

A MAN OUR HIDING PLACE

ISAIAH 32:1-2 • TV-348A

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By

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Isaiah 32:1-2

“Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment. And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.”

I’m going to be speaking to you today on the subject: **“A MAN OUR HIDING PLACE.”**

Now, I brought a message on this subject and from this text to our congregation in Ashland not so very many weeks ago and it was well received. Many people received a great blessing from this message and many ordered tapes of the message.

We’re going to be looking at **Isaiah chapter 32**, the Scripture says; *“Behold, (let me have your attention) a man shall reign in righteousness and a man shall be as a hiding place from the wind and the shelter from the storm as rivers of water, (as streams of water) in a dry place, and as the shadow (shade) of a great rock in a weary land.”*

Now, it may be; (listen to me a moment) it may be that some of you do not feel a need for this particular message or for what I have to say today but I encourage you to listen because I assure you that you will someday have a need for this message. The need will definitely arise in your life.

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Someday you're going to need a hiding place from the wind. Someday you are going to need a shelter in the time of storm. Someday you will need some fresh water, some cool water, in a dry and thirsty land. And someday you'll be looking for shade in the wilderness.

Did you hear the Scripture? It says; *"A man shall be a hiding place from the wind, a shelter from the storm, rivers of (refreshing water) water in a dry land and the shade of a great rock, a shelter in a weary land."*

Now the first reference and initial application of this Scripture is to Hezekiah. Hezekiah was a good king. He was king of Israel. And God is promising here through the prophet Isaiah that he would deliver Israel from the hand of their enemies, the Assyrians, through this great king Hezekiah. That's the first reference now.

But the second reference and always, like all Scripture in the Old Testament; anytime you are reading the Old Testament from Genesis to Malachi remember this; they all speak of Christ; *"To Him give all the prophets witness."*

It doesn't matter where you're reading in the Old Testament, in the Psalms, in the major prophets, in the minor prophets, if you're reading Moses, the Proverbs, the Ecclesiastes, or wherever you're reading; the primary purpose of that Scripture is to reveal Christ Jesus. These things are written concerning Him.

And this Scripture refers to the Messiah who is the sinner's Saviour, the sinner's Redeemer. Hezekiah's victory over the enemies of Israel is only a picture of our Lord's victories over the enemies of His church.

He is truly our hiding place from the wind of evil and sin. Christ is our hiding place. He's the man Christ Jesus, the King and the God-man. He is our shelter from the wrath of God against our sins.

He is the water of life. He said; *"I am the water of life. Come unto me and drink."* He said to the woman at the well; *"If you knew to whom you were speaking for you'd ask of me and I'd give you living water. I am the water of life."*

He's the water in a dry land. And he's the great rock of ages on which we build and in which we hide. He's the cleft of the rock in which we hide.

But now here, here is where I want to camp today:

First of all: This Scripture says, *"A man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land."*

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The Lord Jesus Christ is a hiding place from the wind. He's a shelter from the storm. He's streams of water in a dry and thirsty land. And He's a shade, a shelter in the wilderness

And as I said, Hezekiah was the king of Israel. Christ our Messiah, our Redeemer, the sinner's Saviour who has delivered us effectually and sufficiently from all these powers of evil, all of them; "*There's no condemnation (no judgment) to them who are in Christ.*"

But here is where I want to look now. This Scripture is also a word of comfort to the believer. It is a word of comfort to the child of God. When I read the Scripture I see here some comfort for every believer because the words of our text; (now listen to me) the words of our text are a true description of life on this earth; are they not, winds, storms, dry places, a weary land?

Do those words not describe life on this earth, life here at this present time, winds, storms, dry places, a weary land?

I'll tell you this; someone wrote one time; "He who reckons on a peaceful calm in this life from the cradle to the grave is either a fool or a dreamer." That's right! The man who reckons on a smooth, calm, peaceful life, from the cradle to the grave; he's either a fool or he's a dreamer.

