

Death on Every Side

It was September of 1939 when the Germans invaded Poland, igniting war with the British Empire. By May 21 of 1940, the German troops had driven and trapped nearly 400,000 soldiers in Dunkirk, along the coast of France. With the German army approaching, there was no escape in sight. The soldiers had nothing to do but wait. In those dark hours it looked like death on every side. Trapped along the coast and running out of food, water, and ammunition, the soldiers continued to await their inevitable death, capture, or imprisonment. Perhaps you know the feeling.

Today there is a similar war going on and we have been trapped and stranded in the midst of this war. The Bible says the age old war that began in heaven has come to earth and now "the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8). While some try to deny this, there are many who have had Satanic experiences who know that the devil is alive and well on planet earth. Supernatural things occur all around us and yet many bury their head in the sand, denying the existence of Satan while they remain trapped in sin without any way of escape.

Like the soldiers in Dunkirk, we are trapped in a helpless condition and all that awaits us is spiritual prison and eventual death. Even those who deny the existence of Satan cannot deny that humans are full of flaws and imperfections, which the Bible refers to as sin. All of us have been diagnosed with this deadly disease, "for all have sinned," and we are told that "the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 3:23; 6:23). All of us have fallen to certain sins and like the soldiers on Dunkirk, we are awaiting our impending death. No matter how hard we try to escape it, since sin entered into the world, death is our inevitable end.

Perhaps you are trapped in the prison cell of some sin. Alcohol. Drugs. Pornography. Overeating. Sex. Perhaps there is a sin in your life keeping you from God, but you don't know how to escape. The addiction is too powerful. You don't know how to quit. Your at-tempts to break

the chains of sin have consistently failed and all you see before you is inevitable death, but if you will cry out to God, He can still deliver you.

Rescue Mission Underway

On May 22, 1940 Hitler issued a halt order, temporarily stopping the progression of German soldiers, but only delaying the inevitable, yet as the stranded troops waited in their hopeless condition, plans were being prepared for the greatest rescue mission ever. On May 26, British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill laid out plans for the rescue under the title 'Operation Dynamo,' which called for rescue boats to be sent across the English Channel.

In the same way, your condition may at times appear hopeless. Perhaps you have suffered some broken dreams. Many spend their years indulging in certain sinful pleasures only to grow up and wonder how their life ended up like it did. Things looked so hopeful when you were still young. Now you are plagued by financial difficulties, scarred by broken relationships, destroyed by disease, overcome by feelings of anger and bitterness and your condition appears hopeless with no way out. The good news is, hope is on the way if you will just cry out.

While the troops were stranded on the shore awaiting their impending death, a halt order delayed their impending death. Similarly, while God has bought us time, it appears as if we are like prisoners on death row, only biding time awaiting our inevitable doom and yet what many do not realize is that while God has temporarily halted the devil from destroying you, He has also set in motion a plan for your rescue.

Trapped in sin, with death on every side, Christ is preparing to save you. Through His death on the cross, Jesus has made a way to rescue you, but like the soldiers on the shores of Dunkirk, you must be willing to leave everything behind. In the Christian life this is called "surrender." Just as the soldiers were forced to leave all their tanks and equipment, in order to be rescued, you must leave all your worldly hopes

dreams behind. In order to be rescued you must be willing to surrender your life to Christ. As you do this, you will find that help is on the way.

Just as the soldiers were crying out to God for deliverance, we too must pray for God's deliverance from our life of sin. While giving up sin is impossible on our own, Christ can give us the power and rescue us from the chains of our prison. No matter how strong the chains of your addiction, your deliverance will not come through your efforts, but through dependence on Christ. In the rescue of Dunkirk, deliverance did not come through their efforts to escape, but through faith and dependence on help from outside themselves. Similarly, our hope of escaping sin does not come from within, but without.

The Great Rescue

As an evacuation mission was prepared, the Archbishop of Canterbury prayed for God's protection "for our soldiers in dire peril in France." The great tragedy is that most people today do not realize that they are in spiritual peril. Most people are lost. The enemy is leading masses to eternal death and yet most are not even aware of this. As a result, many will be lost. The only ones rescued at Dunkirk were the ones who were watching and waiting for the rescue ships. If you were not ready, you missed the boat.

Today, as Christ is coming for the greatest rescue mission ever, many are sleeping and unprepared. The boats of deliverance are on their way, but many are not even watching because they do not realize that they are about to be destroyed by their enemy, the devil. Those who claim that the devil is not real will not realize that they are heading towards death until it is too late. The greatest rescue mission of all times is about to occur and so many are unprepared. The good news is, all who are ready can get on the boat.

Over a period of eight days, from May 27 until June 4, nearly 340,000 soldiers were rescued by a fleet of more than 800 boats, calling the rescue the greatest evacuation effort in history

and yet a greater rescue is on the way. You may be trapped in sin, chained to some ungodly addiction, helpless to rescue yourself. As hard as you try, your effort to quit is futile. Your only hope of rescue must come from outside yourself. If you will only cry out to Jesus, He will come to your aid. If you will simply call out, "Please, help me Jesus," He will send His ships to rescue you.

Don't despair. Help is on the way. You see, there has been a halt order. While death is impending, God has temporarily stopped the devil from advancing to buy you time. Now is your window of opportunity. Overcoming sin on your own is impossible, but Jesus has promised to "make the way of escape" (1 Cor. 10:13). If you will cry out to Him, He can rescue you, but don't delay. The enemy is approaching and death could come at any time. That's why the Bible says, "now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2). The boats are on the shore. Your deliverance is here. The choice is now up to you. Will you get on the boat or remain on the shore?

The soldiers left everything behind to sail across the Channel back home to England, making the miraculous deliverance one of the greatest 'tragedy to triumph' stories ever, but God has a greater story. He has broken the sinful chains and addiction of millions and He can break yours too, but time is running out. The boat is waiting. The time to climb on is now. Today. Won't you invite Jesus into your heart and surrender your life to Him this day, asking Him to deliver you from the chains and circumstances that threaten to destroy you? It's a decision you won't regret.

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