes right now, you would see if you had really good screen, you probably would see what I'm looking at, right?

of the reflection, the light. So either we think in terms of his eyes being described as a flaming fire, because we know the scripture that says God is a consuming fire.

There's a passion. There's a passion for his people that burns within God, right? So maybe it's trying to describe that.

But I also think maybe it's trying to describe what is he looking at, right? Because if it's a reflection on the inside, we describe that if it's a reflection on the outside, what is he looking at?

He's looking at fire, right? feet like I'm defying brass. Well, brass, what does brass represent? We know in the laying out of the tabernacle that when God gave Moses the description of how to build the tabernacle, he told him to use brass for the altar, beaten brass for the labor, but then when he got into the tent and meeting, he told him to use silver and gold, right?

So brass being upfront at the altar represents judgment, judgment of our sin, for example, when you brought a sacrifice in to the tabernacle or to the temple, it was replacing your own sin.

It was a judgment for your sin. The sacrifice took its place. So brass represents judgment. And in this particular case, it says his feet like an affine brass, as if they were burned in a furnace.

Well, now we have an association between fire and furnace because obviously what happens in a furnace, a fire burns, right?

And so that there's some clues we're going to draw on in a minute. And it says... and his voice as a sound of many waters.

Waters in scripture refers many times to people. In the Psalms, in Proverbs, it will refer to many waters as being types or tribes or peoples.

So here, when God speaks his voice, it goes out to everyone.

[@19:23](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=1163.38) - **JOHNBABU**

It is meant for... Yeah, in Psalms, one, two, three, can see a ball. About the waters. I'm sorry about that.

I was speaking about waters, but in Psalms, 23, can see the water, I think, in the verse, two or three.

[@19:47](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=1187.14) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

In the peace waters, he will make us walk. In chapter, chapter. Twenty-three, sir. Chapter, 23.

[@20:01](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=1201.08) - **JOHNBABU**

Yeah, of what book chapter? Yeah, of sense.

[@20:06](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=1206.96) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Oh, Samson, of Samson.

[@20:09](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=1209.86) - **JOHNBABU**

Yeah, first Samson He leads me beside peaceful streams. In the words to Sir.

[@20:17](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=1217.02) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Yes. So you're talking about some three symbols, the people. You're talking about Psalms 23, right, John?

[@20:25](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=1225.32) - **JOHNBABU**

Yeah, yes, 23 of ours too.

[@20:28](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=1228.12) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

So so if I jump there, yes, he restored my soul. He'd lead it to me in the past of righteousness for his namesake.

[@20:34](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=1234.3) - **JOHNBABU**

Pardon me, verse two, you make it be like down in the past, or you lead it me beside the still waters, right?

[@20:40](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=1240.12) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Yes, yes. Very good.

[@20:42](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=1242.48) - **JOHNBABU**

Yes. So is this a strange symbol to the people here?

[@20:48](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=1248.96) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

So it can. Yes. So it represents waters can represent a couple things. When we see the word of God, it's like a multi-layer cake.

And welcome, Jackie, by the way. Thank you for joining us. So, if you look at Scripture, you think in terms of a multi-layer cake, there's many meanings sometimes behind Scripture in what you're reading.

the first layer might be a lemon slice, the second layer might be strawberry, So they speak of their own things, but when you combine them and you get both lemon and strawberry in the same bite, it creates a whole different flavor, if you will.

It means slightly different things. So, water can represent just the water, right? In physical sense, can represent peace, the flowing of water can represent peace.

And I think that's what Psalm 23 is representing, that he's talking about the peace of God. But in Revelation, where we're reading Revelation 1, verses 12 through 18, he's talking about many, many waters, so he's not talking about extreme, extreme, like peace.

He's talking about many waters, meaning there's multiple. He's referring to the symbology of peoples, how the flow of peoples spreads, because we

As people multiply they spread out, right? So he's referring to Multi waters as being the types of people so in verse 15 when it says hit the sound of his voice was like many waters It's because God is able to speak to everyone his voice is meant to reach everyone okay, and So we get pretty good description of Jesus and it's a pretty interesting description So we see verses 12 through 15 there that he's wearing a robe.

He's got this Sash around his upper chest that is a pocket-like thing that he can hold the somebody can hold the child in and His eyes are reflecting fire.

So he's looking at something. That's fiery or it shows the passion within in warning Brian and It's also describing excuse me his feet as brass brass representing the judgment and And as though they're burned in a furnace until we see the connection between the furnace and the flyer We see his voice as being able to carry out to

peoples, right? So we need that background to understand what he looks like and then what happened with John after he saw this vision.

He says he saw in his right hand in verse 16, seven stars and we mentioned seven representing spiritual completion and we're told in verse 20 the stars represents the angels in the churches that John was going to write to.

So right hand we need to understand what that means. I think I've done Bible study before where I've described that that phrase refers to the power of God.

And how do we prove that? Well, we know scripture tells us that God is a spirit, right? So if God is a spirit, a spirit doesn't have hands, it doesn't have feet, it doesn't have a physical body, it can take shape of things that we're familiar with.

But for the most part, a spirit is free flowing, it doesn't even have gender if you will. It's it's free flowing.

It's it's it's hard to contain a spirit. So when it talks about God, the spirit of God having a right hand, obviously, it doesn't mean a physical right hand.

