

- Job 13:15 Though he slay me, I will hope in him; yet I will argue my ways to his face.



- The first challenge for Israel entering the promised land was to conquer Jericho, a fortified city, prepared for their coming.
- God promised to give them Jericho with an unconventional battle plan: marching around the city, blowing trumpets.



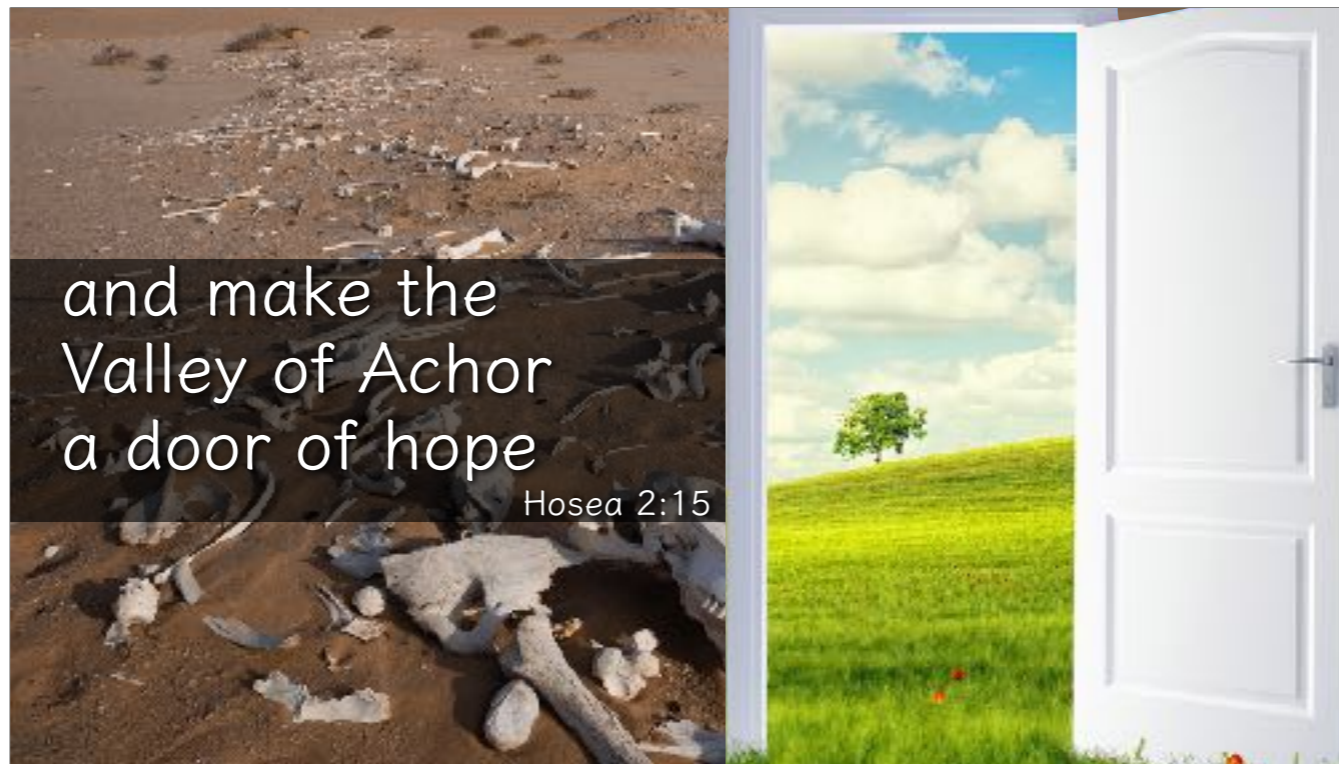
- Jehovah also warned them not to take anything from the city for themselves (Joshua 6:17-19) things that were “devoted to destruction”
  - “all that is in it shall be devoted to Jehovah for destruction”
  - all silver, gold, bronze, iron to go into treasury of Jehovah
  - lest ... you bring **trouble** [5916] on Israel



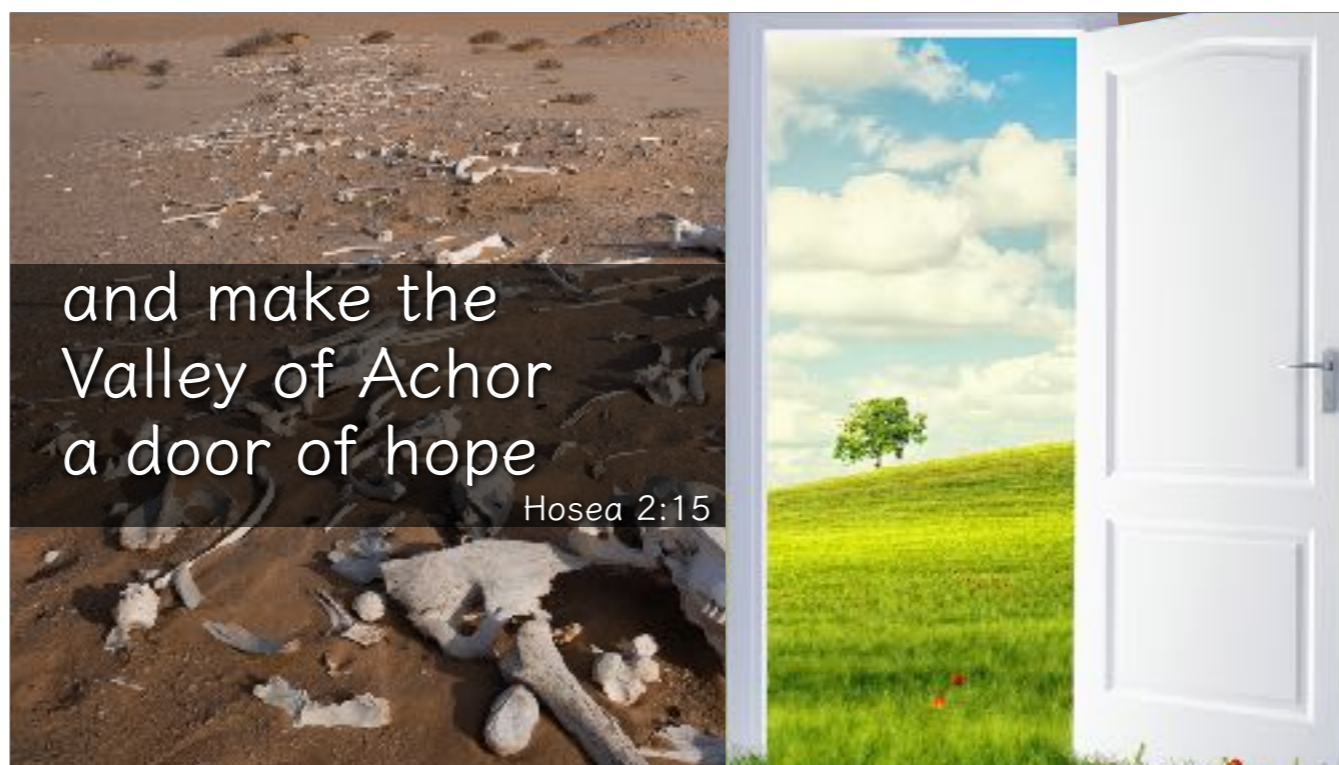
- However, one man Achan (“troubler” [5912]), took some things and hid them in his tent.
  - God holds all the people of Israel responsible for Achan’s actions (“broke faith”)
  - They are defeated as they try to attack the next city, Ai: 36 men die
  - Joshua mourns before God, Jehovah answers pointing them to Achan



