**Covered with His Feathers (God’s Protection)**

**Psalms 91:4-12**

91:4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust; his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.
91:5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

91:6 Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.

91:7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.

91:8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

91:9 Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the Most High, thy habitation;

91:10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

91:11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

91:12 They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

**Definitions:**

Any measure taken to guard a thing against damage caused by outside forces.

A person or thing that prevents someone or something from suffering harm or injury

**Synonyms**:

Defense, shielding, shelter, preservation, safety, sanctuary, refuge, barrier, shield, hedge, armor, safeguard.

As a single mother, my kids are home by themselves over the summer and after school for a short time. When they get home from school, they have to call me. When they are home during the summer, there are rules: Do not open the door for anyone, stay inside, call/text me throughout the day. These rules have a purpose.

1. Communication-Staying in constant communication allows me to know they are alright.

* Phone calls/text, emails at work, school news bulletins, websites

2. Rules-(many different purposes for rules, but in this instance it is for) Boundaries to keep them safe

* Schools have rules to keep children and staff safe
* Work places have rules to keep its employees safe

So, how does this pertain to God?

The more that we talk to God through prayer, the more he sees that we are willing to keep that open line of communication with him, so he can speak to us. This way we can ask for his protection daily.

God has set in place many commandments/rules that we must obey that will ultimately lead to our safety after we die. All of Gods commandments are for the benefit and welfare of our souls. If we choose to obey them, we will be blessed.

**Soccer Analogy:**

I took my kids to Kings Island the beginning of September and the first night we were in our hotel I was woke up around 1:45am and this analogy came to me.

Soccer Ball= Satan/bad things in our lives

Goal= Our spiritual being/ our temples

In soccer, your main objective is to protect your home goal (our spiritual being/temples) from the ball (evil).

As the ball is further away from your home goal, you are usually more relaxed and in some cases, may not be as alert as you should be.

If the ball comes back towards your goal full force and gets by you, then you have to hustle back and work even harder to get that ball away from your goal. Whereas, if you had been standing there prepared, knowing that at some point it was going to be coming back at you, you are more likely going to be able to keep it away from your goal.

If we are continually preparing our lives, staying in a constant state of prayer, fasting and study on a regular basis, we will be more equipped to be able to resist or be able to more easily get rid of the bad things that try to come in and infect our lives.

 If we aren’t in that constant state of prayer, fasting, study than it is going to be so much easier for the evil one to slip things past us, and talk us into doing things that we shouldn’t or wouldn’t normally do.

God allows things to happen for us to seek him out, so we are using our agency to draw near to him and trust him.

**Job 1:9-12**

**9** Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for naught?

**10** Hast not thou made a **hedge** about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

**11** But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

**12** And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord.

\*\*Lynette’s prayer asked for God to place his hedge of protection around us this weekend.

**My Testimony** (very condensed version)

When I was in my early 20’s I was dating someone that was not a good person. I had the chance to leave him a few months after we started dating but felt sorry for him and was guilted into being with him. I was told by my brother that if I went back to this person, that God was going to lower the hedge around me. I didn’t think much of it except “who is he to tell me what God would do.” Around a month later, I was pregnant. Life was full of abuse for the next 4 years. Around the 4 year mark, I had been praying at night that God would do something to cause this guy to leave me because I knew I did not have the strength to leave him. I wanted out but was afraid of the consequences and didn’t think that my family would accept me back. One morning, I literally woke up and was done. With much difficulty, I moved into my parents’ house and they were able to help me get back on my feet and protect us from him. He had shown up at my parent’s home a few times when he knew they were not there and was pounding on the windows of the house. I was still scared, but felt safe inside there home. I was pretty much useless when we first left, so my dad took the initiative to get the restraining order in place. My children only saw him a few times for about 4 months after we left. God has protected them from having to be in the environment that he lives in. After going back and forth to court only a handful of times in the beginning, we have not had to worry about him since. Fast forward 8 ½ years and I can now see what my brother was referring to when he said that God would lower the hedge. He did. Not because he didn’t care, but because I could not live that life and be a follower of him. I do believe God was still there, but he was in the very far distance. I lived a horribly sinful life and saw more trouble than I ever would have cared to see. After getting away from him, I started to pray and read again. I ask God every day to keep the hedge up high around me and my family.

Ask and ye shall receive, knock and it shall be opened unto you. (D&C 4:2b)

While gathering information for this class, the verses “as a hen gathereth her chickens” kept coming to mind. As I was reading through all of them, III Nephi’s 4 references caught my eye.