So it has to mean something else. For example, when it says Jesus sat down at the right hand of God, what that is referring to is that Jesus, the physical body of Jesus exemplified the power of God to save his people, because the way God chose to save was to come in the form of flesh as Jesus and to die on a cross for man's sin.

That was the power of God because he exercised that power so we could be saved. So when it says he holds the angels or the stars in his right hand, he doesn't literally hold stars in his right hand.

He has the power to direct the angels, send them on missions, right? That's why we see in the Old Testament, Jacob's latter story, when the angels going up and down

On the ladder, they get assignments from God and are sent back out to address and fulfill those assignments. So, when John says he saw the stars in his right hand and out of his mouth, in a sharp two edged sword, literally a sword does not portray, come out of Jesus's mouth.

But we're told in Hebrews that the word of God is sharp like a two edged sword. So the sword represents the word of God going from his mouth.

Right? So we see the voice of God going out to not only the people, but going out to angels.

And then there's power in his word. And when John sees this, he in verse 17 falls dead as he collapses, right?

Because he realizes, like Isaiah said, when he got a vision of God, what was me, We all realize we have iniquity and we can't.

we can't stand before a holy God, right? And so he collapses and what does Jesus do? In verse 17, he puts his right hand upon him.

What do we just say right hand represents? The power of God. See, you can't get out of your own situation, your own circumstances on your own.

You have sin, you have difficulty, you have challenges, you can't rise above on your own. You might think you can, you might try, you do your very best.

Well, what happens if you don't have God, you fall right back into it. Over and over again, that's why it becomes cyclical.

But what you need is the right hand or the power of God to touch you and lift you up out of that, right?

So when he does, then John comes up. He realizes, right? Because he's able to rise at the point and Jesus speaks to him.

He says, fear not. You see, because what keeps us in on, in the, in the, The things that we are challenged with, whether we acknowledge this or not, is mostly fear.

Fear about, can God really love me? Can God really change me? Can I really overcome this? Can I really be better than what people are telling me I can be?

I grew up with a mother, for example, who belittled me and told me I would never amount to anything.

that stuff starts to sink in and you may have heard other stuff like that. I'll get to you in one second, Mike.

You may have heard other stuff like that, that kind of gets you into this box, into this mold, that you feel like can I ever really break out of that?

The only way you can is allowing God to break through and break that fear off of you.

[@27:43](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=1663.4) - **Mike**

Go ahead, Mike. I just wanted to say there's a verse that says perfect love casts up fear. And what usually causes our anger, right?

[@27:53](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=1673.12) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Yeah, very good point. And who is perfect love? Because scripture says God is love. We know of course God is perfect.

So the only perfect love there is is God the bodily representation of God in Jesus So we can say Jesus is perfect love and so the only way we're gonna overcome those fears and overcome that past is Like my point it out perfect love in us And in verse 17, so Jesus says I am first unless he's describing he was God from the beginning He'll be God in the end, right?

He's the one that lives was dead and behold So in other words he he's saying in that short little verse.

I am the first the very beginning God And I'm the last God and he says in between that, know, I came in this flesh I was the one that lived in the physical body.

I died I was dead and behold I am alive forever more That's how we again know that this is God took on a bodily form in Jesus to pay it for our sins if they are both one and the same and And he says Amen, and I have the keys of hell and death

Right? The reason that that phrase is brought up is very interesting because if God created everything from the beginning in the book of Genesis, we believe that he did, he spoke everything to existence.

That means when he created everything, he also created hell, wouldn't he? when he created hell, he obviously created keys that went with it.

But at some point then, God didn't have the keys anymore because otherwise, why would Jesus say, after he says, I was alive, I died and behold, but I'm alive, and so be it, which what amen means.

And so because of that, in other words, I have the keys of hell and death. That's really what he's saying.

I was alive, I lived, I was dead and behold, because of that, and because I rose, I and now have the keys of hell and death.

So at some point when God created hell, he created it for the devil and his angels, and he must have done something with the keys that now, after his sacrifice, he got the keys back.

So he must have given the keys to the devil when he created it, right? Who else would have had him?

So because of Jesus' victory, he was able to take those keys back. So what was the purpose in God giving the devil the keys?

And keys represent authority, right? They represent dominion. And so, in other words, the dominion was given to Satan to when people strayed from God to have the dominion over them.

When people violate God's word and their disobedience, they fall into sin. And because of that sin, the devil has the right to have this authority over them.

So by Jesus saying, I've taken back the keys, even though somebody falls in sin, now there's a way out.

You're no longer locked into it. Because isn't that what keys do? either lock or unlock something? Well, what would the devil do?

certainly would unlock for you to have freedom. He would keep you locked. in your behavior, in your in your patterns, but Jesus says, no, I've taken those keys because you don't have to live in those patterns anymore.

You don't have to live in that sin anymore. I can set you free from that. So sometimes we think we're living in hell and earth because of the penalty, because of the consequences of sin, and we get locked, like I said, into a mindset that thinks of the fear.

Can I really be different? Can I really get out of that? Can I break this pattern? And Jesus is saying, yes, you can if you rely on me, because who's now holding the keys?

Jesus is. Is this making sense to everybody?

[@31:38](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=1898.96) - **Luke Huffman**

Okay.

[@31:39](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=1899.78) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Awesome. Cool. So now let's go with that understanding of Revelation. Let's go to our next Bible story scripture. We're going to read little story on summation of it in Daniel chapter 3.

[@31:54](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=1914.34) - **JOHNBABU**

Sure.