- Achan confesses his sin, and they bring him to the Valley of Achor [5911] and stone him
- This is why this valley gets its name: The Valley of Trouble



- Hosea 2:15 And there I will give her her vineyards and make the Valley of Achor a door of hope. And there she shall answer as in the days of her youth, as at the time when she came out of the land of Egypt.
  - Achor = trouble (a reference Achan's covetousness in Jericho and defeat of Israel in Ai)

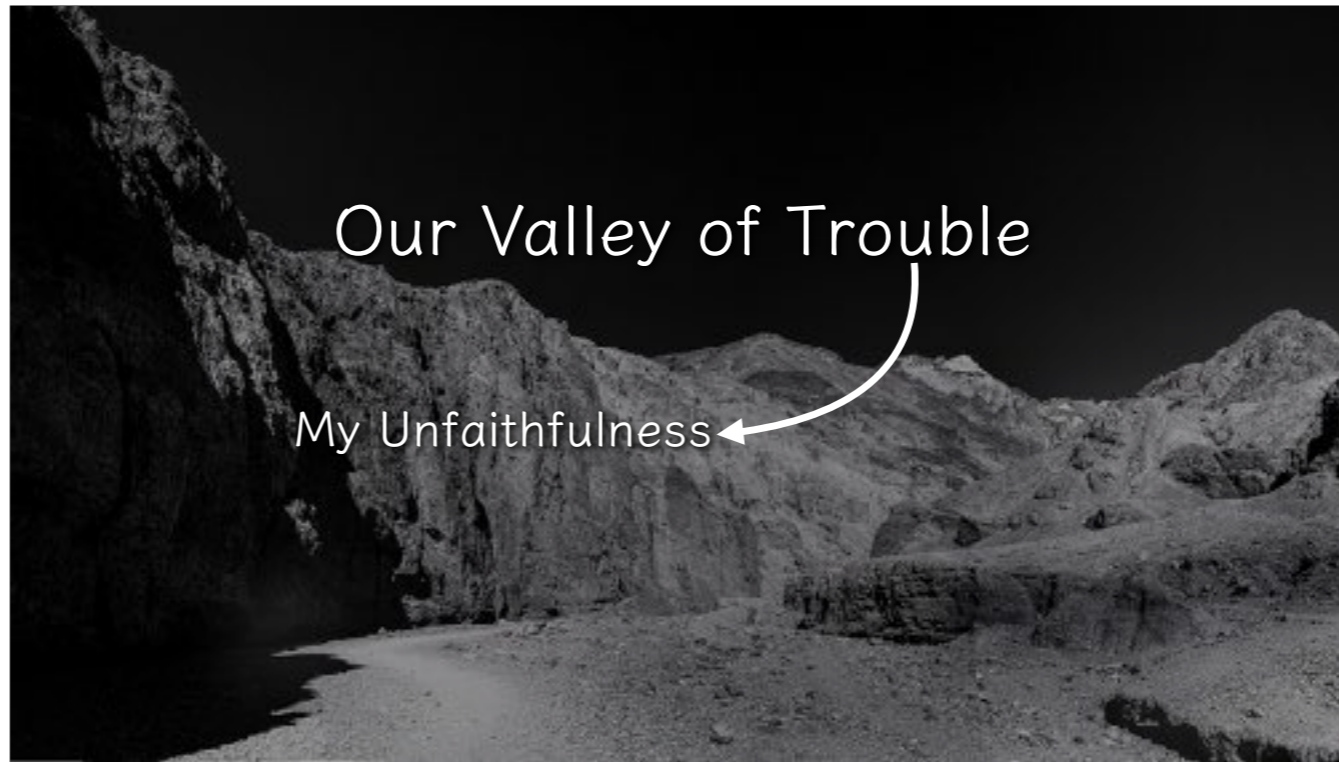


- Use three passages to consider the importance of our God who opens for us a door of hope even when we have struggled with our sins, our emotions, our faith
- Hosea 2: Israel (northern tribes) is near end: prosperity, but unfaithful to God
- Psalm 42-43: Sons of Korah: A disciple who is struggling with his relationship with God, enemies
- Romans 4-5: Abraham and God's promise ... waiting

