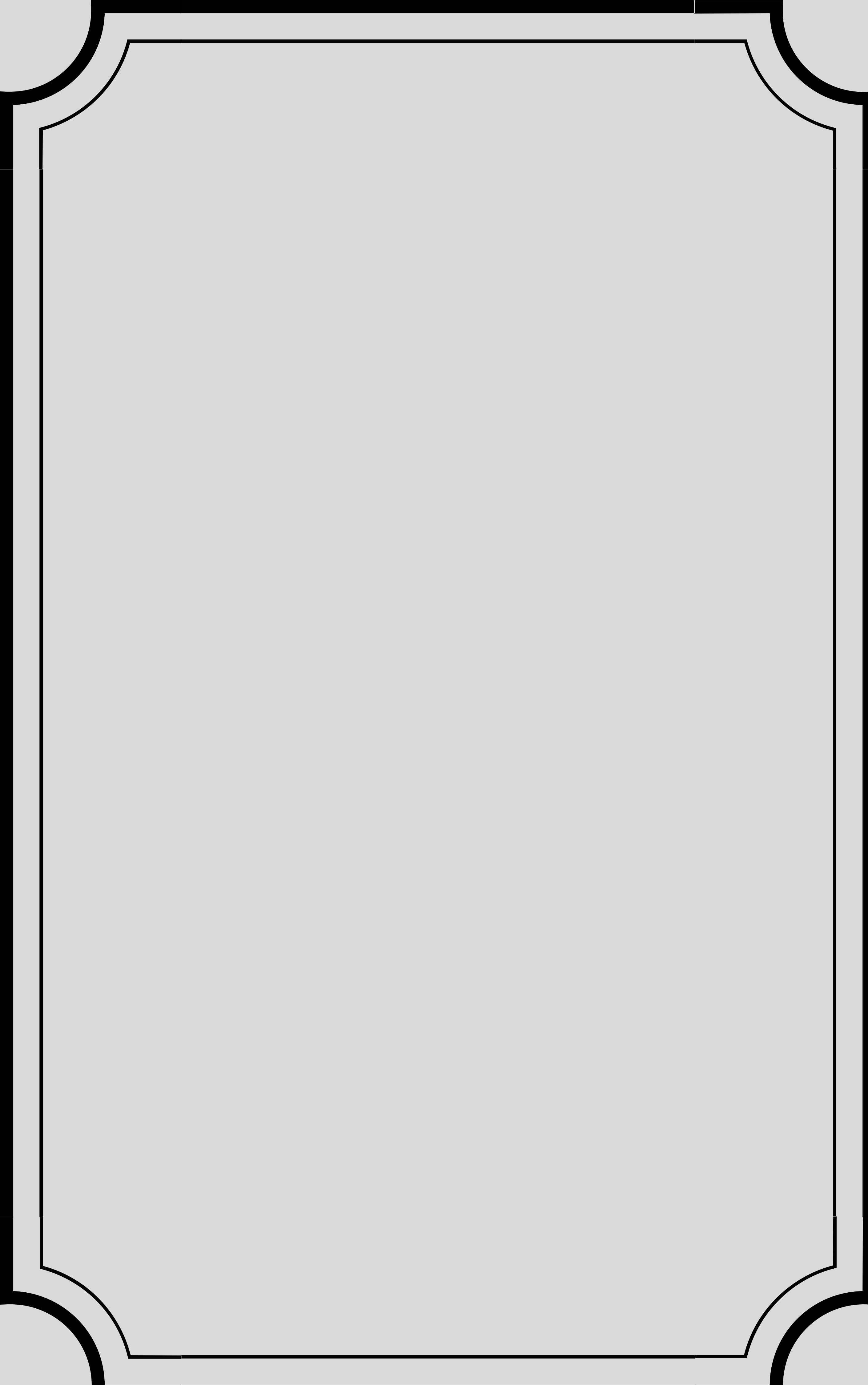




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WRITTEN BY MICHAEL JOHNSON JR.







This book is dedicated to my father  
Michael W. Johnson Sr.

Thank you for the wisdom you poured into me. I am  
who I am today because of you.

You taught me this principle and it stuck with me all  
my life.

Thank you for the seeds you've sown and I thank God  
for the wisdom I had access to through you.

Hope I make you proud



# Chapter 1

## 2 Samuel 12:7-15 New International Version (NIV)

7 Then Nathan said to David, “**You are the man!** This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul.

8 I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you the house Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more.

9 *Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes?* You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. 10 Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’

11 “This is what the Lord says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. 12 You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’”

13 Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.”

Nathan replied, “The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die. 14 But because by doing this you have shown utter contempt for[a] the Lord, the son born to you will die.”

15 After Nathan had gone home, the Lord struck the child that Uriah’s wife had borne to David, and he became ill.

There is a saying that would be considered appropriate in a moment like this, "**wow, that escalated quickly!**"

**Was** this not David who was anointed by God through the prophet Samuel who was chosen over his seven brothers?

**Was** this not David the one man army who single handedly defeated the mighty Goliath with one stone and put the Philistine army on the run?

**Was** this not David who the women sang that he had killed tens of thousands?

**Was** this not the David the Lord had called a man after God's own heart?

**What** happened to this man who once was known for his great leadership and devotion who now is ridiculed for his selfishness and pride.

**What** happened to this man who once had the type of anointing where his musicianship had the ability to free kings from evil spirits?



**KING DAVID**  
Illustrated by Jonah Onix  
©The Word Graphics Team

**What** happened to this man who once rallied broken men to follow him because they valued the manner of man he was.

***What happened?***

I'll tell you what happened, ***the king stopped acting like the king.***

David allowed his weakness to conquer his devotion resulting in an infected heart.

*Let me ask you, what happens* when you stop acting like the one you're suppose to be?

**What happens** when you decide to step out of character?

**What are you known** to do or where can you be found when your calling no longer becomes a priority?

The bible teaches us that King David formerly a young shepherd boy finds himself in *2 Sam. 12* in a devastating position merely because he allowed himself to get lost in a rabbit hole.

David finds himself in a biblical warped Alice and Wonderland situation where his intrigue and fleshful ambition led him down a path where he could not get himself out.



THE RABBIT HOLE

This rabbit hole wasn't a dream nor a nightmare, this was the reality of Davids **unmanaged lust**. This rabbit hole led to David being rebuked by God leading to the death of his unborn son and the life long persecution against his legacy and family lineage.



