

Trouble for An Old Couple



16 Dec 18




Unto Us

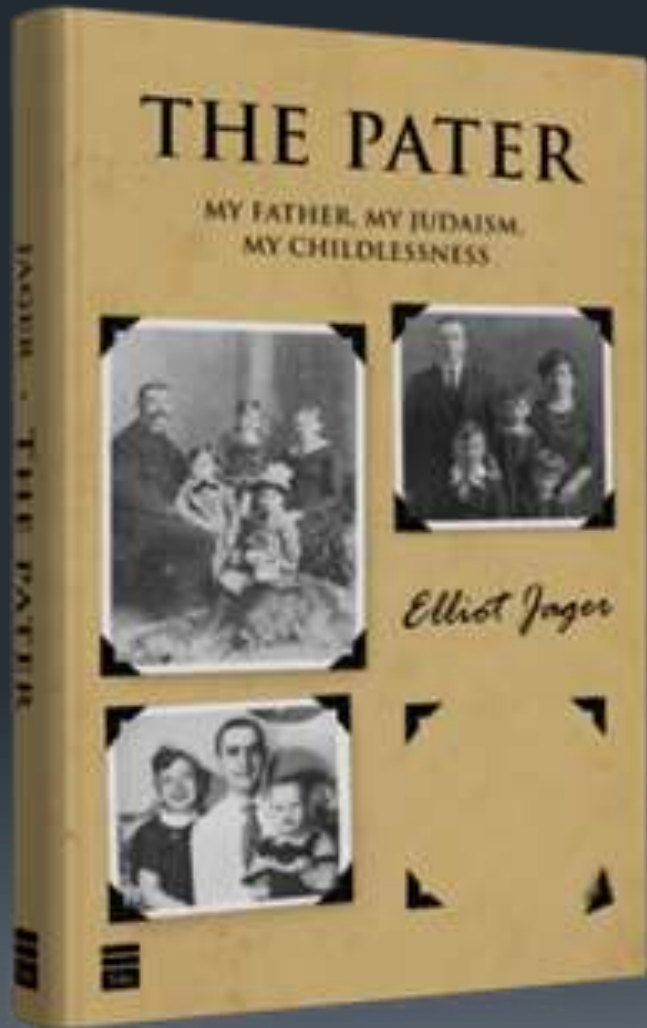
Finding Us In The Christmas Story

*Our troubles open our
eyes to see the grace of
God more clearly.*



- 
- 1. A persistent trouble***
 - 2. An unexpected trouble***
 - 3. A trouble no more***

1. A persistent trouble



Luke 1:6-7

⁶And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.



**God's grace
endures longer than even your
most persistent trouble.**



Psalm 27:14

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

Psalm 39:7

And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in You.

Psalm 130:5

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits; and in his word I hope;



- 
- 1. A persistent trouble*
 - 2. An unexpected trouble*

Luke 1:8-9

⁸Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, ⁹according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense.





***Don't focus
on the odds;
focus on
GOD.***



Psalm 141:2

Let my prayer be counted as incense...

