

# Sermon 15: “The Refuge of God’s Remnant”

By Pastor Ed Anderson

**Opening Hymn: “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” (#506, SDA Hymnal)**

**Closing Hymn: “Under His Wings” (#529, SDA Hymnal)**

**Scripture Reading:** *“Go, my people, enter your rooms and shut the doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until his wrath has passed by. See, the Lord is coming out of his dwelling to punish the people of the earth for their sins. The earth will disclose the blood shed on it; the earth will conceal its slain no longer.”* (Isaiah 26:20-21)

## The Miraculous Survival of the Ten Boom Family

During **World War II**, as Nazi forces swept through Europe, millions of Jews were hunted, arrested, and sent to concentration camps. **Hiding a Jew in your home was a crime punishable by death.**

But in the Netherlands, one faithful Christian family—the **Ten Booms**—believed that obeying God was more important than obeying man. **Corrie ten Boom, her father Casper, and her sister Betsie** turned their home into a **refuge** for Jews fleeing the Nazis.

- They built a **hidden room** in their house—**just big enough for six people to hide.**
- Dozens of Jews and resistance members **escaped death because of their courage.**
- Their home became known as **“The Hiding Place”**—a physical refuge in a time of great danger.

One night in 1944, their worst fears came true—the **Gestapo** raided their home.

- **Corrie, her father, and her sister Betsie were arrested.**
- **But the Jews hiding in their secret room remained undiscovered.**
- **They waited in silence for 47 hours until rescuers came—God had protected them!**

Corrie and Betsie were sent to **Ravensbrück concentration camp**, where Betsie later died. But even there, **God was their refuge.**

- **A Bible smuggled into the camp became a source of strength** for many prisoners.
- Corrie survived and was later released due to a **clerical error—one week before all women her age were executed.**

- After the war, **she traveled the world, preaching about God’s faithfulness** even in the darkest times.

## **A Prophetic Parallel: God’s People in the Last Days**

Just as the Jews sought refuge from the Nazis, **God’s faithful people will need refuge in the coming crisis.**

**Psalm 91:2** – *“I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust.”*

**The Bible warns that persecution will come again** for those who stand for truth. **But just as God protected His faithful in the past, He will shelter His remnant in the final days.**

- **He was Corrie’s refuge—He will be ours.**
- **He hid His people in the past—He will hide His remnant again.**
- **The world may collapse, but God’s people will be safe in His hands.**

**Are you seeking refuge in God today? Let’s turn to Scripture and see how He will shelter His people in the time of trouble!**

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Isaiah 26:20-21 is a message of hope and assurance. As the world faces the consequences of sin, God provides a refuge for His people. Ellen White describes this vividly: *“The faithful will be shielded by God’s power as they wait for His deliverance.”* (Early Writings, p. 56). Today, we will explore how God protects His remnant, what it means to trust in Him as our refuge, and how we can prepare to experience His sheltering care.

## **I. God’s Promise of Protection**

### **A. The Call to Enter the Refuge**

- Isaiah 26:20 describes a specific instruction: *“Go, my people, enter your rooms and shut the doors behind you.”*
- This is a metaphor for God’s protection—a call to trust Him completely during times of judgment.
- It mirrors the protection given to Noah in the ark and the Israelites during the plagues in Egypt.

## **B. God as Our Refuge**

- Throughout Scripture, God is described as a place of safety:
- *"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."* (Psalm 46:1)
- *"You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble."* (Psalm 32:7)
- Ellen White assures us: *"The Lord will preserve His faithful ones and hide them in His pavilion."* (Early Writings, p. 56)

## **C. The Time of Wrath and Judgment**

- Isaiah speaks of God's judgment upon the earth—a time when sin will be punished, and His justice revealed.
- During this time, God's faithful remnant will be sheltered, just as He shielded His people in the past.

# **II. Examples of God's Protection**

## **A. Noah and the Ark**

- In the days of Noah, God provided a physical refuge through the ark.
- While the floodwaters destroyed the wicked, Noah and his family were safe because they trusted and obeyed God's instructions.

