



WEEKLY
CHRISTIAN
FOCUS

'WHILST I WITHAL ESCAPE!' (KJV)

**Psalm 141:10 While I pass
by and safely escape [from
danger]. (AMP)**

My dad used to like this movie called **'The Great Escape!'** produced in 1963 and a movie about some allied prisoners of war captured by the Germans who managed to escape through a tunnel in occupied France, to the woods outside the Prison camp, and from there make their way with new identities to other lands. A few of them managed to make it, I think, but the majority were caught and shot. Epic stuff! (See Links below)

This idea of 'escaping' from death or disaster or trouble or even temptation, first dawned on me about 15 years go when I visited the UK from China. Our plane landed at Heathrow in London, and it was a cold winter's day. The very next plane in after us, had some accident on the tarmac or some issue and that closed



the airport for many hours I believe. (sorry that's all a bit vague!)

The exact same thing happened a few years previously, coming in to the UK from Indonesia, there was an incident at Heathrow and we had just landed and safely disembarked. Everyone else after us were subject to huge delays, but 'we had escaped' something which we were not even aware of!

I remember clearly driving on the motorway in Naples, Italy, in 1996, and driving our family somewhere and as some of you know, Italy is not always known as a country that uses 'rules' to drive. In some ways this can be extremely exciting if you have a penchant for danger.

Honking, flashing car lights and James Bond high speeds are the order of the day, or at least they were twenty five or more years ago!

There in Naples, on that sunny day, on the motorway, two cars both simultaneously

decided they wanted to change lanes at high speed; one was coming at high speed on the inside lane, wishing to move to an outside faster lane, and the other from the furthest outside lane at high speed heading for the exit ramp. I could see all this happening through my mirrors. Both looked like they were going to crash into us. **The motorway was full of cars and all moving quickly.**

All I could do was pray, as I asked the Lord for protection. I still remember the huge crash they had just yards behind us as we continued driving in a straight line and 'escaped' so to speak. They had crashed into each other in the open space about 50 yards behind us!



In this world, people believe a lot in 'fate', or things that are 'meant to be' or 'not meant

to be'. This way of thinking satisfies the brain of the many unsaved people, **but it is very clear in Scripture, that as Christians, God has appointed a specific day for you to die.** I am still hoping to write the extended article called '**The Wrong Day to Die**', which shows clearly from the Bible that God protects His children, and has an appointed day for them to pass on to Heaven, but the same protection does not extend to those who are not yet saved.

Let's consider these few verses about escaping death or danger, and there are scores more like these in the Scripture!

Psalm 68:20

God is to us a God of acts of salvation; (saving)

And to God the Lord belong escapes from death.

Psalm 141:9 Keep me from the jaws of the trap which they have set for me,
And from the snares of those who do evil.

10
Let the wicked fall into their own nets,

While I pass by and safely escape [from danger].

So, it is God who is the One who engineers escapes, He is the God of escapes, see the Psalm 68 verse above! He has helped us escape this world through Salvation and we will one day be fully escaped and have that promise of Eternal Life. That is the really 'Great Escape' we need.

Yet down here on the earth, God would also like to be known to us as 'the God who helps us escape'.

Many of the escapes He has

done for us are mostly unknown, because He has engineered the escape from danger in the Spirit world through His angels or by other means.



Other escapes we may be able to notice or observe, like protection from robbery, accidents, and other harm. We do though, have to do our part in this, like praying before we leave the house, being street wise, avoiding huge crowds, and praying about our activities, which means, if God actually wants us to do those activities. These things will also keep you **safe**. Amen?

But when the chips are down and you have done what you could and prayed what you can, then you can have full assurance that 'To God, belong the escapes from death!'

Psalm 68:20

It's just so wonderful. I love this thought and it's very scriptural to think this way, Praise the Lord.

So, in a minute, by God's grace, I am going to ask you a few questions, but before that let's delve even deeper into this topic in the Bible.

Escapes in the Bible!

If you search the word 'Escape' in the Bible you will find in the Amplified Bible that it comes up over 160 times, and this alone makes for a fascinating study! which I think you should do.

