

# Jehovah-Magen: The Lord Our Shield

Genesis 15.1

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • January 5, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2020

Scripture Reader and Reading: Carl Peugh – Acts 18.9–11

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Larry Amberg – Songs on God

## **Prelude:**

### **I. God has many names, titles, and descriptions in the Bible, and**

- A. They all have meaning and applications for our lives.
- B. He does not have these names because
  - 1. They are cute or
  - 2. They rhyme with another one of His names.

### **II. He is the God of heaven**

- A. Who cares for us very deeply, but
- B. He is also a holy God,
  - 1. Who cannot tolerate the presence of sin.
  - 2. Therefore, in an event yet to be
    - a) He will judge the world,
    - b) Saving those who turned to Him for mercy, but
      - (1) Casting away from Him those who wanted to remain in sin.
      - (2) His names help us to understand His nature and
        - (a) How He deals with us,
        - (b) What He does and so on.

### **III. Today, I have a new one that I want to share with you.**

## **Persuasion:**

### **I. Jehovah-Magen: The Lord Our *Mobile* Shield**

- A. In the passages that follow,
  - 1. the original language of the Old Testament, Hebrew,
  - 2. the writers used a word, magen,

- a) that meant the smaller hand/arm-held shield
  - b) that a soldier used in combat.
- B. Genesis 14 records the incident when
- 1. Abraham's nephew, Lot, had been taken captive by four kings
  - 2. who were raiding the land of Canaan.
    - a) Abraham allied himself with five other kings, and
    - b) he had his own little army of 318 warriors.
      - (1) He successfully defeated the four kings and
      - (2) rescued Lot and many other people and their stuff.
  - 3. Then the Bible says:

**1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."**

**– Genesis 15.1**

- a) Was Abraham afraid?
  - b) What did he fear?
    - (1) Perhaps he envisioned this happening again, but
    - (2) the enemy might assemble a much larger force and
      - (a) kill Abraham and his family,
      - (b) as well as his allies.
4. However, the Lord had revealed to Abraham
- a) great things that would come through him
  - b) for the sake of blessing the world for all time.
    - (1) Therefore, Abraham did not need to fear because
    - (2) the Lord would shield him that all might be fulfilled.
      - (a) The Lord let Abraham know

(b) that He was Abraham's shield.

i) He is Jehovah-Magen.

ii) Jehovah Our Shield.

iii) The Lord Our Shield.

C. As Moses approached the end of his life, and

1. his time of leading Israel was about to end,

2. he and Israel stood close to the border of the Land of Canaan.

a) He repeated what they had experienced in the past 40 years, and

b) he gave the Law to them again.

(1) That is the Book of Deuteronomy.

(2) As he drew to a close the last thing he said

(a) was to bless Israel, saying:

**29 Happy are you, O Israel!  
Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD,  
The shield of your help  
And the sword of your majesty!  
Your enemies shall submit to you,  
And you shall tread down their high places."**

**– Deuteronomy 33.29**

3. The only way to explain Israel's surviving of the Egyptian plagues,

a) the only way to explain Israel's escape through the Red Sea,

b) the only way to explain Israel's escape from the Egyptian army,

c) the only way to explain Israel's

(1) survival in the wilderness, and

(2) the inability of the neighboring nations to destroy during the wilderness wanderings,

(a) is that the Lord had been their shield of help!

- (b) He had a purpose for Israel and
  - i) nothing and no one
  - ii) could prevent its fulfillment.

D. Second Samuel 22 shows the thinking of David

1. after he looked back on his life and
2. saw that the Lord had delivered him from all of his enemies.
  - a) He then used several images
  - b) to show what God was to him:

**3      The God of my strength, in whom I will trust;  
My shield and the horn of my salvation,  
My stronghold and my refuge;  
My Savior, You save me from violence.**

**– 2 Samuel 22.3**

**36     You have also given me the shield of Your salvation;  
Your gentleness has made me great.**

**– 2 Samuel 22.36**

3. David died when he was 70 years old.
  - a) While that seems young to us today,
  - b) when you compare it to the
    - (1) many wars in which he fought,
    - (2) the numerous times he was ill, and
    - (3) the countless enemies he had,
      - (a) it was amazing that he lived to be 70!
      - (b) The only way to explain it
        - i) is that the Lord had been his shield of salvation.
        - ii) The Lord had a purpose for David, and

- (1) nothing and no one
- (2) could prevent its fulfillment.

E. The Book of Psalms shows the Lord acting as a shield for His people

1. in all kinds of situations.
2. Even when the word, "shield," is not used,
  - a) you can probably see how the psalmists
  - b) picture the Lord shielding them.

