

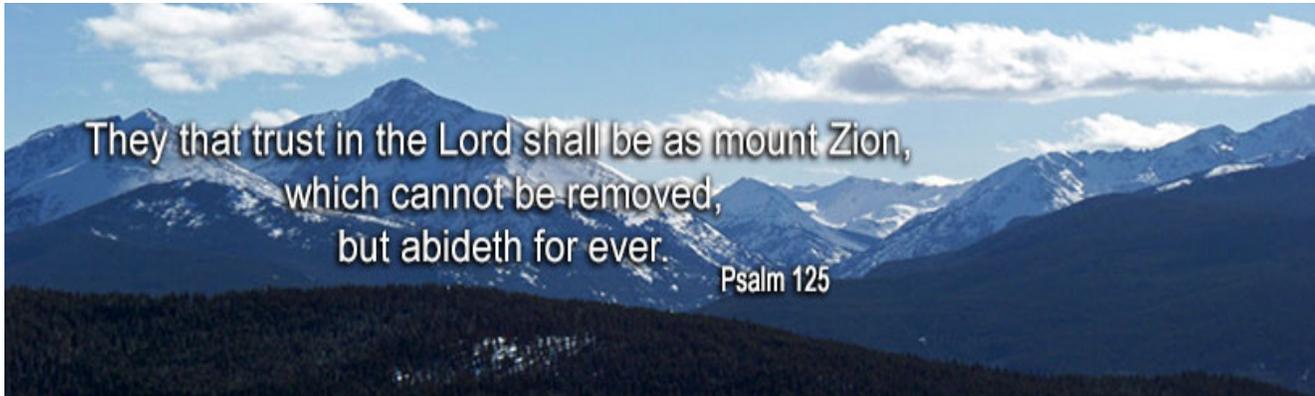
The Corona Chronicle

West Worthing Evangelical Church Rugby Road.

Sunday July 26th.

www.westworthingevangelical.co.uk

Being Church while the Corona Virus emergency is on



A believing Community that finds security in the Lord (Psalm 125v1-2)

The true people of God who believe in the Covenant God are likened to Mount Zion.

To trust the God of Zion is to be eternally secure.

Who do you know that is trustworthy? To have someone who is truly trustworthy means that you have a particular bond with that person. You can't trust a thief or a liar. But you can trust someone who has a track record of integrity, honesty, faithfulness, etc. So, in a very real sense, trust is only as good as the one you put it in.

God is trustworthy. These verses speak about those who trust God

The Lord is always with us. While we sleep, the Lord is awake.

In these days of uncertainty though we cannot see the path ahead of us with all its blessings and troubles, the Lord sees it and guides us through it with His love.

As Sovereign He rules the past and the present and we know He will rule the future.

Verse 1 describes the stability we have when we as Christians are trusting the Lord.

As Augustine said 'Trust the mercy of God. The present to His love and the future to His providence..

In verse 2 The people of God are assured of His protection.

Jerusalem is on a mountain surrounded by mountains. This gives a measure of security from attack. Jerusalem because of her strategic position was difficult to attack although over the centuries it was conquered. It is only when there is the 'New' Jerusalem (Revelation 21) will there be that complete protection for the Lord's people .

In the Old Testament under the Covenant of Moses Israel was promised protection as long as the children of Israel were obedient to the covenant. God promised them various material and physical blessings—on their crops, livestock, children, etc. Deut 28

The Old Covenant was very much concerned with earthly blessings, and physical protection was among them. Throughout the Old Testament, we see God protecting His people in order to bring His plans to pass.

It is important to understand that we are under the New Testament. God does not always promise to keep believers in Christ from all *physical* harm.

Yes there are times when the Lord in His mercy does protect us. In the Acts of the Apostles we read that Paul and Luke were saved from drowning off Malta. (Acts 27) There are certainly times when He does mercifully shield us from situations where we would sustain injury or loss. But today the emphasis in the New Testament is on God's promises to believers and these usually refer to *spiritual* protection.

God does a work in our lives, He quickens us and gives New Life and Saving Faith. We believe in Jesus Christ for salvation, with the Holy Spirit entering our lives. We are sealed for eternity and brought under God's spiritual protection from that moment on.

Our future is secure. We will have setbacks, maybe even backslide but this will in time make our lives miserable. But regardless of our future sins, or the schemes of Satan, we will never lose the salvation God has granted 2 Timothy 1v12.

