

When Facing a Current Crisis, Remember a Past Deliverance Ken Wilson, 5/3/20

The people of Israel went through a lot of stuff. In many epic bad situations. Forged a strategy for dealing with bad situations. When facing a current crisis, they would remember a past deliverance.

Psalms were compiled while people in Babylonian exile. That's when the stories of a much earlier deliverance from bondage in Egypt were told: PSALM 124

Or when they were under Roman occupation (NT period) they are telling the story of the successful overthrow of the Seleucid Empire under the Maccabees, a group of Jewish rebel warriors who established a period of independence before Rome came down.

Hanukah, lighting of Menorah remembrance of this.

In the current crisis, remember a previous deliverance.

I told the story of my Gammy about a month ago—who lived through WW1, 1918 Flu Epidemic, her father marrying her best friend after her mother died, Great Depression, WW2 and threat of nuclear holocaust in early 1960's. Praying for her strength/wisdom

Then I realized, I've been through some harrowing situations.

I could say, If the Lord had not been on our side when

Found some old pictures: Me-Nancy-Jesse, still 18, January 1971.

Me-Nancy-Jesse-Maja, age 20. When Nancy pregnant with Maja, my father had a very serious suicide attempt, and my new part time job after getting laid off from my Teamster job in Detroit:

Working Suicide Prevention Hotline, age 20. If the Lord had not been on our side... A year after coming to faith, through a church in SW Detroit, Messiah Church—Toledo W Grand.

When all this recent came down, just after we cancelled March 15 service, went into lock-down—enormity hit me. I need God. All the deconstruction I'd been through in

last decade or more—from some pretty toxic strands in renewalist Christianity, seemed over—and there was still a core of faith planted in that year.

Then remembering with gratitude how God was with me in the events that led to the founding of this church in 2015. In the moment of maximum disruption—newly married, having left my home in W. Ann Arbor lived in since 1988, church I started in 1975 rejected my effort to transition to full inclusion ... period of intense disorientation ... I'm praying and get feeling like a hand on my shoulder and words, "You did the best you could" ... had this picture in my mind of a fried marble. So I scrounged around and found a marble to fry and fried it.

Intense-sudden-extreme temperature change but external pressure on the entire surface of the marble and it cracked along pre-existing fault lines in the glass. Picture of human frailty. But its also a picture of the beauty and strength of our vulnerability. The fried marble is a beautiful thing. It's got these fault-lines, indicating vulnerabilities, imperfections that appear under intense pressure—but for all that the thing is intact, more beautiful.

To me, it inspired compassion for myself and for us. We're not beautiful in spite of our fault-lines, vulnerabilities, we're beautiful because of them.

Quiet Reflection:

Is there a past deliverance that could inform your current crisis

Take notes now for future reference