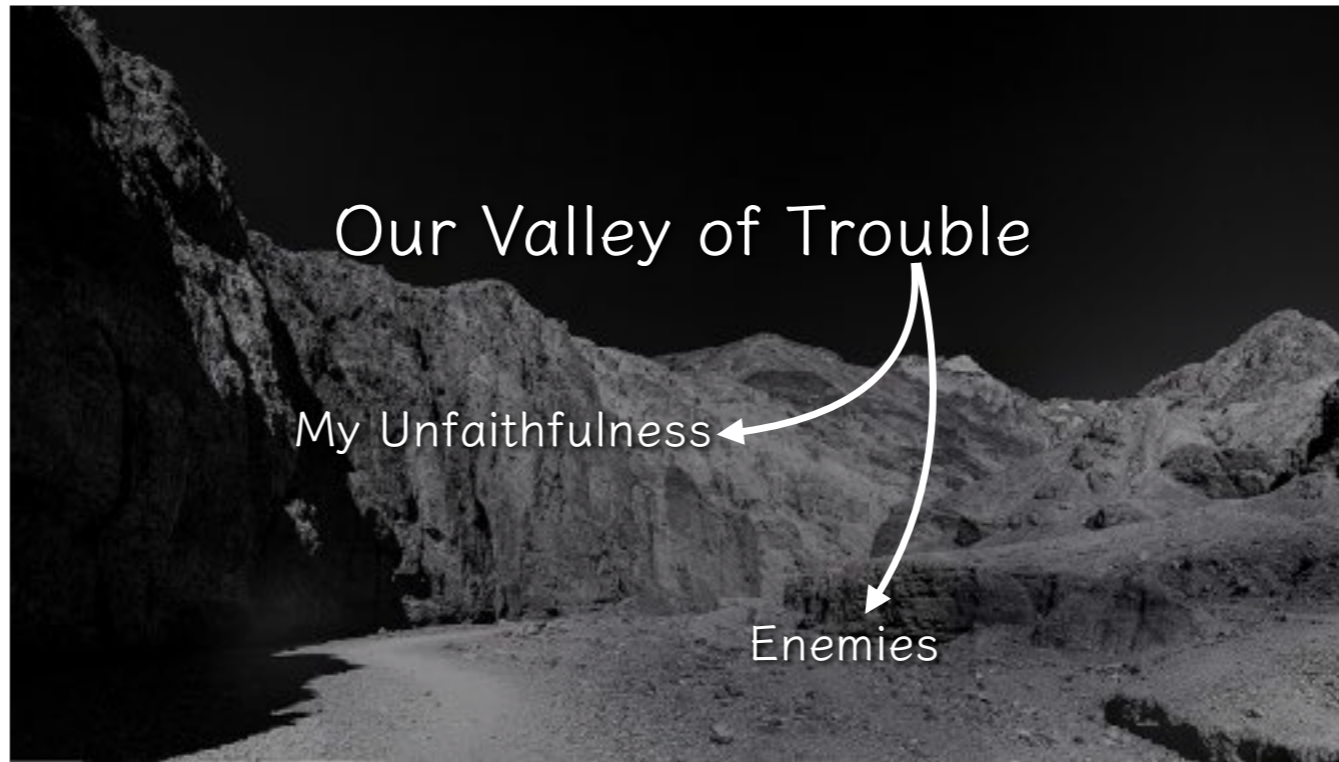


- Our Valley of Trouble

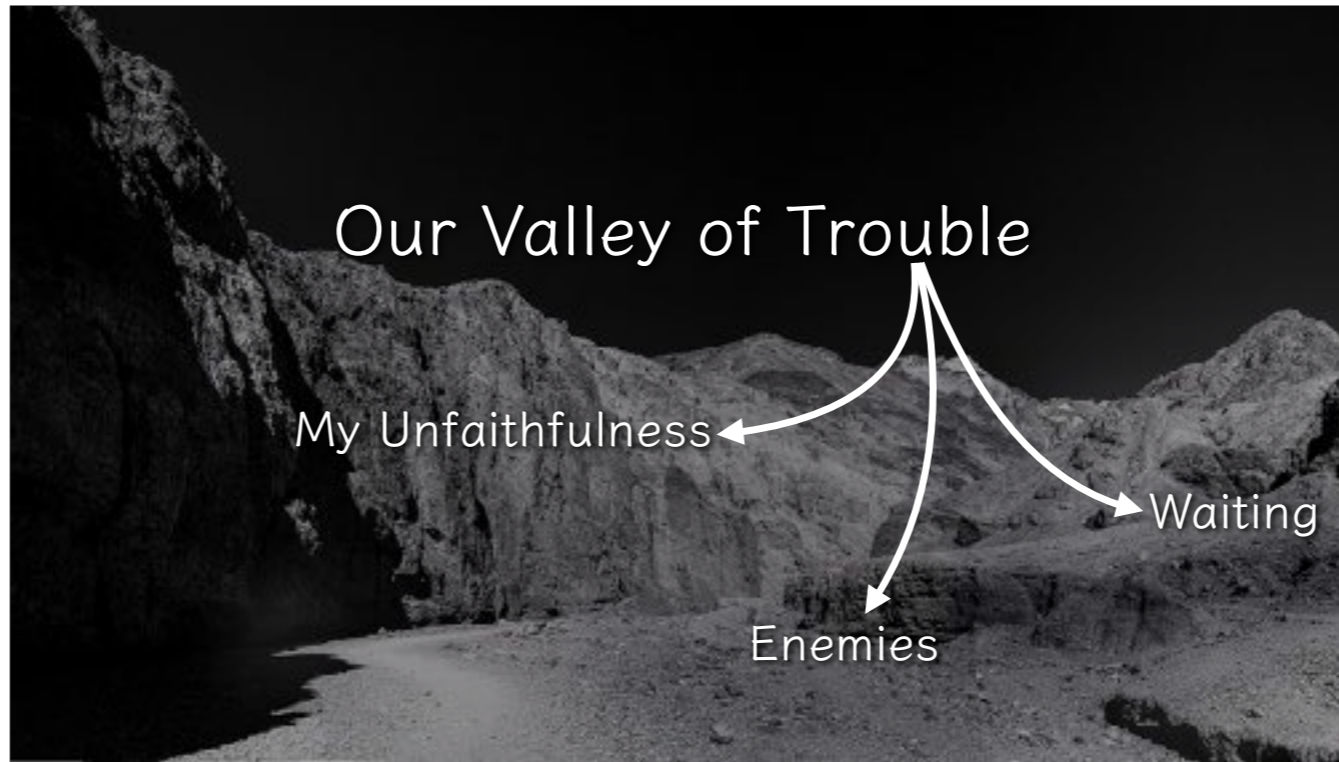




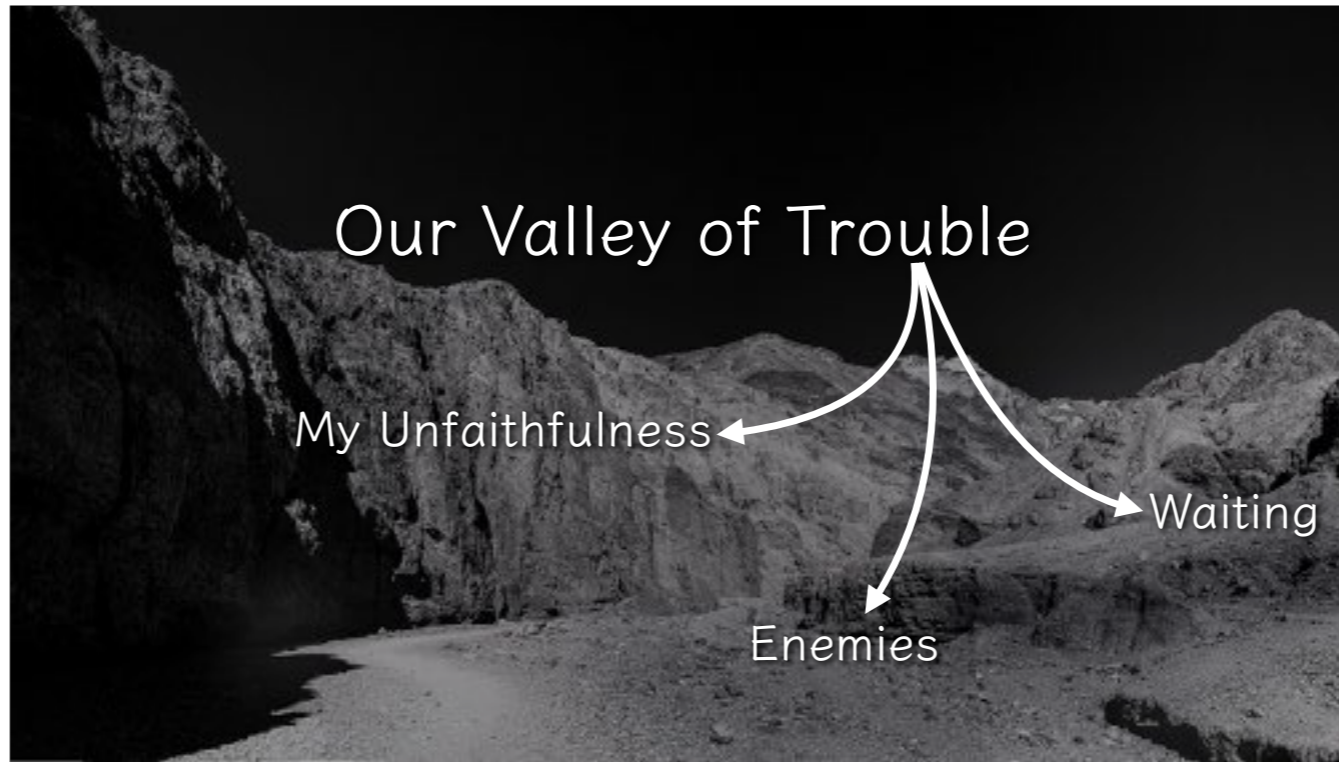
- Self-inflicted: Hosea 2
  - Unfaithfulness: adultery, whore, lovers (2, 5, 7)
  - Forgot God (13)
  - No Mercy from God (14)
- Sometimes the cause of our troubles are our own choice to turn away from God
- Usually it's not as blatant a renouncing God outright
  - Consider David's sins ... lust, adultery, deceit, murder
  - He didn't even consider that he had been unfaithful to God until confronted by Nathan.



- Others: Psalm 42-43
  - Separated from God's people
  - Forgotten by God, rejected
  - Enemies
- Causes us to feel isolated, doubt God, constant anxiety of being attacked (threat)
  - Wears us down
  - No escape, therefore no hope



- Suffering: Rom. 5 - Abram
  - Promises and waiting
  - 4.18: hoping against hope
- God made an incredible promise, but didn't fulfill it right away
  - 25 years of waiting, growing older, promise seemed less likely year by year
  - Abraham had faith ... but also often tried to help God out
  - How long???



- Understand that these troubles don't come just one at a time in distinct packets.
- Often we struggle with all of these at the same time.



