"Security in God"

Psalm 91:1-16

8/5/2012

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INTRODUCTION: V. 1 - 2

True security is in God!

I. The BLESSINGS of Security in God (v. 3-8)

A. Security in all Dangers (v. 3-4)

B. Security at all Times (v. 5-6)

C. Security in all Circumstance (v. 7-8)

II. The REASONS for Security in God (v. 9-14)

You can be secure for 3 reasons:

A. Because you trust God (v. 9-13)

1. His habitation protects you (v. 9-10)
2. His angels protect you (v. 11-13)

B. Because you love God (v. 14a)

C. Because you know God (v. 14b)

III. The PROMISE of Security in God (v. 15-16)

To those who trust Him:

A. He promises to answer

B. He promises His presence

C. He promises His deliverance (escape)

D. He promises His honor (exaltation)

E. He promises His longevity (extension of life)

F. He promises His salvation (eternal life)

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INTRODUCTION:

Even in the midst of a heated Presidential race, the recent woes on Wall Street forms the biggest news lately.

The effects of greed and the feeling of financial euphoria over the booming housing marking during the first 6 years of this millennium has resulted in a lot of bad decision making on the part of lenders and borrowers.

Banks giving enormous housing loans to people who had no possible way of paying off those loans has resulted in massive foreclosures all around the country. As a result, people have lost their houses and the banks who made those loans or bought those loans from other banks are now in many cases on the brink of financial collapse.

As a result, Banks don't have the money to loan to people and businesses, and if Banks won't or can't loan farms and businesses will suffer, jobs will be lost and prices will go up. A Ripple effect where one sector of the economy will affect all the others.

We see that effect on the recent mayhem of Wall Street. What we have right now is a very volatile market that has already erupted and is spilling over into every other country in the world. And this is due to the global economy and new world order that has taken shape over the last quarter of a century. You see, with the availability of instant communication and the ties of all the nations into a common stock market, big news in one country is transmitted to another in a blink and decisions are made via online trading to create massive and instant changes possible to our investment system.

We live in a world where people are driven to make decisions based on feelings and emotions, and perceptions of reality, rather than facts.

As one financial commentator said, he felt that our present situation was 98% emotion and 2% economics.

When people are scared (whether their fears are valid or not) they will make decisions (most of these impulsive decisions will be the wrong ones).

It reminds me of a woman who screams with a loud shrill at the sight of a little mouse in a crowded room and it sets off a panic and a series of events leading to a chaotic stampede.

The stock market has been shocked into panic mode in recent days.

Now I understand that things can be set into motion by a variety of things.

Big wealthy and influential global movers and shakers can upset the market.
Major natural catastrophes can upset the market.
The outbreak of wars and rumors of wars can upset the market.

Due to the recent downfall of the world's financial markets people have lost (at least for the moment) thousands/hundreds of thousands/millions of dollars practically overnight. Warren Buffet's stock had dropped from $149,200.00 per share to a 104,000.00 (a loss of 45,200.00 per share)!

Have we hit bottom yet? I don't know.
Will things decline to the unprecedented unemployment and economic downfall of the great depression of 1929 and 1930s? It is interesting to note that the over-stimulated economic euphoria of the 1920s is believed to be the main factor contributing to the severity of that great depression.

Will our stock market return? I hope so. But to be honest, no one can know for sure. Certainly peoples' fears will have to be relieved.

What is my point in all of this? Don't trust in money or man. Both can fail you. You can be sitting with a feeling of financial security one day and with a flip of a switch things can change!

Illustration: the man whose barns were filled with plenty.

Luke 12:15-21
And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

So what do we do? Where do we turn in times of financial crisis or any crisis? Answer: Turn to God! Trust in Him alone. View this world and the things of the world with a certain sobriety!

Proverbs 23:5 Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

See Psalm 91:1-2

II Thess.3:3 - "The Lord is faithful

Psalms 118:8 It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.

Psalms 118:9 It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.

