

Psalm 27 (Part 3)-Oppressive Darkness & The Strength of the Light (9/16/2023)

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.cornerfringe.com/media/ffg8fjt/shabbat-service-09-16-2023>

*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.

Shabbat Shalom, everyone. Chag sameach!

Today, officially marks the High Holy Day of what we call Feast of Trumpets. If this is your first time experiencing the Feast of Trumpets, let me boil it down to the finest point about what today really is about. It's the celebration and anticipation of the truth and the reality that the Jewish Messiah will return. The Feast of Trumpets has many names ascribed to it including Rosh Hashanah or Yom Teruah. Interestingly enough, one of the names ascribed to this day is Yom Ha Melech, which means Day of the King. This is the day the king is coronated. In the coronation of the king, the people cry out "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord (*bārūk habbā bəšēm Yahweh*)."

We see Yeshua's first coronation in Matthew 21. This was His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, *Yerushalayim*. Yeshua came in **lowly and riding on a donkey** just as the Prophet Zechariah said He would come (Zechariah 9:9). Then the people cried out, "Hosanna to the son of David! **Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord (*bārūk habbā bəšēm Yahweh*)!**" (Matthew 21:9).

He will be coronated a second time; and instead of riding lowly on a donkey, He will ride on the clouds of heaven. During His first mission, **He did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance** (Luke 5:32). But in His second coming, He will deliver the righteous and destroy the sinner. That is a very different coming. It's a very different side of Yeshua than what the world has seen.

So, what we embark on today is awesome. It's profound. In Numbers 29:1, one of the other names ascribed to this day is Yom Teruah. It means the day of shouting. There's a lot of shouting going on. Leviticus 23:24 calls it *Zichron Teruah*. Do you know what that really means? It means a memorial of shouting or the day of shouting. Do you understand the context? The context is victory. This is the day we will shout for our victory over sin, death, disease, fear, intimidation, persecution, principalities, powers, and spiritual hosts of wickedness. We will declare our victory.

If you want a biblical story of this, go back to Jericho where Joshua went with Israel, and there were seven priests with seven trumpets. (That's very significant because in Revelation there are seven trumpets.) The priests circled the city seven times and blew the shofars. The people offered a great shout, *teruah gādōlāh*, and with that great shout all the power, the pomp, and the strength of their enemies fell in a moment, in one day. (Joshua 6:20). That will happen again on this day.

I want you to understand something amazing about the context of this day. Everything you do in this life, the prayer, the fasting, the sacrifices you make, the investment into the kingdom of God, the investment into each other, the time you spend in the Word, and the time you spend praising the Lord is preparing for the return of the King on Rosh Hashanah, the head of the new year.

So, today is a day truly worthy of celebrating. Given the significance of this holy day, normally, I would peel away from whatever series I was in and highlight the festival itself. I'm not going to do that today because Psalm 27 is very relevant to the whole purpose of the Feast of Trumpets, Rosh Hashanah, or Yom Teruah. So, we will stay right here and forge ahead.

I want to open up today with a few articles to help you draw some perspective and challenge your thinking regarding David's foundational declaration in Psalm 27:1—¹ **The LORD is my light and my salvation.**



Daily Mail article 1: [Isolation in the dark drives humans to the brink of insanity, studies find.](#)

Daily Mail article2: [Losing your mind: What happens during 48 hours in a pitch black bunker.](#)

Both of these articles reference a study that was done in Britain in the early 2000s. They used six people for the study to find out what happens with sensory light deprivation.

If you follow what the humanitarians are doing, they are very vocal about sensory deprivation in the context of war and using sensory deprivation for interrogation. This is not a secret. They're very vocal about it because they know it's inhumane. Light deprivation is torture of humanity.

The findings in this experiment were incredible. In fact, in the 50s, a doctor in Canada tried doing the same experiment, totally depriving the subjects of light. They couldn't finish the testing because the people couldn't handle it. The people started losing their mind. Darkness has an incredible effect on the human body. If you take light away from it, you realize we are not created to be deprived of light.