Now you may start off life; you may set sail in life on a sea as smooth as glass but before this journey's over your ship is going to reel to and fro. And the journey is going to be perilous. And the fury of the storm is going to be felt and the power of the wind.

And before this journey's over you may even think your ship will sink. These are storms and trials in the lives of believers. The Bible teaches that. I know that's not the popular preaching on television today but it's nevertheless, it's the teaching of God's Word.

Our Lord said, "*In this world ye shall have tribulation.*" He told His disciples; "They're going to persecute you and despise you and say all manner of evil against you. Men will hate you. They'll cast you out of the synagogue. You're going to have trouble."

Paul spoke in the book of **Acts** and said this; he said that "*Believers are exhorted to continue in the faith knowing that we must through much tribulation enter the kingdom of heaven.*" That's talking to believers. Apostles were exhorting believers to continue in the faith, knowing, don't quit, don't give up, and don't faint.

David said; "*I would have fainted if I had not believed to see the goodness of God in the land of the living.*" So, I'm going to wait on God. But here He said; "*Believers are exhorted to continue in the faith, (to go on, go on) because we through much tribulation will enter into the kingdom of God.*"

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Job said, “*Man that is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble.*” The Scripture says; “*They that would live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer, shall suffer persecution.*” And Peter said this; “*Count it not strange when fiery trials come upon you to try your faith.*”

But here we have the promise that in these times of wind and storm and dry places in a weary land we have a hiding place. “*A man shall be a hiding place from the wind, a shelter from the storm, a stream of water (refreshing water) in a dry place and a shadow (shade) in a weary land.*”

Now let’s, first of all; I have two or three points I want to give to you but first of all let’s look at this description of trials and tribulations. These words are significant, very significant.

First of all: The word wind, “*A man shall be a hiding place from the wind*”

And then there are the storms and then there are the dry places and then there’s the weary land. What does the wind signify in the life of a believer? Well; how mysterious is the wind. Our Lord said of the wind, “*You can’t tell whence it cometh and you can’t tell where it goes.*”

And some of our troubles and trials are like this; they’re mysterious like the wind. We’re disturbed; we’re depressed by causes for which we cannot account. Someone says, “You’re not happy, why?” “I don’t know why.” “Well, you’re discouraged, why?” “I don’t know why.”

There’s confusion of mind and heart. Do you ever experience this? They call it, “nerves.” They call it, “emotions” and they call it, “depression.” They call it whatever. But have you ever been there?

David was. In **Psalm 42** David said this; “*Why are you cast down my soul? Why are you disquieted within me?*” Why do you mourn, unhappy, distressed, discouraged, and fearful, for no apparent reason, causes unknown? That’s the wind.

I have plenty to eat. I have good clothes to wear. I have a car to drive. I have friends. I have whatever. But I have troubles. That’s the wind.

And then the storms; now these are real; we know where these come from. We know about these storms of life, the rocky places. Our sins cause us great anguish and grief. David said, “*My sins are ever before me.*” Paul said, “*When I would do good evil is present with me. O wretched man that I am. Who shall deliver me from this body of death, (sickness)?*”

Hezekiah was sickened to death and turned his face to the wall and wept before God. Jacob said, “*I am bereaved of my children. My children have broken my heart.*”

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And then the death of a loved one; can't you just hear David as he stood out there on the mountain that day when the man came to him and told him that his son Absalom was dead. Oh, how the king loved that boy, how he loved that boy.

"This is a man after God's own heart." This is a man who knew God. And he stood out there and looked into the heavens and said, *"O Absalom my son, my son Absalom; would God I had died for you. (I wish I had died instead of you)."*

Old age; any of you out there know anything about its pains and its distresses and its weaknesses and its difficulties? These are storms, these are storms. There's the wind, there's the storms.

And then; do you know anything about the dry places? Are there times; I'm talking to believers now, are there times when the flesh is strong and the spirit is weak? Our Lord accused His disciples of that; He said; *"The spirit is willing and the flesh is weak."*

There are times when study is a chore, when reading the Bible is difficult. Are there times when your heart is cold and the joy is gone? Are there times when prayers, when you feel like your prayers are just words, just empty words that's all, empty words?

