

Names of God: God Is Our Home

Psalm 90.1

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • September 26, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2021

Scripture Reader and Reading: Carl Peugh – Psalm 142.4–5

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Larry Amberg – Songs on God

Prelude:

I. Home is where people are the most comfortable.

- A. This is true regardless of the nature of the home.
- B. It might be a mansion, or it might be a shack.
 - 1. Whatever it is,
 - 2. it is home.

II. Home is where people feel secure.

- A. Almost everything they need they have at home.
- B. People let their hair down and remove the public face.
- C. They change into comfortable clothes.
 - 1. At home, you can talk to your family,
 - 2. sharing the frustrations and joys of the day.

III. People find so much comfort, peace, and safety in their homes

- A. that they sleep there.
- B. Think of how vulnerable you make yourself when you sleep.
 - 1. Yet, we find such comfort and peace
 - 2. that he can sleep for many hours,
 - a) as much as one third of the day, and
 - b) we do not give it much thought.

IV. For these reasons, I like to visit people in their homes.

- A. Here we have our public church face, but
- B. at home we relax and show our true selves.
 - 1. I have found that to be a blessing in my ministry

2. with all three congregations.

V. Now, let's talk about God.

A. God also has a place where he dwells, and

B. the Bible says that God serves as our dwelling place and our refuge.

VI. First, let's see what the Scriptures designate as God's dwelling place.

Persuasion:

I. The Dwelling Places of God

A. Heaven undoubtedly popped into everyone's mind.

1. After King Solomon build the temple,

2. he gathered all Israel together, and

a) he blessed Israel, but

b) he also prayed to God about the temple:

30 "And may You hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. Hear in heaven Your dwelling place; and when You hear, forgive."

– 1 Kings 8.30

B. Jerusalem and the Temple

**13 For the LORD has chosen Zion;
He has desired it for His dwelling place:**

– Psalm 132.13

1. As far as what the eye can see,

2. Jerusalem does not have any beauty that surpasses the rest of the earth.

a) However, God chose to make Zion, Jerusalem, later the temple,

b) his dwelling place.

(1) He was at home among his people.

- (2) If we only go by the beauty of a place,
 - (a) I am sure that heaven far surpasses
 - (b) any place on earth as a dwelling place.

3. Here is the one that I like.

C. His People

1 Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

– Psalm 90.1

- 1. God is our dwelling place.
- 2. He is our home.
 - a) We are most comfortable with him,
 - b) that is why you pray the things that you do,
 - (1) things that you do not want anyone else to hear.
 - (2) Just like we can be our true selves with the members of our family,
 - (a) so with the Lord God as our dwelling place,
 - (b) we can be our true selves.

D. Thus far,

- 1. I have shown you a couple of places where God dwells, but
- 2. we have also seen that we dwell in him,
 - a) God is our home and
 - b) we are his home.

E. The Scriptures take it further.

- 1. God is our dwelling place, but
- 2. he is also our refuge.

II. God as Our Refuge

A. Right along with the idea that God is our dwelling place,

1. the Bible also shows that he is our refuge.
2. Whenever I think of a refuge,
 - a) I think of the 568 wildlife refuges
 - b) that we have scattered throughout the United States, and
 - (1) in particular the ones in Oregon because
 - (2) I have been to them.
3. The U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service defines a wildlife refuge as:

“For the conservation and, where appropriate, restoration of fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitats for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.”

– <https://www.fws.gov/refuges/about/faq.html>

- B. A refuge can also be a place where people seek protection,
1. evident when we call them refugees.
 2. They seek escape from a danger and a safe place.
- C. The Scriptures present the Lord our God in these very ways,
1. that he restores us,
 2. that he gives us safety.
- D. Deuteronomy 33 recorded the blessing of Moses
1. upon Israel just before he died.
 2. Of course, unsurprisingly, he spoke of the Lord our God:

**27 “The eternal God is your refuge,
And underneath are the everlasting arms;
He will thrust out the enemy from before you,
And will say, ‘Destroy!’”**

– Deuteronomy 33.27

- a) See how Moses put together

- b) the idea of a refuge and God fighting Israel's enemies?
 - (1) The Book of Revelation shows the same idea.
 - (2) We have an enemy who wants us destroyed, but
 - (a) in the Lord our God,
 - (b) Revelation shows we have a refuge.

E. The Psalms

- 1. It should not surprise us
 - a) that the largest number of references to God as our refuge
 - b) is in the Book of Psalms.
- 2. The theme of the Book of Psalms pictures God as our refuge.

