

Who Is Your Shelter? by Rico Brown

A shelter is defined as a small building or covered place which is made to protect people from bad weather or danger. If a place provides shelter, it provides you with a place to stay or live, especially when you need protection from bad weather or danger. Throughout life we will face many dangers, some physical, but more importantly the spiritual dangers that cause us to seek shelter in a safe zone. We must consider that while the world offers many so called shelters, there is only one safe haven that is guaranteed, that is Christ.

The Book of Psalms speaks of the rock, refuge, and shelter that God has provided. “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1). “In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength and my refuge, is in God” (Psalm 62:7). “I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust” (Psalm 91:2). “I cried unto thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living” (Psalm 142:5).

Throughout the prophecies of Isaiah there is the description of God as being a shelter to His people. “And there will be a tabernacle for shade in the daytime from the heat, for a place of refuge, and for a shelter from storm and rain” (Isaiah 4:6). “For You have been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shade from the heat...” (Isaiah 25:4). “A man will be as a hiding place from the wind, and a shelter from the tempest, as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land” (Isaiah 32:2).

Isaiah also spoke of the uselessness of some shelters that men made for themselves. “Because you have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol we are in agreement. When the overflowing scourge passes through, it will not come to us, for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood we have hidden ourselves” (Isaiah 28:15). Judgment would be passed on those false shelters. “Also I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plummet; the hail will sweep away the refuge of lies and the waters will overflow the hiding place” (Isaiah 28:17).

The three little pigs made shelters of straw and sticks, but only the shelter made of rock was able to withstand the blast of the big, bad wolf. Spiritual shelters made of our accumulation of material goods, or shelters built on the lies of myths and falsehoods are shelters of straw and sticks. The rock of Christ is the only refuge that will stand. Therefore, it is also contained in Scripture, ‘Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame’ (1 Peter 2:6).

Have you made Jesus your shelter?