[@31:56](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=1916.86) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Daniel chapter 3, going to read verses 23 through 25. John, when you have that, if you would read that, I'd appreciate it.

Daniel, Daniel chapter three versus 23.

[@32:09](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=1929.4) - **JOHNBABU**

Yes, I have a perfect. have that's the first twenty three, right, sir?

[@32:15](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=1935.64) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Yes, please.

[@32:17](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=1937.12) - **JOHNBABU**

So, so, bet, I bet I was securely tied, fell into the roaring flames. But suddenly, Nick Kudnezer jumped up in amazement and exclaimed to his advisors.

Didn't we tie up three men and throw them into the furnace? Yes, your majesty. We certainly did. They replied, Look, Nick Kudnezer shouted, I see a four man.

I'm unbound walking around in the fire unharmed and the fourth looks like a God. Then I got never came as close as he could do the door of the flaming furnace and shouted.

Shared. and Abednego servants of the most high go, come out, come here, so Shadrak Meishik and Abednego stepped out of the fire, then the higher officers officials.

Yeah, thank you sir.

[@33:14](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=1994.7) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Thank you. Appreciate it. Okay, so let's understand the background again about what were you just read. So if you read chapter three of you recall, Israel, Judah, they were two nations at that point, had fallen away from God.

were because they had fallen away from God. I got split in them two nations, 12 of the tribes went with Israel, two of the tribes were with Judah.

was Judah and Benjamin, 10, 10 of the 12 went with Israel, two of the tribes went with Judah. So it was Judah and Benjamin that made up the kingdom of Judah.

Now the kingdom of Israel had already been taken away in captivity to the Syrians several years before Judah fell.

But Judah finally fell to the Babylonians and King Nebuchadnezzar was the victor. And King Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom reached far and wide.

He was probably at that point in history the biggest land mass ruler, parts of Asia, parts of the Middle East, parts of Indonesia.

It was the biggest kingdom there was. And so what he would do is he would bring captives from those places that he conquered to build the knowledge base of his kingdom.

He wouldn't just kill everybody and wipe everybody out. He would find the best of the best, the cream of the crop, if you will, and bring them into his inner circle so he could learn from them so he could gather their thoughts and kind of incorporate what he liked and dismiss what he didn't like.

And so when he conquered Judah, he took the young men that he thought were full of intelligence and had potential and he brought them in.

and he trained them. And so, Meshach, Abednego, and Shadrach, and even Daniel himself were four Hebrews that ended up in this little inner circle.

Now, of course, they were trained for three years. had to go through a lot of testing in that, but eventually they got into his inner circle, into his group of advisors.

Well, at one point, Nebuchadnezzar got so much of himself that he built this big golden statue. he said, look, everyone in his kingdom.

Anytime you hear the certain music playing, I want you to bow down and worship this idol that I've made, this representation.

And everybody, but these Hebrew boys, fell down to worship. Well, the others in the inner circle said, well, what's different about them versus us?

Why do they get it passed? And we don't. And so, they came to Nebuchadnezzar and they said, look, anytime this music is playing, they're not falling down and worshiping.

And Nebuchadnezzar, because he was so prideful about this whole situation, got so angry. That's what pride does. It, it, it prevents us from being able to see beyond our own thoughts and our own needs and our own wants and desires.

And so he got so angry that he has this furnace. Now this furnace existed for whatever purpose, maybe they burnt bricks in it and made stone in it or whatever.

But they heated it up, scripture says seven times more than it had been. And we already said the number seven represents completion.

this is as hot as it could be. He wanted it like like roaring, roaring, roaring hot. And he had the strong men bind them up in their clothes and their hats and their outfits and whatever they wore, just bind them up, tie them up and throw them into the fire.

They had to carry them into this fire. And it says that the strong men who carried them, the fire was so hot that even the strong men who carried them died because of the heat of the fire.

But yet once they threw them into the fire, Nebuchadnezzar is able to see. I mean, so you happen, then this happened, and we had this progression of time.

But it probably happened that quick, because have you ever seen a roaring fire consume it like when you throw a piece of paper into it all of a sudden?

It's like caught up that quickly. So, Nebuchadnezzar is watching, he's probably, this furnace is probably in the ground somehow, and he's up on an elevated platform looking in, because if he had been as close as a strongman, he would also have been burnt up right by the heat.

So, he's looking, and he sees, hey, all of a sudden, he's, hey, didn't we throw three people in there?

And they're like, yeah. And he says, but I see a fourth person in there, and now he did me throw them bound all tied up, but they're actually loose in the fire.

And I see a fourth one that looks like the Son of God, or he totally looks different than the others, but, you know, so what's going on?

And he realizes, because he says, and when he calls them out, and thank you for reading that verse 24, John, he says, when he called them out, he says, servants of the most

tie God. So he realizes that there's something unique about what happened, right? So let me just flip pages here in my notes.

So in order for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, when they were thrown in the fire, what does the fire represent to us today?

Well, we go to the first Peter, chapter 1. First Peter, chapter 1. We're going to read verse 7. Jackie, mind reading for us today?

are you going to take pass? That's quite okay. Okay, I'm going to let somebody else read.

[@38:56](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=2336.36) - **JOHNBABU**

If that's okay, we want to get everybody involved, okay? Yeah, okay, okay.

[@39:00](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=2340.0) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

So I'll pass over to Brian since I hear from Jackie, maybe she just able to listen today, which is good.