## **B. The Israelites in Egypt**

- During the ten plagues, God protected the Israelites, especially during the final plague.
- The blood on the doorposts was a sign of their faith and obedience, and the angel of death passed over their homes.

## **C. Daniel in the Lions' Den**

- Daniel's faithfulness in worshiping God resulted in God shutting the mouths of the lions.
- This story reminds us that God's power is greater than any threat we face.

# **III. Trusting God as Our Refuge**

## **A. Surrendering All Fears**

- Fear is a natural response to uncertainty, but God calls us to surrender our fears to Him.
- *"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine."* (Isaiah 43:1)

- Ellen White encourages us: *“In the darkest of times, the faithful will be calm and secure, trusting in the promises of God.”* (Early Writings, p. 56)

### **B. Reflecting on Past Protection**

- Reflect on moments when God protected you in the past.
- These testimonies of His faithfulness strengthen our trust in Him for the future.

### **C. Walking in Faith and Obedience**

- Trusting God as our refuge means living in obedience to His Word.
- Like Noah, the Israelites, and Daniel, our faithfulness will prepare us to experience His protection during the final crisis.

## **IV. Practical Application: How to Trust God as Your Refuge**

### **1. Surrender Your Fears:**

- Bring your fears, anxieties, and uncertainties to God in prayer.
- Claim promises like Psalm 91:2: *“I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.’”*

### **2. Reflect on Past Protection:**

- Write down instances where God protected or guided you in the past.
- Share these testimonies with others to strengthen your faith and theirs.

### **3. Live in Obedience and Faith:**

- Trusting God as your refuge means following His commandments and living according to His Word.
- Like Noah, Daniel, and the Israelites, our obedience is a sign of our trust in Him.

## **V. Takeaway: God Is a Refuge and Fortress for His Faithful People**

As the world faces judgment and chaos, God’s remnant can rest in His promises. He is our refuge, our fortress, and our deliverer. Ellen White assures us: *“The angels of God will provide a safe haven for His faithful ones, shielding them from harm.”* (Early Writings, p. 56)

## **The Miracle of the Waldensian Refugees**

Centuries before the Protestant Reformation, there was a group of believers who stood firm in the truth **even when the world was against them**. They were known as **the Waldensians**, a faithful remnant who refused to bow to the corrupt teachings of Rome.

For their commitment to **the Word of God**, they were **hunted, persecuted, and slaughtered**. The Catholic Church declared them **heretics**, and armies were sent to wipe them out.

In the year **1655**, the Duke of Savoy ordered an attack on the Waldensians. **Thousands were massacred in their villages**—men, women, and children. But a **small group escaped into the mountains**, seeking refuge in the **Alps of northern Italy and France**.

- **They fled in the dead of night, carrying only what they could.**
- **They hid in caves, forests, and high-altitude valleys, trusting God to protect them.**
- **Soldiers pursued them, but God performed miracles to shield them.**

One of the **most astonishing miracles** occurred at a place called **the “Barred Valley.”**

- The enemy troops **surrounded them**, cutting off all escape.
- The Waldensians **prayed for deliverance**, knowing they had no way out.
- Suddenly, **a thick fog rolled in**, covering them completely.
- Under the cover of darkness, they **escaped into the mountains**, while their enemies were left searching in confusion.


The **Waldensians survived** because they placed their trust **not in fortresses made by man, but in the eternal refuge of God**.

Many years later, **Ellen White would write about them:**

*“Amid the deep solitudes of the mountains, in the secluded valleys and rocky strongholds, God provided for His persecuted children.”* (**The Great Controversy, p. 65**)

## **A Prophetic Parallel: The Final Refuge**

Just as **God protected the Waldensians**, He has promised to protect **His faithful remnant in the last days**.

 **Isaiah 26:20** – *“Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.”*

There **will come a time when the world will turn against God's people, when we will be called to flee, but God will be our refuge!**

- He **was the refuge for Noah in the flood**—He will be our refuge.
- He **was the refuge for Daniel in Babylon**—He will be our refuge.
- He **was the refuge for the Waldensians in the mountains**—He will be our refuge!

