

**TITLE: DESTROYING THE STRONGHOLDS**

**TEXT: PSALM 26:2 – NEW KING JAMES VERSION**

**\*\*\*PSALM 26:2 – NEW KING JAMES VERSION\*\*\***

**EXAMINE ME, O LORD, AND PROVE ME; TRY MY MIND AND MY HEART.**

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT GOD HAS IN STORE FOR YOU, JUST ASK HIM TO DO AN EXAMINATION OF YOU  
AND BE LIKE HABAKKUK WHO SET HIMSELF UP ON THE RAMPART TO SEE WHAT GOD WOULD SAY TO HIM WHEN HE WAS CORRECTED

**\*\*\*WHEN BISHOP BRONNER WAS WITH US, HE SAID A GOOD QUESTION THAT ALL OF US NEED TO ASK OURSELVES IS “HOW DO I WANT TO BE REMEMBERED”**

**\*NEHEMIAH WAS A DOOR KEEPER IN THE KING’S HOUSE\***

- YET GOD HAD A BIGGER PLAN FOR HIM AND HAD HIM REBUILD THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM

**<<<JOSEPH WAS AN EXILE FROM ISRAEL>>>**

- YET BECAUSE HE WAS DEDICATED TO GOD WITH A MIND AND HEART TOWARD HIM, *HE WAS PROMOTED TO BECOME PRINCE OF EGYPT*
- DAVID WAS A RUDDY SHEPHERD BOY OUTBACK TENDING SHEEP AND THE LORD EXAMINED HIM AND HIS LIFE AND SAID ***“I HAVE FOUND DAVID, THE SON OF JESSE, A MAN AFTER MY OWN HEART, WHICH SHALL FULFILL ALL MY WILL”*** – ACTS 13:22

**\*\*\*PLEASE UNDERSTAND....WHERE WE ARE GOING WE HAVE TO TRAIN FOR IT**

- WE HAVE TO BE AS I MINISTERED WEEKS AGO ***“ENLARGED WITH AUTHORITY TO HANDLE IT”***

**\*\*\*KING DAVID TRAINED BEFORE HE REIGNED**

**\*\*\*HE WAS ANOINTED WITH OIL**

—————▶ HOWEVER; FOR **15** YEARS AFTER THAT HE HAD TO RUN FOR HIS LIFE

—————▶ THERE WERE **21** ATTEMPTS TO KILL HIM

- ONE FINDS SAUL IN THE NEW TESTAMENT WHO WAS TORMENTOR OF CHRISTIANS

- AND THEN HE HAD A DAMASCUS ROAD EXPERIENCE, AND HIS LIFE WAS TRANSFORMED, AND HE WAS GIVEN A NEW NAME

<<<THAT NAME IS PAUL>>>

- PAUL WROTE APPROXIMATELY TWO THIRDS **(2/3)** OF THE NEW TESTAMENT BEARING WITNESS TO HIS PERSONAL JOURNEY
- MOST PEOPLE THINK HE SAT OFF IMMEDIATELY ON HIS GREAT JOURNEY, **BUT THAT'S NOT TRUE**
- FOR THREE YEARS PAUL STUDIED IN THE CITY OF PETRA
- GOD PUT HIM IN A RIGOROUS SCHOOL OF THE ROCK
- THAT'S WHERE HE LEARNED THE LESSONS HE NEEDED FOR HIS JOURNEY
- THAT'S WHY PAUL WROTE IN **2 CORINTHIANS 13:5** TO THE BELIEVERS AT CORINTH "**EXAMINE YOURSELF, WHETHER YE BE IN THE FAITH, PROVE YOUR OWN SELVES**"

\*\*\*WE ARE LOCATED IN LITHONIA, THE LATIN PREFIX **LITHOS** ALSO MEANS **ROCK**

- GOD HAS PLACED US ON THIS ROCK TO **TRAIN, TO PREPARE, TO DO SOMETHING GREATER THAN YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE**

—————> MANY OF YOU SHOULD ASK WHY DID GOD SEND ME TO THIS CITY..... *FOR MANY OF YOU RELOCATED FROM AROUND THE WORLD TO COME AND SIT AT MY FEET*

