

## SHIELDED

### INTRODUCTION

As different countries deal with the virus pandemic, we have heard some phrases become popular. One phrase that caught my attention was "shielding". This is the term used in the United Kingdom for the additional precautions people who are clinically extremely vulnerable to the virus are advised to take during the peak of the pandemic.

These measures included being notified by your GP, receiving food parcels at home, as well as your medication and basic care. Shielding includes not going out to the shops or work. By putting these measures in place, the extremely vulnerable basically have the barriers of their own home walls as a shield which protects them from coming into contact with the virus.'

As Christians, we also have a shield, the shield of faith which, when raised shields us from the fiery darts of the enemy, causing them to fall harmless at our feet.

But did you realise that we have another shield? From the moment we give our hearts to Jesus, we are continually shielded. An invisible barrier falls over us and separates us from the onslaught of the devil and from harm. This morning I will speak about this impenetrable Shield which protects us even when we are unaware.

### MESSAGE

What is a shield. A shield is a protective barrier between us and something which comes against us. Think of it like this, we put on sunblock, wear hats and sit under umbrellas, all of which shield us from the damaging ultraviolet rays of the sun. Our thick winter clothes on the other hand, shield us from the cold. Heat shields are essentially used on spacecraft to protect them from burning up in the extreme heat created entry into a planet's atmosphere.

### OUR SHIELD

We are shielded by the same God today. In addition to our shield of faith, the Living God, the Creator of heaven and earth is our Shield.

The Hebrew name for God as our shield is Jehovah-Magen (Maw-gane).

God first describes Himself as our Shield in the book of Genesis:

**Genesis 15:1** (NKJV) After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

As I pondered this, I realised that one of our covenant blessings is that God becomes our Shield. In Genesis 15 we read about God cutting covenant with Abram. Here the first blood sacrifice covenant was made as God instructed Abram to bring Him a heifer, a goat, a ram, a turtledove and a pigeon. After they were killed, they were laid in position and God moved between the pieces cutting covenant with Abram. It was there that He gave him and his offspring the Promised Land.

Christians have a blood covenant too; it's signed by God Himself with the precious blood of Jesus Christ His son. The moment we receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour, we come under God's covenant blessing of being our Shield.

We can declare this morning, "I am shielded by God".

A great Biblical example of being shielded by God is Shadrach, Meshack and Abednego who were shielded by Him in the fiery furnace. He became an invisible barrier between them, and the fire, and they walked out of that furnace not even smelling of smoke.

### **GOD IS OUR PERSONAL SHIELD**

We may be tempted to think of God as a shield over a nation or a people. For example, Abraham and the Israelites, or over Christians as a whole, but God wants to be our shield on a personal level.

**2 Samuel 22:2-4 (NKJV)** And he said: "The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; 3 The God of my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, My stronghold and my refuge; My Saviour, You save me from violence. 4 I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be raised; So shall I be saved from my enemies.

Did you hear how many times the words "my, me and I" came up in those verses – let me read it again...

**Psalm 3:3 (NKJV)** But You, O Lord, are a shield for me, My glory and the One who lifts up my head.

Do you get the idea? It seems almost too good to be true, the Lord is our personal protective shield!

***Say with me, "The Lord is a Shield for me!" Are you willing to believe that God Himself is the One who shields you?***

### **OUR SHIELD IS OUR HELP AND OUR VICTORY**

When God is our shield, it means we have help in times of trouble.

**Deuteronomy 33:29 (NKJV)** Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the Lord, The shield of your help And the sword of your

majesty! Your enemies shall submit to you, And you shall tread down their high places.”

We are part of God’s army and having Him as our shield guarantees us victory over our enemies – the enemy has to submit to us. This made me think of **James 4:7** (NKJV) Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

When we submit to God and resist the devil, he comes up against the shield of God and has to flee from us. In my mind I see a picture of us bowing in submission to our God, and as we bow, His shield covers us and resists the enemy’s attack, causing him to flee!

***Let us declare today, “God is my shield of help, my enemies submit to me and I tread down the high places of the devil”.***

**2 Samuel 22:35-36** (NKJV) He teaches my hands to make war, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. 36 “You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your gentleness has made me great.