In Romans 1:20—Paul said—²⁰ **For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.** In other words, we can understand these awesome aspects to God, the invisible aspects of God, and the great mysteries of God through His creation.

Let me give you one example. The Apostle Paul talked about marriage as a great mystery of God. Paul told us in Ephesians 5 that there is a deep spiritual revelation in God's creation of marriage that helps us

understand the relationship that exists between us, the church, and Yeshua, who is our husband. In the very same way, pay attention to how we are made in the image of God, and the physical ramifications for depriving our bodies is huge. It's catastrophic.

The six subjects in the study talked about experiencing fear and anxiety. It was only a 48-hour experiment, and already, in day two, they were hallucinating and delusional. To them the hallucinations were so real and so tangible, it was reality. It wasn't just what they saw with their eyes or what they thought they were seeing (the darkness was fabricating this), but they heard things. One guy described being in the midst of an orchestra where he heard all the instruments with precision. He said it started to get louder and louder. He got scared and more scared. The anxiety started to build. This was the effects of darkness. When you become deprived of light, things really happen.

There is a type of depression called seasonal affective disorder, or SAD. My wife and I have talked about it several times. During the winter months here, the days are shorter, and there's less light. This is when people start to tailspin into depression because of the absence of the light their body is used to. You basically have two avenues you can follow. You can either go to the pharmaceutical companies, and they'll gladly offer you happy pills to treat symptoms (Let's mask it and create 20 more problems), or you can choose light therapy. My wife has even told me to get a sun lamp. Light therapy actually works. People are blogging about it and saying it has totally changed their emotions. There is a chemical change in the brain regarding light, and it impacts us.

Take special note! If you deprive yourself of the light, and I'm speaking in spiritual terms, you will experience hell. You will be driven into insanity. You will suffer so many things because of the darkness. You will experience all the fear and anxiety Satan has for you. You will become delusional and start hallucinating. Let me give you a perfect example.

How is it that one person can say, "The unborn are legitimate human beings, so we should care for these vulnerable children and help the pregnant women through this. Let's love this human being into this world." And yet, another person can say, "That's totally insane. The right thing to do is to focus on women's health, and we need to kill the unborn. The pregnant woman shouldn't have to get fat and bloated. She shouldn't have to change her lifestyle." There are many reasons why these two people are looking at the situation in exact opposite ways. The person who wants to kill the unborn is in darkness. They cannot see. They're hallucinating, and their perception is totally distorted. That's what darkness does. The other person is taking in the light of His Word. They have clarity and see things through a completely different lens. It affects their mind and heart.

Daily Mail quote: [Bottom line: humans need light and interaction to stay sane.](#)

With what is coming, you do not have a chance to stay sane if you are not taking in the light and drawing yourself into relationship with Yeshua. Draw yourself into His Word.

Psalm 119:130—¹³⁰ **The entrance of Your words gives light;**

Psalm 119:105—¹⁰⁵ **Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.**

The Word creates such clarity and such stability of mind and heart. We need this.

There is something else interesting noted in the Daily Mail article: [Without light, we lose our sense of time](#). Across the board, everybody that has been caught with light deprivation, even people down in caves, didn't have a clue what time it was. This is what light deprivation does: you don't know what time it is. That's an amazing thought when you consider what Paul said:

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2—¹ But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. ² For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord **so comes as a thief in the night** (emphasis added).

In other words, Paul warned Yeshua will come to a generation that doesn't expect Him. He will come in undetected. It will be a surprise, and they will not be ready.

Then we read verse three, which we read this last week. 1 Thessalonians 5:3—³ For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.

They are delusional and have no perception. They do not have the light. They are hallucinating. They have fixed themselves upon that which is not, meaning the temporary things. So, the day overtakes them.

