



Matthew 7:14

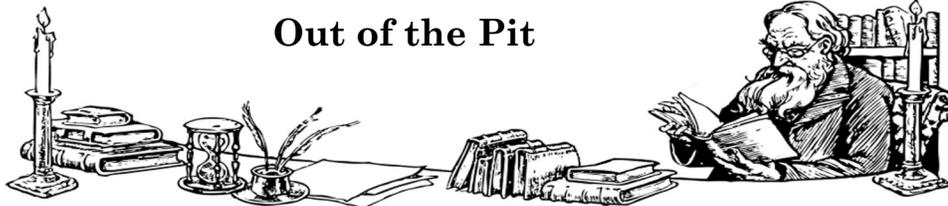
Excellent Things

"Have not I written to thee excellent things..." Proverbs 22:20

*A monthly teaching newsletter of Issue 6 - Sept. 2018
Narrow Way Ministries International*



*"GO YE THEREFORE,
AND TEACH ALL NATIONS"
MATTHEW 28:19*



Out of the Pit

Dear Friends and Family,

I believe with all of my heart that this is a word from the Lord for many of us today out of Zechariah 9. In verses 9-10 of Zechariah 9, it is speaking of the coming of the Lord and having dominion over the earth and then starting in verse 11, it says something very interesting that I want to speak about today:

"As for thee also by the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water. Turn ye to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope; even to day do I declare that I will render double unto thee." (Zechariah 9:11-12)

In the preceding versus, the Lord was talking about what He was going to do with the nations and the world and then picks it up in verse 11 by saying, *"As for thee also..."* This is spoken specifically to the children of Israel and thereby to us, the body of Christ. The *"blood of thy covenant"* is simply the blood that Jesus shed for us on Calvary. It is our eternal covenant with Him and by His shed blood, He is sending forth the prisoners out of the pit!

The Hebrew word for *"pit"* here means *"a dungeon, a well, a pit hole."* It speaks of a dry and empty place where there is simply no way out. Once someone has been placed in it, there is simply no way out apart from someone lifting you up and helping you out. Unless someone helps you out, there is no way out.

Furthermore, this pit spoken of here was a pit, *"wherein is no water."* Water here represents the manifest presence of God. Isn't it interesting that today, many of us find ourselves in pits where no water is. We may find ourselves in a place where we can't seem to bring the Holy Ghost into our personal situations. We are in a pit and someone has to help us out of it.

There is no pit too low, that Jesus won't go

deeper still and help us out of it. That is why He says were, *"I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water."* God is sending forth the prisoners. In the next verse He says, *"Turn ye to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope."* I've ministered on this verse many, many times. The Hebrew word for *"hope"* here literally means *"an attachment or chord."* In other words, hope is something that connects you and your situation with God. If you are in a situation and you need to remind the Lord of His promises, simply pull and yank on that chord. It is a way to call out to Him and remind Him that you are a prisoner waiting for your deliverance.

Now there are many types of prisoners in the Bible. Paul calls himself *"a prisoner of Jesus Christ"* (Philemon 1). We are all prisoners to the Gospel, to our calling, etc. But I am finding the older I get and the more people I come in contact with that most of us are simply *"prisoners of hope."* Many of us have been presented a false Gospel where if we come to Jesus, life from that point will be great and trouble-free. Now living for Jesus is great, but if you've pastored as long as I have, you will come to find out that every single person has issues. Every single person will find themselves at some point in a pit where there is no water or in a situation where they cannot seem to find the glory or presence of God to help them.

There are many notable pits in the Scriptures. In Genesis 37 we find the pit where Joseph found himself after being taken and betrayed by his brothers. Right before that, Joseph had been sent by his father to look for his brothers to check up on them. In Genesis 37:4, it says Joseph's brother *"hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him"* because Joseph had on the coat of many colors that was given to him by their father Jacob. They hated

him for his dreams and his words. This is such a marvelous truth. People will hate you for the dreams you have. People will hate you because you have a special relationship with the father. This coat of many colors speaks of the calling of God upon someone's life and if you have an intimate relationship with God the Father, it will be easily seen by others and you will be hated for it many times by the people closest to you due to jealousy. When people see you getting blessed by God the Father in a double portion measure, wearing a coat of many colors, they will be either insecure or jealous around you, so much so that they will put you in a pit like Jacob's other sons did to Joseph:

"And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stripped Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him; And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it. And they sat down to eat bread..." (Genesis 37:23-25).

