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THE BIBLE VIEW

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Don't Mess With Me! I've Got Bodyguards!

Bill Brinkworth

The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him." Psalm 28:7

I cannot read the first part of Proverbs 28:7 without smiling; as it reminds me of a time in my youth. As a scrawny, 89 pound (when-soaking-wet) kid, I had to be careful who I said what to and where. It would not take much of a bully to teach me a painful lesson because of my sometimes big, provoking mouth.

One day I met a boy much bigger than I. He had a reputation as a tough and rough person, and people had to be careful what they said around him. We became good friends, and I hung around him at home and at school. He had a friend that was also fairly large, and we also became friends.

I found that I was not so shy, quiet, and careful when I was around those two. Sometimes, with one on my left and

the other on my right, I even found myself being brave, trying to be tough, and letting my provoking mouth have its way. I knew I could get away with it, because I had my “bodyguards” protecting me. Any one that wanted to shut my foolish mouth would have to deal with my rough and tough defenders. I certainly felt safe when in that situation.

Soon, I outgrew my “protection” and went on with my life. I went back to wisely watching what came out of my mouth. Then over thirteen years later, something wonderful happened in my life; I was saved!

It was not long afterwards that I started reading my Bible. I learned that I did have to watch what my unkind mouth said; but I also learned that since I now was a child of God, that I had protection all around me. I had no reason to fear, because nothing could happen to me that God did not allow or know about. I was safe and secure.

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

II Tim. 1:7

I learned that:

- *“The LORD is my strength” Prov. 28:7* God will give me strength to face any trial or tribulation this life throws at me. A situation may look frightening and with no hope in sight, but He WILL give me the power to face and defeat my “Goliath” (I Samuel 17)! He has done it thousands of times in my life!

- “...and my shield; ...” *Prov. 28:7* Just like a soldier’s shield shunned any arrows, rocks, or spears thrown at him, the Lord will protect His own from what they face in this life. He is the “shield” that will protect us when we drive down the road, from the plans of our enemies, from sin, and whatever can happen in one’s life.

- Not only do we have God’s protection, but also we have His heavenly host surrounding and protecting us. Angels do God’s bidding on Earth, and protect His own. I am supernaturally protected!

“The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.” Psalm 34:7

- God knows the dangers we will be facing well ahead of time, and will protect us from dangers we may not even know are there! He is our “high tower” observer and defender!

“The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.” Psalm 18:2

It has been a long times since I had my “bodyguards.” However, I am safer and more secure than I have ever been. I have better protection. I have the Lord protecting me, and nothing can happen to me unless it is God’s will;

and if it is God's will, He will give me the strength and grace to face that challenge.

If you are born again, you too can have that security. You can be "safe and secure" as an old hymn reminds us.

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

"When you have accomplished your daily task, go to sleep in peace; God is awake!" — Hugo

There Is Safety in The Lord!

Bill Brinkworth

When a Christian is living a life close to God, he will have guidance, security, and assurance when he needs it. Paul realized this closeness of God several times during his ministry. One such event was recorded in Acts 27:22-24.

In this occurrence, an angel appeared to Paul. He told Paul that although the storm would destroy the boat he was in, he and the other passengers on the boat would survive (Acts 27:22). The prophecy came true.

Many times throughout the Bible, others that were close to God also had God's guidance and assurance of future events. There were many prophetic assurances given to God's people throughout the Bible. These include:

- God showed Abraham that He was going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18:19).

- God told Moses he would not see the Promised Land because of his sin.
- God showed Rebekah she would have twins (Gen. 25).
- God showed Peter how he was to die (II Peter 1:14).

God can give one walking close to Him assurance also about upcoming events these days. Most likely it will not be through angels as was done for Paul, or via dreams as done with others. Today we are to live by faith and the instructions from the Word of God. Now a person is encouraged by a Scripture reading. Other times it is just an unexplainable peace of mind that encourages a person that God will work out a situation in a positive way. Often, it is circumstances that lead one to know that God is in charge of the situation, and that everything will be okay. No matter how God does it, He still looks over and often encourages His own.

“Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right.” — *Author Unknown*

God Used a Spider

Michael Green, Illustrations for Biblical Preaching

The story has been told of a believer, Frederick Nolan, who was fleeing from his enemies during a time of persecution in North Africa. Pursued by them over hill and valley with no place to hide, he fell exhausted into a wayside cave, expecting his enemies to find him soon.

Awaiting his death, he saw a spider weaving a web. Within minutes, the little bug had woven a beautiful web across the mouth of the cave. The pursuers arrived and wondered if Nolan was hiding there. On seeing the unbroken and unmangled piece of spider art, they thought it impossible for him to have entered the cave without dismantling the web; and so they went on.

Having escaped, Nolan burst out of the cave and exclaimed, "Where God is, a spider's web is like a wall! Where God is not, a wall is like a spider's web!"

Safe on the Tree

Michael Green, Illustrations for Biblical Preaching

A vine clings to an oak tree, and in so doing, finds the protection in times of trial that preserves it. If a violent storm should arise and the vine is on the side of the tree away from the wind, the tree serves to protect the vine from the wind, which would otherwise tear it away and rip it into shreds. If the vine is on the exposed side of the tree, the wind serves only to press the vine closer to the tree it already clings to.

In the storms of our life, God will at times set himself between us and the fury of the storm and so protect us from it. At other times, he will expose us to the storm, so that its ravages may serve to press us closer to Him. No matter what happens, we are safe and protected!