1 Thessalonians 5:4-5—⁴ But you, brethren are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. ⁵ **You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.** (Emphasis added).

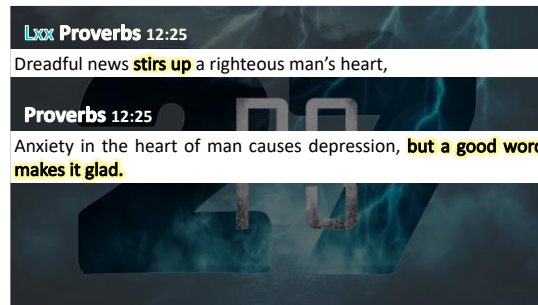
Paul communicated that because we are in the light of Yeshua and have the light of His Word; we have perfect clarity and understand what is going on in the world. We can see Bible prophecy unfolding. We feel the urgency to receive the gospel, turn, and repent because He is coming. We can see it. Therefore, we gird our waist, and our lamps are burning. We are ready to go because He's right at the door.

But if you are in darkness, you have no concept of time. That's why Peter said—³ **that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts,** ⁴ **and saying "Where is the promise of His coming?"** (2 Peter 3:3). They think Christians are hilarious because they keep saying "Jesus is coming." They are totally wallowing in delusion and hallucinating. Darkness has overtaken and blinded them. They are what I would call spiritually insane. When you look at the world and its lack of morality, it is reaching boundaries we couldn't even think about 20 years ago. The world looks at life differently now. We could go on and on about all the immorality. Spiritual insanity is the only way to define it. It is total darkness. The world is losing it.

Proverbs 12:25—Listen to the words of Solomon. This is powerful—²⁵ **Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression,**

When fear enters the heart, it produces symptoms. Look at the world. One of the highest selling drugs is antidepressants, serotonin inhibitors, because people are depressed. Depression is a symptom. You shouldn't treat the symptom; you should get to the root of the problem. What is the problem? Fear and anxiety have taken up residence in the heart. Darkness has come in. There's light deprivation. This is problematic. When you truly have darkness in your heart, and you have light deprivation, you will show symptoms, one of which (we could list many) Solomon lists as depression. It is that feeling of

being worthless. It is the feeling of defeatism, weakness, and hopelessness because this stuff has entered the heart. Is depression real? Oh, you better believe it. It's one of the most powerful and destructive emotions on planet Earth. It totally binds people and puts them in bondage. It's a scary reality.



To broaden our perspective, I want to share with you how the Septuagint translates this. In the LXX Proverbs 12:25—²⁵ **Dreadful news**—terrifying news—**stirs up**, ταρασσω, tarassó in the Greek—means shakes or trembles. The dreadful news shakes—**a righteous man's heart** (emphasis added).

This is the power of dreadful news; it literally cripples. If I gave you an assignment to watch eight hours of news every single day, you guys would come back the next week, and I wouldn't hear any shofars or laughing. You would be miserable. There would be such depression upon you. I've talked to many of you, and you say you can't watch the news anymore because it's too depressing. Why? Because all hell is breaking loose in this country, right now. Every time you turn the news on, it's bad news. It is dreadful news. News can affect a righteous man's heart.

Now, listen to me carefully. There are things coming that nobody could ever imagine happening to the greatest country in the world. There are things coming we have not yet experienced. This nation will be brought to its knees. You can shut the TV off, but this dreadful news is coming to your door. What will you do? How are you prepared?

The Holy Spirit is moving, and He is preparing you. That's what this is about. His Word is about preparation. One of the most important points we will make in this series is what we read next because Solomon gives us the antidote to the insanity we see happening in the world. Listen to his words as we continue in Proverbs 12:25—²⁵ **but a good word makes it glad** (emphasis added).

Where do you get that good Word? The Apostle Paul said the Law is good multiple times. He said—¹² **The law**—the Torah—**is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good** (Romans 7:12).

