

THE SAME #8 – PROTECTOR

Heb. 13:8; Psalm 46:1-3, 91;

10/3/2021
Sunday a.m.

SLIDE 1 – COVER SLIDE

SLIDE 2 – HEBREWS 13:8 – JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME... TIM MEREDITH

SLIDE 3 – GOD IS OUR PROTECTOR (*BUT WHAT ABOUT THE PAIN?*)

- YHWH – the Lord our God; protector, deliverer, savior, defender, strong tower, refuge, mighty fortress, safe place, shelter, comfort, strength & shield.
 - WHEN WE'RE: afraid, worried, anxious, tormented, depressed, terrorized, under threat, sick, hurt, alone, rejected, confused, etc...
- BIG Imagery in Scripture – THIS is what God does for His people
 - Though the enemy comes to threaten, to maim, steal/kill/destroy, we won't fear anything or anyone – **nothing can touch us eternally**
 - The Lord God (& Jesus Christ) is the One we turn to in our need
- God's promises – never leave, never forsake; WITH YOU always

SLIDES 4,5 – PSALMS 46:1-3

SLIDE 6 – OUR GOD: REFUGE & STRENGTH

- The Psalms are full of references to God as our Protector (et al)
- "Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott" – Martin Luther (**A Mighty Fortress is our God**)
 - God is our **Refuge & Strength**, ever-present Help in trouble
 - THEREFORE – we will not fear, NO MATTER WHAT the circumstances
 - Earth give way, mtns into the sea, roaring seas, earthquakes...

SLIDE 7 – DAVID & THE PSALMS – 1stHand experiences of the Shepherd King

- David – King of Israel, slayer of Goliath, ancestor of the Christ, AND
- Shepherd boy – lions, bears, danger; expert hider in caves
- Saul – jealous king/father in law; 2 thrown spears; countless plots & chases
 - 3K special forces pursuing David – 2 supernatural deliverances, etc...

SLIDE 8 – THROUGH VALLEYS & SHADOWS

- **WHEN** (not if) things go dark, we can run to our God (our Protector)
- **WHEN** we KNOW we're in valleys (vs. mtn top) & shadows (vs. sunshine)
 - Unexpected sickness, car accident, unexpected tragedy, 'curve balls'
 - Life transitions – family deaths, people moving away, loss & change
 - World shifters – war, pandemic, disasters, etc...
- God's promise of PRESENCE – WHO He is, is WHO He WILL BE
 - Where we run when it hits – we KNOW God will be WITH & SUSTAIN us
- Apostle Paul – great suffering for the Name of Jesus;
 - **2Cor 11:16-33** – imprisonments, countless beatings, 5x39 lashes, 3x beating w/rods, stoned, 3x/shipwrecked, night/day on open sea; constant danger & threat, rivers, robbers, religious fanatics; pagan fanatics; cities, wilderness, fake

Christians (killers), thirst/hunger, heat/cold exposure, anxiety for the churches etc...

- God's grace is sufficient for ALL of our needs – He will sustain us
- To be absent from body = present w/God

SLIDE 9 – PROTECTED & UNAWARE

- But what about the times we experience God's protection & are unaware?
 - Tim – feeling like being disciplined; God is just ticked; no favor →
 - Frustration, failure, can't get a break; unanswered prayers; difficulties;
- Examples – when it doesn't FEEL like protection (pain) What The Heck?
 - *E.g. Mom/Bean & the arm across the chest sudden stop*
 - *Mom & the VW Bus at Golden Valley light*
 - *The time the guy got 12 coffee drinks for his office*
 - *Taking the scenic (vs. most direct) route*

SLIDE 10 – FAITH FOR EVERYDAY LIFE

- Last 20 months, increased awareness of fragility of life; outside forces working to instill fear, motivate (manipulate) towards pursuit of safety & surety
 - Looking to the temporary for eternal answers ≠ work; INSTEAD
 - We are called to be people of:
- **FAITH** – God is working all things together for the good of those who love Him & are called according to His purposes;
- **TRUST** – God sees the big picture, I see the limited reveal; He knows best
- **PRAYER** – commit all my ways, thoughts, intents, actions, words to God
- **BOLDNESS** – living our lives devoted to God, in Christ Jesus
 - The reason for our faith, trust, & hope → Christ went 1st, called us to Him
 - May we be bold & trust God holds us/our days in the palm of His hand

SLIDES 11-18 – PSALM 91 – READ IT, EMBRACE IT, THANK YOU LORD

SLIDE 19 – WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH THIS? TIM MEREDITH

SLIDE 20 – THE BLESSING – NUMBERS 6:22-27

- **Numbers 6:22-27** *The LORD bless you & keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you & be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you & give you peace." So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them."*