

“He Will Preserve You from Trouble”
(Job 5:8-27)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

1. The Lord has promised to give you every good thing you need in this life and in the life to come, if you will only trust in His Son and walk with Him in holiness.
 - a. There are those who don't want to follow the Lord because they think it will cost them too much.
 - (i) Worldliness is too popular today; you can't go anywhere without it.
 - (ii) So many get ahead by cheating, backbiting, stealing, by being selfish and focusing on themselves.
 - (iii) If you do what's right, you'll lose out, you'll fall behind; people will take advantage of you.
 - b. When thoughts like these come into your mind, just remember that the Lord says the opposite is true: following Him is the road to true blessing.
2. This is certainly true in the area that's most important – salvation and eternal life, though we haven't really gone too far in that direction yet. But it's equally true in the material realm: the Lord says He will take care of all your needs.
 - a. Physical blessings were not just for the Old Covenant saints.
 - b. The Lord knows you still need them.
 - (i) That there are things in this world you need.
 - (ii) That you need His blessing on them to be useful to you.
 - (iii) He knows there are certain blessings you need for your household.
 - (iv) He says He's willing to give them to you, if you will walk with Him.
 - (v) As believers, you also won't be happy taking any other path.

B. Preview.

1. We could spend a good deal more time looking at these blessings – the Bible is full of them. But we'll want to move on since there are infinitely more precious blessings we have yet to look at.
2. So what we'll do this evening is round off this part of our survey by looking at one more very important physical blessing: that the Lord will deliver you from trouble, if you will walk with Him.
 - a. Our passage contains several of them, but there are several more.
 - b. Let's look first at His promise to deliver us from trouble in general, and then consider at some of the specifics.
 - c. In two weeks, we'll begin looking at the more important spiritual blessings.

II. Sermon.

- A. First, the Lord promises He will support you in whatever trouble you face in life.

1. He promises to be your fortress, your refuge, the One you can always go to when you're in trouble, the One who will always be there to help you when you can't help yourself. David writes, "The LORD also will be a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble; and those who know Your name will put their trust in You, for You, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You" (Psalm 9:9-10).
 2. He promises that when you need Him, He won't be hard to find; He won't hide from you, but will reveal Himself to you. Again David writes, "You who fear the LORD, praise Him; all you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, and stand in awe of Him, all you descendants of Israel. For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; nor has He hidden His face from him; but when he cried to Him for help, He heard" (22:23-24).
 3. David says further that He will always be there for you, even when those who love you the most aren't. He writes, "Do not hide Your face from me, do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; do not abandon me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation! For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the LORD will take me up" (27:9-10).
 4. And so no matter what happens, the Lord will never allow you to fall into ruin. Again, David writes, "The steps of a man are established by the LORD, and He delights in his way. When he falls, he will not be hurled headlong, because the LORD is the One who holds his hand" (37:23-24).
 5. If you will walk with Him, if you will take Him by the hand and put your trust in Him, He will do it.
 6. So here is the general promise: the Lord will always be there for you, revealing His love and mercy to you, keeping you from ruin, if you walk with Him in holiness.
- B. Second, let's consider some of the specifics of this promise.
1. The Lord promises He will be with you in sickness.
 - a. Whether or not you get sick is in His control, just as much as anything else.
 - b. If you walk with Him, He promises to deliver you from all sickness.
 - (i) He said to Israel (again remembering that the church is now the Israel of God, "If you will give earnest heed to the voice of the LORD your God, and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, the LORD, am your healer" (Ex. 15:26).
 - (ii) The psalmist writes, "I will say to the LORD, 'My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!' For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark. You will not be afraid of the terror by night, or of the arrow that flies by day; of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or of the destruction that lays waste at noon. A thousand may fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, *but* it shall not approach you. You will only look on with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked. For you have made the LORD, my refuge,

even the Most High, your dwelling place. No evil will befall you, nor will any plague come near your tent” (Ps. 91:2-10).

(iii) Is it any wonder that so many believers like to read and meditate on the psalms – they are so full of the promises of the Lord.

(a) You read them because you also know this is true.

(b) They apply to you because of what Jesus has done – He has sealed all of the promises of God to you by His blood.

c. The Lord will keep you from sickness, unless He has some other good purpose for letting you get sick, which He sometimes does. When this happens, He has given you other promises.

(i) He promises His support in your sickness. David writes, “How blessed is he who considers the helpless; the LORD will deliver him in a day of trouble. The LORD will protect him and keep him alive, and he shall be called blessed upon the earth; and do not give him over to the desire of his enemies. The LORD will sustain him upon his sickbed; in his illness, You restore him to health” (Ps. 41:1-3).

