

“Safe in a Shadow!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. What are some of the safest place in the world?
 - 1.1.1. A bomb shelter; bank vault; a prison like Alcatraz; safe/panic rooms; storm shelters.
 - 1.1.2. In our text we find a **shadow** is the safest place in the world!
- 1.2. Where do some people run to find their **safe place**, if not God?
 - 1.2.1. Some to an unhealthy relationship; some to the bar; some hide behind their gambling; some withdraw/to be alone; shopping.
 - 1.2.2. We have become good in seeking out a great variety of hiding-places.
- 1.3. What do we find security in?
 - 1.3.1. IRA's; Savings; Equity; Investments; Alarm systems; “if I can just get the ring on her finger, it will keep her from finding another guy!”
 - 1.3.2. The only **safe & impregnable fortress** to which we can flee is the protection of **God!**
- 1.4. **Outline:** 3 links in a chain: **The Abiding Life**, produces the **Assuring Life**, which leads to the **Abundant Life!**
- 1.5. **Writer?** – LXX(Sept.) ascribe it to **David**. Other phrases to **Moses**. **Anonymous**.

2. **SAFE IN A SHADOW! (1-16)**

- 2.1. **THE ABIDING LIFE!** (1-4)
- 2.2. Theme is **Security**: God preserves those who **abide in Him & love Him**.¹
 - 2.2.1. Who are these promises for? **Everyone? All believers?**
 - 2.2.2. **Or are these promises for** those who **visit** the secret place called church, once every Sunday, whether they need it or not?
 - 2.2.3. **Or are these promises for** those who run to the Lord **only** in times of danger? (He may respond to us when we do that; but is that to whom this PROMISE is to?)
 - 2.2.4. **Or are these promises for** those who **dwell** in His presence?
 - 2.2.4.1. Yep, for the **dwellers**, not just visitors.
 - 2.2.4.2. **Not just visiting** the Holy Place, as the high priest did once a year.
 - 2.2.4.3. The Psalmist is urging, “**Live in the Holy of Holies.**”
 - 2.2.4.4. **An open invitation to come into** the presence of God & **dwell** in the secret place.
 - 2.2.5. That's where He **meets** us, gives us **guidance**, & shows us **His will**.

¹ Warren Wiersbe; With The Word; pg.366.

- 2.3. (1,2) 4 metaphors for security & 4 divine names!
- 2.3.1. 4 metaphors - Secret place; shadow; refuge; fortress {promises of God}
- 2.3.2. 4 divine names - Most High; Almighty; the Lord; My God. {person of God}
- 2.3.2.1. **Most High** – [Elyon] a title which cuts every threat down to size
- 2.3.2.2. **Almighty** – [Shaddai] the name which sustained the homeless patriarchs.
- 2.3.2.3. **The Lord** – [Yahweh/Jehovah] Moses was assured with both “I am” & “I am with you”.
- 2.3.2.4. **My God** - [Elohim] General term God is made intimate by the possessive, as **My God**.
- 2.4. Under **the shadow** of the Almighty – (also Ps.17:8) **A shadow isn't normally good protection...** unless your talking about being behind your **big brother** as he protects you. **Or better yet** in this case when **God's wings** are hovering inches above you in protection mode, like a protective Mother Eagle!
- 2.4.1. **My shadow** isn't much protection for anyone. **But** when it belongs to the Almighty, a shadow is a strong protection.
- 2.4.1.1. **Example:** A rabbit's shadow? How about a bear cub in his mama's shadow?
- 2.4.2. **Q: Do you live under God's shadow?**
- 2.4.2.1. Some enjoy the **worlds incubator** & its **artificial heat** of which hatches little chickens, **yet** with a **great lack** in their lives.
- 2.4.2.1.1. **No mothers call, no mothers wing!**
- 2.4.3. **Q: Do you live under God's shadow?**
- 2.5. (4) **Under His wings** – at the mercy seat, where the blood was sprinkled, there in the presence of the glory of God.
- 2.5.1. **But also the analogy of the Mother Hen.** It expresses such **tender care** with which God watches over our safety.
- 2.5.1.1. Otherwise he would have chose “King Kong” or “Tyrannosaurus Rex's” shadow. **But He chose something tender for His picture.**
- 2.5.2. **The safest place in the world is in fellowship with God.**
- 2.6. (4) **Shield** – large & Static; **Buckler** – small & mobile.
- 2.6.1. This is **God's truth** of the things mentioned becomes this aspect of security.
- 2.6.2. **God's faithfulness**, i.e. never deserting his people in the time of their need.
- 2.6.3. **Shield** – yes, **He** will come in-between **us** & **all our enemies** to preserve us from their attacks. **(Wow!)**
- 2.7. **The Abiding life produces the Assuring life**(the life w/o fear)!

