



~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing



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Prayer

Lord, I have found that in my own strength, I am no match for life's problems. I thank You for revealing this to me today. From this day forward, please help me turn to You immediately when I come up against a dead-end place in my life. I ask You, Lord, to help me fully surrender each of these areas to You so You can have full access to them and raise them, one by one, from the dead. Please show me Your life-giving power today, led me and guide me in all my ways, that I always do God's will for me and not my will. Fill me with God's will for me each day and plans, in Jesus' name. Amen....

Scripture

Exodus 7: 1-24 (AMP)

1 AND THE Lord said to Noah, Come with all your household into the ark, for I have seen you to be righteous (upright and in right standing) before Me in this generation. 2 Of every clean beast you shall receive and take with you seven pairs, the male and his mate, and of beasts that are not clean a pair of each kind, the male and his mate, 3 Also of the birds of the air seven pairs, the male and the female, to keep seed [their kind] alive over all the earth or land. 4 For in seven days I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights, and every living substance and thing that I have made I will destroy, blot out, and wipe away from the face of the earth. 5 And Noah did all that the Lord commanded him. 6 Noah was 600 years old when the flood of waters came upon the earth or land. 7 And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. 8 Of clean animals and of animals that are not clean, and of birds and fowls, and of everything that creeps on the ground, 9 There went in two and two with Noah into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah. 10 And after the seven days the floodwaters came upon the earth or land. 11 In the year 600 of Noah's life, in the seventeenth day of the second month, that same day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up and burst forth, and the windows and floodgates of the heavens were opened. 12 And it rained upon the earth forty days and forty nights. 13 On the very same day Noah and Shem, Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons with them, went into the ark, 14 They and every [wild] beast according to its kind, all the livestock according to their kinds, every moving thing that creeps on the land according to its kind, and every fowl according to its kind, every winged thing of every sort. 15 And they went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there were the breath and spirit of life. 16 And they that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded [Noah]; and the Lord shut him in and closed [the door] round about him. 17 The flood [that is, the downpour of rain] was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased and bore up the ark, and it was lifted [high] above the land. 18 And the waters became mighty and increased greatly upon the land, and the ark went [gently floating] upon the surface of the waters. 19 And the waters prevailed so exceedingly and were so mighty upon the earth that all the high hills under the whole sky were covered. 20 [In fact] the waters became fifteen cubits higher, as the high hills were covered. 21 And all flesh ceased to breathe that moved upon the earth—fowls and birds, [tame] animals, [wild] beasts, all swarming and creeping things that swarm and creep upon the land, and all mankind. 22 Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils were the breath and spirit of life died. 23 God destroyed (blotted out) every living thing that was upon the face of the earth; man and animals and the creeping things and the birds of the heavens were destroyed (blotted out) from the land. Only Noah remained alive, and those who were with him in the ark. 24 And the waters prevailed [mightily] upon the earth or land 150 days (five months).

Exodus 7. The First of the 10 Plagues

The waters of the Nile turned to blood. Pharaoh's magicians (Jannes and Jambres, 2 Timothy 3:8) imitated the miracle on a small scale. Whatever the nature of the miracle, the fish died and people could not drink the water.

The Nile was a god to the Egyptians. Without the Nile, Egypt would be a lifeless desert.

The 10 Plagues and the Gods of Egypt

The 10 plagues were aimed at the gods of Egypt and were designed to give proof of the power of the God of Israel over the gods of Egypt. Over and over it is repeated that by these miracles both Israel and Egyptians would come to "know that the Lord is God" (6: 7; 7: 5, 17; 8: 22; 10: 2; 14: 4, 18). Later, in the desert, the manna and the quail were intended to show the same thing (16: 6, 12).

Pharaoh's heart was hardened on his own accord during the first five plagues. God hardened his heart during the other five. Without them, Israel never would have been delivered, and there would have been no Hebrew nation.

Plague	God (s)
1. Nile turned to blood 7: 14–25	Khnum, the guardian of the Nile. Hopi, the spirit of the Nile Osiris, the giver of life, whose bloodstream was the Nile
2. Frogs 8: 1–15	Heqt, the god of resurrection, who also assisted women in childbirth and whose form was a frog
3. Gnats (mosquitoes) 8: 16–19	
4. Flies 8: 20–32	
5. Plague on cattle 9:1-7	Hathor, the mother goddess, whose form was a cow. Apis, the bull god, who was the living personification of Ptah (the creator god) and the symbol of fertility.
6. Boils 9:8-12	Imhotep, the god of medicine
7. Hail 9: 13-35	Nut, the sky goddess. Isis, the goddess of life. Seth, the protector of crops
8. Locusts 10: 1-20	Isis, the goddess of life. Seth, the protector of crops
9. Darkness 10: 21-29	Re, Aten, Atum, Horus, all of whom were sun gods of sorts
10. Death of firstborn 11: 1-12: 36	Pharaoh, who was considered a god. Osiris, the giver of life.

(Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervan; Bible History and Commentaries; pages 139-140)

Signs For Pharaoh: V 4 God is speaking by fore knowledge. He knew the decision that Pharaoh was going to make. God strengthened Pharaoh in his position. V 5 This is the purpose, in order that the Egyptians—and that all the world may know: " I am the Lord. " V10-12 The magicians of Pharaoh were able to duplicate the feats of Aaron and Moses. The powers of darkness are often able to counterfeit the work of God. Satan is a great counterfeiter. However, just because a particular situation seems miraculous does not ensure an actual legitimate work of God. One of the marks of the Antichrist will be his tremendous ability to work miracles, signs, and wonders in the eyes of the people. We are told concerning Satan that he is able to transform himself into an angel of light in order to deceive (2 Corinthians 11:14). VV 13-16 Pharaoh had said, "Who is the Lord? I don't know Him. The purpose of this episode is that he might get acquainted with Him and find out who He is. VV 17-22 We find here a counterfeit once more. But how does that help Pharaoh? It would be better if they purified the rivers rather than polluting them.

(Old Testament Study Guide; The Word For Today; 2005, Chuck Smith; Commentaries; pages 26-27)

The Dead-End Places Of Life: 2 Corinthians 1:9

Although we don't like to admit it, we all occasionally run into dead-end places in our lives where we don't know what to say, what to do, where to turn, or even how to pray. Sometimes it seems like we've hit a dead-end—in other words, it seems like everything is finished, over, and done with! If you've ever been in a place like this, you know what a hard place this can be!

Through these kinds of experiences, you and I discover that in our own strength, we are no match for some of life's problems. That's why we must learn to depend on the power and wisdom of God! The apostle Paul tells us that he, too, went through this kind of learning experience when he found himself face-to-face with life-threatening situations in his own ministry. In Second Corinthians 1:9, he says, "But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead." Paul was definitely at one of those dead-end places that we're talking about today. In fact, the situation he faced was so acute that he compared it to a sentence of death. That's dramatic language!

Notice the word "sentence" in the verse above. It is taken from the Greek word krino. This word krino normally refers to a jury who just handed down their final sentence in a court of law. You could say that the word krino denotes a verdict or a sentence pronounced as the result of a court trial.

After all the evidence is presented and the judge has examined all the facts, a final verdict is issued by the court. This is exactly the word that Paul uses in this dramatic verse. In using such a word, Paul is telling us that so much evidence and so many problems were stacked up against him and his companions, by all appearances it looked like there was no way for them to escape or even to survive. It looked like they had hit a dead-end; everything for them seemed to be finished, over, and done with!

Have you ever had a time in your life when it looked like it was the end of the road for you and your dreams?

Did you think there was no way out?

Did it look like there were so many problems stacked against you that you'd never survive what you were facing?

This is precisely what Paul must have felt when he was facing overwhelming problems in Asia. He used the Greek word krino to let us know that as far as he was concerned, there was only one possible outcome for his life—death!

In essence, Second Corinthians 1:9 could be translated:

"As far as we were concerned, the final verdict was in, and the verdict demanded our deaths...."

But in spite of how it looked, Paul didn't die, nor did he fail at fulfilling the job God had given him. It may have looked like it was the end of the road, but it was really the beginning of a new supernatural flow of divine power into Paul's life. That's why he went on to say that through it all, he learned not to trust in himself, but in God who raises the dead.

Paul had been under such intense pressure that he felt death was unavoidable. Then right from the midst of this horrible situation, God's power was released and Paul was rescued! Paul said it was as if he and his companions had been raised from the dead.

When you don't know what else to do and when you have no one else to turn to, that's usually when God's resurrection power begins to operate in you to the greatest measure! You see, there's no such thing as no hope. As long as there is a loving Heavenly Father you can call on, there is still hope for you! If you learn to rely on Him, that dead-end place in your life that you're facing right now can become a new beginning!

So call out to your Heavenly Father right now. Expect Him to release His resurrection power on your behalf to turn your dead-end situation around!

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

Can you think of other people who faced impossible situations, but later experienced the delivering power of God that changed their situation?

Can you name Bible characters who learned to rely on God and experienced the same delivering power?

What kind of faith confessions can you start speaking to get your faith in gear and to release God's supernatural power into your situation? Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

(AMP Bible; The Everyday Life Bible; Joyce Meyers; Scripture; Commentaries; Past Pastor Sermons; Dictionary; 2006; pages 97-98)
(Word 9 Bible Software; 2010; Concordance, Dictionary, Scripture, Sermons of Saints past, Maps, Devotionals; Sparkling Gems From The Greek)