

A low-angle shot of a forest with tall, slender trees reaching towards a bright sky. A person in a dark jacket and jeans is walking away from the camera on a path covered in fallen leaves and branches. The scene is misty or foggy, creating a sense of depth and atmosphere.

ROOTED

DIGGING DEEPER, BUILDING STRONGER.

DAVID LYON, 2020/21

A photograph of a person walking away from the camera through a forest of tall, thin trees. The person is wearing a dark jacket and jeans. The forest floor is covered in fallen leaves and branches. The trees are tall and slender, with some showing signs of moss or lichen. The lighting is soft, suggesting an overcast day.

#ROOTED

**IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DIG
DEEPER INTO GOD'S WORD.**

**IT'S A STUDY OF THE
SCRIPTURES IN THE POWER
OF THE SPIRIT.**

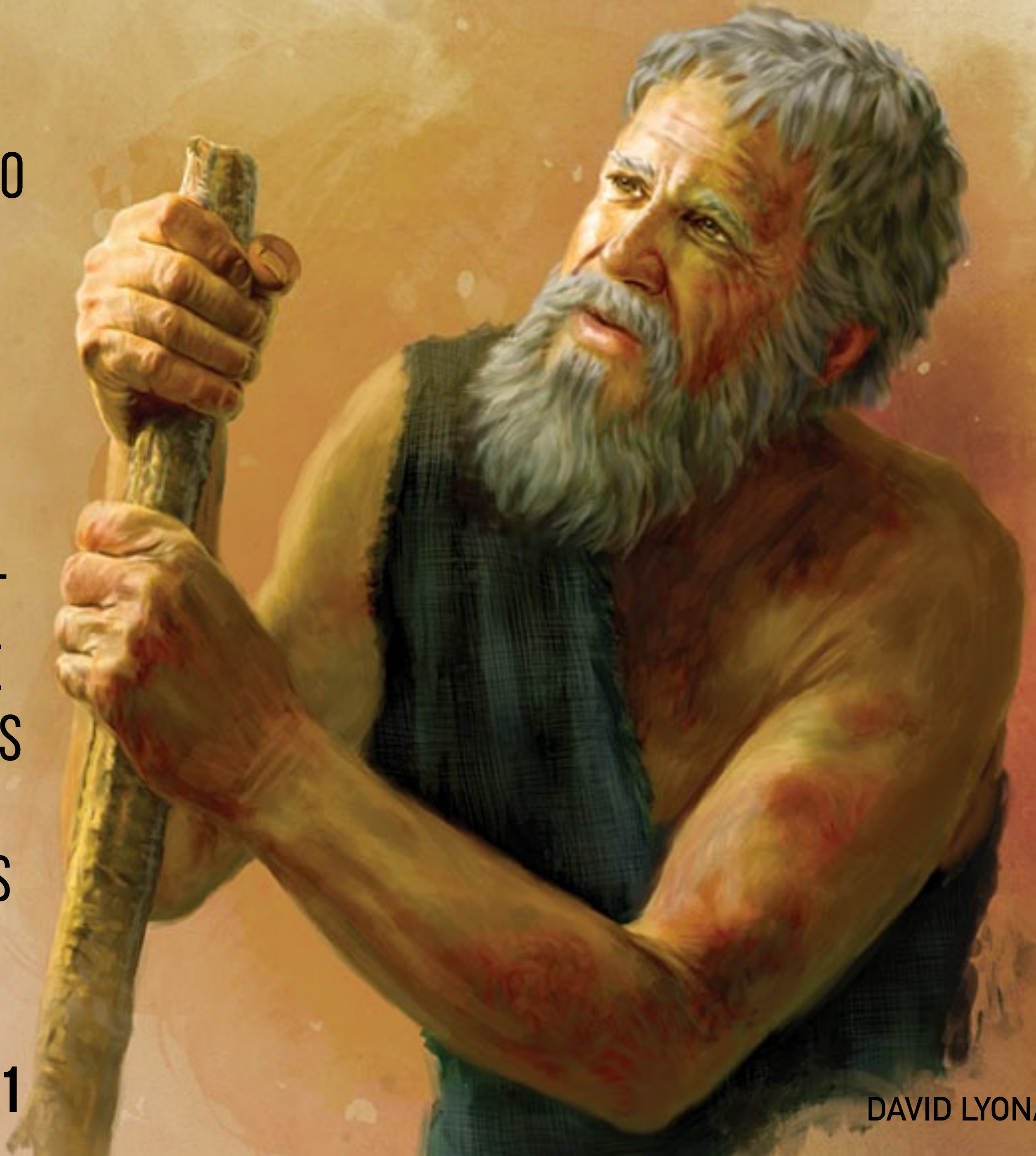
**IT WILL HELP STRENGTHEN
OUR FOUNDATIONS & ROOTS,
AS WE EXPLORE VITAL
TRUTHS THAT SHAPE THE
WAY WE BUILD OUR LIVES &
CHURCHES.**

