"Promises" (3)

"...[God] has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire." (2 Peter 1:4)

Promise of Protection

<u>Psalm 91:1-8</u> – (1) "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. (2) I will say to the LORD, 'My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.' (3) For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. (4) He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. (5) You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, (6) nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday. (7) A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. (8) You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked."

Abiding in God

<u>Psalm 91:9-13</u> – (9) "Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—the Most High, who is my refuge — (10) no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent. (11) For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. (12) On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. (13) You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot."

Adoring God

<u>Psalm 91:14-16</u> — (14) "<u>Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name</u>. (15) When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. (16) With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."

Key Point: God protects His Faithful Ones

Rescuing the Faithful

"About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church. Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, 'Dress yourself and put on your sandals.' And he did so. And he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.' And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him. When Peter came to himself, he said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting." (Acts 12:1-11)

"...So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen." (2 Timothy 4:17-18)

Questions:

What impacted me the most in this message? Who faithfully watches over us? (Heb. 3:6; Eph. 5:29; Ps. 121) Do I understand that Jesus protects me both *from* evil and *through* evil? (Ps. 34:19; Acts 4:29-30, 5:41)

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)