

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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How to Take Refuge in the Lord

(Jerry Fite)

David claimed he took “refuge” in “the Lord” (*Psalm 11:1*). David trusted in the Lord for his safety. It is not like we can follow David to some impenetrable fortress, and be beyond the reach of the destructive arm of evil. Neither does God place us in some protective governmental program with changed identity. We, like David, remain on earth living in the midst of danger trusting in the unseen Lord for refuge. “*If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do*” (*Psalm 11:3*)? David helps us answer the question of what we can do when the foundations are destroyed, and what trusting the Lord for refuge looks like.

First, we must not fear the enemy. “*How say ye to my soul, ‘Flee as a bird to your mountain; for, lo, the wicked bend the bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may shoot in darkness at the upright in heart’*” (*Psalm 11:1-3*).

The first impulse might be to flee away like a bird. You hear the chatter. The enemy is strong and ready to destroy you. Look out! The wicked will strike under the cover of darkness when

you cannot see them. You are no match for the strong and wily enemy of righteousness. So, run! Faith resists such an urge, and refuses to fear “*their fear*”, or “*be troubled*” (*2 Peter 3:14*).

Next, we must understand God is still ruling, and has not relinquished his authority over the world. He has not gone anywhere. “*Jehovah is in His holy temple; Jehovah, His throne is in heaven*” He is not sleeping. “*His eyes behold...*” (*Psalm 11:4*).

If one were to lose their job, health and home; would they be justified in thinking the foundations of their life were crumbling beneath them? Would you tell them otherwise? Yes, our daily connection with money’s power, health’s sense of well-being, and the home’s solace create self-sufficiency. But faith should daily remind us that such strongholds are standing as blessings from God. If they are suddenly taken away from us, God is still ruling the universe in which we exist, and He sees our plight.

We must resist the impulse to give up and become like the world. The God, that is beholding all things with His eyes, is looking from His “*Holy*” temple.

From the depths of His own “*soul*”, God “*hates*” “*the wicked*” and “*him that loveth violence*” (*Psalm 11:5*). Jehovah “*is righteous*” and “*loveth righteousness*” (*Psalm 11:7*). When free falling with our crumbling foundations, faith reminds us that God is not rewarding wickedness, but He “*trieth the righteous*” (*Psalm 11:5*). We must remember, “*Howbeit the firm foundation of God standeth, having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are His: and, Let everyone that nameth the name of the Lord depart from unrighteousness*” (*2 Timothy 2:19*).

Standing firm with God in righteousness, we are allowed by faith to know the later end of the wicked. Wickedness will not go unpunished. “*Upon the wicked He will rain snares; fire and brimstone and burning wind shall be the portion of their cup*” (*Psalm 11:6*). In reality, the wicked walk upon “*slippery places*”, and before God, they “*become a desolation in a moment*” (*Psalms 73:18-19*). The wicked have no choice; they will drink the cup of God’s anger (*Rev. 14:10*). Keeping our faith sharp, we can dig deep unto the sure foundation of God, even when our personal world is crumbling!