

Section 4, Promises about Protection  
Introductory Article  
535 words

Promises about God's Protection: Introduction

It did not take the “first family” long to make the world a dangerous place to live. When Cain invited his brother, Abel, to go out to the fields, Abel probably didn't fear for his safety since, as far as we know, “assault” wasn't in their vocabulary. But after Cain murdered Abel, the pursuit of physical protection became a part of life (see Gen. 4:1-8).

Evidence of a preoccupation with personal protection is everywhere in our world—especially in technically developed countries. Drive through any mid-to-upper class suburb in America and see how many houses *don't* have a small, telltale sign planted in plain view that lets would-be thieves know the house is wired for protection. Home security systems are designed to trigger responses not only from police, but also fire and medical units as well. Outside the house, motion sensors will turn on the floodlights if someone approaches your house at night. And who hasn't accidentally bumped into a car in a mall parking light and been commanded to “Step back!” before being abused by an alarm that wails the rest of the day? States are issuing permits for individuals to carry concealed handguns for their personal protection; schools offer driving courses on how to escape a vehicle that is pursuing you; your car can be bullet- and terrorist-proofed; renting a bodyguard is no more difficult than renting a car. Personal protection has almost become personal paranoia.

The irony in this is that all the plans and paraphernalia in the world will not protect us from the things that can hurt us the most. That is, we are doing a good job at protecting our bodies and our property. But a person who has millions of dollars stored in gold bullion in a Swiss bank; who lives in a high-tech bunker that reports his pulse to his doctor and the quality of the air to his furnace; and who has a personal staff of goons and guard dogs patrolling every inch of his extensive property—that person could still be the loneliest individual in the world. What good does it do to have your physical world locked down tight if your mental and emotional world is being pillaged at will by forces beyond your control?

In this section of the Promises Study Bible you will discover that God is more than able to protect every aspect of your life—and part of his protection might be giving you the wisdom to install dead bolt locks on your doors. Wisdom doesn't preclude common sense precautions. But beyond the physical realm, God is your protector as well. Loneliness, the sense of inadequacy, fear, and negative emotions are intruders that will steal your faith, joy, and hope. Human enemies, as well as supernatural ones (the devil and his demons), are ready to prey on your peace. And then there is everyone's ultimate enemy, death itself. You can buy insurance against the financial impacts of death, but not a policy in the world can stop it from happening.

Be wise and take precautions in life. But instead of trusting in alarms, rest in the everlasting arms of the one who has promised to be your shield and protection.