

Where Do You Dwell?

By R.T. Nusbaum

"He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." (Psalm 91)

Most Christians desire such things as peace and protection. They simply expect God to shower these things into their daily lives because they became Christians. But the whole question of peace and protection is based on where you choose to dwell and not just because you are a Christian. What I mean is, there are Christians who seem to constantly dwell in peace and protection while others, though Christian seem to lack these things. All Christians, at different phases of their walk will have times of great peace, but I am referring to peace and protection as being a common part of your Christianity. The key to this, I believe, is based on where you choose to dwell.

Most think there is only one place they can dwell and that is in the situations that life has dealt them. To many, there are no other options. But what was Joseph thinking when he was in the "pits." His angry, jealous brothers threw Joseph into a deep pit without water, food or any supplies. From a circumstantial perspective all was lost and hopeless. How could he find peace and protection in such a state and in such a place? He was separated from a loving father, rejected and hated by his brothers, and probably quite scared.

The Lord knew that even though Joseph had a time of trials and difficulty ahead of him, no harm would ultimately come to him. For Joseph, it must have seemed like an eternity while laying in the bottom of that pit. Later he was sold into slavery only to be accused of "improper conduct" by Potipher's wife and thrown into jail. It must have been so discouraging to help a couple of fellow prisoners out with their dreams (he interpreted two men's dreams in jail) just to be forgotten after their release. As he sat in jail, despair must have tried to overcome him. However, scripture never even indicates a single complaint or time of doubt. Finally the Lord allowed Joseph, in His perfect timing, to interpret Pharaoh's dream accurately which resulted in this "ex-con" becoming the number two man over all of Egypt. He took a man who was at the bottom of the "pits" and lifted him to a position of greatness. He went from the pits to power.

It is at this point where the heavens and the earth must be divided one from another (Genesis 1:4). To truly understand this "secret place" will require an open heaven (Mat 3:16-17; Rev. 4:1-2). To successfully make this journey to a place of peace and protection you must leave your earth viewpoints. From the Lord's perspective, Joseph was just beginning to enter into the things that were prepared for him. As far as the Father was concerned, Joseph was already on the throne from above according to the dream he had given Joseph. Do you remember the vision of the sun, moon and stars? It was a heavenly vision that could only be fulfilled in the heavens though certainly manifested in the earth.

Later on, Joseph cried over his brothers who stood before him fearing for their lives. They thought they stood before a powerful Egyptian who would be used of God to punish them for what they had done to their brother, Joseph. Little did they realize that this was Joseph. They did not know that they were safe and that he was for them. Joseph had learned when he was in the pits to trust in the Father's love in spite of how things appeared. He learned to dwell in a secret place that was "most high" even as the sun moon and stars were from above. He wept for his own brothers who were going through major trials simply because they had not found this glorious place of rest and peace. ***