—————> OTHERS NEED TO ASK *WHY DID THE LORD ALLOW THIS PERSON TO COME INTO MY LIFE*

\*\*\*GOD PREORDAINS OR SETS UP WHAT WE SEE OR HEAR TO PREPARE US FOR SERVICE

\*\*\*IT IS FOR THE EQUIPPING OF THE SAINTS

**PLEASE NOTE, GOD WILL CALL YOU, THEN HE WILL PREPARE YOU, AND THEN HE WILL COMMISSION YOU OR SEND YOU OUT.**

- PLEASE DON'T CONFUSE YOUR CALL WITH YOUR COMMISSION
- YOU MUST BE EXAMINED AND PROVEN BEFORE YOU ARE SENT

- WE HAVE TO GET A NEW VIEW..... *AND GETTING THAT NEW VIEW GOD ASK US OR INVITES US TO TAKE A LOOK AT OURSELVES*
- IN I CORINTHIANS 11:28, BEFORE TAKING OF THE LORD’S SUPPER, YOU WILL FIND THESE WORDS “*BUT LET A MAN EXAMINE HIMSELF, AND SO LET HIM EAT OF THAT BREAD AND DRINK OF THAT CUP*”

—————▶ ONE MUST KNOW THAT THE PENALTY OF IGNORANCE IS VERY EXPENSIVE

**\*I CORINTHIANS 11:29-30 – NEW KING JAMES VERSION\***

**29) FOR HE WHO EATS AND DRINKS IN AN UNWORTHY MANNER EATS AND DRINKS JUDGMENT TO HIMSELF, NOT DISCERNING THE LORD’S BODY.**

**30) FOR THIS REASON MANY ARE WEAK AND SICK AMONG YOU, AND MANY SLEEP.**

- THE FIRST THING THAT WE NEED TO DEAL WITH TODAY ARE OUR STRONGHOLDS
- GOD WANTS US TO TAKE CHARGE OF THAT SITUATION IN OUR LIFE
- STRONGHOLDS ARE NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN USE MATTHEW 18:18 ON....

**\*\*\*MATTHEW 18:18 – NEW KING JAMES VERSION\*\*\***

**“ASSUREDLY, I SAY TO YOU, WHATEVER YOU BIND ON EARTH WILL BE BOUND IN HEAVEN, AND WHATEVER YOU LOOSE ON EARTH WILL BE LOOSED IN HEAVEN.**

<<<BECAUSE YOU HAVE MORE ISSUES INVOLVED>>>

- MANY OF US DIDN’T KNOW THAT AFTER DAVID KILLED GOLIATH HE DID NOT REALIZE THAT THE GIANT HAD FOUR OTHER BROTHERS
- AND IT TOOK HIM 40 YEARS TO DESTROY THEM
- MANY OF YOU HAVE HEARD THE EXPRESSION, *WHEN YOU LAY DOWN WITH DOGS, YOU GET UP WITH FLEES*
- JUST BECAUSE YOU SEPARATED YOURSELF FROM THE DOG, DOESN’T MEAN YOU ARE FREE OF FLEES
- YOU CAN SAY I BIND THE STRONGHOLD, *YET YOU’RE LIKELY TO CARRY THE PROBLEM*

\*\*\*\*YOU NEVER SEE JESUS BINDING AN EVIL SPIRIT OR DEMON, HE REBUKED THEM OR TOLD THEM TO LEAVE

\*\*\*\*I KNOW YOU ARE SAYING WHAT IS A STRONG HOLD

{ **A STRONG HOLD IS A FORTRESS OF WRONG THOUGHTS THAT ARE FORMED IN OUR MIND AND AFFECTS OUR LIVES** }

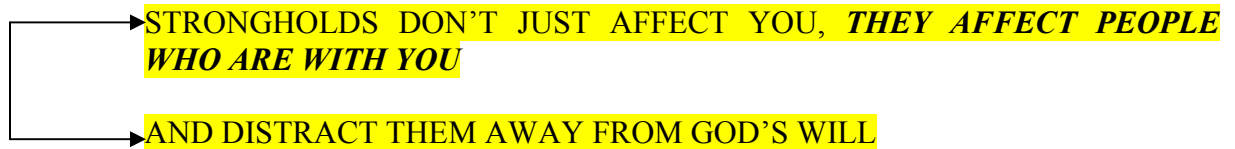
- IT GIVES THE ENEMY A PROTECTED PLACE OF INFLUENCE
  - YOU WILL NOT FIND STRONGHOLDS IN HEAVEN
  - YOU WILL FIND THEM IN YOUR MIND
  - AND THEY MUST BE PULLED DOWN

