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LIVING IN THE LAND OF GOSHEN
THE SHADOW OF SHADDAI *part two*

Greetings my brothers and sisters in Christ!

I hope that you all are walking in the fullness of His favor and blessing!

I wanted to take a moment to thank all of you out there who currently partner with Living Logos Ministries or who have from time to time sown seed into this ministry as you have been led or able. We really appreciate your prayers and financial support and want you to know that you are making a difference in the advancement of God's kingdom through your support of LLM. Our current focus is on the printing and distribution of our materials in India and through your generosity, we have been able to print thousands of our books and get them in the hands of these hungry souls. So again, we appreciate your support, and know that when your good seed is sown on this good ground, you will reap a bountiful harvest! Thanks again!

We here at LLM are committed to continuing to deliver the uncompromised Word of God to the world. Our vision for Living Logos Ministries is **to make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in all nations through the propagation of the gospel of the kingdom of God in both word and power.** So while we are certainly going to spread this gospel to our great nation here in the United States which so desperately needs the truth of God's Word, we are not going to stop with impacting just the US; we have a heart to make disciples- not just converts- in all nations. So while we are primarily focused on the US & India right now, we want this message God has given us to run swiftly throughout the whole earth. This is the vision and heartbeat of LLM!

With that said I wanted to invite anyone out there who has it on your heart to be a part of this ministry and would commit to pray for us and support us with your finances. It is simple: the more finances that we have come in means the more materials that we can put out. So if the Lord stirs up your heart to partner together with us in fulfilling our vision, please contact us through the information provided below and we will let you know how you can do so.

As for this month's Living Logos teaching, we are continuing the study we began last month which I have entitled "The Shadow of Shaddai." This teaching, of course, is based upon the 91st Psalm and the series I taught at High Point Church over the course of two and a half months.

Now I want to encourage you to listen to these messages on our church website @ www.highpointmacon.com. What you will read today is just a compilation of a few of the teachings in this series, so there is a lot more information to be had. So please take the time to listen to these teachings and let God's Word cause faith to rise in your heart concerning God's will to protect His people. Amen!

Last month, we spent our entire time reflecting on the truths contained in verse one which reads- "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." We learned that the key to abiding under that protective canopy of our Almighty God is us choosing to dwell in His secret place. Therefore, we learned from this one truth two very important things:

1. We learned that God is not the factor here; we are. In other words, He is not the one who determines how protected His people will be; we are. No, God has already done everything He is ever going to do to see that His children are kept, protected, and delivered. However, He is not going to force His will upon any of us. So if we decide that we are going to do our own thing and go our own way, we shouldn't expect His protection. Why? Because we will have willfully chosen to not abide under His protective umbrella. Now I am sure that no one is shouting about that truth right now, but it's important to understand, nonetheless.

2. We also learned that the key to abiding under the shadow of Shaddai is dwelling in His secret place. Therefore, we spent a considerable amount of time studying what the secret place is and discovered that it is the Father's presence. It is that place of personal and intimate relationship with Him where we put on His manifest presence and are thereby hidden with Christ in God from all the snares of satan. Hallelujah!

If you missed last's month's teaching, I would encourage you to visit our website and get a hold of it or just write us and we will send it to you free of charge.

Now this month, I want us to move on and look at a few other verses in Psalm 91. So let's begin by looking at verses 9-10.

MY GOD IS MY REFUGE

The psalmist begins in verse 9 by saying, "Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place..." Notice the peculiar way that this verse was written. It sounds like a specific individual is talking here to another individual or group, doesn't it? So with this in mind, I think a good question would be: Who wrote this psalm? Who was it that referred to the Lord as being their refuge? Now we do not know for sure who authored this particular psalm because it does not identify a specific author. However, it is commonly believed that the writer of this particular psalm was none other than Moses, and there are two reasons for this:

1. Because the common Hebraic belief is that you are to attribute a psalm that has no revealed author to the writer of the previous psalm. And in this instance, Psalm 90 was revealed to have been written by Moses.
2. Because the language and examples used in Psalm 91 are indicative of the children of Israel's experiences from their Exodus out of Egypt with all the plagues they witnessed to their journey through the wilderness on their way to Mount Sinai.

