

1  **PROTECTING YOUR HOME**

PSALM 91 – PART 1

2  **WHEN AND WHERE?**

- When? Always
- Where?
  - In public
  - At home in the TV room
  - Online (computers and phones)
  - In the home – relationships with family
  - With their friends and influencers
  - In school or university

3  **WE ARE UNDER ATTACK**

Job 1:13-20

4 5  **ATTACK ON OUR LIVELIHOOD**

- Job 1:13-15 – *And then there was one day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their firstborn brother's house. And a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing, and the female donkeys were feeding beside them. Then the Sabeans attacked, and they took them, and they slew the servants by the edge of the sword. But I escaped, even I alone, to tell you."*

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6  **ATTACK ON OUR SAVINGS**

- Job 1:16 -- *While this one was still speaking, another came and said, "The fire of God fell from the heavens, and it blazed up against the sheep and goats and against the servants, and it consumed them. But I escaped, even I alone, to tell you."*

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7  **ATTACK ON OUR GIVING AND TRANSPORTATION**

- Job 1:17 -- *While this one was still speaking, another came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three divisions, and they made a raid on the camels, and they carried them away, and they struck your servants by the edge of the sword, but I escaped, even I alone, to tell you."*

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8  **ATTACK ON OUR CHILDREN**

- Job 1:18-19 -- *At the time this one was speaking, another came and said, "Your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine in their firstborn brother's house. And behold, a great wind came from across the desert, and it struck the four corners of the house so that it fell upon the young people, and they died. But I escaped, even I alone, to tell you."*

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9  **THAT ORDER IS OFTEN REPEATED**

- Job / career

- Savings
- Transportation
- Giving
- Family members

#### 10 **ILLUSTRATION**

- Devout Christian woman married non-Christian businessman
- She quickly grew accustomed to wealth and comfort and began to neglect her devotional life
- Became more worldly; drew away from God
- Husband's factory destroyed
- Wealth depleted
- Daughter died while living in immoral relationship
- Son came home for funeral. Went hunting and he put gun on other side of fence to steady himself as he crossed the fence; shot himself and died
- Husband committed suicide
- All this time the wife had complained to God (like Eric mentioned last Sunday) but then she finally saw the light and repented. She recognized that God used these terrible things to bring her back to himself and she was able to praise God again.
- We are under attack by Satan, but we must also make sure we are not suffering the consequences of our own wrong priorities.

#### 11 **BENEFITS OF A PROTECTIVE HEDGE**

#### 12 **HOSEA 2:6**

*Therefore, behold, I will hedge up thy way with thorns, And make a wall, that she shall not find her paths. And she shall follow after her lovers, but she shall not overtake them; And she shall seek them, but shall not find them: Then shall she say, I will go and return to my first husband; For then was it better with me than now.*

#### 13 **PROTECTS US FROM THE WRONG DIRECTION**

- Hosea 2:6 -- *Therefore, Look! I am going to hedge her path with thorns, and I will build a stone wall, a stone wall against her, and she will not find her paths.*
  - Gomer's paths were toward wickedness and immorality. God promises to hedge up her path with thorns and put up a stone wall to prevent her further sin.

#### 14 **PROTECTS US FROM THE WRONG RELATIONSHIPS**

- In the case of Gomer, the protective hedge that Hosea prayed for God to erect in front of her would cause her ungodly suitors to no longer seek her out. She would become unpopular and undesired by them.
- In Gomer's case, her companions turned against her and eventually sold her at the auction barn for their own benefit.

#### 15 **PREVENTS COMPLETION OF SINFUL DESIRES**

- Hosea 2:7a,b -- *Then she will pursue her lovers, but she will not overtake them; she will seek them and not find them;*
- She tried to pursue and overtake ungodly men.

- But her pursuits failed and she was unable to complete all of her ungodly desires.
  - There are times when you should pray for family members to fail – when they are pursuing sin!

