LET THE BIBLE SPEAK SERIES
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A Hiding Place
Psa. 32:6-7

In 1929 a young Jewish girl was born in Frankfurt, Germany. Her father realized that the movement beginning to take shape in the early thirties would make living there hazardous, so in 1933 he moved his young family to the Netherlands. His fears were realized with the rise of the Nazi war machine under Hitler. Jews were being exterminated by the thousands. However in 1942 the Nazi’s occupied Amsterdam where the Frank family was living at the time. Because of this it became necessary for the family, along with others (eight in all) to go into hiding. They hid in secret rooms above the pectin and spice business which Mr. Frank helped to run. They called it “the annex.” The entrance to these rooms on the third and fourth floors of the building was concealed by a moving bookcase which could be locked. This was their hiding place, a place of refuge from the Germans. Only a few were trusted with this secret. The youngest of the family, Anne Frank, kept a diary of her two years in the “hiding place.” While there someone betrayed them and the Germans came and carried them away to concentration camps. Anne died in 1945 just a few weeks before the war’s end. Her father Otto Frank was the only one of the eight to survive. He gave permission, and in 1947 Anne’s diary was published. It has been the most widely published and read non-fiction in history, except the Bible.

Man has often needed a hiding place. A place of safety and security. Prov.14:26 “In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.
Psa. 119:114 “You are my hiding place and my shield, I hope in your word.”

I. Examples of God Providing Refuge For Man.

A. Noah and his family found refuge from the flood in the ark.

Heb.11:7 “By faith Noah being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir to the righteousness which is according to faith.”

Noah was the 10th generation from Adam, descending from Seth through his father Lamech. He was a just and upright man, who found grace in the eyes of the Lord. God revealed to Noah his purpose for destroying the world (its wickedness). He gave detailed instructions for the building of the ark. The faith of Noah was truly great in his acceptance of God’s word “concerning things yet not seen.” It was a new and different thing for God to cause it to rain, much less flood. The earth had previously been watered from a mist that rose up from the earth. (Gen.2:5-6) Noah moved with godly fear to obey. He prepared an ark for the saving of his house. By so doing, Noah “condemned the world.”
He did this by preaching the truth to an unbelieving generation; for the truth will either save or condemn those who hear it. His message was rejected.

When the time came, Noah and his family entered the ark. Inside they were safe and found refuge from the storm outside. As the water rose and all life was destroyed, they safely rode out the storm in their hiding place.

B. The Hebrews found security for their firstborn in the land of Egypt by putting the blood of the Passover lamb on the two side posts and on the upper door post of their houses Ex. 12:13. God brought a series of plagues upon Pharaoh and the land of Egypt. But the king refused to let the people go. Finally in Exodus 11 God announced that he would bring yet one more plague upon them, “Afterward he will let you go from here.” Moses declared to the people that “About midnight” God would go out into the midst of Egypt and the first born in all the land of Egypt shall die. From the firstborn of Pharaoh that sits on the throne to the female servant who is behind the handmill, and all the firstborn of all the animals. But, against none of the children of Israel shall a dog move its tongue, against man or beast.

God then gave instructions for the institution of the Passover. Some of the blood from the lamb that was to be slain, was to be sprinkled on the two side door posts and the upper door post where the Passover was to be eaten. “Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.” Ex.12:13 The house with blood on it became a “hiding place” for the children of Israel. God provided them with a place of safety and security from the plague.

C. The Cities of Refuge, Three on Either Side of the Jordan, Provided Protection From the Avenger for Anyone in Israel.

Anyone who killed another accidentally or unintentionally could flee to a city of refuge, where he would be safe and secure from the avenger who pursued him. When he arrived at the gate of the city, he was to declare his case in the hearing of the elders of that city. He was then to be taken into the city and become one of them. If the avenger pursued him, the man was not to be turned over to the avenger, but shall be allowed to stay in the city until he stands before the congregation for judgment, and until the death of the one who is high priest. After this he may return to his own city and own house from which he fled.

These cities became safe havens for countless of individuals who accidentally killed another. They were the “hiding place” in a time of need.

II. God Has Provided A Hiding Place For Us Today.
Heb.6:18 “That by two immutable things in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us.” It appears that the writer of Hebrews saw in the cities of refuge a type of the
refuge which we have in Christ. Today we need refuge from doubt, from trouble, guilt and sin.

