

Forts

Fortress of Comfort

It was imminent. The planet was to experience a catastrophic event that would bring complete obliteration.

The infant was placed into an escape pod by his father and mother. His father set the pod on a course for the planet he had learned had a yellow sun which would give his son special powers.

A unique crystal was placed into the pod and after the child had grown, it would be used to provide him with a place to go. The crystal also contained information which would give him an education detailing the history of his home planet, his

origin, holograms of his mother and father along with their "intelligence" so that at any time, Kal-El could ask some of life's important questions or get advice from Jor-El about a particular problem.

"Yes, it's Superman, strange visitor from another planet who came to earth with powers and abilities far beyond those of mortal men. Superman, who can change the course of mighty rivers, bend steel in his bare hands. And who, disguised as Clark Kent, mild-mannered reporter for a great metropolitan newspaper, fights a never ending battle for truth, justice and the American way."

The Fortress of Solitude

Last week, Pastor Don's message helped us look at God being both a Fortress and a Fountain. The Fortress being our source of Security & Protection and The Fountain being our source of Pleasure & Delight.

God is Our Fortress

***Psalm 18:1-3** Lord, I passionately love you and I'm bonded to you, for now you've become my power! You're as real to me as bedrock beneath my feet, like a castle on a cliff, my forever firm fortress, my mountain of hiding, my pathway of escape, my tower of rescue where*

none can reach me. My secret strength and shield around me, you are salvation's ray of brightness shining on the hillside, always the champion of my cause. All I need to do is to call to you, singing to you, the praiseworthy God. When I do, I'm safe and sound in you.

2 Samuel 22:1-4 *And David spoke the words of this song to the Lord in the day that the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. He said, "The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge; My savior, You save me from violence. I call*

upon the Lord , who is worthy to be praised, And I am saved from my enemies.

God is Our Comfort

2 Corinthians 1:3-6 *All praises belong to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he is the Father of tender mercy and the God of endless comfort. He always comes alongside us to comfort us in every suffering so that we can come alongside those who are in any painful trial. We can bring them this same comfort that God has poured out upon us. And just as we experience the abundance of Christ's own sufferings, even more of God's comfort will cascade upon us through our union with Christ. If*

troubles weigh us down, that just means that we will receive even more comfort to pass on to you for your deliverance! For the comfort pouring into us empowers us to bring comfort to you. And with this comfort upholding you, you can endure victoriously the same suffering that we experience.

John 14:25-26 *“I have told you these things while I am still with you. But the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have*

told you.

God is our Fortress of Comfort

A refuge. A place of rest and rejuvenation. He is our restoration. A place where we can learn of our Father and our family. We can learn of His Kingdom. We can learn and begin to understand why the world is the way it is and what it can be. We gain special powers through the Holy Spirit. The Gifts of the Spirit which help to produce in us the Fruit of the Spirit. Jesus said His Kingdom was here. In us. Through us. He is our source of Strength. He is our source of Peace, our Shalom. He is source of Comfort. He is our Fortress of Comfort.

Definitions & Etymology of:

Fort

fort (n.)

mid-15c., "fortified place, stronghold," from Old French fort "fort, fortress; strong man," noun use of adjective meaning "strong, stout, sturdy; hard, severe, difficult; hard to understand; dreadful, terrible; fortified" (10c.), from Latin fortis "strong, mighty; firm, steadfast; brave, spirited," from Old Latin forctus, which is of unknown etymology.

Fortress

fortress (n.)

early 14c., from Old French forteresse, forterece "strong place,

fortification" (12c.), variant of fortelesse, from Medieval Latin fortalitia, from Latin fortis "strong" (see fort) + -itia, added to adjectives to form nouns of quality or condition. French -ess from Latin -itia also is in duress, largesse, riches. For change of medial -l- to -r- in Old French, compare orme "elm" from Latin ulmus; chartre from cartula; chapitre from capitulum.

*for· tress | \ 'fɔr-trəs *

: a fortified place : STRONGHOLD

especially : a large and permanent fortification sometimes including a town a large, strong building or group of buildings that can be defended from attack

Comfort

comfort (v.)

late 13c., conforten "to cheer up, console, soothe when in grief or trouble," from Old French conforter "to comfort, to solace; to help, strengthen," from Late Latin confortare "to strengthen much" (used in Vulgate), from assimilated form of Latin com-, here probably an intensive prefix (see com-), + fortis "strong" (see fort). Change of -n- to -m- began in English 14c.

In Middle English also "give or add strength to" (c. 1300); "encourage, urge, exhort" (c. 1300). Related: Comforted; comforting.

comfort (n.) c. 1200, "feeling of relief

in affliction or sorrow; solace, consolation" (as still in take comfort); also "source of alleviation or relief;" from Old French confort "consolation, solace; pleasure, enjoyment," from conforter "to solace; to help, strengthen" (see comfort (v.)). Old English meaning "state of enjoyment resulting from satisfaction of bodily wants and freedom from anxiety" white

"strength, support, encouragement" (late 14c.). Comforts (as opposed to necessities and luxuries) is from 1650s. Comfort food "food that provides a nostalgic or sentimental value but typically is of dubious nutritional value" is by 1

*com·fort | \ 'kəm(p)-fərt *

comforted; comforting; comforts

Definition of comfort (Entry 1 of 2)

transitive verb

1: to give strength and hope to :

CHEER

comforted by the knowledge that the program will be fully funded

2: to ease the grief or trouble of :

CONSOLE

The mother comforted her crying child.

The bereaved families of the victims were comforted by friends.

comfort noun

Definition of comfort (Entry 2 of 2)

1: strengthening aid:

a: ASSISTANCE, SUPPORT

accused of giving aid and comfort to the enemy

b: consolation in time of trouble or worry : SOLACE

He turned to her for comfort when he lost his job.

2a: a feeling of relief or encouragement

It's a comfort to know that I can rely on you for help.

b: contented well-being

a life of ease and comfort

3: a satisfying or enjoyable experience

Seeing her son again after so many years was a great comfort.

4: one that gives or brings comfort

all the comforts of home

*Her grandchildren were always a
great comfort to her.*