The reality is my friend life is filled with a variety of rabbit holes all with the potential of creating a devastating future. The expression curiosity killed the cat isn't just hypothetical and it will be the confession of your future self unless you take in consideration its probably best not to go down that hole.

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Alice in Wonderland originally titled Alice's Adventures in Wonderland is an 1865 novel written by the author named Lutwidge Dodgson. In the 1951s adaptation of the story the main character a little girl named Alice with an unusual imagination falls into a rabbit hole. After falling into the rabbit hole she ends up in a fantasy world where her curiosity is met by a number of twisted realities and humanistic creatures.

While the Wonderland starts off as an intriguing place with colorful imagery and unusual creativity, Alice is pushed to a state of emotional confusion and regret. She confesses her desire to return home but has no idea how to return back to reality from this place of creative chaos. However, she eventually wakes up and realizes she was dreaming only to find peace knowing her Wonderland experience never really happened but it was a figment of her imagination.





I want to draw your focus on the shift in the story. The result of Alice's Wonderland experience started with her intrigue of a little **white rabbit**.

The story shifts when her attention is captured by this white rabbit who is found in a hurry because he is "**late for a very important date**". Alice is taken back because for 1. *Rabbits*



*don't talk, but this one does.* 2. *Alice is nosey and wonders what is this rabbit late for?* She follows the rabbit to a hole large enough to fit her as well. She's left with a decision to make; does she stay safe and not pursue the rabbit, or does she pursue the rabbit down a hole she has no idea where it leads to?

Here lies a major problem.

Alice doesn't know where this hole will lead to but her curiosity of the white rabbit causes her **to throw away all logic and she neglects the idea of any danger that could be awaiting her**. It seems as though the only one with some sense is her little kitten named Dinah who doesn't follow Alice down the hole but instead watches her fall into her own abyss.



No doubt I can assume that one time or another in your life there was some figurative white rabbit you found yourself chasing. And I'm also guessing the chase blinded you from using logic on where the end of this chase would lead to.

I say to you **be careful in allowing what's in front of you to suppress your awareness and discernment of what is going on around you.** Sometimes the **fixing of our focus** on certain things can lead us to forget the dangers that lie ahead of us, or from a christian stand point the dangers that are potentially following us.

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I'm reminded of \*1Pe 5:8 NHEB\* *"Be sober and self-controlled. Be watchful. Your adversary the devil, walks around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."*

It's one thing to consider what you are chasing after, but **have you considered in your pursuit that something might simultaneously be chasing after you?**

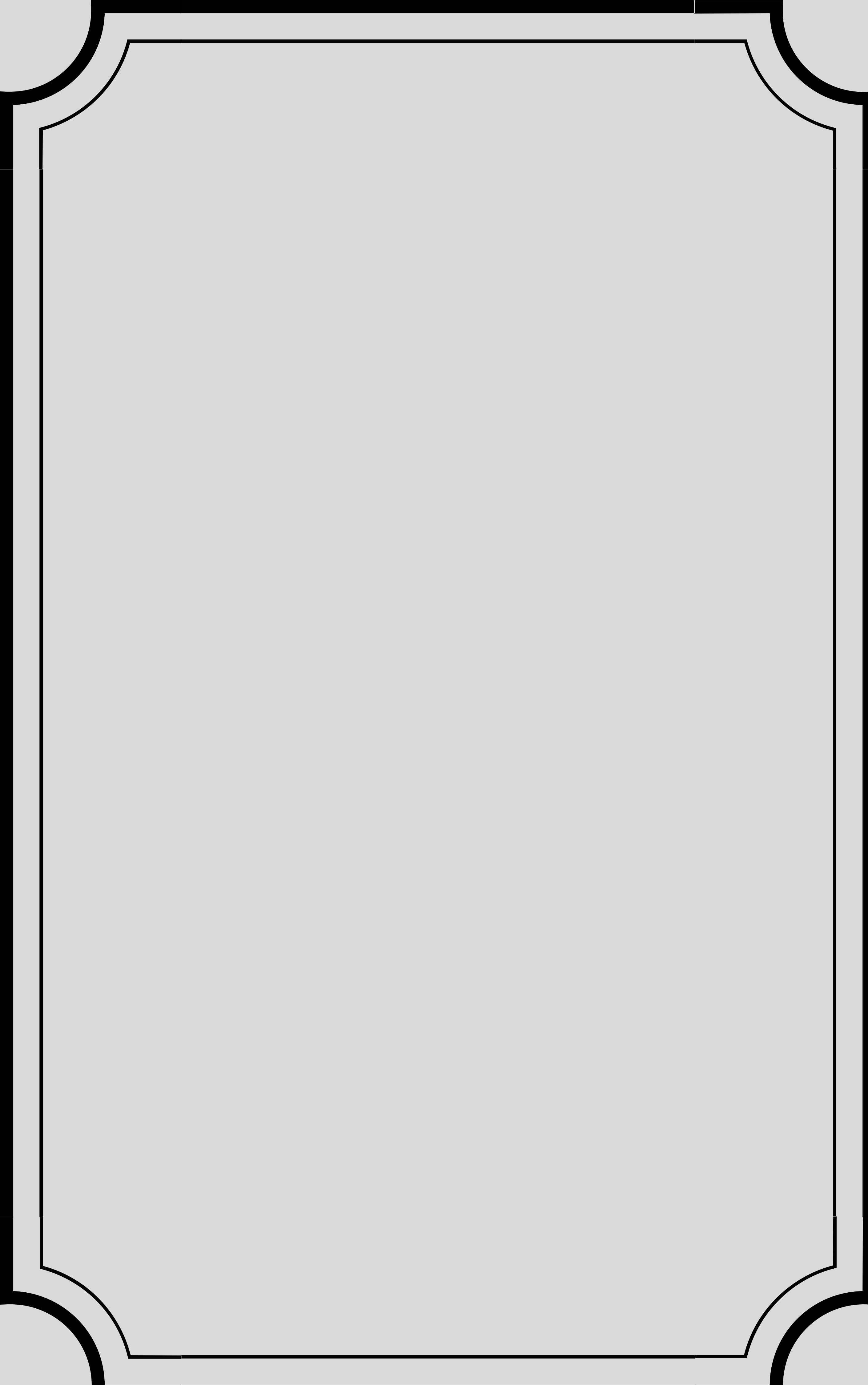
Have you ever considered chasing your white rabbit was only designed to draw you to a place of **isolation** so that what was chasing you could overtake you?



