4FOR WHATEVER WAS WRITTEN IN FORMER DAYS WAS WRITTEN FOR OUR INSTRUCTION, THAT THROUGH ENDURANCE AND THROUGH THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE SCRIPTURES WE MIGHT HAVE HOPE...

"MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE IN BELIEVING, SO THAT BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT YOU MAY ABOUND IN HOPE, —ROMANS 15:4, 13

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AND JOSHUA THE SON OF NUN SENT TWO MEN SECRETLY FROM SHITTIM AS SPIES, SAYING,
"GO, VIEW THE LAND, ESPECIALLY JERICHO."

AND THEY WENT AND CAME INTO THE HOUSE OF A PROSTITUTE WHOSE NAME WAS RAHAB AND LODGED THERE. —JOSHUA 2:1

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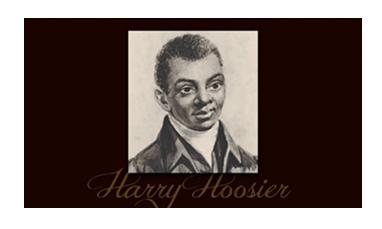
I. GOD REDEEMS HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR PAST "IN THOSE MOMENTS OF UNNAMING [HEARTACHE OR TRAUMA] WHEN WE HAVE LOST OURSELVES, WE MUST REMEMBER TO RETURN TO OUR PAST REDEMPTIONS TO FIND GOD'S MARK OF GLORY ON OUR ABANDONMENT, BETRAYAL, AND SHAME. WE WRONGLY BELIEVE THAT WE WILL BE HAPPY IF WE CAN ESCAPE THE PAST. BUT WITHOUT OUR PAST WE ARE HOLLOW AND PLASTIC BEINGS WHO HAVE ONLY COMMON NAMES AND CONVENTIONAL STORIES. WHEN WE ENTER INTO OUR STORY AT THE POINT WE LOST OUR NAME, WE ARE MOST LIKELY TO HEAR THE WHISPER OF OUR NEW NAME." —DAN ALLENDER

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FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU, DECLARES THE LORD,
PLANS FOR WELFARE AND NOT FOR EVIL,
TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE AND A HOPE.—JEREMIAH 29:11

2. GOD REDEEMS COMMON PEOPLE FOR HIS GRACIOUS PURPOSE

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"THERE ARE GENERATIONS YET UNBORN, WHOSE VERY LIVES WILL BE SHIFTED AND SHAPED BY THE MOVES YOU MAKE AND THE ACTIONS YOU TAKE." —ANDY ANDREWS

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3. GOD REDEEMS THE FUTURE OF A PROSTITUTE

"WE LIVE IN A WORLD THAT IS UNDER THE JUDGEMENT
OF GOD, AND THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION OF THE CHURCH
COMING TO TERMS WITH IT. WE ARE TOLD TODAY BY
SOME PEOPLE THAT WE MUST CATCH THE SPIRIT OF THE AGE.
GOD FORBID! OUR TASK IS TO REBUKE THE SPIRIT OF THE AGE
AND CHALLENGE IT FOR JESUS CHRIST. THE WORLD IS UNDER
THE JUDGMENT OF GOD, BUT AT THE RIGHT HAND OF OUR
FATHER IN HEAVEN IS A SAVIOR WHOSE BLOOD SPEAKS, AND,
UNTIL EVERY RANSOMED SOUL FOR WHOM GOD
IN HIS SOVEREIGN GRACE HAS A PURPOSE FOR SALVATION IS
DELIVERED, THE JUDGMENT IS DELAYED,"—ALAN REDPATH

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"BEFORE THE MEN LAY DOWN, SHE CAME UP TO THEM
ON THE ROOF *AND SAID TO THE MEN, "I KNOW THAT
THE LORD HAS GIVEN YOU THE LAND, AND THAT THE FEAR
OF YOU HAS FALLEN UPON US, AND THAT ALL THE INHABITANTS
OF THE LAND MELT AWAY BEFORE YOU. "FOR WE HAVE HEARD
HOW THE LORD DRIED UP THE WATER OF THE RED SEA
BEFORE YOU WHEN YOU CAME OUT OF EGYPT... "IAND AS SOON
AS WE HEARD IT, OUR HEARTS MELTED, AND THERE WAS NO SPIRIT
LEFT IN ANY MAN BECAUSE OF YOU, FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD,
HE IS GOD IN THE HEAVENS ABOVE AND ON THE EARTH BENEATH.

