

God - Our Refuge

As we study the life and times of David before he became king of Israel, we see that he was beset with trials and troubles from the time he was anointed by Samuel until his death. Saul tried time after time to kill him. The wife, Michal, that loved him was taken away and given to another man. He was hunted throughout southern Israel as an outlaw with a price on his head. When he did become king he had to deal with sin and the consequences of his sins. There was dissention and strife within his household among his sons. We could go on but we see that he endured many of the same problems we endure. Some are heartbroken over children who have rebelled against God. Some deal with those that are nearest to them that are doing them wrong or just refuse to do what's right. Some are facing dread diseases. Some are facing trials and disappointments brought about by those that they love. And we could go on but time doesn't permit. But as we look at David and how he faced his problems we see that he had a refuge, a place to go in time of trouble, a place to unload the burdens of life that he endured. He could go to God.

God had promised Israel that he would provide such a refuge. In Moses final sermon he assures them:

"THE ETERNAL GOD *is thy* REFUGE, AND UNDERNEATH *are* THE EVERLASTING ARMS: AND HE SHALL THRUST OUT THE ENEMY FROM BEFORE THEE; AND SHALL SAY, DESTROY *them*." Deuteronomy 33:27

This verse may even be the inspiration behind the hymn "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms".

God was a refuge for the oppressed and in times of trouble:

Psalms 9:9-10 "THE **LORD** ALSO WILL BE A REFUGE FOR THE OPPRESSED, A REFUGE IN TIMES OF TROUBLE. AND THEY THAT KNOW THY NAME WILL PUT THEIR TRUST IN THEE: FOR THOU, **LORD**, HAST NOT FORSAKEN THEM THAT SEEK THEE."

God was a refuge at the times that David was poor:

Psalms 14:6 "YE HAVE SHAMED THE COUNSEL OF THE POOR, BECAUSE THE **LORD *is*** HIS REFUGE."

God was a refuge and strength in times of trial:

Psalms 46:1 "GOD *is* OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH, A VERY PRESENT HELP IN TROUBLE."

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God was a refuge when calamity struck:

Psalms 57:1 "BE MERCIFUL UNTO ME, O GOD, BE MERCIFUL UNTO ME: FOR MY SOUL TRUSTETH IN THEE: YEA, IN THE SHADOW OF THY WINGS WILL I MAKE MY REFUGE, UNTIL **these** CALAMITIES BE OVERPAST."

The day that God delivered him out of the hand of all of his enemies and out of the hand of Saul David sang a psalm of thanksgiving:

II Samuel 22:2-3 "AND HE SAID, THE **LORD is** MY ROCK, AND MY FORTRESS, AND MY DELIVERER; THE GOD OF MY ROCK; IN HIM WILL I TRUST: **he is** MY SHIELD, AND THE HORN OF MY SALVATION, MY HIGH TOWER, AND MY REFUGE, MY SAVIOUR; THOU SAVEST ME FROM VIOLENCE."

David praised God for his love, his power and his mercy that delivered him:

Psalms 59:16 "BUT I WILL SING OF THY POWER; YEA, I WILL SING ALOUD OF THY MERCY IN THE MORNING: FOR THOU HAST BEEN MY DEFENCE AND REFUGE IN THE DAY OF MY TROUBLE."

Then he writes of God as being his rock and his salvation and assures the people of God, Israel in his day. God's words are a comfort to us in our day as well if we:

"TRUST IN HIM AT ALL TIMES; YE PEOPLE, POUR OUT YOUR HEART BEFORE HIM: GOD **is** A REFUGE FOR US." **Psalms 62:8**

And the Hebrew writer assures us:

"THAT BY TWO IMMUTABLE THINGS, IN WHICH **it was** IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD TO LIE, WE MIGHT HAVE A STRONG CONSOLATION, WHO HAVE FLED FOR REFUGE TO LAY HOLD UPON THE HOPE SET BEFORE US: WHICH **hope** WE HAVE AS AN ANCHOR OF THE SOUL, BOTH SURE AND STEDFAST, AND WHICH ENTERETH INTO THAT WITHIN THE VEIL;"
Hebrews 6:18-19

Yes, when troubles are overwhelming, when our hearts are broken, when our heads are bowed in despair we as children of God have a refuge. We have a place to take our troubles. We have the privilege of placing those burdens at the feet of God knowing that he will hear, knowing that he will provide.

Invitation