

# The Epistle Of James

James 1:12 (NKJV)

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## Turning Trials Into Triumph



# Turning Trials Into Triumph

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Refined Through Fire . . .

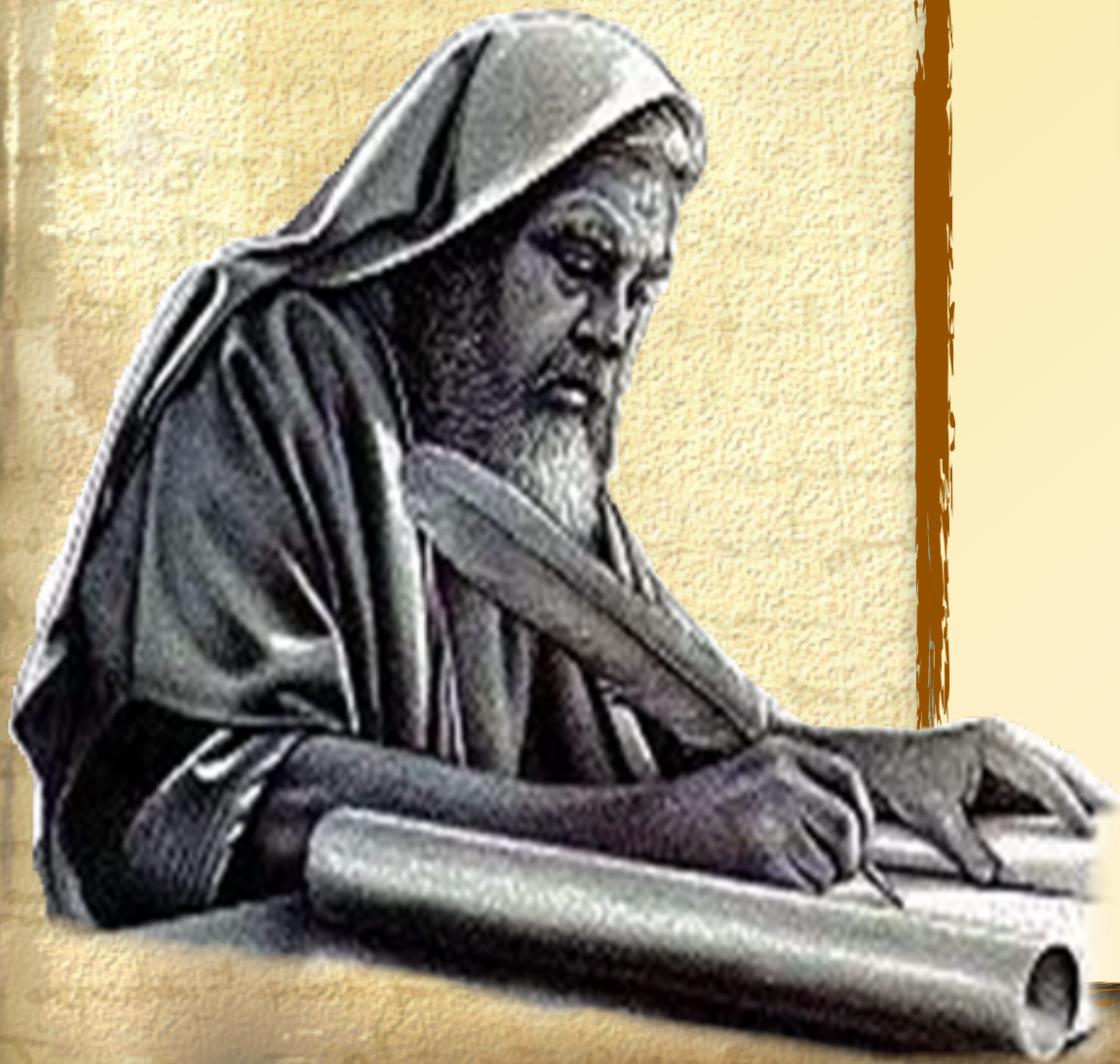




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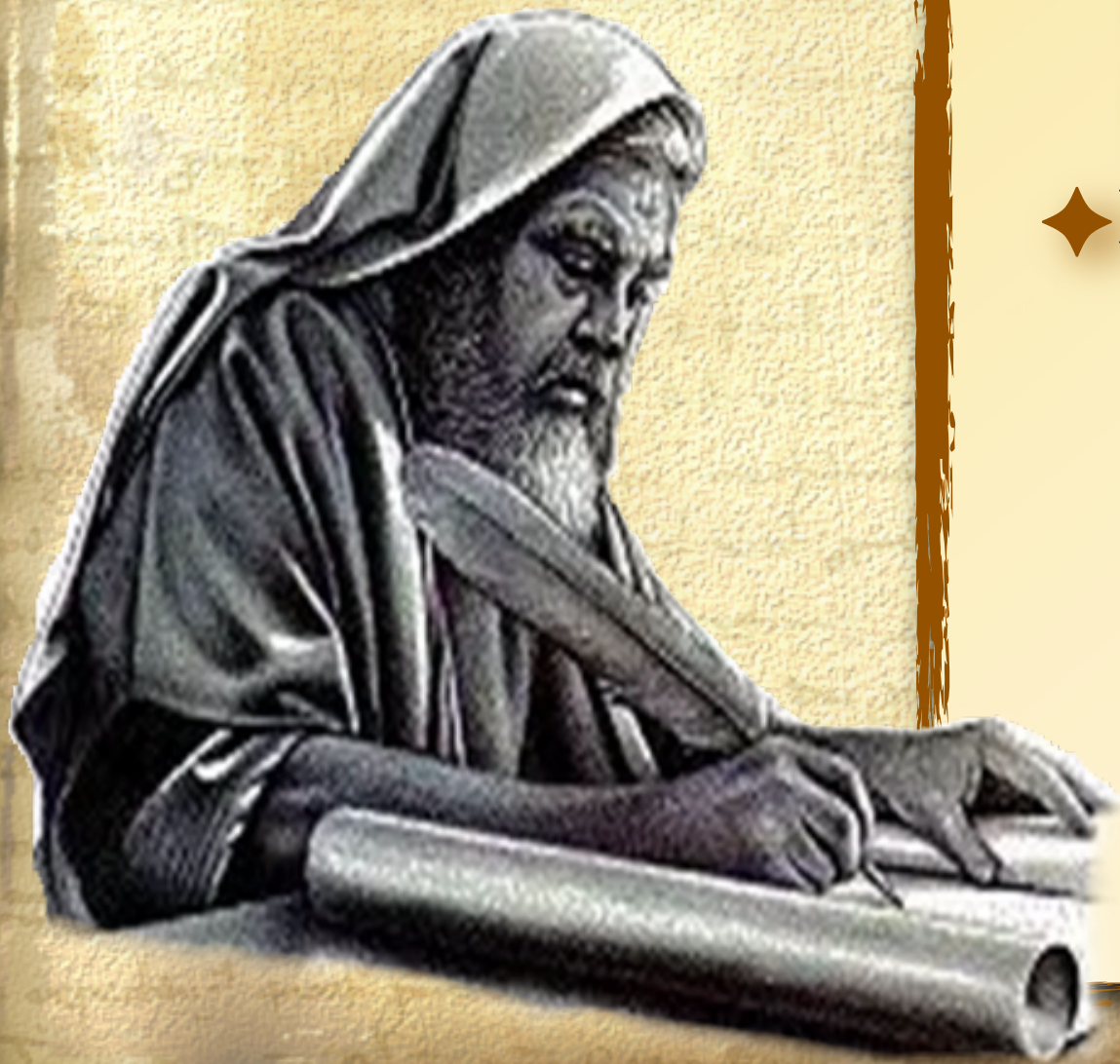




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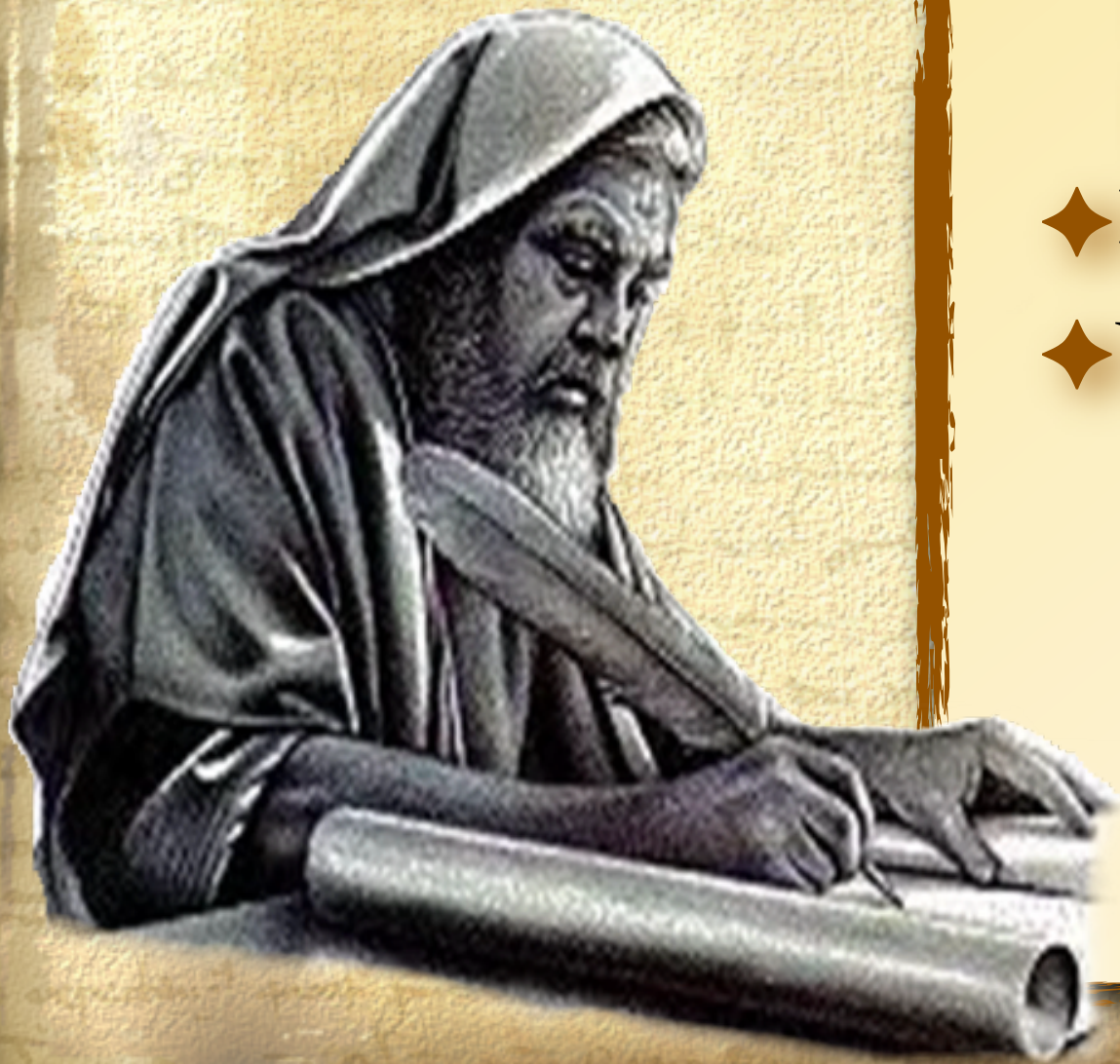




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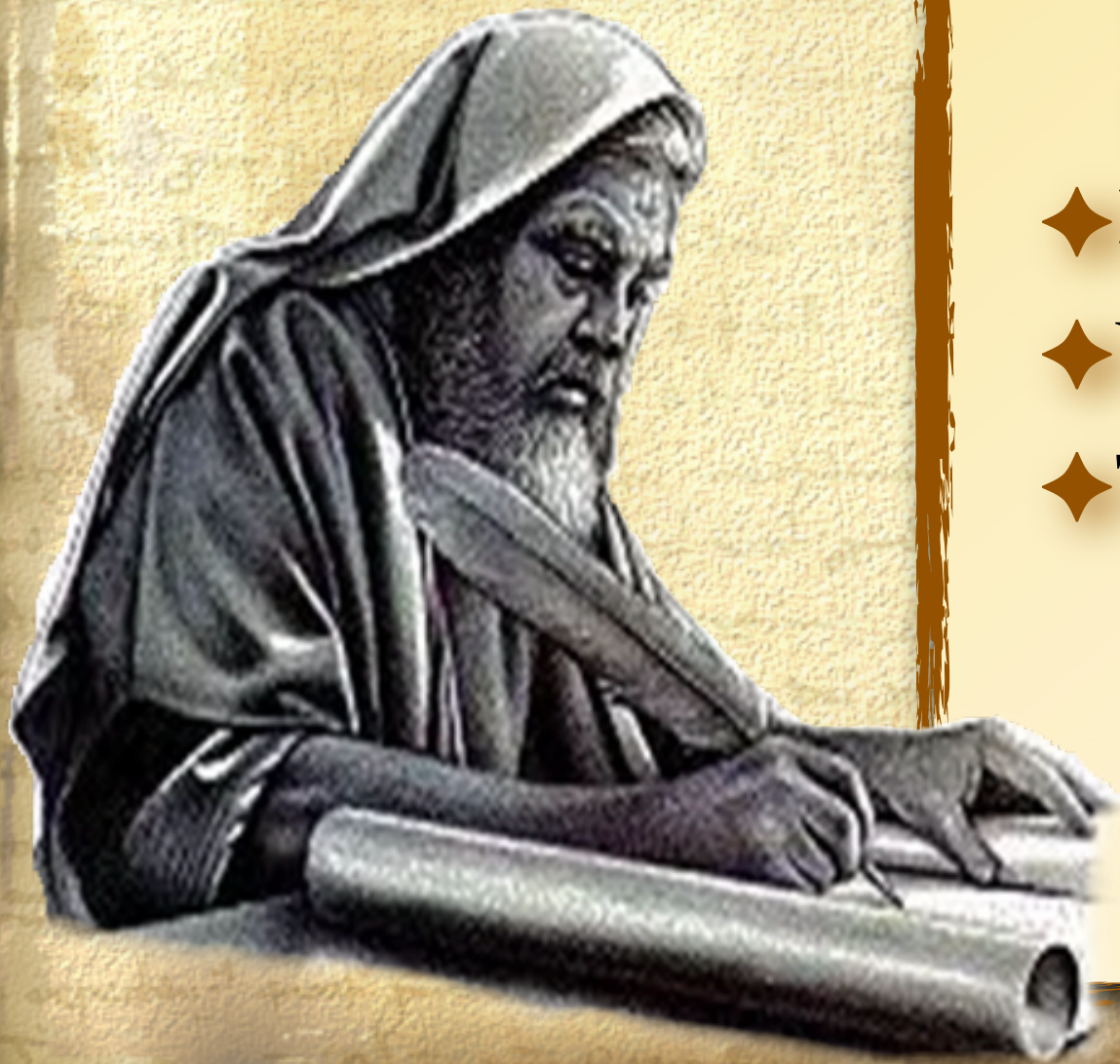
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- ◆ We will ALL fall into trials – (2)
- ◆ Trials vary in form and degree – (2)
- ◆ It is not God's will that trials be absent from our lives, but that trials be used in a positive way to make us stronger, and more useful in the kingdom -



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**Throughout the Bible are people  
who turned defeat into victory  
and trials into triumph**





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- ◆ Whether we are dealing with trials on the outside or temptations on the inside



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**Daniel 3:16-20**

- ◆ Instead of being VICTIMS, they became VICTORS
- ◆ Whether we are dealing with trials on the outside or temptations on the inside
- ◆ Through faith in God and Jesus Christ we CAN experience victory!



# Turning Trials Into Triumph

## **James 1:2-12 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, <sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. <sup>4</sup> But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. <sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.



# Turning Trials Into Triumph

## **James 1:2-12 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. <sup>9</sup> Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, <sup>10</sup> but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away.



# Turning Trials Into Triumph

## **James 1:2-12 (NKJV)**

<sup>11</sup> For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits.

<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.



# Turning Trials Into Triumph

“Count It All Joy . . . vs. 2”

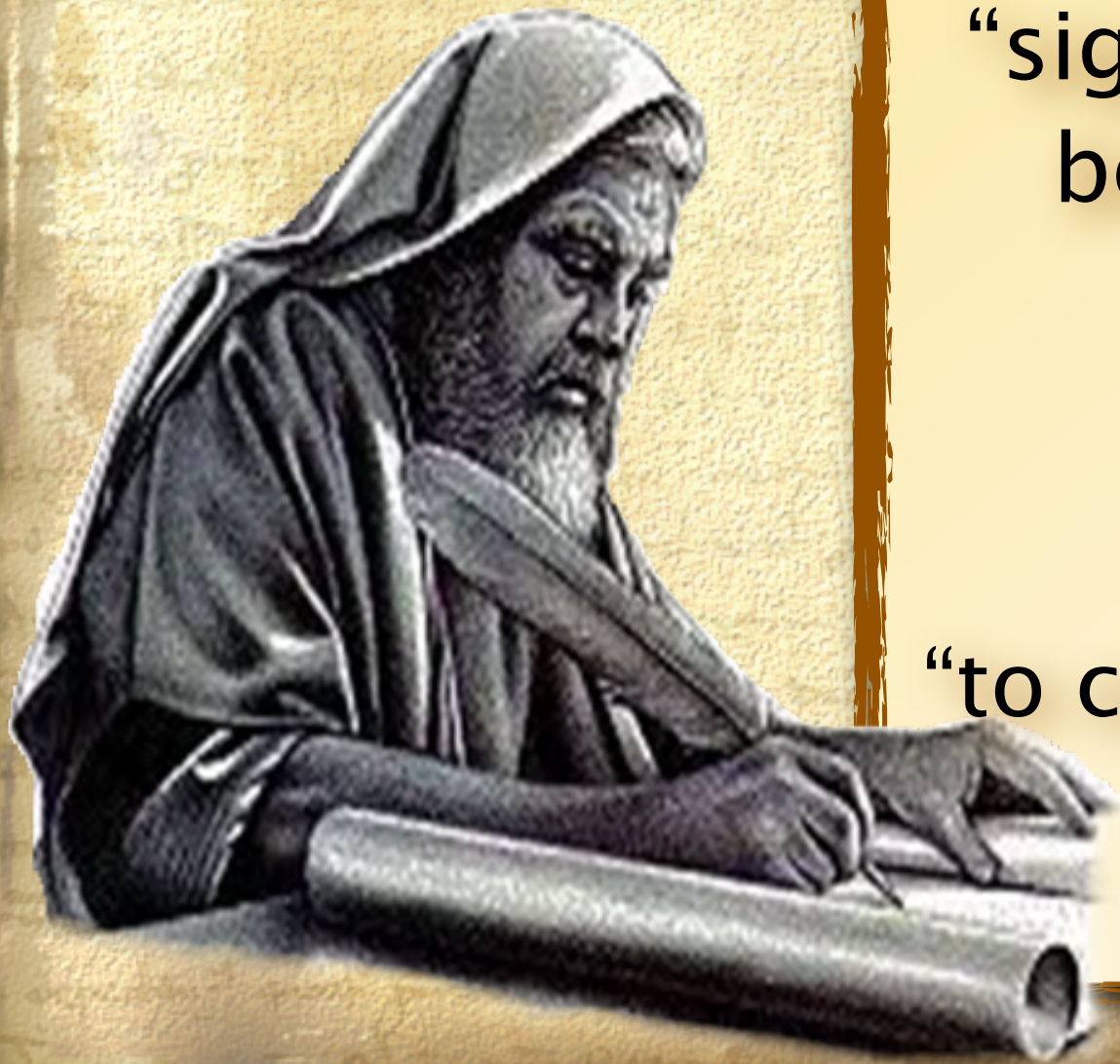
**Count** – ἡγέομαι, hēgeomai

“signifies “to lead;” then, “to lead before the mind, to suppose, consider, esteem;”

*Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old Testament and New Testament Words.*

“to consider, deem, account, think”:

*Thayer, Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament.*





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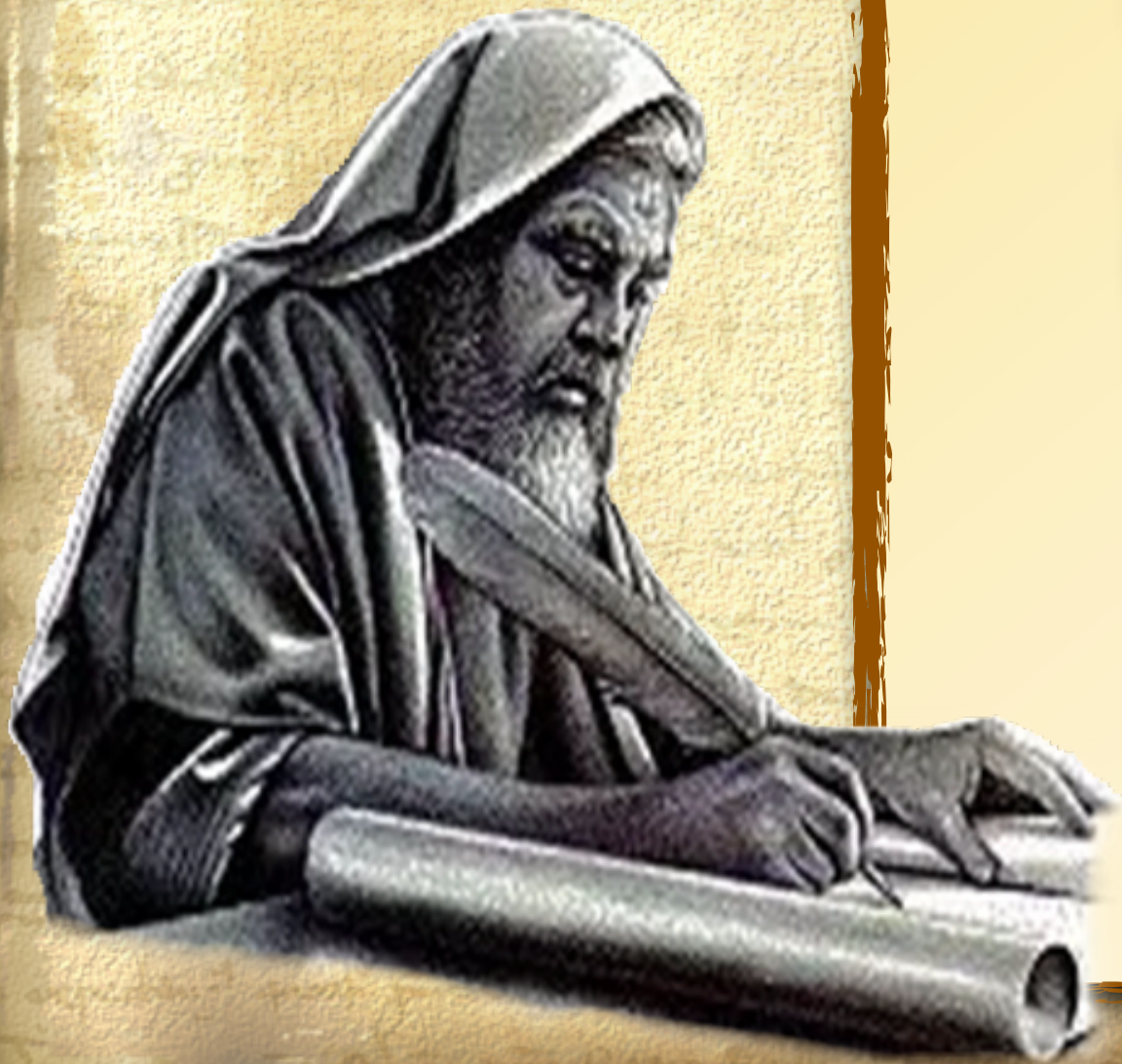




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- ◆ **The apostles** – Acts 5:41  
“rejoicing that they were  
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- ◆ **The apostles** – Acts 5:41  
“rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.”
- ◆ **Paul** – Ro 5:3 <sup>3</sup>And not only *that*, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup>and perseverance, character; and character, hope.