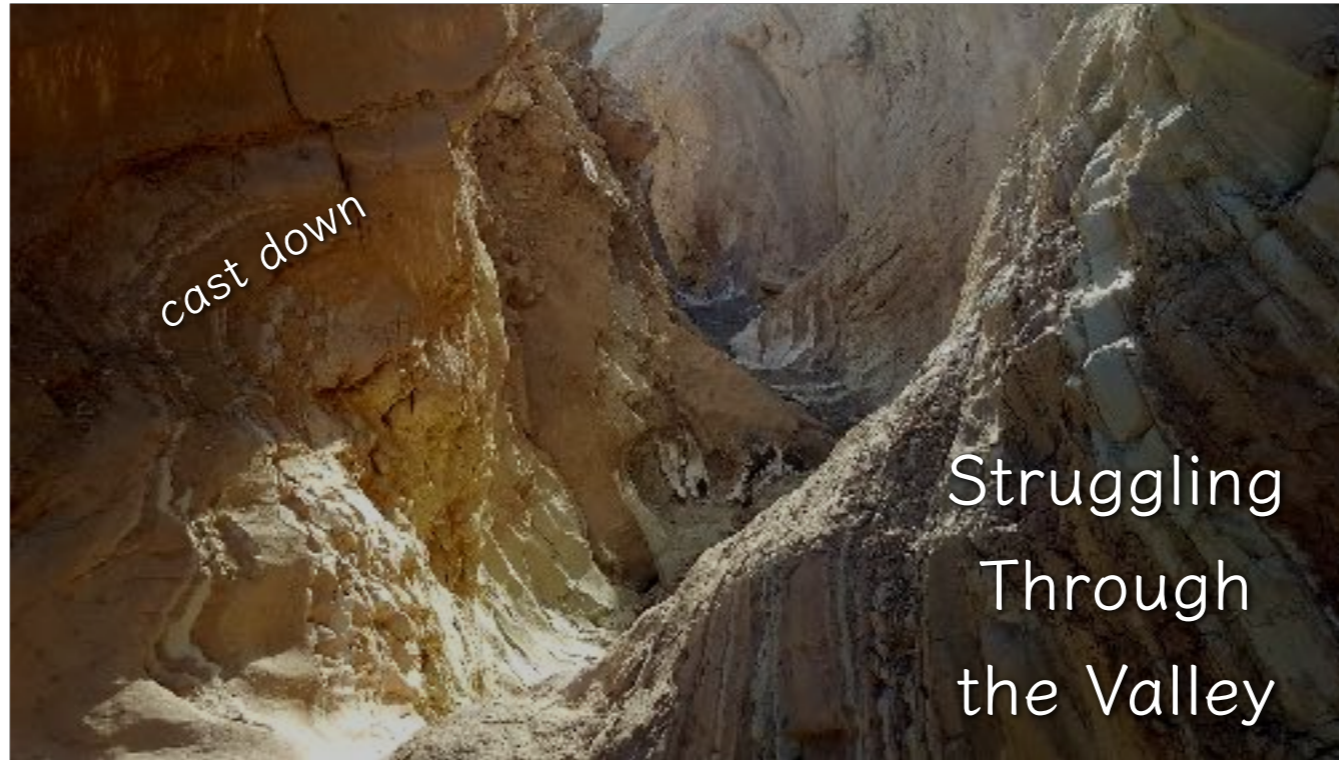
- Struggling Through Our Valley
  - We find ourselves facing troubles
  - What do we find in our valley?



- Valley of Trouble (Hosea 2)
  - 3: naked, thirsty, kill
  - 5: go after lovers: misplaced gratitude (8: "not knowing I gave her....")
    - using for own advantage?
    - only so that gain.
  - 7: Back to first husband (vacillating)

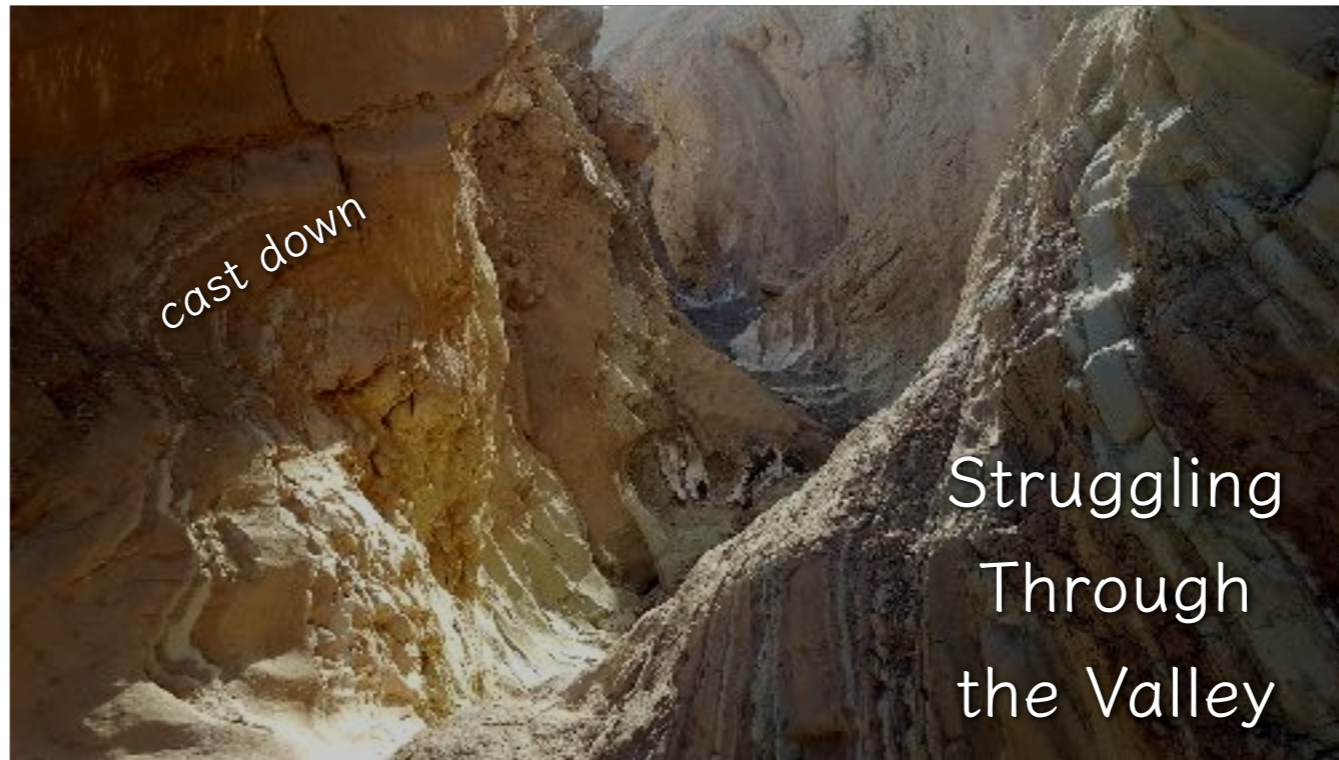


- Unfaithfulness to God
  - Bad things happen: wilderness ... basic needs not met
  - When good does happen we don't credit God (false gods, self, "luck")
  - When desperate, we lunge for God ... but only for our benefit (and briefly)