- EVERY TEMPTATION IS FIRST PRESENTED TO YOUR THOUGHT LIFE

\*\*\*“EVE LOOKED AT THE TREE AND SAID THAT IT WAS GOOD”

\*\*\*IN HER MIND, SHE WAS ATTRACTED TO SOMETHING THAT DISTRACTED HER AWAY FROM GOD’S WILL

- A YEAR AGO I TAUGHT FROM THAT PASSAGE AND ASK **“WHAT DID EVE EAT AND THEY ANSWER WAS A THOUGHT”**
- AND THE THOUGHT BECAME A STRONGHOLD AND AFFECTED ADAM WHO WAS WITH HER



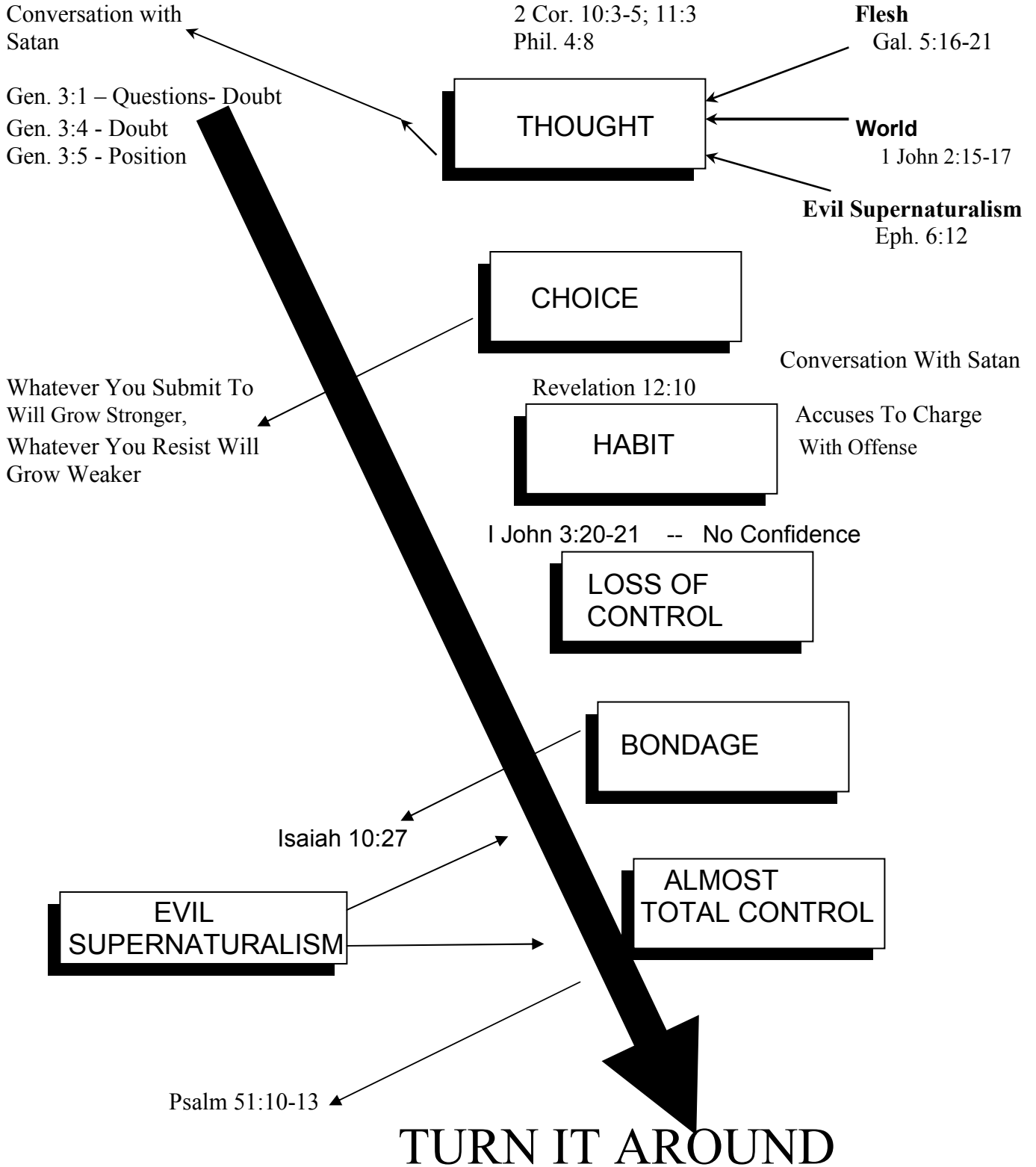
<<<WHERE IS THE BATTLE FOUGHT>>>

<<<<IT IS BETWEEN YOUR EARS, IN YOUR MIND>>>>

——→ A STRONG HOLD OVER YOUR LIFE IS ESTABLISHED BY A PROGRESSION OF EVENTS

# The Continuum Of Sin

("an uninterrupted ordered sequence" – Webster)