# Turning Trials Into Triumph

"Count It All Joy . . . vs. 2"

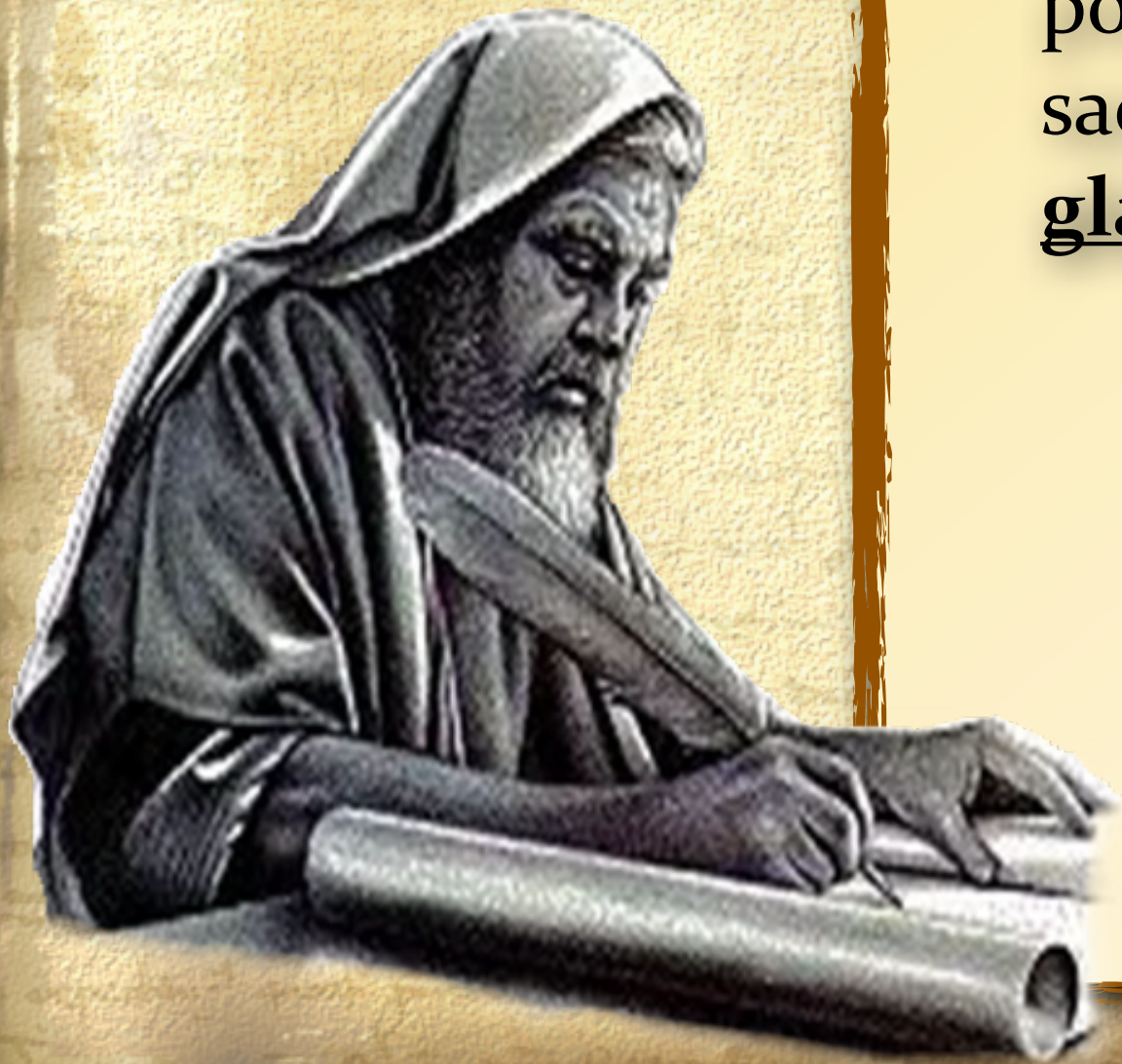




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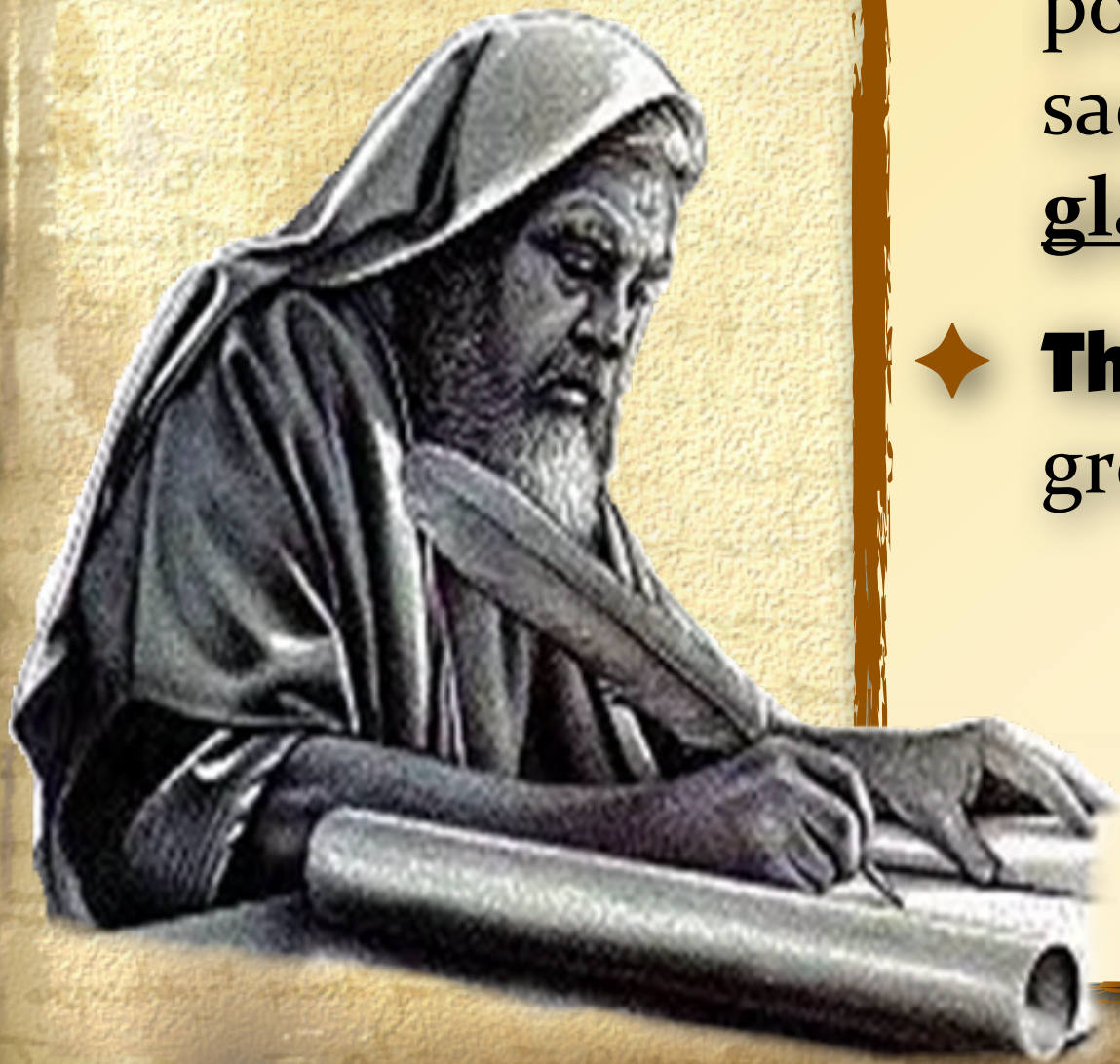
♦ **Paul** – Phil 2:17-18 <sup>17</sup>. . . if I am being poured out *as a drink offering* on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.





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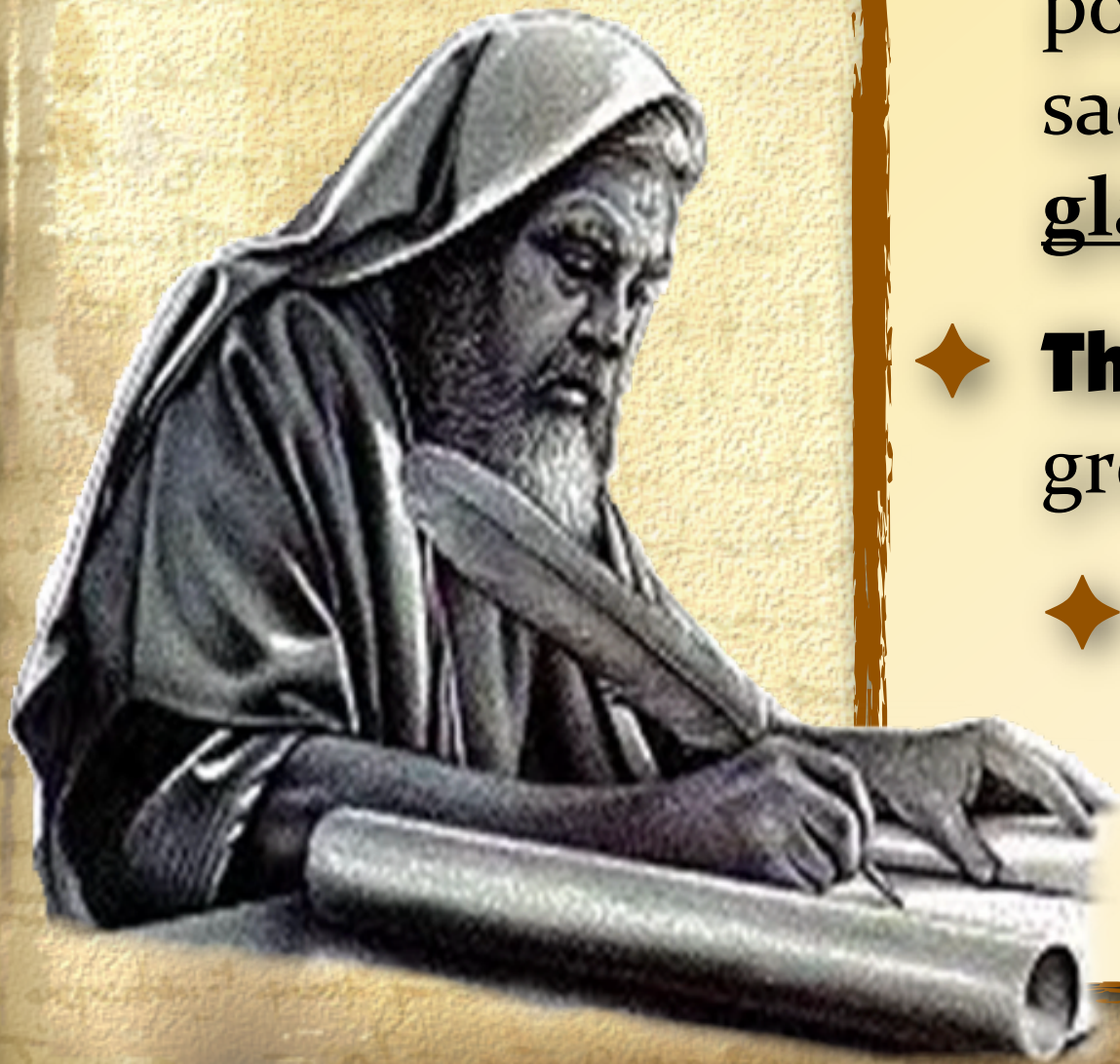


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- ◆ **The Christians** – 1 Pe 1:6-8 <sup>6</sup>In this you greatly rejoice, . . .
  - ◆ 1 Pe 4:12-14 . . . <sup>13</sup> but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, . . . <sup>14</sup> *blessed are you,*



# Turning Trials Into Triumph

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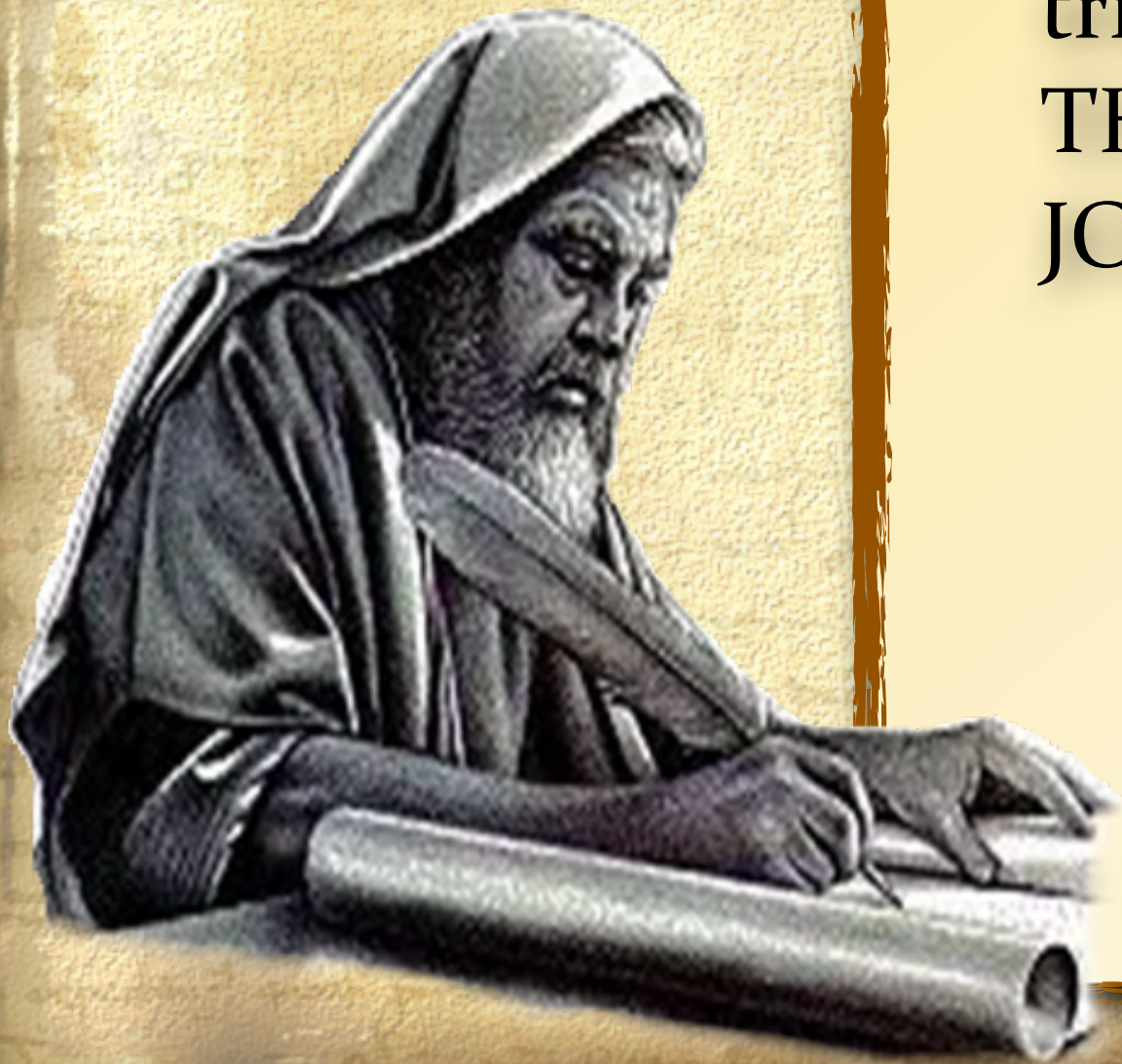




# Turning Trials Into Triumph

“Count It All Joy . . . vs. 2”

- ◆ The first step to turning trials into triumph is to - IMMEDIATELY THANK GOD AND ADOPT A JOYFUL ATTITUDE!

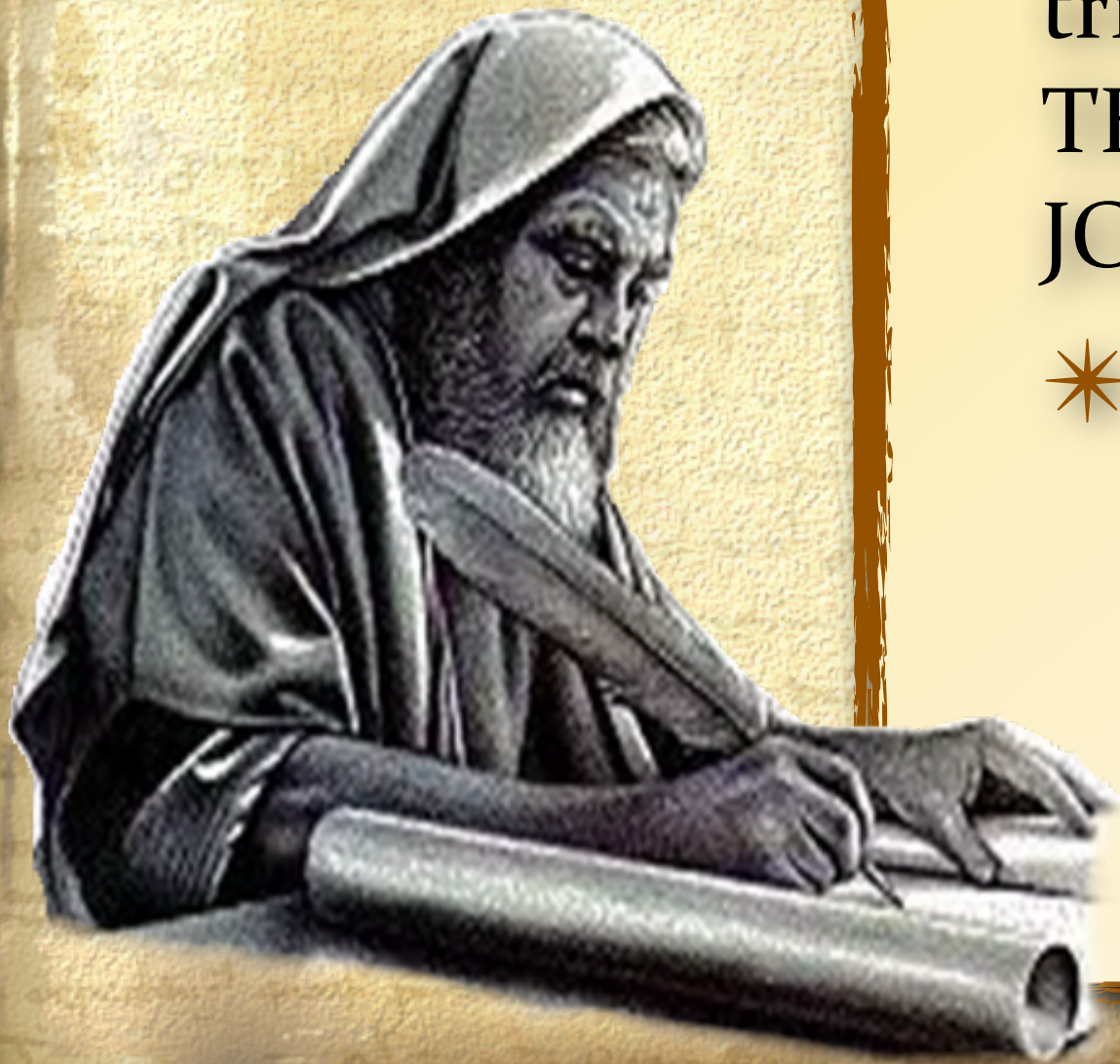




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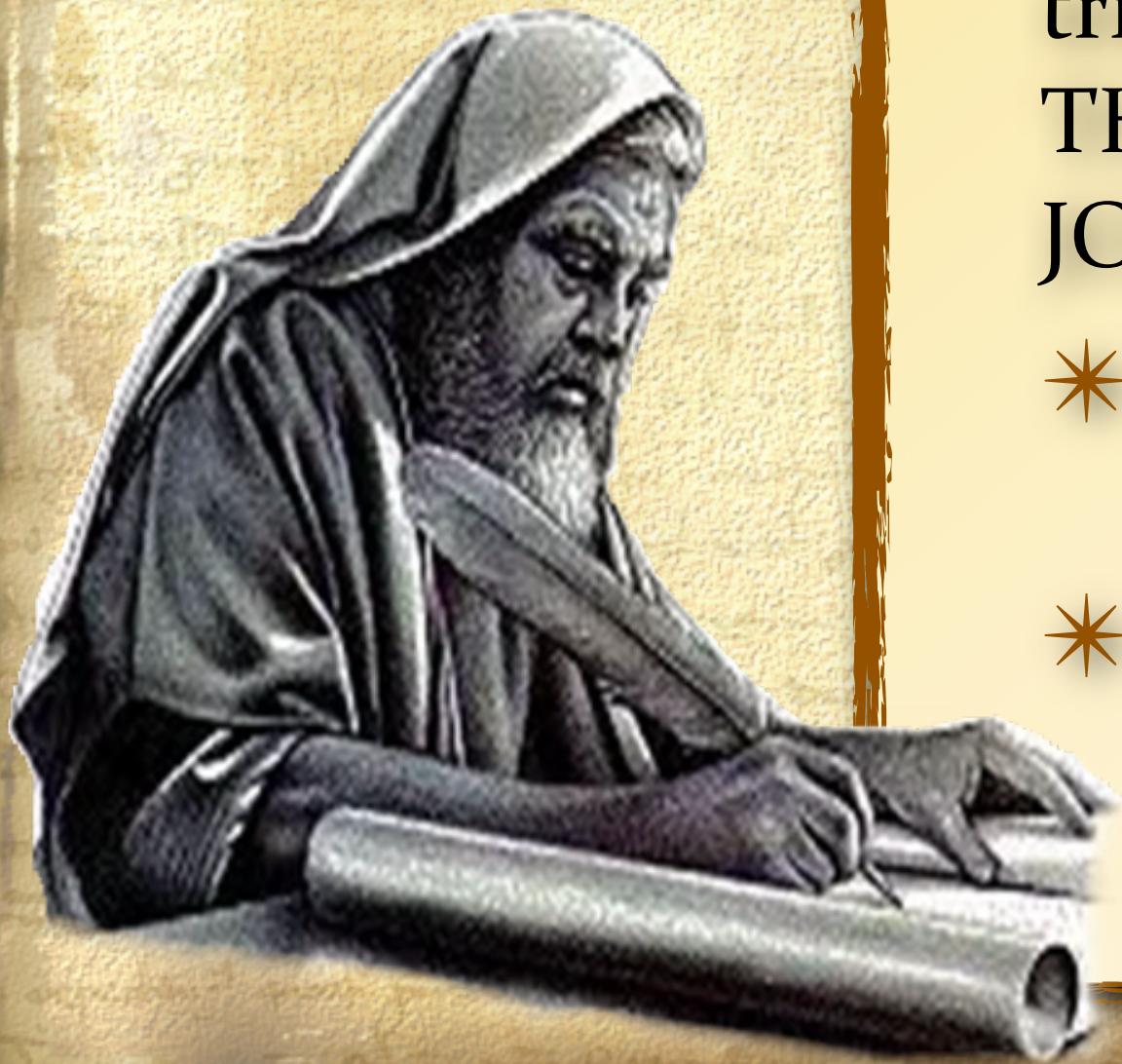




