

"A must-read for anyone in a season of waiting on God. . . . Energetic and encouraging."

MARK BATTERSON



**41
WILL
COME**

**HOLDING ON WHEN
LIFE GETS TOUGH—
AND STANDING STRONG
UNTIL A NEW DAY DAWNS**

CHUCK E. TATE

Inspiring and motivational, *41 Will Come* is a must-read for anyone in a season of waiting on God. Chuck Tate is energetic and encouraging in his call to keep pressing on toward the life to which God has called us.

MARK BATTERSON

New York Times bestselling author of *The Circle Maker*, lead pastor of National Community Church, Washington, DC

Chuck Tate has hit a home run with his book, *41 Will Come*. He does an outstanding job illustrating the importance of standing steadfast in faith while awaiting God's promises. *41 Will Come* is abounding in biblical wisdom as well as personal anecdotes that will teach, counsel, and inspire readers to stay the course in the midst of any trial. This book, I truly believe, will fire up all readers and inspire them to do something great for the Kingdom of God.

MATTHEW BARNETT

Cofounder of the Dream Center

If you find yourself searching for hope in the midst of a Noah-like storm or a children of Israel-like desert, this book is for you. With wit and wisdom Chuck Tate explores the powerful lessons and hope found in the biblically symbolic 41st day (or year) of deliverance. It's the day we often fear may never come, but for those of us who follow Jesus, it always does.

LARRY OSBORNE

Pastor, North Coast Church, Vista, CA

41 Will Come will coach any aspiring person to tackle life's daily challenges and live a Christ-centered life with passion and purpose.

JIM LES

Head coach, UC Davis men's basketball team

No matter what battle you're facing, the good news is that a new day is dawning. Chuck Tate serves up a heaping helping of hope in *41 Will Come*. Your soul needs this refreshing perspective and inspirational reminder that God is on your side, loving you even in the midst of trial. Don't miss the chance to be encouraged and uplifted through Chuck's creative storytelling and unique perspective on the Bible.

CHERIE LOWE

Author of Slaying the Debt Dragon

41 Will Come is a practical book that will encourage and inspire your faith. Chuck does a masterful job of casting a biblical vision of hope that resonates with the soul. He weaves biblical truth with practical examples in fun, humorous ways. This book will make you laugh and make you think as it enriches your faith in the goodness of God.

JIM POWELL

Lead pastor, Richwoods Christian Church, Peoria, IL; director of 95network

Rare is the opportunity to hold a real gem—something so intimate and inspirational that you can't wait to share it with others. That's how I feel holding this book. I have watched Chuck foster this dynamic message in his personal life for many years. You will find it powerful, refreshing, and life changing!

BOB BEEMAN

Pastor, Sanctuary International

When a wall is standing between you and your dreams, sometimes you need a friend to help you bust through it. Pastor Chuck Tate is such a friend, and this book is your battering ram.

CHAD R. ALLEN

Blogger, creativity coach, entrepreneur

For all who have ever doubted God, struggled with their purpose, faced discouragement, or wondered whether they would survive overwhelming hardship—that would be *all* of us—this book is for you. Chuck masterfully weaves his own story, the compelling stories of others, and narratives from the Bible in a way that encourages us to hold on. Hope is never realized when we quit; it is experienced only when we remember that 41 is coming. I loved this book!

KURT W. BUBNA

Senior pastor, Eastpoint Church, Spokane Valley, WA; author of *Epic Grace: Chronicles of a Recovering Idiot*

Chuck Tate has written a book for all of us who have been in a season of waiting. In *41 Will Come*, you will be encouraged to believe that God is always on time and that his plan will be worked out in your life. Believe me, after reading this book you will—by God's grace—have a “don't quit” spirit instilled inside you.

BENNY PEREZ

Founding pastor of The Church LV, Henderson, NV

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UNTIL A NEW DAY DAWNS

CHUCK E. TATE



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41 Will Come: Holding On When Life Gets Tough—and Standing Strong Until a New Day Dawns

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The stories in this book are about real people and real events, but some names have been changed for the privacy of the individuals involved.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Tate, Chuck E., author.

Title: 41 will come : holding on when life gets tough—and standing strong until a new day dawns / Chuck E. Tate.

Other titles: Forty-one will come

Description: Carol Stream : Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., IL 2016. |

Includes bibliographical references.

Identifiers: LCCN 2016005618 | ISBN 9781496410559 (sc)

Subjects: LCSH: Consolation. | Numbers in the Bible.

