



The Fortress Part 2

The Fortress Part 2

**A Man's Home is
Christ's Castle**

The Apostolic Home



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I. How is God a “*fortress*”?

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- After he composed its majestic words, he searched for the perfect melody—and found it—in a bar, a tune of the people for the people.
- Today, when *every sacred belief* is under assault and loyalty to scripture may cost us our lives, we may find strength in the image of God as our protection against those who hate the Gospel.

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- Our *refuge*—a *fortress*—a *military fort or fortified place*

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- Our **refuge**—a **fortress**—*a military fort or fortified place*
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- Since *no one on earth* can stand up to him, God *had to and did* provide us with **a hero** who will defeat him—**the Lord Jesus Christ**

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- Our *clever, powerful adversary* **Satan** hates and wants to harm us
- Since *no one on earth* can stand up to him, God *had to* and *did* provide us with **a hero** who will defeat him—**the Lord Jesus Christ**
- So we have *no reason to fear* demonic forces. Our Lord is so much greater than him, we can take *whatever* he dishes out

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The final stanza plays on the word, “*word*” to represent Christ

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- With Him on our side, we also have His Spirit and His gifts

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- But what we have with God will never pass away

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Like a true **fortress**, Christ *protects* us from destruction and *preserves* what matters for us and our loved ones

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2. What does the Bible mean by, God is a “*fortress*”?

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2. What does the Bible mean by, God is a “**fortress**”?
The *classic* text about God as our **fortress** is Ps. 71

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 - ▶ Since the **home** has *replaced* the **temple**, it is now *His castle* where we **cohabit** safely with Him—in our *family fortress*

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2. What does the Bible mean by, God is a “*fortress*”?

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Psalm 71 is a prayer for deliverance

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Psalm 71 is a prayer for deliverance

- It *opens* with a *plea* for help

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- It *opens* with a **plea** for help
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- It *opens* with a **plea** for help
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- The Psalmist's **trust** in God stands out because he *repeats* it in the *second* and *next-to-last* stanzas of the psalm

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- But the Psalmist's **main point**, *a plea for help from his enemies who persecute him and want to take away his future with God*, stands out at the center of the psalm
- Let's *track his thoughts* with him to see this *for ourselves*

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 - a plea to God for help (1-4)

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Sums up God's answer

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I. How does Christ's *castle* become your *fortress*?

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- I. How does Christ's *castle* become your *fortress*?
 - To become your *fortress*, your *home* must first become Christ's *castle*

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- I. How does Christ's *castle* become your *fortress*?
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 - ▶ You must *enthron*e Him there

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 - To become your *fortress*, your *home* must first become Christ's *castle*
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 - And to *enthron*e Him as the Lord of your *home*, He must first become, the Lord of *you*

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 - ▶ As Paul told the Philippian jailer in Ac. 16:31

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 - “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, along with everyone in your household”
 - Make Him your Lord, first; then He can become the Lord of everyone in your *home*

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I. How does Christ's *castle* become your *fortress*?

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- I. How does Christ's *castle* become your *fortress*?
 - Many Christians call *the church building* “**God’s house**” because they think that God “**lives**” there

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- I. How does Christ's **castle** become your **fortress**?
 - Many Christians call *the church building* “**God’s house**” because they think that God “**lives**” there
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 - ▶ Jesus does not *confine* His presence to a *certain* location
 - ▶ Neither does He *confine* Himself to *individuals*; it takes **two or three** (witnesses) **together**, to *confirm* His presence

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"***Ye also, as living stones are being built into a spiritual house,***" where each believer is a "***living stone***," and "***Ye***" is "***all of you***" who are "***being built into a (single) spiritual house (or, temple)***"

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 - ▶ **Homes** are the holiest places on earth; holier than even church buildings

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2. Ways to make your *home* Christ's *castle* and *fortress*

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2. Ways to make your *home* Christ's *castle* and *fortress*
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 - The divine light of the seven-branched, *menorah* lampstand illuminated the Holy Place



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- The **two** candles represent the double-command to **remember** and **keep** Sabbath holy in Exod. 20:8
- Together, they *fill* houses with the *blinding* light of Creator's *glory* that inspires awe and hope in a *dark* and *desperate* world



