

## Stronghold

### Stronghold - a place that is fortified or that can easily be defended

**Hebrew** – Misgab (mis-gawb') & matsuwd (maw-tsood'); a cliff (or other lofty or inaccessible place); abstractly, altitude; figuratively, a refuge: (high fort (tower)) defense, strong place

**Greek** - ochuroma (okh-oo'-ro-mah); (meaning to fortify, through the idea of holding safely); a castle (figuratively, argument): (stronghold.)

### History of Stronghold

#### Safe & secure place –

Judg 6:2 Because the power of Midian was so oppressive, the Israelites prepared shelters for themselves in mountain clefts, caves and **strongholds**.

2 Chron 11:5-12 - 5 So Rehoboam dwelt in Jerusalem, and built cities for defense in Judah. 6 And he built Bethlehem, Etam, Tekoa, 7 Beth Zur, Sochoh, Adullam, 8 Gath, Mareshah, Ziph, 9 Adoraim, Lachish, Azekah, 10 Zorah, Aijalon, and Hebron, which are in Judah and Benjamin, fortified cities. 11 And he fortified the strongholds, and put captains in them, and stores of food, oil, and wine. 12 Also in every city he put shields and spears, and made them very strong, having Judah and Benjamin on his side. NKJV

**Why do we want to demolish strongholds if they are good?** - 2 Cor 10:3-4 - 3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to **demolish strongholds**.

#### Because major threats in our lives are the **wrong strongholds (FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY)**

**Addictions:** Drugs, Alcohol, Gambling, sex, work, eating, bad relationships...

**Limited security:** Emotions/feelings, pride, money, success, intelligence, seclusion, false love...

**We allow the false strongholds to move us from our TRUE stronghold** - Isa 17:10-11 - 10 You have forgotten God your Savior; you have not remembered the Rock, your fortress. Therefore, though you set out the finest plants and plant imported vines, 11 though on the day you set them out, you make them grow, and on the morning when you plant them, you bring them to bud, yet the harvest will be as nothing in the day of disease and incurable pain.

#### We must realize the only TRUE stronghold for us is GOD and ONLY God

**God is our stronghold** - Ps 18:2 -The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, **my stronghold**.

**God is our safety in times of trouble** - Ps 9:9-10 - 9 The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. 10 Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.

**The way of God is what protects us, this is only for Believers** - Prov 10:29 The way of Jehovah is a stronghold to the upright; But it is a destruction to the workers of iniquity.

#### How to be in the correct stronghold

**Recognize the source of wrong strongholds is you** - Mark 8:34-36 - 34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, **HE MUST deny himself** and take up his cross and follow me. 35 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. 36 ***What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?***

**Be Spiritual** -Gal 5:16 -So I say, live by the Spirit, and **you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature**.

**Rely on the protection God provides** - Eph 6:10-13-10 Finally, **be strong IN THE LORD and IN HIS MIGHTY POWER**. 11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore **put on the FULL ARMOR of God**, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

**Rely on the weapons God supplies** - 2 Cor 10:5-6 - 5 We **demolish arguments** and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 6 And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.

#### Totally trusting in God

**Never trusting self** -Prov 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and **lean not on your own understanding**;

**Not being misled by feelings** - John 14:1 **Do not let your hearts be troubled**. TRUST IN GOD; TRUST ALSO IN ME.