

## Your Advocate in the midst of Distress

### **Key Promise: Psa 4:1**

I call upon you and you answered me, O God of my vindication. In distress you give enlargement, you favor me and hear my prayer. *JY*

### **How God can take you to your UNIQUE and GREAT Destiny despite imperfect situations and set-backs.**

Many people have an 'if only' mentality. If only I had better abilities, a better personality, better education, a better family background. If only I lived in a better environment or place.

The truth is that God can bless you even in an imperfect situation. Even when you are mourning, you can experience divine comfort!

### **What is the comfort that God is giving to those who mourn?**

Matt 5:4

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. *NKJV*

**Comfort** παρακαλεω *parakaleō*: To call to the side of, an advocate to help, defend, counsel, guide, exhort, comfort.

Gen 37:35

And all his sons and all his daughters arose to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted, and he said, "For I shall go down into the grave to my son in mourning." Thus his father wept for him. *NKJV*

### **What happens when we refuse to be comforted?**

Every self-defeating behavior is a result of a lie or lying emotion we believe in.

Even though it was a lie, the feelings were real. Jacob lived for years with unnecessary misery!

Let Him stand alongside you, taking you  any distress.

**What is God doing in the midst of our distress?**

Rom 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. *NKJV*

Num 14:9

... for they are our bread. *NKJV*

Psa 4:1

## **I. GOD CAN BLESS YOU DESPITE THE IMPERFECT**

*Daniel – resting in His*

Dan 3:17-18

**What kept Daniel going in the midst of distress?**

Dan 9:23

At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved. *NKJV*

## What happens when we focus on God instead on self?

Focusing on God and not , Daniel saw awesome miracles.

Psa 66:1-5

<sup>2</sup>**Sing** about the glory of his name! **Tell** the world how glorious he is. ...

<sup>5</sup>Come and **see** what our God has done, what **awesome miracles** he performs for people! *NLT*

**Ruth – resting in His**

Ruth 1:3-5; 13

## How was Ruth able to make the destiny changing decision?

Ruth 1:16

Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. *NLT*

Ruth 2:2

And Ruth the **Moabitess** said to Naomi, "Let me go to the fields and pick up the **leftover** grain behind anyone in whose eyes I **find favor**." Naomi said to her, "Go ahead, my daughter." *NIV*

Choose to do the  thing even when all the wrong things are happening.

## How was she able to do the mundane back breaking task with excellence?

Ruth 2:3

Then she left, and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers. And she **happened** to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech. *NKJVS*

**What happened when she sought grace even in the mundane chores of life?**

Your destiny-making decisions can affect

## II. GOD CAN BLESS YOU DESPITE THE IMPERFECT

**How to learn from our mistakes?**

Prov 20:30

<sup>30</sup>Blows that hurt cleanse away evil, as do stripes the inner depths of the heart.

*NKJV*

<sup>30</sup>Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways. *TEV*

God never wastes mistakes.

2 Cor 7:9-10

Now I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because your grief led to repentance. For you were grieved as God willed, so that you didn't experience any loss from us. <sup>10</sup>For godly grief produces a repentance not to be regretted and leading to salvation, but worldly grief produces death. *HCSB*

**Hezekiah acknowledged his [ ] and sought His [ ]**

2 Kings 20:1-5

God momentarily [ ] the movement of the solar system!

2 Kings 20:11

... He brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down on the sundial of Ahaz. *NKJV*

Jas 5:16

Admit your faults to one another and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous man has great power and wonderful results. *LB*

### **III. GOD CAN BLESS YOU EVEN IN THINGS YOU CANNOT [ ] OUT**

**Why do bad things happen to good people?**

More important is to ask:

**What happens to good people when bad things happen to them?**

2 Cor 1:3-4

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, *ESV*

**Let God comfort you from the [ ] out**

The comfort is an inside job – it cannot be [ ] nor [ ]

## Why did Jesus weep?

John 11:35  
Jesus wept. *NKJV*

Don't let a season of grief turn into a lifetime of mourning.