#### 16 RESTORES RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS

- Hosea 2:7c -- *and she will say, "I will go and return to my first husband because it was better for me then than now."*
  - Gomer realized that the family that God gave to her was the right place for her to be blessed.
  - Pray for family members to realize that blessing always comes by obeying God's will.

#### 17 PREREQUISITES TO A HEDGE OF PROTECTION

Job 1:1-10

#### 18 PHRASES FROM THE BOOK OF JOB

- 1 • The hair on my body stood up (4:15b). (My hair stood on end.)
  - My life is a breath (7:7a).
  - Put my life in my hands (13:14b). (Take my life in my hands.)
  - There is no justice (19:7).
  - I have escaped by the skin of my teeth (19:20b).
  - The root of the matter (19:28b).
  - The smell of battle (39:25)
- 2 • Put your hand over your mouth (21:5b).
  - The land of the living (28:13b).
  - Spit in my face (30:10b).
  - Great men are not always wise (32:9).
  - Words without knowledge (35:16b).
  - I know that my Redeemer lives (19:25)

#### 19 JOB 1:1

- *There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil. (KJV)*
- *There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright and God-fearing and turning away from evil. (LEB)*

#### 20 RIGHT RELATIONSHIP TO SELF

- *Perfect* -- "Morally innocent; having integrity; morally and ethically pure"
  - Spencer Johnson – *"Integrity is telling myself the truth. And honesty is telling the truth to other people."*
  - Alan K. Simpson – *"If you have integrity, nothing else matters. If you don't have integrity, nothing else matters."*

#### 21 RIGHT RELATIONSHIP TO OTHERS

- *Upright* -- "Right, pleasing, correct, righteous in dealing with others"

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## 22 **RIGHT RELATIONSHIP TO GOD**

- *Fearing God*
  - Reverence
  - Realizing that God is just and holy
  - Recognizing that God is our heavenly Father and that He disciplines His children
  - Understanding that God has set up the universe in such a way that we must live with the consequences of our actions

## 23 **RIGHT OPPOSITION TO SATAN**

- *Eschewing evil* -- Qal Participle -- "continually departing from and avoiding evil"

## 24 **NOT THE GUY WITH A PITCHFORK**

## 25 **THE DEVIL USES GOOD TO DETRACT US FROM THE BEST**

## 26 **THE PRAYER OF PROTECTION**

## 27 **THE PRAYER OF JOB**

- Job 1:5 -- *Then when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send, and he would sanctify them. Thus he would arise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of all of them, because Job thought, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their heart." This is what Job used to do all the time.*

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## 28 **DID JOB'S PRAYER REALLY WORK?**

- Job's children died.
- Satan himself acknowledged that Job's prayers had caused God to put a hedge of protection around Job and his family.
  - Job 1:10 -- *Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.*

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## 29 **IT IS TIME TO STAND IN THE GAP**

- Ezekiel 22:30 -- *And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.*
  - When the walls around Jerusalem were broken down, Nehemiah had each father fix the part of the wall nearest his own home first. The men would hold a trowel in one hand to protect his family and a sword in the other to repair the gap in the wall.

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## 30 **WHEN MEN STAND IN THE GAP...**

- Ezekiel 34:28 -- *And they shall no more be a prey to the heathen, neither shall the beast of the land devour them; but they shall dwell safely, and none shall make them afraid.*
  - Our children grow to be strong and to thrive in the Lord.
  - They will live boldly for Jesus Christ and not fall prey to the fear of man.

31  **IS IT TIME FOR YOU TO DEFEND YOUR FAMILY?**

- There is still much to say about protecting your family which is why this will turn into a series of messages
- But let us stop right now and find out who will stand in the gap for their families?
  - Who is ready to repent and meet the prerequisites?
  - Who will admit wrong priorities and distractions?
  - Who will stand in the gap and pray a hedge of protection over their families?