

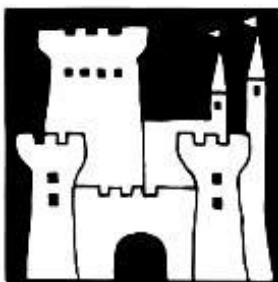
Diary Devotions

Year 12

Term 4

Studies on the character and nature of God

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PROTECTOR

God is a fortress and strong tower.



TRUTH

God's word weighed in the balances



LORD & KING

He is King of kings and Lord of lords.

God is Protector Week 1

“Because he loves me,” says the Lord, “I will rescue him; I will protect him for he acknowledges my name” (Psalm 91:14)

God protects His people through:

- the blood of Jesus
- the name of Jesus
- the word of God

Through the blood of Jesus we have protection from the punishment for sin:

- protection from enemy attack in the spirit world.
- protection from sickness and disease
- protection from physical danger
- protection from demonic attack

I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone O Lord make me dwell in safety (Psalm 4:8).

We have peace knowing that God is a Father who protects His children:

Psalm 91

Protection of baby Jesus (Matt. 2)

Protection of baby Moses (Ex. 1-2)

Protection of David against Goliath (1 Sam. 17)

2 Corinthians 10:3-6; Ephesians 6:10-20; Proverbs 18: 10; Mark 16:15-17

The word of God protects our *minds* from enemy attack.

Psalm 119:11 I have laid up thy word in my heart that I might not sin against thee.

Psalm 34:19-20 The good man does not escape all troubles—he has them too. But the Lord delivers him out of them all; God even protects him from accidents.

God protects the daily walk of His children, as they go in the faith that He is their protector.

Angels protect us

Psalm 91: expresses the psalmist’s faith in God’s constant protection. Special mention is made in it of angels. It is good to remind ourselves of the constant presence of angels.

God’s protection is demonstrated in the story of Moses in Exodus:

Moses was protected as a baby, a child specially chosen by God. The Israelites were protected from the death of the eldest child at the Passover time, by the sign of the blood of a lamb over their doorposts. This typifies the sacrifice of Jesus that protects those who believe in Him from eternal spiritual death.

The column of cloud in the day and fire in the cloud at night protected the Israelites from the Egyptians before they crossed the Red Sea. God protected the Israelites from thirst and starvation by the provision of manna, quail meat and water from the rock.

We have peace knowing that God protects His people when they are in danger:

God protected Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (Dan. 3)

God protected Daniel in the lion's den (Dan. 6)

Jesus protected the disciples during the storm (Luke 8:22-25)

God is Protector Week 2

God is our Deliverer

The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer (Psalm 18:12)

God delivers his people in times of trouble:

God protected Paul during the shipwreck (Acts 27 & 28)

Protection from effects of snake bite on Malta (Acts 27 & 28)

Paul and Silas in jail (Acts 16:16)

2 Kings 6 - Elisha and God's army of angels

Isaiah 41:10 & 43:1-2 - Fear not

Acts 12:1-9 - An angel saves Peter

Daniel 3 – God delivers Daniel

Psalm 4:8 - God makes us dwell in safety

Psalm 56:13 – God my deliverer

Isaiah 31:5 - The Lord protects Jerusalem.

Isaiah 54:10 - Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken.

God is our Defender

If God be for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)

God protects us from harm and evil:

Angels protect us (Ps. 91)

The Lord is my Shepherd (Ps. 23)

Elisha and God's army of angels (2 Kings 6)

Fear not (Is. 41:10 & 43:1-2)

Three men in the fiery furnace (Daniel 3)

An angel saves Peter (Acts 12:1-9)

Ephesians 6:10 - 20 describes the spiritual armour which God has provided for the protection of His people.