**III Nephi 4:55-58**

55) And it came to pass that there came a voice again unto the people, and all the people did hear, and did witness of it saying, O ye people of these great cities which have fallen, who are descendants of Jacob; yea, who are of the house of Israel, O, ye people of the house of Israel, how oft have I gathered you as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and have nourished you.

56) And again, how oft would I have gathered you, as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings; yea, O ye people of the house of Israel, who have fallen;

57) Yea, O ye people of the house of Israel; ye that dwell at Jerusalem, as ye that have fallen; yea, how oft would I have gathered you as a hen gathereth her chickens, and ye would not.

58) O ye house of Israel, whom I have spared, how oft will I gather you as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, if ye will repent and return unto me with full purpose of heart.

You can see the usage of past, present and future tense, emphasizing to me, how God is the same yesterday, today and forever. He has protected his people more times than we could ever count in the past, he is protecting his people now and he will protect his people in the near future as all of the prophecies begin to be unfolded.

**Physical Protection**

When the people followed God and did what God commanded them to do, he protected them. When they disobeyed and left Gods laws and commands, he lifted his hand of protection and allowed them to use there agency.

**Jacob 1:10** The people having loved Nephi exceedingly, he having been a great protector for them, having wielded the sword of Laban in their defense, and having labored in all his days for their welfare; wherefore, the people were desirous to retain in remembrance his name.

**Mosiah 6:18** Yea, and it came to pass that they fled, all that were not overtaken, even into the city of Nephi, and did call upon me for protection.

**Alma 1:88** And it came to pass that Alma, being a man of God, being exercised with much faith, cried saying, O Lord, have mercy and spare my life, that I may be an instrument in thy hands, to save and protect this people.

**Alma 12:30-35, 43-49, 161**

**12:30** And as Ammon entered the land of Ishmael, the Lamanites took him and bound him, as was their custom, to bind all the Nephites who fell into their hands, and carry them before the king;

**12:31** And thus it was left to the pleasure of the king to slay them, or to retain them in captivity, or to cast them into prison, or to cast them out of his land, according to his will and pleasure;
**12:32** And thus Ammon was carried before the king who was over the land of Ishmael; and his name was Lamoni; and he was a descendant of Ishmael.
**12:33** And the king inquired of Ammon if it were his desire to dwell in the land among the Lamanites, or among his people?
**12:34** And Ammon said unto him, Yea, I desire to dwell among this people for a time; yea, and perhaps until the day I die.
**12:35** And it came to pass that King Lamoni was much pleased with Ammon, and caused that his bands should be loosed; and he would that Ammon should take one of his daughters to wife.

**12:43** Now when Ammon saw this, his heart was swollen within him, with joy; for, said he, I will shew forth my power unto these my fellow servants, or the power which is in me, in restoring these flocks unto the king, that I may win the hearts of these my fellow servants, that I may lead them to believe in my words.
**12:44** Now these were the thoughts of Ammon, when he saw the afflictions of those whom he termed to be his brethren.

**12:45** And it came to pass that he flattered them by his words, saying, My brethren be of good cheer and let us go in search of the flocks, and we will gather them together, and bring them back unto the place of water;

**12:46** And thus we will reserve the flocks unto the king, and he will not slay us.
**12:47** And it came to pass that they went in search of the flocks, and they did follow Ammon, and they rushed forth with much swiftness, and did head the flocks of the king, and did gather them together again, to the place of water.
**12:48** And those men again stood to scatter their flocks; but Ammon said unto his brethren, Encircle the flocks round about that they flee not: and I go and contend with these men who do scatter our flocks.
**12:49** Therefore they did as Ammon commanded them, and he went forth and stood to contend with those who stood by the waters of Sebus;

**12:161** Now we see that Ammon could not be slain, for the Lord had said unto Mosiah, his father, I will spare him, and it shall be unto him according to thy faith; therefore Mosiah trusted him unto the Lord

**Alma 14:60** And they did no more attempt to slay the people of Anti-Nephi-Lehi at that time; but they took their armies and went over into the borders of the land of Zarahemla, and fell upon the people who were in the land of Ammonihah and destroyed them.

**Alma 15:24** And behold, we will set our armies between the land Jershon and the land Nephi, that we may protect our brethren in the land Jershon;

**Helaman 5:111** But as many as there were who did not believe in the words of Samuel, were angry with him; and they cast stones at him upon the wall, and also many shot arrows at him, as he stood upon the wall;

**4 Nephi**

**1:33** But by the power of the word of God, which was in them, the prisons were rent in twain, and they went forth doing mighty miracles among them.