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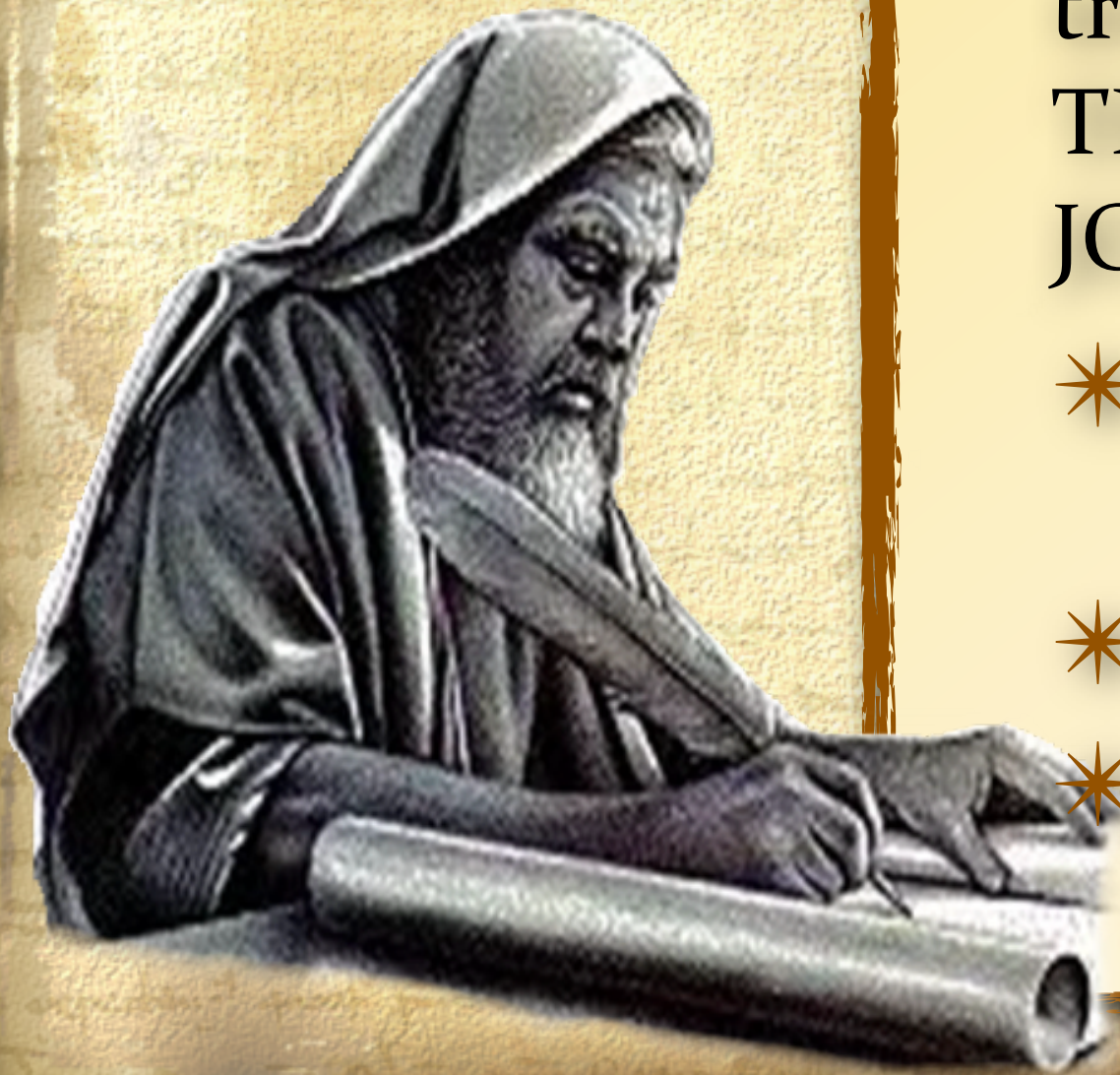
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- ◆ The first step to turning trials into triumph is to - IMMEDIATELY THANK GOD AND ADOPT A JOYFUL ATTITUDE!
- ✦ For whom are we suffering? - Heb 12:1-3
- ✦ For what are we suffering?
- ✦ What will be the reward of our suffering? 1:3; Rom 8:17

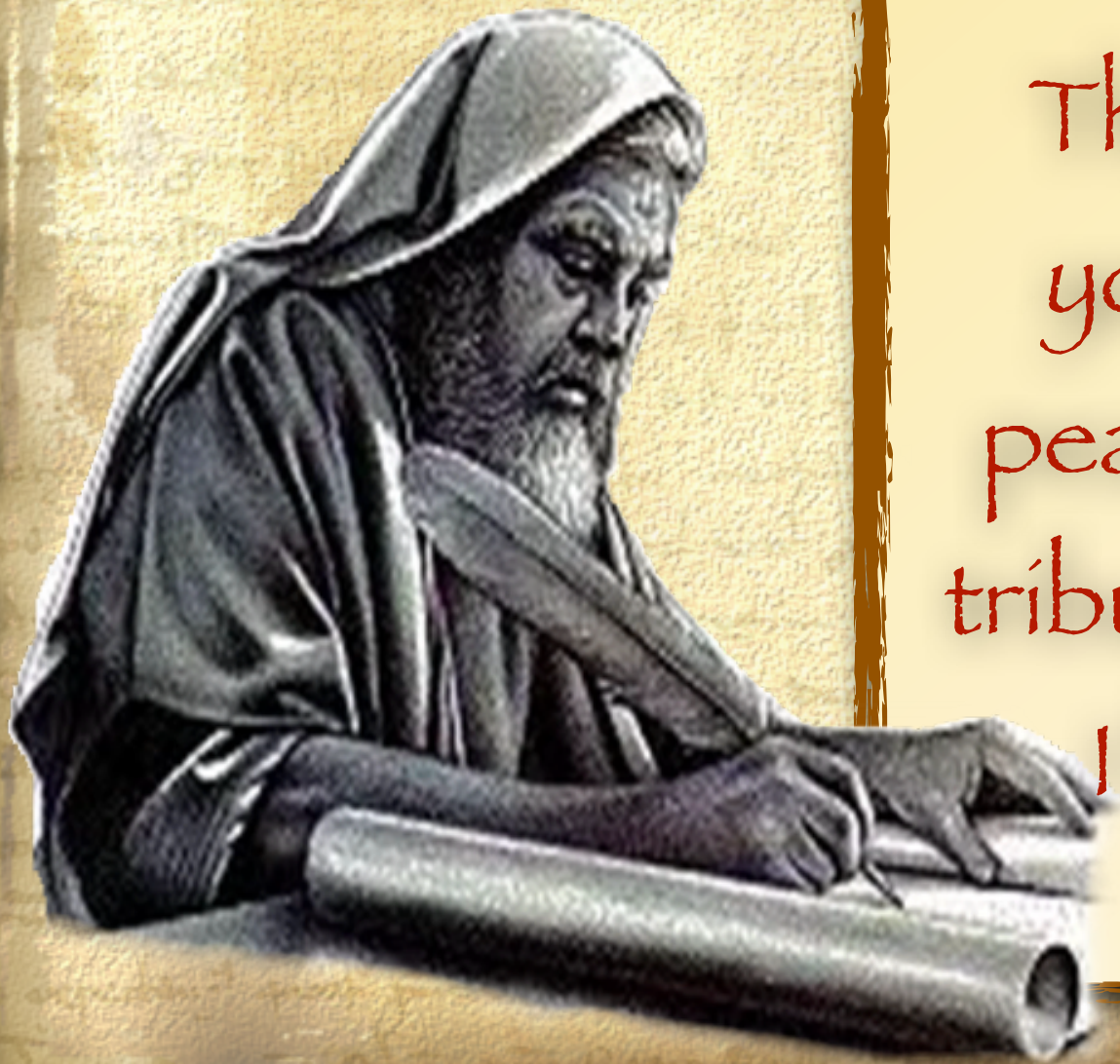


# Turning Trials Into Triumph

Christians Should Expect Trials - 1:2

**John 16:33 (NKJV)**

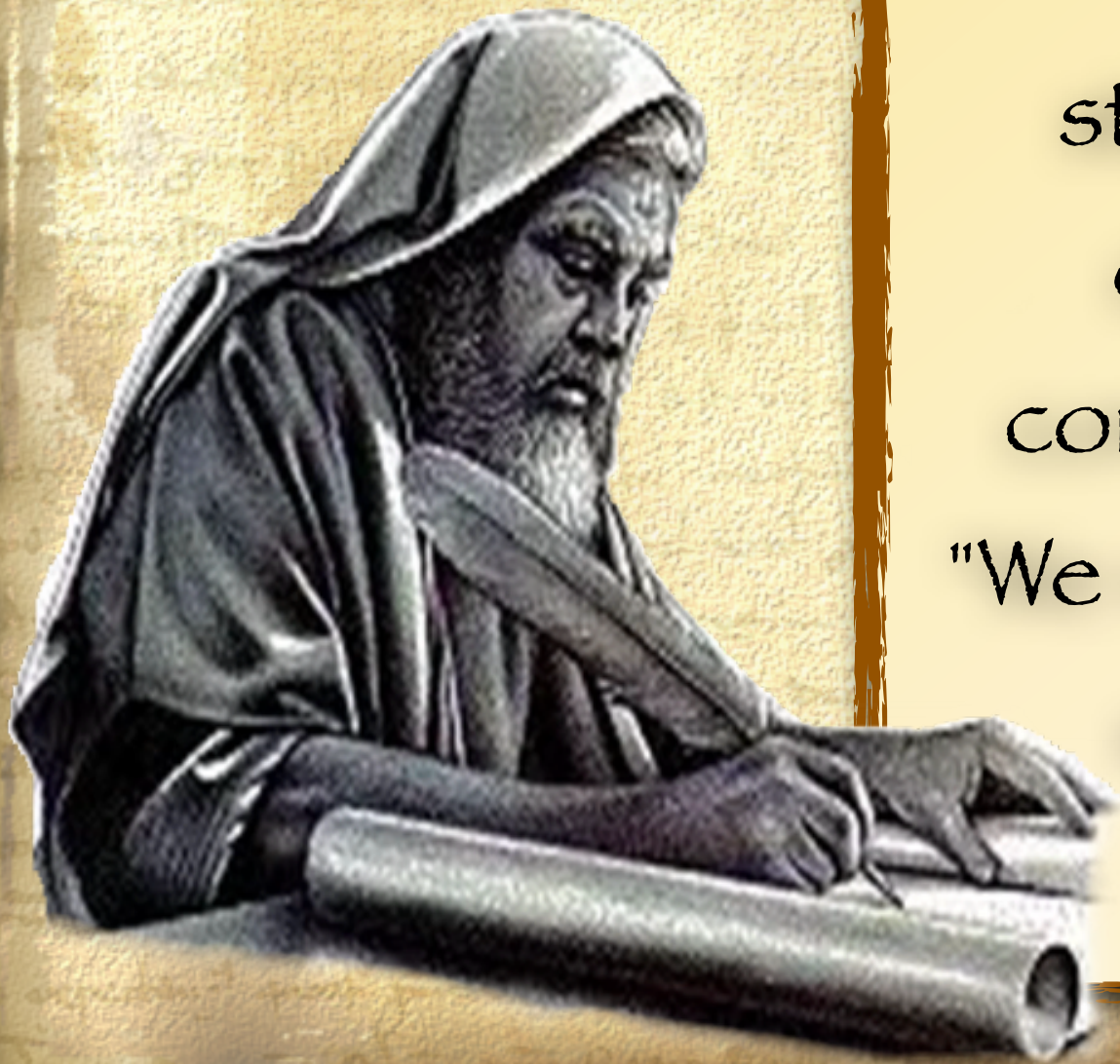
These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."





# Turning Trials Into Triumph

Christians Should Expect Trials - 1:2



**Acts 14:22 (NKJV)**  
strengthening the souls of the  
disciples, exhorting them to  
continue in the faith, and saying,  
"We must through many tribulations  
enter the kingdom of God."

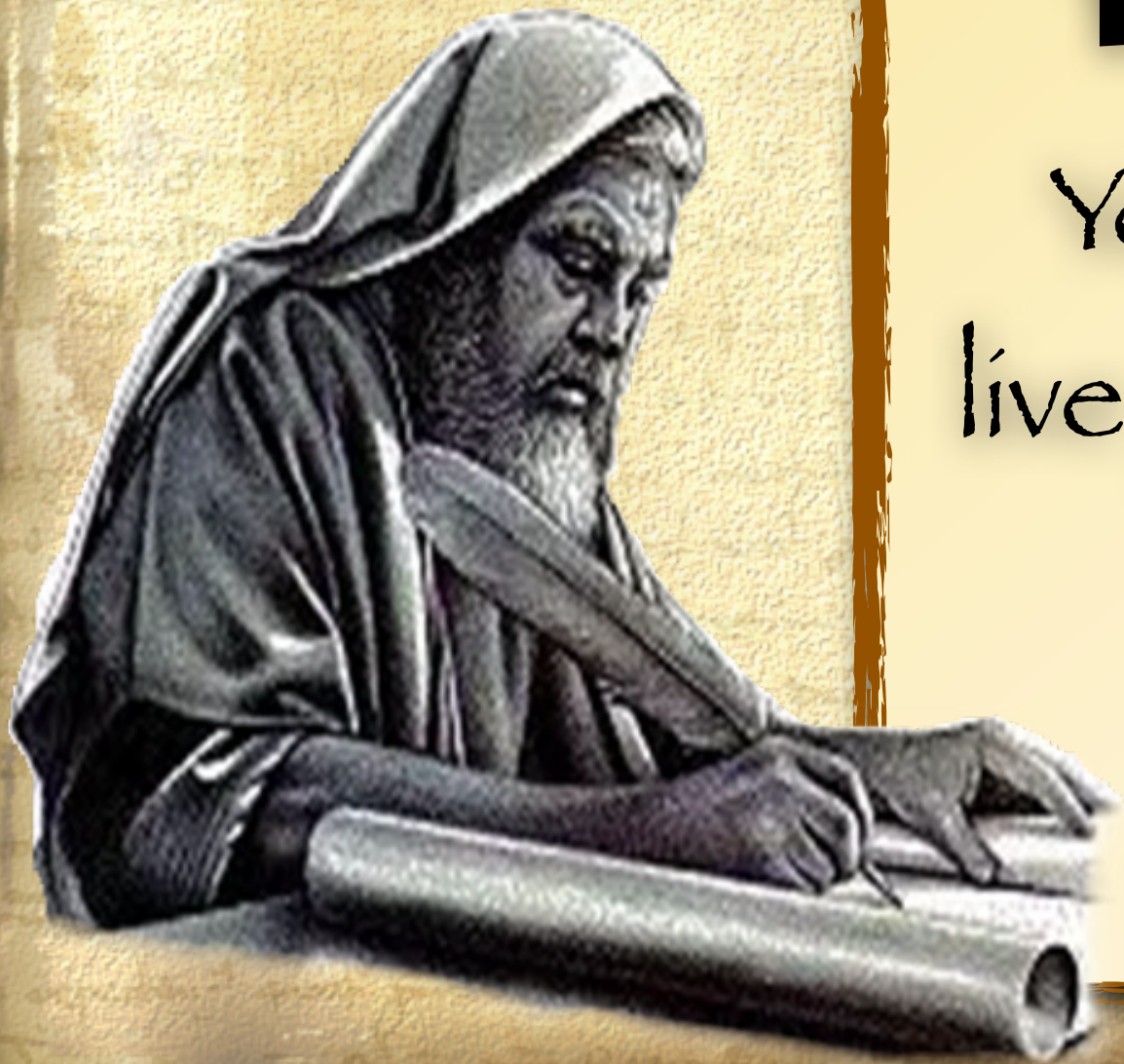


# Turning Trials Into Triumph

Christians Should Expect Trials - 1:2

**Timothy 3:12 (NKJV)**

Yes, and all who desire to  
live godly in Christ Jesus will  
suffer persecution.





# Turning Trials Into Triumph

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Various Trials - 1:2

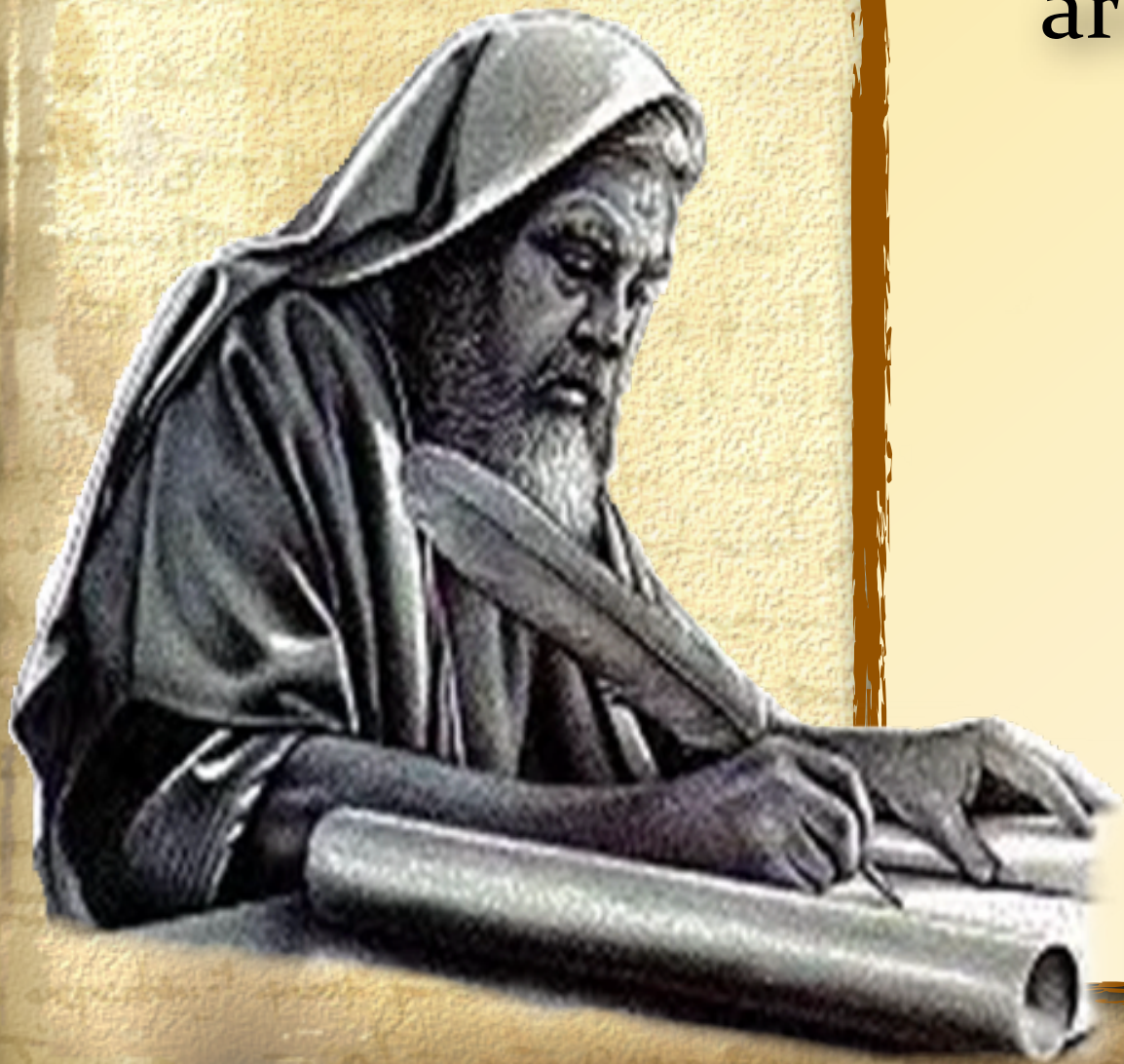




# Turning Trials Into Triumph

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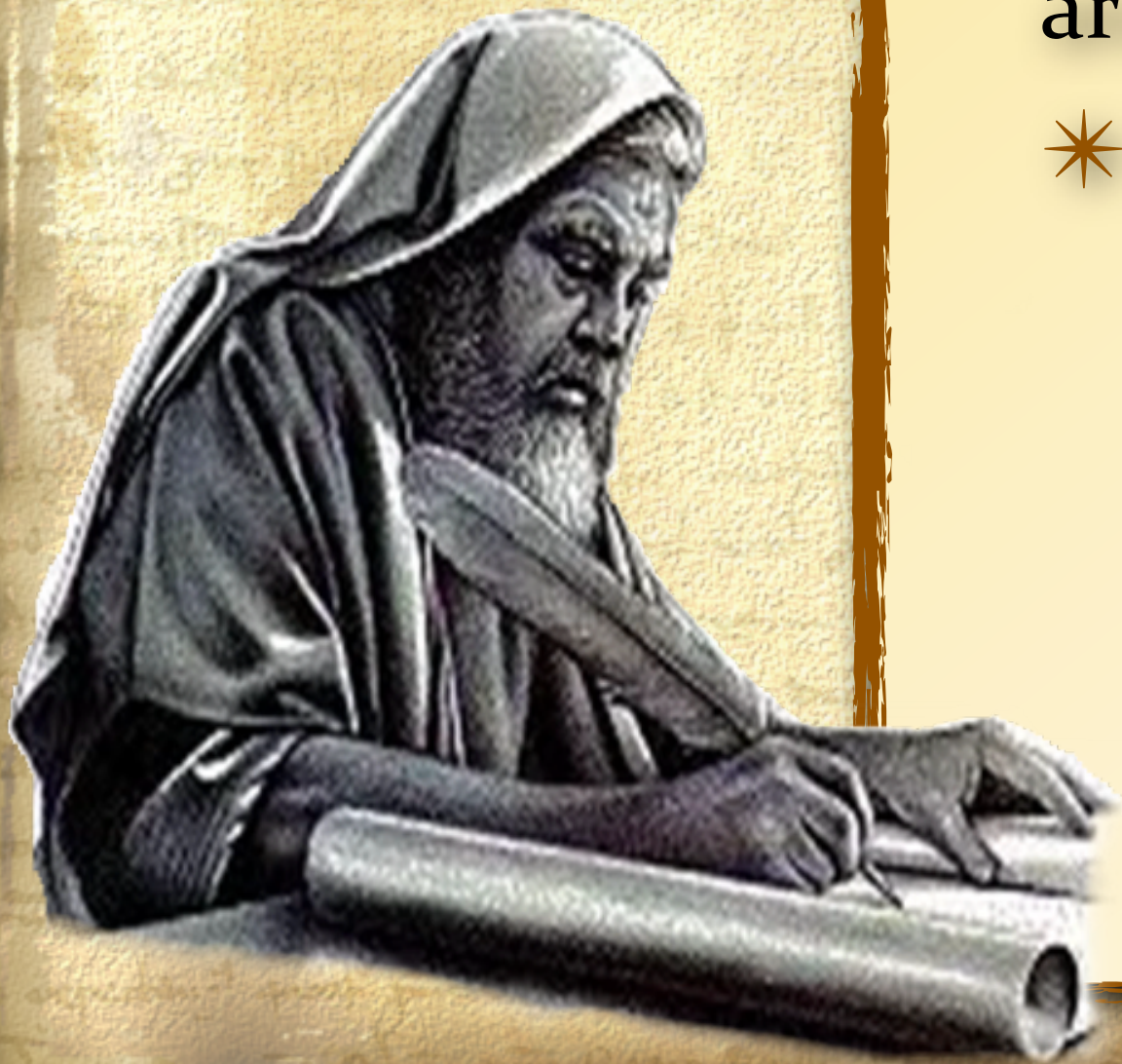




