

300 Series: Purpose "8700" **Slide Notations**

The 300 Principle! There have always been people with a sense of destiny, emerging heroic by engaging improbable situations with nothing more than faith – to do nothing less than the miraculous!

300 Fitness! With one life to live in our earthly bodies we have a compulsion to care for God's "one off" creation to carry out God's one perfect plan to bring salvation to the multitudes!

300 Standby! Called to serve as watchmen we need eyes for the world, ears for the Spirit, wisdom to plan, knowledge to stand and courage to serve our generations before we die!

300 Plan! To keep ourselves from snares and defeat, we need the One plan that overcomes the world, illuminates the way, empowers our battle, enables the mission, and chases away our enemy.

300 To The End! Weary, surrounded, tempted to compromise, but choices made, heart revived, forehead set, forces mustered, future seen, we rise for one last stand... over and over – until the day we die!

Why? 8700!

300 Reality There is a tyrant on the horizon... Refers to himself as the *"benevolent conqueror!"*
Let's you keep your lands, culture, religion... as long as you bow! Rules largest empire in history, from India to Africa... pop. "Mil's" And not satisfied, wants it all, *wants you and yours!*

The Tyrant... "And Jesus sent them out as sheep among wolves; 'Don't worry about what you'll eat, drink, wear... preach the kingdom of heaven, heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils **Mt 10** and they returned with joy, 'even the devils obey us' **Lk 10**

And Jesus said, "I saw Satan fall from heaven, and I give you power over all his works, but don't rejoice in that but in the truth that your names are written in heaven **v18-20** And the Deceiver has come down with all his angels to make war with the saints... **Rev 12.9,17**

And they overcame him by the blood of the lamb and their testimony, loving not their lives unto death **v11** and here is the endurance of the saints, the word of God and faith in Jesus **14.12** So don't be ignorant of his devices **2C2.11** for he comes as an angel of light. **2C11.14**

***"he's out there... I can feel him... and he's looking around for people he can devour.
Wrapped up in the Word of God and my faith I am going to ensure his hunt will be a hard one!"***

300 Reality While he's still a way off we must make our decisions... Not "if" he comes but "when!" Only a matter of time before he's on our doorstep... His words are smooth, his tactics polished, his offers sensual... And waiting for the moment to plan escape – is not a good plan!

The Decisions... "I will be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might, clothed in the full armor of God as I fight on the spiritual battle field. I will take the whole armor so that in that evil day, having done all I can, I will still be standing! **Eph 6.10ff** "I will wage a good warfare! **Eph 6.10ff** I will hold fast to the word **2T1.13**, to courage and hope **Heb 3.6**, and to the profession my faith **10.23**. I will pray always, with all kinds of prayer, be persistently alert as I pray for all the saints! **Eph 6.18**

300 Reality Though the danger is obvious you may stand w/few!
Must believe your destiny! *"For this I was born!"*
Must believe the Word! *"For this I was called and equipped!"*
Must believe it's your duty! *"This is my fealty toward God!"*

With Few or Alone... The time will come when many will depart from the faith listening to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils **1T4.1** In those times men will love themselves more than God and they will surrender to their enemy getting worse as they are further deceived, and all who live godly will suffer their slings! But you, continue in the things you have learned and been assured in **2T3.1-14**. You preach the word, conveniently or not – reprove, rebuke, exhort with all endurance... be alert in all things endure hardness, evangelize and prove your ministry! **4.1-5** If everyone else leaves where else would I go? What else would I do? He is the One who has the words of eternal life! **John 6.66-68**

300 Reality Members of “non-typical” family! “Fit or not fit” society! “Born in battle, for the battle!” Whole family validated in warfare! Taught to ignore pain/needs to be focused warriors!
“Do honor to family and heritage!” “Return with your shield or on it!”

Peculiar People... He gave Himself for us, paying the price tag of our sin so that we could be cleansed to be His own special people, hot for good works! **Titus 2.14** And we are now selected kin, king-servants, a consecrated tribe, a “preserve” people called to show the beauty of His salvation! **2P2.9** which is why our old friends think we are so weird! We are no longer living our lives in the lusts of our flesh... we now live for the One who suffered for us and freed us from the bonds of sin... so that here at the end we can live sound minded and abstinent for lives of warfare-prayer! **1P4.1-7**

“I’m Spirit born and Spirit bred to serve the desires and will of God – that makes me weird in a flesh driven, flesh ruled world – and that’s okay with me!”

300 Reality Sometimes you have to pay the ultimate price for the ultimate prize! Finding themselves betrayed, surrounded... last stand... *Had to choose: our lives or theirs?* Calmly prepared for battle... *End of 3^d day, all 300 dead And so were 20,000 Persians*

But these guys are not martyrs wanting to be glorified in death!

The 300! Fought brilliantly, valiantly and purposefully for the “8700!”
An illuminating legacy! *“If this ever happens to you this is the performance we expect!”*
Giving “8700” time to regroup, muster their force, set a course! Buying time for an evacuation!

Though they laid down their lives, the 300 were victorious in their battle for the “8700!”
Two months later Xerxes enters and burns... an empty Athens!
Who were these “8700?” (Remember Clip)

The “8700” The generations that have come before us who laid down their lives, seeing our day of battle... The generation of loved ones left behind... safe and sound for the moment... held in reserve... The generations not yet born, not yet ready, who will have to take up their fight or perish!

The End of the Story...

Originally 9000 Spartans groomed and trained for war/8700 wondering why left behind?
Couldn't have known being held in reserve to fight another day... To carry on the trans-generation battle against tyranny... Usher in a future brighter than imagination!

Three months later... Themistocles defeats the Persian Navy...
Next ten years... The 8700 Spartan's and other Greek bands unite... *“Remember the Spartans!”*
Take the battle to Persian soil... Xerxes never returns!

Under the inspiration of the 300 New “nationalism” was born... Heroic battle standards set... Alexander, Philip of Macedon's son, believes the impossible... conquers the known world... spreads western civilization and democracy!

We are not engaged in this battle only for our liberty from the tyranny of an enemy... We fight for the honor of like minded saints now gone...for the generations coming! We fight to rescue the world from dark superstitions about our God... And to usher in a life and future brighter than anyone has the mind to imagine!

The End of it all... My heart was almost gone when I envied the world of their riches and ease... It was so bad I thought within myself, I have lived rightly for nothing. I almost said it out loud but I feared damaging another generation, and that would have been too painful to bear! It was there that I went to God. Then I understood their end, and I saw myself for what I had become. By God's faithfulness I will continue my course, now wanting nothing more than Him and the end He promises to all those who draw near to Him. He is the rock and portion of those

who trust Him **Ps 73**. I will tell the generations of the things He has done for me, of battles won and lost **Ps 107**. I will leave the markers so that they will ask, "what does this one mean?" **Josh 4** And I will tell them of God's faithfulness to the pure **Ps 40.10 89.1 Is 25.1 Lam 3.23**

Wide is the opening, broad and easy is the way that leads to destruction and the majority of people choose that way because narrow is the way which leads to life... I choose life on the Rock and when the battles come I will not fall! **Matt 7.13ff**

Every year millions of people come to Christ... loving the story of salvation and what Jesus gives... Only a handful will show loyalty and fidelity during their lifetimes... laying down their lives for the One who brought them salvation... They're the ones the legends are made of... the ones who carry the light to the next generations... And I choose to be numbered with them!

Remember Finale – AWOOOH!