DAVID LYON/ROOTED/INTRO

WHY 'ROOTED'?

- Our roots (foundations, starting-points) determine everything! (**Mt 7:24-27**). Everything we're building will ultimately be *defined* and *evaluated* according to its foundations (**1Co 3:10-15**).
- Churches, ministries *and lives* badly-founded, cutting corners or ignoring *God-defined* limits/boundaries will always ultimately be exposed (1Co 3:13). When foundations collapse and boundaries are shifted, we're thrown into crisis (Ps 11:3). But *when we build well* we enjoy SECURITY, GROWTH, PEACE, BLESSING, JOY...
- Apostolic burden/task - laying FOUNDATIONS (1Co 3:10, Eph 2:20) and STRENGTHENING churches (Ac 14:21-22, 15:40-41, 18:22-23)
- In our postmodern, 'post-Christian' culture, we must be able to correct heresy (1Ti 4:1, 2Ti 4:3, Jude 1:4) and "contend for the faith" (Phil 1:27, Jude 1:3) - eg re: Hell, Marriage, Gender, Sexuality, Prosperity, Grace, Word... The antidote is always "sound doctrine" (1Ti 1:10, Tit 1:9, 2:1) - with *solid roots* and *certain boundaries*!

THEN THE LORD ANSWERED JOB:... “WHERE WERE YOU WHEN I **ESTABLISHED** THE EARTH?...WHO FIXED ITS DIMENSIONS?... WHO STRETCHED A MEASURING LINE ACROSS IT? WHAT SUPPORTS ITS **FOUNDATIONS**? OR WHO LAID ITS **CORNERSTONE** WHILE THE MORNING STARS SANG TOGETHER AND ALL THE SONS OF GOD SHOUTED FOR JOY? WHO **ENCLOSED** THE SEA BEHIND DOORS WHEN IT BURST FROM THE WOMB, WHEN I MADE THE CLOUDS ITS GARMENT AND THICK DARKNESS ITS BLANKET, WHEN I DETERMINED ITS **BOUNDARIES** AND PUT ITS BARS AND DOORS IN PLACE, WHEN I DECLARED: “YOU MAY COME **THIS FAR, BUT NO FARTHER**; YOUR PROUD WAVES STOP HERE”? **JOB 38:1, 4-11**



ROOTS MATTER

The roots/foundations are the starting-point of everything we build:

- Taking time to lay them carefully - and always on the Rock - will always bring rewards...and may even save lives (**Mt 7:24-27**).
- Good foundations express the goodness of God, and bring great joy to God's people (Ezra 3:10-11).
- We cannot come to maturity if the foundations of our lives and faith are not properly laid (Heb 6:1).
- We never move away from the foundations (never stop needing them); in fact, we only ever build upon them...