Are there times when the well seems so dry and God seems so far away? Oh I know; I hear people singing that little silly song, "Happy All the Time;" I don't believe a word of it, "Happy All the Time, Happy All the Time."

David wasn't. In **Psalm 63:1** he said, *"O my God, my soul thirsteth for thee. My flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land."*

In **Psalm 77:8-9** he said, listen to this; *"Is God's mercy clean gone? Does His promise fail? Has God forgotten to be gracious?"* Listen, *"Has God in anger shut up His tender mercies against me?"* This is David.

And then John Newton, the man who wrote Amazing Grace wrote this, he said:

**"Tis a point I long to know
And often it gives me anxious thought
Do I love the Lord or no?
Am I His or am I not?"**

Have you ever been there? Do you know anything about the dry places?

And then He says something about a weary land. And this world does not become a weary land; it is a weary land. There'll be times for all believers when sorrows will outnumber your joys; I promise you that. There'll be times when pain will exceed

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pleasure. There'll be times when you have more lonely hours than you do hours of fellowship.

There'll be many times in your life, maybe not now, but the times coming when tears will come a lot easier than laughter and when nights grow longer and days grow shorter.

And then there will come a time when you need others a whole lot more than they need you. That's a weary land. Yea; I reckon it's so, don't you? We must through much trouble and tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

But for all these troubles there is deliverance. That's what I'm saying. I'm glad I don't have to stop there. I'm glad that's not the end of this message. I thank God that that's not the end because He said; "*A man, a man shall be a hiding place from that wind,*" that mysterious, mysterious trial that comes upon us. There's a hiding place. There's a place to hide. And there's a shelter when that storm comes; there's a shelter.

And when you walk into those dry places there's a stream. If you knew where the stream, if you knew where it is would you take a drink? And there's a rock. There's a shadow of a great rock in a weary land.

I didn't read the whole text a while ago; Christ said; "*In the world you'll have tribulation but, be of good cheer, (be of good comfort), I've overcome this world.*"

I didn't read all of what David said a while ago, he said; "*Why are you cast down my soul? Why are you disquieted in me? Why do you mourn and grieve my soul?*" Then he said, "*Hope thou in God.*"

Those blessings will yet come to pass. Our Lord said; "*I'll never forsake you. I'll never leave you. I'll be with you in troubles.*" The song writer said:

**"I'll be with you, your troubles to bless
And I'll sanctify to you, your deepest distress."**

My friends; when the mysterious winds of trouble blow and when the storms of life are just attacking your little vessel to where you don't think it will stay afloat and when you walk through dry places and lonely hours in a weary land, flee to Christ. Meet Him at the mercy seat.

Don't let your troubles take you away from the only hiding place. May your troubles cause you to flee to the hiding place, not run from it, but flee to it. May your trying times be seeking times because Christ is the only strength, the only hiding place, the only shelter, the only refuge, the only water, the only shade.

**"From every stormy wind that blows
From every swelling tide of woe**

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**There is calm, a safe retreat
And it's found in Him our mercy seat.**

**Where can my soul flee for aid?
When trouble and desolate and dismayed?
When winds and storms would defeat
Well peace is found in Him our mercy seat."**

That's where the Lord said, "*I will meet you.*" He said over there in the book of **Exodus** and I will tell you the Old Testament is such a beautiful picture of Christ our Lord. God said to Moses in **Exodus 25**; "*Moses; make a mercy seat over the ark. Put in the ark the tables of stone, (the Ten Commandments). Put the mercy seat over the ark. Make it of pure gold and I will meet you at the mercy seat. Sprinkle the blood on the mercy seat and I'll meet you there and I will commune with you and I will meet you in affection.*"

And over in the New Testament Paul wrote in **Romans chapter 3**; "*God hath set forth Christ to be our propitiation (our mercy seat) through faith in His blood.*" Christ is our mercy seat!

Don't allow the trial, the storm, to take you away from the only refuge, the only fountain of grace. But allow the trial to take you to Him, to Christ. This is when I need the Redeemer.