Do you want the good Word? Do you want the wisdom of God? Do you want His understanding? Do you want the promises? Do you want the hope? Do you want the truth? Do you want the power? Where the Word of the King is, there is power. ¹² **For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword** (Hebrews 4:12). The Bible is where you get the good Word.

Knowing the Word is the only way we will be able to combat the insanity, the darkness, and the fear that will plague our hearts. The Word is the only thing that will work. How much light are you taking in? If you have light deprivation, you will wallow in the things that are coming. When everything's stripped, some of you are thrown into prison, some of you are persecuted, and others of you may be killed for your faith, how will you stand in those days? There is one way. You better take in the light of Yeshua

and take in the light of His Word. You cling to the Word, and it becomes your clarity, your reality, and your strength.

In Nehemiah 8, the Jews had come home from captivity in Babylon, and they gathered together as one man in Jerusalem on the first day of the seventh month. That's deeply prophetic because the day we are celebrating right now, Rosh Hashanah or Yom Teruah, is also called the Day of the Resurrection of the Dead. It's the day when all the saints are gathered together as one, *echad*.

So, these Jews gathered together in Jerusalem as one man, and Ezra began to preach the Word. The people started weeping and mourning. Nehemiah, Ezra, and the Levites told them not to mourn or weep for this day is holy to the LORD. Do you know what day it was? It was the day we are celebrating today. It was Yom Teruah. This is the time when our King comes back, He will wipe away every tear from our eye. It will be a day of victory, a day of shouting. So, that's why Ezra, Nehemiah, and the Levites told them—⁹. . . **“This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn nor weep.”** ¹⁰. . . **“Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”** (Nehemiah 8:9-10)

Where do we derive our strength? How do we get strong? We get it from the joy of the Lord. Many of you want to know how to get the joy of the Lord. Listen to what the Apostle Paul said in Romans 15:13—¹³ **Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace—how—in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit** (emphasis added). In believing what? Go back in this chapter just a couple of verses, and Paul tells you:

Romans 15:4—⁴ **For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comforts of—what? —the Scriptures might have hope** (emphasis added).

That's where I derive my strength. That's where I get joy and peace in the midst of total chaos. I get it from the Word. I feed on His faithfulness. I take in the light.

You cannot afford to suffer light deprivation in this generation because the darkness will chew you up. You will be hallucinating. You will be totally overtaken by fear. You will fall into a tailspin of total depression, of worthlessness, and of hopelessness because your eyes are set on that which is not, rather than that which is. The Word of the Lord endures forever. Everything in the Word endures. The stuff you see going on in the world is just temporary. It will pass, and so will all the enemies, all their wicked works, and all their hatred towards righteousness pass. We need to have strength.

Charles Spurgeon, 1834-1892, the prince of preachers, said—**Anxiety does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows, but it only empties today of its strength.**

That's incredibly insightful. He's saying that tomorrow's tribulation will be there, period. There is nothing you can do about it. But worrying, being fearful, sweating it, and chewing your nails weakens you. It strips you of your joy, which you need your joy to have strength. It's a domino effect. It's deadly. The only way you will have joy is by staying in the Word.

The things going on in the world don't cripple me. They don't define me. My circumstances cannot define my walk with Yeshua. My walk with Yeshua defines circumstances.

If you want a good example of this, look at Paul and Silas. They were beaten, bleeding, and thrown into prison, not knowing if they would live through the night. They were probably expecting to be killed that

night or in the morning for the gospel. How did they respond? They sat in prison and sang hymns to the Lord with no indication, whatsoever, they would be let out. The joy of the Lord was their strength. Their circumstance didn't define them.

If you are thrown into prison for your faith, will you respond by singing hymns to the Lord? Because that is what it means to have the joy of the Lord. It doesn't mean you are blessed with all the material things; you live in peace and harmony with rainbows and butterflies; and you have all your needs met. If you think that is what it means, you don't understand what the joy of the Lord is.

