**God is Our Refuge and Shelter**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Psalm 46:1-7**

**Sunday Morning**

**December 5, 2021**

**Psalm 46:1-7**

1 God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; 3 Though its waters roar and be troubled, Though the mountains shake with its swelling. Selah

4 There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. 5 God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn. 6 The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted. 7 The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge.

**1. The Secret Place of The Most High**

**Psalm 91**

1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."

3 Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler And from the perilous pestilence. 4 He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler. 5 You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, Nor of the arrow that flies by day,

6 Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. 7 A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you. 8 Only with your eyes shall you look, And see the reward of the wicked.

9 Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place, 10 No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; 11 For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways.

12 In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone. 13 You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot. 14 "Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name.

15 He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. 16 With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation."

**2. God is Our Shelter**

Saints, David the psalmist used buildings to personify the protective qualities of God. Much of Psalm 91 is spent assuring the individual that God will protect from harm.

Words such as refuge and fortress and habitation are used. Although these words are not identical, they are all places a person might live.

Saints, the idea being personified here is that God’s dwelling is not just a place where an individual might go but a place where an individual can live

**3. God is Our Hiding Place**

Saints, the idea of God being compared to a hiding place, or as one who hides the believer, may be found in many other psalms (Psalm 17:8; 27:5; 32:7; 64:2; 68:20; 119:114).

**Psalm 17:8-9**

8 Keep me as the apple of Your eye; Hide me under the shadow of Your wings, 9 From the wicked who oppress me, From my deadly enemies who surround me.

**Psalm 27:5**

For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; In the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.

**Psalm 119:114**

You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word.

Saints, hiding is associated with the desire for protection and safety. The psalmist made an evocative point that it is good for believers to seek God in times of trouble and uncertainty.

**4. I Will Hide Myself in the Lord through Prayer**

**Hebrews 4:14-16**

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Saints, prayer is how a secret and sacred place is created with the almighty God. Prayer is a place of freedom and liberation where believers can express themselves to God openly and honestly.

Prayer is a secret and sacred place where we can freely and authentically share our deepest hurts, greatest longings, and worst fears.

**5. We Can Trust God**

Saints, many of us spend hours of our day sitting because we trust the chair to support us. If we did not trust the chair, we most likely would not sit down. Therefore, whatever we trust in is where we place our lives.

When we trust Jesus, we have committed our lives into His care. This is much more than an intellectual assent of Jesus but a committed position of confidence in His compassion for us. God has pledged His compassion and righteousness to us through Jesus’ death on the cross.

He demonstrated that He would execute justice upon sin while also extending mercy and love to sinners (Romans 3:25–26).

**Romans 3:25-26**

25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, 26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

**2 Corinthians 5:19**

“that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation”

Saints, we can now take heart knowing God has proven Himself trustworthy.

**6. God is Faithful to Those Who Love Him**

**Psalm 91:14-16**

14 "Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. 15 He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. 16 With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation."

Saints, the psalmist was speaking to a person who was seeking God’s care and protection. In the last three verses of Psalm 91, verses 14–16, God spoke to this individual.

Not only did the psalmist describe how God protects, but the psalmist also featured God pledging Himself to the protection and deliverance of those who trust in the Lord.

At many different times and in many different ways, God has pledged His faithfulness to us. However, the most significant way we experience God’s faithfulness is through Jesus Christ.

**7. I Will Trust in the Lord**

**Psalm 112:7**

He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord.

**Mark 5:36**

But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.”

**Psalm 118:6**

The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?

**Psalm 28:7**

The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.

**Isaiah 26:3**

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

**8. God is Our Refuge**

Saints, the concept of cities of refuge in the Scripture should remind readers that God is concerned about us and will provide a place of refuge where we can experience protection and deliverance.

**Psalm 144:1-2**

1 Blessed be the LORD my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle--2 My lovingkindness and my fortress, My high tower and my deliverer, My shield and the One in whom I take refuge, Who subdues my people under me.

**9. God Will Protect Us**

Saints, perhaps one of the most incredible accounts of God’s protection is Paul’s arduous and perilous journey from Jerusalem to Rome.

**2 Corinthians 11:24-28**

24 From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. 25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;

26 in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness-- 28 besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.

God protected Paul from an angry Jewish mob, corrupt rulers, shipwreck, a snake bite, and multiple incarcerations. God’s protection afforded Paul amazing opportunities to share the gospel.

**10. God Will Deliver Us**

**Galatians 1:2-5**

2 To the churches of Galatia: 3 Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, 4 who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, 5 to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

**2 Corinthians 1:9-11**

9 Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, 10 who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us,

11 you also helping together in prayer for us, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the gift granted to us through many.

**In Closing:**

**11. God Will Be with Us in Trouble**

**Psalm 9:9-14**

9 The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, A refuge in times of trouble. 10 And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; For You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You. 11 Sing praises to the LORD, who dwells in Zion! Declare His deeds among the people. 12 When He avenges blood, He remembers them; He does not forget the cry of the humble.

13 Have mercy on me, O LORD! Consider my trouble from those who hate me, You who lift me up from the gates of death, 14 That I may tell of all Your praise In the gates of the daughter of Zion. I will rejoice in Your salvation.

**Isaiah 41:10**

“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

**John 14:27**

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

**Psalm 9:9-10**

9 “The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. 10 And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you”

**Hebrews 4:16**

“Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need”

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**