FOUNDATION: **AUTHORITY,**
BASE, BEDROCK,
GROUNDWORK,
INFRASTRUCTURE,
SUPPORT, ABC'S, BASICS,
FOOTING, GROUND, **HEART,**
JUSTIFICATION, NITTY-
GRITTY, NUB, REASON,
****ROOT**, SUBSTRATUM,**
BOTTOM LINE, NUTS &
BOLTS, UNDERPINNING

BOUNDARIES MATTER

God has established boundaries:

- In *creation* (Ps 74:16-17, Pr 8:27-29, Jer 5:22) - an ordered world that works within its boundaries.
- To *our freedoms* (Ge 2:16-17) - we may love *but not lust*, have sex *with our spouse*, drink *but not get drunk*, eat *but not be gluttons*, etc. And every restriction/limitation is only for our good!
- To *our inheritance* (Ac 17:25-27) - God-imposed limitations on our lives, gifts and talents...so we can work together!
- In *revelation* (Dt 29:29) - things we may know and things we may not.

We must recognise the limits God has set and not “displace boundary markers” (Job 24:2) or “move ancient boundary stones” (**Pr 22:28**).

BOUNDARY:
BARRIER, BORDER,
BORDERLINE,
BOUNDS,
CONFINES, EDGE,
FRONTIER,
HORIZON, LINE,
PERIMETER,
EXTENT, FRAME,
LIMITS

THE CORNERSTONE MATTERS MOST!

- The foundations must be joined to the Cornerstone; the Stone that determines proper order, strength and stability to everything built upon it and from it...
- **JESUS CHRIST is “the Cornerstone”** (Mt 21:42, Mk 12:10, Lk 20:17, Ac 4:11, 1Pe 2:6-7); He determines everything. Everything is “fitted together in Him and is growing...” (**Eph 2:20-22**).
- Our lives, and all our theology, doctrinal positions, churches and ministries must must *point to Him* (Lk 24:27, Heb 6:1). Beware anything or anyone that draws your attention anywhere else!



"ACCORDING TO GOD'S GRACE THAT WAS GIVEN TO ME, I HAVE LAID A FOUNDATION AS A SKILLED MASTER BUILDER, AND ANOTHER BUILDS ON IT. BUT EACH ONE MUST BE CAREFUL HOW HE BUILDS ON IT. FOR NO ONE CAN LAY ANY OTHER FOUNDATION THAN WHAT HAS BEEN LAID DOWN. THAT FOUNDATION IS JESUS CHRIST. IF ANYONE BUILDS ON THAT FOUNDATION WITH GOLD, SILVER, COSTLY STONES, WOOD, HAY, OR STRAW, EACH ONE'S WORK WILL BECOME OBVIOUS, FOR THE DAY WILL DISCLOSE IT, BECAUSE IT WILL BE REVEALED BY FIRE; THE FIRE WILL TEST THE QUALITY OF EACH ONE'S WORK. IF ANYONE'S WORK THAT HE HAS BUILT SURVIVES, HE WILL RECEIVE A REWARD. IF ANYONE'S WORK IS BURNED UP, IT WILL BE LOST, BUT HE WILL BE SAVED; YET IT WILL BE LIKE AN ESCAPE THROUGH FIRE..."

1CO 3:10-15



ROOTS & FRUITS

- The Word insists that fruitfulness comes from ‘rootfulness’ or ‘rootedness’ - eg Pr 12:12; Isa 27:6, 37:31; Jer 17:8.
- A tree is *known by its fruit* (Mt 7:17-19, 12:33, Lk 6:43-44, cf. Ge 1:11-12), and its fruit *depends upon its root*. What will you be known for? Investing time in our ROOTS and FOUNDATIONS will yield more than we can imagine!
- Jesus said: “I will show you what someone is like who comes to Me, hears My words, and acts on them: He is like a man building a house, who **dug deep** and laid the foundation on the rock. When the flood came, the river crashed against that house and couldn’t shake it, because it was well built.” **Lk 6:47-48**
- The words are *skaptó* (to dig, excavate) and *bathunó* (to deepen, excavate) - with a sense of going deep enough to lay foundations and clearing away everything that’s unhelpful in order to build strongly and cleanly...



FURTHER STUDY

WHAT DO THE PASTORAL
EPISTLES TELL US ABOUT “SOUND
DOCTRINE” AND HOW IS THIS
SIGNIFICANT TODAY?