

In the shadow of your wings: Psalm 57.1-3

Many thanks to Anna for today's TFTD.



*Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge.
I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed.*

*I cry out to God Most High, to God, who vindicates me.
He sends from heaven and saves me, rebuking those who hotly pursue me
God sends forth his love and his faithfulness. Psalm 57 1-3.*

Every time I read the image of God as a place where we can hide “in the shadow of your wings” (v1) I think of a story I once read. It was told by a person who had been a volunteer in the aftermath of the wildfires in Australia. They were clearing an area and came across some charred lumps on the ground. The experienced firefighter who was with the volunteers told them to carefully lift the lumps, as they did little chicks ran out. Under each lump was a group of little chicks -miraculously they had survived the fires by hiding under the one thing that kept them safe.

The volunteer asked the fire fighter “How did they know to hide under these lumps?” The firefighter said, “Those lumps are what is left of the chicks’ mothers, they were hiding under their mothers' wings!”

That story puts a different spin on “*I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until*

the disaster has passed!!.”

The hen and her chicks is an image repeatedly used in the Psalms to show how God is a refuge in times of trouble, a place of safety, a place to run to:

- *He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; Psalm 91*
- *Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings. Psalm 17*
- *Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. Psalm 63*
- *How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings. Psalm 36*
- *I long to dwell in your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of your wings. Psalm 61*

The image is of protection in all situations, it is an image of love of one who will not only look after daily needs but will protect, to the last, when needed.

Jesus uses the image when thinking about those who were standing against him and would eventually kill him:

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. Matt 23:37.

Throughout this time between Ascension and Pentecost we are using the Psalms with Thy Kingdom Come to pray for our friends and family to know Jesus, to seek refuge in him.

The image of the mother hen caring and protecting her chicks is a great one to use as a prayer for our friends and family especially when we have run out of words.

Just imagine them as chicks running to their mother hen.

Maybe you are already under the wings calling them in, maybe you are running next to them.



Prayer doesn't have to be hard, or long-winded, God knows what we want. He just wants us to tell him — simply imagine your friends under God's wing and say “thy will be done, Amen.”

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