

## **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.