13 NOW THEN, PLEASE SWEAR TO ME BY THE LORD THAT, AS I HAVE DEALT KINDLY WITH YOU, YOU ALSO WILL DEAL KINDLY WITH MY FATHER'S HOUSE, AND GIVE ME A SURE SIGN 13 THAT YOU WILL SAVE ALIVE MY FATHER AND MOTHER, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, AND ALL WHO BELONG TO THEM, AND DELIVER OUR LIVES FROM DEATH." 14 AND THE MEN SAID TO HER, "OUR LIFE FOR YOURS EVEN TO DEATH! IF YOU DO NOT TELL THIS BUSINESS OF OURS, THEN WHEN THE LORD GIVES US THE LAND WE WILL DEAL KINDLY AND FAITHFULLY WITH YOU." 15 THEN SHE LET THEM DOWN BY A ROPE THROUGH THE WINDOW, FOR HER HOUSE WAS BUILT INTO THE CITY WALL, SO THAT SHE LIVED IN THE WALL. —JOSHUA 2:8-10a, 11-15

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INFOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.

17FOR GOD DID NOT SEND HIS SON INTO THE WORLD TO CONDEMN THE WORLD, BUT IN ORDER THAT THE WORLD MIGHT BE SAVED THROUGH HIM.

-.015.tiff -.016.tiff

INVHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM IS NOT CONDEMNED, BUT WHOEVER DOES NOT BELIEVE IS CONDEMNED ALREADY, BECAUSE HE HAS NOT BELIEVED IN THE NAME OF THE ONLY SON OF GOD. —JOHN 3:16-18

4. GOD REDEEMS/REPLACES OUR HISTORY
WITH JESUS' VICTORY

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"BEHOLD, WHEN WE COME INTO THE LAND, YOU SHALL TIE THIS SCARLET CORD IN THE WINDOW THROUGH WHICH YOU LET US DOWN, AND YOU SHALL GATHER INTO YOUR HOUSE YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER, YOUR BROTHERS, AND ALL YOUR FATHER'S HOUSEHOLD. "THEN IF ANYONE GOES OUT OF THE DOORS OF YOUR HOUSE INTO THE STREET, HIS BLOOD SHALL BE ON HIS OWN HEAD, AND WE SHALL BE GUILTLESS. BUT IF A HAND IS LAID ON ANYONE WHO IS WITH YOU IN THE HOUSE, HIS BLOOD SHALL BE ON OUR HEAD. "BUT IF YOU TELL THIS BUSINESS OF OURS, THEN WE SHALL BE GUILTLESS WITH RESPECT TO YOUR OATH THAT YOU HAVE MADE US SWEAR." "I'AND SHE SAID, "ACCORDING TO YOUR WORDS, SO BE IT." THEN SHE SENT THEM AWAY, AND THEY DEPARTED. AND SHE TIED THE SCARLET CORD IN THE WINDOW.

—JOSHUA 2:18-21

AND THEY SANG A NEW SONG, SAYING,
"WORTHY ARE YOU TO TAKE THE SCROLL AND TO OPEN ITS SEALS,
FOR YOU WERE SLAIN,

"THEREFORE, PREPARING YOUR MINDS FOR ACTION, AND BEING SOBER-MINDED, SET YOUR HOPE FULLY ON THE GRACE THAT WILL BE BROUGHT TO YOU AT THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST... "KNOWING THAT YOU WERE RANSOMED FROM THE FUTILE WAYS INHERITED FROM YOUR FOREFATHERS, NOT WITH PERISHABLE THINGS SUCH AS SILVER OR GOLD. "BUT WITH THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST,

LIKE THAT OF A LAMB WITHOUT BLEMISH OR SPOT.

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AND BY YOUR BLOOD YOU RANSOMED PEOPLE FOR GOD FROM EVERY TRIBE AND LANGUAGE AND PEOPLE AND NATION."

—REVELATION 5:9

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