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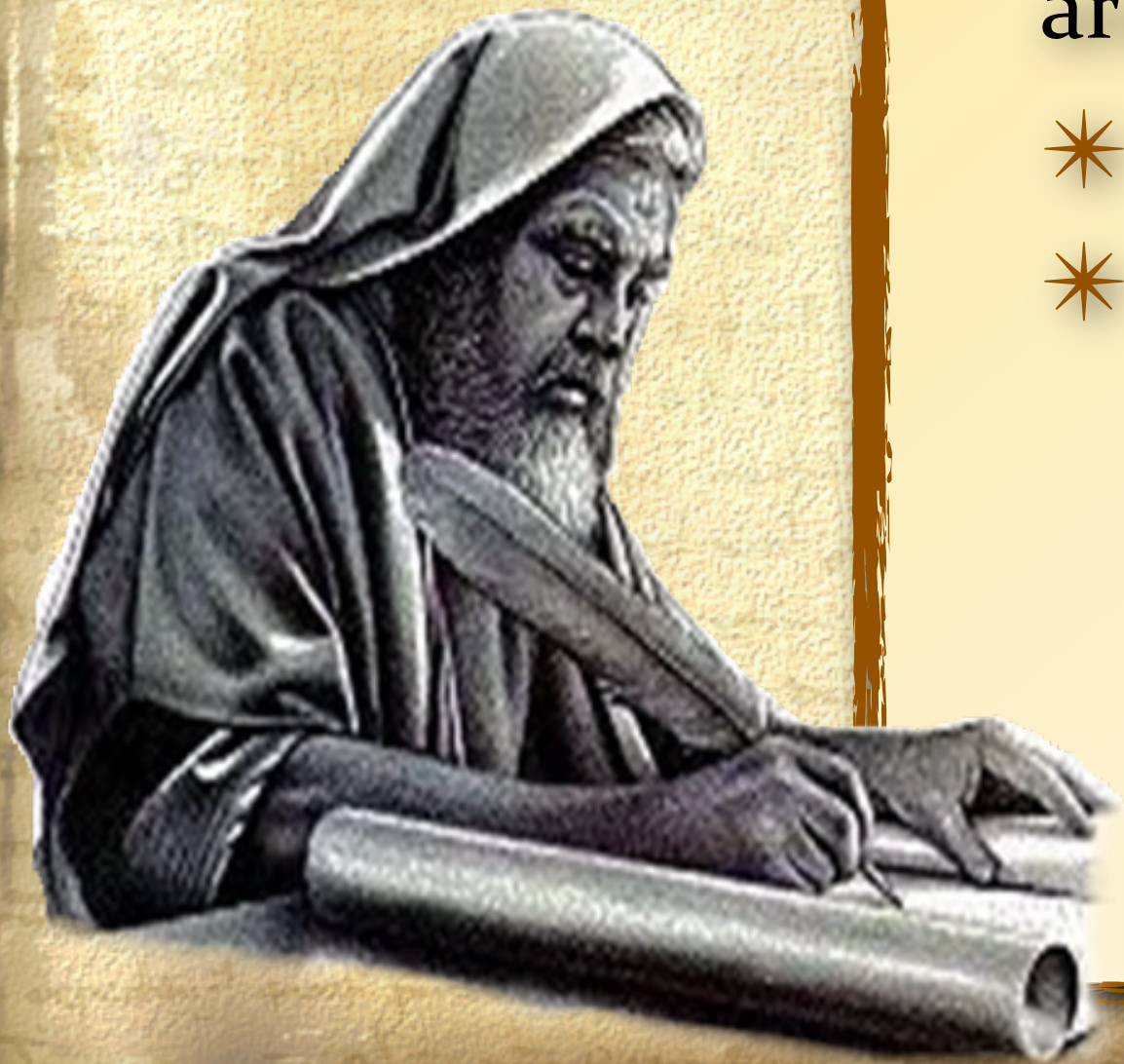




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- ◆ Some trials come simply because we are human
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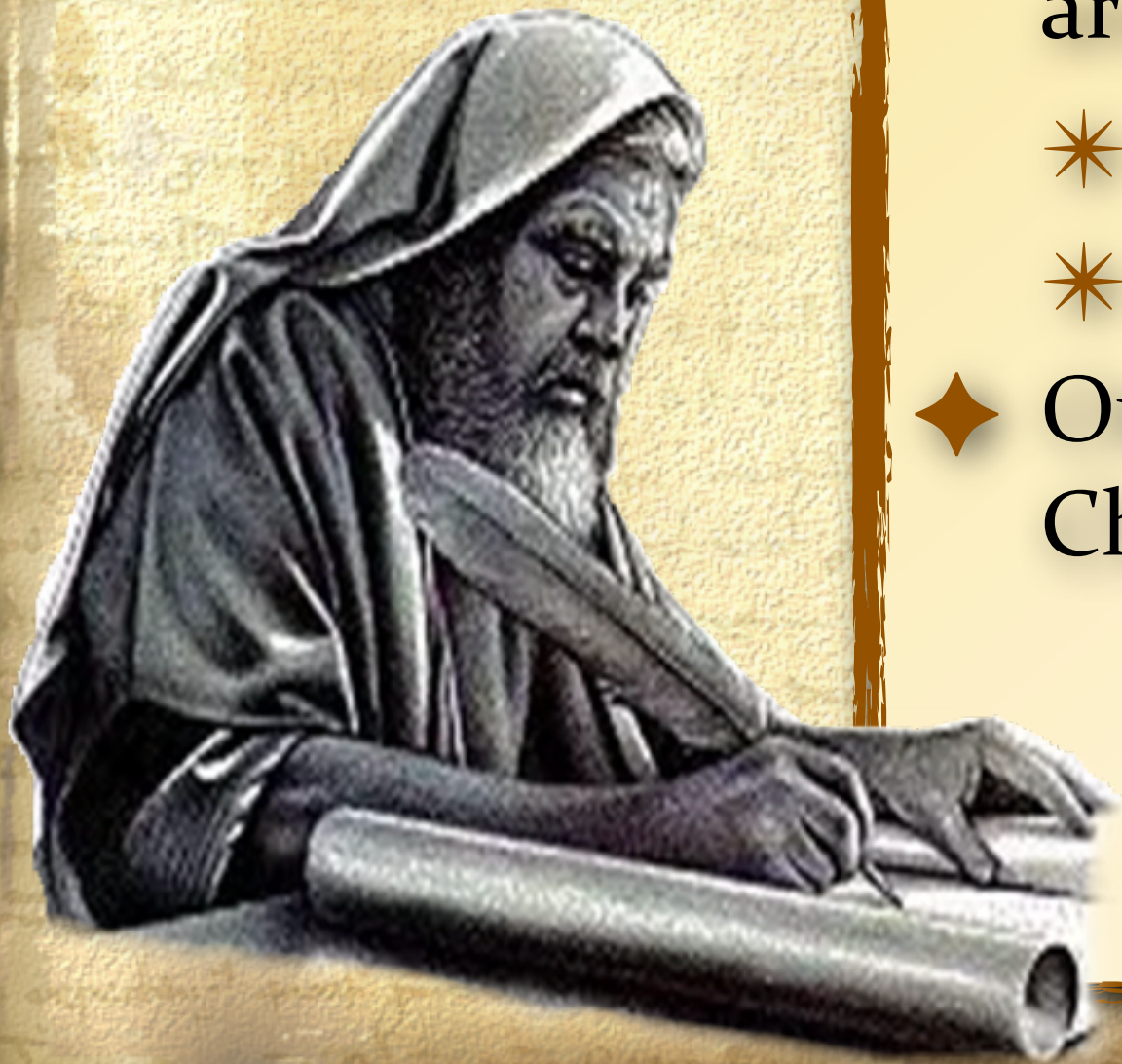




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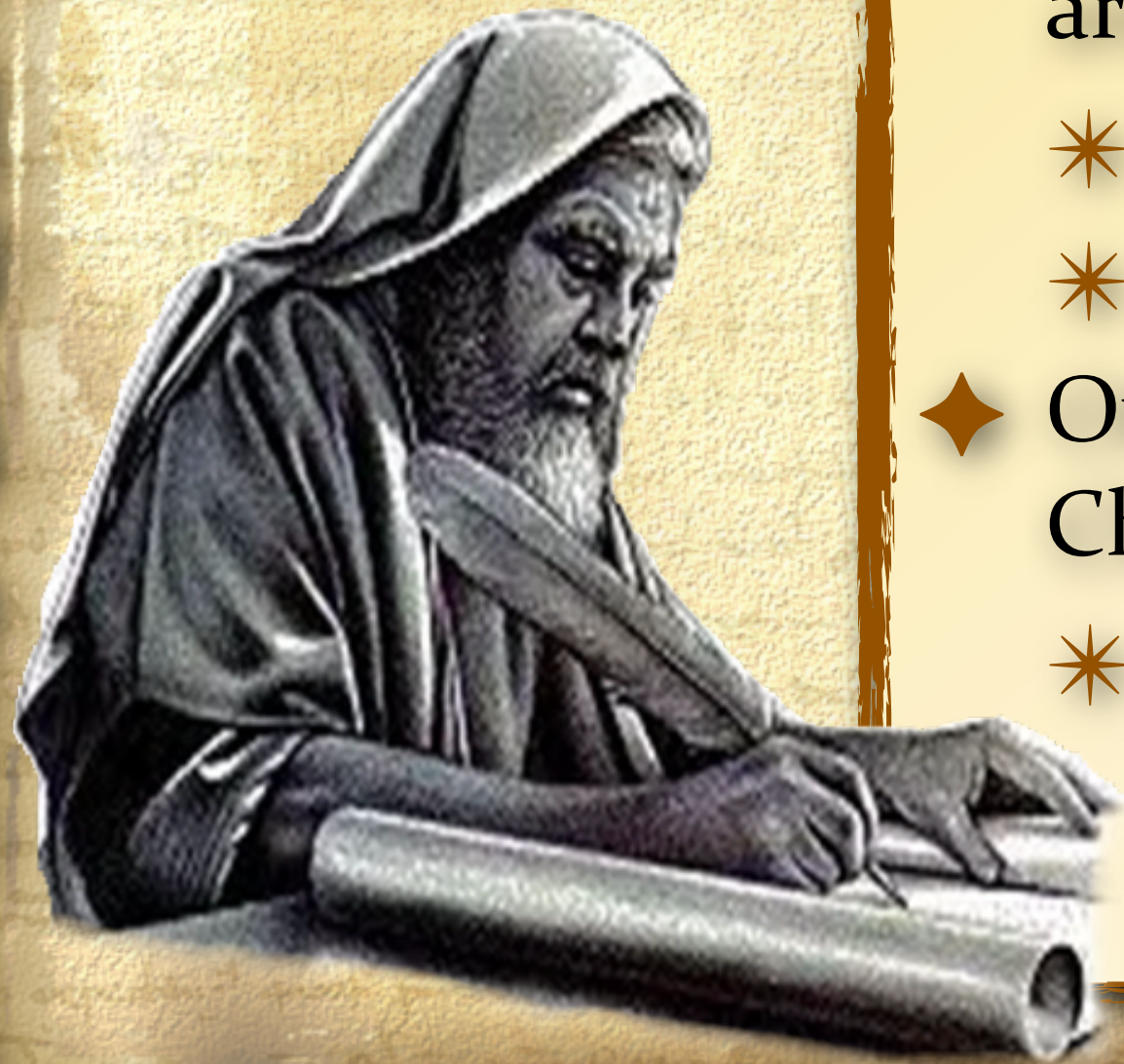
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- ◆ Other trials come because we are Christians – 1 Pe 4:12; 1 Thes 3:3,4





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  - ✧ *Sickness, accidents*
  - ✧ *Disappointments, death*
- ◆ Other trials come because we are Christians – **1 Pe 4:12; 1 Thes 3:3,4**
  - ✧ *Since Satan fights against us, and the world opposes us, we should expect trials!*



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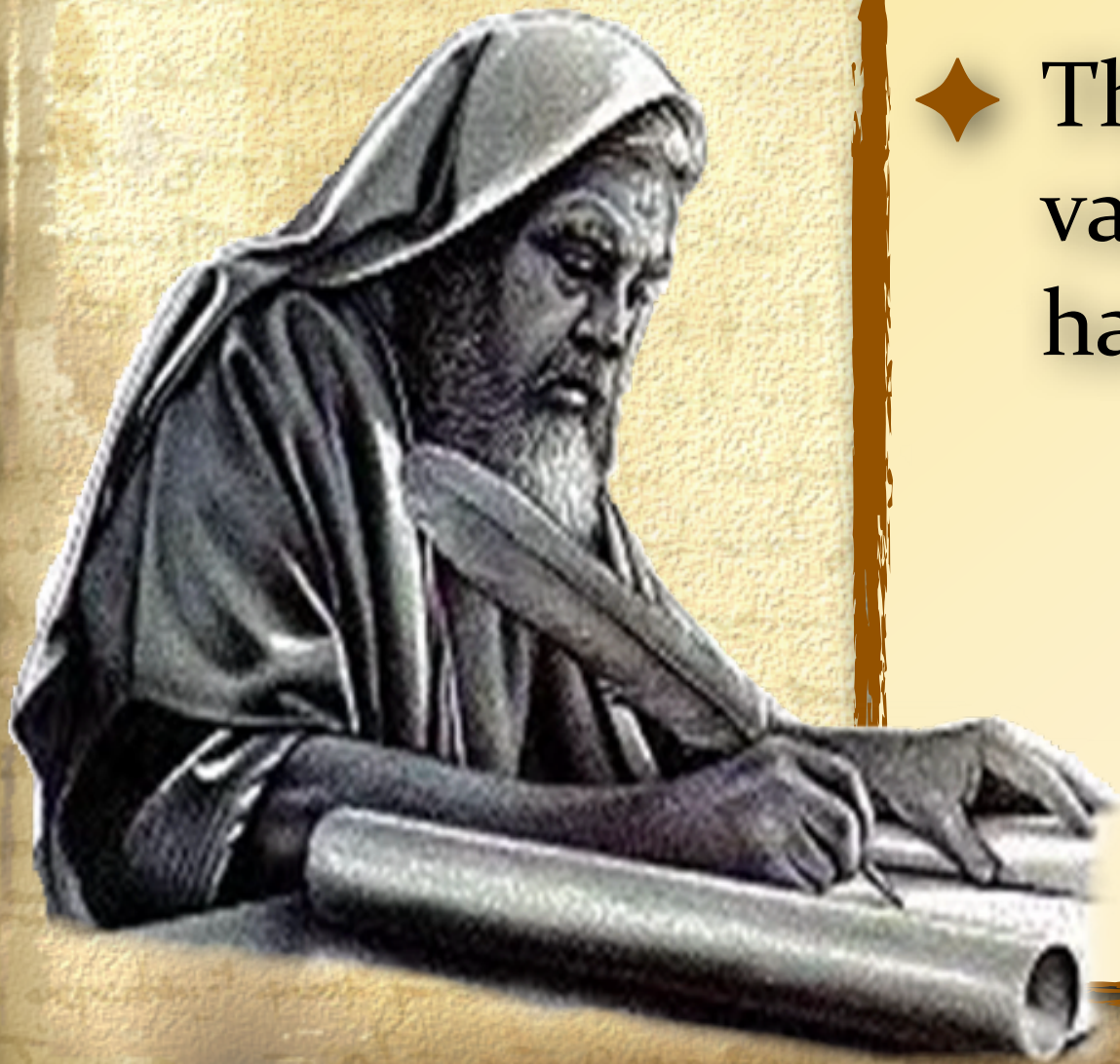
Knowing that the testing of your  
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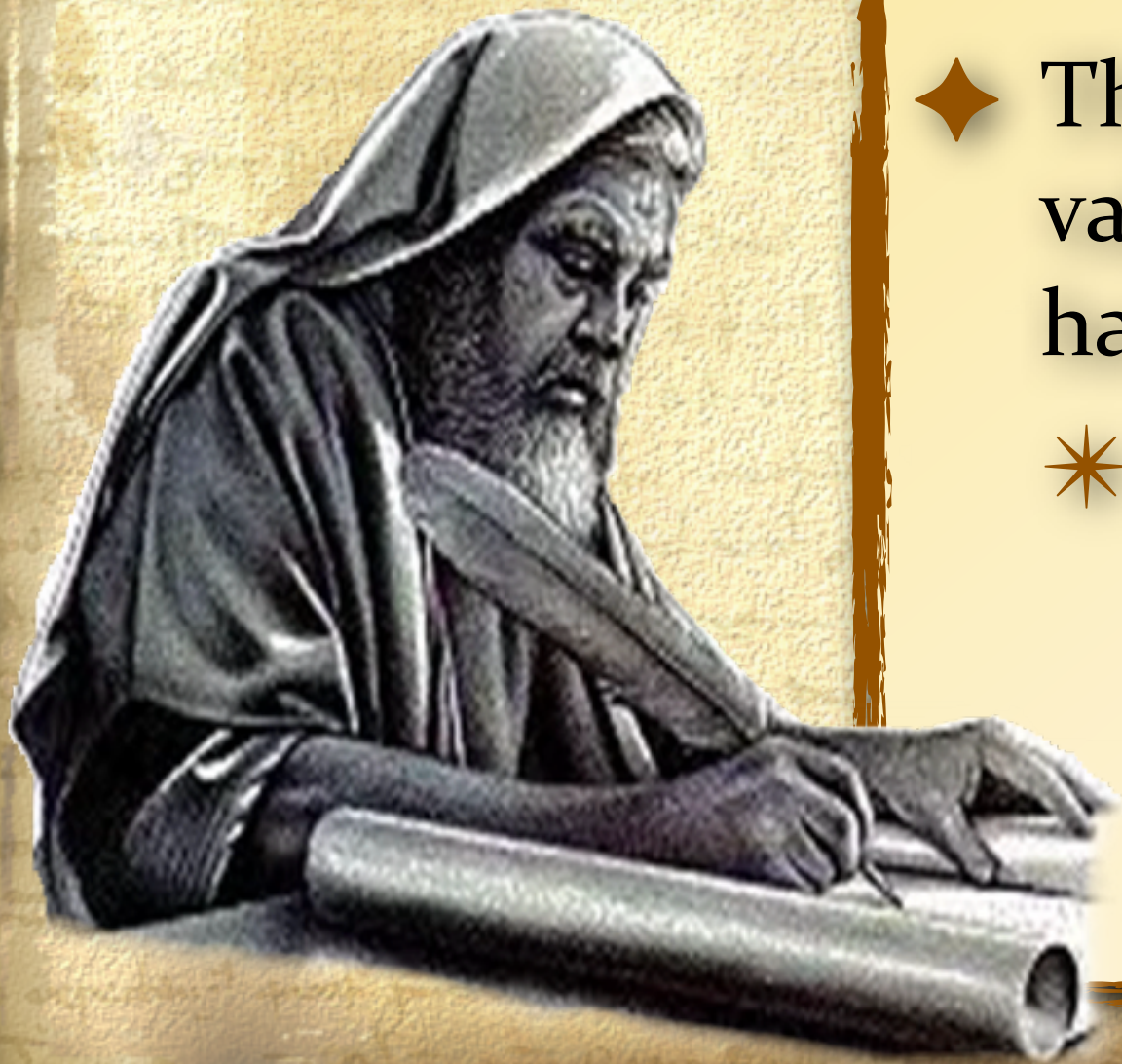


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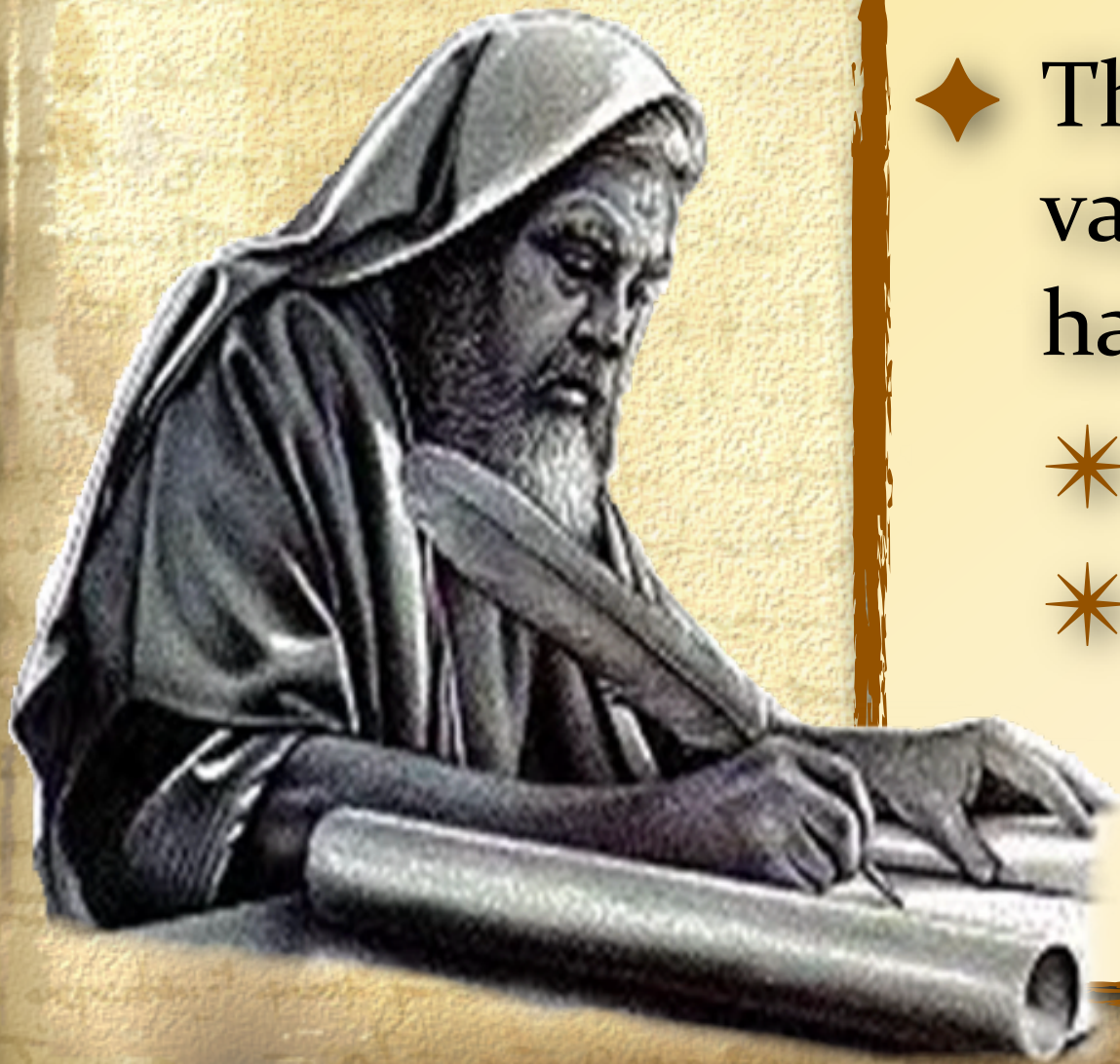


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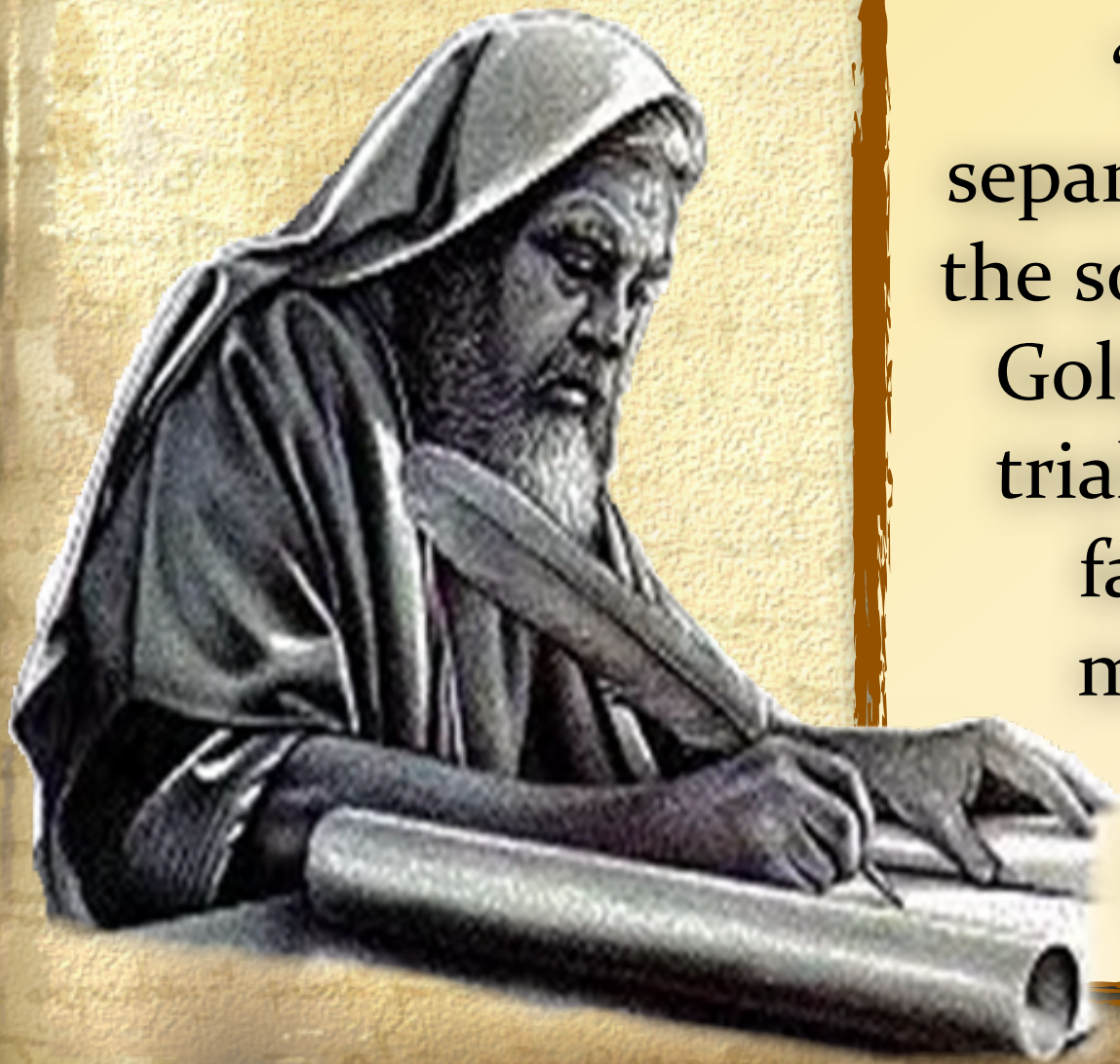


