

DIVINE SHELTER

TEXT:

Deuteronomy 33:3: Yea, He loved the people; all His saints are in Thy Hand: and they sat down at Thy Feet; every one shall receive of Thy Words.

Deuteronomy 33:12: And of Benjamin he said, The beloved of the LORD shall dwell in safety by him; and the Lord shall cover him all the day long, and he shall dwell between His Shoulders.

Deuteronomy 33:27: The Eternal God is thy Refuge, and underneath are the Everlasting Arms: and He shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.

Our subject is “The Divine Embrace for Protection”.

This God is our Refuge and Dwelling Place for protection to His homeless, wandering pilgrim sheep.

Psalms 90:1: Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.

Psalms 91:9: Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the Most High, thy habitation;

Habakuk 1:12: Art Thou not from everlasting, O LORD my God, mine Holy One? we shall not die. O LORD, Thou hast ordained them for judgment; and, O mighty God, Thou hast established them for correction.

God's Word declares He is above us and underneath us.

God's Word declares He is above us and underneath us. Underneath? Yes, Underneath all the disappointing problems and uncertainties. When friends, hopes, and ambitions fail, when terrifying news of present day evils come like a flood, our God is “underneath” — on earth below as well as in Heaven above us. He has “*everlasting arms*”, which never relax their embrace, never get weary, and never let go. The eternal God is strong and omnipotent, and will carry us along and keep us from falling.

The Eternal God is the Ancient of Days and the Rock of Ages Who is before all things, and by Whom all things consists.

Colossians 1:17: And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist.

Isaiah 44:6: Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and His Redeemer the LORD of Hosts; I am the First, and I am the Last; and beside Me there is no God.

Isaiah 5:25: Therefore is the anger of the LORD kindled against His people, and He hath stretched forth His hand against them, and hath smitten them: and the hills did tremble, and their carcasses were torn in the midst of the streets. For all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand is stretched out still.

Isaiah 14:27: For the LORD of Hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and His hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?

Isaiah 9:17: Therefore the LORD shall have no joy in their young men, neither shall have mercy on their fatherless and widows: for every one is an hypocrite and an evildoer, and every mouth speaketh folly. For all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand is stretched out still.

Exodus 6:6: Wherefore say unto the Children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments:

Exodus 15:16: Fear and dread shall fall upon them; by the greatness of Thine Arm they shall be as still as a stone; till Thy people pass over, O LORD, till the people pass over, which Thou hast purchased.

Deuteronomy 4:34: Or hath God assayed to go and take Him a nation from the midst of another nation, by temptations, by signs, and by wonders, and by war, and by a mighty Hand, and by a stretched out Arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?

Deuteronomy 5:15: And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the Sabbath day.



Deuteronomy 7:19: The great temptations which thine eyes saw, and the signs, and the wonders, and the mighty Hand, and the stretched out Arm, whereby the LORD thy

God brought thee out: so shall the LORD thy God do unto all the people of whom thou art afraid.

Deuteronomy 9:29: Yet they are Thy People and Thine Inheritance, which Thou broughtest out by Thy mighty Power and by Thy stretched out Arm.

Deuteronomy 11:2: And know ye this day: for I speak not with your children which have not known, and which have not seen the chastisement of the LORD your God, His Greatness, His Mighty Hand, and His stretched out Arm,

Deuteronomy 26:8: And the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty Hand, and with an outstretched Arm, and with great terribleness, and with signs, and with wonders:

Deuteronomy 13:17: And there shall cleave nought of the cursed thing to thine hand: that the LORD may turn from the fierceness of His anger, and shew thee mercy, and have compassion upon thee, and multiply thee, as He hath sworn unto thy fathers;

(this repeated at least 20 times in the New Testament.)

Need we be reminded? Yes, Underneath are the Everlasting Arms, strongly holding together in Divine embrace the people of the Lord.

Underneath are the Everlasting Arms. Oh, what comfort, confidence, joy, and assurance of an embrace that is not temporary. This Eternal God is thy beloved Shepherd, as Ezekiel pictures how He goes after the wounded — those being devoured by the wolves of hell — and bears them up in His arms of deliverance and carries them home.

**This
Eternal
God is thy
beloved
Shepherd.**

What He will be to us depends upon our willingness to abide in Him and to call upon Him in trouble.

Isaiah 53:6: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

The Blood avenger is pursuing you in an attempt to destroy your soul and your only chance to be saved.

