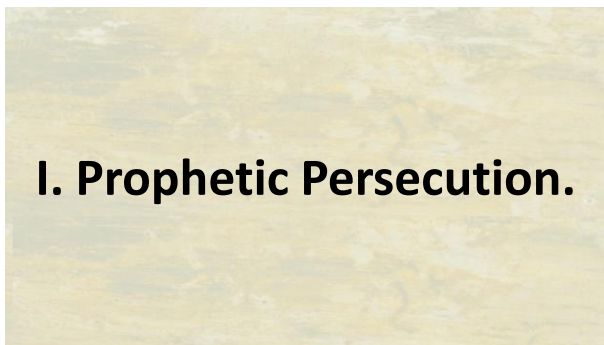




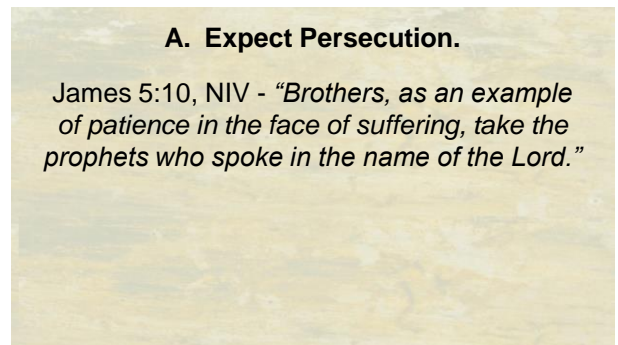
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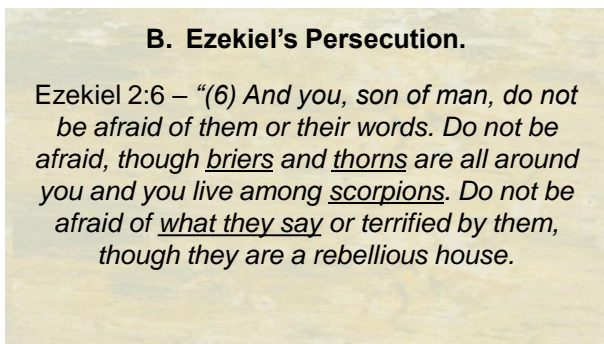
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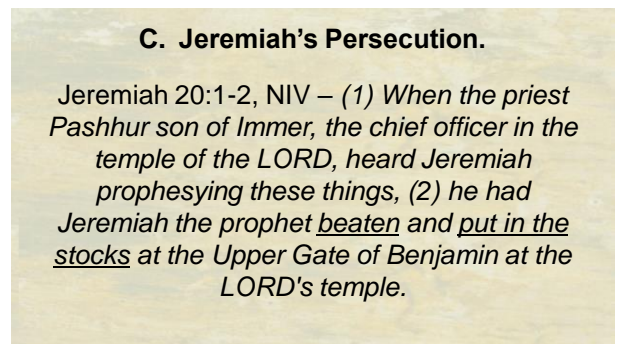
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4



5



6

### C. Jeremiah's Persecution.

Jeremiah 37:15, NIV – (15) *They were angry with Jeremiah and had him beaten and imprisoned in the house of Jonathan the secretary, which they had made into a prison.*

7

### C. Jeremiah's Persecution.

Jeremiah 38:6, NIV – (6) *So they took Jeremiah and put him into the cistern of Malkijah, the king's son, which was in the courtyard of the guard. They lowered Jeremiah by ropes into the cistern; it had no water in it, only mud, and Jeremiah sank down into the mud.*

8

## II. Suffering Is The Standard For The Prophetic Life.

9

### A. Resistance Will Come.

James 5:10, NIV - *"Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord."*

10

### B. There Is No Maturity Without Suffering!

#### 1. We Must Suffer, In Order To Mature.

1 Peter 5:10, NIV – (10) *And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.*

11

### B. There Is No Maturity Without Suffering!

#### 2. Jesus Is Our Example.

1 Peter 2:21, NIV – (21) *To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.*

12

## B. There Is No Maturity Without Suffering!

### 3. Suffering Requires Patience.

People + Pressure + Problems + Patience  
= Suffering.

