

A SHADOW CANNOT DESTROY YOU

1st November 2020 – ps Alexandra

The message today is about darkness, light and shadows.

Let's start by looking briefly at the life of Job.

Job went through unimaginable tragedies in his life. He lost his health, his family and everything that was dear to him.

At one stage in his desperation Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth.

Job 3:2-5

2 And Job spoke, and said:

3 "May the day perish on which I was born,

And the night in which it was said,

'A male child is conceived.'

4 May that day be darkness;

May God above not seek it,

Nor the light shine upon it.

5 May darkness and the shadow of death claim it;

May a cloud settle on it;

May the blackness of the day terrify it.

These are the words of someone who had lost all hope in life.

Psalm 23 also speaks of the shadow of death.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Psalm 23:4

The shadow of death can be a symbolic description of death itself, but it means more than that.

Darkness and light is a re-occurring theme throughout the whole Bible. Once you understand the importance of it, it completely changes the way you see the spiritual realm, as well as the character and nature of God.

The Apostle John wrote:

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5

Darkness and death represent a kingdom that is the opposite of God's kingdom. One is dark and the other one is light, literally.

Even when we read verse 4 of Psalm 23 as a metaphor to describe death, it cannot be understood in that sense if you belong to God.

This verse is not a reference to any spiritual darkness, or the terror we feel when we are heading to the grave.

If you are a follower of Jesus and your life belongs to Him there is absolutely no way that Satan and his kingdom have any claim over your life.

The Word says in **Colossians 1:13-14**

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

Jesus said:

And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one." John 10:28-30

Jesus died and rose from the dead, so you don't have to go through terror when it comes to death.

Psalm 22 is a prophecy about our Saviour Jesus Christ and His death upon the cross.

Psalm 22:12,13,16

12 Many bulls have surrounded Me;

Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled Me.

13 They gape at Me with their mouths,

Like a raging and roaring lion.

16 For dogs have surrounded Me;

The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me.

They pierced My hands and My feet;

This passage describes what was happening in the spiritual realm at the time of Jesus' death. It speaks of the kingdom of darkness coming against Jesus. Bulls, roaring lions and dogs are symbolic descriptions of the enemies of God. But enemies of God had no chance against Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:7-8

But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, 8 which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Ephesians 3:10

to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places,

Everyone in the spirit realm has been learning a great lesson about the wisdom of God.

Corinthians 15:55-57

O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?"

But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Death has lost its power over anyone who calls on Jesus to be saved!
The fear of death has no power over us.

Hebrews 2:14-15

14 (...) the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. 15 Only in this way could He set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.

The day will come, when death itself will be thrown into the lake of fire!

Revelation 20:14

14 Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. (...)

Don't let the fear of death have a grip on your mind and heart.

When we look back at Job and Psalm 23 we realise that both Job and the Psalmist used the same language 'darkness and the shadow of death' not only to refer to death in a literal sense, but also to describe the great challenges they were experiencing in life.

So, walking through the valley of the shadow of death also refers to dark times, the dark valleys that we go through in life.

Dark valleys can be financial, medical, relational, or whatever is causing us to feel as if we're walking in the dark, in uncertainty or confusion.

When we go through dark times, we need to keep our eyes on the Light. Light always overcomes darkness.

Jesus is the Light!

Jesus said in John 8:12

"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life."

The prophet Isaiah wrote in chapter 9:2

The people who walked in darkness

Have seen a great light;

Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death,

Upon them a light has shined.

Luke 1:79

To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death,

To guide our feet into the way of peace."

Matt. 4:16

The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,

And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death, Light has dawned."

In fact, Jesus said in Matthew 5:14-15

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

We are the light of the world. Jesus shines through us.

Even when you go through dark valleys in life, the shadow of death and darkness have no power over you.

A SHADOW CANNOT DESTROY YOU!

The shadow of a dog cannot bite; the shadow of a gun cannot kill!

THE SHADOW OF THE ALMIGHTY GOD IS YOUR PROTECTION.

Isaiah 51:16

(...) I have covered you with the shadow of My hand,

Psalm 57:1

(...) For my soul trusts in You; And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, Until these calamities have passed by.

Psalm 91

He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

When you go through the valley of the shadow of death remember these 3 points:

1. A shadow cannot destroy you.
2. The light of Jesus overpowers all darkness.
3. The shadow of God is your protection.

8 He made the Pleiades and Orion; (the constellations)

He turns the shadow of death into morning (...) Amos 5:8