

A Series of devotions on Psalm 33

GOD PROTECTS YOU

Psalm 33:20 “Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield.”

Prior to modern warfare, warriors often carried shields. Shields were made of materials that were difficult to penetrate. An archer’s arrow or a javelin thrower’s spear were deadly unless a soldier had a shield capable of stopping them from penetrating his body. There is fairly common agreement among Bible scholars that the word shield used here in Psalm 33 is in reference to God’s spiritual protection.

The word shield, depending on the English translation, is found in the Bible up to 71 times. Many of those references are used in the context of God providing protection for Israel or individuals who believed and trusted in Him. For example, David in a song he composed wrote: “The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior; you save me from violence.” (2 Samuel 22:1-3)

Note how in the Old Testament the word shield described God’s protection for His covenant people: 1) Psalm 18:2 “The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my mountain where I seek refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold; 2) Psalm 115:9 “O Israel, trust thou in the LORD: he is their help and their shield; 3) Proverbs 30:5 “Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.”

Although the word shield is not used in Psalm 46, the opening three verses describe God’s protection, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. (Psalm 46:1-3)

In the New Testament St. Paul says your faith is your shield: “In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one. . .” (Ephesians 6:16) The devil’s attacks are sharp with the goal of harming you in your faith. God promises His presence to be the shield you need to protect you from these temptations. (Lord’s Prayer --- You pray in this prayer that God will protect you from all temptations) God is your help and shield.

Prayer: O Lord, protect me from the temptations of the evil one, the world and my own sinful flesh. Be my refuge, fortress and shield for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near, Joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen All that is needful has been
Sent by His gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.
What need or grief Ever has failed of relief?
Wings of His mercy did shade you.

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper; your work and defend you;
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew What the Almighty can do As with His love He befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen Sound from His people again: Gladly forever adore Him!
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