Classification: LCC BV4905.3 .T36 2016 | DDC 248.8/6—dc23 LC record available at <http://lccn.loc.gov/2016005618>

Printed in the United States of America

22 21 20 19 18 17 16

7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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PATs AND POSTPONED DREAMS

*For forty days the rain poured down without stopping.
And the water became deeper and deeper.*

GENESIS 7:17-18, CEV

Don't give up and be helpless in times of trouble.

PROVERBS 24:10, CEV

AS I PARKED MY CAR outside the Peoria Civic Center and pushed through the humid air toward the arena, I had no idea that God was about to blow my mind. As team chaplain for the hometown Pirates of the fledgling Indoor Football League, I thought I was there simply to give a pregame chapel talk before the Pirates went to war with the Dayton Skyhawks in the semifinals of the league play-offs. At stake was a berth in the first-ever Gold Cup game.

I was locked, loaded, and ready to throw down my 10-minute devotional—an inspiring message about the biblical significance of the number 41, which I had originally intended to use as my season-opening chapel talk. In about two hours, it would become crystal clear why I had put it off each week until this soon-to-be-memorable night.

After the players had gathered, I opened the chapel time with prayer and began to unpack my theme. Perhaps you've heard a sermon or two about the significance of the number 40 in the Bible, but this talk was specifically about the number that comes *after* 40. Here it is in a nutshell:

After Noah built the ark, it rained for 40 days and 40 nights. Day 41 came, and the rain stopped.

After Moses committed murder, he hid in the desert for 40 years. Year 41 came, and God gave Moses a second chance—commissioning him to rescue Israel from slavery in Egypt.

After the Exodus, the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Year 41 came, and a new generation entered the Promised Land.

For 40 days, Goliath bullied and taunted Israel, just begging for someone to come fight him. Day 41 came, and David stepped up and slew the giant.

For 40 days, Jonah delivered a message of doom and gloom to the city of Nineveh—that God was going to destroy them because of their wickedness. Day 41 came, and God changed his mind and instead extended mercy because the Ninevites had responded and repented.

After being baptized in the Jordan River, Jesus fasted in the desert for 40 days and was tempted by the devil. Day 41 came, the devil fled, angels showed up, and Jesus launched his monumental ministry.

The pattern is clear. The number 41 represents the dawn of a new day—the hope and promise that if you don’t quit, the rain will stop, the giant will fall, and you will enter your “promised land.”

God believes in second chances.

Your fulfilled vision is right around the corner.

Your 41 will come.

Now fast-forward to the end of the game. Peoria leads by seven points with less than a minute to play. But then Dayton slices through the Pirates’ defense and scores another touchdown. All they need is the point after to send the game into overtime.

Extra points in arena football, like extra points in the NFL, are almost automatic. But not this time. To everyone’s surprise, and the home team’s sheer jubilation, Dayton’s kicker did the unthinkable: He missed!

The stadium was instant bedlam. Our guys had just won a smashmouth arena football game, an intense battle that ushered them into the championship game in their very first season!

Final score? Peoria 41, Dayton 40.

That’s right: *41 to 40*.

Diving over the box seats behind the press table, where

I had been sitting, I stormed the field—along with almost everyone in the arena—to join the mayhem and congratulate the players.

“Forty-one came tonight, man! Great job, baby!” I screamed at every player I encountered. I was so caught up in winning the game and advancing to the championship that I wasn’t even thinking about the score, but only about the breakthrough these guys had achieved after a season of hard work and sacrifice.

In every case, the response was the same—a long pause as the final score collided with the theme of our pregame chapel talk; a half-cocked, crazy grin, as if to say, “Are you kidding me!” and then a boisterous series of “*woot, woot, woots!*” followed by fist bumps and chest bumps.

Let’s be clear: My short chapel talk was not the reason we won that game. But God used it, in that mysterious way of his, to speak to the players, the coaches, and me. By the time we’re done here, I hope he will have spoken to you, as well.

Whether you’re stuck in the storms of life; in serious need of a second chance; stranded in the wilderness of unexpected circumstances or unfulfilled expectations; facing what seems to be an unbeatable giant; or bearing up against unspeakable temptation, I have two words for you: DON’T QUIT!

As much as you may feel like giving up or giving in, please *don’t do it*. Don’t go under. Don’t throw in the towel. You can hold on and stay strong. Eventually, the rain will stop, an oasis will appear, grace and mercy will be extended, your giant will fall, and a new day will dawn. Forty-one will come.

God can use anyone.

God can use anything.
 Even an arena football game.
 Even the circumstances in your life.
 Trust him. Forty-one will come.

