

GOD IS OUR PROTECTION

Scripture: Psalms 118: 1-2, 14-24

April 9, 2020

Traveling through the Holy Land was an amazing experience for me, as many of the scriptures in the Bible came alive. One consistent theme that we encountered that I had not really considered was the reign of King Herod. We remember from the gospels the story of his fear of the King that was to be born in Bethlehem and the brutality that followed the birth of Christ.

As we travelled, we saw a couple examples of his insecurities built in stone. Herodium was an impressive fortress built on top of a hill just outside Jerusalem, but the more imposing structure was the fortress and palace at Masada. It appeared to be completely impenetrable from any side due to the natural structure of the mountain on which it was built overlooking the Dead Sea. The fortress had elaborate water systems and rooms to store food for a long siege. It also contained living quarters fit for a king. Masada was later used by a group of fighters from the Jewish rebellion which occurred a few years after Christ's ministry on earth. In order to overcome Masada, the Roman army built a ramp 375 feet tall and used a battering ram to get in.

In Psalms 14, we read, "the Lord is my strength and defense." As Herod's fears caused him to build elaborate defensive structures, we know that only God can offer a defense that is certain and can never be destroyed.

Prayer: Oh Lord we thank you for the reminders of human attempts to protect ourselves and yet we recognize that the only true safety we can find is in trusting you, Amen

Jeff Matheny, Conference Pensions

jeff@pbo.bz