

September 10, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

Ps. 31:1 *In You, LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in Your righteousness.* (NIV)

David was accustomed to calling out to His Shepherd for help. Such is this passage today. We don't know the exact nature of the trouble that he was facing but vv. 9-13 shed some light on the fact that he was despairing. **vv. 9-13 *Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and body with grief. My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning; my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak. Because of all my enemies, I am the utter contempt of my neighbors and an object of dread to my closest friends—those who see me on the street flee from me. I am forgotten as though I were dead; I have become like broken pottery. For I hear many whispering, "Terror on every side!" They conspire against me and plot to take my life.* (NIV)**

Obviously, David is distraught. But, because he is a man after God's own heart, he knows where to turn in times of trouble. He doesn't seek wisdom or protection from man, but from the LORD Himself. He certainly could hide behind the army of Israel, but David knew the only true power was found in his Heavenly Father. He was the place of refuge. The LORD was his place of refuge, safety and security. These cannot be found anywhere else except in God alone.

The fitting ending to this verse is to remind himself and others, that his deliverance would not come from the shield or the sword, but from the righteousness of the LORD. It is there and only there that David could find relief and safety and victory. Are you burdened and heavy laden? Take refuge in the arms of the One Who loves you more than anyone else could ever love you.

Dear LORD, thank You for being our refuge, a very present help in times of trouble. LORD, deliver us from ourselves and from the attacks of the evil one. We must rely completely in You righteousness. In Jesus Name, Amen