

No. 2 Word Pictures That Inspire Faith in Jehovah (Symposium) —Shield

Note to speaker:

This is the first talk of a four-part symposium. The questions in the main headings follow the same format in each talk. Explain how picturing Jehovah as a shield can strengthen our resolve to carry out our dedication. This talk includes a soliloquy

LEARNING ABOUT JEHOVAH WILL INCREASE OUR FAITH IN HIM (2 min.)

Faith in God is a “primary doctrine” of Christian belief (Heb 6:1)

However, faith in God involves much more than mere belief (Jas 2:19)

To develop faith and trust in someone, we need to get to know him and to learn about his qualities

Our faith in God will increase as we learn more about him

This symposium will consider word pictures that inspire faith in Jehovah (*w09 5/1 13-14*)

In each of the four talks, we will consider three questions: (1) How does this word picture inspire faith in Jehovah? (2) When is it especially helpful to think of Jehovah as described in this word picture? (3) How can we demonstrate faith that Jehovah fulfills this role in our life?

HOW DOES PICTURING JEHOVAH AS A SHIELD INSPIRE FAITH IN HIM? (4 min.)

A shield is a broad piece of defensive armor that provides a protective cover from an enemy’s weapons

Jehovah is a shield like no other [**Read Psalm 28:7**]

He is the Almighty; he is more powerful than anyone else in the universe

There is no weapon that exceeds his power to defend us

Other titles and descriptions help us to understand his limitless power to protect us

“Sovereign Lord” (Ps 69:6)

Jehovah has the supreme authority to protect his people

“Jehovah of armies” (Ps 69:6)

This expression reminds us that Jehovah commands vast forces of spirit creatures

The destructive potential of this army is awe-inspiring (Isa 37:36)

“King of eternity” (Re 15:3)

Jehovah’s ability to protect us extends into the endless future

Not even our death can remove us from Jehovah’s protective care

WHEN IS IT ESPECIALLY HELPFUL TO THINK OF JEHOVAH AS A SHIELD? (5 min.)

As Jehovah’s servants, we are the targets of opposers (*w07 7/1 29-30 ¶11; w05 5/15 28-29 ¶13-16*)

The world is growing increasingly unstable and violent; we are not immune to the results (Ec 9:11)

We may face violence at work or in school (*g03 8/22 3; g02 2/22 3*)

As a shield, Jehovah will help us to face opposition or violence (Ps 91:1, 2, 4)

His holy spirit can help us to be courageous and to act wisely

Jehovah guarantees our physical protection now as a group and ultimately as individuals—by means of a resurrection if necessary (*cl 72-74 ¶13-17*)

He can use myriads of angels to provide us with spiritual or even physical protection (Ps 91:11, 12; *w01 11/15 19 ¶15*)

HOW CAN WE DEMONSTRATE THAT JEHOVAH IS A SHIELD FOR US? (2 min.)

When we are pressured to compromise our faith in some way and feel alone against the world, it is essential to remember that Jehovah is on our side (Ps 118:6-12)

At such times, it is important that we turn to God in prayer (Heb 4:16)

God can strengthen us in our resolve not to compromise or disobey him under any circumstances

We must nourish our faith by regularly feeding on God’s Word and progressively studying the Bible (*w15 10/15 10 ¶7*)

Sharing in the preaching work is an excellent way to demonstrate our faith

Let us now look in on a brother who is demonstrating faith that Jehovah is a shield for him

SOLILOQUY (2 min.)

****[A brother contemplates whether he will have a share in the ministry on the weekend or not. The last time he was in field service, a householder reacted very negatively to his message]****

Brother: It is Friday already; the week seemed to pass by so quickly. So, what should I do on the weekend?

I know I should spend some time in the field service. But last Saturday while I was sharing in the ministry, one householder was so negative, yelling at me and saying that I was wasting my time and that I should get off of his property immediately. I sure don’t want to have that happen again! Maybe I should go to

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the meeting on Sunday but stay at home for the remainder of the weekend. I could watch a ball game and get some rest. ****[Pause]**** No, I know better than that. If I stay away from the ministry just because of what happened last week, I will be giving in to fear of man! Jehovah promises that he will be a shield for me and protect me from enemies of true worship. I need to strengthen my confidence that Jehovah *will* protect me. So, what can I do? I can go to Jehovah in prayer and tell him how I feel about what happened last week. I will ask him to give me courage to share in the ministry this weekend. Then I can do some research in the Bible and in our publications to find an example of someone who faced similar circumstances, maybe someone like Jeremiah. No doubt I can also find a modern-day experience of someone who faced opposition in the ministry and see how Jehovah acted as a shield in order to protect him. Then I will be ready for a productive day in the ministry.

HOLD ON TO JEHOVAH AS YOUR SHIELD (1 min.)

Jehovah, our Shield, is real (Joh 7:28)

Just as an ancient soldier would tightly grip his literal shield, hold firmly to Jehovah as your Shield, confident that you will always be protected!

Now we invite Brother _____ to develop the theme “Word Pictures That Inspire Faith in Jehovah —Father”

(Speaker does not need to read or comment on every cited text or discuss every subpoint)

CA-cotk17-E No. 2 3/16

TO BE COVERED IN 16 MINUTES

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