

WEEK EIGHTEEN

DAY TWO

Behold our shield, O God;  
look on the face of your anointed!

Psalm 84:9

Behold

רָאָה *ra'ah*

– to see, observe, consider

our shield

מָגֵן *magen*

– a shield (i.e. the small one or buckler);  
figuratively, a protector

O God

אֱלֹהִים *'elohiyim*

– (plural) can mean rulers, judges; in this  
case the supreme God

look

נָבַט *nabat*

– to scan, look intently, regard with  
pleasure, favor or care

on the face

פָּנִים *paniyim*

– the face (as the part that turns)

of your anointed

מָשִׁיחַ *mashiyach*

– anointed; a king, priest, or saint

WEEK EIGHTEEN  
DAY THREE

**Behold our shield, O God;  
look on the face of your anointed!  
Psalm 84:9**

This verse is so simple but so powerful; it is every believer's prayer. Let me break it down a little.

It is first and foremost a statement of gospel faith. Our shield is God's anointed—God's Anointed is our Shield. Both *Christ* and *Messiah* mean "anointed" or "anointed one." Jesus Christ is God's supreme anointed one, and He is our King, through whom we have access to the God Almighty as Father and to eternal life.

This verse is also a prayer. Behold, O God, your beloved Son as our representative, and look upon us in him.

There is a veiled plea as well: let our Jesus be our defense from your rightful holy wrath, our propitiation, our covering, our shield.

Dear ones, all times, under all circumstances, we can pray, "Look upon the face of your Anointed." We cannot always say, look on us, but we can always say, look on Him—the perfect righteous one is our shield. In our sinful flesh, personal failures, trials, and difficulties, we can always plead with God who King Jesus is and what He has done for us. God is always pleased with Jesus, the risen and exalted apple of His Father's eye.

True faith can only rest on God's estimate of Christ, not on our thoughts and feelings about ourselves or our circumstance.

INDEED...

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.  
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.  
When darkness veils His lovely face,  
I rest on His unchanging grace;  
In every high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil.  
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.

Prayer: Father look at us and see Jesus, your anointed one and our shield.

~ Jeanine Dungan

WEEK EIGHTEEN  
DAY FOUR

**Behold our shield, O God;  
look on the face of your anointed!**  
**Psalm 84:9**

In ancient times, a hand-held shield was a necessary battle implement. A shield protected a soldier, enabling him to use his sword to fight the enemy. “Magen,” a Hebrew word for “shield,” occurs twice in this twelve-verse psalm. What is the psalmist’s shield? Why does He ask God to look at it?

In Genesis 15, when God made His covenant with Abraham, He revealed Himself as Abraham’s shield: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” God is described as the shield of His people in various Scriptures, including Psalm 33:20, Psalm 115:9-11, and Proverbs 30:5.

Is the Psalmist asking for God to “behold” or look at Himself? “Behold” here does not mean to glance at an object or examine it disinterestedly but to consider and acknowledge. The psalmist asks for God to remember His relationship with His people – to be their shield, as He promised. Additionally, God is entreated to intentionally look at His anointed, and in looking to show favor.

Who is the mysterious anointed? Matthew Henry’s Commentary suggests that “Your anointed” refers to Christ, the Messiah and Anointed One: “In all our addresses to God we must desire that he would look upon the face of Christ, accept us for his sake, and be well-pleased with us in him. We must look with an eye of faith, and then God will with an eye of favour look upon the face of the anointed, who does show his face when we without him dare not show ours.”

According to Spurgeon, the plea here is to “Look upon [Christ] as our Representative, and look upon us in him.” Today, consider writing a list enumerating the qualities Christ displays as Shield. Include examples in Scripture and in your life of times Christ has been a shield. Let us observe the wisdom of Augustine: “Look on the face of Thy Christ: let Christ become known to all, that we may be able to go from strength to strength, that grace may abound, since sin hath abounded.”

~ Elisabeth Hooker

WEEK EIGHTEEN  
DAY FIVE

**Behold our shield, O God;  
look on the face of your anointed!**  
**Psalm 84:9**

With the entrance of sin, comes the desire to hide. The last thing Adam and Eve wanted was God's eyes on them. So God covered them with animal skins, revealing that redemption would come through blood. Sin would one day be conquered by the Anointed One, Jesus, through the cross.

In Exodus 12, the Passover lamb foreshadowed Christ. Those who applied the blood of the lamb to the doorpost and lintel were passed over by the death angel. Those without the blood lost the firstborn to death. God said in Exodus 12:13:

“The blood shall be a sign for you, on the houses where you are.  
And when I see the blood, I will pass over you,  
and no plague will befall you to destroy you, when I strike the land of Egypt.”

“When I see the blood...”

That phrase is music to our ears. Jesus is our Passover Lamb. Application of His blood, through salvation, is our shield of protection from the wrath of God; it cleanses from sin. So we do not say, Lord, look at our good works, or what we've done with our own hands! We say, Lord, look at the blood; the face of Your Anointed. Oh, Jesus. There are no words for the safety and protection You provide. We rejoice and praise as we say:

“Behold our shield, O God;  
look on the face of your anointed!”

We sinners who did not want Your eyes upon us, have been cleansed and freed from shame through Christ to become the apple of Your eye. Lord, look. We scarce can take it in.

~ Charlotte Travis