(ii) He will even help you when the infirmities of old age come on you, “Listen to Me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, you who have been borne by Me from birth and have been carried from the womb; even to *your* old age I will be the same, and even to *your* graying years I will bear *you!* I have done *it*, and I will carry *you*; and I will bear *you* and I will deliver *you*” (Isa. 46:3-4).

(iii) But again, the key is walking with Him: Solomon writes, “A gray head is a crown of glory; it is found in the way of righteousness” (Prov. 16:31).

2. He promises to be with you in famine or poverty.

a. We read in our text, “In famine He will redeem you from death . . . You will laugh at violence and famine” (Job, 5:20, 22).

b. He’s not saying you won’t have to endure any of the discomforts associated with these things, but that He will preserve your life, “Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, on those who hope for His lovingkindness, to deliver their soul from death and to keep them alive in famine” (Ps. 33:18-19).

c. During times like these, He will still provide for you:

(i) The psalmist writes, the Lord “gives food to the hungry” (Ps. 146:7).

(ii) And David writes, “The LORD knows the days of the blameless, and their inheritance will be forever. They will not be ashamed in the time of evil, and in the days of famine they will have abundance” (Ps. 37:18-19).

3. The Lord will deliver you in war.

a. We read in our text, “In famine He will redeem you from death, and in war from the power of the sword” (Job 5:20).

b. And David says, “Through God we shall do valiantly, and it is He who will tread down our adversaries” (Ps. 60:12).

4. Likewise, He will deliver you from all your enemies.
 - a. King Asa of Judah knew this, which is why when Zerah the Ethiopian came against his kingdom with one million men, he put his trust in the Lord. In 2 Chronicles 14:11, we read, “Then Asa called to the LORD his God and said, ‘LORD, there is no one besides You to help *in the battle* between the powerful and those who have no strength; so help us, O LORD our God, for we trust in You, and in Your name have come against this multitude. O LORD, You are our God; let not man prevail against You.’”
 - b. The psalmist writes, “Hate evil, you who love the LORD, who preserves the souls of His godly ones; He delivers them from the hand of the wicked” (Ps. 97:10).
5. He will deliver you from the oppression and injustice of men.
 - a. David writes, “‘Because of the devastation of the afflicted, because of the groaning of the needy, now I will arise,’ says the LORD; ‘I will set him in the safety for which he longs’” (Ps. 12:5).
 - b. Speaking of the future reign of the Messiah, as well as his own reign, Solomon writes, “May he vindicate the afflicted of the people, save the children of the needy and crush the oppressor. . . . He will rescue their life from oppression and violence, and their blood will be precious in his sight” (Ps. 72:4, 14).
6. He will protect you from slander.
 - a. Our text reminds us, “You will be hidden from the scourge of the tongue, and you will not be afraid of violence when it comes” (Job. 5:21).
 - b. And if He should ordain that you endure the insults and slanders of others for His name’s sake, He will more than compensate you for your perseverance. Jesus says, “Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you” (Matt. 5:10-12).
7. He promises He will be your father if you lose your earthly father. For you ladies, He will be your husband if you lose your earthly husband.
 - a. Moses writes, “He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and shows His love for the alien by giving him food and clothing” (Deu. 10:18).
 - b. David writes, “A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows, is God in His holy habitation” (Ps. 68:5).
 - c. He even gives children to those who have none, “He makes the barren woman abide in the house As a joyful mother of children. Praise the LORD!” (Ps. 113:9).
8. And He promises He will deliver those who are unjustly imprisoned.

- a. David writes, “God makes a home for the lonely; He leads out the prisoners into prosperity, only the rebellious dwell in a parched land” (Ps. 68:6).
 - b. The psalmist writes, “How blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God, who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free” (146:5-7).
 - c. Again David writes, “For the LORD hears the needy and does not despise His *who are* prisoners” (69:33).
 - d. Didn’t the Lord deliver Peter and Paul when they were unjustly imprisoned.
 - e. The psalmist writes, “This will be written for the generation to come, that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD. For He looked down from His holy height; from heaven the LORD gazed upon the earth, to hear the groaning of the prisoner, to set free those who were doomed to death, that *men* may tell of the name of the LORD in Zion and His praise in Jerusalem, when the peoples are gathered together, and the kingdoms, to serve the LORD” (Ps. 102:18-22).
9. This sounds like a comprehensive package? Has the Lord left anything out?
- a. The world’s path might seem safer and more lucrative, but it leads to trouble and complete ruin.
 - b. The Lord’s path, on the other hand, might seem more dangerous, but it’s filled with security and blessing.
 - c. Which will you choose? The Lord counsels you to choose life!
 - d. He has laid a table tonight for you who have chosen to walk on His path.
 - e. It’s meant to confirm that all His promises are sure because of what Jesus has done.
 - f. So let’s prepare to meet the Lord at His Table and remember that all the promises of God in Him are yes and amen.

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