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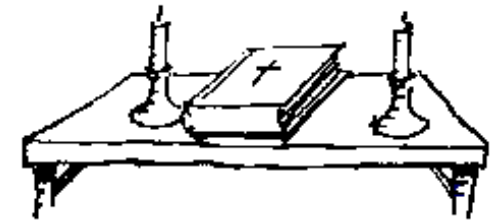
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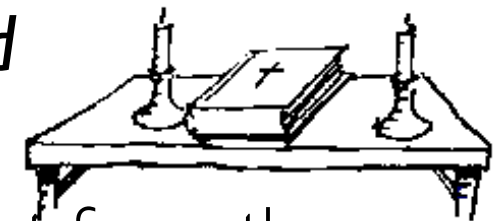
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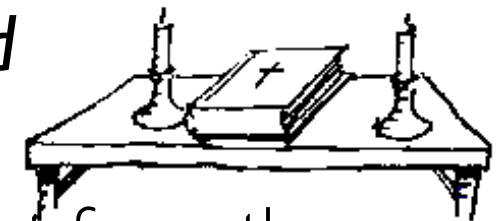
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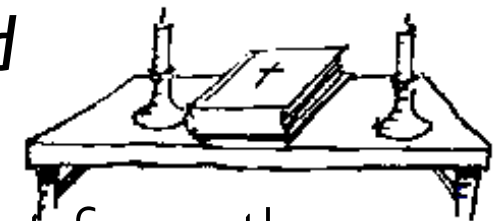
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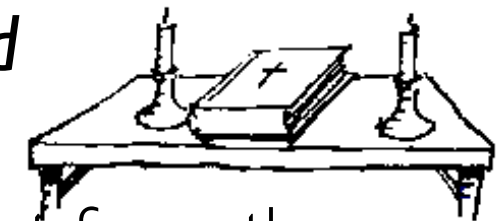
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 - ▶ More than a *physical* experience, meals become a spiritual opportunity for family members to exchange words of Torah rather than merely *pass* food
 - ▶ As Jews and Jesus quoted Deut. 8:3: "*man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God*" (Matthew 4:4)



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On Sabbath eve in the home, families set two loaves of challah bread on the dinner table to symbolize God's sustaining presence...

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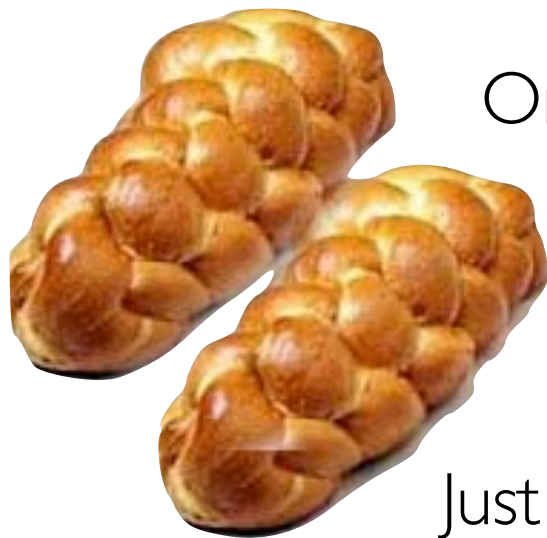


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On Sabbath eve in the home, families set two loaves of challah bread on the dinner table to symbolize God's sustaining presence...

Just as priests set two rows of bread loaves on the golden table for the bread of the Presence in the Holy Place of the Tabernacle (Exod. 25:25-30)



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- At the table, *as priest* of his instructing his of Torah—like an ancient priest at the Temple.



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the father serves
own sanctuary,
family in the words

- It serves as the actual *altar* of the *miqdash me'at* home

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- ▶ The *home* became a place for devoted Jewish families to *celebrate* holidays and festivals
- ▶ The festivals *at home* provide parents with an opportunity to *instill* religious values such as freedom and love for Torah, and *carry out* the education mandate from Moses



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 - In a similar way, early Christians celebrated *the Lord's Supper* that replaced the feasts of *Passover* and *Unleavened Bread*, at *home*



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 - ▶ Thus, the *home* became the place to celebrate the *ultimate feast*, that was personally instituted by the Lord Himself
 - ▶ The *Supper* provided parents with a *regular* opportunity to *instill religious values, train children to cherish their spiritual heritage, and build a lasting desire to live for Jesus*



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"I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. For I tell you now that I won't eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God." At that point, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. Then he said, *"Take this and share it among yourselves. For I will not drink wine again until the Kingdom of God has come"* (Lk. 22:14-18)

