

PANIC & RUN

Tuesday, February 6

Reading: Psalm 11

Psalm 11:1 *In the LORD I take refuge. How then can you say to me: "Flee like a bird to your mountain. 2 For look, the wicked bend their bows; they set their arrows against the strings to shoot from the shadows at the upright in heart. 3 When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?"*

In the Disney animated show "The Lion Guard" we meet Thurston, the leader of a herd of zebras in the Pride Lands. He is a rather comical character who describes the zebra's strategy of defense. Their response is so well known that in one episode the hyenas sing a song about it! Whenever danger, a predator, or just about anything out of the ordinary happens, the zebras respond the same way - panic and run!

Many people today have this same reaction. In Psalm 11, this is what David's associates tell him to do. They know his enemies are surrounding him and planning to attack from the shadows and their counsel is to "flee like a bird to your mountain." Panic and run away! But David's answer is different. Instead of looking for a place to run, David takes refuge in the Lord. Instead of running in fear, David will stand in faith.

The second fear of David's companions is found in verse 3 - "When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?" These men looked around and saw society falling apart. They saw no hope other than to cut and run. Once again, David takes a different approach. While earthly support may be failing, "the LORD is in His holy temple; the LORD is on His heavenly throne." Nothing can shake the solid foundation of trust in God.

In America today the foundations seem to be falling apart. While our nation once stood on godly principles and religious dedication, that foundation is quickly eroding away. God's moral law has been replaced by laws that make sin legal. Our once strong religious foundation has crumbled as the things of God have been thrown out of society and we are told to keep our faith within the church walls. Even within the American church itself, many have turned to beliefs that are contrary to what the Bible teaches. The worse it gets, the more we want to panic and run away!

But God wants us to stand firm in faith. To say that God is on His heavenly throne does not mean that he doesn't care about affairs on earth. In fact, David reminds us that "He observes everyone on earth; His eyes examine them." The wicked will not win that day.

The last line of this psalm is a great encouragement. "The upright will see His face." When we focus solely on the turmoil and trouble around us that is all we will see. But when we look up in faith to the Lord on His throne we will realize that He is still in control. We will see Him as He really is and then we can see ourselves and the world through His eyes. Don't panic and run in fear. Stand and take refuge in your faith in God.