Have you ever been betrayed by a close brother or sister? It is like being put into a pit. It is like a death, really. Betrayal hurts, no matter what it is. But Joseph could have kept his mouth shut a little bit more about the dreams he was having. Joseph's dreams consisted of his brothers and father bowing down to him one day. Joseph needed humbling because of the pride and arrogance in his life. But can you imagine being Joseph in this situation?

The first thing they did was strip Joseph of the thing that made him special. They had to take that coat off because that coat reminded them of everything they were not. It reminded them of everything they could be but were not. Next, they imme-

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JESUS IS PRECIOUS!

Excellent Things

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diately put him in a pit where there was no water. This was the first time that Joseph was separated from his father and in a place where there was no water. I don't believe that God ever leaves or forsakes us because that would be contrary to the Word of God (Hebrews 13:5). But in His dealings in our lives, I believe God will step back in situations in order to see our response.

But there are times that we all have to admit when we can't find the presence or glory of God that we've so richly known. We will find ourselves in situations where something seems to be blocking the presence of God. One thing it could be is the sin in our lives. Usually it is not God's fault, but some obstruction or obstacle in our lives that we need to repent of or something that God wants removed. Sometimes there are things that are necessary in our character development that God puts us through as Peter said in 1 Peter 1:6, "if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations."

Have you ever been betrayed? Many times because of our zeal and fervent love for the Lord, others through their distorted perception will believe our motives are evil or self-serving and because of jealousy, betray us where we will find ourselves in a similar pit where there is no water. The truth is, we are who we are by the grace of God. And whatever we are will come out when we have close relationships with others, especially in the body of Christ. And people will condemn and judge each other when they see who others really are. But who we are will come out whether we like it or not or whether others like it or not. And God will use all of this to deal with everybody and watch our response to how we treat our fellow brothers and sisters. In Joseph's case, God was using it to ultimately humble Joseph and change his character to learn to unconditionally love his brothers because one day, he would ultimately save them.

We find a similar situation when describing the people of God in Jeremiah 14:

"The word of the Lord that came to Jeremiah concerning the dearth. Judah mourneth, and the gates thereof languish; they are black unto the ground; and the cry of Jerusalem is gone up. And their nobles have sent their little ones to the waters: they came to the pits, and found no

water, they returned with their vessels empty; they were ashamed and confounded, and covered their heads." (Jeremiah 14:1-3)

Does this describe your situation? You have sought for the water of God, but only found yourself in a pit where there was no water and returned empty, confused, and ashamed? David echoes this in Psalms 63:1, "O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee, in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary." I believe in America today, we are in a dry and thirsty land where no water is. Now we may experience the presence of God in our local church as we come together to worship, but there is no move of God in our country like we have seen it before and like the Bible declares is coming.

So what happens when we find no water? Well, Jeremiah aptly puts that it leaves us empty, ashamed, and confounded. For the children of Israel at that time, they found themselves in this situation because of their sin. So this was a pit of their own doing and even though they had God's promise to get them out, because of their situation, they couldn't seem to find the way to fix the problem and get out.

This reminds me of a pastor we met the other day. He communicated to us how he is dry and wants to quit the ministry. When asked if anybody has ever talked to him about the baptism of the Holy Ghost, he said he has heard "both sides to the argument" but himself doesn't speak in tongues or understand it. He probably represents so many Christians and even pastors today. Pastoring is one of the quickest professions that people quit doing because they ultimately dry up and when they find themselves in a pit where there is no water, they don't know how to get out and it shipwrecks them. But perhaps God allows this so people will get desperate enough to see that there is so much more in God. If there is a time when we need a move of the Holy Ghost, it sure is today in this country.

God does not want his people ashamed or confounded anymore living in a place where there is no water. How many people do you know are confused in their walk with God? They don't know where they are going and can't find any water. In Exodus 15, right after the children of Israel left Egypt and crossed over the Red Sea,



what is the first thing we find them complaining about? We find them complaining that there is no water. Moreover, they respond by blaming Moses. I find this is human nature. Instead of being provoked to seek after God when people find themselves in a dry, empty place, many blame others and especially leadership for their predicament never considering the hand of the Lord or the purposes of God. In our own situations, the provision will be there if we will simply seek and search after God with all our hearts.

As a pastor, I have learned that even Christians with tremendous walks with God, can find themselves in a pit like Jeremiah found himself. Other translations of Zechariah 9:11 read:

"I release your prisoners from their hopeless selves..."

"I am going to deliver you from the deep hole where there is no water..."

Have you ever felt like you were in a deep hole that you couldn't get out of where there is no glory or presence of God? Perhaps you are in a place today where you can't seem to break through and find the presence of God. Maybe it is a sin or a sickness in your life; maybe you have lost a loved one or had some tragedy happen to you and it has put you in a pit of despair and hopelessness.