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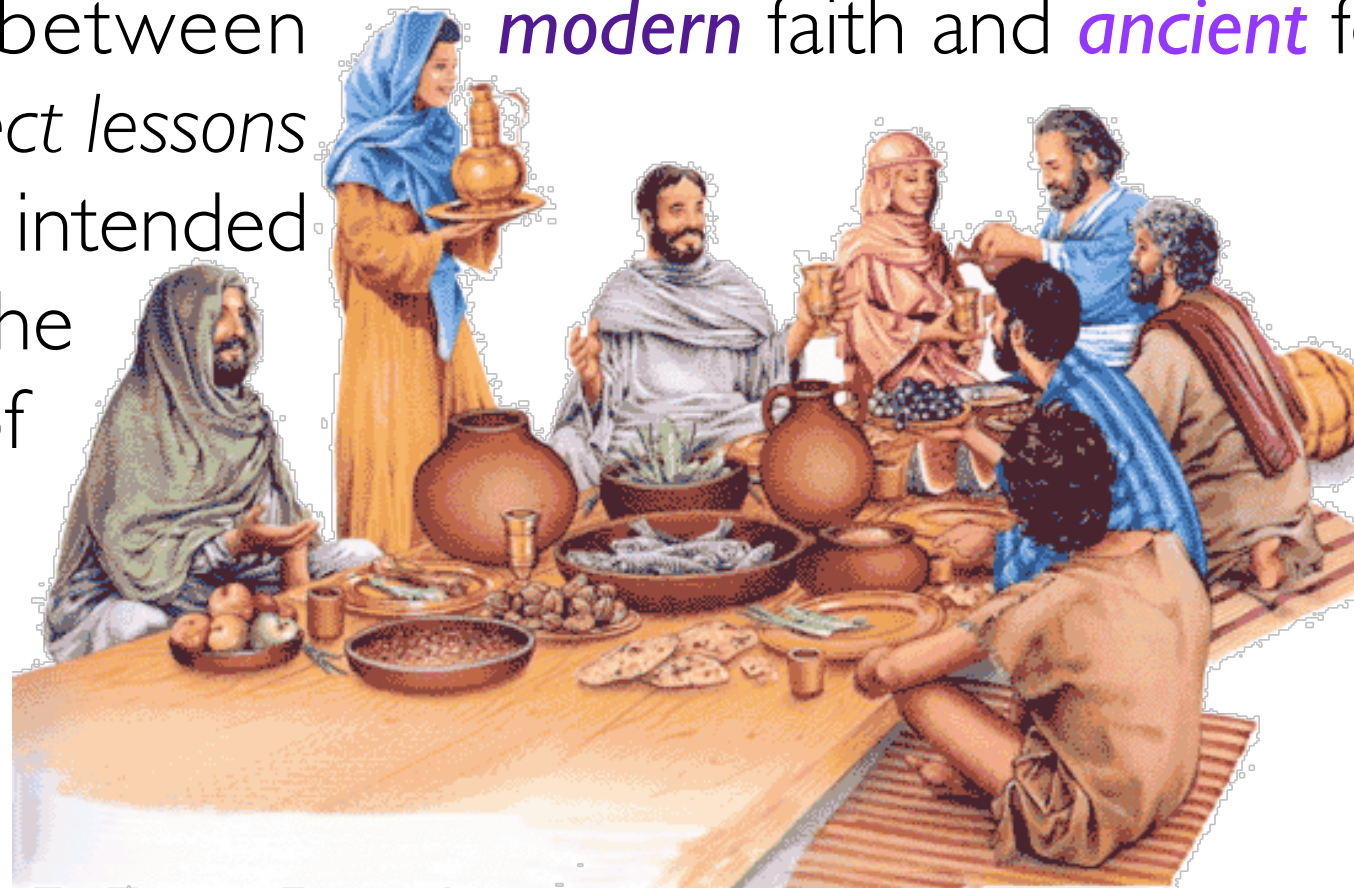
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- Christians may also draw picturesque parallels for their families between *modern* faith and *ancient* feasts, *living object lessons* originally intended to hold the interest of antsy kids



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2. Ways to make your *home* Christ's *castle* and *fortress*

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 - Use *resemblances* between the following to make your home a holier, more attractive place:

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 - ▶ ***Simchat Torah*** (Joy in Torah) and ***Bible Reading/Study***



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 - ▶ *Rosh Hashanah* (New Year) and *Jesus' first advent*
 - ▶ *Pesach* (Passover) and *the Lord's Supper*
 - ▶ *Yom Kippuh* (Day of Atonement) and *Christ's return*
 - ▶ *Sukkoth* (Tabernacles) and *Messiah's Ministry*
 - ▶ *Simchat Torah* (Joy in Torah) and *Bible Reading/Study*
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The Apostolic Home



The Apostolic Home

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 - ▶ *Shavuoth* and *Pentecost*
 - ▶ The whole **cycle** of feasts and the **plan** of salvation



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Conclusion

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Conclusion

1. Make your *home* a scriptural paradise

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Conclusion

- I. Make your *home* a scriptural paradise
 - The *miqdash me'at* (*small sanctuary/minature temple*) has the potential to teach Christians of all ages:

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 - ▶ How each Christian **home** can become its own **temple** in miniature

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Conclusion

2. Make *Christ* a way of life at *home*

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Conclusion

2. Make *Christ* a way of life at *home*
 - If, by beholding we become transformed, exposure to Christ at *home* will increase our *genuine* likeness to Him

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 - ▶ Instead of living *one life in public and another at home*

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The Apostolic Home



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The Apostolic Home



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The Apostolic Home



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 - Diminish the impact the ***mystery of iniquity***

The Apostolic Home



Conclusion

2. Make *Christ* a way of life at *home*

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Conclusion

2. Make **Christ** a way of life at **home**
 - Instead of trying to *stop a runaway world* from plunging us and itself deeper into evil, like some do

The Apostolic Home



Conclusion

2. Make **Christ** a way of life at **home**
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 - Christ's **castle** will be our **fortress**—the *safest, most biblical* way to live in the world without being part of it

The Apostolic Home



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The Apostolic Home



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The Apostolic Home



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The Apostolic Home



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 - Imagine fewer squabbles, more synergy, better family

The Apostolic Home



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 - That's God's plan. That's the Apostolic home