- ◆ The right knowledge concerning the value of trials makes it possible to have a joyful attitude...
- ✦ Trials test our faith
- ✦ Faith tested can bring out the best in us - Just as fire purifies gold - (1 Pet 1:7)



# Turning Trials Into Triumph

Knowing that the testing of your  
faith produces patience - 1:3



“In both there is a purification, a separation of the dross, and a discovery of the soundness and goodness of the things. Gold does not increase and multiply by trial in the fire, it rather grows less; but faith is established, improved, and multiplied, by the oppositions and afflictions that it meets with.”  
[Matthew Henry Commentary]



# Turning Trials Into Triumph

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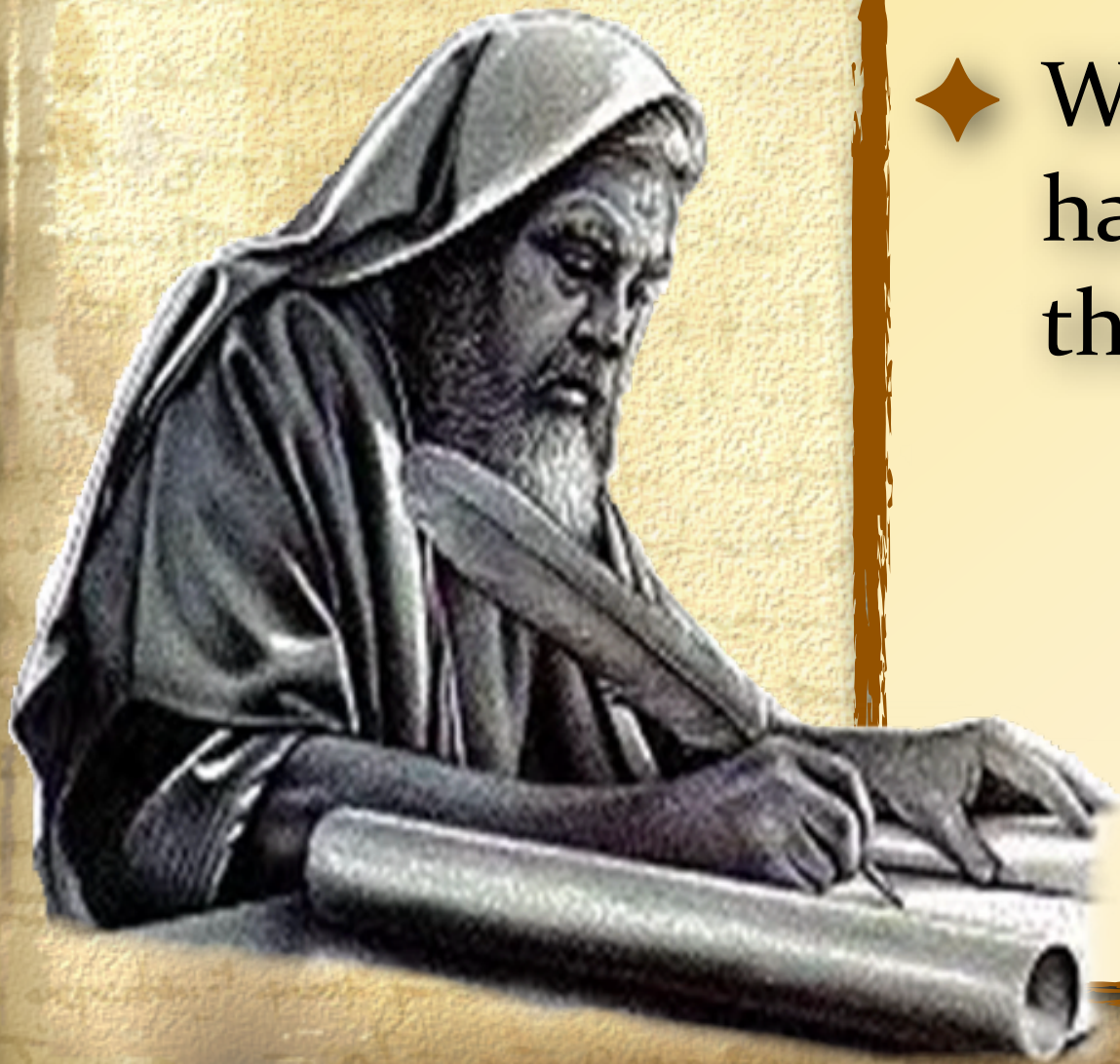
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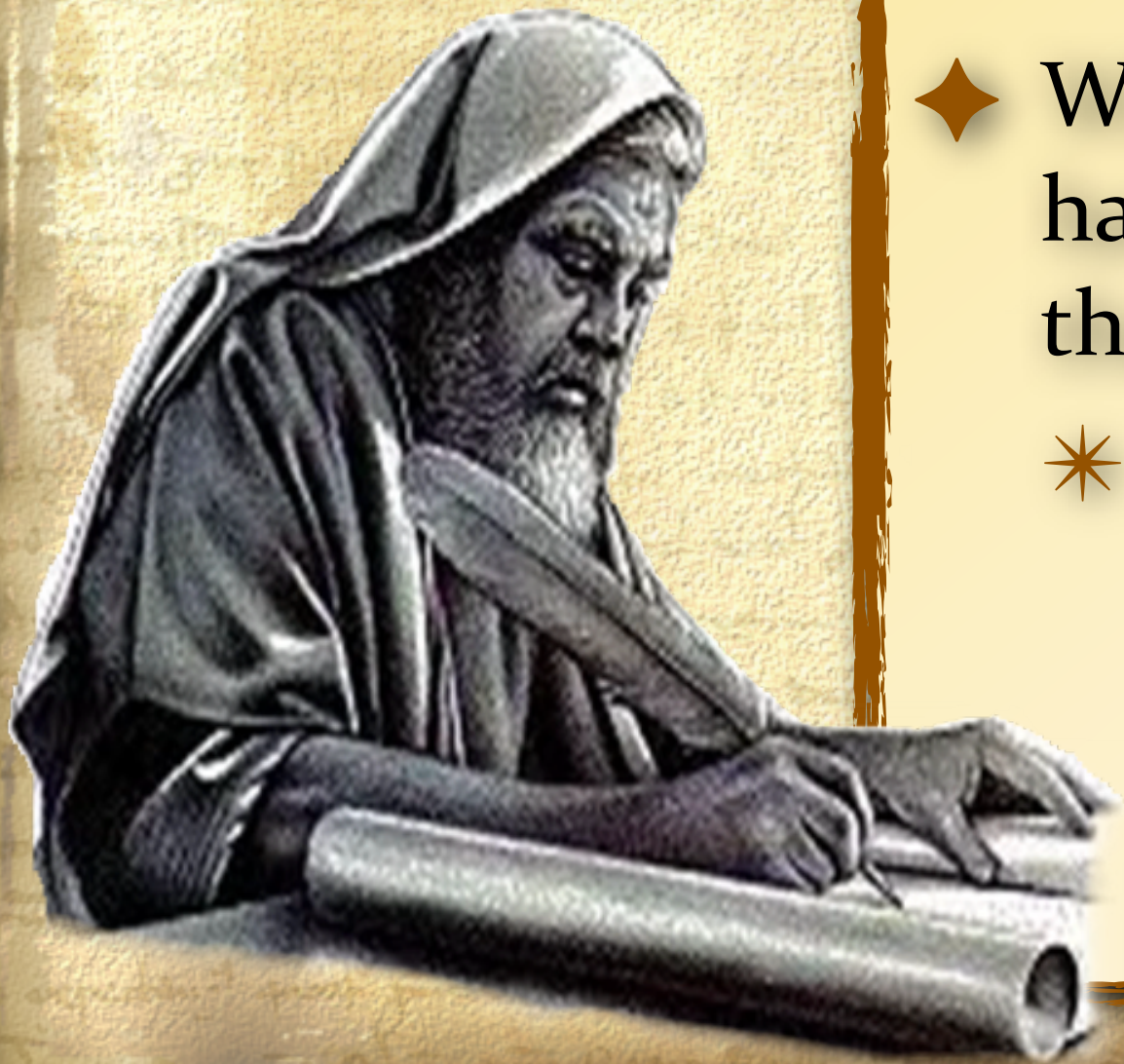


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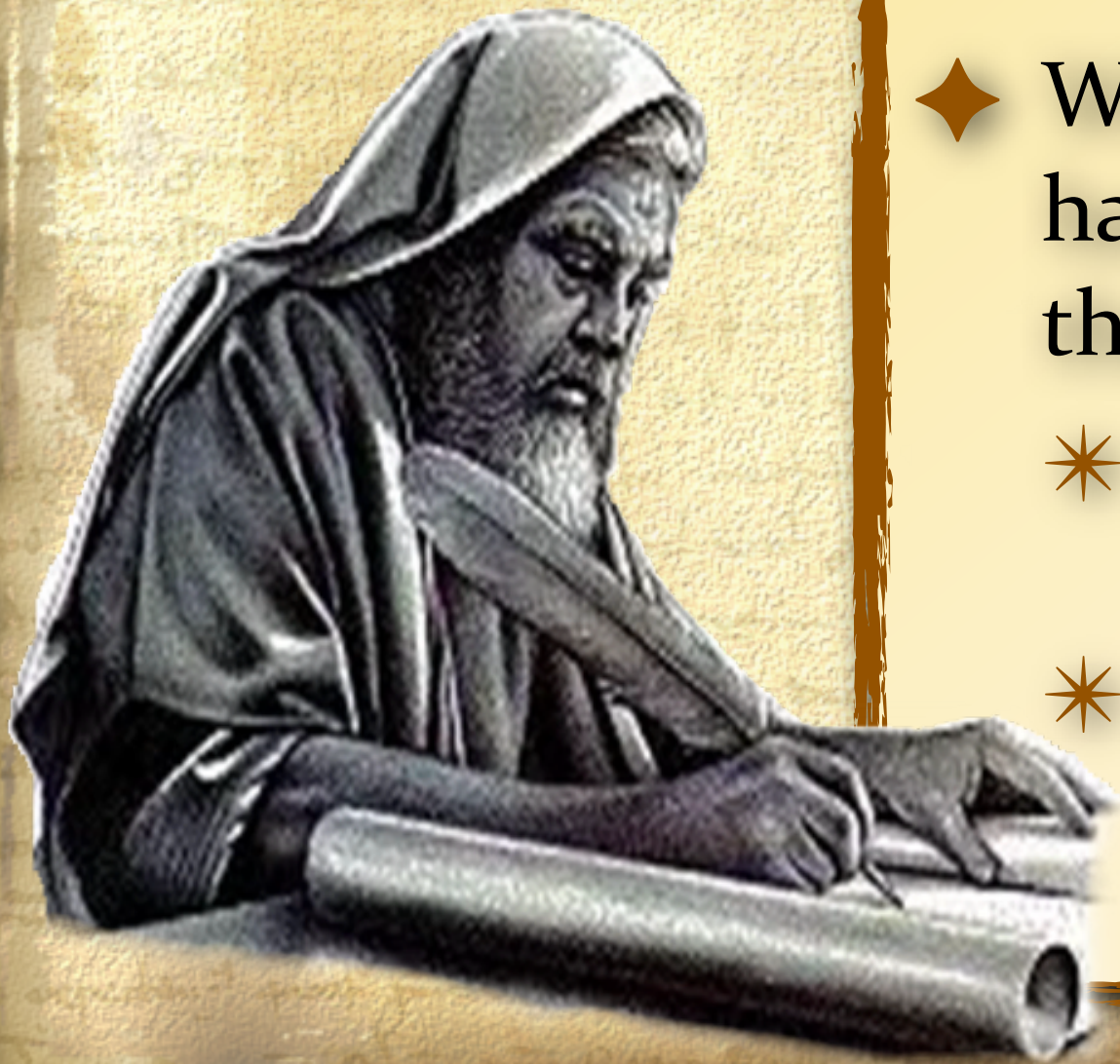


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- ◆ With this understanding, we can have joy in trials because we know that:
  - ✱ Testing works FOR us, not AGAINST us - cf. 2 Co 4:17
  - ✱ Trials rightly viewed and rightly met will help us to mature - Rom 5:3,4



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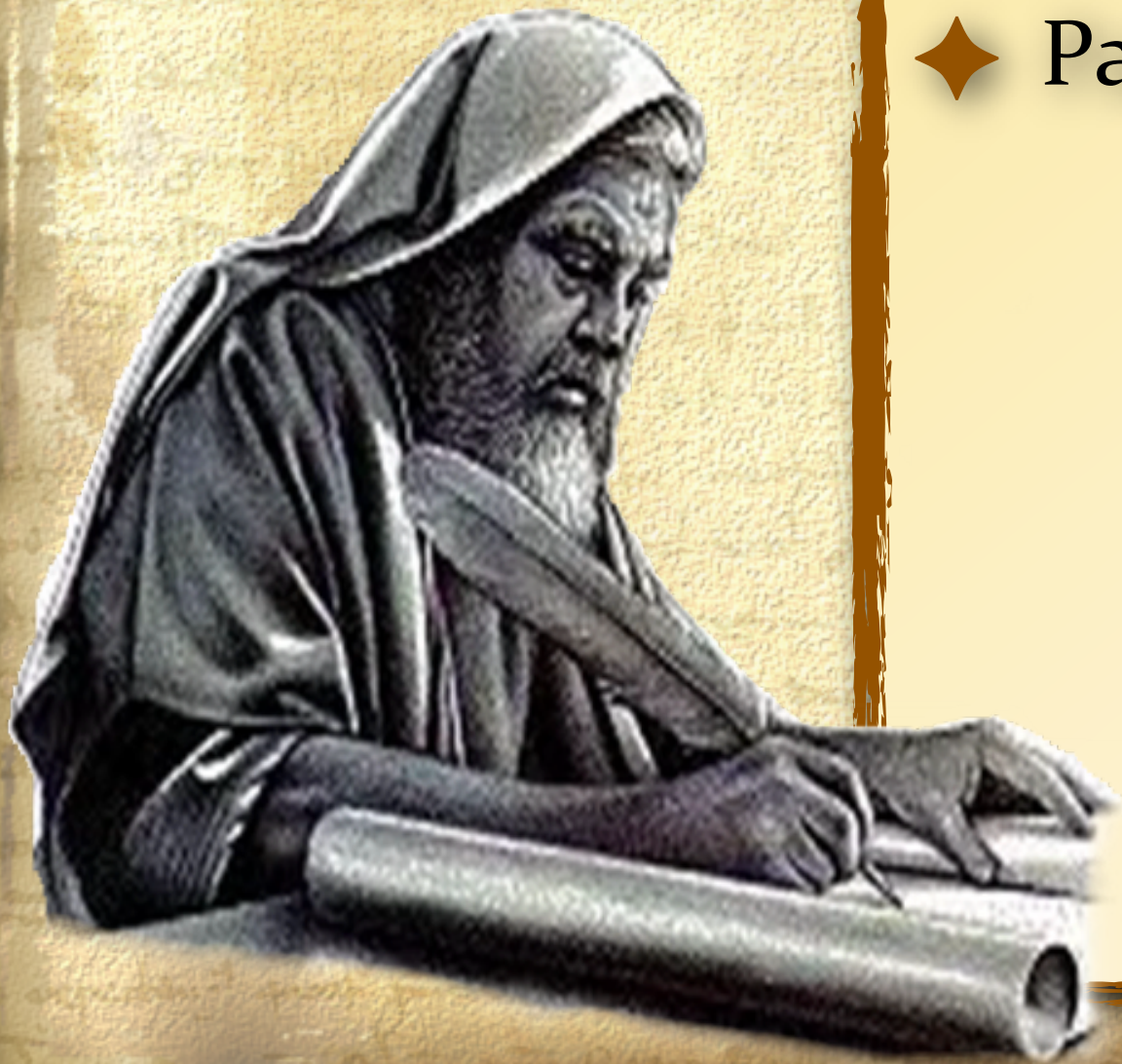




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Knowing that the testing of your  
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Knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience - 1:3



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Knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience - 1:3



- ◆ Patience NOT a passive acceptance:
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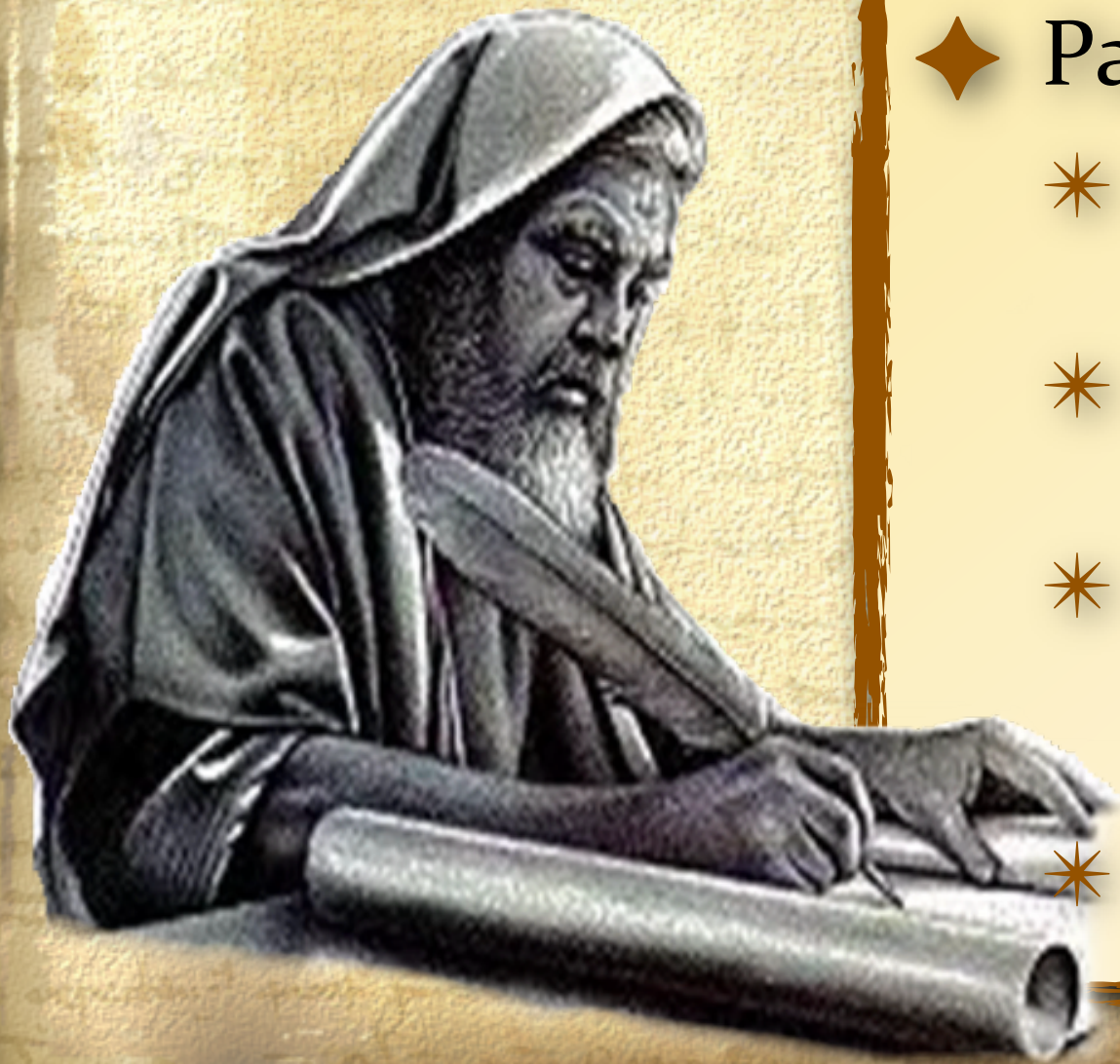


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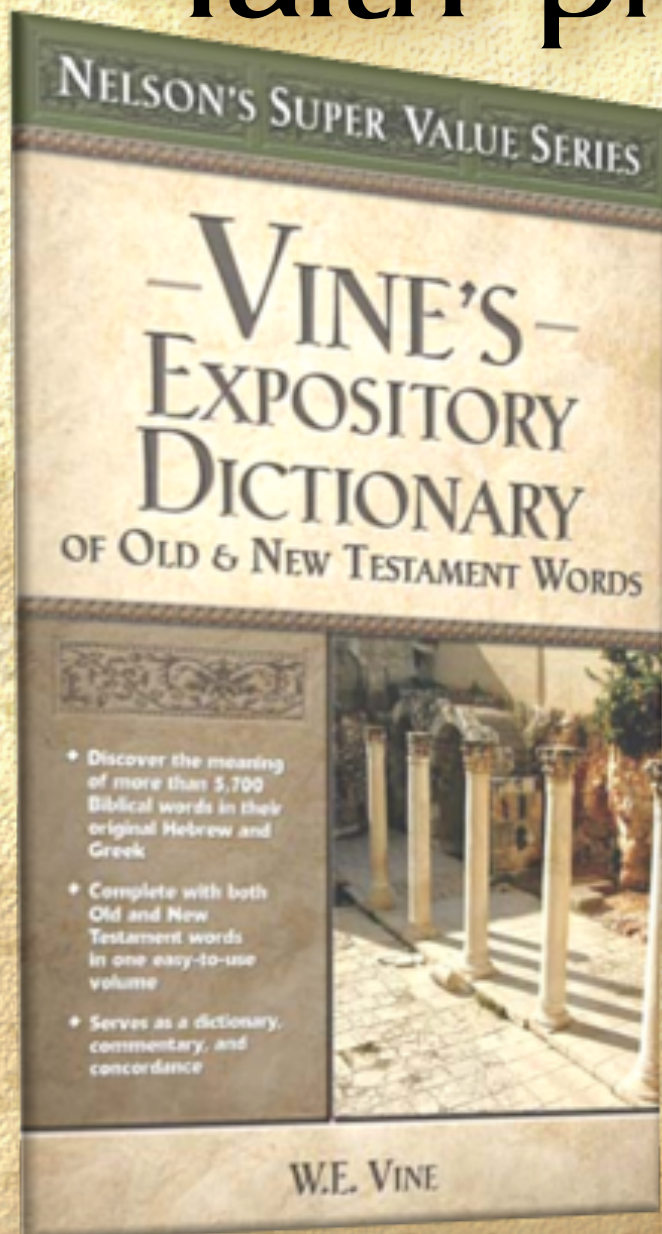


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  - ✧ Can come only through experiencing trials



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Knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience - 1:3



“Patience is the quality that does not surrender to circumstances or succumb under trial; it is the opposite of despondency and is associated with hope, 1 Thess. 1:3; it is not used of God.”