Ruth 1:20  
"Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Instead, call me Mara, for the Almighty has made life very bitter for me. *NLT*

*Let God*  *your passion*

Ruth 4:16  
Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her **bosom** and became his **nurse**.  
*ESV*

## What caused Naomi to re-ignite her dreams?

Ruth 4:17

And her neighbor women gave him a name, saying, A son is born to Naomi. They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David [the ancestor of Jesus Christ]. *AMP*

Job 42:10-16

<sup>10</sup>And the LORD restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before ...

## Why was the number of children not doubled?

## What are we to do when we suffer bereavement?

our attention and care for the living.

new record-breaking vision and dreams.

Joel 2:25

I will **restore** to you the years the locust have eaten NKJV

Restore שָׁלַם *salam*: Peace, complete, make full, make good, prosper, repay, make up.

## Why are we so confident that God can comfort us in our distress?

Isa 53:3

He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face. He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. *NASB*

Rev 21:4

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." *NKJV*

2 Cor 1:4

Who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. *NKJV*

God does not waste mistakes and He does not 'waste' your pain!

# Adventure this week:

1. Memorize Psa 4:1 and write this verse from memory here:
2. What destiny-changing decision is God leading you to make?
3. What things are you learning from your bad choices? In what areas is God leading you to make changes?
4. What visions and dreams are being re-ignited in your heart?
5. Start blessing your loved ones with Today's Article: Destiny-Changing Blessings.

As you sing and tell who He is and what He has done – you see awesome miracles!

Psa 66:1-5

<sup>2</sup>**Sing** about the glory of his name! **Tell** the world how glorious he is. ...

<sup>5</sup>Come and **see** what our God has done, what **awesome miracles** he performs for people! *NLT*

# Today's Article

## Destiny-Changing Blessings!

Gen 35:18

And as *Rachel's* soul was departing, she called his name Ben oni [son of my sorrow]; but his father called him Benjamin [son of the right hand]. *AMP*

Don't let bitter situations condemn you to a bitter destiny. Rise up and declare what God says. Man does not determine your destiny. God determines your destiny! God has the final word!

Job 22:28

You will also declare a thing, And it will be established for you; So light will shine on your ways. *NKJV*

### *Blessings for the family:*

I bless you with the blessing of **Manasseh**, able to forget past bitter situations; I bless you with the blessing of **Ephraim**, *doubly blessed in the toughest situations.*

I bless you with the blessing of **Joseph**, experiencing increase in the midst of distress and the blessing of **Benjamin**, receiving five times more, with the record-breaking surpassing riches of God's grace

I bless you with the blessing of **Sarah**, *able to overcome your natural limitations with grace.* I bless you with the blessing of **Rebecca**, *a woman of uncommon excellence.*

*May you be like Leah, finding favor where there is no favor. I bless you with the blessing of Rachel, a woman beautiful on the inside and outside.*

### *Abrahamic Blessings:*

**Conditions already fulfilled in Christ.**

2 Cor 1:20

For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory. *NLT*

Heb 6:14

Surely blessing I will bless you and multiplying I will multiply you. *NKJV*

Gen 12:3

I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you." *NIV*

Deut 1:10-11

The Lord your God has multiplied you, and behold, you are this day like the stars of heaven in number. <sup>11</sup>May the Lord, the God of your fathers, increase you a thousand- fold more than you are and bless you, just as He has promised you! *NASB*

Deut 7:13-15

He will love you and bless you and increase your numbers. He will bless the fruit of your womb, the crops of your land - your grain, new wine and oil - the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks in the land that he swore to your forefathers to give you. <sup>14</sup>You will be blessed more than any *others*; none of your men or women will be childless, nor any of your livestock without young. <sup>15</sup>The LORD will keep you free from every disease ... *NIV*

Deut 8:18

The Lord bless you with the **ability** to produce wealth, and so **confirm** his covenant with you. *NIV*

Deut 15:10

Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in **everything** you put your hand to. *NIV*

Deut 14:2-4

<sup>2</sup>You are Holy people, chosen to be peculiar and special **treasure**, above all the people. *JY*

<sup>2</sup>for you are a people holy to the LORD your God. Out of all the peoples on the face of the earth, the LORD has chosen you to be his treasured possession. *NIV*

Deut 28:1-13

<sup>1</sup>...The LORD your God **set you high** above all the nations on earth. <sup>3</sup>The Lord bless you in the **city** and bless you in the **country**.

