

GOD IS OUR REFUGE

By Keith Greer

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;" {Psalms 46:1,2}

What is a "**refuge**"? "Protection or shelter, as from danger or hardship; A source of help, relief, or comfort in times of trouble." (American Heritage Dictionary) God is our source of comfort in times of trouble. How so?

It will help to see examples from God's word which demonstrate this truth.

"If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up." {Daniel 3:17,18} Even when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego faced the fiery furnace, they trusted God!

"My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done no wrong before you." {Daniel 6:22} Even in the lion's den, Daniel took refuge in God. He saw him through the night!

"And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, 'Lord, do not charge them with this sin. ' And when he had said this, he fell asleep. "{Acts 7:59,60} Even as his life ebbed from his body, Stephen took refuge in God.

"So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" {Hebrews 13:6}

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." {Philippians 4:13}

"Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing." {2 Timothy 4:8}

"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" {Romans 8:31} What do all these passages have in common? Confidence, trust, and a willingness to take refuge in God and His promises. Surely we see the great faith in these men. Do you trust God that much? We should.

"In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength, And my refuge, is in God" {Psalm 62:7}

"In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, And His children will have a place of refuge."{Proverbs 14:26}

"I cried out to You, O LORD: I said, 'You are my refuge, My portion in the land of the living. Attend to my cry, For I am brought very low; Deliver me from my persecutors, For they are stronger than I.'" {Psalm 142:5,6}

Where do you turn in time of help, grief, turmoil and comfort? Have you tried God? Do you ever consider the concern God has for your life? God does care and He will always be there!

"Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you."{1 Peter 5:7} God is never too busy, too weary, or burdened down to offer us His refuge.

What a wonderful blessing for all children of God. One who will always be there when we need Him. My friend, is God your refuge? If not, why not? ***