[From Notes on Thessalonians, by Hogg and Vine, pp. 183,184.] —



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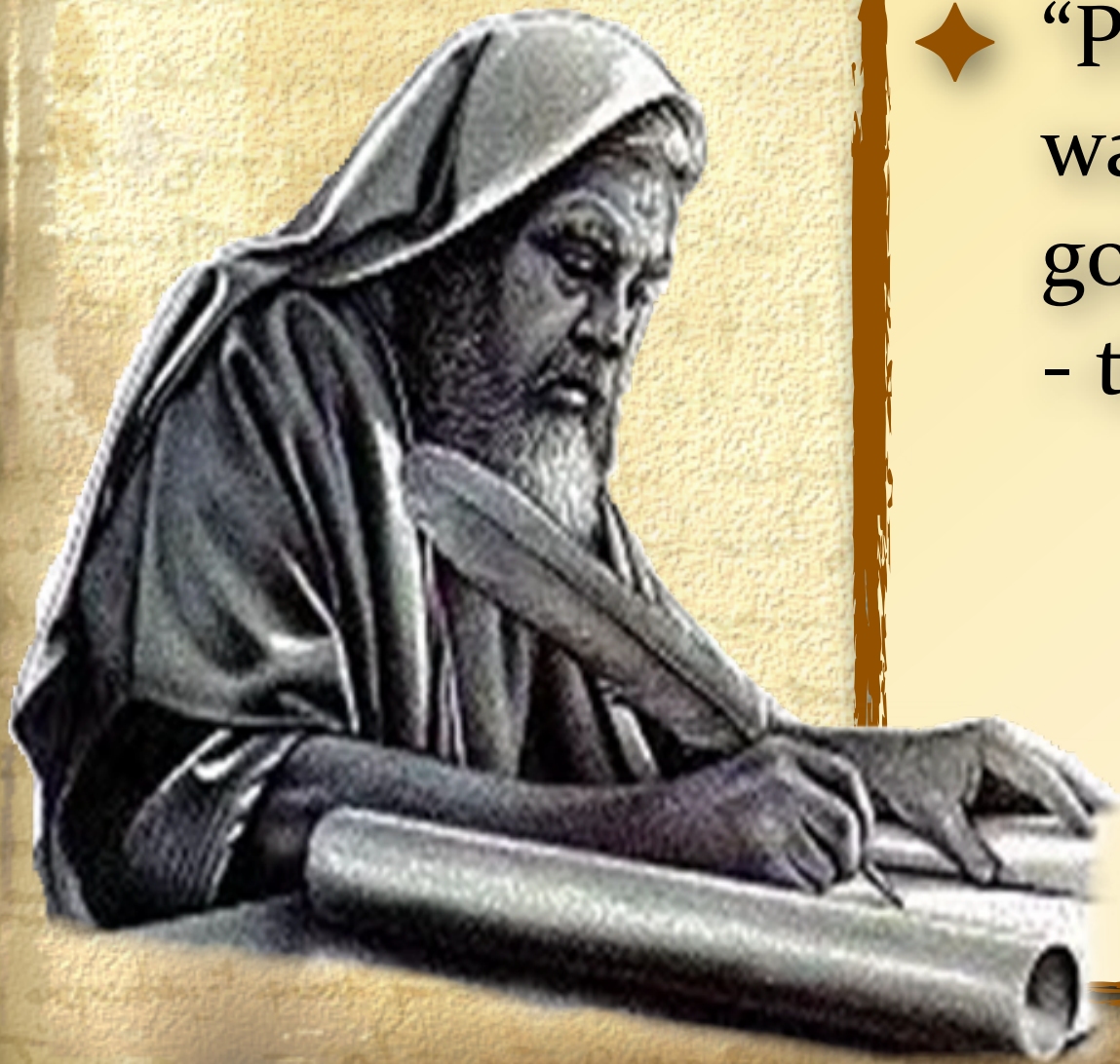
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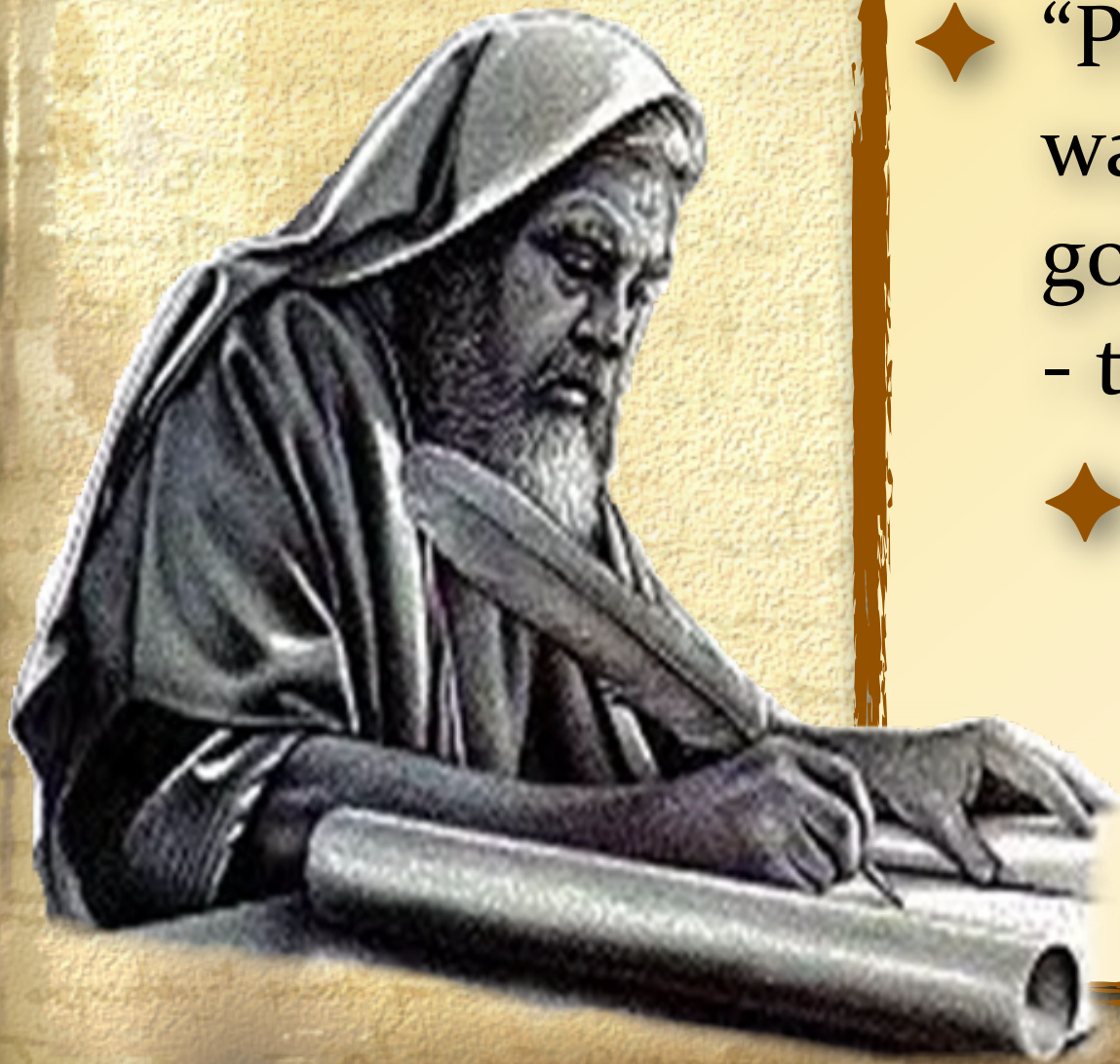


- ◆ “Patience is waiting. Not passively waiting. That is laziness. But to keep going when the going is hard and slow - that is patience.” *(Author Unknown)*



# Turning Trials Into Triumph

Knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience - 1:3



- ◆ “Patience is waiting. Not passively waiting. That is laziness. But to keep going when the going is hard and slow - that is patience.” (*Author Unknown*)
- ◆ “Patience is not passive; on the contrary, it is active; it is concentrated strength” - Edward G. Bulwer - (*British politician, poet, critic and prolific novelist, 1803-1873*)



# Turning Trials Into Triumph

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Let patience have its perfect work - 1:4

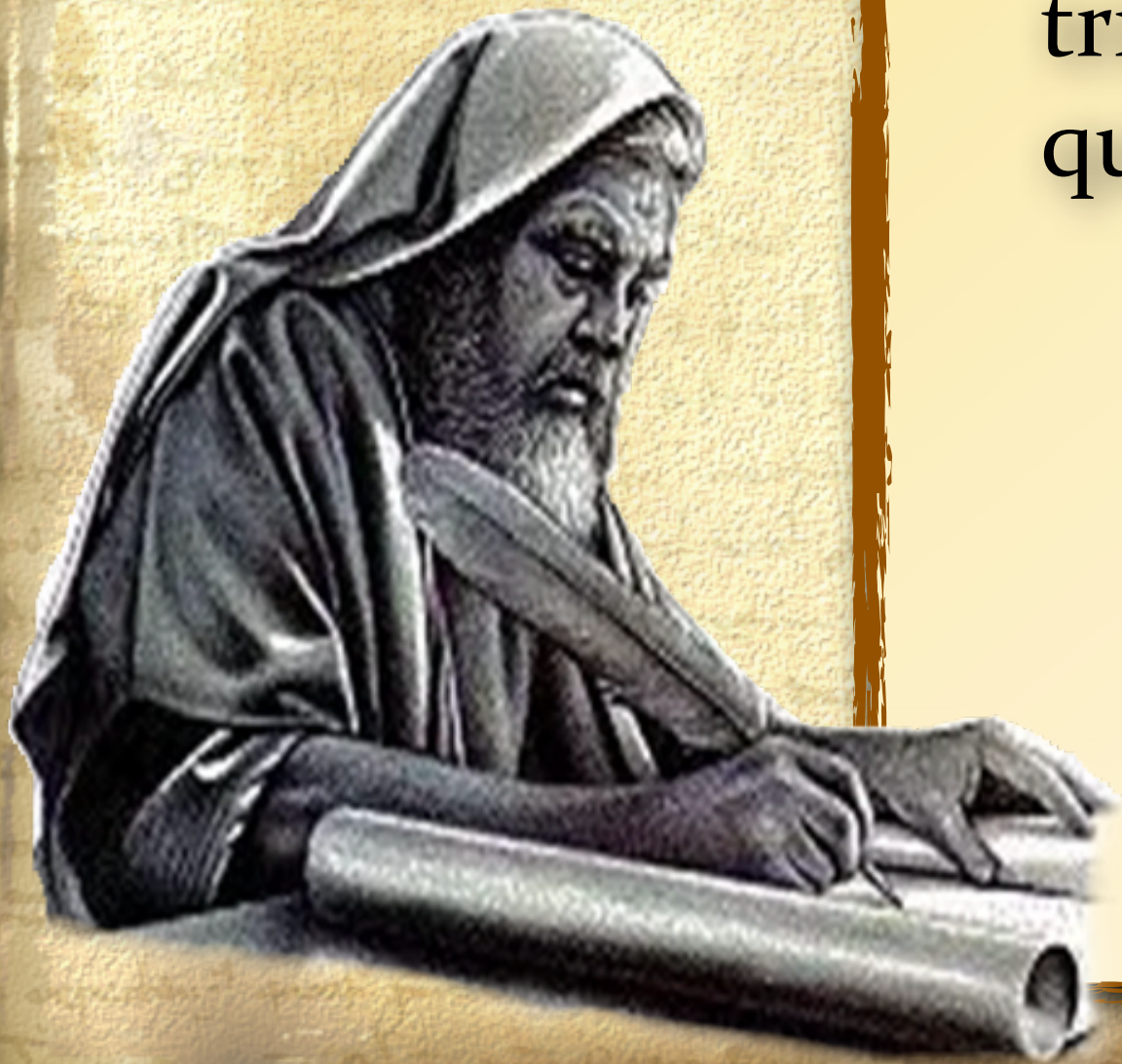




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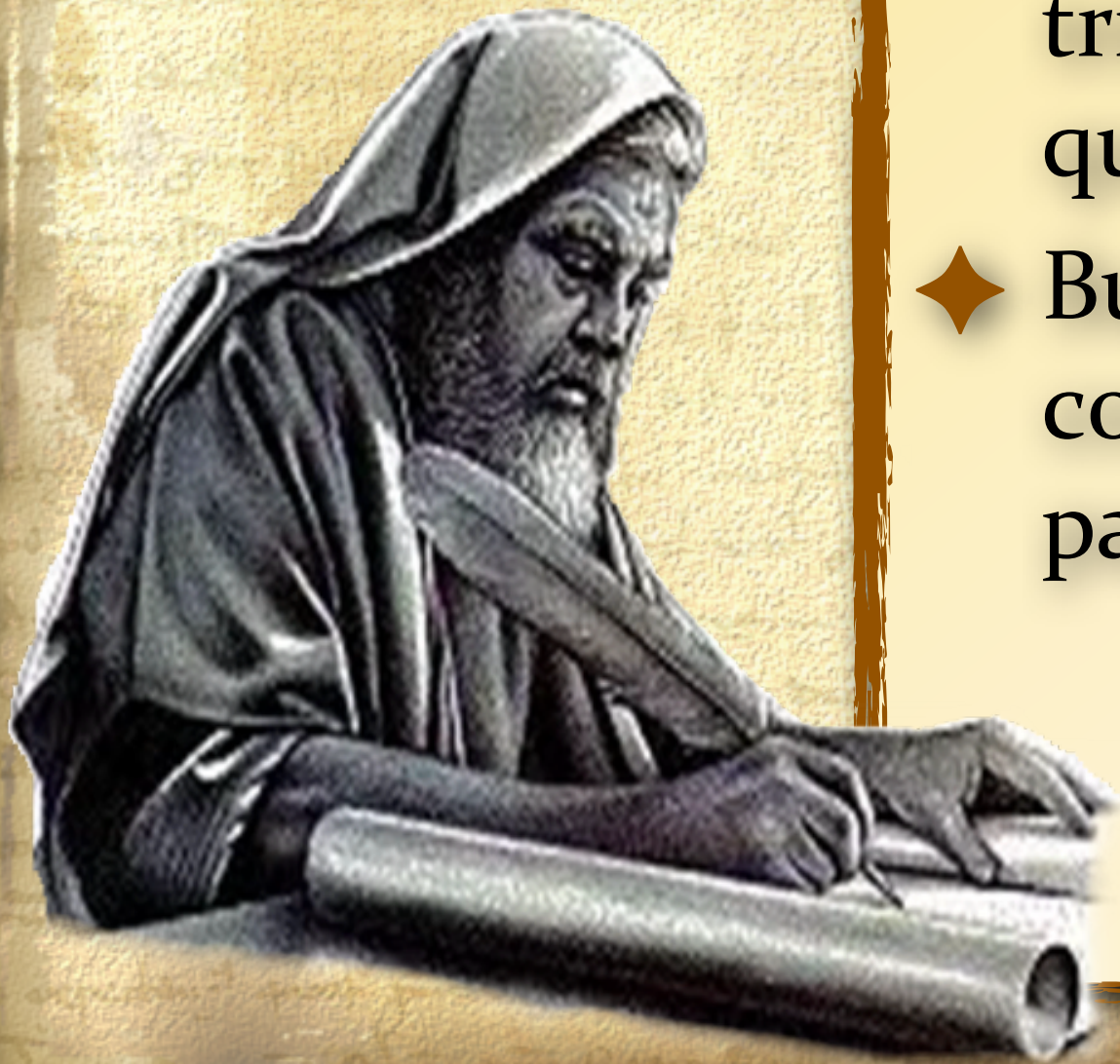
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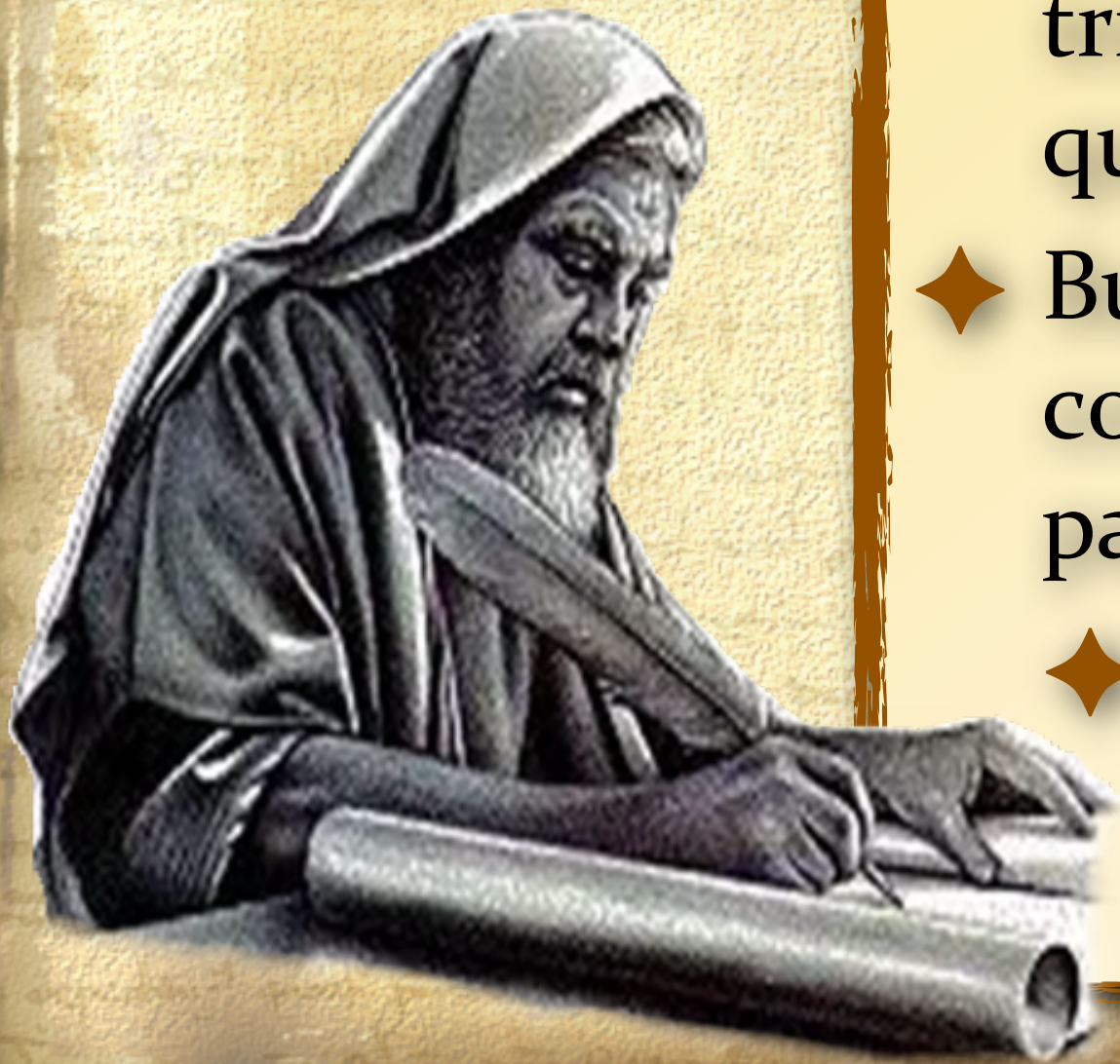


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- ◆ Too often, we want to get our trials or difficulties over with quickly -
- ◆ But there are times when the best course is to bear up under the trial patiently
- ◆ The word LET does not mean that we are allowing something to be done to us passively -



# Turning Trials Into Triumph

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Let patience have its perfect work - 1:4





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- ◆ Instead of grumbling and complaining . . . *Hold to patience* – patiently endure the trial, doing good despite the trial





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Let patience have its perfect work - 1:4



- ◆ Instead of grumbling and complaining . . . *Hold to patience* – patiently endure the trial, doing good despite the trial
- ◆ Patience doesn't do the work for us – but we, by holding onto patience, eventually will receive the fruits of endurance . . .



# Turning Trials Into Triumph

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Let patience have its perfect work - 1:4





# Turning Trials Into Triumph

Let patience have its perfect work - 1:4

◆ IT PRODUCES "MATURITY"!





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✱ PERFECT - "completeness, wholeness, maturity - Have attained to spiritual manhood in Christ - reached maturity and understanding in spiritual matters





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  - ✧ *Consider, for example, an endurance runner in his training*
  - ✧ *How many of us can run 5 miles?*



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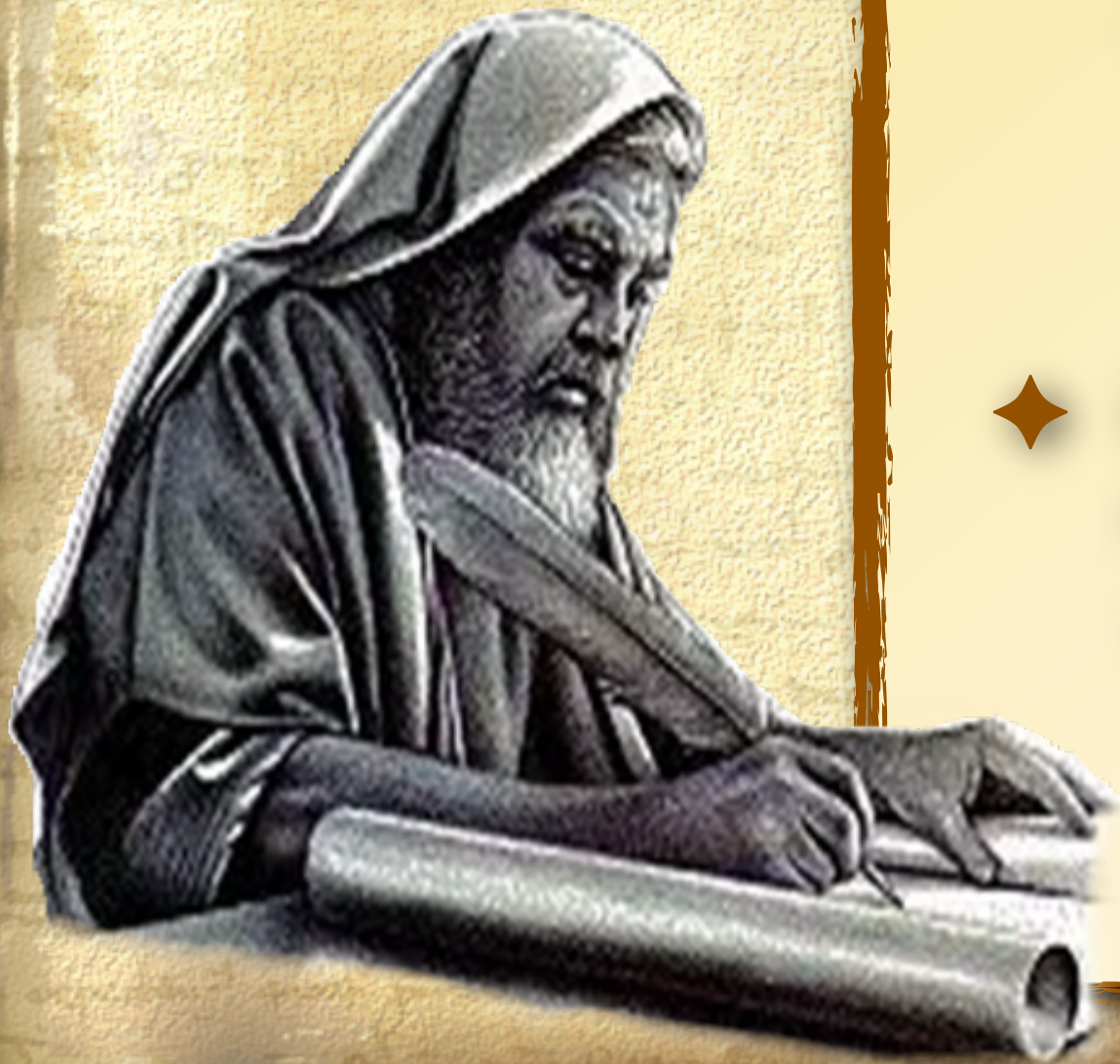


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- ◆ Example, a distance runner - (*How many of us can run 5 miles?*)
  - ✳ To run the spiritually race, we need to develop - *Which comes only through a form of spiritual "resistance training"*



# Turning Trials Into Triumph

If any of you lack wisdom - 1:5-8





# Turning Trials Into Triumph

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◆ What is wisdom?