The joy of the Lord is when you walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you do not fear because you know your God is with you. You know Yeshua won't leave you or forsake you. The only thing you love is Him; you don't love the things of the world. That's what sustains us.

Psalm 27:1—David said—¹ **The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?** (Emphasis added).

David can say, “whom shall I fear?” because he's basking in the light, and he is not leaving.

Psalm 27:2—² **When the wicked came against me to eat up my flesh, my enemies and foes, they stumbled and fell.**

This is so awesome because despite all the attempts of darkness to haunt David and to take control of him and destroy him, all the attempts failed. The principalities, powers, and the spiritual host of wickedness that came against him failed because David would not walk out of the light. He stayed faithful to the Lord. He trusted in the Lord because the Lord was his light and his salvation.

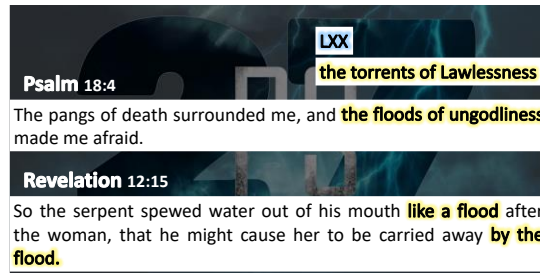
Psalm 27:3a—^{3a} **Though an army may encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;**

This is a very different sentiment than what we saw from Saul, who when the Philistines amassed a huge army, which according to the flesh Saul couldn't defeat, the fear came in and totally controlled him. David said, “I will not be moved.”

Then David said this to couple with that. Psalm 3:6—⁶ **I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.**

David would not tremble, whatsoever. We could easily argue that both of these passages speak to every generation, but they crescendo at the battle of Armageddon. There is great prophetic inference here. Do you understand how prophetic the Psalms are of the end times? Who would have thought you'd go to the book of Psalms and be reading Revelation, but that's what we are doing here. Notice the army came against him and notice ten thousands of people came against him. What David was saying was the entire world could come against him, and he would not be moved.

It's interesting because that's what happens at the end of the age. The entire world comes against David, very metaphorical of Yeshua, and the people of God, Israel. This is very metaphorical. This is prophetic. This is profound and speaks to us today. David was talking our language, right now, with what's going on, especially after last week's message.



Let me build on this and get more prophetic. Psalm 18:4 is a war psalm as well—⁴ **The pangs of death surrounded me, and**—look at this—**the floods of ungodliness made me afraid** (emphasis added).

Again, going back to week one, make no mistake, David experienced every bit of fear that you experience today and will experience as things begin to unfold and get worse and worse in this country and in this world. Darkness, arrogance, and scorn is going strong. As we read in the book Daniel about the spirit of antichrist, it says—¹² . . . **he cast truth to the ground. He did all this and prospered** (Daniel 8:12).

Sit back as a believer and think how insane this is. How is it that darkness is growing like this? People are baffled. People that don't have the light and don't understand Bible prophecy are stupefied about what they see in this country. They think this is impossible, but when arrogance and scorn grow strong and the spirit of antichrist moves, it prospers, and fear starts to set in. David felt every bit of it.

LXX Psalm 18:4—⁴ . . . **torrents of Lawlessness** (emphasis added)

I want to draw your attention to **“the floods of ungodliness”**, which is a prophetic metaphor. I like the way the Septuagint translates this. In Psalm 18:4, **“the floods of ungodliness”** is translated in the Septuagint as **“torrents of Lawlessness.”**

Again, this is speaking to you as you look out, turn your television on, and see the floods of Lawlessness, the floods of ungodliness.

The metaphor being used is very significant because we read in the book of Revelation 12:15—¹⁵ **So the serpent spewed water out of his mouth—what—like a flood after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away by the flood** (emphasis added).

This is the very same metaphor. This is prophetic in nature. The Psalms are prophetic all over the place.