That's fine. Brian, can you read that verse for us first Peter chapter one verse seven?

[@39:13](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=2353.44) - **Brian**

That the geniuses of your faith be much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, they may be found to praise honor and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

[@39:29](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=2369.14) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Okay, so they'll be tried with fire. So fire can represent a trial. And can we can we confirm that?

Well, we can if we keep going in first Peter to chapter four. Let's go to first Peter chapter four versus 12 or 13.

Julie, would you read that please? Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful file you are suffering as though something strange we're happening to you, but rejoice that you participate in the suffering of Christ.

that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed.

But the Spirit of Glory and of God rest. Thank you. let's also go to James, look at James, just before 1 Peter, so just one book to the left.

Let's go to James chapter 1. And let's also read verses 2 through 4. Mike, do you mind reading that for us, please?

[@40:32](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=2432.3) - **Mike**

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

[@40:49](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=2449.66) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Okay, thank you. So we can see from these 3 scriptures that fire can represent the trial that we are in.

think back to Daniel, what was going on? weren't the Hebrew boys being faced with a certain trial that they had to either bow down to this thing or be thrown in the photos?

And what did they say before that happened? Well, if you read Daniel 3, you'll see that they said, King, whether God saves us or he doesn't, we know what's right.

We're going to do what's right. We are not going to bow down to this thing. And that's when then now we can either pass the judgment and read them in the fire.

[@41:27](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=2487.64) - **Mike**

go I just wanted to say real quickly what really encourages me is that Jesus was waiting for them in the fire.

[@41:35](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=2495.82) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Exactly. That's the point I was going to make.

[@41:38](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=2498.28) - **Mike**

You robbed me from that point, Mike. That's good.

[@41:40](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=2500.7) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Sorry. No, that's awesome. I'm glad you see that because that's exactly what I was going to say is because now realize when you're in the middle of the fire, sometimes we don't John for joining us from Ken.

Yeah, or yeah, can you read me, but we realize when we read Revelation chapter one, what did it say?

Jesus is feet represented brass fine brass and what did we say brass represented judgment, right? happens when you're in a trial, you're being judged, will you live for God or not, right?

Because isn't that what all these scriptures and first Peter and James that we said, when you're going through a trial, you're kind of being judged, are you going to stand up for God or not?

But Jesus doesn't leave you in that trial alone because it said in Genesis Revelation that those feet were brass, they were as burned as though they're in a fire.

So he's already stood or is standing in the same fire. How do we know that? Because we also realize in Revelation what is he looking at?

What did it say his eyes were like? His eyes were like is a flame, a fire. He's looking at the fire before you ever got there.

He's already examining and he's already in it before you ever got there, as Mike pointed out. So if I was looking at you, you would see a reflection of you in my eyes, but Jesus says that the reflection is of the fire in his eyes.

He's already looking at the trial that you're going to be in. Remember we talked about the power of God, right, that he's able to speak to all men and all angels.

So he's able to deliver you out of that. He could have, he could have totally kept them from that trial, but that's not his will for us.

Sometimes he allows us to go through these things because he's already there and he's trying to help us get through it.

So we can improve. We can break out of that cycle. I was talking about a sin and a shame or whatever it is we're going through.

Because if he just simply kept it from us, we would never grow. If he never allowed these trials, to affect us or to change us, we would never grow.

Now, the fire is not meant to harm you, because when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were brought out of the fire, it says that not even a trace of smoke was left on their clothes.

Remember, they were thrown in with other clothing with the robes or whatever, but when they were brought out, not even a trace of the smoke or remnants, you couldn't even tell they had been in a fire, because there's no remnants of smoke, there's no ash, there's no scorching of anything, they are completely whole.

And that's what God wants to do in your trial, in your circumstance, if you trust Him, allow His power to work in you, to break you free from that cycle, but you have to trust and stay close to Him, because also realize when they were thrown in the fire, they were bound, their hands or feet, they were bound.

But what did Nebuchadnezzar see when free? We think that the trial... the difficulty that we're encountering forces us to be bound and we think we're limited.

We have the wrong mindset. We have the wrong view because what Jesus is trying to do is help us realize how free we really are in Him.

When we come to Him, we experience real freedom. This world, if we think we're living for it and doing things of the world, we are actually bound.

We are under the dominion of the enemy. Remember, we talked about the keys. When we are in sin, we are bound.

We are under the dominion of the enemy. We are experiencing, if you will, hell on earth when we are experiencing consequences of sin being bound.

But Jesus says, look, I've already conquered that. I know what you're going through. And if you come to me, I've got those keys that will set you free even in the middle of your trial that you can actually experience heaven on earth through Him.

Does this make sense? Okay, let's go to Psalm 139. Let's go to Psalm 139 and Let's read verse 8 And Kat, would you mind reading that for us when you find it?

[@46:25](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=2785.98) - **Owner’s iPhone**

Psalm 139 verse 8 Sure The fire soon up until

[@47:00](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=2820.0) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Heaven thou art there if I make my bed in hell behold thou art there Okay, thank you. So the psalmist here.

I believe it's David If you look at the beginning of the psalmist says it perhaps David wrote it and he who's he talking to he's talking to God So where is he saying that God is he God is everywhere?

