

# THE BULWARK

## OVERWHELMED

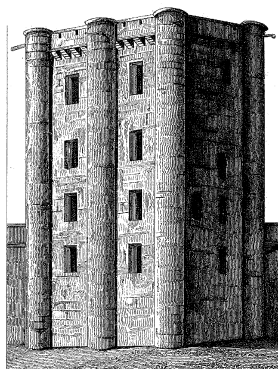
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Winnetka Ave.  
Church Of Christ  
7054 Winnetka Ave.  
Winnetka, CA 91306

(mail to P.O. BOX 2711,  
Winnetka, CA 91386)

818.795.5566

- W. Bruce Evans,  
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- FREE Bible  
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- E-mail To:  
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*“Mark well her bulwarks,  
consider her palaces, that  
you may tell it to the  
generation following”*  
Psalms 48:13

There are times when life rises up and completely overwhelms us. So much so that it seems as if there is no end to the tunnel that has engulfed us. The mournful lament that Job offers in the third chapter of the book that bears his name, is a dire expression of the physical and emotional turmoil he is experiencing. Pain to the degree that he asks, *“Why did I not die at birth”* in verse three. Throughout the book of Job profound questions abound, all seemingly focused on the perceived inequities of life. Notice what Job pointed out in response to Zophar as seen in chapter fourteen. *“Man, who is born of woman, is short-lived and full of turmoil.”* (v. 1) *“For there is hope for a tree, when it is cut down, that it will sprout again, and its shoots will not fail, though its roots grow old in the ground, and its stump dies in the dry soil, at the scent of water it will flourish and put forth sprigs like a plant.”* (vs. 7-9) A ray of hope.

Solomon challenges the individual, *“In the day of prosperity be happy, but in the day of adversity consider God has made the one as well as the other”* (Ecclesiastes 7:14) What can be learned? Connect this with what is seen in Proverbs 24:10, *“If you are slack in the day of distress, your strength is limited.”* The Scriptures are a rich source of example upon example where individuals, with God’s help, were able to find untapped inner strength. *“Consider it all joy my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing*

*that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”* (James 1:2-4)



Paul and his companions faced terrible difficulties in their travels. However, in the first chapter of Second Corinthians, he sought to instill in the brethren in Corinth with a realization of comfort afforded by God. Pointing out that God *“who comforts us in all our affliction so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”* (v 4) At the risk of being overly redundant, isn’t it a tremendous comfort to know the comfort afforded to us by God, which we then use in order to be a source of comfort to another?

We endure so much in this life, with the precious hope of something far and away better that waits. Notice once again the words of Paul in 2Corinthians, this time in the fourth chapter and beginning in verse sixteen and continuing through seventeen. *“Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us its eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison”* (see also James 1:12) Carry with you always what Jesus said as recorded in Matthew 11:28-30. *“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest...”* (wbe)