We are all hoping for something this morning. Well the answer the Lord gives in Zechariah is "Turn ye to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope." The Hebrew word for "turn" here is the same Hebrew word for "repent." It also means "to return."

Today, I want all of us to pull on that rope that connects us to God. If you are in a place that you can't seem to get out by yourself, God wants to help you. Listen to me today. How many of us simply complain about our situations and really never have made a decision to turn to the Lord

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JESUS IS PRECIOUS!

Excellent Things

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and get out of it? The word of the Lord is *"by the blood of thy covenant I have sent forth thy prisoners out of the pit..."*

In Isaiah 42, it says that God's servants will be sent *"to open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house"* (Isaiah 42:7). Glory to God! There is no question about the promises of God getting us out of the prison. The question is whether we will turn and come to the strong hold. We can't do it by ourselves. We simply need to come home and return to the strong hold. The strong hold is the place of God's glory and protection. It is the place of God's provision. It is an armed fortress for us to always be able to come to.

In Jeremiah 38:6, Jeremiah found himself in a pit in a dungeon, *"And in the dungeon there was no water, but mire: so Jeremiah sunk in the mire."* Somehow or another, we must yank on that rope of hope. We are eternally attached to Jesus. That is our hope. We can yank on that rope and we can expect Him to bring us out. I don't care if you have been prayed for a thousand times, you can expect Him to bring you out because I believe this is the word of the Lord to all of us. I have been yanking on this rope more than ever since being up here in Asheville, NC. But the provision of the Lord is sure. Our deliverance is sure because of the blood covenant we have with Jesus. As we yank on this rope, may God give you His peace, provision, protection, and presence as His water flows into your life and situation to bring

you out.

There is no shame being in a pit. Perhaps you have been in a season where you have had a hard time finding the presence of God. If any of what I wrote here describes you today, let me bringing this word to you today be a lifeline for you that will pull you out of the pit and bring you into the glorious liberty of God's presence. I am a nobody, but God gave me this word to share with you today. II Chronicles 20:20 says, *"Believe in the Lord you God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper."* We have to believe in the proceeding word that God gives to men and women and let it do its work. Paul said in I Thessalonians 2:13, *"For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of me, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."* I believe, as you respond to the word of God today, it will effectually pull you out of the pit. All of us are prisoners of hope. There is no shame in that. The shame comes when God sends you His deliverance and we do nothing about it.

For those reading this today, I want you to pray with me, tug on that rope, and let God know that you still believe His promises for your life:

"Heavenly Father, you feel the tug now from your precious people. Send them now their deliverance in their captivity. Bring them out of the pits that either the enemy has placed them in, they have caused on their own, You have allowed

them to be put in, or just life in generally has put them in. Bring the water of the Holy Ghost to their situation where previously there was no water. Fill every thirsty soul. Help those that you dying for thirst, those that are desperate, sorrowful, depressed, or destitute. I pray for them now. Let this moment be a conduit of the power and presence of God coming into their lives right now! I am asking You now to fall upon every precious reader that is praying with me. Bring them out of the miry clay. Bring them out of that horrible pit into the glorious liberty of Your presence! I echo David's prayer in Psalms 63, *"O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee, in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; To see they power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary."* Lord, release the power and glory to these people right now as they have seen it before in the sanctuary and at other times in their lives. Release them to receive from You today! I know Jesus You love every single person and will be faithful to the blood of Your covenant. You will ever be mindful of Your covenant. You are the God that keepeth covenant and mercy to a thousand generations, so Father, in Jesus' name, I ask you now for this and agree with them in their own personal situation. And you said in Matthew 18:19, *"That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven."* So I agree with my brother and sister right now, in Jesus' name. Amen!"

Jesus is Precious, Brother Sam

Greetings from Jacksonville, FL

As you all well know, my wife and I began pastoring the church in Jacksonville Florida after papa Sam moved to Asheville to fulfill his next phase of ministry of being an apostle. Since then, Jesus has been so faithful to the people here in Jacksonville. There is such a great sense of unity, purpose and hunger for the things of God. Since papa Sam has left Jacksonville, he has been able to come back and visit us here several times, not as the pastor anymore, but as the apostle of this great work that started twenty years prior.

His last visit was a few weeks ago in August. He brought forth two timely words for our

congregation. It is such a joy to see our papa be used of God as the apostle of the work here. We always come away with our time with him encouraged, strengthened, confirmed and full of the glory of God as we move forward as a congregation into all the things God has called us to. One thing papa encouraged us with is for us to begin letting the Lord use us to write worship music. Papa Sam himself had mentioned that the Lord is beginning to move in his life again in respect to writing new worship choruses. As a result, the congregation was able to purchase him a new recording system to have in Asheville where our papa can begin again to record the music the Lord is giving to him.