My friend, you have to **be careful in allowing your pursuits in life to cause you to throw away logic, wisdom and sense.** It is your responsibility to be **sober minded, vigilant, watchful and self controlled.** Otherwise you might end up like Alice, a prisoner in your own imagination tortured by the manipulation of unnatural influences.

Alice is found chasing the rabbit and in her chase she justifies her actions and cuts out **logic, reason, and wisdom.** After making her decision she then focuses her aim on how to escape a world she should have never been in the first place.

Here lies our bridge, the draw of the rabbit holes in our lives function the same way as it did Alice in Wonderland. There is a strong draw that pulls you to fill a void until your search is satisfied. The unfortunate truth regarding life rabbit holes is that they are created without the possibility of complete fulfillment. **You may find temporary gratification but you will not find the fulfillment you seek for.** I understand how difficult it is from letting go of the ambitions of a wild heart. I understand the conflict with trying to manage a seemingly uncontrollable thought pattern, but you must be careful in following the little white rabbits in your life. They will only lead you down a path of potential self destruction.





# Chapter 2

Jas 1:14 NHEB *"But each one is tempted, when he is drawn away by his own lust, and enticed."*

The scripture suggests that everyone is tempted: (*solicited to sin, allured to disobey God*) when He is drawn away by his own lust: (*desire, craving, longing, desire for what is forbidden*) and enticed or entrapped: (*caught, held catering, enslaved*) by it.

**Sometimes life is not dictated by what is pulling you but instead what you are willing to voluntarily walk into.** We create an excuse driven mindset when we blame the rabbit holes in our lives. We often neglect being consumed by our own curiosity and like Alice are dragged away to places seemingly with no return. What we neglect to consider is that our draw can eventually lead to our destruction if we don't stop ourselves before its too late.



Let's consider for a moment that rabbit holes in the natural are dwelling places for rabbits. They provide protection for rabbits underground. They are **not** designed to house, facilitate or even cater to people. Another problem with rabbit holes is that although they provide protection from what happens above ground, rabbit holes do not necessarily protect them from unforeseen dangers awaiting underground.

You must **be careful in allowing your ignorance to lead you to a place where you don't know what could be waiting for you.**

It's common to find security and safety from our safe havens but the enemies around us study our every move. **Don't get too comfortable forgetting that the enemies around you are constantly investigating ways to catch you unaware.**

The scripture in James brings us to consider that the ploy of temptation is the result of an allurements of ones inner appeal. That means there is a drawing, a pulling, a dragging that occurs when dealing with ones personal lusts. But that is not the tempting, that is the **un-managed desire** that leads to temptation.



You see there is a progressive journey here that leads to the entrapment of temptation. And while every man or woman is tempted **everyone does not have to be trapped by it.**

You won't have to deal with the consequences of entrapment if you are willing to consider the stages of your rabbit holes. Every emotional and mental rabbit hole has stages as you dive deeper. If you can stop yourself from drowning in the depth of the hole you can survive the attack of temptation that leads to sin which ultimately can lead to your death.

But before we take time to investigate the hole, what about that little **white rabbit**?

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As a kid I used to always watch the Looney tunes cartoons. Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Elmer Fudd were my entertainment. One of the most anticipated cartoons I recall were the episodes that included Wile E. Coyote and the Road Runner. By the way have you ever seen a real road runner? It looks nothing like the bird on the cartoon!!!! That's beside the point.



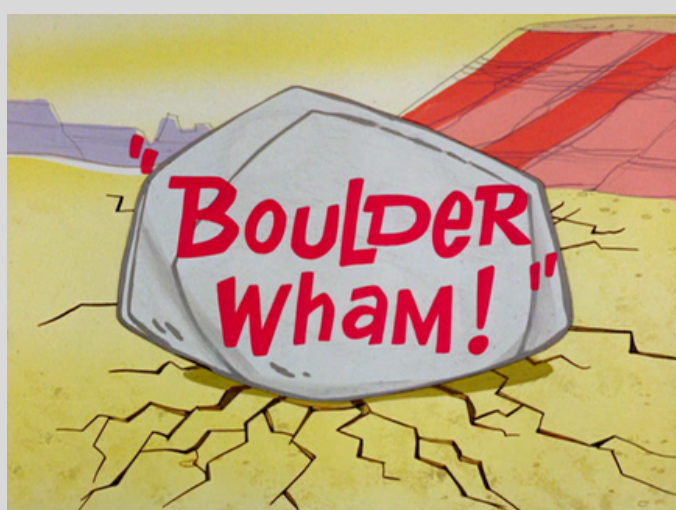
The coyote literally pledged his life to try to capture this road runner. The coyote was extremely intelligent and he seemed to have always had an advantage because he knew the highways that the road runner would run on.

The problem was that the road runner was just way too fast. The coyote could never catch him. Even when he thought he did, we found out it was always a decoy of some sort.

Here was the major problem with this cat and mouse game.

The coyote was so fixed on the road runner he neglected how many times his pursuit led to one failure after another.

A boulder would fall on the coyote instead of the road runner.



The TNT would blow up on the coyote instead of the road runner.





