

“God’s Deliverance Through Hiding”

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with a five-part series about God’s deliverance. I love talking about this subject.

In 2009, I gave a similar series in consecutive Bible studies. In 2020, I gave a similar series in consecutive sermons. Although the five main concepts remained the same, those presentations used a variety of different verses from the Bible.

Foundational verse

This series is based upon 1 Corinthians 10:13—stressing how God is faithful.

- God will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able.
- God will make a way of escape.
- God will make you able to bear it.

Hiding is an acceptable escape

Part 3 of this series discusses “Escape Through Hiding.”

There are some people reading this article who will believe that hiding is for cowards and is “never” an acceptable approach to be asserted by faithful disciples. However, students of the Bible are aware that such a belief is erroneous—no matter how loudly some preachers and religious people espouse such an opinion.

How do we know that hiding is sometimes an acceptable escape?

Check out that the Bible reveals that the perfect Son of God used hiding as an escape.

Not the right time

The Son of God was certainly not a coward. So why did He at times hide from danger? He hid because it wasn’t the right time for Him to do anything else.

John 8:59—“Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.”

John 10:39-40—"Therefore they sought again to seize Him, but He escaped out of their hand. And He went away again beyond the Jordan to the place where John was baptizing at first, and there He stayed."

John 12:36—"These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them."

Hiding from Pharaoh and Herod

- Exodus 2:2—Moses' mother hid him for three months.
- Matthew 2:13—Joseph took his wife and Child to Egypt.

Rahab hid the spies

- Joshua 2:1-6—Rahab hid the two men from the king of Jericho—and she saved them by telling lies for a righteous reason (to save lives).

Rahab had put the spies on the roof (verse 6), but notice the four statements she made (verses 4-5).

- The men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. (She knew who sent the spies.)
- When it was time to close the gate at dark, the men left. (She knew that the spies didn't leave, because she put them on the roof.)
- I don't know where they went. (She knew exactly where the spies were, because she put them on the roof.)
- Pursue them quickly and you can still catch them. (She knew that they couldn't catch the spies outside the gate, because she put the spies on the roof.)

Was God pleased with her behavior? Check out Hebrews 11:31 and James 2:25.

Men of Israel hid

- 1 Samuel 13:6—When the men of Israel saw that they were in danger, they hid
- various places—cave, thickets, rocks, holes and pits.

David hid

- 1 Samuel 19:2—Jonathan advised David to stay in a secret place and hide.
- 1 Samuel 22:1—David escaped to the cave of Adullam and wrote a couple of psalms from there (Psalm 57 and Psalm 142).

Elijah hid

- 1 Kings 17:1-4—After Elijah spoke boldly to King Ahab, God told Elijah to hide by the brook.

Prophets hid

- Isaiah 16:3—Hide the outcasts.
- Isaiah 26:20—Enter the chambers and shut the doors behind you—hide yourself for a little moment until the indignation is past.

■ Zephaniah 2:3—Seek the Lord that you may be hidden in the day of the Lord's anger.

Paul hid

■ Acts 9:22-25—When the Jews at that time plotted to kill Paul and were watching the gates day and night, the disciples lowered him down the wall in a large basket.

Appreciate the poetic language

When some religious people read Revelation 12:14, they take the phrase "her place" as a guarantee that there is only one place of nourishment and protection. I like to remind people about the poetic language of the passage.

■ Revelation 12:14—The woman was given "two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly" into the wilderness.

Through the years, I have heard people speculate that the eagle with two wings is an airplane. That is a great speculation but should not be espoused as absolute truth—just as "her place" should not be espoused as absolutely only one location.

By the way, have you ever compared Revelation 12:14 with Exodus 19:4?

■ Exodus 19:4—The Lord said that they saw how He brought them out of Egypt "on eagles' wings" and brought them to Himself—the eagles' wings back then were poetic language for walking.

Final thought

As you consider the subject of escape by hiding, let me leave you with a verse that may someday be a wise course of action in our lifetime.

Amos 5:13—"Therefore the prudent keep silent at the time, for it is an evil time."