- the breast-plate of righteousness. My heart is made righteous by my faith in
- Loins girded with truth
- Shoes of peace... peace with God through the blood of Jesus; peace in our own hearts because of His Spirit within us; peace with other people.
- The shield of faith.. the invisible protection of the powerful blood of Jesus to forestall the enemy's attacks on the mind, body or spirit. The power of the name of Jesus.
- The helmet of salvation... the protection particularly of the mind. Sin begins in the mind, in our thinking about an act until it becomes a reality
- The sword of the Spirit - the use of the word of God

God is Protector Week 3

God is our Refuge

I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God is whom I trust" (Psalm 91:2)

God is our shelter:

God is a shelter for us (Ps. 17:8; 27:5; 32:7)

God's protection of the Israelites entering the Promised Land (Jos. 2-6)

Protection of the Jews through Esther (Esther 1-10)

God is our refuge and strength, a present help in the time of trouble (Psalm 41:1).

In the day of trouble He will shelter me (Psalm 27:5).

Psalm 46 - God is our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in the time of trouble.

2 Samuel 22:2 & 32; Psalm 18:30-36; Psalm 31:3; Psalm 71:3; Psalm 89:26; Psalm 91:5 - God is a rock

2 Samuel 22:33 - It is God who arms me with strength

Proverbs 18:10; Psalm 61:13 - God is a strong tower

Exodus 7-14 - God set the Israelites free, and by His strength He held back the Red Sea.

Judges 6-8 - Through His power God used Gideon to set the Israelites free.

Joshua 6 - The walls of Jericho. God's power is greater than man's strength.

Joshua 10 - By His strength and power God caused the sun to stand still.

Luke 1:37 - Nothing is impossible with God.

God is Truth Week 1

When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth (John 16:13).

The word of God is truth:

John 5:46-47 - "If you do not believe what Moses wrote, (Genesis), how can you believe what I say?"

John 14:6 - Jesus is the Way, the Truth, the Life.

Mark 4:1-8 - The parable of the Sower shows the need for a solid foundation of faith.

Proverbs 30:5-6 - The word of God is truth.

Psalm 119:105 - God's word is a lamp to our feet.

Ephesians 6:17 - God's word is a sword.

Luke 24:13-35 - The two followers on the road to Emmaus. They did not recognize the truth because of unbelief.

Genesis 1 - God created living things after their own kind.

Seek the truth:

Proverbs 3:5 - Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you think you know.

Acts 14:7 - God has always given evidence of His existence by the things He does. (GNB)

Luke 11:9-10 - He that seeks finds.

Matthew 16:13-20 - Peter declared that Jesus was the Son of God, a truth given directly by the Father.

Acts 7:51-60 - Stephen gives his life for believing the truth.

God is Truth Week 2

God is our Teacher

The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you (John 14:25).

Matthew 7:24 - Build your life on truth.

Luke 11:9-10 - Ask, seek, knock. He that seeks the truth will find it.

Matthew 6:33 - Seek first God's kingdom.

Matthew 13:44-45 - The pearl of great price.

John 20:24-29 - Unbelief prevented Thomas from knowing the truth.

John 1:17 - Truth came through Jesus Christ.

The Way, the truth and the life

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me (John 14:6).

Matthew 7:13-14 - The broad and narrow way

Matthew 16:13-17 - Jesus asks, "Who am I?"

Acts 4:12 - There is no other name by which we are saved.

John 10:1-8 - The Good Shepherd. The sheep recognize His voice.

Matthew 7:15-21 - Wolves in sheep's clothing.

Acts 17:16-34 - The unknown god

Exodus 20:3-4; Isaiah 42:8 & 17 - No other gods.

Discerning the truth:

Proverbs 11:1 - The Lord hates dishonest scales, but He is pleased with correct weights.

Matthew 7:15-21 - Wolves in sheep's clothing.

John 18:38 - Everyone that is of the truth hears my voice.

John 10:1-8 - The Good Shepherd. The sheep hear His voice.

John 14:6-7 - I am the way, the truth and the life.

Exodus 20:3-4; Isaiah 42:8 & 17 - No other gods.

2 Peter 2 - False teachers.

2 Corinthians 11:13-14 - False apostles, and Satan as an angel of light.

1 Peter 5:8 - Satan is a roaring lion.

Luke 4 - Jesus knew how to deal with Satan.

God is Truth Week 3

God is Faithful

I am the Lord I change not (Malachi 3:6).

