

## God's Protection -- Covered From Above, Below, Front and Back

by Steve Barwick

God is good to all who truly love Him and seek His Word, regardless of their status in His kingdom. Which is to say, whether you are of His election, or are a freewill Christian, if you stick with Him, He'll stick with you.

**Heb 13:5** Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

But you have to be ready to serve Him in whatever capacity He instructs. And you have to be willing to do your part in learning His Word, and helping bring it forth to this troubled world wherever appropriate. He will not ask you for anything beyond your ability to handle.

What our heavenly Father has planned is to use some very *ordinary* people in a quite *extraordinary* manner, at a very specific point in time. While we'll touch on that briefly in this study, that's actually the subject of another study, for another time.

This study is chiefly about the *protection* afforded to those who seek His Word, and follow it out of the sheer love they hold for it.

God's elect, as well as those who follow His Word on a freewill basis, are just average people. Generally speaking, they're nobody special.

What distinguishes them from others is that their love for His Word drives them to want to know more about it, and to be of service to Him, even if that service is just a smile and some compassionate words to someone who is down and out, or to provide an insightful answer to a Biblical question when someone asks.

**1Co 1:26** For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

**1Co 1:27** But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

**1Co 1:28** And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

**1Co 1:29** That no flesh should glory in his presence.

God chooses the lowly (who love and seek Him through His Word) to help bring down the mighty. That way, everyone knows it could *only* be God that accomplished it. The lowly could not have done it of their own accord.

And so the day is coming when the mighty ones of this earth will be brought down low. And God will use His relatively tiny band of lowly faithful servants to accomplish it. This is why He stated the following:

**Luk 17:6** And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.

A sycamine tree is a fig tree. You know the parable of the fig tree, going all of the way back to the seduction in the garden (II Cor. 11:3). And you know the murderous progeny that was brought forth through that seduction (I John 3:12). You also know through the parable of the fig tree where they have settled in the final days of this flesh earth age, as they set the stage for the arrival of the false messiah (II Thessalonians 2:4), their father, the devil (John 8:44).

So with just a bit of thought and some solid Biblical understanding, you should also know how your heavenly Father plans to utilize you when Satan sets foot on this earth claiming to be the Messiah of God.

Just as our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was delivered up to the chief priests and the scribes, and then turned over to the gentiles, so *you too* will be delivered up in precisely the same manner, if that is your heavenly Father's will for you:

**Mar 10:33** Saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles:

How they treated Him, is how they will treat you. Are you mentally and spiritually prepared for it? As it is written:

**Mar 13:9** But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them.

**Mar 13:10** And the gospel must first be published among all nations.

**Mar 13:11** But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.

**Mar 13:12** Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death.

**Mar 13:13** And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

When you are delivered up, exactly as your Lord and Savior was, the powerful message your heavenly Father delivers through your mouth through the unction of His Holy Spirit will bring down the mighty as He has promised:

**Luk 21:13** And it shall turn to you for a testimony.

**Luk 21:14** Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer:

**Luk 21:15** For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.

You don't have to be an eloquent speaker. You don't have to think up anything to say. In fact, you are forbidden from doing so. God has it covered. He's going to put the words into your mouth. And NO ONE will be able to refute what your heavenly Father speaks through you. It's a message that will bring down every enemy stronghold:

**2Co 10:3** For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

**2Co 10:4** (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

**2Co 10:5** Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

**2Co 10:6** And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

It is your heavenly Father's great and mighty plan to cast down the strongholds of this world, and replace them with His own Kingdom. And if you are one of His faithful servants, you may well have a very special part in that plan. Let your obedience to His Word be reflected in that knowledge.

How will it go down? Like this:

**Rev 12:7** And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

**Rev 12:8** And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

**Rev 12:9** And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

**Rev 12:10** And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

**Rev 12:11** And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

The day that Satan sets foot on this earth is the day your commission becomes a reality, if you are one of His faithful servants. Should Father choose to use you, you will deliver that testimony with great joy. And then like Jericho of old, the walls will come tumbling down upon the unrighteous. What a privilege and an honor it is to serve Him.

### **Your Protection**

As I pointed out above, God's servants are the most ordinary bunch of people you'd ever want to meet. They're distinguished only by the fact that they hear His voice (i.e., the simple truth of His Word, all too often hidden from the multitudes) and they joyfully follow Him as their Shepherd, knowing what's ahead for them and the great privilege they have in serving Him.

In return, He gives them eternal life, and protects them from spiritual harm.

**Joh 10:27** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

**Joh 10:28** And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

**Joh 10:29** My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

**Joh 10:30** I and my Father are one.

If you want to know who His sheep are, they're the ones who *hear the voice of Christ, and follow*. It's that simple.