Revelation 5:8

**...and golden bowls full of incense, which
are the prayers of the saints.**



Luke 1:11-12

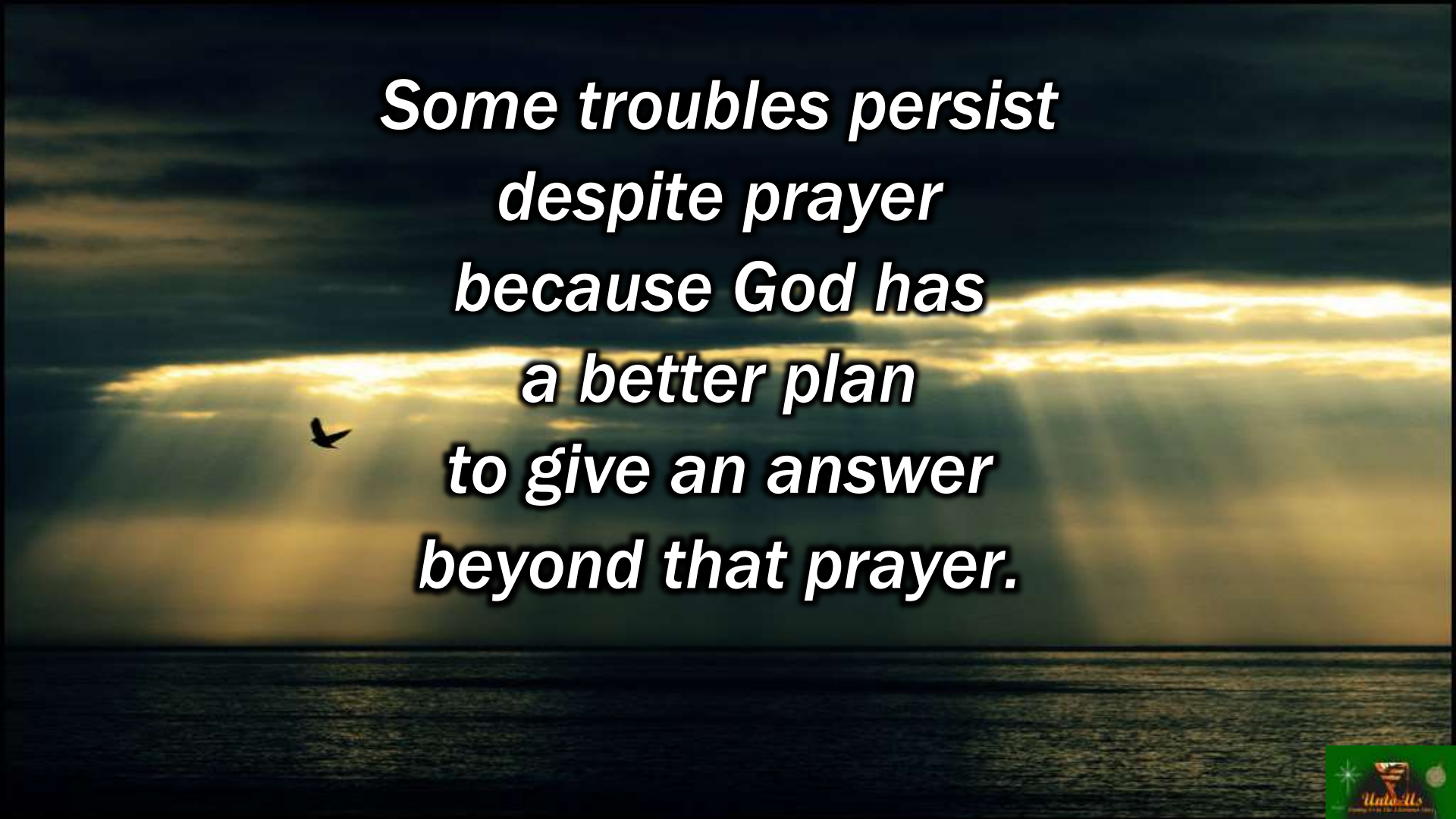
¹¹And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar. ¹²And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him.



Luke 1:13

But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.”



A dramatic sunset or sunrise over a body of water. The sky is dark with a bright, glowing horizon line where the sun is setting or rising. Sunbeams (crepuscular rays) are visible, fanning out from the horizon. A single bird is in flight on the left side of the image. The water in the foreground is dark and calm.

***Some troubles persist
despite prayer
because God has
a better plan
to give an answer
beyond that prayer.***





***God's grace
is not subordinate grace;
it is sovereign grace.***

Luke 1:18

***And Zechariah said to the angel,
“How shall I know this? For I am an old
man, and my wife is advanced in years.”***



Luke 1:19

And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.”



Luke 1:20

And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.



