

STRONGHOLDS

“A stronghold is a mindset impregnated with hopelessness that causes Christians to accept as unchangeable situations which are contrary to God’s Word.”

1. GOD IS OUR TRUE & ONLY REAL STRONGHOLD

- 2 Sam. 22:3 ...my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. He is my **stronghold**, my refuge and my savior--from violent men you save me.
- Psalms 9:9 The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a **stronghold** in times of trouble.
- Psalms 18:2 The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my **stronghold**.
- Psalms 27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation--whom shall I fear? The LORD is the **stronghold** of my life--of whom shall I be afraid?
- Psalms 37:39 The salvation of the righteous comes from the LORD; he is their **stronghold** in time of trouble.
- Psalms 43:2 You are God my **stronghold**. Why have you rejected me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?
- Psalms 144:2 He is my loving God and my fortress, my **stronghold** and my deliverer, my shield, in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me.
- Joel 3:16 The LORD will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the sky will tremble. But the LORD will be a refuge for his people, a **stronghold** for the people of Israel.

2. OTHER (INADEQUATE) STRONGHOLDS

- Psalms 52:7 "Here now is the man who did not make God his **stronghold** but trusted in his great wealth and grew strong by destroying others!"

3. TEARING DOWN FALSE STRONGHOLDS

A. *God Will Tear Them Down*

- Psalms 89:40 You have broken through all his walls and reduced his **strongholds** to ruins.
- Lam. 2:2 Without pity the Lord has swallowed up all the dwellings of Jacob; in his wrath he has torn down the **strongholds** of the Daughter of Judah. He has brought her kingdom and its princes down to the ground in dishonor.

- Lam. 2:5 The Lord is like an enemy; he has swallowed up Israel. He has swallowed up all her palaces and destroyed her **strongholds**. He has multiplied mourning and lamentation for the Daughter of Judah.
- Ezek. 19:7 He broke down their **strongholds** and devastated their towns. The land and all who were in it were terrified by his roaring.
- Micah 5:11 I will destroy the cities of your land and tear down all your **strongholds**.

B. Even "Religious" Ones Must Go

- Ezek. 24:21 Say to the house of Israel, "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am about to desecrate my sanctuary--the **stronghold** in which you take pride, the delight of your eyes, the object of your affection. The sons and daughters you left behind will fall by the sword.

C. God Will Use Others To Tear Them Down

- Amos 3:11 Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "An enemy will overrun the land; he will pull down your **strongholds** and plunder your fortresses."

D. We Must Tear Them Down

- 1 Sam. 22:5 But the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not stay in the stronghold. Go into the land of Judah." So David left and went to the forest of Hereth.
- Prov. 21:22 A wise man attacks the city of the mighty and pulls down the stronghold in which they trust.
- 2 Cor. 10:4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

4. CONSEQUENCES OF REMAINING IN OUR FALSE STRONGHOLDS

- Jer. 51:30 Babylon's warriors have stopped fighting; they remain in their **strongholds**. Their strength is exhausted; they have become like women. Her dwellings are set on fire; the bars of her gates are broken.