This past week, Dora and I and our kids had even been able to travel to Asheville

to visit our papa. It was a refreshing time. He was able to pray for us as our church in Jacksonville is beginning our Bible School. As papa prayed, the glory fell on us and strengthened us for the work Jesus has called us to. What a joy it is to be part of a family and have a covering for all we put our hands to. Glory to God!

Pastors Martin & Dora Jensen



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New Website!

NWWorship.com

Narrow Way Ministries is very excited to announce we just launched a new website called NWWorship.com where all of Brother Sam's worship music as well as live worship is available for digital download to help raise money for the ministry. This website was practically made over night by a precious sister in the Lord, Donna Payton from Tennessee. She sure was an answer to prayer and we are so grateful the Lord sent her our way. Thank you Donna!!

It all started a month or so after we moved to Asheville, NC. We got a call from a sister asking if she could buy some of Brother Sam's music because she couldn't find it anywhere online. Apparently, she had visited Narrow Way Jacksonville years ago through Jim and Rene Acevedo. Anyway, to make a long story short, she found us again and was wanting some of Brother Sam's worship music because according to her, "there's nothing like this out there." Her next thought was if we can't find his music online, then she will make his music available online. She bought the domain NWWorship.com and started right away working with us to make this website happen!

Getting a chance to work with Donna and get to know her better has been such a blessing. One of the things that was sparked in my own heart after talking to her about the website was remembering years ago when the glory of God arrested me in my own life. I know many of you know my story, but many years ago right after I got saved, my brother sent me some music by Brother Sam while I was living in Boston, MA. At that point, I don't think I had ever met Brother Sam. But I remember listening



to an old tape with him singing one of his worship choruses called "Come Near" while driving around in Boston. I remember having to turn off the side of the road and I began to write down the words to the song. The first line of that song is "come near, the angel said to me, and take this little book. This book of living words..."

It was during that time that God's glory really visited me for the first time in my life where I forever fell in love with the presence of God, realizing from that moment forward, the purpose and future for my life was wrapped up in the glory. I remember saying to myself (even though I was already saved), "Jesus, I can't believe it. You really are real." I know that sounds kind of silly because I had always believed in God in some form or fashion and never denied His existence, but the Lord used Brother Sam that day through his music to bring His calling into my life.

So when Donna was sharing her own testimony with me it brought back how Jesus visited me through Brother Sam's music and ministry. The glory of God arrested me that day back in Boston, MA while driving around and I have never looked back.

We sure need in this country a fresh move of the Holy Ghost. There is nothing special about me or my situation. The Lord simply used Brother Sam to bring the presence and Glory of God into my life. This is what we need to be bringing to people. This is our answer. God in these last days is preparing a people to shine as lights, having the Word of God on their lips, bringing the glory of God wherever they go. If the world (and for many other Christians for that matter) can only experience the presence of God like we have fallen in love with, then all would change.

The world doesn't need just another religious church popping up. It needs the moving of the Holy Ghost like never before. Jesus has been and will always be the answer for the world.

Perhaps the Lord will use this humble website to spear head our efforts to bring the presence of God to people we couldn't otherwise reach to help open effectual doors of ministry for not only Brother Sam but for all the precious disciples God has been preparing all these years. Even since the website has been made, Donna has spoken with radio stations in Tennessee who showed interest in having Brother Sam come on their radio shows and play some of his music.

Pray Jesus will use this website to further the Kingdom of God. Please check it out. We will be adding new music as well as live worship on there that I know will bless you.

All my love,
Brother Andrew

Thank you!

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you, and Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your continued support. The warfare here in Asheville, NC has been great, but we are starting to break through as God's presence is raining down on us in a greater way. Thank you for your prayers and standing with us in all things. Brother Sam and Katie could not do this without you.

For your convenience, here again is our contact information and the 3 different ways to give. Please stay in touch and let us know if there is anything we can do for you. If you ever desire for Brother Sam to come and visit your area, let us know as well. Receive all our love from Asheville, NC:

- 1) Call me, Andrew Jensen, at 904-514-0409 to give using your debit or credit card
- 2) Mail a check payable to "Narrow Way Ministries International" and mail it to:
Narrow Way Ministries International, 825 C Merrimon Ave, PMB #300, Asheville, NC 28804
- 3) Go online to pay via PayPal with your debit/credit card at: <http://www.nwmin.org/donate>

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