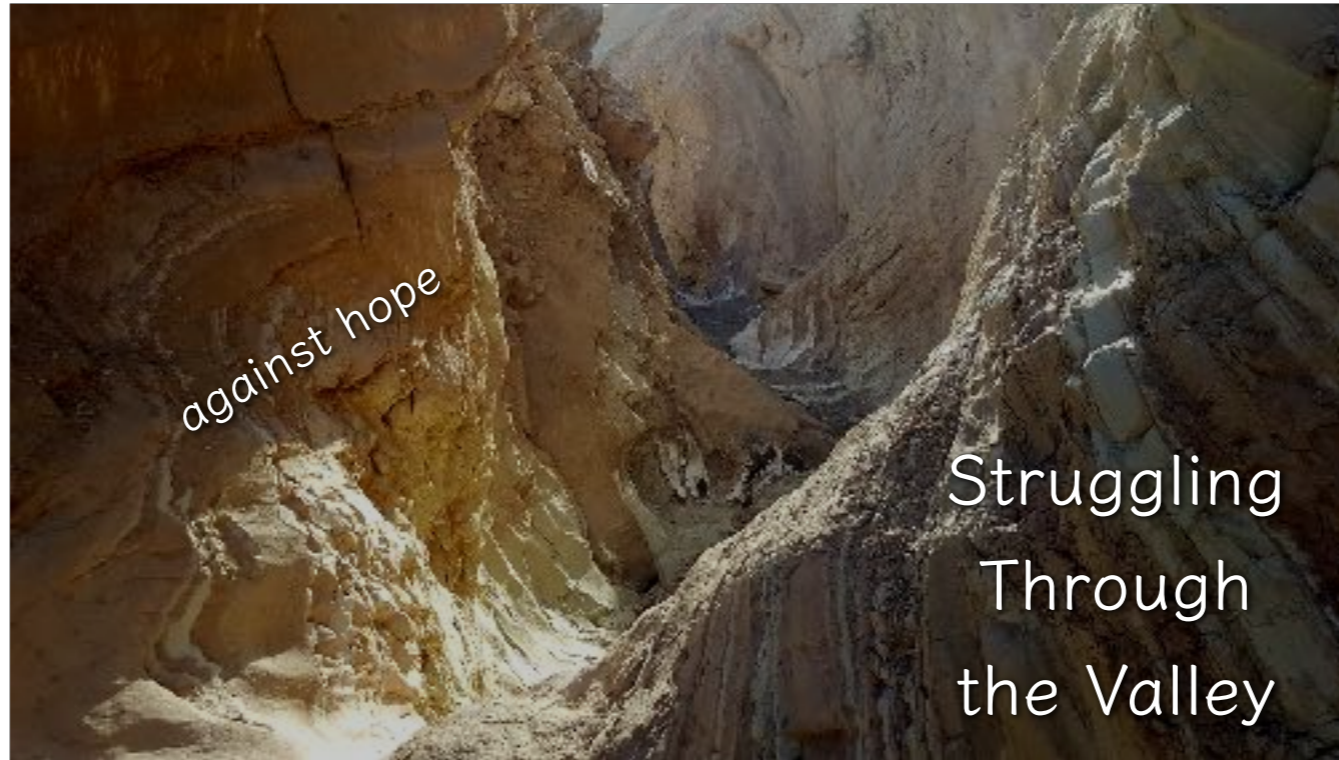


- Psalm 42-43
  - Longing
  - Tears and mourning
  - Cast down
  - Turmoil
  - Lost past
  - Wounds
  - "Where is your God?"

