

jul 14

familiar friday - under the shadow of the almighty

don't we all love psalm 91 and how it speaks of the protection that can be found in our Lord. "a thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you." psa 91:7

there's that and so much more available to those who trust their God and believe He is able to deliver.

there's daniel in the lion's den, in the midst of ravenous beasts who dare not feast. there's the three faithful hebrew children who would not bow to an idol. they were not delivered from the fiery furnace, but there was a fourth who walked with them so they were not consumed. then there's joseph, betrayed into slavery, who remained true to our Lord and was elevated to the second command in all of egypt.

you know me and my stories. well, i have another one for you. are you ready?

there was an article in the national geographic several years ago. it provided a penetrating picture of God's protection. after a forest fire in yellowstone national park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage. one ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree.

somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked over

the bird with a stick. when he gently struck it, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings. the loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise.

she could have flown to safety but refused to abandon her babies. when the blaze had arrived and the heat had scorched her small body, the mother had remained steadfast. because she had been willing to die, those under the cover of her wings would live.

what was it Jesus spoke over jerusalem and in so speaking, speaks to us all now? "how often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!"
matt 23:37

our Lord wants to be our protector, our rescuer. He wants to rescue us not only from eternal separation (meaning damnation), but also from this world. Jesus, like the mother hen, gave His life that we might live. just as the mother took her statuesquely stand in the face of imminent death, our savior uttered not a word of defense for Himself. He took our offenses upon Him.

i don't know if hens have a language or not but i can just hear that mother chirping in anguish now, beckoning her little ones to gather under her wings for protection. and i can hear our Jesus beckoning us all now. "come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy

laden, and I will give you rest." matt 11:28 I will give you protection from the wrath to come.

there are those who will while others run about excitedly, even venturing into the flames that would consume them. but the offer still stands. it is a whole heartened open invitation to "whosoever will".

because of Him we have lives changed, testimonies given and God glorified.

"i was delivered out of the mouth of the lion." tim 4:17

"when you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you." isa 43:2

"He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives." luke 4:18

He will not only save and deliver us, He will elevate us to kingdoms and authorities even joseph never dared to dream of.

the invitation is for now, but the age of this "amazing grace" is quickly closing. i don't know what determines the close of this age. the word says simply says: "the fullness of the gentiles". but is it time? is it a number of souls to be saved? or is it a measure of sin that must be met? "the secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever."
deut 29:29

let us grasp the things revealed to us. "you know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times." matt 16:3 we know how to discern the seasons, and it is the winter of this age, deep into winter.

"He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge." - psa 91:4

where do you want to be found - when the storm is raging, when all your other supports have failed, when judgment is coming and you stand before the judge? when all your life and deeds are under review and nothing can be hidden.

i know where i want to be - under His wings - under the blood. if you are hearing that chirping call now, come running. danger is imminent!