

# PROPHETS & SAINTS

## SURROUNDED BY ENEMIES BUT PROTECTED BY DIVINE DESTINY



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### 1. Introduction

Throughout the Bible, both in the Old Testament and the New Testament, we see a recurring theme of God's protection over His chosen individuals, whether they are prophets or saints. This booklet explores notable prophets from the Old Testament who faced formidable enemies, as well as New Testament saints who encountered opposition but were safeguarded by Jesus, who embodies divine protection and sovereignty.

### 2. Old Testament Prophets and Their Enemies

#### 1. Moses

- Enemies: Pharaoh of Egypt
- Context: Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, facing opposition from Pharaoh, who was ultimately defeated through divine plagues and the parting of the Red Sea (Exodus 3-14).

## 2. Joshua

- Enemies: Canaanite Kings (e.g., Jericho, Ai)
- Context: Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land, conquering various Canaanite kings with God's guidance and support (Book of Joshua).

## 3. Gideon

- Enemies: Midianites
- Context: Gideon faced the Midianite army, which was vast and powerful. With God's direction, he led a small force to victory, demonstrating that divine support can overcome overwhelming odds (Judges 6-7).

## 4. Samuel

- Enemies: Philistines
- Context: Samuel served as a prophet and judge during a time when the Philistines were a constant threat. He called upon God for help, leading to Israel's victories (1 Samuel 7).

## 5. Elijah

- Enemies: King Ahab and Queen Jezebel

- Context: Elijah confronted Ahab and the prophets of Baal, showcasing God's power through the contest on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18). Despite threats against his life, he was protected by God.

## 6. Elisha

- Enemies: Arameans (Syrians)
- Context: Elisha faced the Aramean king and his armies. He was protected by divine intervention, including the incident where his servant's eyes were opened to see the heavenly army surrounding them (2 Kings 6:8-23).

## 7. Isaiah

- Enemies: Assyrians
- Context: Isaiah prophesied during the Assyrian threat to Judah. He assured King Hezekiah that God would protect Jerusalem, and the Assyrian army was miraculously defeated (2 Kings 19).

## 8. Jeremiah

- Enemies: Babylonian Empire
- Context: Jeremiah prophesied during the Babylonian siege of Jerusalem. While he faced persecution and imprisonment, he foretold both the destruction and eventual restoration of Israel (Jeremiah 29).

## 9. Ezekiel

- Enemies: Babylonian Captors
- Context: Ezekiel prophesied during the Babylonian exile, bringing messages of hope and restoration to the Israelites in captivity (Book of Ezekiel).

## 10. Daniel

- Enemies: Babylonian and Persian Rulers
- Context: Daniel served under several foreign kings and faced opposition, including being thrown into the lion's den. His faithfulness and God's protection led to his survival and the exaltation of God's sovereignty (Book of Daniel).

## 11. Joseph

- Enemies: His Brothers and Potiphar's Wife
- Context: Joseph faced betrayal from his brothers, who sold him into slavery. He later endured false accusations from Potiphar's wife. Despite these trials, God was with him, leading to his rise to power in Egypt (Genesis 37-50).

## 12. David

- Enemies: King Saul and the Philistines
- Context: David was pursued by King Saul, who sought to kill him out of jealousy. Throughout his flight, God protected David, allowing him to evade capture and ultimately become king (1 Samuel 18-31). He also faced numerous battles against the Philistines, where God granted him victory (2 Samuel

5).

### 13. Esther

- Enemies: Haman and the Persian Empire
- Context: Esther, a Jewish queen, faced the threat of annihilation for her people orchestrated by Haman. Through her courage and God's providence, she was able to save the Jewish people from destruction (Book of Esther).

## 3. New Testament Saints Surrounded by Enemies

### 1. Jesus Christ

- Enemies: Religious Leaders and Roman Authorities
- Context: Throughout His ministry, Jesus faced opposition from the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Roman authorities. Ultimately, He was crucified, but His resurrection demonstrated God's ultimate victory over sin and death (Gospels).

### 2. Peter

- Enemies: Jewish Authorities
- Context: Peter was arrested and faced threats from the Sanhedrin for preaching the Gospel. Despite being warned not to speak in Jesus' name, he boldly proclaimed the message of salvation (Acts 4).

### 3. Paul

- Enemies: Various Opponents (Jews, Romans, False

## Teachers)

- Context: Paul endured numerous persecutions, including imprisonment and beatings. However, he was protected by God during shipwrecks and riots, ultimately continuing his mission to spread the Gospel (Acts 16, 27).

## 4. Stephen

- Enemies: Jewish Leaders
- Context: Stephen, the first Christian martyr, faced opposition from religious leaders. He boldly proclaimed the Gospel before being stoned to death, but his faith and testimony inspired many (Acts 7).