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

God is faithful in that He never changes. His truth is constant.

God wants us to be faithful and never depart from His truth.

God is faithful to His word. He keeps every promise He makes (Prov. 30:5)

God gave the rainbow as a sign of His promise to us (Gen. 9:8-17)

God kept His promise to Abraham (Gen. 15, 17 & 18)

God's truth doesn't change. Our commitment to truth should not waver.

Honesty in word and character (Prov. 20:23; Prov. 21:22)

Faithfulness to the God of truth: Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (Dan. 3)

The golden calf (Ex. 32)

God wants us to obey the truth.

God of Israel or Baal? (1 Kings 18)

Worship no other god (Ex. 20:3-6)

The dishonesty of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5)

Josiah the boy king (2 Kings 18)

Live a life that measures up to the standard God set when He called you. Ephesians 4:1 (GNB)

God is Lord and King Week 1

God is the Lord

The Lord rules... greater than the roar of the oceans, more powerful than the waves of the sea (Psalm 93:4 (GNB)).

God says, "I am that I am".

He is lord of Lords and King of Kings. (Revelation 17:14)

"I the Lord make light and create darkness; I am the Lord and there is no other." (Isaiah 45:6-7)

God is holy, pure, eternal and infinite.

"I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end." (Revelation 1:8; 21:6; 22:13)

"You shall be holy for I the Lord am holy." (Leviticus 19:2)

"You must be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect." (Matthew 5:48)

God made possible the forgiveness of man's sin by providing the Lamb of God, Jesus. Jesus was a willing sacrifice and a victorious Saviour. His resurrection established for eternity His power and lordship over evil.

The Lamb of God is the Lion of Judah (Revelation 5:5-6).

Our response should be: To know God's character is to live in reverent fear of Him.

Jesus said, "If you love Me, obey Me." To obey the commands of Jesus is to obey God. (John 14:15,23)

God requires His people to be holy, pure, righteous; therefore they go through difficulties that refine their character. (1 John 3: 1-3)

God is Lord and King Week 2

God is King of kings

Fight the good fight of faith...until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ – God the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords (1 Timothy 6:12-15)

Jesus was born a king (Matt. 2) – Jesus the humble King

Jesus was placed on trial for being a King (John 18:28-38) – Jesus the sacrificial King

Jesus will return to reign as King (Acts 1:6-10) – Jesus the eternal King

Psalm 2:6 – The Lord is King forever.

Psalm 24:7-10 – Who is the King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty.

There is only one Lord and one King of the universe.

We can become a child of the King by making Jesus Lord of our life.

A King is to be honoured and respected.

But King Jesus is not remote. He has reached out to us so that we can have a personal relationship with Him. He accepts us if we accept Him.

God is Lord and King Week 3

Jesus will return as King

Jesus' promise of return:

John 14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

Acts 1:11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Revelation 3:11 "I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown."

1 Thessalonians 4:16 "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first."

Titus 2:13 "While we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ."

The Signs of His Coming

Matthew 24:30 "Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory."

Matthew 24:33 "Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door."

Luke 21:25-26 "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea."

2 Peter 3:10 "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare."

Revelation 1:7 "Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all peoples on earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen."

Being Prepared

Matthew 25:13 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour." –

1 John 2:28 “And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.”

Luke 12:40 “You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

Philippians 3:20 “But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Colossians 3:4 “When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”

The Joy of His Return

When we think about the return of Christ, it is essential to focus on the joy it brings to our hearts. As believers, we have the joyous hope that Jesus is coming back not as a judge but as our Redeemer. His return signifies the fullness of His redemptive plan for us, and we can celebrate the new life that awaits us in Him. This joy should inspire us to share our faith and spread love and kindness to others. The anticipation of His return fills us with gratitude and enthusiasm for what lies ahead in the eternal presence of our Saviour!

1 Thessalonians 2:19 “For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?”

Matthew 25:21 “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’” –

Revelation 21:4 “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” – Revelation 21:4

Psalms 16:11 “You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.”

Romans 15:13 “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”