## **The Final Appeal: Will You Take Refuge in God?**

I have seen a world filled with fear, but I choose to rest in God's promises.

I have seen people trusting in governments, money, and security, but I choose to take refuge in Christ alone.

I have seen the warnings of prophecy unfold, and I will not wait until it's too late to find my shelter in the Most High.

The world is crumbling, but my faith will not be shaken.

The nations rage, but I am hidden under His wings.

The storm is coming, but my house is built upon the Rock.

**Psalm 46:1** – *“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”*

## **The Time to Choose is Now**

My friends, the world is **shaking**, but God's people will **stand firm**.

The enemy is **raging**, but God has **already won the victory**.

The storm is **approaching**, but those who take refuge in God **will be safe**.

Tonight, I stand before you with **three calls**—three decisions that will define your eternity. The final crisis is upon us, and now is not the time to wait.

If you hear **the voice of God calling you**, do not hesitate. **Come forward today**.

## **The Call to Baptism – Enter the Ark of Safety**

**In Noah's day, the door of the ark closed, and it was too late.**

**In Lot's day, the fire fell, and there was no turning back.**

**In the last days, probation will close—will you be inside the refuge of Christ?**

**Acts 22:16** – *“And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on His name.”*

Tonight, some of you **have been running from God** for too long. You've heard His call, but **you've put it off**. Maybe you're afraid. Maybe you think you need more time. But I tell you **now is the time!**

**No more running. No more delaying.** Jesus is calling you to surrender fully and be baptized into His saving grace.

If you have never been baptized, or if you know you need to **rededicate your life through baptism, come forward now.**

**Walk forward into the refuge of Jesus.** He is waiting for you with open arms. **Will you answer His call?**

**If God is speaking to your heart, do not resist. Come now.**

### **The Call to Recommitment – Come Back to the Refuge**

Maybe some of you **have already been baptized**, but along the way, you've drifted.

You've allowed the cares of this world to **weigh you down**.

You've allowed fear and doubt to **cloud your faith**.

You've let go of **your first love**, but tonight, Jesus is calling you back.

**Jeremiah 3:22** – *“Return, faithless people; I will cure you of backsliding.”*

If you know you've **wandered**—if you've been living life on your own terms, but you're ready to come back into the **refuge of Christ, this is your moment.**

**It's time to recommit. It's time to say, “Lord, I give my life back to You.”**

**If you feel the Spirit convicting you, step forward now and say, “Lord, I am Yours.”**

## **The Call to Serve – Be God’s Hands and Feet**

The remnant are not just **saved**—they are **sent**.

- Noah **warned the world** before the flood.
- Moses **stood in the gap** for God’s people.
- The disciples **turned the world upside down** with the gospel.

God is looking for **faithful men and women** who will **stand in these final days** and be His voice.

**Isaiah 6:8** – *“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’”*

**Will you be one of them?**

**Will you say, “Lord, use me”?**

- If you feel God calling you to serve,
- If you know He has given you gifts for ministry,
- If you want to be used in a mighty way in these last days...

**Come forward now and say, “Lord, I will go.”**

## **Come Now – The Refuge is Open**

**The door of the ark is still open—but it won’t be forever.**

**The time to decide is now—before the storm breaks.**

**Whether you are coming for baptism, recommitment, or to serve—step out in faith NOW.**

**The Spirit is calling. The Lord is waiting. The time is short.**

**Come now.** This is your moment of decision.

(Begin playing a soft instrumental hymn like *“I Surrender All”* or *“Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling”* as people come forward.)

## **Final Prayer for Those Who Have Responded**

**Psalm 46:1** – *“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”*

**Father in Heaven, You see those who have come forward tonight.  
Some have stepped out to be baptized—seal their decision in Your book of life.  
Some have returned to You—welcome them home with open arms.  
Some have answered the call to serve—empower them for Your mission.**

**Let us not leave this place the same. May we walk in Your refuge, covered in Your protection, and filled with Your Spirit until we meet You face to face.**

**In Jesus’ name, Amen.**