<<<INTO CAPTIVITY>>>

**\*\*II CORINTHIANS 10:3-6 – NEW KING JAMES VERSION\*\***

3) FOR THOUGH WE WALK IN THE FLESH, WE DO NOT WAR ACCORDING TO THE FLESH.

4) FOR THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE *ARE* NOT CARNAL BUT MIGHTY IN GOD FOR PULLING DOWN STRONGHOLDS,

5) CASTING DOWN ARGUMENTS AND EVERY HIGH THING THAT EXALTS ITSELF AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, BRINGING EVERY THOUGHT INTO CAPTIVITY TO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST,

6) AND BEING READY TO PUNISH ALL DISOBEDIENCE WHEN YOUR OBEDIENCE IS FULFILLED.

- THERE IS A WAR GOING ON AND YOU NEED TO BE PREPARED
- PART OF YOUR EQUIPMENT OR ARMOR IS PUTTING THE HELMET OF SALVATION - *EPHESIANS 6:17*
- HE PLACES SOMETHING OVER YOUR HEAD TO GUARD AND PRESERVE YOUR MIND

\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE: OUR SPIRIT MAY BE BORN AGAIN, ***BUT OUR THOUGHTS MUST BE CONSTANTLY REFRESHED***

\*\*\*PAUL TELLS US IN EPHESIANS 4:23, ***BE RENEWED IN THE SPIRIT OF YOUR MIND***  
**<<<REPLACE IT>>>**

- TO GET VICTORY OVER STRONGHOLDS, *YOU MUST DESTROY THE OLD AND REPLACE IT WITH SOMETHING NEW*
- IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO STOP DRINKING, YOU MUST FIND A REPLACEMENT, THAT'S ALSO THE CASE WITH DRUGS

\*\*\*THAT EVIL SPIRIT THAT FIRST INFLUENCED YOU WILL ATTEMPT TO COME BACK AGAIN UNLESS YOU REPLACE THE HABIT WITH A BEHAVIOR THAT IS POSITIVE

- EVERY EMPTY SPACE IN YOU IS GOING TO BE FILLED WITH SOMETHING

\*\*\*IN EPHESIANS 4:27, ***NEVER GIVE PLACE TO THE DEVIL***

- IF YOU GIVE THE DEVIL AN INCH, HE WILL TAKE A MILE
- YOU CAN'T CONTROL THE THOUGHTS THAT COME TO YOU, BUT YOU DO HAVE THE POWER TO DECIDE WHICH ONES WILL STAY

**\*\*THAT'S WHY PAUL SPEAKS TO US FROM ROMANS 12:2\*\***

**\*\*\*ROMANS 12:2 – NEW KING JAMES VERSION\*\*\***

AND DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, THAT YOU MAY PROVE WHAT IS THAT GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT WILL OF GOD.

**<<<SATAN'S PLOT>>>**

- SATAN WANTS TO LOCK US INTO AN ADDICTIVE HABITUAL BEHAVIOR

<<<WHICH THEN HOLDS US HOSTAGE>>>

**\*\*\*YOU CAN BE SAVED, SANCTIFIED, FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST, CARRYING YOUR OIL AND YOUR BIBLE AND STILL DEALING WITH STRONGHOLDS**

- MOST PEOPLE LIKE THAT WILL NEVER OMIT THAT THEY HAVE A PROBLEM
- EVERY FORTRESS OF SATAN OR THE DEVIL IS SET UP THROUGH DECEPTION

**\*\*\*JOHN 8:44 - NEW KING JAMES VERSION\*\*\***

YOU ARE OF *YOUR* FATHER THE DEVIL, AND THE DESIRES OF YOUR FATHER YOU WANT TO DO. HE WAS A MURDERER FROM THE BEGINNING, AND DOES NOT STAND IN THE TRUTH, BECAUSE THERE IS NO TRUTH IN HIM. WHEN HE SPEAKS A LIE, HE SPEAKS FROM HIS OWN *RESOURCES*, FOR HE IS A LIAR AND THE FATHER OF IT.