He's saying he's in heaven and he's in hell That's kind of strange, right? But what he's really trying to say is God's dominion power extends everywhere Right, I would suggest you read the entire psalm 139 because it's really a powerful psalm talking about where God is and how God can move in the power of God Excuse me So if God is already there in hell He got there before you did because he was created long before you he if you feel like your circumstance Your difficulty The pain that you're going through the financial difficulty whatever it is

is like you're living in hell. I'm sorry, but God already got there long before you did. What you're not noticing is maybe you're looking around at all the circumstances instead of like John did in Revelation turning to see him.

If you turn to see him, he can bring you through his power, the freedom, the release that you need.

Let's go to Matthew chapter 16. Matthew And as we're flipping there, that's why I'm calling today's lesson, the God in your fire.

Today's lesson, God in your fire. Matthew 16 verse 18.

[@48:42](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=2922.74) - **Luke Huffman**

Luke, would you mind reading that please? Sure. Now I say to you that you are Peter, which means rock.

And upon this rock, I will build my church and all the powers of hell will now conquer it.

[@48:59](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=2939.02) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Thank you. Now Your version said powers some other versions use the translation of power as gates Right the gates of hell.

We've probably heard that phrase before the gates of hell should not prevail All right, so let's understand. What is Jesus saying here to Peter?

We understand that before this Jesus asked his disciples who to men say that I am they gave them some people say that you're Elijah some say that you're John the Baptist Or reincarnated because John the Baptist had been executed by Herod So, you know, they're they're kind of throwing out these ideas that people had of Jesus that you're some prophet, etc But he's then pinpoints it and he says okay That's what everybody else is saying, but who do you see because when it comes down?

It doesn't matter what anybody else is saying What did you you hear and all kinds of stuff from other people?

But when it comes right down to it? Who do you say that I am? Because that's what really matters Even this Bible study and what I'm sharing with you today doesn't really matter, right?

You're taking in some information. I hope But you're processing that information so you can get to this point, who do you think that Jesus is?

Because when you get to that point, you've got to answer that question for yourself. Like Simon Peter did, he says, you hear God in the flesh, you're the Christ, you're the Messiah, you're the anointed one.

When you come to that revelation, then, because Jesus says, upon this rock, what rock? In other words, this revelation, not the person of Peter, that's where I'm sorry to say that the Catholic Church got it mixed up, and I used to be one, so I think I can say that because I came out of that, but the Catholic Church looks at Peter as being the foundation of the church.

No, the church isn't built on an individual. It was built on a revelation, because who did we say that what the church is?

means the called-out ones, the people who have the revelation of who Jesus is, right? Jesus is the deliverer. He's the one with the power who is-

given the keys, how do we know? Because he says the gates of hell should not prevail against it, not against you.

So it's not the church is built on a you, it's built on it, the revelation of who Jesus is, right?

he's the one as we read in Revelation who has the keys over hell and death. And that is why he said to Peter that gates or the power of hell will not prevail.

Most people think in terms of the gates as being like we go and approach the enemy, we go and approach and bring people out, you know, for that cause.

But in reality, it's more like you're the your soldier of God who's already been dropped behind enemy lines. You're already in the middle of it.

You're already in the thick of it. Like I said, most people think they're living in hell on earth. They wouldn't describe it that way.

you can boil it down to that because of the difficulty and the pain and the negativity that they exude, they are already living there, and God drops you behind enemy lines so you can bring them out.

So in other words, the gates will not prevail them from coming out because that word gate is also translated not only as city gates or palace gates, but also as prison gates.

If you look at the translation of the word, it can mean prison gates. So in other words, you're already in prison.

People without God are already in a prison in this world because the dominion has been given to Satan over this world.

We know that because when Jesus had his attempting in the wilderness, the devil said, it's set to him up on the pinnacle.

Look, if you'll bow down to me, I'll give you all these kingdoms of the world. He wasn't lying. Jesus didn't tell him, hey, you're lying.

He knew he was speaking truth because the devil was granted dominion over this world. That's why scripture calls him the prince of the power of the air.

He has the dominion over the atmosphere of this world. So, therefore, people without God are living in prison here on earth.

And what Jesus wants us to do is He wants to drop us behind enemy minds and bring them out of that prison through the revelation, helping them to understand who Jesus is.

Does this make sense? Let's read John chapter 10, verse 9, John chapter 10, verse 9. And John Babu, you can read that for me if you don't mind, please.

John chapter 10, verse 9.

[@53:37](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=3217.4) - **JOHNBABU**

Yes, sir, I will read.

[@53:39](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=3219.28) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Thank you.

[@53:43](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=3223.98) - **JOHNBABU**

Sir, 10 words 9, right?

[@53:45](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=3225.88) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Just verse 9, please, yes.

[@53:48](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=3228.5) - **JOHNBABU**

Yeah. Yes, I am the gate. Those who come and throw me will be saved. will come and go freely and will find go pastures, Amen.

Thank you. Thank you, sir.

[@54:01](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=3241.18) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

This is Jesus describing himself as a door or as a gate that the sheep will come in and out, right?

Because before that, if you read the verses before that he's talking about sheep, right? And so what does a shepherd, if Jesus is also the shepherd, a shepherd do?

He brings the sheep into the fold and the fold represents security. It represents the place of safety where they know they're going to get fed.

They know they're going to be relaxed. They have no worries because there's a shelter the predators can't get in, there's no stress, there's no strife, because they have everything they need in the fold.

This scripture, I had trouble with it for such a long time because I didn't know what it meant to go in and out.

But if you think about this, a shepherd brings the sheep into the fold, so they have that security, but then he doesn't leave them in the fold.