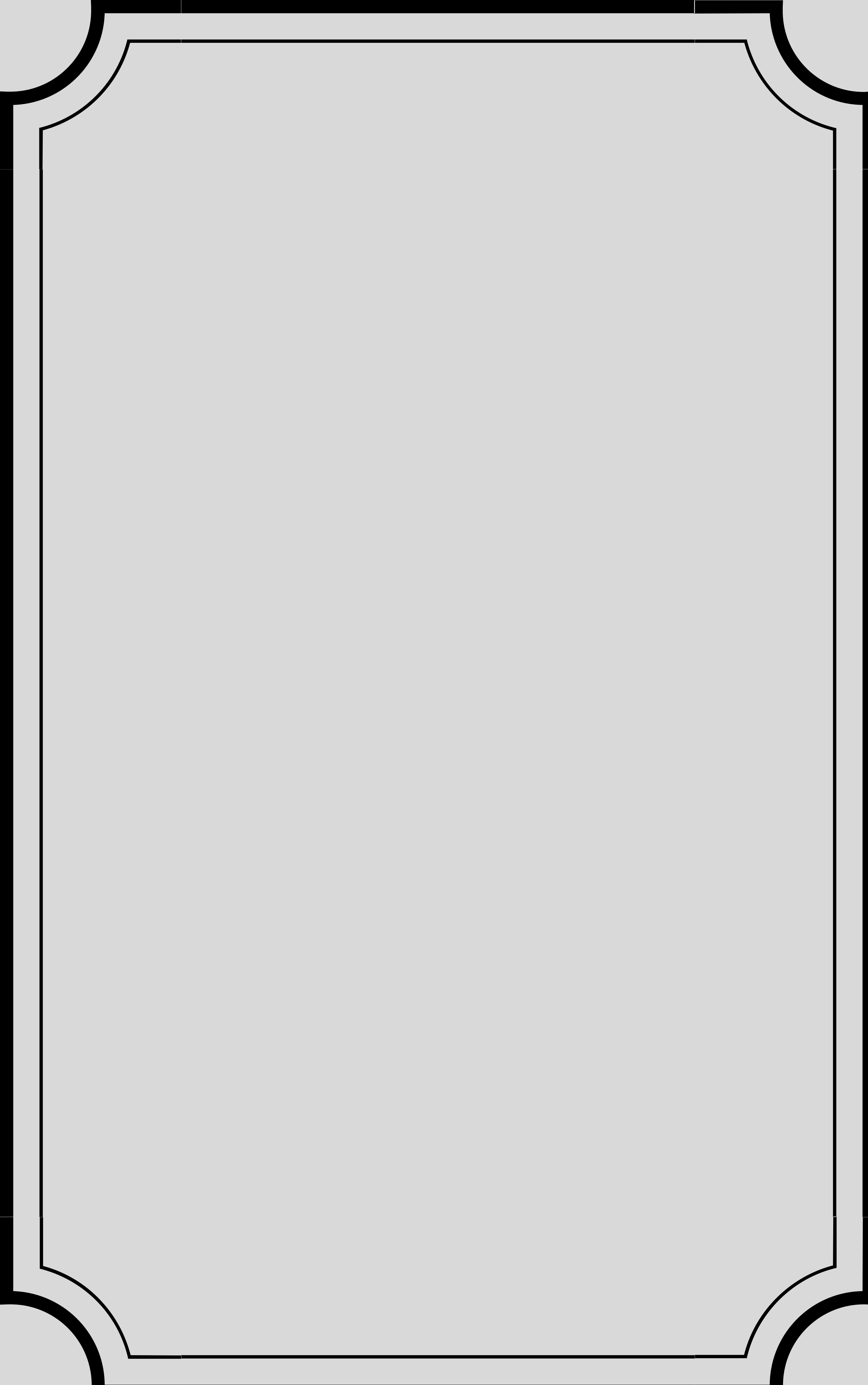
I mean how many times does he have to be destroyed by the environment for him to realize, **this bird is not worth the trouble?** However every week I would come back wondering if he would ever catch the bird, and guess what, he never did.

The coyote's weakness wasn't how many times he failed, his weakness was in following his "**little white rabbit**" that drew him from one problem to another. His infatuation of the road runner led to a **lifetime** of devastation all because he was fixed and would not let go of it.

One of the greatest challenges you will have to learn to deal with is **how to manage and prioritize your fixed focus**. It's obvious in the coyote's case that a fixed focus can cause you to lose time and eventually starve. I don't want that to happen to you and neither does God. He didn't create you to be dragged by some little white rabbit. No, the Lord wants you to fix your focus on Him and all He has for you. **God has plans to bless you, strengthen you, empower you and use you for great things, but your potential will always be caged in your problem as long as the little white rabbit remains as your aim and priority.**

So now say this with me,

**"It's time to leave alone the Little White Rabbit!"**





# Chapter 3

As we look at *2 Samuel 11* we will discover why David suffered the consequences listed in *2 Samuel 12* by the prophet Nathan. David wasn't getting whooped for nothing, no he was getting whooped because he decided to dive deep in his own rabbit hole. As we consider David's rabbit hole I believe by faith that the devastation of his desolation will lead to your deliverance from the weapons that could lead you to your own devastation and potential destruction.

## *2 Sam. 11*

David first found himself in a rabbit hole situation when He decided to stay home when as the King of Israel he was suppose to be at war.

*\*2Sa 11:1 ISV\* One spring day, during the time of year when kings go off to war, David sent out Joab, along with his personal staff and all of Israel's army. They utterly destroyed the Ammonites and then attacked Rabbah while David remained in Jerusalem.*



- First observation is that **there was a time known for kings to be found at war with their armies**. This isn't like David didn't know about where he should be, but instead he decided to reject where he should be to find comfort in a place where his flesh would capitalize on his complacency.

You would assume that during the time of war generals and kings would be creating **strategies** for battle plans, creating **strategies** for future tactics and creating **strategies** on enemies weaknesses. Even in today's sports world, teams take time to look over game film not to just to consider how they themselves played in their last game but they investigate the play of their opposition to give themselves an advantage the next time they play against them.

Not David. During the time where David should have been with his armies he decides to **isolate** himself back home and sends his leaders ahead to fight on his behalf.

Here are a couple things to consider maybe why David stayed home:

**1. Maybe David figured he didn't need to be in this battle.** Maybe the nation his army was about to fight wasn't really an opposition to lose sleep over. Maybe David considered this battle didn't require him to be there.

In vs 1 the scripture teaches that the armies of Israel utterly destroyed the Ammonites and then attacked Rabbah.... *Why waste unnecessary energy when your armies could handle it right?*

**Have you ever found yourself super comfortable where you felt like you didn't need to put in additional effort in a task you felt was unnecessary?**

Maybe you didn't study for a test because you was confident you knew the material.

Maybe you procrastinated last minute on getting gas for your car because you believed even though the gas light came on you knew you had some more gas to keep driving. (I just told on myself. Lol😊)

Maybe you've scaled back on your time in prayer or reading the word of God because you was comfortable with your spiritual status.



At the end of the day we cannot afford to allow ourselves to get too complacent knowing **WE ARE ARE AT WAR.**

Uh oh. I think i need to ask, ***have you forgotten there is a war for your soul?***

Have you forgotten the devil will stop at nothing until he sees your dead corps rotting in the ground and your soul burning in hell?

Have you forgotten accepting *John 10:10* **the enemy comes to steal, kill and destroy?**

This not the time to kick off your shoes and relax your feet. No this is the time to be ready. When it's time to fight **be ready to fight.** Just because you may have an advantage in one battle **doesn't mean you've won the war. Always be ready to fight.**

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Observation 2. **Maybe David was just tired and he needed a break.**

David by this time is a seasoned warrior. He's no stranger to war, by this time he's been fighting since he was a teenager. Maybe it was just time for a vacation?

