

Biblical Study Insights

A Weekly Compilation by Rodney "Roc" Foreman

"The Secret Place"

"...He that dwells in THE SECRET PLACE of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty...."
Psalms 91:1

It seems that every time I read this verse, I get a sense of God's overwhelming comfort in my life. Quite frankly, this is one of the more popular verses within the Christian community altogether, especially when referring to prayer, worship or some sort of divine protection from God (and rightfully so). The "secret place" should, indeed, be known (and experienced) as the place of refuge, prayer and divine fellowship, but as we look further into the spirit of the text, we should find even more.

Many of us already know (at least to a workable degree) what the secret place is, but I dare not guess how many of us truly understand what it takes to experience the secret place. When the Psalmist speaks here about the secret place, the first requirement he gives is the necessity to dwell there! Now, of course we know that "dwelling" here is to live, remain or make an abode. However, the Hebrew root for dwell, "Yashab" (yaw-shab) is that which denotes deifying the place in which we remain. In other words, you live in the secret place because it is UNLIKE any other place and therefore causes you to view it as Divine.

In addition to this truth, there is another truth that is awesome to understand. Dwelling here also signifies a Divine (or Deified) invitation to dwell, that is, an invitation that is extended NOT demanded. In other words, I can't enter the secret place of my own accord. The shocking truth is that prayer, worship, and even Christian service, in and of themselves, can NEVER get me there. Even with all of these responsible acts, I still have to be invited, and this "invitation" is NOT given to anyone! It is defined as "a reward for those who possess diligence. Many pray, but are NOT diligent in prayer. Many worship, yet are NOT diligent in worship. Many do wonderful "Christian" acts, but are NOT diligent in those acts. The Apostle Paul said it the very BEST! "...If I do not have Love, I gain nothing...." **1st Corinthians 13:1-3** So then, the inference of this in continuation is that my remaining there [dwelling] is hinged upon the fulfillment of diligence, which is NOT seen in what we "DO", but in how we BELIEVE! If I am no longer diligent in Believing by Faith, then my invitation for habitation is forfeited. Let's look at this further....

So Now, do I "merit" my way into the secret place? A sound understanding of the word "dwell" (*Yashab*) **Psalm 91:1** will cause us to know that our view of this place [*as deity*] impacts us in a way that causes action, motivation and service. Secondly, the secret place is NOT ours to demand. It is owned by **El-Elyon [The Most High]**. El-Elyon is the God who is not only high (exalted), but Who also Possesses and Rules. He is God in COMPLETE CONTROL and has FULL OWNERSHIP of what He is in control of.

The Psalmist says that when I am in this Secret Place, I will "*abide under His shadow*", which is different from "dwelling" (although similar in their essence). Abide in the Hebrew is the word, "**Luwn**" (*loon*), which is *lodging through night or dark seasons (also dark times, events, places, etc)*, which is a metaphoric reference to "evil suffering." Notice though, that we are abiding in a dark place that is GOOD for us (**under His shadow**) *FROM* a dark place that is HARMFUL for us (hardships, evil suffering, etc). WOW! What thought provoking truth!

Ok, let us look at all we have seen thus far. The Secret Place is to be viewed as a place of Deity, yet it is a place that is dark for my good - to keep from evil suffering. However, it is NOT a place that I can go to on my own, no matter how much I pray, do good deeds, worship, or any other seemingly good thing. It is essentially the Welcome of God into a place that He has designed as a gift for those who have shown a faithful consistency in seeking His refuge. Do you really want to be in the Secret Place? How much do you really want it?

*"...But without FAITH it is impossible to please HIM: for he that cometh to God must BELIEVE that HE IS, and that HE is a **REWARDER** of them that diligently seek HIM...." Hebrews 11:6*

Much Love,
Roc

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