

# Locked In But Not Locked Out

49 - Ephesians: Rise Up & Walk  
Church on the Park Live | Sunday, 29 March 2020

**Text:** “He will cover you with His pinions, and under his wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark” (Ps. 91:4).

**Theme:** You may be locked down and locked in, but God’s Kingdom is open to you.

**Intro:** You may be locked in your home but you’re not locked out of God’s Kingdom. God’s Kingdom is like the Promised Land—a land flowing with milk and honey. And this Kingdom is your Promised Land. God’s Kingdom is not just a future reality but a present one. The doors of God’s Kingdom are opened now and you can enter through faith. In this Promised Land, God reigns and his presence permeates the atmosphere. Again, the door is open for you to enter in, enjoy and abide there. Jesus is the door and the way; He keeps you from being locked out of God’s Kingdom.

## 1) Be locked into God (John 3:3, 5).

- In this time, where people are **locked down** and **locked into** their homes, be **locked into God**.
  - Our Father is our **only hope** now.
- In Australia, we have a TV show, the **Millionaire Hot Seat**.
  - People are often **unsure** of what to answer—either A, B, C or D. But they need to commit. And when they commit they say, ‘**Lock it in, Eddy.**’
- You may be **unsure** of God and Jesus.
  - But now you are **seeing your need**.
  - This is **a time to lock in your relationship with God**. Don’t be **toying** around. Put your **trust** in him.
- Jesus is **knocking—don’t lock him out**.
  - **Welcome Jesus** into your life.
- Jesus is **knocking** on the door of your **home—don’t lock him out**.
  - **Welcome Jesus** into your home.
- Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born again** he cannot **see** the **Kingdom of God**... Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born** of water and **the Spirit**, he cannot **enter into the Kingdom of God**” (John 3:3, 5).
  - Everyone needs a **spiritual birth—a new life**. And this new life **happens** when you **welcome Jesus—who is life itself—into your life**.
  - Again, **he is the doorway** into the Kingdom.
- There’s a scene in **the Chronicles of Narnia, Prince Caspian**, where the two brothers and two sisters are at Strand train station. All of a sudden, **their world fades** and **the strange new world** of Narnia appears. They enter in.
  - **God’s Kingdom** is like this **strange new world of Narnia** and God’s is calling us **to live in his new world**, not **the old which is passing away**.
- **This Kingdom** is **greater** than **the kingdoms of this world**.
  - Though, our world’s kingdoms are **shaking**, when you are in God’s Kingdom you will be **unshaken**.
  - God’s Kingdom is **high above**, unaffected by our **problems**.
  - Of course, it is moved in **compassion** by our problems, but it’s not **shaken** by our problems.

## 2) Jesus longs to bring you under his wings (Luke 13:34-35).

- Let’s go back to our study of **Psalm 91:1-4**.
  - יֹשֵׁב בְּסֵתֶר עֲלִיּוֹן בְּצֵל שְׁדַי יִתְלוֹנֵן.  
• Yoshev b’seter el’yon, b’tsel shadai yit’lonan

- “The one who dwells in **the secret place** of the Most High, in the shadow of the Almighty will stay” (*my translation*).
- Notice that **in this place**—God’s secret place—**he covers us with his feathers** and we find refuge under his wings (vv. 1-4).
- Let’s **compare** this to what **Jesus** says.
  - “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem...How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a **hen gathers** her brood **under her wings**, and you would not have it! Behold, your house is left to you desolate; and I say to you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, “**Blessed is he** who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Luke 13:34-35).
  - **Observe**: Jesus wants to gather you under his wings of protection.
    - But **Jerusalem** was **unwilling**.
      - In **70AD**—about 40 years later—all of **Jerusalem collapsed** and their **temple** was **destroyed**.
      - They were looking to a **physical temple for refuge** rather than **the real temple—Jesus**.
    - **Put your name** in this verse: ‘**O Glen, Glen...**’
    - Put your **city** in this verse : ‘**O Brisbane, Brisbane...**’
    - Put your **nation** in this verse: ‘**O Australia, Australia...**’
      - By **inserting your names** here, you will hear **God’s heart**.
  - In Hebrew, the last phrase, “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” is ‘*Baruk haba b’shem Adonai*’ ברוך הבא בשם יהוה.
    - *Try to say it with me.*
    - This phrase communicates a **great sense of welcome, joy and celebration** of the one who comes in the name of the Lord, which is Jesus.
    - It’s **not an apathetic** response. Neither, is it a **sarcastic**, “**O, look who is here!**”
    - Instead, it’s a **genuine appreciation** of Jesus the Sent-One.
      - And today, he’s **knocking on the door of your home and life**.
        - Will you say, “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”?
    - This **virus** is all about **Jesus coming into your home** and being **hosted** in your home.
      - **He’s knocking** on your door; don’t **lock him out**.