Who doesn't need rest every now and then?

I would never tell you that you don't need a break to ensure you are able to function at an optimal level. However, when it comes to being at war **you don't have the freedom to pick and choose when you want to go M.I.A. Wartime requires careful consideration on how you steward your:**

**Time**

**Talents**

**Treasure**

- *How much time are you spending on things that do not help with your priorities?*
- *How much wasted effort have you thrown away on things that should have been directed towards your priorities?*
- *How much of your investment has gone to what is a priority to make sure you can afford the weight your responsibility requires?*

"David"(now I'm talking to you) I say to you its OK to be tired, **but its not OK to go M.I.A.** Wartime requires sacrifice and if you're tired of losing rest because of this war then that should be motivation that **your enemy needs to die so that you can get your life back!**

Observation 3. Maybe, just maybe **David didn't care and decided he didn't feel like fighting.**

How many times have you called in sick at work knowing that there were no afflictions or infirmities in your body?

How many times did you use the family emergency or car problems excuse card just so that you didn't have to go to work?

We all have in one sense or another.

It's not that we don't need the job, its just sometimes our mind or body makes an '**executive decision**' resulting in us staying home when our work schedules clearly states we're suppose to be at work.

Dauids work schedule clearly stated that as King he was suppose to be at war, instead he decided to stay home.

Here is another personal question for you; **have you forgotten your why?**

Have you forgotten the reason for your sacrifice?

Have you forgotten the reason why you were anointed for this?

Have you forgotten the reason why God placed you in this position?



Sometimes our greatest seasons of desolation is not found in the secret weapon of our adversary but sometimes it derives from the forgotten reason for why we do what we do.

Everyday you need to carve time to remind yourself why you do what you do.

Every day you need something to bring to your remembrance what is the driving force to your why.

A good leader doesn't master the excuses that lures them away from their destiny, a good leader masters the art of preparation so that when they want to quit, their defensive mechanism kicks in and reminds them quitting is not an option.

Giving up is not an option.

Not caring at all is not an option. **YOU CAN NOT AFFORD TO FORGET YOUR WHY!!!!**



Whatever reason David decides to use, we find that David loses his focus when he decides to be at the wrong place at the wrong time.

It is in the progression of this story we also learn being at the **wrong place at the wrong time creates the wrong state of mind.**

Even when you think there is no harm being in the wrong place you need to take into consideration that it can **create the wrong state of mind.** How many of us have suffered consequences not because of **where we were** but because of the mindset we had?

My friend **be careful in trying to justify where you are or where you want to go just because you feel that is not the greater sin.** Every compromised place can lead to **corrupt thoughts and corrupt emotions.** How did David staying home lead to him being in a compromised position? **Because he wasn't suppose to be there, he was supposed to be at war.** Where are you supposed to be right now? Are you there? Or are you somewhere else? If you're tired of having to face the music of fighting with way ward emotions than you need to prioritize this truth, "**Just because you can, doesn't mean you should.**"

Remember, **sometimes there is too much to lose and not enough to gain.**



David decides to stay home and in his staying home we find that his sleep, nap, rest or whatever he was doing had ended and David then found himself aimlessly wondering around on the roof.

\*2Sa 11:2 NHEB\* It happened at evening, that David arose from off his bed, and walked on the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful to look on.

2 observations to share as we initially make our way to David's rabbit hole.

**Observation 1.** The scriptures do not clarify what he was doing or where he was going, instead it just notates he decides to walk on the roof. Quite possibly David goes on the roof maybe because it was hot in the palace and he decides to cool off on the roof. Or maybe he was bored and was hoping to entertain himself somewhere on the roof. We're not sure why David decides to go on the roof but we do know that David didn't have a reason nor an aim for his actions.

Here is something to think about; **being in the wrong place can lead to purpose-less actions when you were assigned to be purpose driven.** David is trying to fill a void in his time and space while on the roof when if he was out with his army he wouldn't need to fill his time with restless aimless activities.

You very well may be thinking what's wrong with David taking a walk around his house? Is David not free to live his life the way he wants to?

Of course he is. But in 1 Sam. 11 we know something David doesn't know, he is about walk into a rabbit hole and get trapped in it.

Sometimes your discernment should remain on **red alert** even while you enjoy the cool breeze from an evening stroll. You never know who or what maybe on assignment to draw your attention leading you down a pathway with no return in sight.

**Observation 2.** It's one thing for David to walk aimlessly on the roof with no agenda, no plan or no purpose. But the text doesn't even give the decency to identify that David was walking on the roof of *his* house.

There was no other king of Israel other than David, however the scriptures make it known to us that David on this night is found walking around on the roof of the royal palace, the kings roof, which was his roof. It's almost as if the scriptures give us an illusion that David is on some other king's house. I personally believe the purpose of this descriptive writing is to bring us to take note **we have a king who is not where kings are suppose to be at this time.**

We have a king who is not doing what kings are suppose to be doing at this time. So since he decided to not act like a king why should we identify him as a king when he has decided to not present himself to us as a disciplined, self controlled leader?

You see friend you cannot get mad when God decides to reintroduce you as one without authority when you yourself decided to act as if your not a man or woman with responsibility.

Adam and Eve was given authority by God to name the animals, till the ground and care for the garden. But in their submission to the allurement brought on by Satan's temptation Eve tumbles down a rabbit hole where she goes through multiple stages of deception.

Originally the tree was a sign of obedience to God. It was the tree God said not to eat of. But when Satan repainted a new picture of the tree, Eve decides to look at the tree with eyes of deception. Her mind began to justify why the tree should be entertained. Good for food, pleasant to the eyes and a desire to make one wise.

Before, the priority was to leave the tree alone as a sign of their allegiance to God. But when the tree had a different meaning they were willing to throw away their authority, responsibility and their obedience to God for a taste of the forbidden.



However, it all started when Eve entertained the rabbit hole of the tree.

The tree was God's design. There was nothing wrong with the tree just like there was nothing wrong with the woman David saw, but **when the mind begins to look for ways to bypass the forbidden, what once was sacred becomes secular.** And when something becomes secular you'll find the rabbit hole creates a twisted wonderland that appears to be stimulating to the flesh but poisonous to the spirit.