—————→ SATAN DOES NOT HAVE REAL POWER, HE DOES HAVE INFLUENCE

—————→ HE LIKES TO PULL US DOWN THE PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE

- THERE WAS A MAN WHO WAS LAME FOR **38** YEARS AT THE POOL OF BETHESDA WAITING ON THE WATER TO BE TROUBLE

**\*\*\*JOHN 5:4 – NEW KING JAMES VERSION\*\*\***

FOR AN ANGEL WENT DOWN AT A CERTAIN TIME INTO THE POOL AND STIRRED UP THE WATER; THEN WHOEVER STEPPED IN FIRST, AFTER THE STIRRING OF THE WATER, WAS MADE WELL OF WHATEVER DISEASE HE HAD.

- JESUS SAW THE MAN LYING THERE AND KNEW HIS CONDITION A LONG TIME AND SAID TO HIM ***“DO YOU WANT TO MADE WELL”***
- HE RESPONDED ***“SIR, I HAVE NO MAN TO PUT ME IN THE POOL WHEN THE WATER IS STIRRED UP; BUT WHILE I AM COMING, ANOTHER STEPS IN BEFORE ME”***
- HIS USING EXCUSES PROLONGED HIS DELIVERANCE AND JESUS JUST TOLD HIM TO RISE, TAKE UP YOUR BED AND WALK AND THE BIBLE SAYS IMMEDIATELY THE MAN WAS HEALED

<<<ALL OF US HAVE A GREAT FUTURE IN GOD>>>

**\*\*\*JEREMIAH 29: 11 – NEW KING JAMES VERSION\*\*\***

FOR I KNOW THE THOUGHTS THAT I THINK TOWARD YOU, SAYS THE LORD, THOUGHTS OF PEACE AND NOT OF EVIL, TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE AND A HOPE.

\*\*\*ASK YOURSELF WHAT EXCUSE IN DEALING WITH YOUR STRONGHOLD IS HOLDING YOU BACK

- IF YOU NEED TO GO ON A DIET, DO NOT USE THE EXCUSE TO PEOPLE SAYING, “MY FAMILY IS BIG BONED, THAT’S JUST A WEAK JUSTIFICATION”



- CLEAR YOUR MIND OF EVERYTHING THAT RESTRICTS YOUR GROWTH, *STOP TELLING YOURSELF THIS IS ALL I CAN HANDLE*

**FOR IF NOT...YOU WILL BE TRAPPED IN THE WEB**

- YOU CAN TRY TO CHANGE YOUR BEHAVIOR, *BUT IT WILL NOT STAND LONG WITHOUT TRYING TO CORRECT THE STRONGHOLD*

\*\*\*IT’S LIKE REACHING UP AND REMOVING THE SPIDER WEB WITH A BROOM

\*\*\*IT ONLY CORRECTS THE PROBLEM FOR A MOMENT

\*\*\*YOU ALSO HAVE TO REMOVE THE SPIDER, OR HE WILL COME AGAIN AND SPIN THE WEB

- NO MATTER WHERE YOU WILL LIVE, YOU WILL FIND SPIDERS
- THEY ARE IN TH HOMES OF BOTH THE POOR AND THE RICH

**\*\*\*PROVERBS 30:28 – NEW KING JAMES VERSION\*\*\***

THE SPIDER SKILLFULLY GRASPS WITH ITS HANDS, AND IT IS IN KINGS’ PALACES.

\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE, IT IS NO ACCIDENT THAT THE INTERNET IS CALLED THE “WORLD WIDE WEB”

\*\*\*IT HAS CAUGHT MILLIONS INTO PORNOGRAPHY, GAMBLING AND OTHER OBSESSIONS

**<<<HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS>>**

- 1) RECOGNIZE THAT STRONGHOLDS RESIDE IN YOUR MIND
- 2) TAKE HEED OF WRONG THINKING THAT PRODUCES WRONG BEHAVIOR
- 3) PROTECT YOURSELF WITH THE HELMET OF SALVATION
- 4) REPLACE NEGATIVE HABITS WITH SOMETHING POSITIVE
- 5) AND KNOW THAT YOU CAN'T JUST PRAY DOWN A STRONGHOLD, YOU MUST MAKE A CHOICE TO DESTROY IT

**<<<<FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD...>>>>**