<sup>4</sup>*The Lord bless you with a fruitful **womb** and fruitful **land, abundance** of fruit and bread.* <sup>6</sup>The Lord bless you when you **come in** and when you go out.

<sup>7</sup>The LORD **grant that the enemies** who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come from one direction but **flee** from you in seven.

<sup>8</sup>The LORD **bless your storehouses** and **land** and on **everything** you put your hand to and you will **lend** to many nations but will borrow from none.

<sup>9</sup>The LORD establish you as **his** special people, and all the peoples on earth will **see** it and they will **honour** you. <sup>11</sup>The LORD grant you **abundant** prosperity - in what he has promised you.

<sup>12</sup>The LORD **open** the windows of heavens, and give you fine **crops** in every **season**. <sup>13</sup>The LORD will make you the **head**, not the tail. You will always be at the **top**, never at the bottom. *NIV*

Deut 31:6

So be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid and do not panic before them. For the Lord your God will **personally go ahead** of you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you." *NLT*

Deut 32:13

He caused you to ride on the **high places** of the earth, so that you might eat the **increase** of the **fields** and He provided you with honey for him out of the rocky cliff and oil out of the **hardest** flinty rock. *KJV/JY*

Psa 5:12

For surely, O LORD, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your **favor** as with a **shield**. *NIV*

Psa 41:2

The LORD will protect him and **preserve** his life; he will bless him in the land and not surrender him to the desire of his foes. *NIV*

Psa 103:5

He satisfies your mouth with **good** things, So that your youth is **renewed** like the eagle's. *NKJV*

Psa 111:9

He has paid a full ransom for his people. He has **guaranteed** his covenant with them forever. What a holy, awe-inspiring name he has. *NLT*

Psa 112:1-3

Blessed is the man who fears *the Lord*, delighting greatly in His commands. <sup>2</sup>His **seeds** shall be **mighty** on the earth; the **generation** of the upright shall be **blessed**; <sup>3</sup>wealth and riches are in his house; and his righteousness is standing **forever**. *LITV*

Isa 45:2

I will **go ahead** of you, and **smooth** out rough places. I will **break down** the closed doors and cut through the iron bars. I will give you **treasures** *out of* dark places and **hidden** *riches*. Then you will know that I, the LORD God, have called you by name. *GW*

Isa 64:4

Since ancient times no one has heard or **perceived**, no eye has seen any God besides you, who **intervenes** for those who *trust and rest* in him. *NET*

Rom 4:13

For the promise to Abraham or to his *seeds* that he would **inherit** the **world** was not through the (Mosaic) law, but through the righteousness that comes by **faith**. *HCSB*

Gal 3:29

And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and **heirs** according to the promise. *NKJV*

1 Pet 2:9

You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy people, acquired as God's very own **peculiar** people, that you may **proclaim** His **goodness**, praises, wonderful acts and excellencies, who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. *JY*

### ***Priestly Blessings from His House:***

Num 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you; <sup>25</sup>the LORD make his face shine upon you and be **gracious** to you; <sup>26</sup>the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. *NIV*

1 Chron 28:10

**Take heed** now, for the Lord has **chosen** you to build a house for the sanctuary. Be **strong** and **do** it! *AMP*

Psa 36:7-9

<sup>7</sup>How priceless is your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of your wings. <sup>8</sup>They **feast** on the **abundance** of your **house**; you give them drink from your river of delights (*Eden*). *NIV*

Psa 84:10

For a day in Your **courts** is better than a thousand. I would rather be a **doorkeeper** in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of *unbelievers*. *NKJV*

Psa 118:26

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. **From** the **house** of the LORD we **bless** you. *NIV*

Psa 134:1-3

Behold, bless the Lord, all servants of the Lord, who **serve** by night in the **house** of the Lord! <sup>2</sup>Lift up your hands to the **sanctuary** And bless the Lord. <sup>3</sup>May the Lord bless you from **Zion**, He who made heaven and earth. *NASB*

Hag 2:8 -9

The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>9</sup>The **latter glory** of this house shall be **greater** than the former, says the Lord of hosts; and in this place will I give peace and prosperity. *AMP*