Yes, and amen.

Message 4: <u>Under your wings series</u>

D E Wasake, a servant of Christ Jesus

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Introduction

Many Christians struggle to be sure whether God can be trusted to fulfil his promises. We use our human experiences where someone can for example promise to be there when you need them - and then when you are sick or have lost a loved one, just like that, they break their promise – they are nowhere to be seen, when you need a friend, or another can say they love you and will spend the rest of their life with you, and yet they are a liar, they actually love another; then another can promise you a job and tell you that you are family, only to later fire you after giving them 10 years of your life, they forget you, as if you never existed.

We humans are therefore full of "double standards" - we say "Yes" when we actually mean "No."

But God is not like us and this is how we are introduced to the idea of his standards being different as we will see in this message of "Yes and Amen" which is the 4th messages of a 12-part series called "Under your Wings" in which the Lord Jesus called me to preach Evangelistic messages about the Lord's deliverance.

Anchor verse

In the book of 2 Corinthians, we read this passage:

"When I planned this, did I do it carelessly? Or do I make my plans by human standards, so as to say "Yes, yes" when I really mean "No, no"? But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not "Yes" and "No." For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was proclaimed among you by me and Silvanus and Timothy, was not "Yes" and "No," but in Him it has always been "Yes." For all the promises of God are "Yes" in Christ. And so through Him, our "Amen" is spoken to the glory of God." 2 Corinthians 1:17-20 BSB

The background of this verse of "yes and amen" is coming from the Apostle Paul speaking of visiting the Corinthian Christians in Chapter 1 of Second Corinthians. In the preceding verses he is telling them how he plans to visit them twice, so they receive double blessings. He then tells them something critical - that he does not make plans haphazardly - by human standards.

When humans say something, as I indicated, they can say "yes yes" when in reality they mean "no, no." claiming to offer you double blessing when in reality they leave you with double disappointment.

Paul in contrasting human standards by saying that, "I do not make my plans by human standards" he is indicating that as a servant of Jesus, who reflects the Lord's glory, he makes plans, not like the men of the world, but by God's standards - he makes plans quite carefully and this way, he can give a double assurance or double blessing which is "Yes and Yes" which is the same as saying "Yes and "it is so" – or "Yes and Amen".

It is this assuredness and knowledge of God's standards which are not like human standards that Paul then makes the declaration that all God's promises are "yes and amen", meaning they are double blessings and you can double sure about them!

The 12 promises in just 1 Psalms

It is upon this background that we can take a psalm like psalm 91, look at its promises and be able to say yes and amen!

How many promises are in Psalm 91?

There are at least 12 promises in just one Psalm out of the 150 psalms, out of the 66 books of the Bible, imagine how many promises God has in the entire Bible and guess what: All of them are YES and Amen and we can put our full hope that God is not like us. He doesn't say "Yes and No", No! God says YES! Yes! Always and so we can say Amen!

As I said, Amen means "It is so" and we can say that because we have believed in Him who brings the dead to life, the One who has given the promise and cannot lie and so for that, we can rest under his wings and say Yes and Amen!

Here are some of the wonderful promises God makes that we can claim in Psalm 91.

Psalm 91: 1 – 16 (BSB)

"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say to the Lord, "You are my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

Surely He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler, and from the deadly plague.

He will cover you with His feathers; under His wings you will find refuge;

His faithfulness is a shield and rampart.

You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the calamity that destroys at noon.

Though a thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand, no harm will come near you. You will only see it with your eyes and witness the punishment of the wicked.

Because you have made the Lord your dwelling — my refuge, the Most High — no evil will befall you, no plague will approach your tent. 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.

You will tread on the lion and cobra; you will trample the young lion and serpent.

"Because he loves Me, I will deliver him; because he knows My name, I will protect him. When he calls out to Me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble.

- 1. A promise to find rest in God's shadows. We say "Yes" and "Yes- it is so" or "Amen!"
- A promise of God's protection. We say: Yes, and amen!
- 3. A promise of deliverance from the fowler and the plague, Yes, and amen.
- 4. A promise to give us a place of refuge under his wings. Yes, and amen.
- 5. A promise of his faithfulness to give you confidence. Yes, and amen.
- 6. A promise to remove fear such as Satan, the terror of the night (Satan), an unseen attack during the day(arrow), a sickness (pestilence) or a natural disaster (calamity). We still say: Yes, and amen.
- A promise that you won't see any harm even when you are surrounded by death 1,000 falling on one side and 10,000 on
 another. We say: Yes, and amen!
- 8. A promise to send his angels to help you, if you are in trouble. Yes, and amen.
- 9. A promise that you can overcome your fiercest enemies without fear the lion and the snake. Yes, and amen.
- 10. A promise that he will answer your prayers when you call, he answers: Yes, and amen.

I will deliver him and honor him.

With long life I will satisfy him and show him My salvation.""

- 11. A promise that you will have long life on this side of our brief mortal life. Yes and amen.
- 12. AND a promise that you will receive the salvation of the Lord - eternal life, with Jesus; Yeshua - the Lord our salvation: Yes and Yes!

Conclusion (the message of Jesus).

Do you make promises and just as easily break them? If so, repent, which means to change, to turn around.

Change and stop following human standards, <u>but</u> how can you do this on your own where you have probably failed countless times? You cannot become perfect as your heavenly father is, unless he helps you. How can this be?

If you put your trust in the Lord God, our salvation, he will give you the family name. This name can be yours to inherit because he sent his beloved Son Jesus to become a human like us, but without sin. This Jesus lived as a man but then he died for our sins so he could be God our salvation and also to help us in our weaknesses. To help us in our weaknesses Jesus gave us power from on high - his Holy Spirit.

If you make the Lord your refuge, the Holy Spirit will come and rest on you as he rested on Jesus and it is He who can help you, just like he helped the Apostle Paul, to never do things according to human standards but according to God's ways.

Do you want to receive God's salvation so that you can receive all his promises, including those in Psalm 91? If so, pray this prayer to become a Christian:

"God of heaven, I confess that I am a sinner and have been one since birth, but I have heard that you can make me new, and you sent your son Jesus to die for me. He rose again and it is he who can give me his Holy Spirit. Please forgive me and welcome me into your Kingdom, teach me how to follow you. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Lots of love, your brother in the Lord and a Servant of the Lord Jesus.

Lord Jesus, come, Maranatha!