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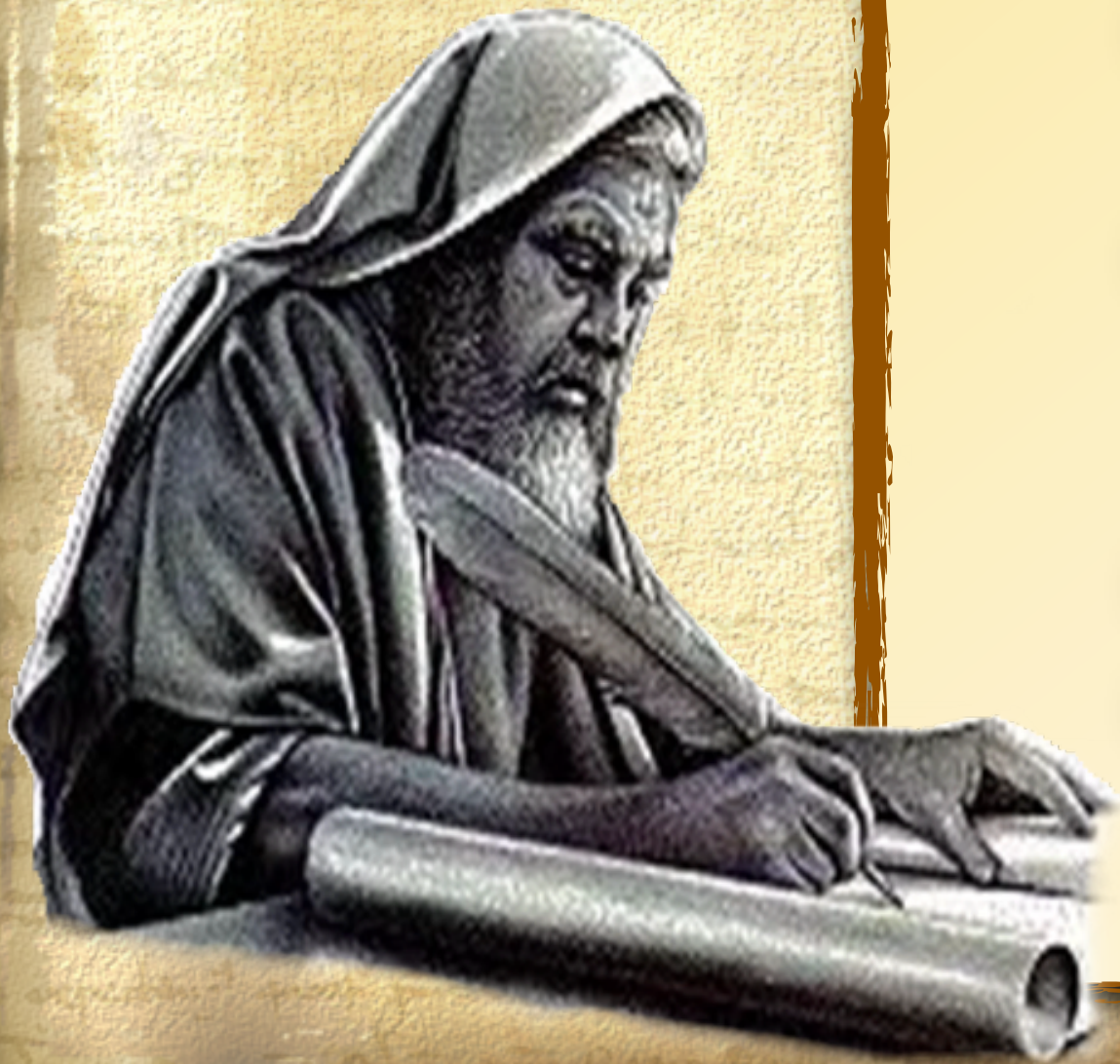
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  - ✦ Wisdom is applied knowledge
  - ✦ Wisdom is having a grasp of the principles needed in circumstances that allow us to succeed.



# Turning Trials Into Triumph

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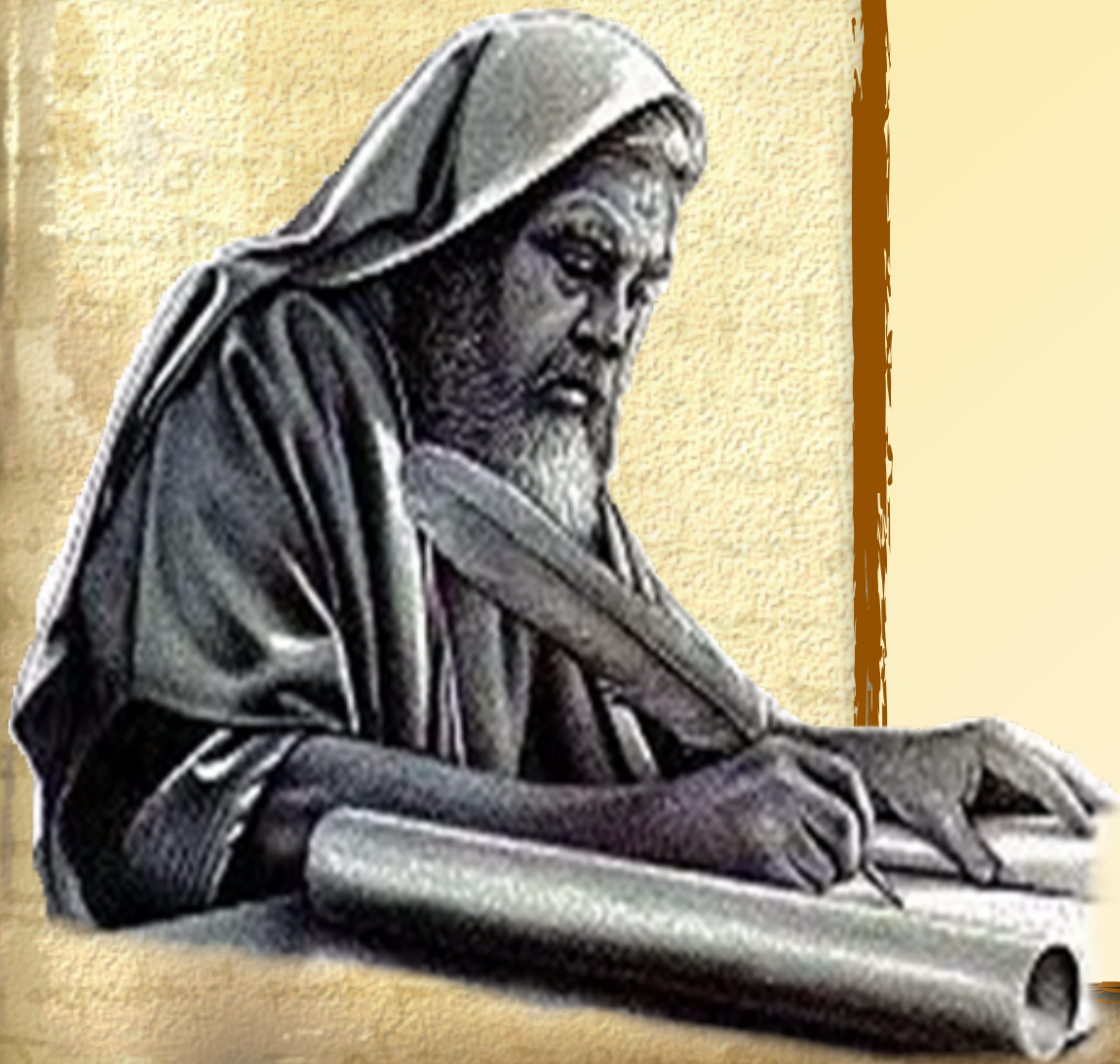




# Turning Trials Into Triumph

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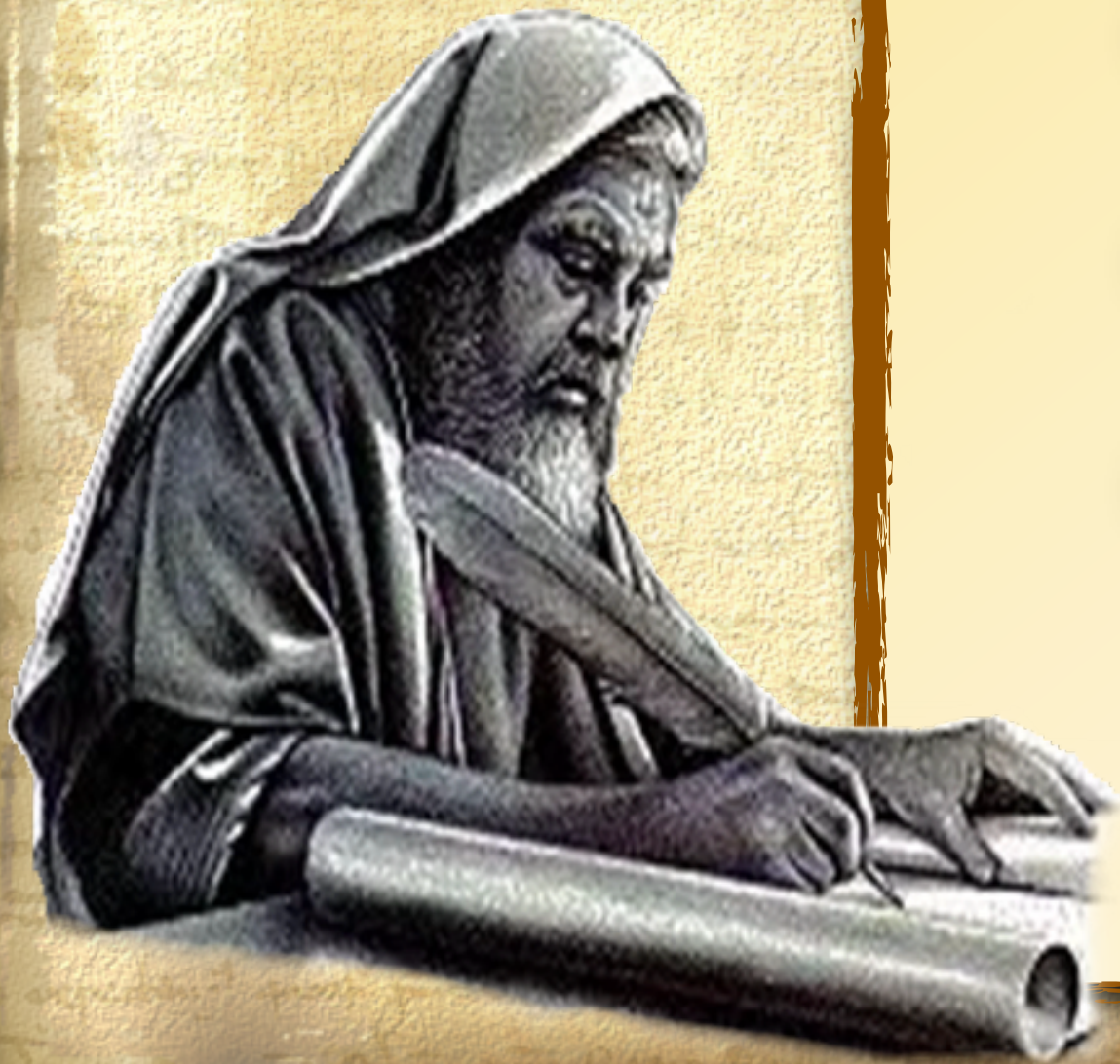


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- ✱ **Through God's providential care** – (The trials and hardships we are called to face)





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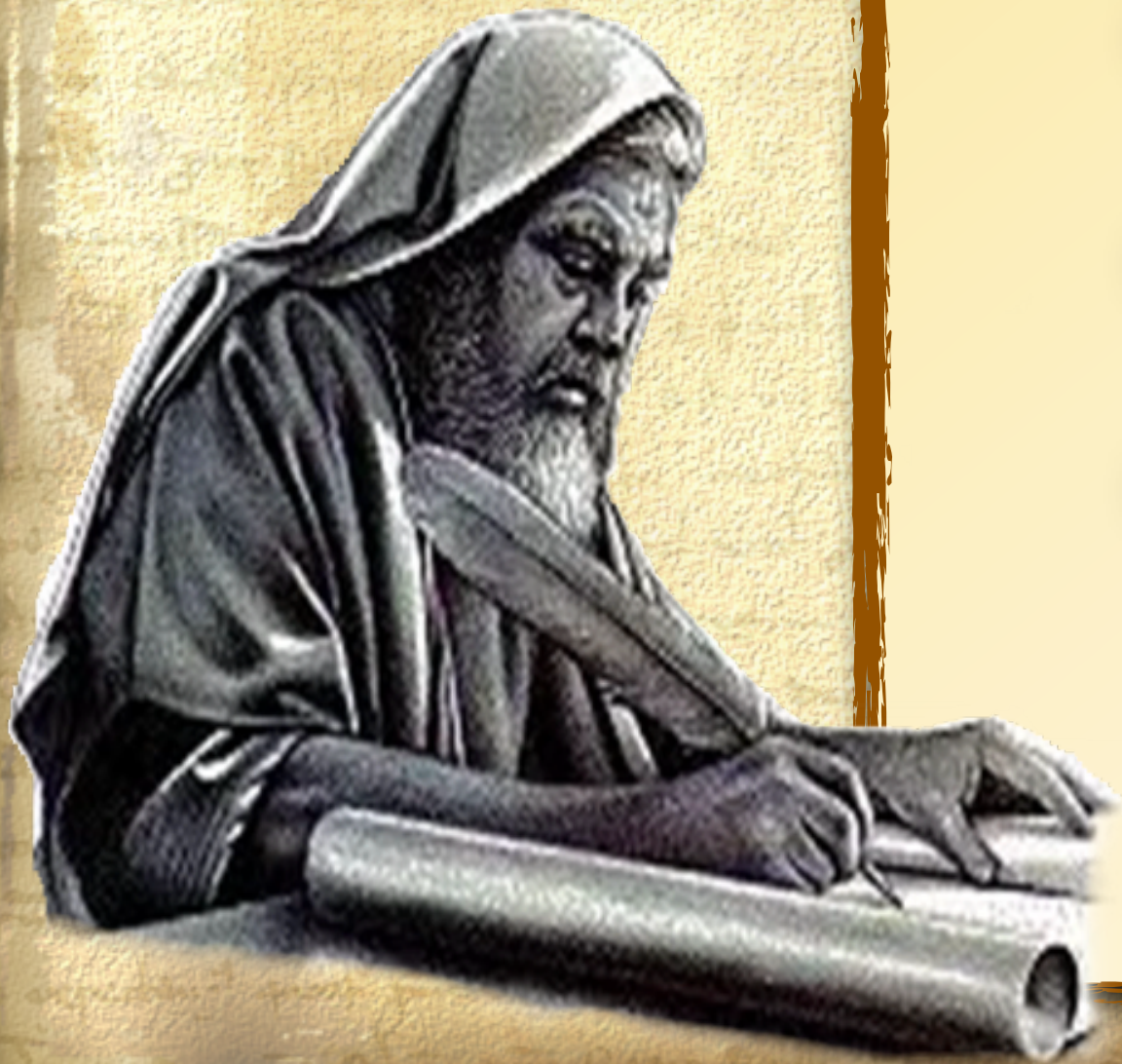


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- ✱ Let us pray for the wisdom to allow God to use whatever means He sees fit to bring us to maturity





# Turning Trials Into Triumph

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# Turning Trials Into Triumph

If any of you lack wisdom - 1:5-8

◆ **Ask in faith - Without doubt**





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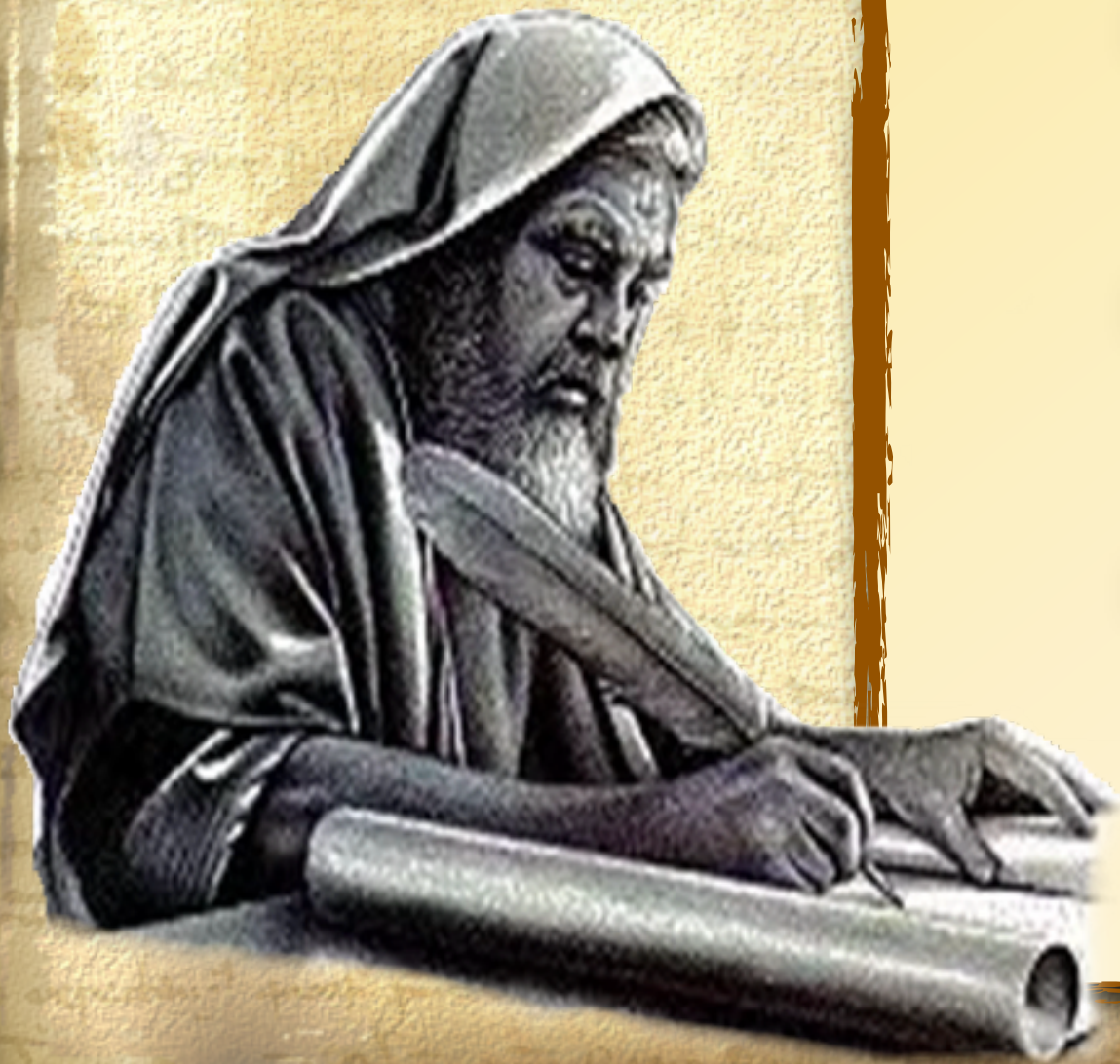
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- ✳ The one that doesn't follow God's Word – will not grow in grace and knowledge of God's word, gaining wisdom!
- ✳ The one that doesn't TRUST God's providential care – Will not understand the purpose of God behind trials – (*to bring his children to maturity, and purity*)



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- ✱ A double minded man is unstable in all his ways - like a ship tossed about - without anchor - Eph 4:14





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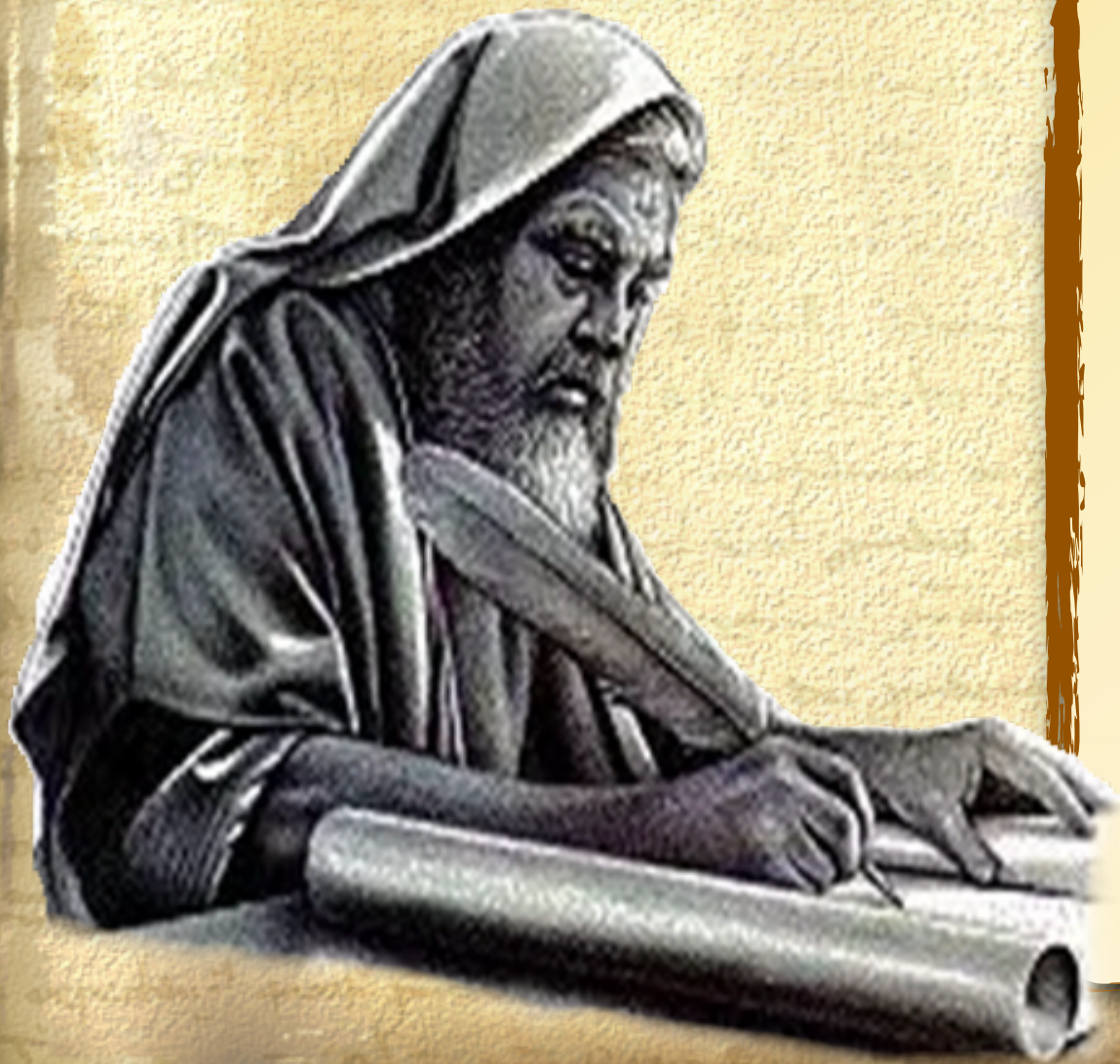
- ✱ A double minded man is unstable in all his ways - like a ship tossed about - without anchor - Eph 4:14
- ✱ The double minded man cannot please God! - James 4:8; Matthew 6:24; 1 Kings 18:21
- ✱ Such a one will not receive wisdom - for focus, devotion and dedication is required . . .





# Turning Trials Into Triumph

The temporary nature of things - 1:9-11



## **James 1:9-11 (NKJV)**

<sup>9</sup> Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, <sup>10</sup> but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away. <sup>11</sup> For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits.

