

September 15, 2020

A devotion to encourage you today.

There are many images of God within Scripture. Some of these are Creator, Provider, the God who sees, and so many others. Each of us has multiple ways that we view God as well. Today as we spend a moment in devotion I will share with you the image of God the Protector. Read with me from Exodus 14:13-14.

*13 But Moses said to the people, "Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the LORD which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. 14 The LORD will fight for you while you keep silent."*

At this early stage of the Exodus Moses successfully led the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt only to be pursued by the Egyptian Army. The people of Israel are now caught between the proverbial rock and a hard place as Pharaoh's army is behind them and the Red Sea before them. Stuck in the middle are the people of Israel with no apparent place to go. Consequently, they begin to cry out to the Lord because of their fear. The Israelites cried to Moses, "Is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you dealt with us in this way, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the word that we spoke to you in Egypt, saying; 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness'" (Exodus 14:11-12).

So today I have five things for you to remember. First, don't be afraid; 2) salvation is God's to give; 3) the salvation which God gives is public; 4) The Lord will fight to save you (The work of salvation is done by God); and 5) let God be God. Let me briefly explain each of these.

First, don't be afraid. We have no reason to be afraid. Isaiah the prophet recorded these words from God for us; "Do not fear, for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand"(Isaiah 41:10). Jesus explaining God's care declares; "But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Therefore do not fear; you are of more value than many sparrows" (Matthew 10:30-31). God's care and protection for us is eternal. Jesus says in John 10:27-30, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of the Father's hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one" (John 10:27-30).

Next, remember salvation is God's to give. The Psalmist explains, "But the salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; He is their strength in time of trouble" (Psalm 37:39). Paul also writes of God's salvation as a gift, "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Third, the salvation which God gives is public. God does not provide for salvation in dark back rooms or in hidden ways. All of Israel saw the parting of the Red Sea and the destruction of the Egyptian Army. It was not hidden. The crucifixion of Jesus was a public spectacle. Jesus was beaten, spat upon, and debased in a public forum. Jesus was nailed to the cross of execution publicly.

Number four, the Lord will fight for you (the work of salvation is done by God). We see this principle clearly demonstrated in 2 Kings 6:17, "Then Elisha prayed and said, 'O Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see,' And the Lord opened the servants eyes, and he saw; and behold,

the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.” Jesus conquered all of the enemies of His people, most importantly, death. Jesus speaks to John in Revelation these words; “...Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the Living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore, and I have the keys of death and Hades” (Revelation 1:17-18).

Lastly, let God be God. Do not try to approach God with a preconceived idea of who and what God is. Paul writes to us that God said to Moses; “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion” (Romans 9:15). Paul also explains for us that God is completely unsearchable. Paul writes, “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to Him again? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things” (Romans 11:33-36). God’s ways are incomprehensible to us. But God provides us with a protector who is our Savior, Jesus. And Jesus is the only way to know the protection and the assurance of God in our lives. Jesus says; “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me” (John 14:6).

The Israelites were caught in a very difficult situation. In their desperation they cried out to God for salvation from the enemy. God answered their prayers. God will answer your prayers as well. Call out to Jesus now as we pray.

*Compassionate Savior, help each of us to overcome the various trials and troubles of this world. Help all of us to turn to You now through Jesus, our Lord, amen.*

Until the nets are full