

THE HIDING PLACE

Psa. 32:7 Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.

A few years ago, Pearl and I visited the home of Corrie Ten Boom in Haarlem, just outside Amsterdam (<http://tenboom.com/en/>). Along with her father and other family members she helped many Jews escape the Nazi holocaust during World War II. Unfortunately, she was betrayed, arrested, and incarcerated in Ravensbruck concentration camp, exclusively for women, to the north of Berlin. You can read her life-story in the book, *The Hiding Place*. On one occasion, - a week before Ravensbruck was liberated by the Allies, - she was on a list to be taken and gassed to death. However, one of the Germans made a clerical error, - her name was ‘accidentally’ omitted, - and she was mistakenly released. She wrote about it, “God does not have problems ... only plans!”. ... And she spent the rest of her life travelling the world speaking of her confidence in the Lord.

The psalmist describes his personal confidence in the Lord, Psa. 32:7 Thou art *my* hiding place. The Hebrew word for ‘hiding place’ (*cether*) means a ‘covering’, a ‘shelter’ ... Thou art my *lcovering, shelter ... the secret place into which I run for protection*. ... That is where, the psalmist says, He preserves me ... Indeed, there were many times in David’s life when he had to *run*. Sometimes he was completely innocent, as when Jonathan heard his father King Saul was trying to kill David, he told him, Saul my father seeketh to kill thee: now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning, and abide in a *secret place*, and hide thyself (I Sam. 19:2). During these times when David was ‘on the run’, in increasingly perilous circumstances, he recorded, Psa. 27:5 in the *secret* of his tabernacle shall he hide me. ... In the same way, Fanny Crosby wrote,

“He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock
That shadows a dry, thirsty land ...
And *covers* me there with His hand”.

Before leaving the church building for the last time on Friday morning, Pearl and I prayed God would lead us into the next chapter of the book He has written for our fellowship. ... The basis upon which we were praying could be attributed to our verse, Psa. 32:7 Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah. ⁸ I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

Psalm 32 is the second of David’s seven penitential psalms (Pss. 6,32,38,51,102,130,143) in which he acknowledges and confesses his sin before God and recognises his need for God’s forgiveness and favour. He wrote this psalm after confessing his sin of adultery with Bathsheba, which also involved

murder and deception. He acknowledged his sin, sincerely repented, and could now declare, Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered (v.1). ... And that is how we appear before the Lord, as saved sinners, whose sin is covered, and never to be remembered against us, **Ps. 103:12** As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. ... That is how the ‘hiding place’ relates to each of us who are saved ... it is **THE PLACE OF SALVATION**.

David brought the problems he entered into with Bathsheba upon himself because of the *wrong* he did, whereas the problems he had with Saul came upon him because of the *good* he was doing. From wherever problems arise, as believers in the Lord Jesus, we have ‘a hiding place’. In the psalm where David wrote, **Ps. 31:15** My times are in thy hand, he also penned a few verses afterwards, **19** Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men! **20** *Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence ...* That secret place is **the place of salvation**, in which every child of God takes refuge.

There is no shame in running and taking refuge in God for He is our Heavenly Father, and He delights in it, David wrote, **Ps. 57:1** O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge. ... We are saved, and our Father in Heaven knows all about us, and where we are all the time for He tells us, **Jer. 29:11** I know the thoughts *[plans]* that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end *[hope and a future]*. **12** Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. ... That is the privilege of the Redeemed who are by God’s grace abiding in the ‘hiding place’, which is **the place of salvation**.

The hymn says, “Where could I go? Oh, where could I go seeking a refuge for my soul ... **The place of salvation** is also **THE PLACE OF SHELTER**. Whether he was trying to escape from Saul, or whether he had the guilt lingering from his adultery with Bathsheba, he found his **place of shelter** in the Lord’s presence, **Ps. 32:5** I acknowledged *lowned up to* my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin *[He removed it]*. ... I lay my sin and my guilt before You to take it all away forever, and I’ll lie down in my ‘hiding place’, in **the place of shelter** where God in His mercy and grace receives me.

