

HIDDEN WITH YAHSHUA IN GOD

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty (Ps. 91:1). The psalmist says, "The Lord is my Light and my salvation- whom shall I fear or dread? The Lord is the Refuge and Stronghold of my life- of whom shall I be afraid? Though a host encamp against me, my heart shall not fear, though war arise against me, [even then] in this will I be confident" (Ps. 27:1,3). Who is greater than our God? Paul wrote to the Colossians saying, "[As far as this world is concerned] we have died and our [new] life is hidden with Christ in God." (Col. 3:3). What better comfort can we have while we live in this corrupted world where Satan, the enemy of our soul, never stops from harassing and causing us to faint at times? If we are hidden with YAHSHUA in the heavenly Father, who can snatch us from His hand? YAHSHUA confirmed this in John 10: 27-29: "The sheep that are My own hear and are listening to My voice; and I know them and they follow Me, and I give them eternal life, and they shall never lose it or perish throughout the ages. And no one is able to snatch them out of My hand. My Father, Who has given them to Me, is greater and mightier than all; and no one is able to snatch [them] out of the Father's hand." Peter warned us saying, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walk about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). This reality we do experience every day. To be in denial of this fact is to be out in the dark, vulnerable to his power, out of God's care. Psalm 91: 9-12 says, "Because you have made the Lord your refuge, and the Most High your dwelling place there shall no evil befall you, nor any plague or calamity come near your tent, for He will give His angels charge over you to accompany and defend and preserve you in all your ways; they shall bear you up on their hands lest you dash your foot against a stone. Yes, they will hold us up so that we will not fall into temptation."

When we walk according to our own desires, we fall short of this blessing. God's protection will not accompany us in our disobedience, until we repent and return to Him. His promise is firm, even when we disregard His word and pay for the consequences. "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God; the Spirit Himself testifies together with our own spirit that we are children of God". (Rom. 8:14,16). In that, then we are secure of God's protection and nothing in this world will separate us from the love of God. "No suffering and affliction and tribulation, or calamity and distress, or persecution or hunger or destitution or peril or sword... amid all these things we are more than conquerors and gain a surpassing victory through Him Who loved us" (Rom. 8:35,37). His love has sealed us and hid us in God. So, nothing in the past can separate us from the love of our Father God. So, our mind should be set on things that are from above where our life is hidden with Christ in God and the word spoken by our Lord have its home [in our hearts and minds] and dwell in us in [all its] richness... (Col 3:2,10, 12,16). YAHSHUA called Jerusalem's attention to His desire to protect it, but it would not listen to Him in order to receive His protection. He cried, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who continue to kill the prophets and to stone those who are sent to you! How often I have desired and yearned to gather your children together as a hen her young under her wings, but you would not! Behold, your house is forsaken, and I tell you, you will not see Me again until the time comes when you shall say, Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Luke 13:14-15).

Outside of God's protection, we suffer the consequences. Once we leave His place of refuge, we become vulnerable to the devil's plan to destroy us, for he came to "kill and to destroy." Our lives are now disposed to the enemy for whatever he pleases to do. Calling His people back to His protection, YAHSHUA used the hen's care for his young ones as an illustration of comparison to show His care for us. Often the term "under His wing" is used in the Bible as an example of protection. The psalmist prayed: "**Keep** and **guard** me as the pupil of Your eye; **hide me** in the shadow of Your wing" (Psalm 17:8). This poetic expression the Lord used, echoes the poetic language of the psalms. The Jewish people were familiar with the term and I am sure they understood the Lord's intention. "My soul takes refuge and finds shelter and confidence in You, yes, in the shadow of Your wings will I take refuge and be confident until calamities and destructive storms are passed" (Ps. 57:1).

The Children of God are in a constant warfare. Paul said, "for the weapons of our warfare are not physical, but they are mighty before God for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds" (II Cor. 10:4); "For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood, but against the despotisms, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly sphere" (Eph. 6:12). For us to experience the overthrow and destruction of strongholds in victory, we must stay under the shadow of our heavenly Father, for He has provided a place of refuge under His wings, where no foe can penetrate. A shadow speaks of comfort from the heat; it gives comfort and rest while in our pilgrimage. Resting under the shadow of our heavenly Father while facing the world's danger, security is a sure thing that will be available to us. The psalmist says, "You (God), are a hiding place for me; You Lord, preserve me from trouble, You surround me with songs and shouts of deliverance" (Ps. 32:7). "Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You." "In the secret place of Your presence, You hide me from the plots of men; You keep me secretly in Your pavilion from the strife of tongues" (Ps 31:20). In the presence of our Lord there is peace, joy, love. We will know when we are dwelling under the shadow of our heavenly Father; it's when we experience the fruit of His Spirit which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law (Gal. 5:22-23), we know for sure we are abiding under the shadow of His wings.

I would like to share this song with you, for its message is right on for his message.

In the Shadow of His Wings
(by Cathy Spurr & Debbie McNeil)

I will dwell in the shadow of your wings,
I will know of the peace your love can bring.
Night will fall but I will not be afraid,
When I dwell in the shadow of your wings.

**In the shadow, in the shadow,
In the shadow of your wings.**

**In the shadow, in the shadow,
In the shadow of your wings.**

Safety lies in the shadow of your wings,
I rely on your faithful covering;
Arrows fly but I will not be afraid,
When I dwell in the shadow of your wings

May you find peace, joy, love and security under the protection of God's wings.