**1      LORD, how they have increased who trouble me!  
Many are they who rise up against me.  
2      Many are they who say of me,  
"There is no help for him in God." ...  
3      But You, O LORD, are a shield for me,  
My glory and the One who lifts up my head.**

**– Psalm 3.1–3**

**7      The LORD is my strength and my shield;  
My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped;  
Therefore my heart greatly rejoices,  
And with my song I will praise Him.**

**– Psalm 28.7**

**11     For the LORD God is a sun and shield;  
The LORD will give grace and glory;  
No good thing will He withhold  
From those who walk uprightly.**

**– Psalm 84.11**

- (1) Brethren, whatever the adverse events of my life and
  - (a) whoever the adversaries were against me,
  - (b) the Lord has been a shield to me.
- (2) Can you not say the same thing?

- (3) Even if you are not a Christian,
  - (a) can you not say the same thing?
  - (b) Someone was a shield for you.
    - i) Perhaps it is time for you to say,
    - ii) Jehovah-Magen: The Lord *My* Shield.

## II. Jehovah: The Lord Our *Large* Shield

### A. Have you read in First Samuel 17

- 1. that Goliath did not go against David alone.
- 2. Goliath, as large as he was,
  - a) had an assistant.
  - b) Why would a giant need assistance?

**7 Now the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his iron spearhead weighed six hundred shekels; and a *shield-bearer went before him...41 So the Philistine came, and began drawing near to David, and the man who bore the shield went before him.***

### – 1 Samuel 17.7, 41

- (1) We saw these kinds of shields in the Middle-East,
- (2) especially in Egypt.
  - (a) These are too large and heavy
  - (b) for a man to carry on his hand and arm, and
    - i) with the other have his weapon.
    - ii) One man had to handle this shield
      - (1) so that the warrior,
      - (2) in this case, Goliath,
        - (a) could take shelter behind it.
        - (b) The shield-bearer would have to move it around.

B. Psalm 5 shows

1. that the Lord is not only our mobile shield, but
2. He is the larger shield
  - a) that we can get behind and
  - b) find additional protection.

**12 For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous;  
With favor You will surround him as with a shield.**

**– Psalm 5.12**

**Exhortation:**

**I. All of this biblical talk of a shield,**

- A. does that not imply
- B. we are in battle?

**II. That then leads to the question: Are you fighting the good warfare?**

- A. Are you fighting the devil in your own personal life?
- B. Are you praying in the Spirit against the evil forces of this world?

**III. If not, can you really expect the Lord to be your shield?**

- A. The devil wants you and
- B. he wants you to sin.
  1. He wants you to violate the commandments of God.
  2. He wants you to join him in hell where he is going at the end.
    - a) He wants you to sin and to go to hell, because
    - b) that is his way of hurting God.
      - (1) God loves you and
        - (a) wants to forgive you of your sin and
        - (b) He wants to shield you from going to hell.

#### **IV. Therefore, I have two passages for you.**

- 9 O Israel, trust in the LORD;  
He is their help and their shield.**
- 10 O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD;  
He is their help and their shield.**
- 11 You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD;  
He is their help and their shield.**

– Psalm 115.9–11

- 5 Every word of God is pure;  
He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.**

– Proverbs 30.5

A. The first passage addressed three groups.

1. You may not be an Israelite or Jew, and
2. you may not be of the house of Aaron, but
3. you fear the Lord.
  - a) Therefore, the psalmist exhorted you to trust in the Lord.
  - b) Trust in the Lord because
    - (1) He is your help and
    - (2) He is your shield.

B. The second passage backed up the first passage.

1. Every word of God is pure,
2. so that His promises are true.
  - a) What He has said He will do or
  - b) that He has said He will be,
    - (1) are true.
    - (2) Therefore, put your trust in Him, and
      - (a) He will be a shield to you.



- (b) You have plenty of battles in life,
  - i) why go through them
  - ii) without the Lord as your shield?

C. How then do you trust in the Lord?

1. Trusting Him means that you believe His way is the right way.
2. Trusting Him means that you know He will carry you through life.
3. Trusting Him means
  - a) that you will still have battles in life, but
  - b) that He will be your shield all the way.
4. Trusting Him means that you know who He is.
  - a) Acts 2 shows
    - (1) that 51 or so days after the crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth,
      - (a) Peter, a follower of Jesus,
    - (2) showed the Jews who had instigated the murder of Jesus,
      - (a) who Jesus was
        - i) by showing how He fulfilled prophecy and
        - ii) by reminding them of His miracles,
      - (b) which showed that Jesus had come from heaven.
  - b) Yet, they were guilty of having killed Him.
    - (1) Peter topped off his speech with these words:

**36 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”**

**– Acts 2.36**
    - (2) That hit them hard.
      - (a) Peter convicted them of killing the Lord.

(b) Jesus is Lord.

c) What would you do, if you had been them?

(1) The Bible shows their response:

**37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?”**

– Acts 2.37

(2) Peter gave these simple instructions:

**38 Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”**

– Acts 2.38

(a) Peter went on to explain

(b) that the same instructions apply to everyone,

i) even if we have not done what those Jews did.

ii) What Peter told was what they had to do to be forgiven:

**39 “For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”**

– Acts 2.39