There is nothing that can ever separate us from God's love. Romans 8v38-39

In addition, we are given freedom from the dominion of sin—we are no longer slaves to sinful thoughts, desires, and actions, but are born into a new life of holiness. Romans 6v22

God's promises

- To guard our hearts and our minds in Christ (Phil4v7)
- To provide strength and perseverance through difficult times. (Galatians 5 v22-23)
- Spiritual tools to fend off the devil's attacks. (Ephesians 6 10-17)

It is right and proper that we do pray for protection and healing from our loving God, as long as we realize that we are under His sovereignty.



We do not know what Paul's 'Thorn in the flesh' was but there are clues:

"To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations." So, God's goal in allowing the thorn in the flesh was to keep Paul humble. Anyone who had encountered Jesus and was commissioned personally by Him (Acts 2v8-9) would, in his natural state, become "puffed up."

Paul also says that the affliction came from or by a "messenger of Satan." Just as God allowed Satan to torment Job (Job 1v1-12 God allowed Satan to torment Paul for God's own good purpose.

Paul sought the Lord three times to remove this 'thorn' from him (2 Corinthians 2v8). But the Lord was more concerned with building Paul's character and preventing pride. Instead of removing the problem, whatever it was, God gave Paul more overwhelming grace and more compensating strength. Paul learned that God's "power is made perfect in weakness" (verse 9).

He knows we are strengthened by the trials that come our way, and in each physical trial, we are assured of His spiritual protection. So, rather than seeking complete physical protection from God, we can agree with James when he says,

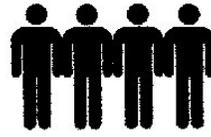
"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance"

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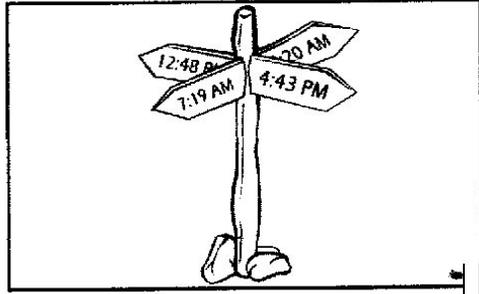
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Hymns, Prayers and Bible Readings.

O Lord, enable us this day to reveal Your glory in all we think, and say, and do; that Your presence may bless and strengthen us all the day long, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Michael Saward

Psalm 125

Those who trust in the Lord
Are like Mount Zion,
Which cannot be moved, but abides forever.
2 As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
So the Lord surrounds His people
From this time forth and forever.
3 For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest
On the land allotted to the righteous,
Lest the righteous reach out their hands to iniquity.
4 Do good, O Lord, to those who are good,
And to those who are upright in their hearts.
5 As for such as turn aside to their crooked ways,
The Lord shall lead them away
With the workers of iniquity.
Peace be upon Israel!

Hymn

Spirit divine, inspire our prayers,
And make our hearts your home;
Descend with all your gracious powers
O come, great Spirit, come!

2 Come as the light reveal our need,
Our hidden failings show,
And lead us in those paths of life
In which the righteous go.

3 Come as the fire, and cleanse our hearts
With purifying flame;
Let our whole life an offering be
To our redeemer's name.

4 Come as the dew, and gently bless
This consecrated hour;
May barren souls rejoice to know
Your life-creating power.

5 Come as the dove, and spread your wings,
The wings of peaceful love,
And let your church on earth become
Blessed as the church above.

6 Come as the wind, with rushing sound
And pentecostal grace,
That all the world with joy may see
The glory of Your face.
Andrew Reed (1787 - 1862)

PRAYING FOR PERSEVERANCE

From 2 Thessalonians 2

God our Father,
in Your love You have given us eternal hope:
encourage our hearts,
and strengthen us
in every good deed and word;
let the Spirit of peace
give us peace at all times
and in every way;
and may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
be with us all. **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR GOD'S PROTECTION

From Psalm 31

**O Lord,
You are our God and we trust in You,
our future is in Your hands.
Deliver us from all evil,
save us from those who would hurt us,
let Your face shine upon us,
and show us Your unfailing love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

RECEIVING GOD'S BLESSING

From Isaiah 26

Trust in the Lord, *your* eternal Rock, and He will
keep *your* mind in perfect peace. Keep faith with Him,
walk with Him, wait for Him, desire Him; reach out to
Him in the night, seek for Him in the morning: and His
blessing be upon *you* always. Amen.