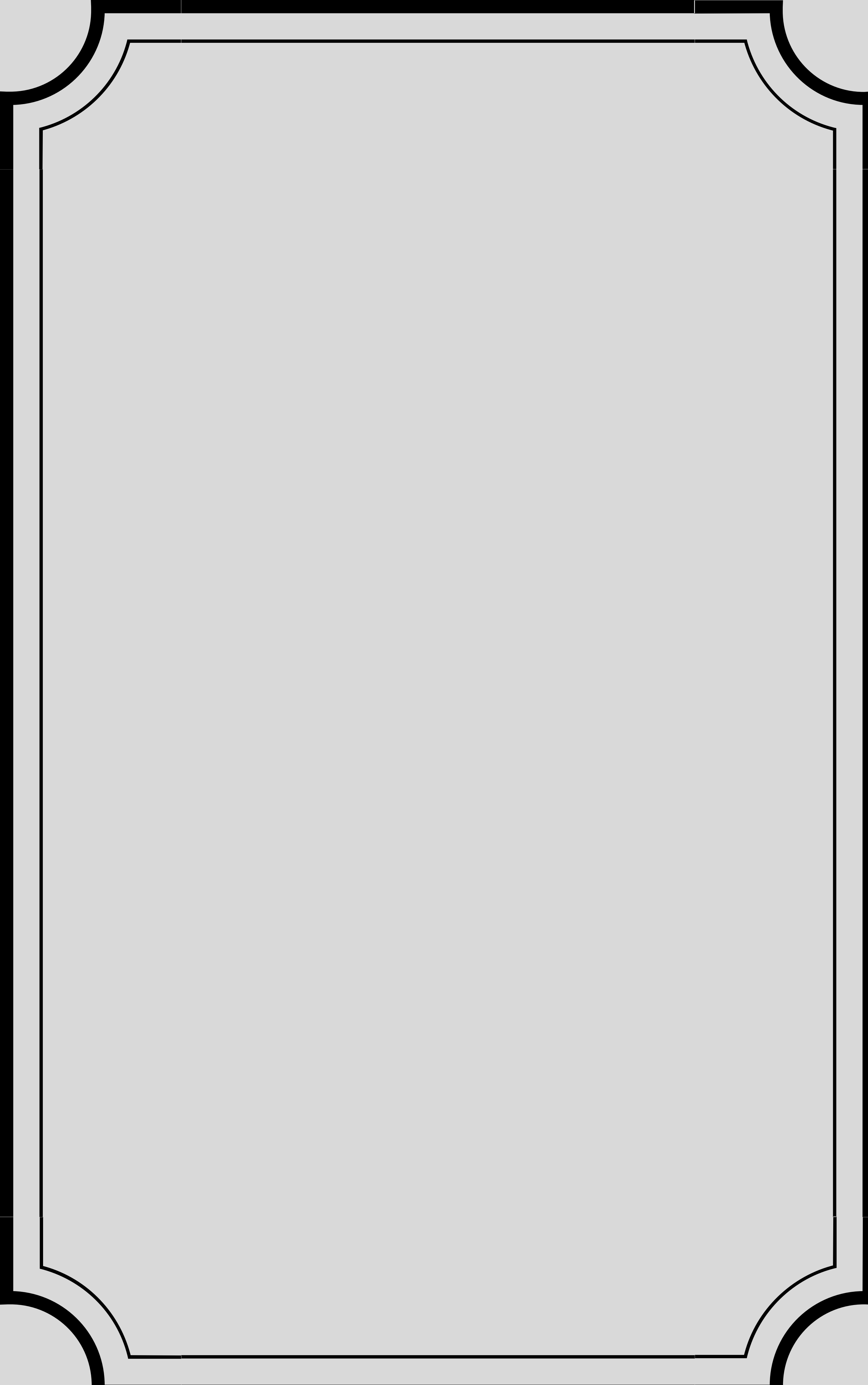
Whether David was bored or needed to cool down, David now is in the wrong place at the wrong time which can create the wrong state of mind. And when the wrong state of mind has been instituted all the flesh needs is an **opportunity** to appease a desire.

You very well may be at the doorstep of a downward spiral because you have taken one step towards the rabbit hole of no return. If by this point in the story you can recognize in your life that you are inches away from falling in the hole of darkness heed to this warning, quickly turn around and get away.

For when you give your lust an opportunity there is nothing good for the spirit that can come from it. While the world we live in is consumed with fleshful opportunities you must commit to make no provision for the flesh nor its lusts and resist the enemy with every fiber of reluctance you can muster.

It is in your resistance where you will cause the enemy to flee and will find the key to being free from the draw of the rabbit hole.







# Chapter 4

The King formerly known as David the Giant Slayer finds himself on the roof of his house. His flesh aggressively looks for the opportunity to feed his lust and lo and behold stage bottom right the forbidden fruit named Bathsheba is introduced in the story. Here we have David taking his first step towards his rabbit hole that we will identify as "***The Look***".

\*2Sa 11:2 KJV\* And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof **he saw** a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.

\*2Sa 11:2 ISV\* Late one afternoon about dusk, David got up from his couch and was walking around on the roof of the royal palace. From there **he watched** a woman taking a bath, and she was very beautiful to look at.



The word David "Saw" here does not suggest a glance or a mere gander. The word in hebrew is *ra'ah* which means to **inspect, to consider, to perceive, to gaze at.**

David sees this woman and in his peep show he begins to consider his intentions.

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Let's not move too quickly but I want you to consider the rabbit hole formula for Davids lust.

When I was younger my father brought me to this scripture and gave me a formula to take note of regarding David. It was in this formula my dad charged me to be mindful of how to manage the lust that tries to control our lives.

The formula includes 4 L's:

**The Look**

**The Linger**

**The Lust**

**You Lose**

With this formula it helped me put in perspective Davids rabbit hole. I believe if you can keep this formula in the front of your mind when challenged with your own rabbit holes you very well could escape and survive the ploy the enemy assigned to entrap you.

1. **The Look:** \*Mat 5:27-28/NHEB\* v 27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery;’ v 28 but I tell you that everyone who **looks** at a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Jesus dives deeper when dealing with this idea of looking that leads to deeper Intentions.



While 2 Sam 11 tells us about **ra'ah** Jesus in Matthew 5 gives us a word in the greek called "**blepo**" which means **to be possessed by sight, to be captivated with the body's eyes.**

Let's be real, the world we live in is over saturated with imagery that are destructive for the soul however both **ra'ah** and **beplo** give us insight on how to manage "The Look".