Luke 1:34

***And Mary said to the angel,
“How will this be, since I am a virgin?”***

Luke 1:18

***And Zechariah said to the angel,
“How shall I know this? For I am an old
man, and my wife is advanced in years.”***



***...Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit,
and prophesied...***

Luke 1:67




...but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Hebrews 12:10-11



*God's grace unto us means
he always seeks our good
more than
we seek our own.*



- 
- 1. A persistent trouble*
 - 2. An unexpected trouble*
 - 3. A trouble no more*

***Thus the Lord has done for me in the days
when he looked on me, to take away
my reproach among people.***

Luke 1:25



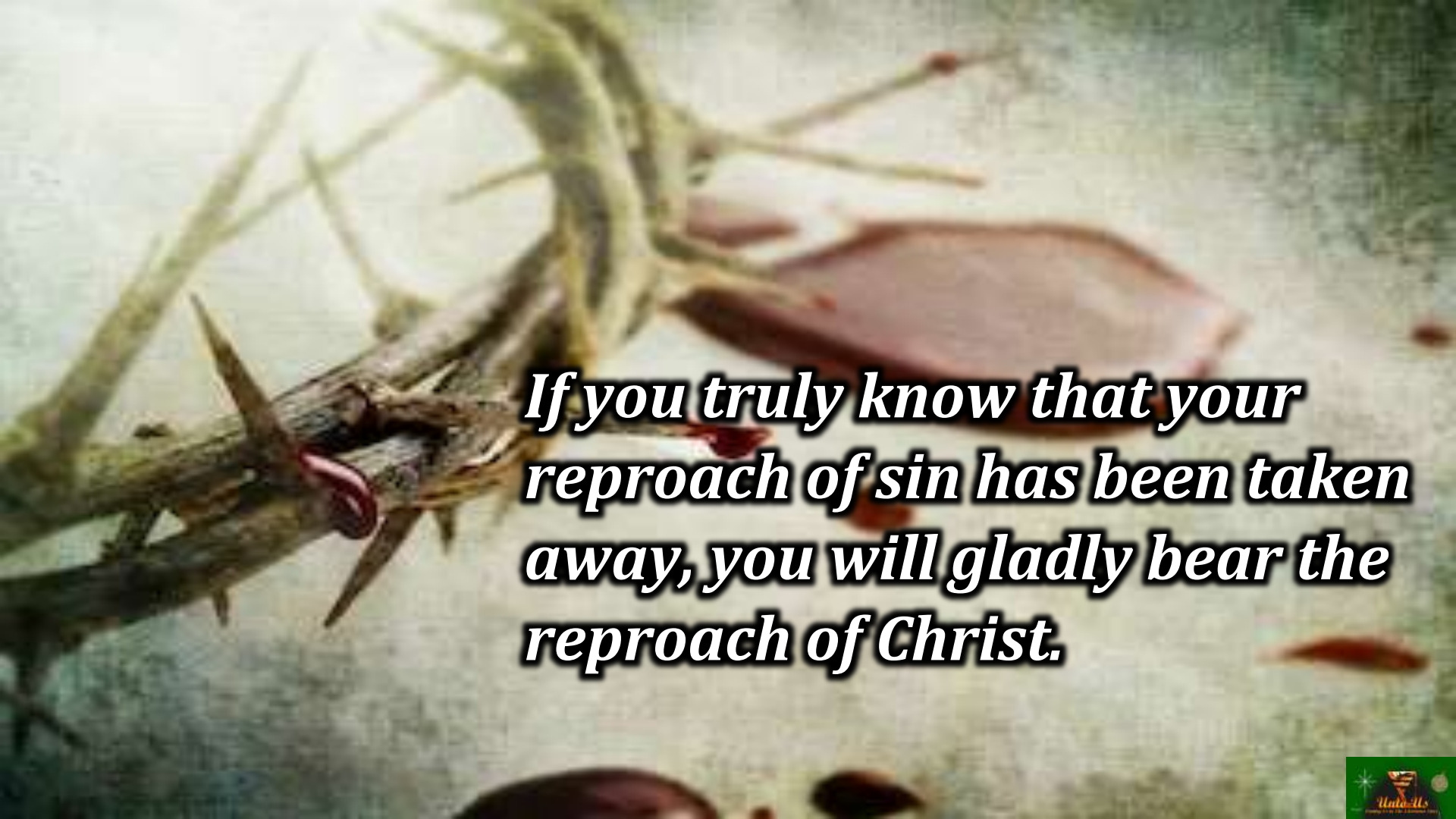


***The answer
to our disgrace is
God's grace.***

*He considered the reproach of Christ
greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt,
for he was looking to the reward.*

Hebrews 11:26





***If you truly know that your
reproach of sin has been taken
away, you will gladly bear the
reproach of Christ.***