God is our shield of salvation. Our shielding began the moment we received Jesus as Lord and saviour on the day of our salvation. That day, we also entered a battle with the forces of evil. But God, our God, the one who is our shield, also teaches us how to fight in this battle. He makes us strong, mighty warriors in His name, teaching us to fight the good fight of faith. This is not a war fought with viciousness and hatred, it’s a war fought in gentleness, kindness, mercy and love.

***If you don’t know how to fight the good fight, ask your Shield, the Lord God Almighty to teach you how to fight. It’s not always with violence, as He shields us, we walk in gentleness, kindness and mercy, and that gives us great victory.***

## **GOD, OUR CONTINUAL SHIELD**

God never stops being our shield. He protects us continually. David understood this, that is why he wrote more about God being our shield than all the other Bible writers.

**1 Samuel 17:45** (NKJV) Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.

David went against Goliath with only his sling and his staff. Why would a man go against another, who was a giant, and who was in full battle gear, without the protection of a shield? Because he did have a shield, but His shield was much better than Goliath’s. David knew that God was his shield. He didn’t

need to put God on. He already had Him on. God was David's permanent shield and David knew that God would protect him when he came up against Goliath.

God is our permanent Shield too. He is a shield which cannot fail. We only need to put our faith, and our trust in Him. Let's do so today. Our God will keep us safe from every danger and every attack, praise His mighty name!

***What giants are you facing today? Do you feel exposed and under-protected? Stand up in faith, knowing that they Lord, your Shield is with you.***

## **OUR GOD SURROUNDS US WITH FAVOUR AS WITH A SHIELD**

**Psalm 5:12** (NKJV) For You, O Lord, will bless the righteous; With favour You will surround him as with a shield.

The blessing of having God as our shield is experienced in a number of ways,

- Salvation
- Help in times of trouble.
- Instruction in warfare.

But God's favour also shields us. When we walk in the Lord's favour, we are protected from negative consequences if we have made a mistake, we are protected from financial disaster when God's favour opens doors for us. His favour makes us the head and not the tail.

***Do you need supernatural favour today? Experience God as your shield. You have access to that favour in Him today!***

## **OUR GOD IS A SHIELD THAT CANNOT FAIL**

**Psalm 91:4-11** (NKJV) He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler. You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, Nor of the arrow that flies by day, 6 Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. 7 A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you. 8 Only with your eyes shall you look, And see the reward of the wicked. 9 Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place, 10 No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; 11 For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways.

Here's the truth that's our shield and buckler: Our God is unfailing as He protects us.

- A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you.

- Why is it that those around us fall but not us? Could it be that the shield that they have trusted in has failed them?
  - The shield of self-protection will fail.
  - The shield of man's protection will fail.
  - The shield of other false gods will fail.
  - Even the shield of medicine will fail.
  - But the shield of the Lord God Almighty will NEVER fail.

***What have we been trusting to shield us? There is only one True Shield who will never fail, He is Jehovah Magen (Maw-gane), our Shield and Buckler.***

## **IT REQUIRES TRUST TO EXPERIENCE GOD AS OUR SHIELD**

**Proverbs 30:5** (NKJV) Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.

**2 Samuel 22:31** (NKJV) As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.

We all need to be shielded every day of our lives. Are we placing our trust in God to be our shield on a daily basis? This is a question of belief. When we are doubting instead of trusting God, it is an issue of belief.

***Do we truly believe today that God will keep His covenant promise of protection for us?***

## **CONCLUSION**

**Psalms 33:20** (NKJV) Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield.

We have the shield of faith, but we have another shield too. We are shielded by the Lord God Almighty. He is the barrier between us and all evil, harm, sickness and even the corona virus.

- He is our covenant Shield.
- He is our personal Shield.
- He is our continual Shield.
- His shield is our help and our victory, we will prevail over our enemy.
- He surrounds us with favour as with a shield and protects us.
- He is our unfailing Shield.

Let us trust God to be our Shield today. As His children, we are not only shielded from the corona virus, we are shielded and kept safe from the devil and his tricks and schemes, we have favour at all times, and we can confidently trust our God, Jehovah Magen to help us and protect us in every situation.