

Narrow is the Way

Matthew 7:13-14 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: ¹⁴ Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

- **Enter** (*eiserchomai*) To come, to go...implying motion to or toward any person or place, or in any direction.
 - It has many general usages; but specific usages include the requirements for entering into the Kingdom; and conversely, being admonished by Jesus to watch and pray so as not to enter into temptation.
- **Straight** (*stenos*) narrow from obstacles standing close about, to be squeezed or pressed. We derive our word stenography...meaning meticulous attention to detail, insistence upon meticulous craftsmanship of lines, and the preservation of written expression. It is aligned with the gateway of the *histemi*.
 - From *histemi* – established power base. Our strategic positioning and faithfulness therein as well as to the places we are apostolically sent.
- **Wide** (*platys*) to spread out, flat; root word means to mold, shape or fabricate. Figuratively, to invent in opposition to the truth.
- **Broad** (*eurychoros*) spacious... from *chasma*: a chasm or gaping opening (der. of hand)
- **Narrow** (*thlibo*) to crowd; press hard upon, as grapes. From *tribo*, a rut or worn path...connection to the male goat. (When a new thing comes, we must go through the narrow places to see victory. This speaks of arriving at a point where we are being challenged, and we begin pressing through for the breakthrough.)
 - **Tribulation** (*thlipsis*) from *thlibo*: pressure; affliction; a restriction around us; a restriction around us; birthing; a narrowing place; pressing in. It is very similar to travail. When God has called us to something, we have to do whatever is necessary to push ourselves to do and be it. This is what we do for God to accomplish the things that are not seen. Tribulation works patience. We have to remain planted where God has assigned us to stand. Patience works our willingness to stand and abide where we have been assigned.
 - This reminded me of the cleft of the rock where God placed Moses as His glory passed by. This was the *tsuwr* rock, which speaks of timing within the overall plan of God. This placement is unyielding and unchanging in its eternal purpose. It is *kairos* positioning for the progressive unveiling of what God is working in our midst. When Moses asked to see the glory, God instructed him to, first, position himself on the rock, and then as God's glory passed by, He would place him in the cleft, or narrow place, and cover him with His hand. After the glory passed by, God removed His hand and Moses was able to see His back parts. God also told Moses that He would not see His face in conjunction with the glory. This discussion reveals how we will partner with God in His glory in the gap. When God begins to do a thing with His glory, we will not *ra'a* His face, or be in a position to give Him counsel regarding what He is doing. Our place is in the gap, partnering with His hand. We will not be able to see the glory or know what God is doing, This is a

walk of faith. When He is done, we will be able to see what He has done. To partner with the glory, we have to remain in the gap. This is a constricted place that precedes the victory. It is the stringent, exact and narrow way that few find. We must not question or judge anything before its appointed time. No matter how difficult the placement or how narrow it looks in the big picture of His promise, we must trust Him and rest in His timing and plan.

- **Few** (*oligos*) to be small in extent, degree or valuation. Used to describe something said succinctly and to the point. God has called us to partner with Him in bringing the new, seemingly small thing into fruition. It may seem small in the eyes of man, but God will use it to bring restoration. It is a vital element that brings life. Many are called, but few chosen. The few are vital and able to bring the move of God to see His purpose come to life. We cannot despise the chastening of the Lord, which makes us *oligos* sons. This entails the price we must pay to become *oligos*.

Our Comfort in the Narrow Way

2 Corinthians 1:3-7 Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; ⁴ Who comforteth us in all our tribulation (*thlipsis*), that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble [*thlipsis*], by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. ⁵ For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ. ⁶ And whether we be **afflicted**, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation. ⁷ And our hope of you is stedfast [root: *basis*] knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation.

- **Comfort/ comforted/consolation** – all derivatives of the same: *paraklesis/parakaleo* meaning to exhort to the work of the Spirit of Truth. The Spirit of Truth calls us near to God and His purpose and plan. This is our eternal positioning. We call others alongside to take their place in the midst of what the Spirit of Truth is revealing and doing.
- **Sufferings/suffer** – all derivatives of the same: *pathema/pathos/pashco* meaning hardship, emotion or influence.
- **Stedfast** – place of standing; where the foot is established.

2 Corinthians 7:5-7 For, when we were come into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were **troubled** on every side; without were fightings, within were fears [*phobos*]. ⁶ Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus;

- **Fightings** (*mache*) battle, dispute, controversy.
- **Cast down** (*tapeinos*) depressed, humble.

