

To Flee or Not to Flee

Joe Slater

David sounds incensed as he responds to the advice that he should “*flee as a bird to your mountain*” (Psalm 11:1). This “man after God’s own heart” has put His trust in the Lord; he has no intention of running away despite the scheming of the wicked.

Speculation abounds as to who urged David to flee and when they recommended it. Was it his friends on one of the many occasions when Saul wanted to murder him? Or was it his enemies trying to alarm him with a taunt, implying that he didn’t really trust God? We may never know. Whatever the case, David didn’t run; he relied on the Lord to uphold him.

On other occasions, however, David wisely fled from danger. As Saul sought his life, “*David arose and fled that day from before Saul*” (1 Samuel 21:10). When Absalom would have murdered David and taken the throne of Israel, “*David said to his servants . . . ‘Arise, and let us flee, or we shall not escape from Absalom’*” (2 Samuel 15:14). Had David lost faith in the Lord? No, indeed! Staying put in those cases would have been making trial of God.

Through his angel, God Himself told Joseph to “*take the young child (Jesus) and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word*” (Matthew 2:13). Jesus Himself instructed His apostles, “*When they persecute you in this city, flee to the next*” (Matthew 10:23). And as He warned of the upcoming destruction of Jerusalem He commanded, “*Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains*” (Matthew 24:16).

There is a time to stand and fight; and there is a time to flee. Fleeing doesn’t necessarily indicate a lack of faith. Pray for wisdom to see the difference.

Our Amazing Creator

“For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made” (Romans 1:20).

How many galaxies are there? The latest estimate is that there are 200 billion galaxies in our universe. The Milky Way has an estimated 100 billion planets, but of course, no one but God knows for sure. “*He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their name,*” Psalm 147:4 says.

How many animal species live on our world? Scientists estimate 1.5 million to 2 million. Only God knows for sure because He made them. How many plant species? Scientists believe there are over 400,000 plant species. No one knows for sure but God. As David declares in Psalm 24:1, “*The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world, and those who dwell therein.*”

Our God’s amazing omnipotence, omnipresence, and omniscience ensure His ability to create and control everything in our universe. He is immutable, wise, loving, gracious, merciful, just, faithful, and good. When all others fail us, He is by our side to comfort and sustain us.

God’s power is unimaginable. It is so great that mankind cannot name it or categorize it. No wonder, then, that the righteous can only bow before Him and praise Him. We know that God is the One who gives us salvation. Our Father is our only source of blessings and help in troublesome times. He is the King of glory, the Lord of hosts, our stronghold, and our redeemer. Our hearts are glad in Him. Because of His steadfast love we will shout for joy and praise Him forever. What an amazing God He is!

--Donna Wittlif (Ft. Worth, TX)

Crumbs of Time

A friend was coming to town. He is a very busy man and his schedule was tight, but after a difficult day in important meetings, he managed to see my family for half an hour for a quick and late dinner. We enjoyed his visit, but I remember looking at my plate and thinking, “We only got the crumbs of his time.”

Then I remembered how many times God gets the crumbs of my time – sometimes just the last minutes before I fall asleep.

Daniel was a busy man. He held a high government position in the ancient kingdom of Babylon, and I’m sure he had a full schedule. However, he had developed the habit of spending time with God – praying three times a day; praising God and thanking Him (Daniel 6:10). This routine helped him develop a strong faith that did not waver, when he faced persecution.

God desires a relationship with us. In the morning we can invite Him into our day, and then we can praise Him ask for His help throughout the day. At other times, we can treasure some time with alone with Him and reflect on His faithfulness. As we spend time with God in prayer and in His Word, we grow in our relationship with Him and learn to become more and more like Him. As time with God becomes a priority, we enjoy His company more and more.

--Keila Ochoa (via Mt. Carmel Church of Christ)

Without God our Week Would Be:

SINDAY MOURNDAY TEARSDAY

WASTEDAY THIRSTDAY FIGHTDAY

SHATTERDAY

Seven days without God makes one weak.