- 2.8. **THE ASSURING LIFE!** (5-13)
- 2.9. (5,6) **Day & Night!** – **Terror by night**, because we are naturally apprehensive in the dark, or because the night exposes us to danger of different kinds. Our fears magnify any **sound** or **disturbance** in the night, “*what was that?*”
- 2.10. **What dangers do we face?** Snares, pestilences(3), arrows(5), plagues(10), stones(11,12), lions & snakes(13).
- 2.10.1. **Most of these dangers strike unseen, against which the strong are as helpless as the weak.**
- 2.11. **What are the modern equivalent of these ancient perils?**
- 2.11.1. **Snares**(or traps? debt), **pestilences**(or cattle disease? Mad cow), **arrows**(fiery darts of enemy), **plagues**(bird flu, SARS, Salmonella), **stones**(things that trip you up, stumble you), **lions**(things that scare you the most, to run away & not to the Lord) & **snakes**(devil).
- 2.12. (10) **It’s not that we’ll never get hurt, but that we’ll never be harmed!** Wiersbe
- 2.12.1. **We may have to go through the valley, go through the battle, or go through difficulty. But it will not bring evil to us.**
- 2.13. (11,12) This of course is the vs that **Satan** quotes to **Jesus** when he tempted Him.
- 2.14. **Why do we “step down” from God protection to some angels watching over us?**
- 2.14.1. **NOT** a step down...this is still God’s **Miraculous protection.**
- 2.14.2. **Some believe they have a personal guardian angel.**
- 2.14.2.1. Well, you can believe that!
- 2.14.2.2. I’ll take the “**angels**” here referred to.
- 2.14.3. **God is called the Lord of Hosts/armies...speaking of His angels which are under His control & always do His bidding.**
- 2.14.4. **They guard believers & guide believers.**
- 2.15. **We should rest satisfied** they are always intent upon their commission.
- 2.15.1. Throughout Scripture they are always ready to **obey & execute** the commands of God!
- 2.16. **“The child of God is immortal until His work is done.”** Whitefield
- 2.16.1. **Thank God for the invisible ministry of His angels.**
- 2.17. (13) **You shall tread** – not only as a **survivors** but **victors!**
- 2.18. **Now the Assuring life leads to the Abundant Life**(the life of victory & peace)!
- 2.19. **THE ABUNDANT LIFE!** (14-16)
- 2.20. Note change of voice.
- 2.21. **Faith** creates **intimacy** between the believer & the Lord.

- 2.22. (15) **I will be with him in trouble** – Oh, so there will be trouble!
- 2.22.1. Mark it well, “**trouble** has a permitted place”.
- 2.22.2. **Is.43:2** **When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.** And Shadrach, Meshach, & Abedego said Amen!
- 2.22.3. **Every trouble is a shinning ladder up to heaven.** Sidlow Baxter
- 2.23. **The Abiding life, produces the Assuring life**(the life w/o fear), **which leads to the Abundant Life**(the life of victory & peace)!
- 2.24. **End:** **Jesus...its Jim**, story.