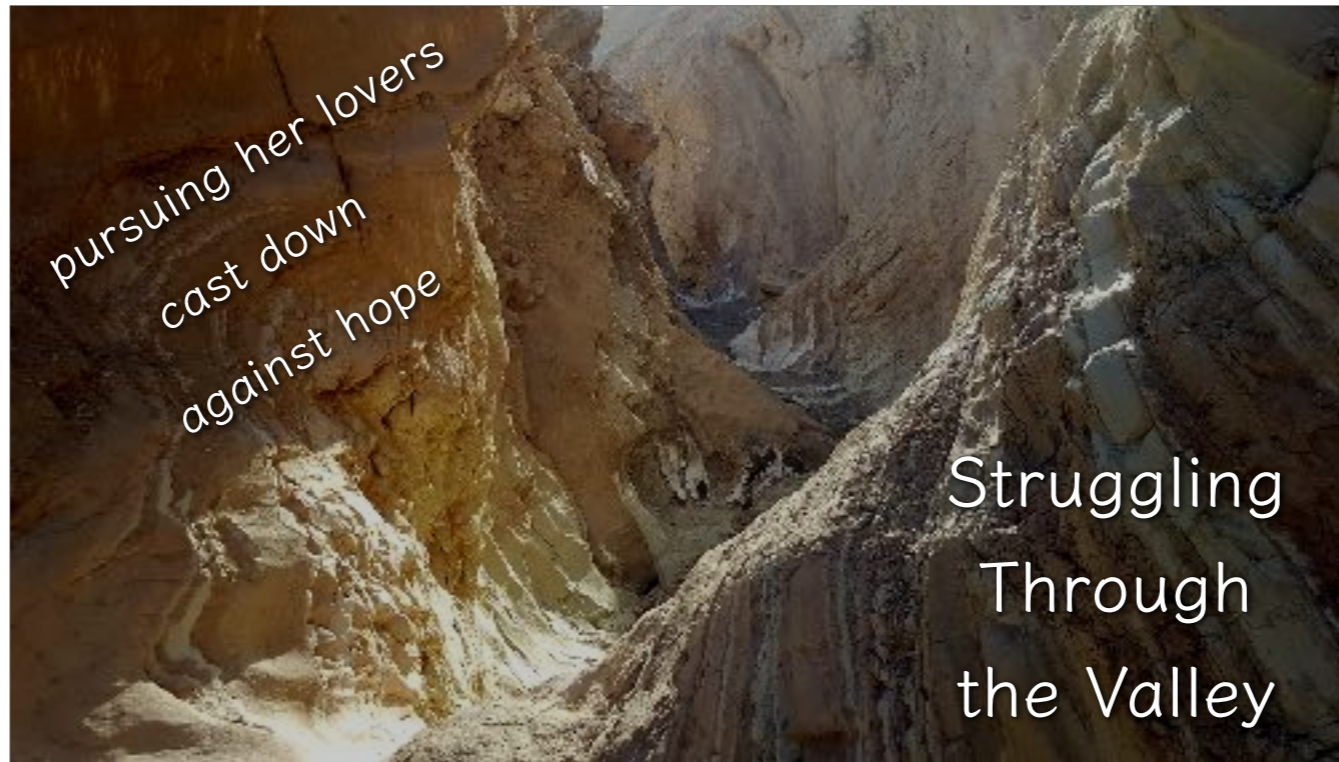




- Despair, depression
  - exacerbated by the accusations of our enemies, we wonder where God is, why doesn't he act, why doesn't he help me at my time of need.
- Turmoil
  - Disturbed, anxiety, struggle of not knowing what to do, how to act
  - What's happened isn't right
  - What's going to happen next?
- We don't know how to move on, where to move:
  - strength is sapped
  - will is weak
  - opposed at every step



- Promises and Hope: Romans 4, 5: Abram
  - 4:18: Believed against hope
  - Considered own body
  - Barrenness of Sarah
  - Shame? (5.5)
- Against Hope
  - Promises delayed are difficult to bear
  - Circumstances lessen expectation
  - Sometimes it just feels like there's no way a promise can be kept.
  - How long?



- Struggling
  - lovers aren't real, provide no help in our time of need: dead end
  - despair and disturbed
  - how can it work? how long until something happens?
- Trapped in a prison, no way out
- Psalms 23:4 (ESV) 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- Joseph: pit, prison



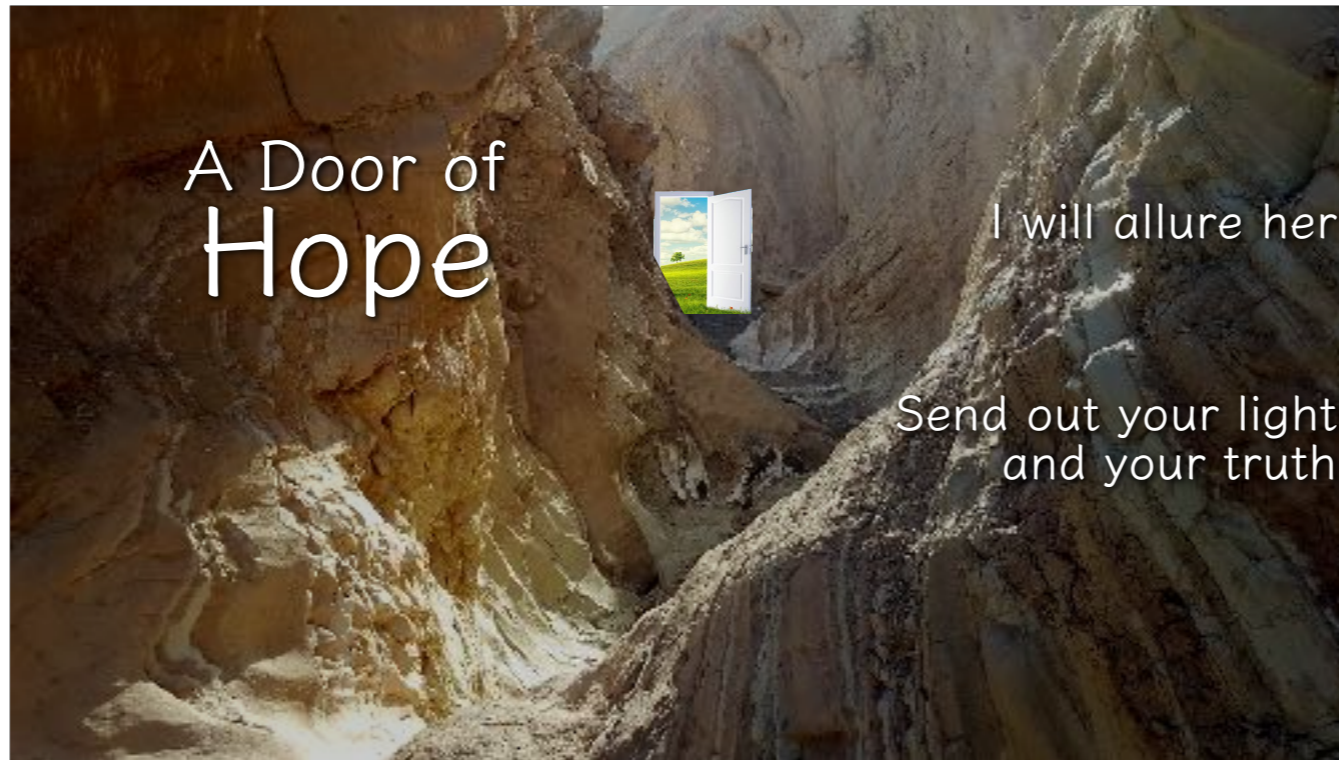
- A Door of Hope
  - What God does to turn our hearts and eyes back to Him



