

Living Under God's Protecting Canopy

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. ***I want to talk this morning about the significance of the hour we live in.*** We live in a very strategic time where there are many things happening around us that can cause us to walk in fear or become anxious. ***However, God wants us to know that He's got this!*** Things that are unfolding in the earth today are all a part of God's plan for the end-time conclusion prior to the return of Christ!
- B. It is important that we learn how to trust the Lord, and how to dwell under the covering of His protection. I believe there is a supernatural mindset – that God has prescribed in His Word that will take away fear, and that will cause us to walk through the intensity of the battle and come out on the other side. I call this ***Living Under God's Protecting Canopy!***

II. PROTECTION COMES FROM GOD

- A. ***It is important to we come to know God as our protector, as the one who watches over us.*** It is easy for us to become afraid when we look at the conditions around us. ***But God doesn't want us to look at our surroundings, but to look to Him as the answer.*** God judged the nation of Egypt for abusing God's people by putting them into forced labor. He sent Moses to deliver them by exacting judgment (the 10 plagues) against the gods of Egypt. Each plague was against one of their gods. The last plague was against the firstborn of the Egyptians (Ex. 11:1-7). ***But the Jews (God's people) were protected by God!***
- "Thus says the Lord: About midnight I will go out into the midst of Egypt; and all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die... but against none of the children of Israel shall a dog move its tongue, against man or beast, that you may know that the Lord does make a difference between the Egyptians and Israel" (Ex. 11:4, 7).***
- B. ***The Lord told Moses to prepare the Passover in anticipation of the 10th plague.*** One lamb per family (Ex. 12). Prepare the lamb and take it's blood and place it on the two door posts and over the lintel of the houses (picture of the Cross), and ***when I see the blood, I will pass over you!(Ex. 12:13).*** They were protected as long as they chose to live under God's protective canopy!
- C. Later, when Pharaoh let the people go, he changed his mind and went after them in hot pursuit to destroy them. ***He didn't really want to let them go!*** The people became fearful, but Moses redirected their gaze upon the Lord and told them to put their trust in God.
- "And Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid. Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish for you today... The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.'"(Ex. 14:13-14).***

III. CHOSING TO STAY UNDER GOD'S PROTECTION

- A. ***I believe today God wants to remind us to live under His protection.*** Psalm 91 has always been a favorite of mine. We need to be Psalm 91 people! Read it every day, declare its promises over your life and your family, in your coming and in your goings. Post it on your walls, on your mirrors!
- "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty" (Ps. 1:1).***

- B. **This speaks of abiding in Christ regularly.** To abide is to have a close relationship verses just a casual acquaintance. We choose to live in that place daily. To develop an intimate relationship with the Lord! Jesus said this:

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in Him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing” (Jn. 15:4-5).

- C. **Dwelling in the secret place speaks of the place of safety and security.** It is the place where you rest under the cover of His protection. *He is The Almighty – El Shaddai, meaning He is More than enough, your protector!*

IV. PLACE OF PROTECTION & PRESERVATION (PS. 91:2-8)

- A. **Under the cover of His protection, we are to actively establish a hedge of protection around our lives.** We declare the Word of God around ourselves, our families, and our belongings. We are to declare it out loud! God's words in your mouth will create the environment of protection. Actions like laying hands on sick people and anointing them with oil will bring God's healing presence and protection into their lives! Especially in this pandemic season! Declare the Word of the Lord!

“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.” (v. 2-8)*

- B. **We live in a world of spiritual realities. There is a real devil -- a real devourer but God is greater!** The devil is a defeated foe, and we have been given authority over him and his tactics. (Spiritual warfare – see 1Pe. 5:8-9 (your adversary), Jn. 12:31 (prince of this world judged), 2 Cor. 4:4 (god of this world), Rev. 12:10 (the accuser of God's people), Jn. 10:10 (the thief, destroyer).

V. 23 PROMISES OF PSALM 91

1. You shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty (Ps. 91:1). 2. Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler (Ps. 91:3). 3. Surely He shall deliver you from the noisome pestilence. 4. He shall cover you with His feathers (Ps. 91:4). 5. His truth shall be your shield and buckler. 6. You shall not be afraid of the terror by night (Ps. 91:5). 7. You shall not be afraid of the arrow that flies by day. 8. You shall not be afraid of the pestilence that walks in darkness (Ps. 91:6). 9. You shall not be afraid of that which destroys at noonday. 10. Though 1,000 fall at your left and 10,000 at your right, it shall not come near you (Ps. 91:7). 11. Only with your eyes will you see the reward of the wicked (Ps. 91:8). 12. There shall no evil befall you (Ps. 91:10). 13. There shall no plague come near your dwelling. 14. God shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways (Ps. 91:11). 15. They shall bear you up in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone (Ps. 91:12). 16. You shall tread upon the lion, adder, young lion, and dragon (Ps. 91:13). 17. God will deliver him (Ps. 91:14,15). 18. Will set him on high. 19. Will answer him (Ps. 91:15). 20. Will be with him in trouble. 21. Will honor him. 22. Will satisfy him with long life (Ps. 91:16). 23. Will show him His salvation.