

## Under His Wings

We are born in insecurity. We sometimes mistake the little baby clutching our finger as a deep-seated sign of affection. Don't flatter yourself; they are afraid you will drop them. They would be just as willing to grip the finger of a stranger. There is a deep inner loneliness that the fall of mankind left each and everyone. There is no one else that can truly meet the loneliness of the soul without Christ; only Christ Himself can satisfy. Psalm 107:9 verifies this: "For He satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness."

W.O. Cushing wrote a beautiful hymn that is thematic of our message this morning. The opening lines read: "Under His wings I am safely abiding; though the night deepens and tempests are wild. Still I can trust Him, I know He will keep me. He has redeemed me, and I am His child. Under His wings, under His wings, who from His love can sever? Under His wings my soul shall abide, Safely abide forever."

### 1. UNDER HIS WINGS IS EMBLEMATIC OF OUR REDEMPTION.

Exodus 25:20: "And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be."

The Bible says in Romans 3:25: "Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God." The word for propitiation is the Greek word *hilasterion*, which is referring to the mercy seat, literally, the lid of the Ark of the Covenant in the Tabernacle and in Temple. The High Priest would place the blood of the atonement once a year on the lid of the Ark of the Covenant. The outstretched wings of the cherubims were emblematic of the covering and forgiveness that we received from Christ. I John 4:10: "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

Psalm 36:7: "How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings."

### 2. UNDER HIS WINGS IS A SHELTERED PLACE.

Isaiah 4:6: "And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain."

Psalm 17:8: "Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings."

Psalm 61:4: "I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings. Selah."

Psalm 91:1-4: "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his

feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.”

We are under the watchcare of God, basking in the shadow of His love. The shadow of God is understood by the hovering of the Lord like an eagle. The promise to Jacob (Israel) is found in Deuteronomy 32:10-12: “He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye. As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: So the LORD alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.”

I Corinthians 10:1-6 reminds us that what Israel went through was an example to us. II Corinthians 1:20 says, “For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.” All the promises are held in tact by Christ. We are in Christ, therefore all the promises that are applicable to any of God’s people for any time or dispensation is ours by the goodness and grace of God!

Psalms 57:1, 2: “Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast. I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth all things for me.”

### 3. UNDER HIS WINGS IS THE BLESSED HAPPY PLACE.

Ruth 2:12: “The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust.” The story of Ruth is one of the most beautiful in the entire Bible. Ruth was a Moabitess. The Bible says in Deuteronomy 23:3: “An Ammonite or Moabite shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to their tenth generation shall they not enter into the congregation of the LORD for ever.” There was a curse carried from the forefathers of the Moabites that dates back to the entrance of these peoples into the earth. Ruth would not turn from Naomi to return to her people, but was willing to follow her to Bethlehem-Judah. She made a decision that was recorded in Ruth 1:16, 17. We see a couple of truths. Ruth had entered into covenant marriage with one of the sons of Elimelech and by virtue of the union, had become one flesh with an Israelite. Then when she made her decision to have Naomi’s God her God, she now became a recipient of the saving grace of God. Then the kinsman redeemer of the family of Elimelech, Boaz recognized the grace of God in this woman of virtue and called her as one who had come beneath the wings of God’s blessings. Psalm 63:7: “Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.” Under God’s wings is a place of rejoicing and in the New Testament, the word for blessing is from the Greek word *makarios* and is just as easily translated “happy.” Romans 4:7b, 8: “...Blessed *are* they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed *is* the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.”

### 4. UNDER HIS WINGS IS THE PLACE THE LORD LONGS TO HAVE US.

While in Israel, we descended the Mount of Olives coming from Bethany to Jerusalem. On the slope toward Jerusalem was a lovely chapel in the shape of a teardrop. It is estimated that this was the place our Lord paused, looked over Jerusalem and prayed this prayer: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not" (Matthew 23:37).

Genesis 1:1, 2: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." The word for "moved" is translated from the Hebrew word *rachaph* which is the word used for brooding, like a hen hovers over her chicks. As we look back to the beginning of the time, when the earth was created, we observe the tender care of the Holy Spirit, caring and nurturing for Earth's future inhabitants, more particularly, those who will become God's children by faith. Redemption was never an afterthought of God. It has been His plan for us from before the foundation of the world. Revelation 13:8b refers to Christ as, "...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." I Peter 1:20: "Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you." Ephesians 1:3, 4: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love." No wonder there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels when one sinner repents (Luke 15:7, 10), because God has been anticipating your conversion since the beginning of time! What a loving Savior!

-Pastor Pope-