

In the Shadow of God's Wings

Psalm 17:8

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You cannot read very far in the Psalms before coming upon some wonderfully graphic pictures of our God. One such picture is painted by the words, "In the shadow of Thy wings." The idea of God's shadow is found in Psalm 91 where the psalmist begins with the words, "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty." Here the shadow of the Almighty is offered as **a place of dwelling**, a place of continual abiding. God extends His shadow of love and protection over anyone who seeks His Son and keeps His commandments. Listen to the Lord Jesus in John 15:10. "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love." If we keep the commandments of Christ, we abide in the shadow of the Father because we abide in Christ and He is in the Father.

In Psalm 17:8 David pleads for God's protection when he says, "Hide me in the shadow of Thy wings." Under the shadow of God's wings is **a place of hiding**. David needed to hide from his enemies. We also need such a place in a spiritual sense. Satan is as a roaring lion seeking to devour, but hidden beneath the shadow of divine wings we are insulated against the eternal wounds which he can inflict.

Psalm 36:7 speaks of the shadow of God's wings as **a place of trust**. "How excellent is Thy lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Thy wings." We have a God of awesome power in whom we are able to conquer, as Paul says in Romans 8:37-39, all things: death, life, angels, things present, things to come, powers, height, depth, and all created things. Why doesn't He unleash His awesome power upon us. It is not because we don't deserve it, we have sinned; but it is because of His loving kindness. He has promised mercy to those who abide in His shadow. He has promised patience and we can trust in His promises.

In Psalm 57:1 David pleads for graciousness from God saying, "For my soul takes refuge in Thee, And in the shadow of Thy wings I will take refuge, Until destruction passes by." The shadow of God's wings is **a place of refuge**. What a safe haven is there! From all the storms of life. There, the soul finds peace and security.

This wonderful picture is also found in Psalm 63:7. There David writes, "For Thou hast been my help, And in the shadow of Thy wings I sing for joy." Under the shadow of God's wings is **a place of rejoicing**, a place of singing. What a help Jehovah has been! In the quietness of the night when we remember our Savior and all He has done for us, our hearts are made to sing with joy.

It is a wonderful place to be, O Lord, in the shadow of Thy wings!