Someone might wonder why knowing who the author was would be important in understanding a passage of Scripture. It is because I have discovered that understanding the background and origination of particular passages of Scripture helps one to see the complete picture that is being painted in the Scripture itself. And this is certainly helpful the context of Psalm 91...

So let's read this psalm from this perspective. Let's look at it through the lens of how God protected the children of Israel from the various plagues that were brought upon Egypt. But before we do this, I want us to focus on the absolute importance that we understand exactly what Moses understood here in this passage- that God was His refuge.

Notice that Moses did not say that the Lord was our refuge; he specifically stated- "the Lord, who is MY refuge." Why is this important to understand? It is because if you do not understand that He is your own particular refuge, that He is your own individual protector, and that He is for you specifically, then you will have holes in your faith for His protection. Saints, you have to know that God is your refuge and your fortress! You have to know that He is your own defender, refuge, and fortress. Now this does not mean He is not everyone else's refuge as well, but it teaches us the absolute importance of **personalizing His promises**.

For example, we see this in the life of the Apostle John who referred to Himself repeatedly through his gospel as "the disciple whom Jesus loves." Now did this mean that Jesus did not love the other disciples? Of course not! What it did mean, however, was that John saw Himself as being specifically loved by the Lord. You see, it is important that you see Him as your God and that you see yourself as loved and protected by Him. This is all part of personal relationship with God.

So Moses evidently knew His God like this because he saw Him as His refuge, but did you know that the Apostle Paul saw His God this way as well?

In Philippians 4:19 (a very familiar passage of Scripture to many of us), Paul said, "And my God shall supply all your need..." Notice Paul referred to Him as "My God." Now let me ask you a question: Was He not also the God of the Philippians? Of course, He was! But Paul understood this same principle that Moses and the Apostle John understood- that He is your God individually whom you have a personal relationship with. And so through his personal relationship with the Lord, the Apostle Paul knew that His God- the One whom He had experienced faithful provision from throughout his ministry and who met all his needs throughout his personal life- was also willing to do the same for this church in Philippi. Hallelujah! This is why having this intimacy with God where you know Him personally and apply His promises directly to your life is so important. It is because then through knowing that God is no respecter of persons, He will do the same in someone else's life who will make the decision to dwell in this secret place of intimacy with Him. Amen!

I WILL SAY OF THE LORD

Now there is a very important point that we need to understand regarding this truth, and it is found back in verse 2 of Psalm 91. Let's back up and look at that...

After Moses describes this whole Psalm in a nutshell in the first verse, he makes this powerful statement again regarding the Lord, His refuge. He says, "I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."

So again, we see Moses making this same declaration regarding the Lord being His personal refuge and His specific fortress, but notice what he says at the beginning of this verse: "I will say of the Lord..."

Now is this statement just something to make this psalm sound more poetic or is it strategically placed there? I believe it is there for a specific reason and that reason is to show us the importance of what we say concerning the Lord. In other words, I believe it is there to show us the power that is in our words.

Do you believe that what we say is important? I can assure you that it is. You see, there are countless Scriptures that teach us this principle regarding the power that is in our words. What is most notable is how the book of wisdom itself (i.e. Proverbs) makes so many references to the importance of our words. Therefore, we can conclude from just this that a wise person watches what he or she says and a fool doesn't.

Someone might ask- What do our words have to do with God protecting us?" It has everything to do with that! Why? Because **a major factor in walking in the protection of our God is what we say, declare and confess concerning our God.** Amen!

You see, Psalm 91:2 is teaching us that an important part to walking in the Lord's promise of protection is to confess and declare that the Lord is our God and our own personal refuge and fortress! How? By putting those promises into the atmosphere through our words! This is how we create the reality of those truths in our lives. God is a refuge and fortress for the one who positively declares that He is their refuge and fortress. Amen?

Let's look quickly at the Book of James where James illustrates this principle...

In chapter 3 of his epistle, James begins to teach on the importance of the tongue, and in verse 3 he says: "Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires." Here, James is using the analogy of a ship and its pilot to describe to us how powerful our words are. The ship here represents our life and the pilot represents us. The rudder, of course, describes our tongue. And James is teaching how a very small thing like a rudder, can dictate the direction that a large boat would go. This teaches how our tongue can greatly influence the direction that our life is going.