We use our sense of sight everyday. We need it to navigate through life, we need it to locate things, we need some form of sight in life.

However the danger is not the sight in itself, the danger is found in **what is attached to sight.** It's not the driver, it's what is carpooling with the driver.



**Ra'ah:** is to gaze, to consider to inspect.

**Beplo:** is to be possessed by sight, to be captivated by the body's eyes.

When your look has wrong intentions and is captivated or possessed by what you are looking at, it leads to the next step that pulls you deeper into the rabbit hole. This stage is "**The Linger**".



2 Samuel 11 David's rabbit hole was a quick journey. It doesn't say how much time went from David looking to David pursuing but all of us including David have enough time to stop a **look** from becoming a **linger**.

That word linger is summed up in the description of ra'ah; that is to gaze and consider with a certain intention.

**A look impacts the senses but progression to a linger triggers and stimulates the mind awakening lust that already exists.**

Let me explain. What you look at impacts the senses. If I'm hungry and I look at a slice of pepperoni and sausage pizza my mind sends a shock wave to my taste and smell sense. I then end up using three senses instead of one because my sight was accompanied by my hunger.



However the other **senses** were **triggered** the longer I stared at the pizza. When I became captivated by what I saw my mind triggered a desire, longing and craving for it. All that's left is making sure I have the money in my pocket.

If you go to the mall and see a shirt that looks nice, there initially is an appeal of pleasant intrigue. The longer you stare at it your mind triggered imagery on what you could wear with it, the attention you would get from it and the confidence you would have with it on. A prolonged gaze leads to you trying on the shirt in the fitting room. Now you like what you see and you like how it makes you feel.

Then you realize its on sale. On your way to the register an employee tells you its a buy one get another half off. Next thing you know the shirt has three more friends in hand ready to be purchased all because you looked at a shirt and began to imagine with you wearing it.



There are so many more examples that could be brought up but the point is what you see eventually becomes an image that you keep that has the power to trigger other things in your mind body and soul. If you know you have an issue with certain areas in your life then it is imperative that you take note and deflect it before it's too late.

We know David loved multiple women. \*2Sa 5:13\*  
*"David took him more concubines and wives out of Jerusalem, after he had come from Hebron; and there were yet sons and daughters born to David."*

David had a strong desire for multiple women. So when David is on the roof and he sees this beautiful woman bathing herself and she was not one of his conquered trophies, Davids initial look quickly led to David lingering.

His sight stalls and is fixed on this woman proceeding to bathe herself.

While '**The Look**' is the common initial stage of the rabbit hole, "The Linger" is where you begin to lose your stability. In a linger you are a bit disoriented from what's right and wrong.



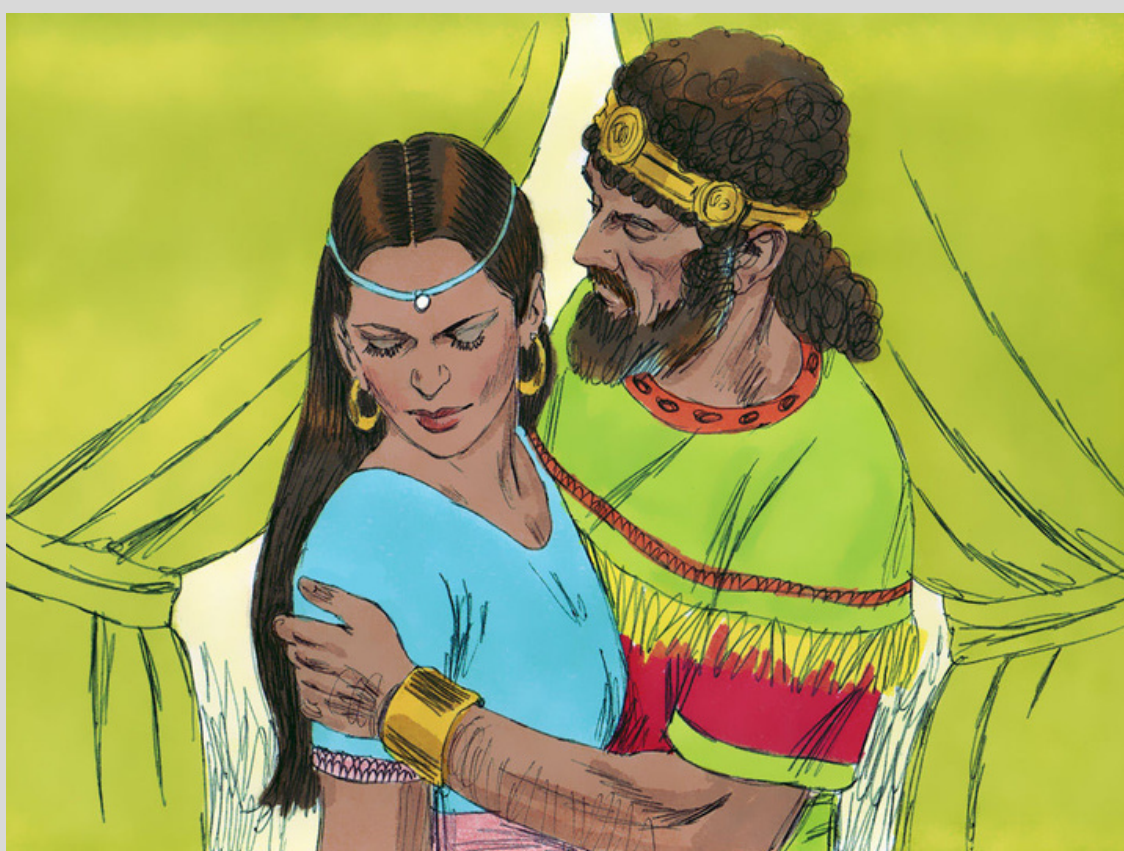


As Eve lingered at the tree her mind began to justify **why the tree needed to be investigated intimately**. David sees a woman bathing herself, in her process of self cleansing David dives deeper in a state of an intentional gaze. He is fixed like a lion is fixed on a prey.

Your freedom from a rabbit hole depends on your break away from the **Linger** stage. This is one of the most important stages you must take careful consideration.

If you neglect the importance of managing the linger without knowing you can quickly find yourself sliding into the third stage we know as '**The Lust**'.

The lust for david is found in \*2Sa 11:3\* "David sent and inquired after the woman. One said, "Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?"



It's one thing to look at her, its another thing for your look to lead to a linger but the seriousness hits the ceiling when it turns into lust.