You have some on this earth claiming to be "God's chosen," yet they reject Christ Jesus, the Living Word of God. Sorry, they don't fit the criteria. Since they neither willingly hear His voice, nor willingly follow it, they *cannot* be of His chosen flock. They are of another flock altogether. And their rock is not our Rock (Deuteronomy 32:31).

Verses 28 and 29 above constitute a powerful and beautiful promise from our Lord and Savior, to everyone who hears His voice, which is to say, to everyone who hears the truth of His Word and follows it.

As you can see, God repeats that promise TWICE, because He doesn't want you to miss it. A wise man, knowing what's coming, would prayerfully consider that promise...and faithfully claim it in His name. It's a good feeling to know you're in the all-powerful hand of your heavenly Father, from the day you start serving Him faithfully, to the eternity.

One day – and I suspect that day is coming quite soon – you'll be very happy you've claimed that promise, because there will indeed be those who will attempt to snatch you from the hand of

your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. But when you're in His Word, standing upon His promises and serving Him in accord with His Word, they can't touch you.

Know this: There is no man – and that includes that old “man of sin, the son of perdition” – who can pluck you out of your Father's hand, as long as you stick with Him and stay in His Word! You have HIS Word on it!

Now some have asked me, Steve, will God protect my family if I'm delivered up? And I have to point out there's a certain lack of faith in that question. But I'll let Father's Word answer it, rather than my own, so those with young can be comforted by it:

**Isa 40:11** He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

In other words, the young are in His hands, too. You can count on it.

Here's another precious promise that I want you to meditate on in relation to the promise from John 10:28-29 above:

**Psa 91:1** He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

**Psa 91:2** I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

You're under the shadow of the Almighty if you dwell in the truth of His Word that's hidden from most others, and do your small part to help bring forth that truth to a troubled world.

The hovering presence of your heavenly Father *directly above you* becomes your refuge and your fortress, as long as you keep your trust in Him!

The remainder of that particular Psalm contains many more precious promises of protection from your heavenly Father to His faithful servants. But those above will suffice to make the point I want to make in this lesson:

If His protective hovering presence is above you, and you are also in the palm of his powerful hand, He's got you covered *from top to bottom*. Think about that. Meditate on it. And don't forget to thankfully claim it!

Here's another important promise:

**Isa 52:11** Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the LORD.

**Isa 52:12** For ye shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight: for the LORD will go before you; and the God of Israel will be your rereward.

As you calmly but confidently leave behind the vain and unclean traditions of man, and begin to bear the truth of God's Word, helping bring it forth for others through seed planting or supporting a good Christian seed-planting ministry, your heavenly Father goes before you, and also brings up the rear.

That means he's your front guard *and* your rear guard. Those are His mighty promises in verse 12 above. I sure hope you're claiming them in His name, because the time is coming when the "clean" who "bear the vessels of the LORD" will go forth to deliver their testimony. And it's comforting indeed to know that He's got your front *and* back covered. He leads the way, and He brings up the rear.

### **To Sum Up...**

- As you learned from John 10 above, when you hear His voice and follow, you're in the palm of His hand and no man can pluck you out thereof.
- And as you learned from Psalms 91 above, when you trust in Him He is the hovering presence directly above you.
- As you learned from Isaiah 52 above, when you bear His holy vessels (i.e., the truth of His Word) He becomes your front guard, and your rear guard.

Sounds like a pretty good position to be in, my friend. He's got you covered above, below, front and back. What more could you ask for?

### **One Final Thought...**

God doesn't give spiritual understanding to people He doesn't intend to utilize. So if He's given you spiritual understanding of His Word, and if you're faithful, prepare to be put to good use in the final days of this flesh earth age.

What's more, as we've seen throughout this short study of His Word, if He intends to utilize you He will also protect and take care of you. He didn't include those promises in His Word for filler. They're there for your edification and for your comfort. They're there to build your confidence. He won't let you down, if you don't let Him down.

That doesn't mean life is always going to be a bed of roses. Bad stuff happens to everybody. But when Satan gets here, pretending to be the Messiah of God, you better have no doubts whatsoever that your heavenly Father has a very special purpose for you, and more importantly, that He knows *who* you are, *where* you are, and *what* your needs are, and will watch over and bless and take care of you and your family...

...as long as you remain in His Word, and continue to grow and mature in it daily, and do your small part to serve Him by helping bring forth His Word to this hurting and troubled world.

As He has stated, “My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.” Service to Him is a pleasure. He’s got you covered.

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