I mean that is truly amazing that the situation of either 'escaping' or 'not escaping' is mentioned

160 times in the Bible. This should cause us to wake up and pay some attention to the topic.

I am going to start (finally, after this long introduction!) with 'escaping' or 'not escaping', and then secondly give examples of a few of God's people who escaped.

To escape from something, you first have to know or have some knowledge or sense of the Holy Spirit, WHAT or even WHO you need to escape from!

Today we are all, it seems to me, so absorbed by everyday life, by the media and by the necessity to continue at any cost the way we live, that we have so little time to understand what is coming down the line, (Going to happen!) are you like this? I can't blame you in one sense, but in another sense, if we truly loved God and were DESPERATE to know what is going on in the world according to God's Word, we could find out; and this may very well take sacrifice on our parts.

Escaping temptation

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation [regardless of its source] has overtaken or enticed you that is not common to human experience [nor is any temptation unusual or beyond human resistance]; but God is faithful [to His word—He is compassionate and trustworthy], and He will not let you be tempted beyond your ability [to resist], but along with the temptation He [has in the past and is now and] will [always] provide the way out ('**escape**' in the KJV as well, so that you will be able to

endure it [without yielding, and will overcome temptation with joy].



Escaping this world and its iniquity Ten people who 'escaped' in the Bible.

Genesis 7:7

NOAH: Then Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him entered the ark to **escape** the flood waters. *God had them build the boat for the prime purpose of escaping and starting mankind again.*

LOT: *Lot escaped the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah by the great mercy of God and the prayers of others. But note that his wife did not escape, nor his sons in law, who thought it was all a joke!*

Escape the famine!

Genesis 45:7

JOSEPH: God sent me [to Egypt] ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on the earth, and to keep you alive by a great escape. *The Patriarch Joseph speaking. (The Great Escape!)*

MOSES and the Children of Israel escaped from Egypt.

THE TWO ISRAELITE SPIES escaped out of Jericho by the help of Rahab. They escaped quickly in the middle of the night!

JOB ESCAPED the testing of the devil by his trust in God in all circumstances.

DAVID BEFORE BEING KING, ESCAPED TO THE WILDERNESS OF BOTH MOAB AND JUDAH.

David also escaped out of his own bedroom in the Palace and just got away before Saul's soldiers arrived to kill him in bed! He escaped quickly in the middle of the night!

ELIJAH ESCAPED TO THE WILDERNESS AND THE BROOK TO ESCAPE THE WRATH OF KING AHAB and his wife, Jezebel. God told him to escape quickly.

SHADRACH, MESCHACH AND ABEDNEGO escaped the fiery furnace by their faith and commitment to God.

JOSEPH AND MARY ESCAPED THE KINGDOM OF HEROD AND FLED TO EGYPT after a warning in a dream. God told them to escape quickly, they left in the middle of the night.

THE APOSTLE PAUL escaped Damascus by a basket over the wall. He escaped quickly in the middle of the night.

So, those are only ten examples in the Bible of amazing escapes, mostly at the guidance of God Himself. God has a time to escape for His children, from their present circumstances, when God deems them to be too dangerous to stay put! We also have seen, that He will make a way to escape from temptation. There are quite a few more in the Bible.

So God also helps us escape,

danger, harm, persecution and evil people, difficult and dangerous situations, economic disaster, the fall of a city to enemy soldiers. Often God lets us remain in a difficult situation for us to be a witness in the time of trouble, but it is also equally true that God is quite happy with us escaping out of it. Even Jesus said: **'When they persecute you in one city, flee to another!'** **Matthew 10:23**

Not escaping!

Now, just as it is true that God's people are hardwired to escape trouble if they are obedient, it is just as true that the wicked, or disobedient people are even more likely NOT to escape all these things. In fact there are more verses that show these type of people not escaping than there are those who do escape! Here are a few examples in general. **Although I do believe there are hundreds of verses, particularly in the Psalms and Jeremiah and other prophetic places.**

Job 11:20

"But the eyes of the wicked will fail, And they will not escape [the justice of God]; And their hope is to breathe their last [and die]."