### 3) The Most High has established a hidden lair for his lions (Ps. 91:9).

- I want to bring out some more **insights** of **Psalm 91** from the **Hebrew**.
- And I want you to keep this verse in mind, “The wicked flees when no one is pursuing, but the **righteous are bold as a lion**” (Prov. 28:1).
- Now let’s continue to read Psalm 91:5-10.
  - There’s **great promises** in here that we should hold on to.
    - But I want us to focus on **verse 9**.
      - The **Hebrew** reads different than the **English** version.
        - The English emphasises what **you do**, but the Hebrew focuses on what **God has done** and **established**.

כִּי־אַתָּה יְהוָה מְחַסֵּי עָלְיֹן שְׁמֹתָ מֵעוֹנָךְ׃  
*The Lexham Hebrew Bible*. (2012). (Ps 91:9)

  - “For you, O Yahweh, are my refuge; O Most High, you have established your hidden lair” (*my translation*).
  - The word ‘**hidden lair**’ is what **fascinates me**.
    - The Hebrew is used in **Nahum 2:12** as the hidden lair of lions.
    - Or, we can say, ‘**the lion’s den**.’
  - This is what our Most High has established: a **hidden lair for his lions**.
    - These are **his righteous people**, who **through being in his presence** are as **bold as lions**.
    - They are **conquerers**, rather than those **conquered**.
      - They don’t see themselves as the ones **always under the devil’s attack**.
        - Instead, they see themselves as **the ones on attack**.
    - The Father is raising up lions in this time. These are those who hide in his hidden lair—far above the storms of this earth. I believe the Lord says, “They come out of my lion’s den with

authority and boldness to do my works on earth. They have learned to dwell and therefore can do my works with great power.” Let’s be dwellers in the Most High’s secret place.

- We’ve talked about the **hope** of his calling. We’ve meditated on the **riches** of His glory. Now, we need to **know** “what is the **surpassing greatness of His power** toward us who believe... far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and **every name that is named**, not only in this age but also in the one to come...” (Eph. 1:19-23).
- **Isaac** was one of these men—**righteous** and as **bold** as a lion (Gen. 26:1-17).
  - He dwelt in a place that others were fleeing from.
  - He dwelt there because God said, ‘stay’.
  - “Now Isaac sowed in that land [the place of the famine] and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. And the LORD blessed him” (Gen. 26:12)

**Conclusion:** When you are locked in to God, you are not locked out of the Kingdom. The hope of the Kingdom, the riches of the Kingdom and the power of the Kingdom are yours.

## END NOTES

מְעוֹן, מְעוֹנָבְ/נֹ: עוֹן III to dwell: II עוֹן, Arb. *gyn*, to cover, be thickly foliated: II מְעוֹן 1 —. **hidden lair**, of lions Nah 2:12, jackals Jr 9:10 10:22 49:33 51:37 (parallel with שְׂמָה, שְׂמָמָה); —2. **dwelling** (Arb. *magnan*), esp. of God 2C 36:15, מְעוֹן בֵּיתְךָ Ps 26:8; מְעוֹן מִ' קִדְשְׁךָ/שׁוֹ Dt 26:15 Jr 25:30 Zech 2:17 Ps 68:6 2C 30:27; Ju 6:26 var. of מְעוֹן (→ BH); 1S 2:29 and 32 rd. מְעֵין envious, jealous → IV עוֹן; Zeph 3:7 rd. מְעֵינִיהָ; Ps 71:3 90:1 rd. 91:9; מְעוֹן rd. מְעוֹזֶךָ.†  
Koehler, L., Baumgartner, W., Richardson, M. E. J., & Stamm, J. J. (1994–2000). [\*The Hebrew and Aramaic lexicon of the Old Testament\*](#) (electronic ed., p. 610). Leiden: E.J. Brill.