You would think he would because man, the sheep got it really good there. But what does he do? He brings him out of the fold into the pasture.

Well, that's interesting because all the safety and security is now gone in the pasture because who else is in the pasture?

There are adversaries in the pasture. There's wolves and other predators that can get to the sheep. Why would the shepherd allow that?

Well, why would Jesus allow his people once they know him to stay on this earth? Why wouldn't he just pull us out?

Save us, take us to the fold of heaven. Why'd leave us on this earth where there's still predators, still dangers, it's so that we want, because we have the revelation of who he is, so we can save other people, so we can help them come out of that prison, so they too can come into the fold.

Excuse me, I don't know if you ever saw the movie called Hacksaw Ridge is a 2016 movie, and it was about Desmond Doss.

He was a person who enrolled during the Second World War into the military, but he was Seventh-day Adventist who wanted to not carry a gun.

He didn't believe in killing According to scripture, but he wanted to help he wanted to be a medic and so the whole movie is based around his life and the challenges He had trying to fit into the military without carrying a gun because that people thought that was strange They they felt like they wouldn't he wouldn't have his back when they got into a into a fight So they they harassed him they tried to get him to quit and all this but he stuck it out and eventually he got assigned to a battalion that got Their mission was to fight at the Battle of Okinawa Medita Excartment, which is better known as Hacksaw Ridge They had to climb up about 150 to 300 feet up this ridge and fight now that the Japanese have been entrenched there they had underground tunnel systems they had ammunition and and repositories

There it was it was a bloody mess that the United States had tried taking several times and and it was just a very bloody mess.

Well Doesn't doss Company got up there. Of course a lot of them got shot right away. It was just horrible But he got stuck up there and as a medic He started to grab people and to help them and but in order to really help them He had to get them over to the cliff and get them down the cliff So he lowered them down but because of that he could only do it one at a time And as he would do the first one he realized he could make a difference and So he started praying God one more and we'd go and get another wounded person And he would lower them down and he would then say God help me get one more and Through that long process of just one at a time one at a time.

He ended up saving 75 lives That's pretty incredible and When I watched that and I I felt that emotion of that

God, just one more. That's how I feel about reaching souls for God, helping them understand who God is. I would hope we'd all have that desire.

God, as long as we're here on this earth, give us that desire of just reaching one more. One more.

I want to conclude with the last scripture we're going to read today in Revelation 21-21. Let's go there. Revelation 21-21.

And Brian, would you read that for us, please?

[@58:42](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=3522.56) - **Brian**

21-21. The 12 gates were 12 pearls. Each individual gate was one pearl, was of one pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold like transparent glass.

[@58:57](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=3537.74) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Thank you. So here we are. are in 2121 we're talking about the 12 gates and each gate is made up of one pearl okay and the city streets gold but you can see through it it's kind of transparent you know what's gold but you can it's so pure it's so refined that you can see through it so I want to I want to say a few things as a numbers guy again you understand that I'm gonna look at 21.1 there's a reason that God places this scripture in 2121 the number 21 represents sin and rebellion the number 12 on the other hand as we see 12 gates represents government rulership authority or divine order in both cases you've got the number one you've got the number two the number two represents union are coming together and the number one represents God so here somewhere in this story we've got sin or rebellion being and then with the rulership

an authority in divine order but somehow a union and God involved. So what I'm seeing is that in order to come out of sin and rebellion, you've got to allow God's authority and rulership to come into your life.

You've got to partner up, get unified with God so that you can accomplish that. And it's going to hit you from every side because think of 21, 21, right?

It's going to hit you from every side. Life hits you from every side. The chances of temptations, the to do, to be disobedient, to do sin, it comes at you from every side.

And that Jesus said narrow is the game. So think of like, it's just pressing around and there's only a slight, if I found 21 dot, dot colon, you know, 21 colon, 21, there's only a slight opportunity between what's coming at you from every side for you to get through, for you to be able to have God rule in your life.

Narrow is the way that leads to life. It, and what that narrowness is, it's identified as a decision. It's a decision you make at every chance, at every, everything that comes at you.

You have one choice, one, am I going to live for God or not? When you say, no, I'm not going to live for God.

You have every opportunity be all around you, to be wrong. But that one choice to say, yeah, I'm going to live for God.

I want to do what God wants me to do. Even though it's difficult, even though people are going to laugh, even though people are going to want to throw me on the bus, even though people are going to want to persecute me and throw me in the fire.

If I make that one choice, I say, God, then God's power will usher in to heaven. How do I know this?

Because the gate is made of pearl. How is a pearl made? A molesk gets a tiny, tiny, tiny piece of sand trapped in it.

And rather than letting that tiny irritation, that tiny hindrance, that tiny thing it struggles with, to kill it off and destroy it, it starts to look at it differently.

It seals it off. It says, look, this is not who I am. I'm not going to let this part be a part of me.

I'm going to seal it off and then coat it with this protein, with this stuff. I forget what it's actually chemically called.

It creates the actual pearl that you see, all this stuff that gets built up around that grain of sand, because it realizes that if it doesn't, if it doesn't make the right choice, it's over.

That moles is going to die. It's over. But if it does, if it makes the right choice and says, okay, I'm going to seal this off and I'm not going to let there's a better purpose for this, because what happens when you get that pearl, it has value.

Pearls are very valuable, because each one is unique. pearls are unique. pearl is like another pearl. So you're difficult to use.