Do I hear you say, “I’m afraid. I can’t hold out to the end?” Well, bless God, these texts are for you.

Deuteronomy 33:27: The Eternal God is thy Refuge, and underneath are the Everlasting Arms: and He shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.

Jude 1:24-25:

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Now unto Him Who is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the Presence of His Glory with exceeding joy,

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To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

UNDERNEATH ARE THE EVERLASTING ARMS

Beloved, for us to speak of the arms of God is not to run any risk of narrowing or limiting or naturalizing our thoughts of God by the likeness of human ideas. It is a principle of inspired language. We follow it throughout the Bible. Speaking of the attributes of God by illustrations drawn from life, the Holy Spirit brings to our limited conceptions the nearness of God like the astronomer uses his telescope on earth to bring stars near to his power of vision.

Notice how these observatories in God's Holy Word have mounted in them these spiritual telescopes.

Isaiah 41:10: Fear not, for I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am thy God; I will help thee, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My Righteousness. [Note the nearness of His right hand.]

In:

Isaiah 66:13: As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

Through the power lens of Scripture, we understand this transcendent attribute of God. ***“Underneath are the everlasting arms.”*** Most of the Old Testament writers loved to use that stretched-out arm of the Lord frequently as a sign of God's active help extended to His own people. We could find Hezekiah strengthening the heart of his people against the invading Assyrian armies with this grand cry:

2 Chronicles 32:8: With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.

The Psalmist sings joyfully:

Psalms 77:15: Thou hast with Thine arm redeemed Thy people, the sons of Jacob and Joseph. Selah.

Psalms 89:10: Thou hast broken Rahab in pieces, as one that is slain;

Thou hast scattered Thine enemies with Thy strong arm.

Isaiah utters the most tender Messianic prophecy:

Isaiah 40:11: He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.



Thus, when Moses says: “***The Eternal God is***”, we feel these words are full of meaning, and our souls are given a restoring revelation of the Divine Embrace of strength, protection, and permanence.

Again we declare: *The Everlasting Arms are full of strength.*

Isaiah 26:4: Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:

We are so constituted that we depend most positively upon ourselves or upon our friends’ strength to keep us. We search the countenance of another to see if there is a degree of anxiety or of calm composure before leaning on them, to see if their bravery is just pretended and in themselves, or if it is genuine. So often, strength and courage have been planted in us by a word, a look, or a touch from the hand of another. But who can more truly feel the excelling strength of the Divine Embrace when earthly arms have been withdrawn? Our Source of dependence truly prepares us to appreciate the strength of these Everlasting Arms when the arms of flesh have failed.

Hear, especially, the Words of our Heavenly Father in :

Jeremiah 17:5: Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.

The next thing which appeals to my heart is the protection offered in the Everlasting Arms.

Hebrews 13:5: Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Life is dangerous. Men and women under satan’s control are agents of the pit to destroy.

Psalms 27:5: For in the time of trouble He shall hide Me in His pavilion: in the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide Me; He shall set Me up upon a rock.

Haven't moments come to you when the sense of defenselessness has overwhelmed you when you were on the verge of making the most important decision of responsibility, when a mistake would mean ruin, and you found yourself fearful to resort to the peril of human aid? In such a moment, He provided you with supernatural strength when you fled to Him for refuge. There is born within our heart a consciousness, before unknown, of the protection of the everlasting Arms.

Even more beyond this: ***“Underneath are the everlasting arms”***. I rejoice in that “underneath”. It has finality. It completely supports me. It touches bottom, deeper than the depths to which I feel myself sinking. Oh, glorious comfort to my soul, where the highest degree of faith is resting in God.

My restless spirit tried to hold on to the Lord. Now, I have learned and know He holds me in His Everlasting Arms. *“When I am weak, then I am strong”*, for the Master's Word is: ***“My strength is made perfect in weakness.”***

2 Corinthians 12:9: And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Should you not find reality in resting in this Support, too”

Isaiah 48:18: O that thou hadst hearkened to My Commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea:

The degree of our steadfastness depends upon how much the Lord has of us, not the opposite.

“Other refuge have I none, hangs my helpless soul on Thee. Leave, oh leave me not alone. Still support and comfort me. All my trust in Thee is stayed; all my help from Thee I bring. Cover my defenseless head, with the shadow of Thy wing.”

Proverbs 23:6: Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats.

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