

- 1 *In the LORD put I my trust: how say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain?*
- 2 *For, lo, the wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart.*
- 3 *If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?*
- 4 ¶ *The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men. (Psalm 11:1-4)*

A dialogue has been set before us. A suggestion is being made to the righteous man that he should “flee as a bird to his mountain.” The conditions urging him to do this are pressed upon him. He is being informed that enemies have drawn their bows, ready to destroy him. Conditions are bad everywhere. It seems that the very foundations of justice and truth have already been destroyed and that there is nothing that the righteous can do. He is without defense. The only sane and sensible thing for him to do is flee like a bird to some safe refuge and hide. So goes the advice.

But from whence comes this advice? Various sources, I should think. It may be from well-meaning friends. It could be gathered from a host of “survival” books and papers now being published urging people to retreat somewhere, dig in and prepare to defend themselves against the social, political and economic chaos that threaten us all. It could come from taunting enemies. And again, it could come from the reasonings of our own minds. We often forget that we ourselves have unbelieving, doubting, rebellious thoughts about our God and His care for us.

Regardless of the source of the suggestion, the Psalmist has given us the answer to such suggestions. The tone is incredulous: “How say ye to my soul!! How dare you make such a suggestion! In the Lord have I put my trust. How shall I flee to my mountain when God” mountain is my refuge? How utterly foolish and unthinkable! Birds may hop from branch to branch, flee from bush to tree, nervously watching lest they be harmed, but not the person who has put his trust in God.”

As for the foundations being destroyed, they may be so in the thoughts of the wicked, in the delusions of the deceived or in the imaginations of the unbelieving and fearful, but *the* foundation standeth sure having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are His. (II Timothy 2:19)

The Lord is in His Holy temple. The rejected and crucified Christ has risen and now reigns as the Living Lord. He will save, preserve and care for those who have put their trust in Him.

-C.M.