A photograph of two hands reaching towards each other against a bright blue sky with soft, wispy white clouds. The hand on the left is positioned higher and is reaching downwards, while the hand on the right is lower and reaching upwards. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day, and the overall mood is one of hope and connection.

# The Message of Hope

## Psalm 3:1-8

# HOW MANY ARE MY FOES

- **Psalm 3:1** - O Lord, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me;

# PLACE YOUR HOPE IN JESUS

- **Matthew 11:28-30** - 28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

# DON'T GIVE UP ON GOD

- **Psalm 3:2** - ...many are saying of my soul “There is no salvation for him in God.” **Selah**

# IF YOU ARE MOCKED FOR YOUR FAITH YOU ARE IN GOOD COMPANY

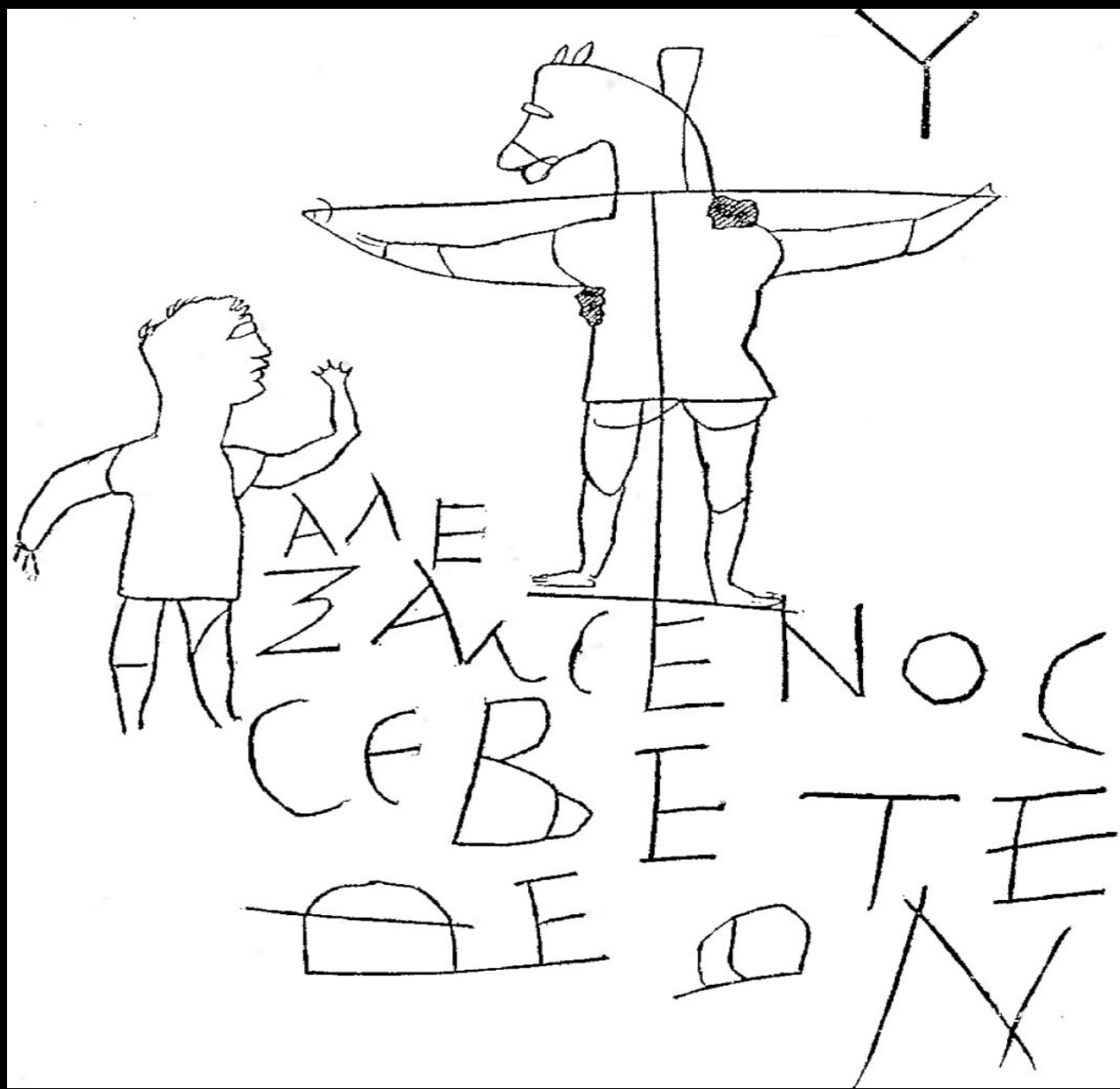
- Elijah vs the Prophets of Baal – **1 Kings 18:20-40**
- Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refusing to bow down before Nebuchadnezzar's Golden Image
- **Daniel 3:15 (b)** - But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?"

# IF YOU ARE MOCKED FOR YOUR FAITH YOU ARE IN GOOD COMPANY

- Jeremiah persecuted by the Priest Pashhur
- **Jeremiah 20:1-2** - Now Pashhur the priest, the son of Immer, who was chief officer in the house of the Lord, heard Jeremiah prophesying these things. 2 Then Pashhur beat Jeremiah the prophet, and put him in the stocks that were in the upper Benjamin Gate of the house of the Lord.

# IF YOU ARE MOCKED FOR YOUR FAITH YOU ARE IN GOOD COMPANY

- Jesus – Mocked by the Soldiers Who Beat Him
- **Matthew 27:27-31** - 27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. 28 And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29 and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 30 And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. 31 And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.





# THE LORD IS MY SHIELD

- **Psalm 3:3** - But you, O Lord, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head.

# RAISE YOUR SHIELD OF FAITH

- **Ephesians 6:16** - 6 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one...

# CRY OUT TO THE LORD

- **Psalm 3:4** - I cried aloud to the Lord, and he answered me from his holy hill. **Selah**

# CRY OUT TO THE LORD

- **Jeremiah 33:3** - 3 Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.
- **Matthew 7:7** - Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

# WE CAN APPROACH GOD WITH CONFIDENCE

- **Hebrews 4:15-16** - 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

# REST IN THE LORD

- **Psalm 3:5** - I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the Lord sustained me.

# REST IN THE LORD

- **Psalm 46:10** - Be still, and know that I am God.
- **John 10:27-30** - 27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one."

# FEAR NOT

- **Psalm 3:6** - I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.



# ELISHA AND THE ARMY OF SYRIA

- **2 Kings 6:15-18** - 15 When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" 16 He said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." 17 Then Elisha prayed and said, "O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see." So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. 18 And when the Syrians came down against him, Elisha prayed to the Lord and said, "Please strike this people with blindness."

# FEAR NOT

- **Psalm 27:1** - The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- **2 Timothy 1:7** - ...for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

# VICTORY IN JESUS

- **Psalm 3:7** - Arise, O Lord! Save me, O my God! For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked.
- **Psalm 3:8** - Salvation belongs to the Lord; your blessing be on your people! **Selah**
- **John 16:33** - 33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”