

**The Lord Our Safety and Strength**  
Harmony M.B.C., October 2, 2011 (Morning)  
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**Proverbs 18:10** The name of the LORD *is* a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

It doesn't take a leap of imagination to realize that the writer is drawing us a word picture here of how the believer should see the Lord. It is also a description of what the Lord truly is. So, we should be able to not only see that our God is everything the believer needs for strength and security; but it is also imperative for our spiritual well-being that we SEE these truths about our Lord, and think and act accordingly. This is the subject we want to consider today. May our mighty God open our minds and hearts to the truth contained in this verse.

**I. Notice first that scripture is plainly referring to the character of the Lord as the great strength and source of security the believer can rely on** (“the name of the Lord” is an allusion to what God is famous for - see **Isaiah 9:6** - note: we sometimes think of what is written in this verse as being the “names” of our Lord, but the verse uses the singular although several titles of the Lord are given in it - that is because His name is all these things...and more!)

- The imagery in our text: in olden days, the natives of a province could find sure safety in only one place when marauders and foreign armies came into the land. They would flee at once to the fortified castle that was built for the very purpose of protecting them as subjects of the local governor or king. This is the “strong tower” of our text.
- Like a strong tower, the Lord is a source of safety because He cannot and will not be stormed and defeated (He is omnipotent)
  - Discuss both temporal security and eternal security for believers
- Like a strong tower, the Lord stands alone as the one haven above all others
  - (He is the only true Lord with truly Lordly powers)
- As a strong tower has numerous features that protect those who flee to it for protection, our Lord is possessed of all that is needed to provide everything His people need for safety and protection
- He has walls of Providences to repel and divert the attacks of the foes and enemies of the people He protects
  - Illustrate: George Washington - at least 5 notable Providential interventions which preserved his life: Let's look at three: 1) caught smallpox and lived in an

era when smallpox was certain death for well over 90% of victims, 2) was shot at from 15 yards away by a traitorous Indian guide using a musket and was missed, 3) in the battle of Monongahela during the French and Indian War, (1755-1763) the French were firing on the troops with Washington, and they had a band of Indian soldiers hiding on the bank of the river who were killing the entire army with sniper fire. Then they were given strict orders to start shooting at Washington as he rode among his troops. They shot hundreds of rounds at him, but he was never hit (four bullets through his coat; two horses shot out from under him). In 1770 an Indian chief who was with these snipers told Washington that they came to the conclusion that he was being protected by the Great Spirit and could not be killed in battle, because the majority of those Indian snipers who were killing soldiers all around him with almost every shot could not hit him even though they began targeting him alone.

▶ Paul the Apostle was just starting his missionary life's work when a bunch of Jews caught him in Lystra and stoned him to death - or so they thought. (**Acts 14**). But as his helpers stood around him talking about what they needed to do, he rose up off the ground and they went on their way.

- The Lord as our strong tower has engines of war on the ramparts to target the powers that come against His people (the weapons of His warfare are not carnal but spiritual; but they can have temporal or physical consequences)
  - ▶ Last Sunday night I told you about a huge Assyrian army (**2 Kings 19**) that was about to wipe out Jerusalem. But in the middle of the night, God sent a destroying angel into the camp of the Assyrian army and killed 185,000 of these enemies of the Lord, and sent the rest fleeing back to Assyria
  - ▶ The hyper-Pharisee named Saul of Tarsus would waste the church of the Lord and kill and scatter its members, but the Lord, our strong tower, topples him with a single sentence and drops him on his face on the dusty road to Damascus, forever changing the course of history, and the fate of the church.
  - ▶ King Herod would try to become famous and favored by killing off the apostles and making great speeches about his progress against the purposes of God, but on a certain day God our strong tower launches the lowliest and weakest of his weapons against this blasphemer. A simple case of parasitic worms lays him in the grave and all his presumption against the Lord and His people is brought to nothing.
- The Lord as our strong tower has sustenance for His people within Himself to feed, water, and nourish them when they are under siege
  - ▶ Truly, our Lord prepares a table before us in the presence of our enemies; may He help us to see it and drink and eat what He has provided!