Job 15:30 "He will not escape from darkness [fleeing disaster]; The flame [of God's wrath] will wither his branch, And by the blast of His mouth he will go away.

Jeremiah

38:23 So they shall bring out all thy wives and thy children to the Chaldeans: and thou shalt not escape out of their hand, but shalt be taken by the

hand of the king of Babylon:
and thou shalt cause this city
to be burned with fire. (Read
the whole chapter for specifics)

Jeremiah 46:6

Let not the swift flee
away, nor the mighty
man escape; they shall stumble,
and fall toward the north by
the river Euphrates.

1 Thessalonians 5:3 For
when they shall say, Peace and
safety; then sudden destruction
cometh upon them, as travail
upon a woman with child;
and they shall not escape.

The populations of Sodom and
Gomorra did not escape burning
sulphur.

Nineveh, Babylon, Tyre and Sidon
and other great cities did not
escape God's plans for them.

Jesus told the Jews they would
not escape and that their city
would be levelled down within a
generation due to their killing Him.

King Zedekiah would not escape
from Babylon's siege.

The merchants, the unjust buyers
and sellers would not escape
God's punishments, even though
rich in this life.

The rich man would not escape
hell. (Luke 16)

the devil and the Antichrist will not
escape the burning lake of fire.
(Revelation)

and nobody will escape their wilful
rejection of the Word of God, as
we see in this final verse.

Closing verse

Hebrews 12:25

See that ye refuse **not** him
that speaketh. For
if **they escaped not** who
refused him that
spake on earth, much
more **shall not we escape**, if
we turn away from him that

speaketh from heaven.

Questions for you



But what does this all mean to you
and me? As I said above we are
all too focused on the events of
the day and the situation around
us. I believe it's time to foresee
the evil and ask God are we in
the right place? Are we doing the
things God wants us to do? If we
are then, no problem; but if there
is in your minds and hearts some
uncertainty, it would be essential
to pray about it and ask God for
His guidance.

Circumstances in the world
are in great flux now and really
always have been. Only God
sees the future and what lies
ahead. It is His Will for the most
part to survive all these things
and continue on in the safest
place and be the best witness we
can be. Just think, what would
have happened if all those ten
righteous people I listed above
had not obeyed and escaped? In
Noah's case there would be no
humans (probably)

Moses obeyed God's call. Mary
and Joseph got their son Jesus
out of harm's way. God is also
looking at your children. He wants
to spare them and keep them in a
place where they can also serve
Him. **

I pray you will pray about these
topics and thoughts over the
weeks ahead.

God bless you.

Until next week,

Jerry

THE FINAL GREAT ESCAPE!

**Right after the Great Tribulation
which lasts 42 months, all God's
people still living, will escape this
world, and our eternal life in a
new dimension will begin. That's
the GREAT ESCAPE, I think my
dad would have enjoyed!**

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** Isaiah 32:2

Each one (godly person
or child) will be like a
shelter from the wind and
a refuge from the storm, like
streams of water in the desert
and the shadow of a great
rock in a thirsty land.

** Psalm 127:3-5 Children are a
heritage from the LORD,
offspring a reward from
him.
4 Like arrows in the hands of a
warrior
are children born in one's

youth.
5 Blessed is the man
whose quiver is full of them.
They will not be put to shame
when they contend with
their opponents in court.

a refuge for the needy in their
distress, a shelter
from the storm and a shade
from the heat. For the breath
of the ruthless is like
a storm driving against a wall.

Isaiah 25:4

You have been
a refuge for the poor,

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1 CORINTHIANS

*No temptation has overtaken you
except such as is common to man;*

— *but* —

**GOD IS FAITHFUL
WHO WILL NOT ALLOW YOU
TO BE TEMPTED
BEYOND WHAT YOU ARE ABLE**

— *but* —

*with the temptation will also
make the way of escape, that you
may be able to bear it.*

10:13

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