Our Treasure in the Narrow Way

2 Corinthians 4:7-8, 10¹² But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency [*hyperbole*] of the power [*dunamis*] may be of God, and not of us. ⁸ We are **troubled** on every

side, yet not distressed [*stenochoreo*]... ¹⁰ Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

- **Treasure** (*thesauros*) describing a place in the heavens where God has ordained exactly what is to transpire in the days ahead. Also noted as a place with supply, currency, wisdom and understanding of the *tithemi*. This supply is reserved for the sons of God.
- **Excellency** – to throw beyond the usual mark; surpass, exceed, beyond measure
- **Distressed** – to hem in closely. *Stenos/choreo*

Our Keimai in the Narrow Way

1 Thessalonians 3:2-4 And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith: ³ That no man should be moved by these afflictions [*thlipsis*]: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto. ⁴ For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer **tribulation**; even as it came to pass, and ye know.

- **Establish** (*sterizo*) to set fast or turn resolutely in a certain direction; a return to purpose.
- **Appointed** (*keimai*) to lie outstretched or to be positioned for a cause. It is the commissioning of a leader or friend of God in a location, or the position of strategic placement itself. From root *tithemi*. When we accept our placement, God will reveal what He has placed within us (*tithemi*), then we are able to function in our *histemi*.

Patience and Faith in the Narrow Way

2 Thessalonians 1:4-6 So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience [*hupomone*] and faith in all your persecutions [*diogmos*] and tribulations [*thlipsis*] that ye endure: ⁵ Which is a manifest token [evidence] of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer: ⁶ Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation [*thlipsis*] to them that **trouble** you;

- **Glorify** (*kauchaomai*) From *auchen* (the neck where we have to submit ourselves) and *euchomai* (revelatory prayer/boasting).
- **Persecutions** – to make to run or put to flight
- **Endure** (*anecho*) to hold or put up with the *echo*, to be with the echo. When the Lord speaks to us, the *echo* must continue to reverberate within us. We have to embrace every way that the Lord speaks to us, taking every word and allowing it to penetrate and break through in our hearts again and again; always alive, always effective to bring change and a development of our spirits, and to be strengthened and instructed in our relationship.
- **Worthy** (*kataxioo*) deserving and suitable. A person who has embraced the responsibility of ministry that God has ordained for them, and who is will to bear the burden and weight of it.

Tribulation (*thlipsis*)

Matthew 13:20-21 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; ²¹ Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when **tribulation** or persecution ariseth [*ginomai*] because of the word, by and by he is offended.

- **Arise** (*ginomai*) to cause to be, a fulfillment of meaning, identity. It marks the inception of a segment of a new beginning and is the essence of what God wants to accomplish.

Acts 14:21-23 And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, ²² Confirming [*episterizo*] the souls of the disciples, and exhorting [*parakaleo*] them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much **tribulation** enter into the kingdom of God. ²³ And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended [*paratithemi*] them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

Romans 5:1-5 Therefore being justified [root: to show] by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: ² By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand [*histemi*], and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ And not only so, but we glory in **tribulations** also: knowing that **tribulation** worketh patience [*hupomone*]; ⁴ And patience, experience; and experience, hope: ⁵ And hope [*elpis*] maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

- **Hope** – the root of faith imparted by *El*. It is the anchor of our soul and the framework through which God moves in faith. We must never lose hope as we wait for the fulfillment of promise.
- Vision – faith – peace
- Faith – grace – standing in *histemi*
- Rejoice (revelatory boasting) – hope – glory
- Patience – experience – hope
- Hope – no shame – *agape*
- Glory (revelatory boasting) in tribulations – patience/experience/hope – *agape*

Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall **tribulation**, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Romans 12:12-13 Rejoicing in hope; patient in **tribulation**; continuing instant [*proskartereo*] in prayer [*proseuche*]; ¹³ Distributing [*koinoneo*] to the necessity [requirements; needs] of saints; given to hospitality.

- **Instant** (*proskartereo*) from *kratos*. Persistence and perseverance in proactively attending to that which is issued forth from the Throne.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light **affliction**, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; ¹⁸ While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 6:3-4 Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed: ⁴ But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in **afflictions**, in necessities, in distresses...

2 Corinthians 7:4 Great is my boldness of speech toward you, great is my glorying of you: I am filled with comfort, I am exceeding joyful in all our **tribulation**.

Ephesians 3:9-14 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: ¹⁰ To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, ¹¹ According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: ¹² In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him. ¹³ Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my **tribulations** for you, which is your glory. ¹⁴ For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...

Philippians 4:12-14 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. ¹³ I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth [*endunamis*] me. ¹⁴ Notwithstanding ye have well [*kalos*] done, that ye did communicate with [*sygkoinoneo*] my **affliction**.

1 Thessalonians 1:6-7 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much **affliction**, with joy of the Holy Ghost: ⁷ So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. ⁸ For from you sounded out [*ek echeo*] the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

Hebrews 10:32-33, 36 But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured [*hupomeno*] a great fight of afflictions; ³³ Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock [*theatron*] both by reproaches and **afflictions**; and partly, whilst ye became companions [*koinonos*] of them that were so used. ...³⁶ For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.