



GOD'S PROTECTION

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God is a loving Father. Of two of the primary tasks given to fathers, one is to provide, the other is to protect. Even growing up without a father, we still have a father! Our heavenly Father protects us as His children, in ways and forms we cannot fully comprehend. In the spiritual realm, the natural realm, from decisions, from people, from countless variables of aspects within our lives and into eternity.

King David understood that God was protecting him. Beyond the natural appearance of the situation he was facing, God's eyes were on the whole picture, beyond what David could fully understand or see at the time.

Key scripture - Psalm 63:9-11

But those plotting to destroy me will come to ruin. They will go down into the depths of the earth. They will die by the sword and become the food of jackals. But the king will rejoice in God. All who swear to tell the truth will praise him, while liars will be silenced. (NLT)

All who want to kill me will end up in the ground. Swords will run them through, and wild dogs will eat them. Because of you, our God, the king will celebrate with your faithful followers but liars will be silent. (CEV)

Those who are out to get me are marked for doom, marked for death, bound for hell. They'll die violent deaths; jackals will tear them limb from limb. But the king is glad in God; his true friends spread the joy, while small-minded gossips are gagged for good. (MSG)

1. Who or what does God protect us from?

2. What does God use to protect His people?

1. **A Faithful Promise:** Protection through God's Word (Psalm 63:11a)

God's promises - Psalm 91:4

Promises are powerful when mixed with faith. What promises could you stand on for your family?

- God promises to give you rest. (Matthew 11:28-30)
- God promises that nothing can separate you from Him. (Romans 8:38-39)
- God promises to protect you. (Psalm 91:2)

2. **A Faithful Heart:** Protection through obedience (Psalm 63:9)

Protection in the form of:

- Sacrifice (obedience). (Luke 1:67-79) Protection from the law.
- Unity (obedience). (1 Corinthians 1:10)
- Guidance (obedience). (Isaiah 30:21, John 14:26)
- Provision (obedience). (Deuteronomy 8:17-18, Proverbs 10:15, Ruth 2:8-9)
- Trust (obedience). (Psalm 37:3-5)

The fruit for obedience is God is His faithfulness and love.
These are also two reasons God protects us.
(Psalm 91:14-15)

The central core theme is that we are called to operate and live in love and faith that comes from God that we then use towards others. (Psalm 40:11, 1 John 4:19)

3. **His Faithful Bride:** Protection through the church
(Psalm 63:11b)

How does God use His Church to protect others:

Prayer, healing and restoration - James 5:16

- Edification, encouragement and consolation.
(1 Corinthians 14:3, Hebrews 10:24-25)
- Blessing someone financially. (Hebrews 13:16)
- Presence of God. (Matthew 18:20)
- Equipping to build. (Ephesians 4:12)

Prayer is the means whereby we make contact with God's strength. (John Edmund Haggai)

When we don't see God's protection, He comforts us.
(Psalm 23:4)

Conclusion

We serve a fearsome and wonderful God who has chosen to protect us in ways we can and cannot see.

David, in writing this Psalm, embodied someone unwilling to abandon God despite His situation. That situation was the experience of incredible pressure, fear and a way out.

Not all suffering will be understood in this life, the why, the where, the when or the who, except to say that we still live in a world that is under the authority of Satan (2 Corinthians 4:4). The authority, given to Jesus' true followers, is via the Kingdom that He established here on earth (Luke 17:20-21). Whilst we have authority over the things of this world, God tells us we will experience suffering (Romans 8:18). That it will rain on the just and the unjust (Matthew 5:45).

Mankind's last enemy, death, is defeated and we are assured of salvation through Jesus Christ and our acceptance of Him as the Son of God, dying on the cross and His resurrection. (1 Corinthians 15:26, John 3:15-16)

God has promised never to leave or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5), walking in obedience through love and faithfulness in Him (Psalm 91:14), we will see and experience God's protection in both our and our family's lives (Psalm 5:11).