Psalms 125:1 A Song of degrees. They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

V. 1

"Secret place" = hiding place; a place of shelter where an enemy cannot see you.

The same word is used by Jonathon to David (I Sam. 19:2 - But Jonathon Saul's son delighted much in David: and Jonathon told David, saying, Saul my father seeketh to kill thee: now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until morning, and abide in a secret place, and hide thyself.").

"Shadow" = again, a place where you could not be seen by an enemy (Ps. 17:8-9 - "Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings, From the wicked that oppress me, from my deadly enemies, who compass me about.").

Also, a place of shelter from the heat (Is. 25:4 - "For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall.").

V. 1-2

Four names are given to describe God:

1. "The Most High" - The One who is exalted above all that is called "god"' and above every angel or human.

2. "Almighty" - "Shaddai" - the all-sufficient God. The God who nourishes and provides (EX: Gen. 17:1-2 - ElShaddai's promise to Abraham of descendants)

3. "LORD" - (v. 2) - Jehovah ("Yahweh"), the eternal God; the self-existent One; the Great I AM.

4. "God" - "Elohim" - The strong one

V. 2

"Refuge ... fortress" - places of safety, protection, ammunition, etc.

EX: Hymn - "A Shelter in the Time of Storm"

***True security is in God!**

I. The BLESSINGS of Security in God (v. 3-8)

A. Security in all Dangers (v. 3-4)

V. 3

"The snare of the fowler" - the trap of the bird catcher. Our Lord delivers from Satan's traps

The psalmist goes from third person ("He" - v. 1) to first person ("I" "My" - v. 2). Now, after testifying of his own security, to encourage others he goes to second person ("You" - v. 3)

"The noisome pestilence" - the calamitous plague (a natural disaster, EX: a famine, a fatal disease, etc.).

V. 4

Like a hen would gather its chicks under its feathers for protection, so the Lord protects his own (ILLUS: of the burnt [charred] hen).

SEE: Christ's words - Mt. 23:37-39

The shield of faith is the believer's protection against the fiery darts of the wicked (Eph. 6). Why is this shield so effective? it is a faith based on God's truth!

B. Security at all Times (v. 5-6)

Whether in daylight or during the darkest night, the one who trust God will not be fearful.

C. Security in all Circumstance (v. 7-8)

Because of Shadrach, Meshech, and Abednego's faith, they found security and deliverance even when thrown into the fiery furnace (Dan. 3); Daniel, in the lion's den (Dan. 6).

V. 7

EX: the conquests of Joshua and God's protection
EX: Christ walking right through the midst of those who wanted to kill Him (Lk. 4:30)

A plague will fall upon Israel's enemies in the future Trib., and in the midst of their destruction, many others will remain unaffected (Zech. 14:12, 15-16).

V. 8

"Only with thine eyes" - God's people would not experience judgment themselves, but would see it happen to the wicked.

II. The REASONS for Security in God (v. 9-14)

You can be secure for 3 reasons:

A. Because you trust God (v. 9-13)

1. His habitation protects you (v. 9-10)

V. 10

EX: the Passover (Ex. 12:12-13, 23, 27-30)

2. His angels protect you (v. 11-13)

V. 11-12

Misquoted by Satan (Mt. 4:6).

This promise is not for those who foolishly test God, but for those who inadvertently fall into adversity.

God uses guardian angels to protect His children (Heb. 1:14).

V. 13

"Adder" = cobra snake

"Dragon" = sea serpent

"Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me ..." (Ps. 23)

B. Because you love God (v. 14a)

God says: "Because you have set your love (affection) upon Me, I will deliver you..."

EX: the Philadelphia church was promised protection (Rev. 3:10)

C. Because you know God (v. 14b)

Psalm 9:10 - "And they that know Thy name will put their trust in Thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek Thee."

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CONCLUSION: The safest place is in the <u>center of God's will</u>!

> *1 Timothy 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;*

"If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31)