James 5:10, NIV - *"Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord."*

13

## B. There Is No Maturity Without Suffering!

### 4. Suffering Produces Perseverance.

Romans 5:3, NIV – *(3) Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance.*

14

## C. Suffering Is Of Great Value!

1 Peter 4:1, NIV – *(1) Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin.*

15

## D. Self-Denial And The Right Attitude.

Matthew 16:24, NIV – *(24) Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."*

16

## E. Why Do Many Christians Think That Trials Are Uncommon?

### 1. Don't Think It Strange Concerning Trials.

1 Peter 4:12-14, NIV – *(12) Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. ...*

17

## E. Why Do Many Christians Think That Trials Are Uncommon?

### 1. Don't Think It Strange Concerning Trials.

1 Peter 4:12-14, NIV – *... (13) But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. (14) If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.*

18

### E. Why Do Many Christians Think That Trials Are Uncommon?

#### 1. Don't Think It Strange Concerning Trials.

1 Peter 4:12, AMP - *"Think it not strange concerning the fiery trials which come to test your quality of manhood as though something strange and unusual to you and your position were befalling you."*

19

### E. Why Do Many Christians Think That Trials Are Uncommon?

#### 2. Persecution Isn't Strange, It Is Our Standard!

2 Timothy 3:12, NIV – (12) *"In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."*

20

### E. Why Do Many Christians Think That Trials Are Uncommon?

#### 3. If You Are Suffering For Christ's Sake, REJOICE!

Romans 5:3, NIV – (3) *Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance.*

21

## III. Prophetic People Will Suffer Persecution.

22

### A. The "Pauline Principle" Of Revelation And Suffering.

#### 1. The More Revelation, The More Persecution.

2 Corinthians 12:7, NIV – (7) *To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me.*

23

### A. The "Pauline Principle" Of Revelation And Suffering.

#### 2. Paul's Experiences.

2 Corinthians 12:5, NIV – (5) *... I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses.*

24



## A. The "Pauline Principle" Of Revelation And Suffering.

### 2. Paul's Experiences.

2 Corinthians 12:10, NIV – (10) *That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

25

## A. The "Pauline Principle" Of Revelation And Suffering.

### 2. Paul's Experiences.

Ezekiel 28:24, NIV – (24) *"No longer will the people of Israel have malicious neighbors who are painful briers and sharp thorns. Then they will know that I am the Sovereign LORD."*

26

## A. The "Pauline Principle" Of Revelation And Suffering.

### 2. Paul's Experiences.

2 Corinthians 12:9a, NIV – (9) *But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.*

27

## A. The "Pauline Principle" Of Revelation And Suffering.

### 2. Paul's Experiences.

2 Corinthians 12:9b, NIV – (9) *Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.*

28

## A. The "Pauline Principle" Of Revelation And Suffering.

### 3. Character Development

2 Corinthians 12:12, NIV – (12) *The things that mark an apostle -- signs, wonders and miracles -- were done among you with great perseverance.*

29

## B. The Experience Of Prophets And Apostles.

### 1. Prophets And Apostles Receive Revelation.

Amos 3:7, NIV – (7) *Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.*

30

## B. The Experience Of Prophets And Apostles.

### 1. Prophets And Apostles Receive Revelation.

Ephesians 3:5, NIV – (5) ... *which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets.*

31

## B. The Experience Of Prophets And Apostles.

### 2. Prophets And Apostles Can Expect to Receive Greater Persecution.

Luke 11:49, NIV – (49) *Because of this, God in his wisdom said, I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and others they will persecute.*

32

## B. The Experience Of Prophets And Apostles.

### 3. Guard Your Hearts!

Romans 8:28, NIV – (28) *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

33

## IV. We Must Have God's Grace To Adjust.

34

2 Corinthians 12:9a, NIV – (9) *But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.*

35

2 Corinthians 4:15-17, NIV – (15) *All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. (16) Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. (17) For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.*

36

1 Peter 1:6, NIV – (6) *In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.*

1 Peter 4:13, NIV – (13) *But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.*

37



38

#### **A. Adjust Attitudes.**

Take some time before God, to let Him adjust your attitudes.

#### **B. Daily Receive God's Grace.**

Ask God to help you make a new habit, of daily receiving a fresh impartation, of His grace.

39