Now most people do not believe this way. The common belief among society today is that you don't control the direction your life goes in, your circumstances do. Psychology teaches that we are a product of the environment that we are placed in and ultimately we are not responsible for how we turn out. This could not be further from the

truth. While our circumstances certainly can influence us in a certain direction, we are not helpless. We can make a decision to go one way even when the “fierce winds” that James references here are trying to push us the other way. And how do we do this? Through our tongue!

You see, our words have creative power in them. How do I know this, you ask? Because we are created in God’s image and likeness and we know that He created and framed the worlds through His words (see Hebrews 11:3). So I’m here to tell you that **just as God framed the worlds through His faith-filled words, you can frame your world through your faith filled words!** Amen!

You know, our destiny in life seems so big, how could we ever determine its direction? It seems as though what determines its direction are the circumstances of life. These fierce winds “drive” our life from one direction to the next if we let them. But there is a way to determine our destiny! I said, there is a way to determine the direction our life goes in- and it is with that small rudder called our tongue! Friends, even though our words seem so little and insignificant, they are able to turn our lives around for the better! Why? Because even that very small rudder can influence the direction that a large ship goes in!

But it is important to understand that just as we cannot turn the wheel of the helm one or two times in a direction and then take our hands off the wheel and still expect the ship to turn, likewise, we need to hold fast to our confession until we see the ship turn- holding that wheel in the direction we want our life to go.

So do you see the power our words have on our lives? They can determine the direction of our entire life!

CONFESSION UNTO SALVATION

Did you know one of the ways we know how important our words are? Just look at the role our confession plays in regards to our salvation. We see this in Romans 10:9-10 which says, “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Sadly, much of the church today does not understand how important the confession part of our salvation is but the early church did. They usually intertwined the moment when someone was converted with their being baptized. And it was at this baptism that the new convert would make a public declaration of their faith. This “confession” was what the writer of Hebrews exhorted his Jewish readers to “hold fast” to.

“Well...,” someone will say, “This is just talking about how we get saved, Trey. What does this have to do with how we live after we were saved?” Well, I’m glad you asked...

There is a verse in Colossians chapter 2 that teaches us that just as we have received Christ Jesus the Lord, we are to so walk in Him...Amen! So what this verse is saying is that the same way we received Jesus- by believing in our heart that He was raised from the dead and by confessing with our mouth that He is Lord- this is the same way we are supposed to live every day with Jesus after we already received Him.

So again, notice what Paul says in Romans 10:10- “for with the heart man one believes unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made *unto salvation*.”

You see, **just as you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus in regards to your initial salvation, likewise you confess with your mouth the Lordship of Jesus for every other subsequent salvation.** How do I know this? It is because salvation means more than just being saved from eternal condemnation in the life to come; salvation also means deliverance, freedom, protection, healing, prosperity, etc. in this life now! Glory to God!

So what have we learned so far? We have learned how important it is that each of us individually see God like so: He is my God, my refuge, & my fortress! And we have also seen that while it is important to see God this way, our saying it is absolutely important as well.

But now let's conclude our teaching this month by going back to Psalm 91:9-10 because there is an important point that I believe the Holy Spirit wants us to see...

THE LAND OF GOSHEN

Notice that Moses goes on to tell us the wonderful promise for living in His dwelling place. He says, "No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling."

Can you see the absolute certainty of these statements- No evil shall befall us, nor shall any plague come near our dwelling? Praise the Lord! That does not leave a lot of room for watering down God's Word, does it?

You see, some Christians like to give all the reasons why statements like this in God's Word are not true. They will try and water verses like this down saying, "Well, this is spiritual. You can't expect God to protect you from all evil and any plague. Bad things happen to good people." They usually do this by citing examples of other believers who experienced this or died from that. But when are we going to start taking God's Word at face value? When are we going to start believing that God said what He meant and He meant what He said? This is one of the major reasons why verses like this do not work for everybody. It's because of our unbelief; not because God's promises are of non-effect. No, God's will is that no evil befall and that no plague shall come near our dwelling. Friends, we can be confident in these promises of God's protection.

I call this living in the Land of Goshen! What do I mean by that? Well, as we made the point of earlier in this teaching, the common consensus is that Moses authored this psalm, and these verses are one of the reasons why. It's because they seem to reflect the circumstances surrounding the events in Egypt, don't they?