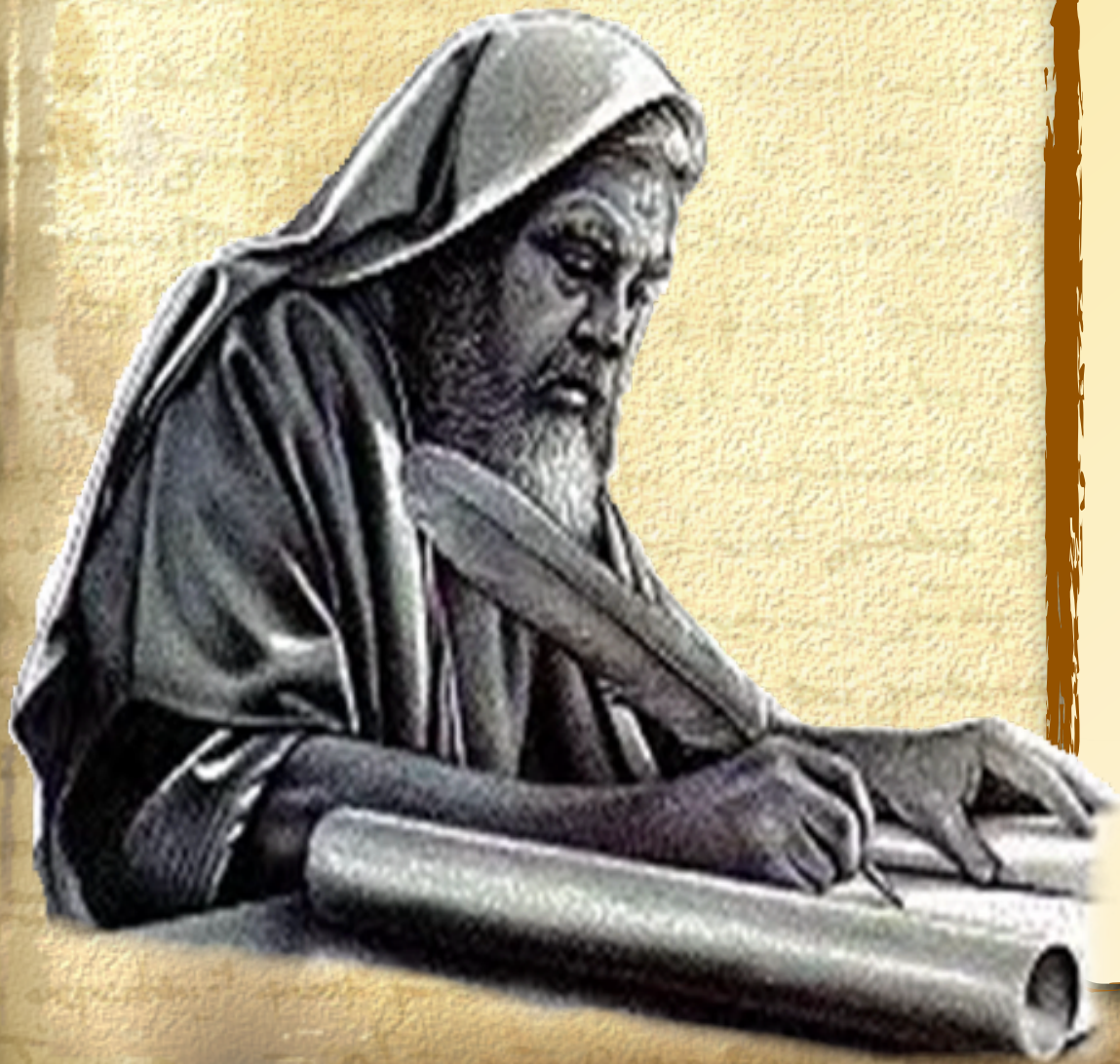


# Turning Trials Into Triumph

## The Final Victory - 1:12

### **James 1:12 (NKJV)**

Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.





# Turning Trials Into Triumph

## Obeying Four Imperatives





# Turning Trials Into Triumph

## Obeying Four Imperatives

- ◆ **COUNT - 1:2** - to consider, deem, account, think (Thayer) - "count it all joy when you fall into various trials,"

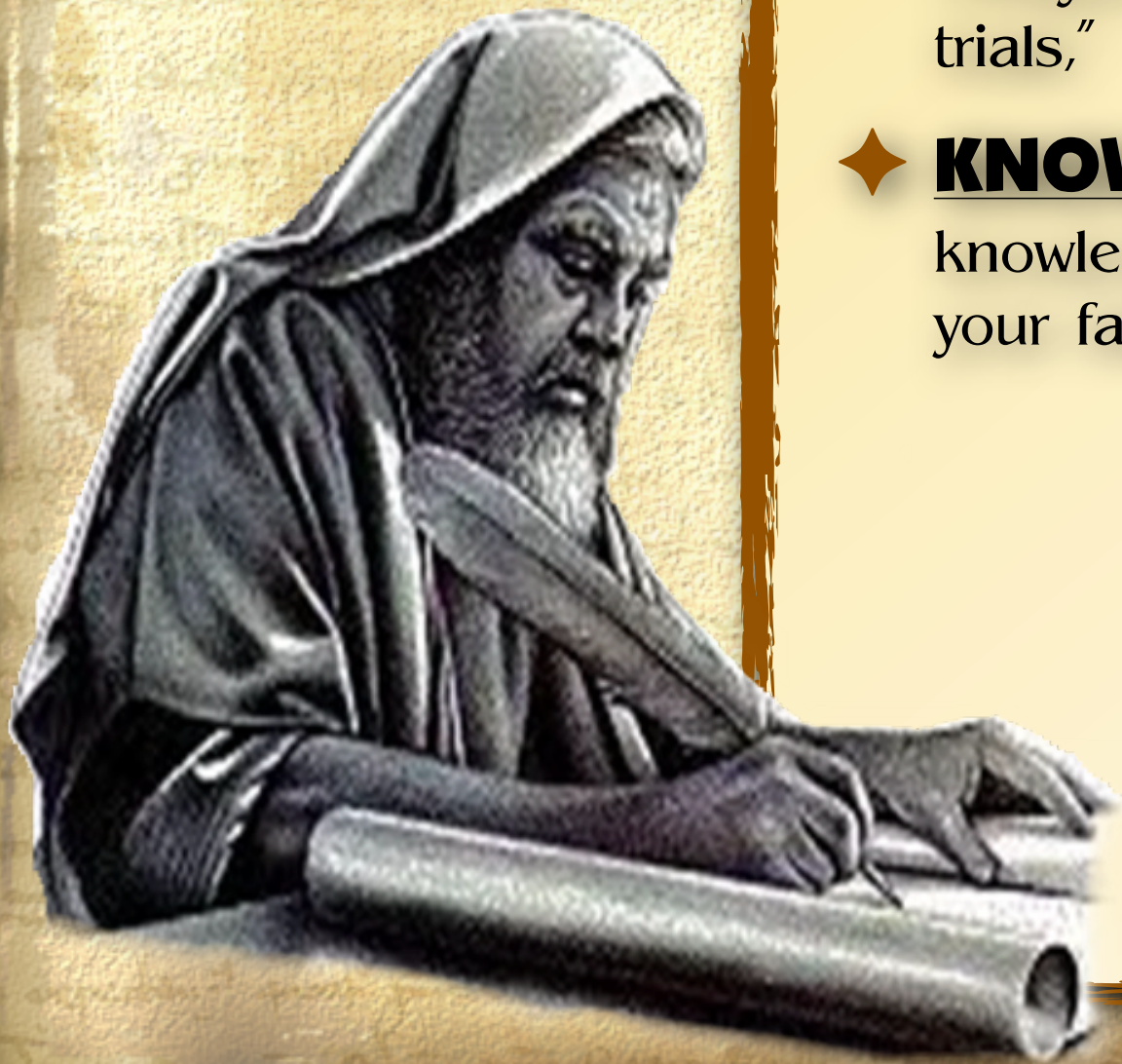




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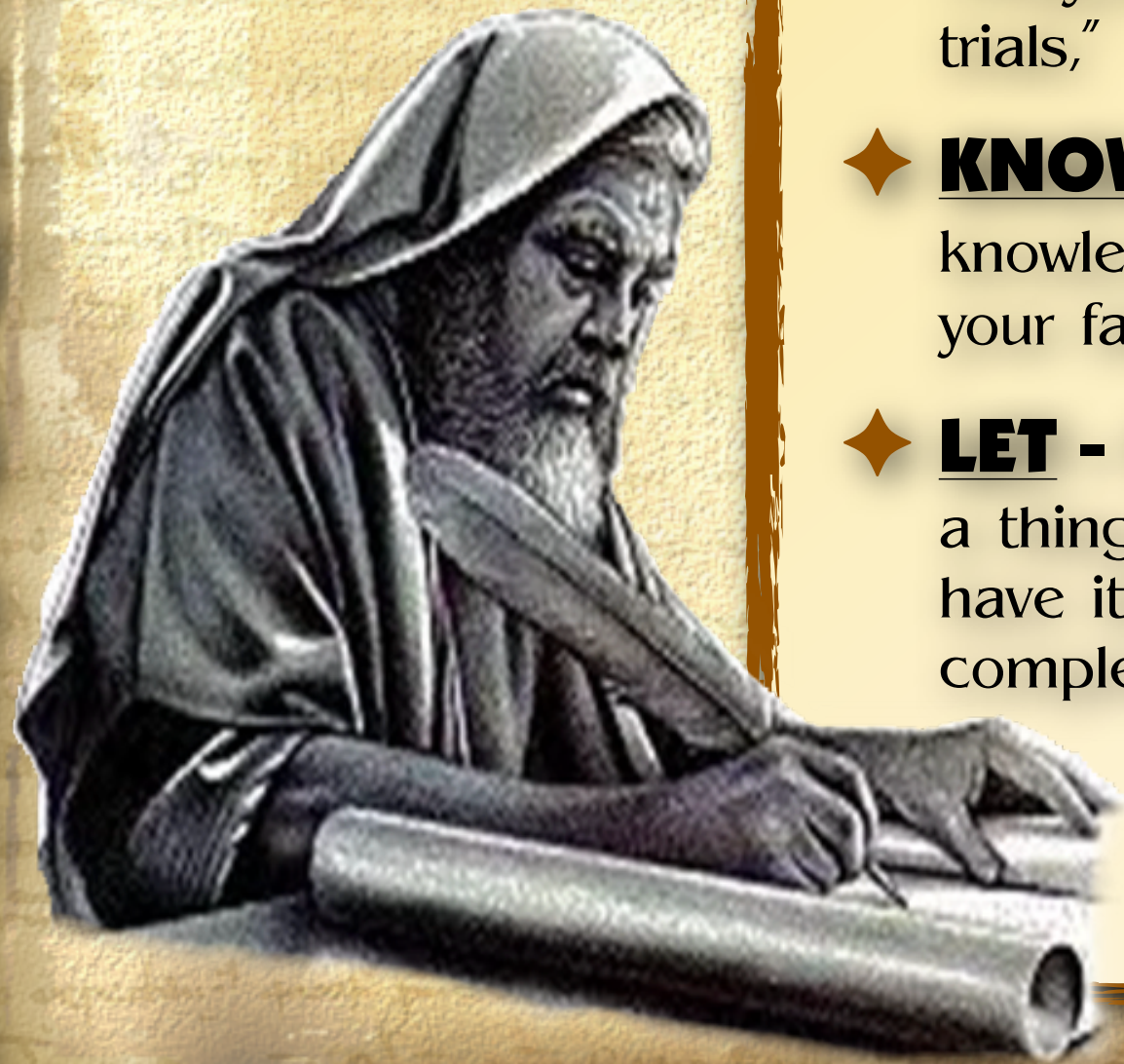
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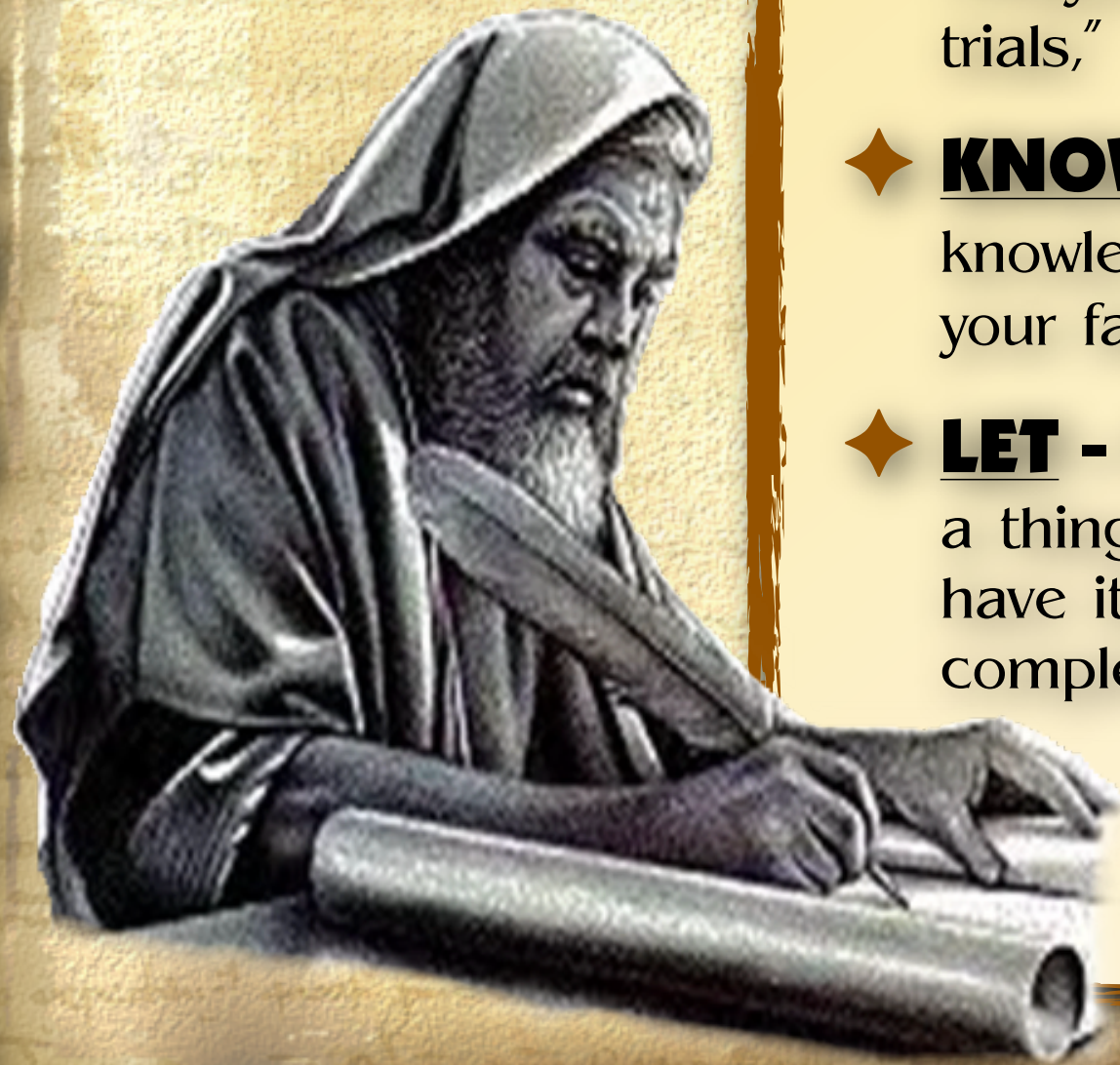


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- ◆ **LET - 1:4** - to hold one's self to a thing, to lay hold of a thing, to adhere or cling - (Thayer) "4But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete,"



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- ◆ **ASK FOR WISDOM - 1:5-8** "5If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, . . .  
6But let him ask in faith,

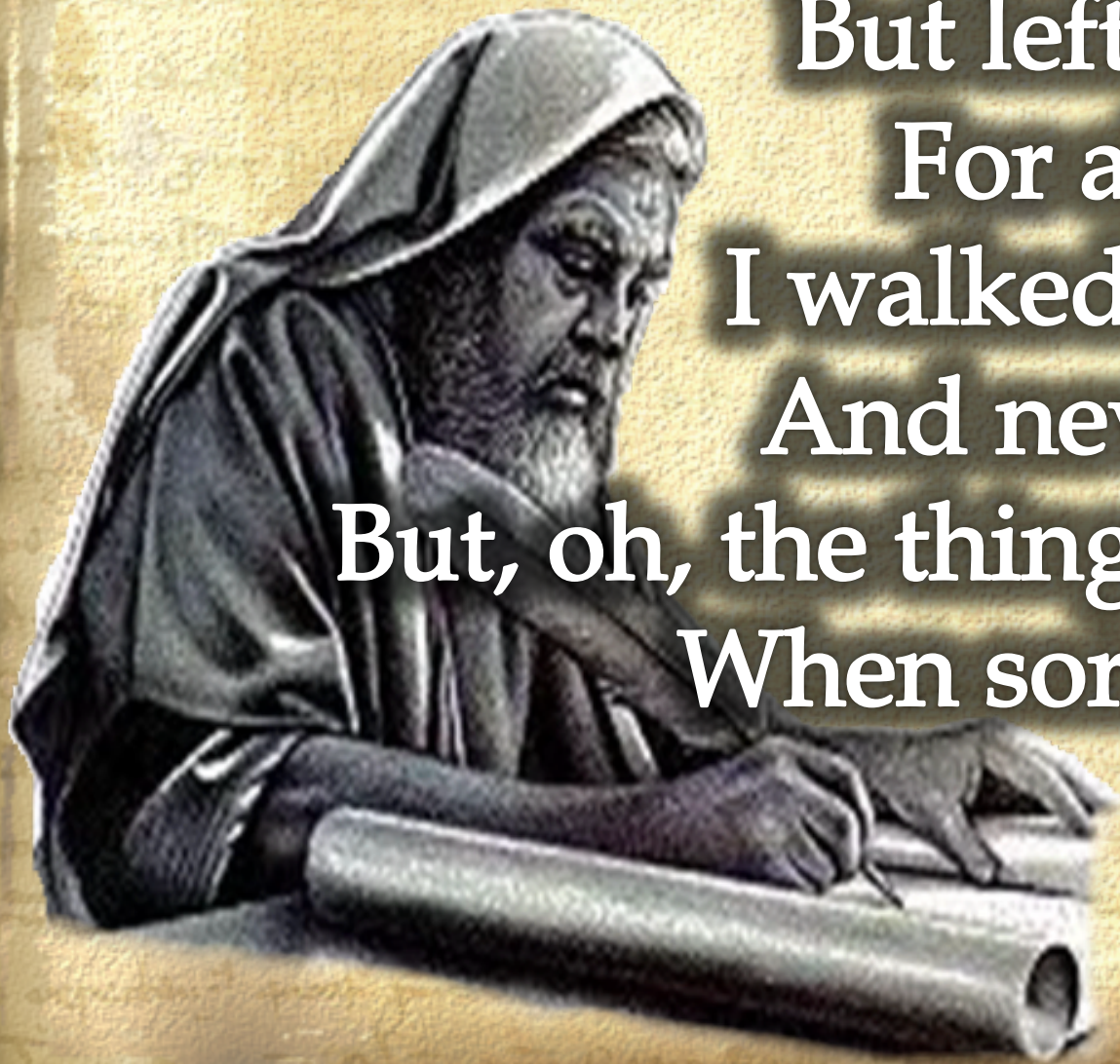


# Turning Trials Into Triumph

I walked a mile with Pleasure,  
She chattered all the way;  
But left me none the wiser  
For all she had to say!

I walked a mile with Sorrow,  
And never a word said she;  
But, oh, the things I learned that day from her  
When sorrow walked with me!

- Unknown



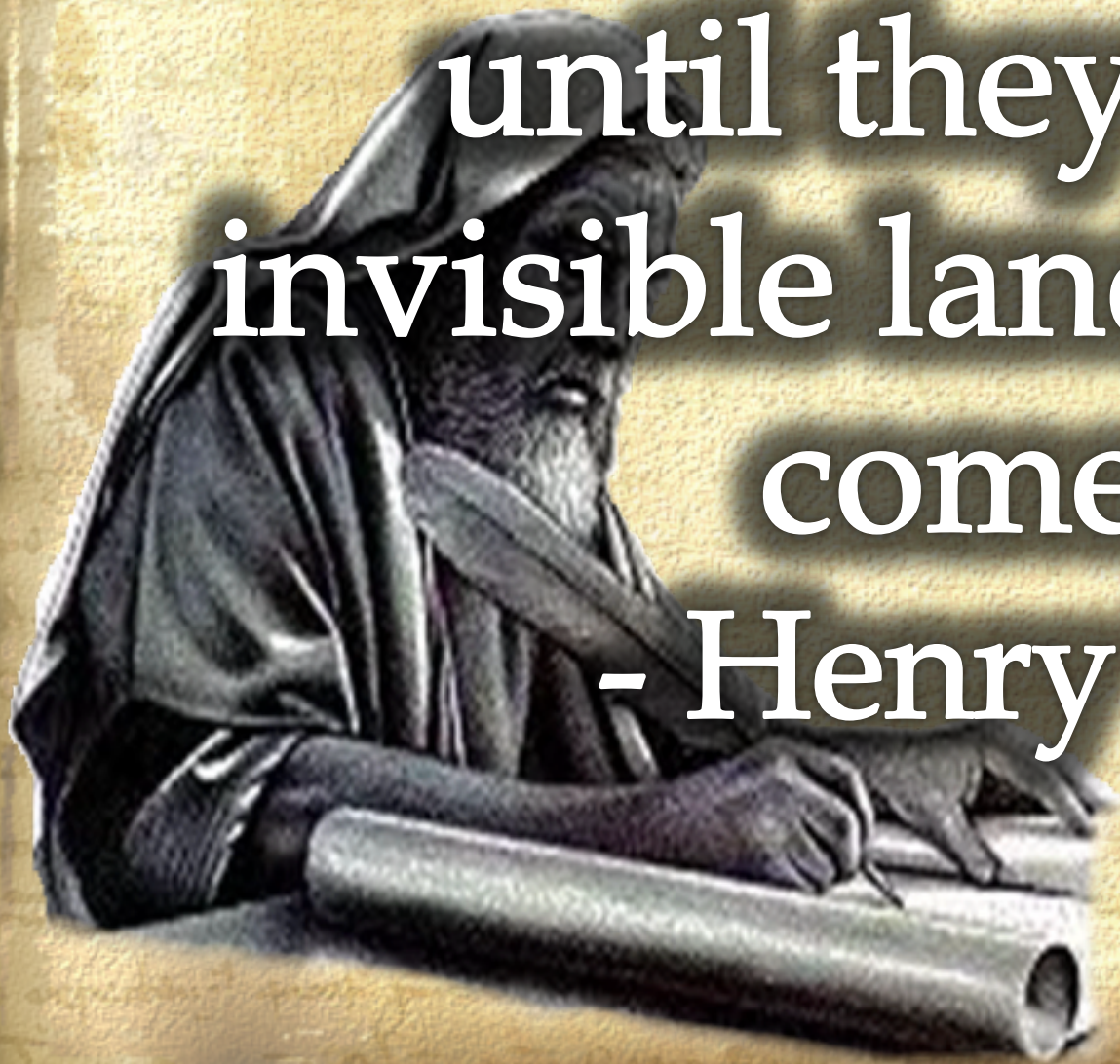


# Turning Trials Into Triumph

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“God washes the eyes by tears  
until they can behold the  
invisible land where tears shall  
come no More.”

- Henry Ward Beecher









# The Epistle Of James

## **Charts by Don McClain**

Prepared March 17,18, 2012

Preached March 18, 2012

West 65<sup>th</sup> Street church of Christ

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Prepared using PPT 2010

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## **Romans 5:1-11 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> and perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. <sup>6</sup> For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.



## **Romans 5:1-11 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. <sup>10</sup> For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. <sup>11</sup> And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.