He sees this woman bathing herself. She is naked in her home and place of privacy.

David had wives and concubines, more than enough to satisfy his carnal appetite and yet the idea of having a woman he never had caught his attention and created a desire that was unhealthy.

Let me ask you, *what is created in your mind when you see something you want but cannot have?* I'm not suggesting you have the same issue as David but you have to be careful of seeing how David saw. David was consumed by a lack of satisfaction. He had multiple wives and concubines and yet it did not fulfill that unsatisfying craving in his flesh.

David's power drew him to justify his lust and in his intoxication he involves other men to partner with him in his lust.

It has been said misery loves company, in this case we learn that manipulation sometimes draws audience involvement.

David inquires to his men to find out about this woman he's lusting after and we learn how thick the poison of this situation is when we learn she is married to one of David's warriors.

This gives relevance to \*Jas 1:14\* 'But each one is tempted, when he is drawn away by his own lust, and enticed.'

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After David lays with Bathsheba David found himself in a whirlwind of issues.

Bathsheba gets pregnant, Uriah is still alive, Davids integrity is shot and in 1 Sam 12 David is confronted by the Nations leading Prophet Nathan who is on assignment by God not to warn David but to give him his verdict and judgment for the rabbit hole he threw himself in.

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My friend I say again life is filled with Rabbit Holes. They all lead to the same wonderland of destruction. However I tell you again you do not have to go down that hole. Let Davids story strengthen your convictions to steer away from this agent of destruction.

This story is not a case of the I couldn't help its, instead this was a case of the destructive force of a rabbit hole. And if you don't take into consideration the danger in the depth of this hole, it will lead to your demise spiritually.

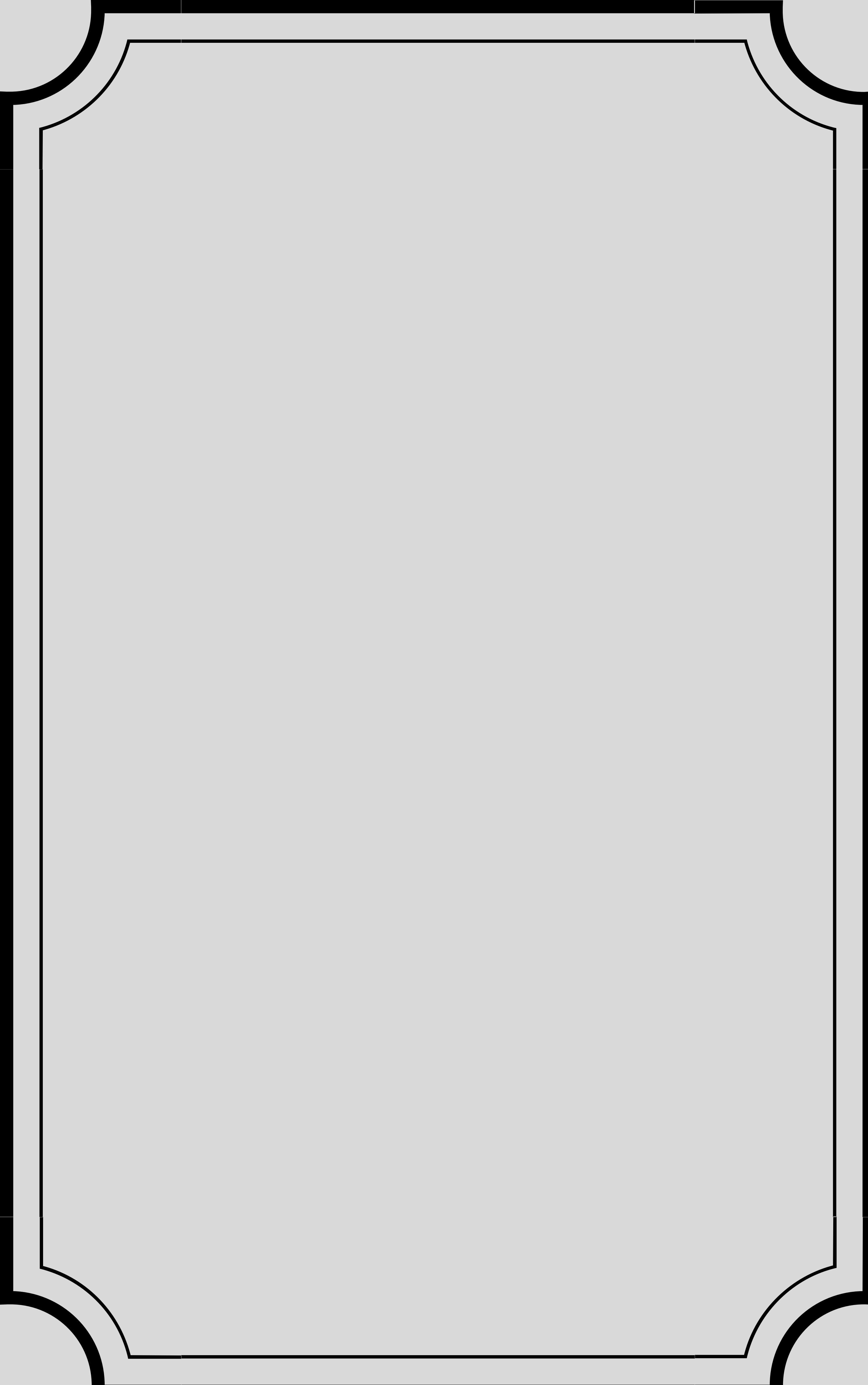
However, whether you are currently falling in that hole or your fighting to get freed from the twisted wonderland within this hole know this that God loves you too much to leave you there. Although God punished David for his sins, he still granted David mercy and grace to live.

There is life after the rabbit hole.

But to make sure it doesn't control you, you need to be ready on how to deal with it.

You can survive this, just be careful of following the **little white rabbit**.







With over 18+ years' experience as a speaker, Michael is commissioned to impact this generation through mentorship and discipleship.

He is a published author, a mentor, a community leader and leadership consultant.

Michael was featured in the Long Beach Press Telegram in 1999 for being a young leader driven to follow in his father's footsteps to impact his generation.

He is passionate in his pursuit to impact this generation through community development & life changing teaching in an endeavor to restore morals and values into this stricken culture.

Michael Currently resides in

Long Beach, CA with his wife Jamaica Johnson.



*@Mjohnsonjr7*

*www.Mjohnson7.com*