When the wind blows that is when I need a hiding place. When the storm rages; that's when I need the shelter. There is a song, "Just When I Need Him Most;" well when do I need Him most, when the wind blows? When do I need Him most, when the storm rages?

When the ground is dry is when I need the living water. When the sun is hot that is when I need the shade. And do you understand this? Do you understand that this is the work of the Lord Jesus Christ? This is why He came.

Paul said in **1 Timothy**; "*This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance that He came into the world to save sinners. He came into the world to seek and to save the lost.*" He came into the world to redeem the lost.

He's the Saviour of sinners. He's the Mediator for the helpless. He's atonement for sinners. He's the High Priest for the guilty. Do you see that?

What's a hiding place for? A hiding place is to protect. What's a shelter for? I was raised in south Alabama where they have a lot of storms and tornadoes. And many people there have storm shelters. They build them out in the back yard.

They dig a place down in the ground and put cement in it and a top over it, you know, level with the ground. And when the storm begins to rise over here in a certain area

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everybody will go into their storm shelter. That's what it's for. That's why it's provided. And that's what I say to you, Christ is the shelter.

What's water for? Water's for the thirsty. What's shade for? Shade's for the weary. And this is our Lord's greatest glory, His greatest glory; His mercy to His people.

What is the glory of the sun? You see the sun shining there in the heavens; what is the greatest glory of the sun? Why, to warm and to give life and to make plants grow. That's the glory of the sun. When the sun warms the earth and causes life to grow and plants to grow; that's the glory of the sun.

And the glory of a hiding place is to comfort. The glory of a shelter is to protect. The glory of water is to satisfy. The glory of a rock is to provide shelter. And the glory of Christ is to show mercy to His people and grace to His people and comfort His people and redeem His people.

Moses said to the Lord one day; *"Lord show me your glory."*

Now I'll tell you; Moses has seen some marvelous things. Moses has seen the river turn to blood. He'd seen the sky go black in the middle of the day. He'd seen the Red Sea part.

He had seen a whole army drown in that sea trying to catch Israel. He'd seen a rock give forth water. He'd seen a lot of things. But this man wanted to see God's chief glory.

And the Lord told Moses in **Exodus 33**; *"And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy. And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live. And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts (just a reflection of it, just the back parts of it. There's no way I can describe it) but my face shall not be seen."*

And here's what He said; *"I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy."* That is God's great and chief glory is to be gracious and to show mercy.

Do you see that? His strength is made perfect in my weakness. That's why Christ became a man. He's a Saviour because we're sinners. He's faithful because we're unfaithful. He's full because we're empty.

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And He supplies us with all the fullness. *“In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily and we (you’re) are complete in Him.”* He’s strong because we’re weak. He’s holy because we’re unholy. We find all our need met in Him.

Do you understand that? It’s not at the front of the church where our needs are met; it’s in Christ. It’s not in the hand of a preacher that our needs are met; it’s in a person, a man, the God-man, the Redeemer.

It’s not counting my beads. It’s not going to Confessional. It’s not talking to a human being; my needs are met in Him who is my Redeemer. Do you understand that? Flee to Christ. Don’t let your troubles take you to the arm of the flesh. Let your troubles take you to Him who is your strength.

A man shall be a hiding place from the wind and a shelter from the storm, precious, refreshing, water in this dry, dry, famine, infested, land, and a shade, a weary, shade in a weary land, a cool, refreshing shade where I can rest under the rock and be confident.

And let me show you this; you say, “Why do we have so many troubles?” I’ll tell you this; do you know what makes water most precious, drought? Do you know what makes a shelter most precious, a storm? Do you know what makes a shade most precious, a burning sun?

And that’s what I’m saying; *“To whom much is forgiven He’ll love much.”* And that man or woman who has gone through storms and winds and trials and trouble and found a refuge in Christ and found satisfaction in Christ and found all he needs in Christ; boy I’ll tell you, He loves Him and appreciates Him and can praise Him and give Him all the glory!