



Isaiah

hope has a name!

“I had numerous surgeries as a child. I saw the faith of my parents and grandparents and it really impacted me.”

“My senior year in high school was really difficult. My boyfriend broke up with me on the first day of school. But I really grew in my walk with the Lord that year.”

“The problems I had as a child flared back up after high school—for two years. I ended up losing a kidney. All of this was teaching me how to depend on God.”

“Ten years ago my sister died of cancer. There was so much about the journey of her death that was actually good. We would gather around her as a family—and sing a lot.”

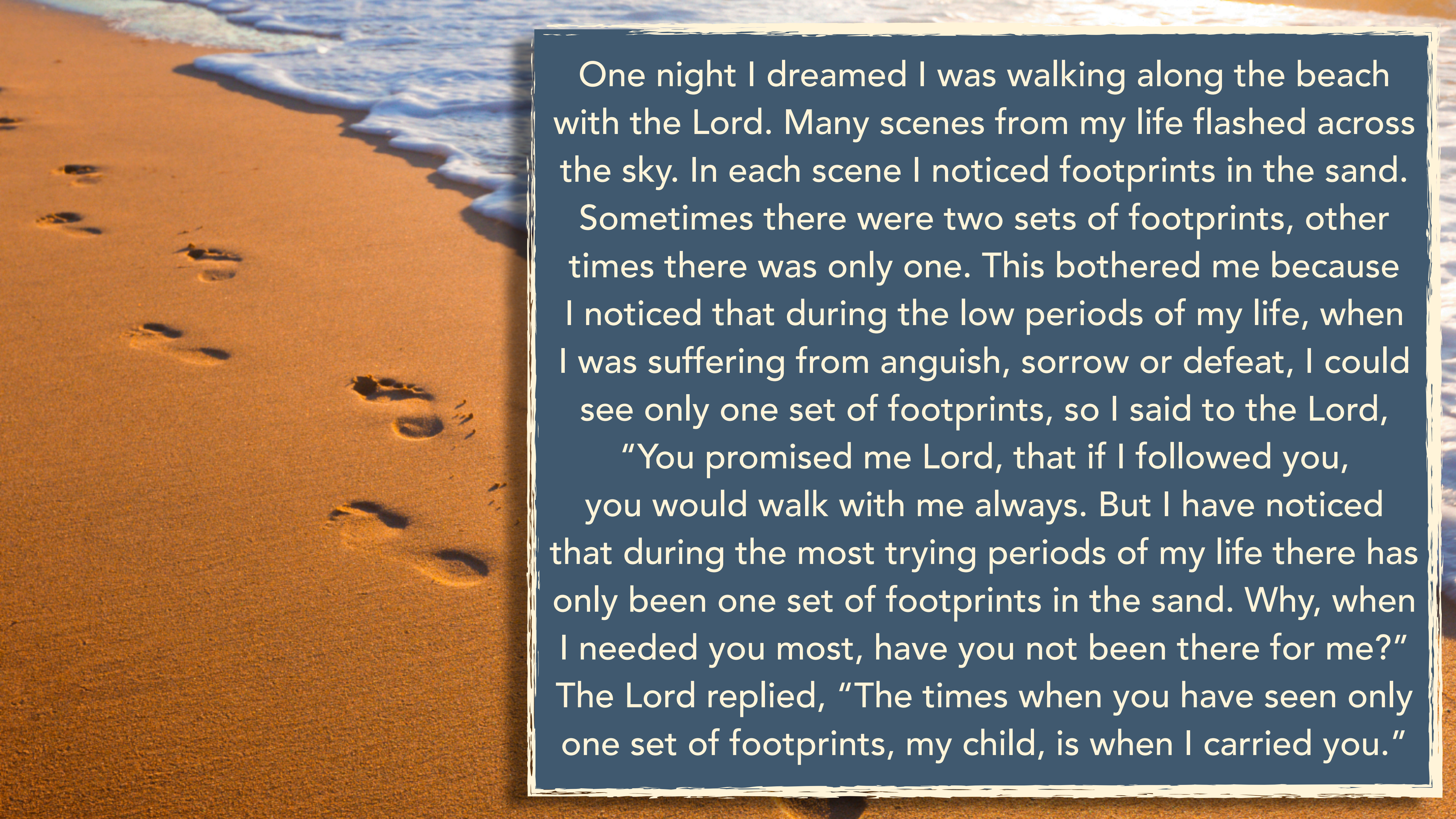
"2006-2009 were the toughest years of my life. My dad died of an accident. My mom died of cancer. But looking back, those years were such a blessing."

"I am so grateful for the journey."

Looking back on our lives...



We can really see the
hand of God at work.

A photograph of a sandy beach with gentle waves lapping at the shore. In the foreground, several sets of footprints are visible in the sand, leading away from the water. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. A dark blue rectangular box with a white border is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing white text.

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord. Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky. In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand.

Sometimes there were two sets of footprints, other times there was only one. This bothered me because I noticed that during the low periods of my life, when I was suffering from anguish, sorrow or defeat, I could see only one set of footprints, so I said to the Lord,

“You promised me Lord, that if I followed you, you would walk with me always. But I have noticed that during the most trying periods of my life there has only been one set of footprints in the sand. Why, when I needed you most, have you not been there for me?”

The Lord replied, “The times when you have seen only one set of footprints, my child, is when I carried you.”

Looking back on the events
of our lives gives us a
completely different
perspective on what
God is doing.

**This is exactly what happens
as we turn the page from
Isaiah 39 — to Isaiah 40.**

The Assyrians

Isaiah 39

740BC

King Ahaz

King Hezekiah

701BC



The Babylonians



Looking back...



God disciplines us.

God forgives us.

God carries us.

740BC

550BC

**Isaiah's new message
(beginning in chapter 40)
is for people whose whole
world has been shattered.**

"Comfort. Comfort."

**Our comfort is based on
four firm realities.**

1. You belong to God.

v. 1

2. You have been forgiven.

v. 2

**3. God has a place for you.
He will bring you home.**

vv. 3-5

4. God's Word can be relied upon. It stands forever.

vv. 6-8

*"The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the Word of our God endures forever."*





The Shrine of the Book





Over 1100 years...



150BC



1000AD

Over 1100 years...

- 13 minor wording changes
 - ...8 of which we already new about
- 95% identical
- 500 years from when Isaiah actually wrote it

The person who cannot
rest his or her whole
weight on the Word of God
can never know peace.

**This kind of good news
cannot be contained.
It has to be shouted from
the mountaintops.**

vv. 9-11

**We worship an incomparable
God who gives us His
unlimited strength.**



God is writing your story
with the end already in mind.

God disciplines us.

God forgives us.

God carries us.

Isaiah 41:10

*“So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your
God. I will strengthen you and
help you; I will uphold you with
my righteous right hand.”*