## 5. John

- Enemies: Roman Authorities
- Context: John was exiled to the island of Patmos for his faith. During his exile, he received the Revelation from God, showcasing His protection and purpose for John's life (Revelation 1).

## 6. Timothy

- Enemies: False Teachers
- Context: Timothy faced opposition in Ephesus as he led the church. Paul encouraged him to remain faithful and assured him of God's support despite the challenges (1 Timothy).

## 7. Barnabas

- Enemies: Opposition from Jewish Leaders
- Context: Barnabas, a companion of Paul, faced challenges while spreading the Gospel. His faithfulness and encouragement helped establish the early church (Acts 11).

## 8. Silas

- Enemies: Roman Authorities
- Context: Silas was imprisoned alongside Paul for preaching the Gospel. They sang hymns in prison, and God miraculously freed them, demonstrating divine protection (Acts 16).

## 9. Lydia

- Enemies: Cultural Opposition
- Context: Lydia, a seller of purple, was one of the first converts in Europe. Despite societal challenges, she opened her home to Paul and his companions, becoming a key figure in the early church (Acts 16).

## 10. The Early Church

- Enemies: Roman Empire and Religious Authorities
- Context: The early Christians faced severe persecution. Despite this, they were empowered by the Holy Spirit, spreading the Gospel and growing in faith (Acts 2).

## 11. James (the brother of Jesus)

- Enemies: Jewish Leaders

- Context: James led the church in Jerusalem and faced opposition from Jewish leaders. Despite threats, he remained steadfast in his faith, ultimately becoming a martyr (Acts 12).

## 12. Apollos

- Enemies: Opposition from Jewish Leaders and False Teachers
- Context: Apollos was a powerful preacher who faced challenges in his ministry. He was protected by God's wisdom and guidance, contributing significantly to the early church (Acts 18).

## 4. Additional Trials and Divine Protection

### 1. Paul's Assurance of God's Protection

- Reference: Romans 8:31: "What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"
- Context: Paul emphasizes God's unwavering support and protection for believers, assuring them that no enemy can ultimately prevail against them.

### 2. Paul and Silas in Prison

- Context: After being beaten and imprisoned for preaching the Gospel, Paul and Silas prayed and sang hymns. An earthquake shook the prison, opening the doors and loosening their chains.
- Reference: Acts 16:25-26: "About midnight Paul

and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose.”

### 3. Paul's Trials

- Reference: 2 Corinthians 11:23-27: Paul lists his numerous hardships, including imprisonments, beatings, and dangers from various enemies. Despite these trials, he remained steadfast in his mission.
- Context: This passage highlights the many challenges Paul faced and serves as a testament to God's protection and strength in the midst of adversity.

### 5. Scriptures on Angelic Protection

#### Old Testament Scriptures

##### 1. Psalm 91:11-12

- Text: “For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”
- Meaning: This passage emphasizes God's promise to protect His people through His angels.

## 2. 2 Kings 6:15-17

- Text: “When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. ‘Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?’ the servant asked. ‘Don’t be afraid,’ the prophet answered. ‘Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.’ And Elisha prayed, ‘Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.’ Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.”
- Meaning: This passage illustrates the divine protection surrounding Elisha, highlighting the presence of angels in the spiritual realm.

## 3. Daniel 6:22

- Text: “My God sent His angel, and He shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in His sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.”
- Meaning: Daniel acknowledges that God sent an angel to protect him from the lions, demonstrating divine intervention.

## New Testament Scriptures

### 1. Matthew 4:6

- Text: “If you are the Son of God,’ he said, ‘throw yourself down. For it is written: ‘He will command

His angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

- Meaning: This verse references the protection of angels as promised in Scripture.

## 2. Hebrews 1:14

- Text: “Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?”
- Meaning: This passage emphasizes that angels are sent to serve and protect believers.

## 3. Acts 12:7-10

- Text: “Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. ‘Quick, get up!’ he said, and the chains fell off Peter’s wrists. Then the angel said to him, ‘Put on your clothes and sandals.’ And Peter did so. ‘Wrap your cloak around you and follow me,’ the angel told him. Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it.”

- Meaning: This passage recounts how an angel miraculously freed Peter from prison, showcasing divine protection.

## 4. Revelation 12:7-9

- Text: “And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.”
- Meaning: This passage illustrates the power of angels in spiritual warfare, affirming their role in protecting God’s people.

## 6. Conclusion

The stories of these prophets and saints remind us that even in the face of adversity, God’s plans prevail. Whether in the ancient world or today, believers can find comfort in knowing that they are not alone in their struggles and that divine protection is always within reach.

My booklet serves as a comprehensive resource for those seeking to understand the profound ways in which God protects His people throughout biblical history, showcasing His faithfulness across both the Old and New Testaments.

