













scriptural paradoxes

- Comfort is first used in scripture to describe Noah.
- Esau was comforted by his thoughts of vengeance.
- Comfort seems more elusive when you need it the most.
- We are promised whatever we ask in prayer; but answers are different.
- An encamping angel should deliver you; but fiery trials chasten you.

How was Noah a comfort?!

How can it be said that Noah was a comfort?

Noah's name means "rest." Lamech named him, saying: "This one will comfort us concerning our work and the toil of our hands, because of the ground which the Lord has cursed." (Gen 5:29 NKJV)

14 It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; 15 and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16 The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant" Genesis 9:14-16 (NKJV)

vengeance or vindication

How is there any comfort in vengeance?

42 "And the words of Esau her older son were told to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son, and said to him, "Surely your brother **Esau** comforts himself concerning you by intending to kill you."

Genesis 27:42 (NKJV)

POINT: In righteousness *justice* provides comfort.

1 "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted...2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;"

When comfort is needed, but not found.

When sorrow overwhelms comfort: God understands.

"When I would comfort myself against sorrow, **my heart is faint within me**."

Jeremiah 8:18 KJV

"I cry aloud to God, and He will hear me. I sought the Lord in my day of trouble. ... I refused to be comforted."

Psalm 77:2 HCSB

Sometimes comfort is only found in hope.

prayer or silence

"Ask and you will receive;" but the answer is different:

Principle: God hears prayer, but He is not the servant of prayer. Even Jesus received different answers from his prayers:

"39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."

Matthew 26:39 KJV

Our prayers don't control God; instead, God controls our prayers.

angelic deliverance or allowance

How could that happen if an Angel is encamped around us? Why ask to be delivered from evil, if it happens anyway?

"The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, And **delivers** them." **Psalms 34:7** (NKJV)

DELIVERS THEM MEANS: arms, equips, strengthens, prepares them.

How Angels Provide Deliverance

Angelic protection was promised to Christ:

"A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you. ...10 No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; 11 For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. 12 In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone."

Psalm 91:7-12 (NKJV)

Angels were with him in the wilderness and garden.

- WILDERNESS: "Then the Devil left Him, and immediately angels came and began to serve him." Matthew 4:11 (HCSB)
- GETHSEMANE: "Saying, 'Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.' 43 **And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven**, *strengthening him.* 44 *And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly:* and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground." Luke 22:42-44 (NKJV)



"Surely they are my people, Children *who will not lie*.' In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the **Angel of His Presence** saved them; In his love and in his pity he redeemed them; And he bore them and carried them *all the days of old*." Isaiah 63:8-9 (NKJV)

In ecclesias, elders are "angels," i.e., messengers of hope and strength.

- 2:1 "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write..."
- 2:8 "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write..."
- 2:12 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write..."

Revelation 2:1, 8, 9 (NKJV)

POINT

Angels strengthen hope; they don't prevent trials.



ABSOLUTE ASSURANCE:

An everlasting covenant of life and peace.

THE DAY OF RAIN

"I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about. 28 As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud **in the day of rain**, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord."

Ezekiel 1:27-28 (KJV)