A. The Church and the Cities of Refuge.

Only in Christ and His church is refuge found. Christ’s body is the church “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence” Col 1:18. It is Christ who saves, and the church, which is His body, is where He puts the saved. Eph. 5:23 “He is the savior of the body. Acts 2:47 “The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.” Christ has not promised to save anyone today out of his body the church. One is saved, added to the church of Christ, and made a Christian all at the same time when one enters Christ.

To be saved one must believe in Christ Heb. 11:6
Confess Christ--Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:9-10
Baptism into Christ--Gal.3:27.
At baptism one enters Christ and His body the church 1Cor. 12:13 “for by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body.”

The road to the cities of refuge was smooth and plain, accessible to all. Posts and signs and inscriptions were set up directing the way for all. These cities were reached from all parts of the country, and the gates stood open day and night. Just so the way into the church is plain, and accessible to all. It is open at all times, to all men.

B. The Church and the Ark.

The church is often called the “ark of safety,” and there a number of analogies that support such a comparison:
1. Both were built according to specifications provided by God himself.
2. God closed and opened the door of the ark; and God alone opens or closes the door of the church.
3. There was only one door in each case.
4. Safety was in the ark alone; and so it is with the church.
5. The faithful within the ark were delivered from the ruin of the ancient world; the faithful in the church shall be delivered from the final destruction of the world.
6. The ark had one window, one source of light; the church has one source of spiritual illumination, the word of God only.
7. God providentially guided the ark to its destination; and, in the great antitype, the church is providentially guided in the same way, as promised by Christ who promised to be with his disciples “always, even unto the end of th world” Mt.28:18-20.

C. The Church and the Blood on the Door Post.
The safety of the children of Israel in their houses was made possible by the blood of the lamb placed on the door posts.
Our safety in the church is made possible by the blood of Christ. Romans 5:9 “Much more than, having now been justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.” Eph. 1:7 “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” Eph. 2:13 “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” 1Peter 1:18-19 “knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” Rev. 1:5 “…to Him who loved us and washed us in His own blood.” 2Tim. 2:10 “Therefore I endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”

Have you found this “hiding place?”

D. The Christian Home is a Hiding Place for our Children in a Wicked World.

Children today are exposed to the most despicable and hideous deeds known to man, even from early childhood. There are times when they are confronted with difficult choices. Peer pressure pushes and pulls at their hearts in an attempt to draw them away from what is right. It is here that the home plays such a vital role in the development of their character. It becomes a “hiding place” a place of security in troubled times. In order for our homes to be a true “hiding place” the following characteristics should exist:

1. The Right Atmosphere: A Christian home is more than a place where bad things don’t exist. Good things must be there. Gen. 37:4 “They hated him and could not speak peaceably unto him.” (Joseph) Think about growing up in a home where such anger exists. Anytime there is anger, resentment, quarreling, nagging, sullenness, and criticism, the home ceases to be a haven for its occupants. Instead there must be compliments, helpfulness, kindness, gentleness, and cooperation.

2. Security: that is a climate of love. “Until death shall part you” this was the promise made. Often children are torn between two people they love because of divorce, and that security is lost. Safe from the troubles of life, safe from the events of the present that disturb and destroy. Safety and security, a hiding place.

3. Christian Practices: Here such valuable lessons are learned. Offering thanks at meals, reading of God’s Word, regular attendance at services of the church, conversation on the Christian level, and daily practice of Christian virtues and values. All lessons that will do us well when the storms of life threaten and the world presses against us, seeking to destroy our faith.

4. Open Discussion of the Problems We Face: When difficulties come, when the “waters are muddy” there is nothing like talking it over and talking it out.
Encourage children to bring their fears, doubts, and troubles to the family circle for discussion. Such things as sins of the flesh, immodest dress, pressure from peers to drink, smoke, drugs etc. Openly confronting these problems and seeking scriptural solutions will help children through the difficult times of their lives, provide a hiding place for them.

5. A Place Where Christianity is Consistently Practiced:
The power of Christian influence lies in the consistent practice of its precepts and principles. When children know what is expected, know that with consistency it will be practiced, know the limits and guidelines, they will then see home as a “safe haven” a place to hide with the outside world seeks to overwhelm them.