Your situation that you're going through is not exactly like somebody else's. Your situation is very unique and God is allowing you to go through it for you because he knows you, he created you, he has a purpose for you.

And if you don't resist that purpose, then there's value that the world will see and get to experience. But realize it's the only entrance into heaven.

It's only those who have taken their trials and their difficulties and let God work with them that actually ushers them into the presence of God.

If you resist the trial, the difficulty, the fire, if you constantly say to God, I'm not going to do this.

I can't do this. I'm out of here. There's no opportunity for you to come into his presence. That's why we are encouraged with the scripture that we read in 1 Peter and James.

Don't worry about the trials. Don't get focused on the trials because you're focusing on the wrong thing. Focus on the benefit of what's coming out, that you're building up perseverance, that you're building good character, that you're building refinement in your life, you're coming closer to God, you're developing a better relationship.

And isn't that even what Jesus did? Because Scripture says, for the joy that was set before him, he endured the cross.

He didn't focus on the cross and the difficulty on the trial and the pain and He focused on the fact that people would be blessed, freed for eternity because of it.

So don't focus on your hardship, the negative situation you're in right now, as being the end of your world.

Think of it as being, okay God, what can you do in it? How can you prove yourself? How can your power be revealed by bringing me out of this into a larger space, by showing people around me that you have the ability to transform my life?

Does that make sense? Okay. That's really what I wanted to share with you today. Before we wrap up with the word prayer, how is this impacting you today?

What thoughts are it stirring up in you today?

[@1:05:13](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=3913.76) - **Luke Huffman**

Anybody? I like the fact that Jesus is already in the fire. You guys already mentioned that, but that's a revelation to me.

It's just that I'm not alone.

[@1:05:26](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=3926.4) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

God is with me. That's look for sharing that.

[@1:05:30](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=3930.48) - **Mike**

That's a good reminder. We are not alone. And also in the story of Jonah, God prepared the fish, the great fish, but He also calls after He Jonah prayed and repented.

[@1:05:44](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=3944.12) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

also had the fish putting back on dry land. Yes. That's another good point. parallel. Excellent. Thank you, Mike. Anybody else?

What is this speaking to you today? How is it affecting you today?

[@1:06:07](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=3967.54) - **Owner’s iPhone**

I don't know if I could put it in the words, but yeah, it was very affecting.

[@1:06:12](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=3972.56) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Okay. Good. Thank you, Kat. I appreciate that. Well, let's say a word of prayer, shall we, and then we'll take a prayer request, okay?

Lord Jesus, I thank you for the revelation that you are always with us, that you go before us, that you come after us.

Lord, it doesn't matter where we go, like we read Psalm 139, you're everywhere. We thank you, God, for that, because your eyes always watching for us.

Your love is always encapsulating us, God. Lord, it's up to us to turn to you, and I just pray that based on what we learned today, what we've heard today, that you help us make a greater commitment to you, God, only in this very moment, but in those moments when we are tempted, when we face harder trials, God, that we remember this from today, that God be cry out to you, that we would rely on you, not only

on our own strength, and not on the strength of others, but on you, because all power resides in you.

You're able to break through, you're able to change, you're able to bring miracles. God, we thank you for that.

We trust you, like the Hebrew boy said, whether you do or don't, you're God, you're God, you're unchanging, and we know that you have what's best in mind for us.

We thank you, God, for our friends here today. We just ask a blessing on them. We ask God that you would show up in their lives in a powerful way that they could not deny it, they would see, feel, and experience the goodness of God, because it's that goodness that leads us to repent and that builds our relationship with you.

I thank you for that in Jesus' name. Amen. Anybody have prayer requests today? Anything you'd like prayer for? Or for somebody else?

Situation, circumstance, anything?

[@1:07:55](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=4075.84) - **Owner’s iPhone**

Oh, I'd like prayer for my father.

[@1:07:58](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=4078.62) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Okay.

[@1:08:01](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=4081.22) - **Owner’s iPhone**

He's had colon cancer in the past, and he's definitely has metastas, he's ADA, but I know something's going on with this sometimes, so I'm not sure how it's going to play out, but I do believe you know it's gone.

[@1:08:21](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=4101.78) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Okay. Well, we'll definitely pray for what is his new first name?

[@1:08:26](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=4106.22) - **Owner’s iPhone**

Don.

[@1:08:27](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=4107.2) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Don. Okay. Okay. Thank you, Kat.

[@1:08:30](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=4110.44) - **JOHNBABU**

Please pray for my church.

[@1:08:33](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=4113.92) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Pray for your family, John.

[@1:08:35](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=4115.38) - **JOHNBABU**

Is that what you said? For your wife and her pregnancy? Yeah. Pray for my life. Bless you and also pray for my church in probably a few years.

I want to send something to you about the Red Union, who is here for you. I'm sorry, John. Both my church and my congregation.

[@1:08:54](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=4134.8) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

For your congregation. It's sometimes hard hear you, John, you're sounding a little muffled. But I think I picked up you, want us to pray for your church, pray for your wife and your pregnancy.

[@1:09:07](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=4147.08) - **JOHNBABU**

Yeah, yeah, bad.

[@1:09:09](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=4149.46) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Okay. Anybody else? Just for you, for those of you who may not know, our daughter is getting married in two weeks and just two weeks ago, three weeks ago, they had one of their cars stolen.

So, okay.

[@1:09:40](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=4180.96) - **JOHNBABU**

Say that again, John. How to pray for your church in India? No, how could I send my church to you all?