**1:34** Nevertheless, and notwithstanding all these miracles, the people did harden their hearts, and did seek to kill them, even as the Jews at Jerusalem sought to kill Jesus, according to his word,

**1:35** And they did cast them into furnaces of fire, and they came forth receiving no harm; and they also cast them into dens of wild beasts, and they did play with the wild beasts even as a child with a lamb; and they did come forth from among them, receiving no harm.

(There were a number of Nephities that were wicked and cast Nephi and his followers into furnaces & dens of wild beast but God protected them because they were faithful, much like Daniel and the Lions Den)

**Daniel 6:7**

**6:7** All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counselors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God, or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of

**Daniel 6:13-22**

**13** Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.
**14** Then the king, when he heard these words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him; and he labored till the going down of the sun to deliver him.
**15** Then these men assembled unto the king and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.
**16** Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.
**17** And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.
**18** Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting; neither were instruments of music brought before him; and his sleep went from him.
**19** Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.
**20** And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel, and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?
**21** Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live forever.

**22** My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me; forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

There are so many examples throughout all of the scriptures, a few are:

Sampson-Faithful, he was protected; disobeyed hedge was lifted

David & Goliath, Noah and the Ark, Jaredites, Lehi-left Jerusalem in obedience, Nephi was tied up on the ship on the way to the Promised Land-when they were faithful the Liahona worked, they disobeyed and tied up Nephi they were lost.

**Spiritual Protection:**

* **Pray**

**[1 Thessalonians 5](http://restoredgospel.com/Scriptures/Context.asp?ScriptureID=30886&ContextInt=&SubmitID=Submit" \t "_blank)**

 **[17](http://restoredgospel.com/Scriptures/Context.asp?ScriptureID=30886&ContextInt=&SubmitID=Submit" \t "_blank)** **Pray without ceasing**.

 **18** In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

[**Mosiah 11:149**](http://restoredgospel.com/Scriptures/Context.asp?ScriptureID=35978&ContextInt=&SubmitID=Submit) And they did admonish their brethren; and they were also admonished, every one, by the word of God, according to his sins, or to the sins which he had committed; being commanded of God to **pray without ceasing**, and to give thanks in all things.

* **Fast**

[**Isaiah 58:6**](http://restoredgospel.com/Scriptures/Context.asp?ScriptureID=19586&ContextInt=&SubmitID=Submit) Is not this the **fast** that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

**Alma 4:6** Nevertheless the children of God were commanded that they should gather themselves together oft, and join in fasting and mighty prayer, in behalf of the welfare of the souls of those who knew not God

**Alma 12:4-5**

**4** For they were men of a sound understanding, and they had searched the scriptures diligently, that they might know the word of God.
**5** But this is not all: they had given themselves to much prayer, and fasting, therefore they had the spirit of prophecy, and the spirit of revelation, and when they taught, they taught with power and authority, even as with the power and authority of God.

(Mention, he 6th of every month is church wide fasting and prayer day. Pray for unity in the church)

* **Cleansing Life**

[**Psalms 19:12**](http://restoredgospel.com/Scriptures/Context.asp?ScriptureID=14870&ContextInt=&SubmitID=Submit) Who can understand his errors? **cleanse** thou me from secret faults.

**1 John 1:7-9**

**7** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son **cleanseth** us from all sin.
**8** If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
**9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to **cleanse** us from all unrighteousness.

Verb:

Make thoroughly clean

Noun:

A process or period of time during which a person attempts to rid the body of substances regarded as toxic or unhealthy

Make clean, purge or purify

(Doesn’t happen overnight)

* **Reading/Studying**

**Reading** involves going through a particular topic to gather information from it. **Studying** requires more devotion, time and energy when compared to **reading**. **Studying** involves researching and learning while **reading** involves perusing through texts to understand concepts.

**My Patriarchal Blessing:**

“And He admonishes you to study the Scriptures. He wasn’t you to read about the Bible, Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants. He wants you to read a little bit each day so He can put a desire in your heart to read and to read and this will grow and grow within your hear and should that you will want to do this.”

\*\*It is so important to carve out time each day to read & study, if even only ten minutes before bed each night\*\*

* Total and Complete Submission

**James 4:7-8**

**7** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
**8** Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double-minded.

**Mosiah 1:119-120**

**119** For the natural man is an enemy to God, and has been, from the fall of Adam, and will be, for ever and ever;
**120** But if he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man, and becometh a saint, through the atonement of Christ, the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father.

(Through this, God can bring things to your mind when you are in need of it)

\*\*Each day God protects us. We need to give thanks for even the small protections.