- Hosea
  - allure, speak tenderly
  - give vineyard
  - betroth (19)
    - righteousness, justice, steadfast love, mercy
    - grain, wine, oil,
    - Mercy
    - My people



- God opens a door of hope
  - not wrath (only), because of our unfaithfulness
  - God loves us and wants better for us: invites us
  - There is mercy and relationship



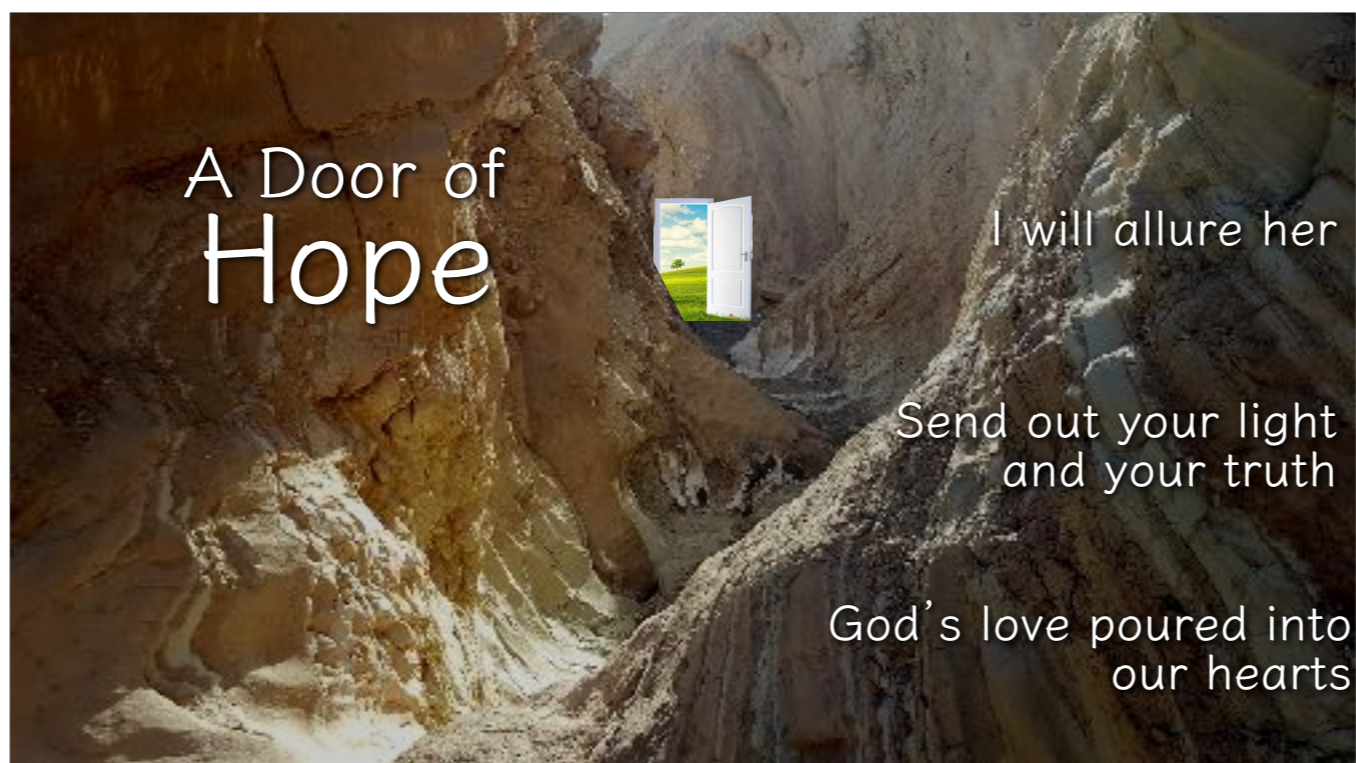
- Psalm 42-43

- Living God
- My Rock
  - steadfast love
  - song, prayer
  - God of my life
- Send light & truth
  - Lead me
  - Bring me
    - Holy hill, dwelling, altar of God



- Our enemies and our struggles confuse us, change how we think (this is real)
- Remembering Our God
  - Send light and truth
    - Living
    - Rock
    - Life
  - Lead me, Bring Me





- Romans 5
  - Suffering - endurance - character - hope
  - not shame
  - Rejoice!
  - The hope of the glory of the Lord
- God's Love Has Been Poured Into Our Hearts
  - Hope of the glory of God
  - We have peace (harmony) because we remember to trust Him
  - So we can rejoice while we wait
  - Endurance — Character — Hope: NOT SHAME



- Opening the Door



- Hosea
  - 2:15: she shall answer as in the days of her youth
  - 2:20: you shall know Jehovah
  - 2:23: say: You are my God!
- Choose to be faithful to God
  - as he has shown himself to always be faithful to you.



- Psalm 42-43
  - Hope in God
    - Praise
    - My Salvation
    - My God
- When caught in despair and being disturbed by our thoughts
  - Need to break the cycle that brings us lower and lower
  - Lift up your eyes to see His light.
  - Open your ears to hear His truth.
  - Hope in Him.



- Romans 5
  - Peace
  - Stand
  - Rejoice
- Access (The door is open!)
  - Trust in God: Love



- Let God's love open the door to your heart (apologies to Pete Townsend)
- Don't discount the troubles and how they effect us emotionally and spiritually
- God sends us his love, light, and truth
  - Let God lead you back to Him.
  - There is hope.
- Job 42:12 And the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning. And he had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 yoke of oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys.

**We implore you on  
behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.**

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

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## A Door of Hope

Hosea 2:14-15

Synopsis: The Valley of Achor (trouble) will be turned into a door of hope by Jehovah. By looking at Hosea 2, Psalm 42-43, and Romans 4-5 we can see that our valley of trouble may be caused by our own unfaithfulness, others, or waiting for God's promises. Yet as we struggle through the valley, God provides us with a door of hope through his love, light, and truth so that we can rejoice in hope.

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**“Let all that you do be done with love.”**