

Sheltering under the wings of God

By Bill Subritzky

1. "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) David wrote this Psalm as a result of his many trials and temptations.

- 2. He was a young shepherd who defeated the mighty enemy of Israel, Goliath, by using a slingshot and a stone.
- 3. As a result King Saul put David in charge of his army.
- **4. David came under the favour of God and he was very successful**. However when he was returning from the slaughter of the Philistines, King Saul became angry and jealous because the women sang this song: "Saul has slain his thousands, And the David his ten thousands." (1 Samuel 18:7.)
- 5. Saul threw a spear at David to try and kill him. (1 Samuel 19:9.)
- 6. David fled from Saul and lived in the wilderness.
- 7. Every day Saul tried to find David but God protected him.
- 8. David sinned by committing adultery with Bathsheba and arranging the killing of her husband. (2 Samuel 11: 1-27.)

Nathan the Prophet strongly rebuked him. God severely chastised David for his sin. David repented and was still able to go to God and shelter under His wings.

- **9. Saul sent men to kill David while he was in his house.** He escaped when his wife Michal put an image in the bed and put goat's hair on it as a head to give the appearance that David was in the bed. (1 Samuel 19:13.)
- **10. David was betrayed by a man called Doeg.** However he escaped from Saul again. (1 Samuel 22:9-15.)
- **11.** When Saul was in a cave attending to his personal needs David crept up behind him and cut off part of his robe. David's companions told him to kill Saul but David refused to do so. (1 Samuel 24:4-6 and 12.)
- **12.** After that he fled from Saul and took refuge with the Philistines. Then he was betrayed by a people named the Ziphites. (1 Samuel 26:1-7.)
- **13. Saul again pursued him.** God caused Saul to go into a deep sleep and David again had the opportunity to kill him but David refused to do so. (1 Samuel 26:11.)
- **14.** David and his men, with their families, were living at Ziklag in the territory of the Philistines in order to escape Saul. While he and his men were absent, the enemy attacked the city and took their wives, sons and daughters captive. David caught up with the enemy and by the grace of God they recovered everyone unharmed. (1 Samuel 30:6).
- 15. David suffered many trials and temptations but He always knew that he could seek God's protection by coming under His wings.

16. The Tabernacle

The Israelites constructed the Tabernacle and later the Temple. They were replicas of God's Temple which is in heaven and were built in accordance with His instructions. The Holy of Holies was built in the Temple and the mercy seat was placed inside it. The mercy seat was made of pure gold and two cherubim (angels) of pure gold were put one on each side of the mercy seat. (Exodus 25:17-20.)

17. The angels had their wings spread out above the mercy seat completely covering it. (Exodus 37:6-9 and 1 Kings 6:23-24.) This was in the inner sanctuary where the high priest went once a year on the Day of Atonement.

18. In Psalm 61 David described how we can come to the mercy seat and come under the wings of the angels for protection.

Under the New Covenant we can do this because as Jesus died on the cross, the veil of the temple was torn in two. We can now come into the Holy Place, into the very presence of God and shelter under the wings of God receiving His protection in our times of trial. (Hebrews 10:19).

- 19. During all his trials David always looked to the Lord for protection. We can do the same.
- 20. The Bible says that we, the believers, are already seated in the spirit in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:6).
- **21.** Therefore we should believe that in the Spirit we can come under God's wings for protection. We can come for help to God's Mercy Seat drawn by the Holy Spirit.

22. We must always remember this scripture:

"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places." (Ephesians 1:18-20.)

- 23. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is available to protect us and heal us. (Romans 8:11.)
- 24. You may have some of the following things happening in your life;
- 1.) Sickness.
- 2.) Disappointment.
- 3.) People attacking you.
- 4.) Loss of job.
- 5.) Death of a loved one.
- 6.) Marriage breakup or difficulties in your marriage relationship.
- 7.) Breakdown of relationships with your children.
- 8.) Condemnation from past sin.
- 25. When we have these sorts of problems we can seek the protection of God and shelter under the wings of the angels at the Mercy Seat.

- 26. The enemy cannot attack us there.
- 27. In order to come under this protection we must absolutely submit to God and asked Jesus Christ to be our Lord and Saviour.
- 28. We must repent from all sin.
- 29. We can claim such scriptures as, "There is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus." (Romans 8:1.)
- 30. Even if we fornicate, commit idolatry, have been homosexuals or sodomites or thieves or covetous or drunkards or people who curse others or extortioners, we can come under the grace of God and be washed, sanctified, justified in the name of Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11.)
- 31. You may be blaming yourself for your problems and thinking that God is punishing you for your past sin. However, "If we confess our sins (to God), He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9.)
- 32. "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.)

33. How can we be protected?

- 1) By coming under the wings of God and receiving His protection in all circumstances.
- 2) Being able to resist the enemy while we are under that protection as you shelter under His wings.
- 3) Being conscious of that protection as we shelter under His wings. Remind yourself of this protection in every circumstance and problem you face.

34. The secret of coming under the wings of God is to:

- 1) Repent from all sin.
- 2) Submit to God through Jesus Christ and love Him with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.
- 3) Attend a Bible believing church.
- 4) Read the Bible daily and pray daily to God.