



HOPE IN TIMES OF TRIAL

By Bill Subritzky

Are you going through a time of trial and testing? Are you struggling with your faith in God? **Do you feel that you are in a hopeless situation or that your faith has been tested almost beyond your endurance?**

You are not the first person to have felt this way. We read in Scripture that a shepherd boy named **David defeated Goliath** by using a sling which hurled a stone. The whole army of Israel could not defeat Goliath yet God enabled David to do this miracle.

As a result, the King of Israel, **Saul appointed David head of his army**. Although Saul had killed many thousands of the enemy in wars, David killed tens of thousands. As result **Saul became jealous of David and many times he attempted to kill him**.

To escape Saul, **David had to flee into the wilderness**. He was betrayed by a man called Doeg. When Saul was pursuing him, Saul went into a cave to attend to his personal needs. David crept up behind him and had the opportunity to kill Saul but he simply cut off part of this robe and then stood at a distance to tell him what he had done. At that time Saul repented from his desire to kill David and went away.

David went to live with the enemy of Israel, the Philistines. Here again he was betrayed by people called Ziphites.

Again Saul pursued him but God caused Saul to go into a deep sleep. Again David had the opportunity to kill Saul but David did not do so.

David then fled to Ziklag. One day when David was absent from this town with his men, **the enemy attacked and captured all of David's family and also the families of his men**. However David caught up with the attackers and recovered everyone unharmed.

He went on to be the king of Israel.

In all of his trials and temptations David always knew that he could seek God's protection by coming under the shelter of His wings.

God commanded the Israelites to prepare a Tabernacle in the desert and later on they built the Temple in Jerusalem. These were replicas of the Temple of God in heaven.

Inside the Temple there was a mercy seat made of pure gold which was located in the most Holy Place of the Temple. On either side of the mercy seat there was angel made of pure gold with its wings spread over and covering the mercy seat.

David describes how in the spirit, he sheltered under the wings of his angels when he was going through his many tests and trials.

**"You have been a shelter for me,
A strong tower from the enemy.
I will abide in Your Tabernacle forever.
I will trust in the shelter of your wings." Psalm 61:3-4.**

Under the New Covenant, we as believers can come right into the very presence of God as we pray. With the help of the Holy Spirit we can shelter under the wings of God to receive His protection in times of trial.

Maybe you are going through sickness, or disappointment, or people are attacking you. It could be that you have lost your job, or you are grieving the death of a loved one. Perhaps you are going through a marriage breakup or difficulties in your marriage relationship. You may be having a breakdown of relationships with your children or feel condemnation from past sin.

The good news is that we can flee to the protection of God and shelter under the wings of God. There the enemy cannot attack us.

In order to come under this protection we must submit absolutely to God. If we feel condemned about past sin then realise that as "... we confess our sins (to God) He is faithful and just to forgive us..." (1 John 1:9.) There is no condemnation to those in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1.)

The Bible says that there is, "No temptation (or testing or trial) has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." (1 Corinthians 10:13.)

The secret of coming under the protection of God is absolute repentance from all sin. Submitting to God through Jesus Christ and loving Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

The Bible describes sin as follows;

1 Corinthians 6:9-10:

"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived.

Neither fornicators (sex outside of marriage)

Nor idolaters (putting other things ahead of God)
Nor adulterers
Nor homosexuals
Nor sodomites
Nor thieves
Nor covetous
Nor drunkards
Nor revilers (cursing other people)
Nor extortioners (taking other people's money by threat)
will inherit the kingdom of God."

Colossians 3:8:
Uncleanness (impurity)
Using bad language
Dirty jokes
Licentiousness (indecent) e.g. pornography
(Galatians 5:19, Ephesians 5:3-4)

Galatians 5:20-21:
Sorcery i.e. Witchcraft
Examples:
Fortune telling (horoscopes),
some forms of heavy metal rock music,
Ouija boards,
drugs (wrong kind),
charms,
New Age e.g. worship of the creation,
Spiritism: Séances,
Freemasonry,
Martial Arts i.e. Kung Fu, Aikido, Tae Kwon Do, Karate, Tai Chi, Judo (rooted in Taoism and Buddhism),
Druids Lodge, Hypnosis (Hinduism Goddess Shiva), Yoga, TM, ESP, Worship of the creation (Idolatry) (Romans 1:25).

Those practicing...
Hatred
Contentions e.g. quarrelsome, causing fights
Jealousies
Outburst of wrath
Selfish ambitions
Dissensions (causing fights)
Heresies e.g. Jehovah Witnesses and Mormons
Envy
Murders e.g. deliberate unnecessary abortion
Drunkenness
Revelries (wild parties)

Revelation 21:8:

Also those who are...

Cowardly (refusing to follow Christ)

Unbelievers

Abominable

Liars

Remember that if you have committed any of the above sins God will forgive you as you truly turn to Him, ask His forgiveness and follow Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour.

You should also attend a Bible believing church, read your Bible every day and pray daily to God.

Don't despair. All is not lost! **No matter how bad your circumstances are, God is still on His throne. We can come under the protection of His wings and receive His blessings in every circumstance.**

Compiled by Bill Subritzky and produced by Dove Ministries

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