And when Saul was trying to kill him, he prayed, **Ps. 59:1** O my God: defend me from them that rise up against me. ... When all his problems were piled before him like a great mountain, he prayed for the Lord’s deliverance, **Ps. 59:9** Because of *[God’s]* strength will I wait upon thee: for God is my defence. **10** The God of my mercy shall *[go before]* me ... He is **the place of shelter** ... When conflicts arise over which I

have no control, even then, ¹⁶ I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning: for thou hast been my defence and refuge in the day of my trouble. ¹⁷ Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing; for God is my defence, and the God of my mercy.

“How oft in the conflict, when pressed by the foe,
I have fled to my refuge and breathed out my woe.

How often when trials like sea billows roll,
Have I hidden in Thee, O Thou Rock of my soul”.

... **The place of salvation, the place of shelter** ...

THE PLACE OF SAFETY. The psalmist wrote with confidence, thou shalt preserve me from trouble (Ps. 32:7).

“Trials dark on every hand, and we cannot understand
All the ways that God would lead us to that blessed Promised Land”.

Nothing comes our way outside of the will of God. We do not always understand why He does certain things or why He allows them ... but nothing comes our way outside of His will. Therefore, if we say we believe His Word, His Word tells us, in the ‘hiding place’ God *will* preserve us from trouble, and He *will* even surround us with songs of deliverance and hope. *He* knows the way out of our predicament is by remaining with Him. One of Corrie Ten Boom’s famous quotations is, “Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God”.

That is what Jesus said, ^{Jn. 14:1} Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. Neither you nor I know what this next year or the next five years will hold for us, but how often we have proved how God does great things for us, even despite how we are!

He keeps us in **the place of safety**, - the ‘hiding place’, - trusting in Him, otherwise, we would end up *nowhere* ... in the wrong place! On the other hand, when we realise the Lord has the reigns in His hands, He will lead us to where He has for us to be.

And in ‘leading us along’ to the ‘hiding place’, we find it is also **THE PLACE OF SUSTENANCE**. Many are the places of ‘starvation’ where we could be so easily led into, - those places which would leave the child of God lifeless and hopeless ... where there would be ‘the drought’ (Ps. 32:4) and ‘many sorrows’ (Ps. 32:10). ... Such places are plentiful, but in the presence of God is the ‘hiding place’ reserved for His people, in which He promises to supply our **sustenance**, ^{Ps. 32:10} he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about.

For God's people, the 'hiding place' is *the place of salvation, the place of shelter, the place of safety, the place of sustenance*, ... and finally, **the PLACE OF SERENITY**, of peace, for it is where we 'hand over' to the Lord. ... It is difficult handing over the issues which lie heavy on our hearts. It is difficult 'letting go and letting God' take control of what we spend so much time worrying about. It is as if we believe theoretically He can do it, but privately we are not showing it. If we are honest, we confess we need to become better at praying, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief (Mk. 9:24). ... Or, as David prayed in another dilemma, Ps. 35:3 Draw out also the spear, and stop the way against them that persecute me: say unto my soul, I am thy salvation. ... God knows all about what we are dealing with, and when we are with Him in 'the hiding place', - away from the maddening crowds and the fearful noises, in **the place of serenity**, Ps. 33:11 Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.

God will never take us anywhere to abandon us. He will never direct us along a path for our destruction. Every purpose and every plan for His people is to bring Him glory, not shame or defeat ...

“He leadeth me: O blessed thought! ...
By His own hand He leadeth me ...
Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom,
Sometimes where Eden's flowers bloom,
By waters calm, o'er troubled sea,
Still 'tis His hand that leadeth me”.

Ps. 32:7 Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance.

Give me the faith which can remove
And sink the mountain to a plain;
Give me the childlike praying love
Which longs to build Thy house again;
Thy love, let it my heart o'er-power,
And all my simple soul devour.