Do you remember what happened to Egypt when Pharaoh refused to let God's people go? Yes, the Egyptians were hit with plague after plague. Well, during these judgments, the Scriptures repeatedly mention how none of these plagues ever impacted Goshen, where the children of Israel dwelt. (Take a look at the following Scriptures that reveal this to us- Exodus 8:22, 9:4-7, 9:26, 10:23, & 11:7.)

But someone will say, "Trey, I just can't see this. How can a Christian live such a life?" Well, again, you can't base this on what you've seen in others or what you've experienced yourself! You must begin by believing it simply because it is written in God's Word. And if God kept the children of Israel who dwelt in Goshen, then He who does not change will keep you and I from the evils and plagues of this world today. Amen!

Now here is a point that is very important for us to understand... I have seen that it is the part of the body of Christ that does not believe this who experience it the least. What do I mean by that? I mean that the circles of Christianity that believe that God is liable to judge His people, send sickness and disease to teach us something, etc. are the ones who experience these afflictions the most. For example, those who see God as the one who steals, kills, and destroys (as a general rule) see more of these negative circumstances than the groups who do not see God as the author of these things. But I have traveled in circles that do not believe this way and although there are still difficulties that these groups face as well, these bad things run much less rampant in those circles.

So why is this? It is because we attract what we believe. You see, much of the body of Christ does not realize how our belief system impacts the fruit we receive in our life. And this is particularly true with how we see our God. I am convinced that there is so much more that God desires to do in our lives than we allow Him to.

Yes, just as the children of Israel were guilty of limiting God's will for them in their journey from Egypt to the Promised Land, we limit God through our wrong thinking and wrong believing.

Let me show you how this bode true for the Egyptians during this instance of the plagues in Exodus...

Did you realize that when these various plagues came upon Egypt that every one of them (save the Death of the Firstborn) were all gods of Egypt? Yes, the Egyptians had a god for everything- for the frogs, the Nile River, the lice, the livestock, etc. So it was as if God was rubbing it in their face regarding how He is greater than their gods that they served by sending the specific plagues that He did. For instance, it was like He was saying, "You like worshipping these frogs? Then here, here are all the frogs you can handle!" You see this in the countries that battle poverty the most. Consider the nations that are the most impoverished. Do you know what they have in common? Idolatry runs more rampant in these nations. In other words, they go beyond just not believing in a particular god; they practice witchcraft and have formed their own gods and practice ungodly behaviors.

You see, just as Egypt did in Exodus, these idolatrous nations today are in essence reaping the fruit of the gods that they believed in and served. Likewise, much of God's church today reaps the fruit of the God that they see themselves serving. Did you hear that? Hear the word of the Lord: **You get the fruit of the God you believe in and see yourself serving.**

Now I understand that we all say we believe in the same God, but there are many varieties of beliefs concerning who our God really is. In other words, we vary in our belief of His nature, character, and will for our life. Therefore, the Christians who believe that God is quick to fly off the handle and punish us for whatever reason, have more of a tendency to invite these judgments into their life. Not that God is doing these things to them, but if you openly accept these bad things as being from God, the devil has gained an entryway into your life and will oblige your misguided faith.

This is why it is important for us to know what comes from God and what comes from the enemy. Why? Because we need to know what to submit to and what to resist. But if you see everything as coming from God and believe this about Him, you might be submitting to something that comes from the devil and resisting something that God desires to do in your life. It's tight, but it's right!

You see, we need to see God as our God, but we need to see Him in the correct light. He is a refuge in the time of trouble, not the author of the trouble. The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous run into it and are safe. The key there is knowing His name. When we understand His name, we know His character. When we see His name, we know His nature. Saints, this is a major key to living in the Land of Goshen as opposed to dwelling in Egypt. We must know our God in truth and then begin to openly declare and confess His name!

This is the God we believe in and serve! He is good, He is just, He is merciful, and He is kind! We need to see Him in this correct light by seeing Him as light, for there is no darkness in Him at all (1 John 1:5). Then once we begin to see Him this way, we ought to open our mouth and say of the Lord: "He is my rock, my fortress, my good God and I will trust in His goodness." Amen!

Until next month, be blessed by the Best! Maranatha!

Victoriously,

