

# **GOD IS THE CHRISTIAN'S REFUGE**

**Genesis 3:1-8**

**(Not entirely original with me)**

**Introduction:** Many people have places of safety when danger threatens, such as storm cellars, basements, shelters built to withstand severe weather. Many have back-up plans when things begin to go amiss and they have to back away from some situation. Such places and plans are called places, things of refuge. Something one can turn to when there is danger. God's chosen people had fallen into bad times and God raised up Moses to deliver them from their situation. All through their journey into the land promised to them by God, they encountered many dangers and difficulties but God was with them every step of their 40 year journey. God is the same refuge to the Christian as He was to Israel in the times of their difficulties.

## **I. WHEN UNDER BONDAGE TO EGYPT GOD SENT HELP**

1. God heard the cry of His people and sent Moses to bring them out of their enslavement.
  - Discuss further the situation and the actions of Moses that brought about their release.
2. When a Christian is under attack, by Satan, that person has only to cry out to God in sincerity and God will be that person's refuge, source of safety, strength and renewal.

## **II. WHEN BESIEGED BY ONE'S PAST, GOD IS ONE'S REFUGE**

1. Israel was finally free from bondage and out of Egypt, on their way to the "promised" land but they were being pursued by their former ruler, Pharaoh and the army of Egypt.
  - Moses cried unto the Lord when there seemed to be nothing anyone could do to help or save them.
  - God stepped in and parted the Red Sea for His people to cross safely over and upon their arriving safely on the other side, then closed up the waters and drowned the pursuing enemy.
2. Christians often have sins of their past which pursue them, seeking to overtake and overcome them once again, enslaving them to their old sinful ways.
  - Like Israel, safe on the other side of the Red Sea because of God's intervention, so can the Christian stand on the shore of safety for God has cast all of the Christian's sins into the midst of the sea and the Christian is free from those old sinful habits and ways.

## **III. WHEN IN TIMES OF WANT, GOD IS ONE'S REFUGE**

1. As the children of Israel journeyed into the wilderness, there was nothing to feed them, no brooks or rivers to quench their thirst and would have all died if God had not been with them.
  - No wells, bitter water undrinkable, no food.
  - God brought water out of a rock, sweetened water with a tree branch, rained bread from heaven, sent flesh by the winds (birds), rained down from heaven sweet wafer like seeds to be made into bread.
  - Their clothes never wore out, their sandals never broke
  - The people of Israel went to God for everything for God was their refuge and had only to lift up their voice to Him.
2. It is the same for the Christian.
  - God supplies all the needs of the Christian, never denying essentials.

- No situation is too bad for God to bring one through.
- The Christian has only to go to God with his/her needs or troubles and God can bring relief.
- "They who trust in the Lord God shall not lack any good thing."

#### **IV. WHEN UNDER ATTACK BY ENEMIES, GOD IS ONE'S REFUGE**

1. When passing through areas of their wilderness journey, Israel was attacked by marauders, those who didn't want Israel going through their area/land.
  - Israel wasn't equipped to do battle for they were ill-equipped for war.
  - Moses cried unto God and God told Moses to just hold up his staff and as long as the staff was held up Israel would win the battle.
  - Joshua and the Israelite fighters were victorious over the great army that besieged them.
2. When foes rage against the Christian, he/she has but to go to the Lord God with the coming battle.
  - With God as one's refuge, the weapons of one's enemy cannot hurt nor can the enemy prosper.
  - Christians are going to have enemies and need not depend nor rely upon their own abilities to defend, but go immediately and directly to the Lord with their situation.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

1. As God was the refuge of Israel in their wilderness journey of 40 years before reaching the promised land, so God is the refuge of every Christian, for the Christian is also on a journey to a promised land.
2. As Israel had to call upon God for their needs, so the Christian must also call unto God for his/her every need.
3. As God provided for every need that Israel had on their journey, so God provides for every need of the Christian.
4. When Israel was under attack from an enemy, God always intervened and brought victory to Israel, so it is with the Christian. When under attack from Satan and his forces, the Christian has but to go to God for help and God will bring victory to the Christian.
5. Christian, God is your ONLY permanent, victorious refuge. Do not go to nor rely upon your own skills or those of anybody else, go directly to the Lord God with your situation and be prepared to do whatever God reveals for you to do or not do