41: A BEACON OF HOPE

Growing up in church, I heard a lot of sermons preached with an emphasis on the number 40. Numerous passages in the Bible connect the number 40 to periods of trial, testing, or hardship. Though there's nothing magical or mystical about the number—some people place too much significance on biblical numerology—it comes up often enough throughout Scripture that we should sit up and take notice. But that's not our purpose here. Instead, we're going to zero in on a number that gets a lot less attention—the number that comes *after* 40. We're going to see how the number 41 represents a beacon of hope for postponed dreams and promised lands. Amid the troubles of everyday life, it's almost as if 41 is shouting, "I got next!"

In the Bible, the number 40 signifies relentless rainfall and neverending storms. (Just ask Noah.) Forty-one resuscitates hope, restores the sunlight, and returns the calm after the storm.

Forty exemplifies exile in the far reaches of a scorching desert, with no end in sight. Forty-one wipes the slate clean and gives birth to second chances.

Forty symbolizes the consequences of bad decisions and disobedience—and the postponement of promised blessings. Forty-one turns the page on a new chapter, a new calling,

a new beginning. Forty-one turns what seemed like a pipe dream into a reality.

Forty implies fear and failure, and it represents the devil's best efforts to disrupt, distract, and destroy the work of God. But 40 also represents times of preparation, as God lays the groundwork for the good works he will one day set before us to walk in.

Jesus fasted and prayed for 40 days before launching his earthly work. On day 41, he initiated a ministry unlike any other. **Forty-one turns the page on a new chapter, a new calling, a new beginning.** Forty-one paved the way for teaching, healing, and miracle after miracle—culminating in the greatest miracle of all. When Jesus rose from the dead, humanity was redeemed, salvation came, and hope was rekindled.

During the 40 days after his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples on several occasions—proving to them that he was alive and breathing new life into them as he explained the Kingdom of God and commissioned them to build it. On day 41, after promising to send the Holy Spirit in his place, he ascended into heaven, leaving the disciples to carry out his plan for launching the church—a church that, by the way, is still prevailing against the gates of hell.

STAND FIRM AND TAKE ACTION

In the chapters that follow, we're going to take a closer look at one of my favorite "41 Will Come" stories in the Bible—the story of David's epic encounter with the giant named

Goliath. In the process, we'll learn how to knock down the giants that stand between us and the 41 that is out there for us. As the prophet Daniel says about times of trouble, "The people who know their God shall stand firm and take action."¹

Maybe you've been stuck in a downpour or lost in the desert for what has seemed like 40 years. Maybe you're hiding from an enormous giant—or running away as fast as you can. Maybe you're so hungry for God to move in your life—or in the life of a son, daughter, mother, father, other family member, or friend—that you can taste it, but it feels as if it's never going to happen. Do you feel so spiritually empty that you desperately need a fresh start? Have you just about given up on the future because you feel stuck and defined by your past? Here's the good news: The story's not over. Forty-one is still out there.

"Forty-one will come" is a declaration of faith that things will get better, the rain will stop, the sun will shine, the day will break, the page will turn, the answer will show up, the pipe dream will become reality, the Promised Land will be inhabited, and the giant will fall.

We serve a God who is big enough to restore relationships, heal bodies, extend provision, change circumstances, breathe new life into any situation, and wipe out our sin and the shame associated with it.

And not only is God big enough to save you; he also wants to do it. His desire is to deliver, heal, restore, and redeem you. He wants to set you free.

God's desire to heal is made plain in the story about the

leper who approaches Jesus with a desperate plea for help. This outcast of society walks right up and says, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.”²

I love what Jesus does next. He touches the untouchable.

God’s desire is to deliver, heal, restore, and redeem you. He wants to set you free.

Think about how huge that is! Jesus touches a leper. He touches an outcast. He touches someone who is considered unclean. But it isn’t only the touch that grabs the heart of this particular leper. It’s what Jesus says next that changes everything: “I am willing.”

Here’s the good news: Jesus was willing then, and he’s willing now. And not just to make us clean, but also to empower us to overcome the obstacles in our lives and to help us walk by faith the path he has set before us.

Are you ready? It’s no accident that you’re reading this book. My prayer for you is that you will be challenged, inspired, and encouraged—and more than anything else, that your faith in Christ will make you strong and *keep* you strong so that, when the dust settles after the storm, you will still be standing.

Let’s make this personal right from the get-go. Post something on Facebook that you’re trusting God for, and use the hashtag #41WillCome. Join the conversation on Twitter by sharing your declaration of faith that things will get better, and use the hashtag #41WillCome. Or post a picture on Instagram, sharing an image of hope for the future—or maybe an inspirational quote or verse—along with the hashtag.

Now, given your current circumstances, what would your “41” look like? Write it here:

#41WillCome