- ▶ In Elijah's darkest hour (**1Kings 19**), when he had given up on himself and curled up in apparent despair a day's journey into the wilderness, the Lord our strong tower sent an angel with a pitcher of water to cook him some hoe cakes on a fire; so he was watered and fed in a hostile place.
- ▶ Again, a widow in Zarephath was starving to death with her young son when the Lord intervened to provide her and her son, and Elijah with a constant supply of meal (**1Kings 17**)

■ He closes the gates and raises the drawbridge and shuts off access to those who are uninvited when His people are safe within

- ▶ There are no liars, deceivers, phonies, or pretenders in our Strong Tower. Only those who are invited there and to whom the door is opened are allowed entry. So, there is no threat from within the protective walls of our Lord.

**II. Now, let's notice (because of the strength and protective power that our God provides) what the believer's behavior should be regarding this truth ("...the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.")**

■ We should look to God for all the things His character provides

■ In **Psalms 18:2** we find a statement by the Psalmist that should be considered a companion verse to our text: "The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, *and* my high tower."

- ▶ My Rock - the One who gives a solid foundation no matter where you are as long as you are standing on Him

- ▶ My Fortress - the One who provides impenetrable protection from all things (forces) that attack

- ▶ My Deliverer - the One who can and does snatch us out of all perils

- ▶ My Strength - The Source of all meaningful strength (notice that here the Psalmist seems to highlight the fact that he has learned to rely on the Lord his strength...not his own strength)

- ▶ My Buckler - my Body Shield when attacks or war is upon me

- ▶ Horn of My Salvation - The Engine of Attack Upon My Enemies to Accomplish My Rescue

- On a video, I watched a rhinoceros attacking another, then a rhinoceros attacking a truck, then one attacking an elephant - you can see the damage that 4 foot horn on his nose can do

- I watched two elephants fighting, then watched one pushing down big trees...those tusks are a kind of horn, although they are actually teeth - they have great power to damage and drive intruders away, rescue their babies, protect the herd

- Imagine a divine horn of devastation that has unlimited power behind it - that is our Lord
- ▶ My High Tower - The One who raises us aloft above all that is common and degraded; a place that is inaccessible to the enemy
  - We are like eagles sitting at the top of Pike's Peak, and the enemy is like a young boy with a BB gun at the foot of that 14,000 + high peak. The eagle sees the boy load the BB gun and fire away, but the BB falls thousands of feet below him...the attack is of no consequence!
  - We have been made to sit together with Him in heavenly places and this glorious fact makes us unreachable by the enemy. More than that, as soon as we understand this we become invulnerable
  - Hence, from prison at Phillippi, Paul and Silas could sing their hearts out;
  - From the lonely exile on the Isle of Patmos, John the beloved could write of the glories of his Lord and of things to come;
  - From the fierce flames of death, the martyrs of the dark ages could preach sermons and praise God with such passion that enemies of the cross were converted by their demonstration of faith.
- Our first alarm response should be to run to God ('the righteous runneth into it...')
  - ▶ Implies no hesitation
    - I have seen rabbits out in the open field hunker down and hesitate when the seeing the shadow of a bird flying overhead; these same rabbits quickly become victims to the smart hunting hawk, while those who run without hesitation to the thickets are those which survive.
  - ▶ Implies no consideration for other possible refuge
    - Here is an anomaly among the people of God - some of us hesitate when threats come because we seem to be looking for safety somewhere else when it is time to run to the Lord without hesitation, but there is no other place the people of God can find complete protection
- Notice the certainty of safety (and IS safe)
  - ▶ You can run into a storm cellar when a tornado comes, and you MIGHT be safe
  - ▶ You can go to a bomb shelter when the mortar fire starts or the bombs start to fall, and you MIGHT be safe
  - ▶ You can get inoculated against a deadly disease and you MIGHT be safe
  - ▶ But there is no such thing as certainty for any situations like that
  - ▶ But inside the strong tower that is the Lord you ARE safe