

Fresh Fire Ministries
The Expository Teaching Ministry of Jay Duane Driver

“In the Time of Trouble”

“For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion; in His secret place He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock.” Psalm 27:5 (NKJV)

In the time of trouble; twenty elementary school children and six adults are shot and killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT. In the time of trouble; a gunman shows up for bible study at an AME church in Charleston, SC clandestinely and maliciously waiting for it to conclude, then opens fire, killing 9 parishioners including the pastor. In the time of trouble; one shooter performs cold and calculating murder upon forty-nine persons at a night club called Pulse, in Orlando, FL. In the time of trouble; the location is Baton Rouge, LA. Police scuffle with an alleged suspect when the officer discharges his weapon, killing the suspect after someone yells “gun!” And the list goes on and on and on. We are in the midst of very troubling times.

When will the pain, heartache, travail, and grief of these troubled times end? We know that it cannot last forever but how long will it be before the return of Christ brings all of the troubling times to an end? No one can be certain. Only the Father knows for sure. “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” Mark 13:32 (NKJV) Until then as troubling as the times may be that are upon us, we must make a faithful and conscious decision to endure until Jesus comes. The Psalmist David in our devotional passage shares with us his exuberant declaration of hope, faith, and trust in God in the midst of troubled times. David was well aware of the fact that he could not find solace or refuge in anyone other than God. Let us not be naïve to the point that we convince ourselves that one person, partisan, political party, pundit, or prognosticator has the antidote or “magic wand” that will instantaneously erase the evil that has permeated every portion of this universe. It’s just not that simple.

Thank God that in time of trouble, the Lord himself will hide us in His pavilion. The idea here is more spiritual than what it may seem to suggest physically. It is the presence of God. When God hides us He guards or protects us from perceived danger. In addition, it can also be defined as the sense of preventing someone from knowing or seeing something, in this case the enemy who may be attempting to wreak havoc upon our lives. The Lord hides us in the shielding, protective hiding place of His pavilion which indicates the place where God dwells. Wherever God dwells you will find His pavilion, our refuge in the time of trouble. “God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in struggle.” Psalm 46:1 (NKJV) It is a secret place or covering made available to those whom He calls His own. It is safe, secure, and strong. The wicked had come to destroy David, and armies had encamped against him, but David would not fear. He trusted in God by faith, even when he could not track or trace Him.

Now there will be those who would dare question why the events that we have witnessed have occurred to begin with. Why does evil still rule to a degree when we proclaim and preach that God reigns? Those are valid concerns. First of all the reason that evil exists in the world is not a result of God not being able to protect us in the pavilion of His presence, nor does it lessen to any degree the power He has to hide us. Evil is the consequence of a choice that man freely made in the Garden of Eden and not a failure by God to be who He is. Secondly, when you think of all the troubling, traumatic, and terrifying things that have happened, there are a plethora of things that could have, should have, and would have happened but didn’t. Only God knows, who is in sovereign control of the affairs of the universe. It should never deter our faith and willingness to trust Him when we cannot find a plausible human explanation of how He operates. God’s ways are simple untraceable but His presence will always prevail.