It goes on to say in Revelation 12:17—¹⁷ **And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

That's who the dragon is coming after. If you walk in the light and bear light, the darkness wants to destroy you. The darkness wants to intimidate you, so you come over to darkness, and they can put your light out. Darkness wants to convince you to put your light under a basket, so it no longer shines, and no one can see you are a Christian that follows Jesus.

Psalm 18:5a—^{5a} **The sorrows of Sheol surround me;** (emphasis added).

Targum—I like it—**An army of sinners surrounded me;** (emphasis added).

Again, going back to last week's message, this is prophecy. This is what will happen. This is what's literally happening as we speak.

Psalm:5b-6—^{5b} **the snares of death confronted me. ⁶ In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple and my cry came before Him, even to his ears.**

How did David respond to that fear where he said he was afraid because he saw a flood of Lawlessness engulfing everywhere? He responded by turning to the light. He turned to the Lord.

Psalm 50:15—I love this—¹⁵ **Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.**

Romans 10:13—¹³ **For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."**

I mean, this is the go-to. What does that look like? If you want to know what it looks like for a man to turn to the Lord, read Psalm 51:10—¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

There's a total brokenness. That's the focus of David. If you want to know what it looks like to turn to the Lord, read Psalm 27, which we are going through right now.

Now, jumping ahead we read this in Psalm 18:16-17—¹⁶ **He sent from above, He took me; He drew me out of many waters**—The waters are the floods of ungodliness that came upon him—¹⁷ **He delivered me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me, for they were too strong for me** (emphasis added).

One of the most important points to make in this entire series is that David clearly understood he was not equipped to and didn't have the strength to go up against principalities, powers, and spiritual hosts of wickedness. They were too strong for him.

Listen to me. You do not have the strength in and of yourself to win the following types of battles including the fear the enemy will hurl upon you; the anxiety, unforgiveness, and bitterness the enemy will sow in you, so you feel justified in not forgiving someone; the covetousness, temptations, and all the filth the enemy will vomit on you.

You need to go to Yeshua. You need to go to the light. When we do that, we can have confidence in war. We will be armed to the teeth and able to battle. That's what's really important.

I want to read from the Wisdom of Solomon, which is in the Apocrypha. As a quick side note, this used to be in our Bibles. This was in the Greek Septuagint. It was even featured in the King James 1611 version. It's found in some of the most profound manuscripts: Codex Sinaiticus, Codex Vaticanus, Codex Alexandrinus, and the Latin Vulgate. Traditionally, through the history of Christianity, this was being read. I want to point this out as it is very valuable:

The Wisdom of Solomon, Chapter 10:9-12—⁹ **Wisdom rescued from troubles those who served her. ¹⁰ When a righteous man fled from his brother's wrath, she guided him on straight paths;** and it's talking about Jacob running from Esau—**she showed him—Jacob—the kingdom of God, and gave him**

knowledge of holy things; she prospered him in his labors, and increased the fruit of this toil. ¹¹ When his oppressors were covetous, —meaning Laban who oppressed Jacob—she stood by him and made him rich. She protected him from his enemies, and kept him safe from those who lay in wait for him; in his arduous contest she gave him the victory, so that he might learn that—listen to this—**godliness is more powerful than anything else** (emphasis added).

Godliness is more powerful! In other words, when you are going up against demonic hosts of wickedness that are pressing in, the only answer is to go to the light. The only answer is, “I will hold fast and walk in the commandments of God regardless of my situation or the context of my life because this is what David did. My circumstances don't define my walk. I will walk in godliness.” That's where you derive the power. That's where you take in the light.

Finishing out Psalm 27 in verse 3—³ **Though an army man camp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war may rise against me, in this I will be confident.** (Emphasis added).

What was David confident in? The Lord is my light and my salvation. This was where David drew his strength. He trusted in the Lord no matter what happened to him. He said he would hold fast to his faith in Yeshua. With that we will close in prayer.