

The name of the Lord is a strong tower the righteous run into it , they are safe. Proverbs 18:10

This is a very descriptive imagery, where we are called to think of the name of the Lord as a huge tower. The phenomenon of towers to safe guard the country belongs to a bygone era. There will be huge towers built where people can hide and be safe when the enemy comes near. There are huge doors which cannot be broken, there are very high walls which cannot be scaled. A person living in Trichy would have surely seen the massive Main Guard Gate and the huge walls surrounding the Teppakulam area. If even that could be so foreboding, we can well imagine how invincible the Tower of God will be.

Throughout history, we see humans building huge structures to mark their power of their empires and as a cultural marker of their country's advancement. Humans have an insatiable thirst in building such great towers and structures. The tower which was first built that way was the famous or should I say the infamous tower of Babel. **Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.**

So the early tower of Babel was built to signify

Absolute Power - equalling oneself to God

To make a name - Pride of life.

To be together

This has always been the desire of humans, that we become equal to God. But the root of this desire comes from satan, the angel of light who fell from heaven because he wanted to be worshipped like the Sovereign God Himself.

But however strong and mighty these towers were built, they eventually fell to dust one day. Turning back the pages of history one would find such sky scraping towers falling to dust. Every nation scurries to build the highest tower, but a small

earth quake or even an airplane can topple the tower like a deck of cards. Even today all across Europe and America we see huge resplendent structures are built or are being built to proudly proclaim the financial muscle and the supposed cultural superiority of their nation.

But one day they will also gather dust and perish. The only Tower and the Structure which will stand tearing the trophies of time will be eternal things of God. How true the words what the pilgrim sang,

In the Cross of Christ I glory, Towering over the wrecks of time. ..“

The Word of God proclaims ,

The Name of the Lord is a strong Tower, The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;

David can never stop singing about God being his fortress, tower and refuge

My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. Psalm 18 : 2

I will say of the LORD, “*He is* my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.” Psalm 91 : 2

The tower, the refuge, the fortress of God is not a tangible physical structure like some spires or steeples of huge churches. Even these have fallen on ruinous days in money and power fattened nations. The spires and steeples are not the tower of God.

The Tower, the Refuge, the Fortress, the Rest is God Himself. His Presence in our very lives becomes our protection. We may lack earthly signatures of wealth and prosperity but we can house this God of Gods, King of Kings and Lord of Lords in our pitifully small hearts.

David the sweet singer of Israel was a hunted man before he became king. Once his adversary Saul was closing in on David to slaughter him. When you read this incident in I Samuel it is like a nail biting thriller.

1 Samuel 23:21-29 (NKJV) And Saul said, “Blessed *are* you of the LORD, for you have compassion on me. ²²Please go and find out for sure, and see the place where his hideout is, *and* who has seen him there. For I am told he is very crafty. See therefore, and take knowledge of all the lurking places where he hides; and come back to me with certainty, and I will go with you. And it shall be, if he is in the land, that I will search for him throughout all the clans of Judah.”

So they arose and went to Ziph before Saul. But David and his men *were* in the Wilderness of Maon, in the plain on the south of Jeshimon. When Saul and his men went to seek *him*, they told David. Therefore he went down to the rock, and stayed in the Wilderness of Maon. And when Saul heard *that*, he pursued David in the Wilderness of Maon. Then Saul went on one side of the mountain, and David and his men on the other side of the mountain. So David made haste to get away from Saul, for Saul and his men were encircling David and his men to take them.

²⁷But a messenger came to Saul, saying, “Hurry and come, for the Philistines have invaded the land!” ²⁸Therefore Saul returned from pursuing David, and went against the Philistines; so they called that place the Rock of Escape. Then David went up from there and dwelt in strongholds at En Gedi.

As Saul was zeroing in on David from both sides of the hill, the Lord delivered him from the sure jaws of the Saul, by sending the Philistines to attack the land. God's timing was most opportune and in the face of the enemy it was his God Himself who was the strong Tower, David's Rock of Escape.

This Tower of Refuge, this Rock of Escape is not a physical structure built by hands, but it is the Name of our Lord, the Presence of our Lord. Our refuge and escape is so near to us always. As we call upon the Name of our Lord, He is as close as we call upon Him. This is not just a sermon which is written but it is so real in our personal lives also. There can be so many witnesses.

Personally this verse has been such a great and real comfort to me in the days of bereavement. For my birthday in June, mummy sent me a card with this verse and the following month my Father passed away. But this verse held me like those everlasting arms underneath.

But God the Maker of all heaven and earth, has a very strong tower and this tower will never be weak or eroded or collapse. And this tower is His very own name. The name of Jesus Christ!

There is no other name given in this earth by which men should be saved.

THEREFORE GOD ALSO HAS HIGHLY EXALTED HIM AND GIVEN HIM THE NAME WHICH IS ABOVE EVERY NAME, ¹⁰THAT AT THE NAME OF JESUS EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, OF THOSE IN HEAVEN, AND OF THOSE ON EARTH, AND OF THOSE UNDER THE EARTH, ¹¹AND *THAT* EVERY TONGUE SHOULD CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST *IS* LORD, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER.
Philippians 2 : 9-11.

Dear Lord help us to hide in you not only in the hour of trial and trouble, but all the days of our life. In Jesus Name. Amen.