[@1:10:00](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=4200.86) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

John, can you type in the chat or send me an email because your voice is coming across very muffled.

[@1:10:08](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=4208.58) - **Mike**

So I'm picking up just little bits and pieces of your words. I think he wants to send a picture of his church.

[@1:10:16](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=4216.78) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Oh, send a picture. Yeah. Let me put my email in the chat and you can send it there. And then I can bring it up online the next time we get together, okay?

Anybody else have a prayer request before we pray?

[@1:10:41](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=4241.54) - **ajoedyfoundation@gmail.com**

I think I'll throw a line over the chance.

[@1:10:44](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=4244.92) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Okay. Thank you, I know that you have some physical issues and financial issues that we can definitely pray for too.

So John, from Kenya, it's been a while since we've seen you on here, but we're grateful that you're here today.

And if people can pray for John from Kenya as well, I appreciate that. All right, let's go ahead.

[@1:11:04](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=4264.06) - **Luke Huffman**

I'd like a prayer request real quick on marijuana use. know, I want to hear the Lord's will regarding that.

Thank you.

[@1:11:14](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=4274.72) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Yeah, so, Luke, I recommend you get a copy of my book. It's called exercise your might. And within that I address that a little bit.

I just alcohol and I just marijuana use. So, if you send me your email or pardon your mailing address.

We have to send you a copy free charge. But we'll pray for that for sure. Okay, anything else before we jump into prayer.

All let's pray for these needs and Lord Jesus, we know that you hear us. You know that the difficulties and trials that everyone has mentioned here, whether it's themselves or loved one.

or family member or friend, whatever, Lord, you know what's going on. You're already there in their situation as well.

So, God, right now, I trust that you're going to take care of every situation, every circumstance, as we pray.

Lord, I let the dawn catch Father to you. Lord, I ask that you address his physical needs. Lord, minister to what it is he needs physically, but even more importantly, just helping to be solid in you.

God, him revelation of you. his heart be right with you, clear his heart, clear his mind, clear his spirit, of anything that would be distracting or disrupting and welcome to focus on you.

I thank you for sending healing angels to him, comforting angels to him. You're the God of comfort. God, speak comfort into his heart and to his physical body and to every aspect of his body in Jesus' name.

And Lord, I lift up John from India and I pray for his wife that a pregnancy continue to develop well, that the morning sickness and disruption would go in Jesus' name.

that she would be confident and strong, that she'd get the nutrition that she needs, and that you'd start preparing a home for the new life that is coming, Lord God, that you would provide financially for them to be able to prepare the home.

You got to ask to pray for John's church, that revelation would be granted to the church, that they would come together in unity, and that the spirit of revelation would settle upon that congregation, that they would reach out as witnesses of your love, of your compassion, in your mercy towards one another, and towards others.

God, we lift up Abigail and Cameron to you, that Lord, as they prepare to get married, that you would bless everything from start to finish, from the packing, to the travel, to the actual ceremony, to the weather, every part of the God, that they would feel your power and presence, God, that they would know that you are already there, that you're in their marriage by showing up, Lord God, by allowing them to see the miracles at work.

God, meet their need for transportation, lift their faith up, Lord God, don't let the enemy steal joy, the enemy can steal fear.

physical things, but do not let the enemy steal joy from their hearts. Do not let the enemy steal hope.

God speak hope, speak encouragement to them and provide for their transportation needs. God, I also lift up John from Kenya that you would touch his leg, touch his son and heal them.

Physically, God ministered to the exact needs that they have. Lord, I pray for finances to be granted to them to meet the medical expenses, to meet the sustenance needs that they have.

Lord, God, that you would continue to provide work for John. God, that he would be led by you to the right work.

God, I thank you, Jesus, for using him as a powerful witness of what you're doing in his life. I also pray for Luke that you give him clarification around marijuana use, that God you would help him understand, that the renewing of the mind is important.

Lord, God, that you help him see the scripture, Lord, God of the purity of the Holy Spirit. God, give him revelation, give him understanding, speak to him in his dreams, whatever it takes, God, bring clarity to his heart, to his mind.

Thank you for using them, God, to witness to others, to share love and compassion in Jesus' name. thank you for all my friends here today.

I thank you for blessing them and their willingness to spend time to know you, bless the weeks ahead, especially as they encounter the Fourth of July weekend, which will be busy, which will have a lot of people on roads and things like that, but God helped them to be safe, helped them to have good family time, and especially have focus on you in Jesus' name, Amen.

Well, thank you, everyone. I appreciate your time today. We love you. We want to remind you that in two weeks, we will not be here because of our daughter's wedding, but we will have Bible study.

Lori, who once substituted for me a couple of weeks ago, maybe month or so ago, will actually lead this lesson in two weeks.

please come here, what Lori will is preparing to share. I think it's going to be good. Okay. Thank you, everyone.

[@1:15:57](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=4557.36) - **ajoedyfoundation@gmail.com**

bless.

[@1:15:58](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=4558.52) - **Mike**

Bye. Bye.

[@1:15:59](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=4559.36) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Bye. Bye-bye.

[@1:16:01](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=4561.0) - **Owner’s iPhone**

Thank you.

[@1:16:02](https://fathom.video/share/2MS6j-aP3zDWcF9cg1t3eR9xEG2Ui4xB?timestamp=4562.74) - **Rick Stephenson (wisdomwell.guru)**

Thank you.