

## ASSURANCES TO THE RIGHTEOUS

TEXT: (Proverbs 24:15-16, NIV)

<sup>15</sup> Do not lurk like a thief near the house of the righteous, do not plunder their dwelling place; <sup>16</sup> for though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes.

## INTRODUCTION

1. "Though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes" (Proverbs 24:16, NIV).
2. "The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him, but with an overwhelming flood he will make an end of Nineveh; he will pursue his foes into darkness" (Nahum 1:7-8, NIV).
3. "In a desert land he found him, in a barren and howling waste. He shielded him and cared for him; he guarded him as the apple of his eye" (Deuteronomy 32:10, NIV).
4. "Do not lurk like a thief near the house of the righteous, do not plunder their dwelling place; for though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes" (Proverbs 24:15-16, NIV).

## I. THERE IS SOMETHING THE RIGHTEOUS KNOW

1. "The people that do know their God shall be strong, and do *exploits*" (Daniel 10:32, KJV).
2. "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe" (Ephesians 1:18-19, NIV).

## A. A Jealous and Avenging God

1. "The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD takes vengeance and is filled with wrath. The LORD takes vengeance on his foes and maintains his wrath against his enemies" (Nahum 1:2, NIV).

## B. The LORD Is Sovereign and in Control

1. "The LORD is slow to anger and great in power; the LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished" (Nahum 1:3, NIV).
2. "But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (II Peter 3:8-9, NIV).
3. "Do not lurk like a thief near the house of the righteous, do not plunder their dwelling place; for though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes" (Proverbs 24:15-16, NIV).

## C. We are All Answerable to the Lord

1. "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving" (Colossians 3:23-24, NIV).

## II. THE LORD IS GOOD TO MANKIND

1. "The LORD is good" (Nahum 1:7, NIV).

### A. The Lord Is the Supplier and Provider

1. "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever" (Psalm 23:5-6, NIV).

### B. The Lord Gives Good Gifts

1. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17).
2. "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:9-13, NIV).

### C. The Lord Is Good to All People

1. "Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right" (Acts 10:34-35, NIV).
2. "But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" (Matthew 5:44-45, NIV).

## III. THE LORD IS OUR REFUGE IN TROUBLE

1. "The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him, but with an overwhelming flood he will make an end of Nineveh; he will pursue his foes into darkness" (Nahum 1:7-8, NIV).
2. "Do not lurk like a thief near the house of the righteous, do not plunder their dwelling place; for though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes" (Proverbs 24:15-16, NIV).

### A. He Is **MY** Refuge and **MY** Fortress

1. "I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust" (Psalm 91:2, NIV).

### B. He Creates an Environment of Trust

1. "Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation" (Isaiah 12:2, NIV).
2. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6, NIV).

### C. Angels Have Charge to Protect Us

1. "For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone" (Psalm 91:11-12, NIV).
2. "For this reason, and because the angels are watching, a woman should wear a covering on her head to show she is under authority.  
...And isn't long hair a woman's pride and joy? For it has been given to her as a covering" (I Corinthians 11:10, 15, NLT).
3. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them" (II Kings 6:16, NIV).
4. "My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions" (Daniel 6:22, NIV).
5. "Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. 'Quick, get up!' he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists" (Acts 12:7, NIV).

### CONCLUSION

1. "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future'" (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV).
2. "The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the LORD holds them by the hand" (Psalm 37:23-24, NLT).
3. "Do not lurk like a thief near the house of the righteous, do not plunder their dwelling place; for though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes" (Proverbs 24:15-16, NIV).