

**“If Not for God”
Psalm 124**

Introduction: We have all been in that place where we have looked back and we have known in our hearts that God had protected us and guided us through a dangerous situation. Many times we knew that we were in dire straights and at times we didn't have an inkling. Nonetheless, God was our protector. If “not for God,” says the psalmist... we would have been swallowed up. O, the protections of our God.

Ps 5:11-12

11 But let all who take refuge in you be glad;
let them ever sing for joy.

Spread your **protection** over them,
that those who love your name may rejoice in you.

12 For surely, O Lord, you bless the righteous;
you surround them with your favor as with a shield.

NIV

It is worth seeking righteousness for no other reason than the protection of God. Israel, of all peoples, has had so many nations try to wipe them from the face of the earth. All through the OT someone was after God's people. God has thwarted the attacks of the enemy, and He will continue to do so.

I think of all that the Pharaohs did to God's people and the Lord brought His people out with a mighty hand. Think of all the battles that God's people had with the Philistines and the Ammonites. How about the Canaanites? Think of all the “ites” that went after the people of God. How about Haman and the plot to exterminate the Jews. God sent Ester to rescue the people... “for such a time as this.” Think of all the battles of Moses, Joshua, David and the battles with the Babylonians and Chaldeans. The intertestamental period was fraught with trouble and pain from

Antiochus Epiphanes. The Maccabean revolt and the abomination of desolation. What about the first Roman Empire and the Papal corruption throughout the years. The Ottoman Empire and the modern day Palestinian conflict with the Arabs and other countries of the Muslim Middle-East.

Hassan al-Banna, founder of the Muslim Brotherhood, was [quoted by the New York Times in 1948](#) as saying "If the Jewish state becomes a fact, and this is realized by the Arab peoples, they will drive the Jews who live in their midst into the sea."

Many other leaders of the unsettled Middle-East have repeated that phrase. God's people have been attacked and threatened for years. If not for God they would have been annihilated by now. But God has His hand on the nation of Israel.

From the days of the Red Sea crossing to 2021, God has not allowed them to be swallowed up.

In verse 6 there is praise for God's deliverance and allowing them to fly away like a bird.

In verse 8 the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth is to be praise for their help.

Christian, what are you worried about today? What battles are you facing? Speak to God about it and let the Warrior of all Warriors fight this battle. The battle belongs to the Lord.

Closing:

2 Kings 6:8-23

8 Now the king of Aram was at war with Israel. After conferring with his officers, he said, "I will set up my camp in such and such a place."

9 The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: "Beware of passing that place, because the Arameans are going down there."

10 So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places.

11 This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, "Will you not tell me which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?"

12 "None of us, my lord the king," said one of his officers, "but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom."

13 "Go, find out where he is," the king ordered, "so I can send men and capture him." The report came back: "He is in Dothan." 14 Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city.

15 When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh, my lord, what shall we do?" the servant asked.

16 "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

17 And Elisha prayed, "O Lord, open his eyes so he may see." Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

18 As the enemy came down toward him, Elisha prayed to the Lord, "Strike these people with blindness." So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked.

19 Elisha told them, "This is not the road and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will lead you to the man you are looking for." And he led them to Samaria.

20 After they entered the city, Elisha said, "Lord, open the eyes of these men so they can see." Then the Lord opened their eyes and they looked, and there they were, inside Samaria.

21 When the king of Israel saw them, he asked Elisha, "Shall I kill them, my father? Shall I kill them?"

22 "Do not kill them," he answered. "Would you kill men you have captured with your own sword or bow? Set food and water before

them so that they may eat and drink and then go back to their master." 23 So he prepared a great feast for them, and after they had finished eating and drinking, he sent them away, and they returned to their master. So the bands from Aram stopped raiding Israel's territory.

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