Psalm 9.9

**The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed,
A refuge in times of trouble.**

Psalm 14.6 speaking of atheists:

**You shame the counsel of the poor,
But the LORD is his refuge.**

Psalm 28.8

**The LORD is their strength,
And He is the saving refuge of His anointed.**

Psalm 31.2 reminds me of Captain Jack's Stronghold:

**Bow down Your ear to me,
Deliver me speedily;
Be my rock of refuge,
A fortress of defense to save me.**

Psalm 46.1

**God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.**

Psalm 48.3 shows that as long as Israel remained faithful:

**God is in her palaces;
He is known as her refuge.**

Psalm 57.1

**Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me!
For my soul trusts in You;
And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge,
Until these calamities have passed by.**

Psalm 59.16

**But I will sing of Your power;
Yes, I will sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning;
For You have been my defense
And refuge in the day of my trouble.**

Psalm 62.7–8

**In God is my salvation and my glory;
The rock of my strength,
And my refuge, is in God.
Trust in Him at all times, you people;
Pour out your heart before Him;
God is a refuge for us.**

Psalm 71.3

**Be my strong refuge,
To which I may resort continually;
You have given the commandment to save me,
For You are my rock and my fortress.**

Psalm 91.2 declares what we must say to ourselves:

**I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress;
My God, in Him I will trust.”**

Psalm 91.4 pictures God as a hen protecting his brood:

**He shall cover you with His feathers,
And under His wings you shall take refuge;
His truth shall be your shield and buckler.**

Psalm 141.8 declares what we must say to the Lord:

But my eyes are upon You, O GOD the Lord;

**In You I take refuge;
Do not leave my soul destitute.**

Psalm 142.4–5 shows what to do when other refuges fail you:

**Look on my right hand and see,
For there is no one who acknowledges me;
Refuge has failed me;
No one cares for my soul.
I cried out to You, O LORD:
I said, “*You* are my refuge,
My portion in the land of the living.”**

F. The imagery of the Lord our God as a refuge continues in other Books:

Proverb 14.26

**In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence,
And His children will have a place of refuge.**

Isaiah 25.4 shows what the Lord is to us as the world beats us up:

**For You have been a strength to the poor,
A strength to the needy in his distress,
A refuge from the storm,
A shade from the heat;
For the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall.**

1. The psalmists and Solomon and Isaiah,
 - a) did not write mere poetry,
 - b) although it was certainly Hebrew poetry.
 - (1) They did not try to find words that rhyme and
 - (2) refuge was a good option.
 - c) Truly, the Hebrew poets did not rhyme words but thoughts.
 - d) The psalmists wrote the truth of what they discovered our God is to us.
 - (1) He is our safety and protector.
 - (2) He is our provider.

(3) He is our defender.

(4) He is our home.

III. Move into the Lord

A. A home or a refuge does not automatically appear around you.

1. The Psalms indicated that we have to resort to the Lord.

2. He has provided all that we need

a) when it comes to a home and

b) when we need a refuge.

(1) However, we have to want it, or rather

(2) we have to want him as a home and a refuge.

(a) He has no desire to force us to live in him

(b) if we have no desire to do so.

B. Someone else has provided the structure, and

1. we have to move into it.

2. The wonderful thing about God is that he invites everyone to move in.

a) The story of Jesus Christ shows us to what degree

b) the God of heaven wants to be our home and

(1) that he wants to abide in us

(2) as his dwelling place.

Exhortation:

I. In regard to that, Isaiah 57 presents a humbling truth.

A. I can see our God wanting us to live with him.

1. It makes sense to me

2. that he has made known to us

a) that he is our dwelling place and our refuge, but

b) it is the reverse that shocks and delights me:

**15 For thus says the High and Lofty One
Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy:
“I dwell in the high and holy place,
With him who has a contrite and humble spirit,
To revive the spirit of the humble,
And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.”**

– Isaiah 57.15

- (1) Why would he stoop to inhabit us?
- (2) Our contriteness over our sins and our humble spirit
 - (a) touches us and
 - (b) he wants us with him and for him to be with us.

II. All these things that I have shown you from the Old Testament

- A. find their ultimate fulfillment in Christ and his church.
- B. John 15 has the words of Jesus just before his betrayal and arrest.
 1. Listen to what was on his mind.
 2. What would be on your mind
 - a) if you knew that shortly a friend would betray you and
 - b) the next day you would be tortured to death?
 3. Here is what was on his mind:

**4 “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself,
unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.”**

– John 15.4

C. Ephesians 2 shows later

1. that the apostles preached something wonderful
2. about us as a dwelling place for the God of the heavens and the earth:

22 [we] are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

– Ephesians 2.22

D. Therefore, Hebrews 6 gives us assurance on the Lord God as our refuge:

17 Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, 18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

– Hebrews 6.17–18

1. We are the heirs of the Abrahamic promise.
2. God wanted to show us the strong consolation we have.
 - a) He gave us two immutable things,
 - b) two things that cannot be changed:
 - (1) His counsel and
 - (2) his oath.
3. Those two things are unchangeable because
 - a) it is impossible for God to lie.
 - b) He has given us a hope.
 - (1) The hope that we have in Christ
 - (2) shall be fulfilled.
 - (a) Therefore, we have a strong consolation
 - (b) that having fled to God for refuge,
 - i) we shall have whatever he has promised us.