

Illustrations of God's Loving Care

Introduction

- A. The central thought in Christianity is that it involves a relationship that is highly personal. Essentially it is a relationship between God and a person.
- B. The Bible is filled with explanations of this great truth. We are reminded that God has assumed all responsibility for His people.
- C. There are many illustrations in the Scripture of our relationship with God. These are designed to teach and to comfort us.

I. God Describes Himself as a Bridegroom, Isaiah 62:5. (John 3:29)

For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee; and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.

Observation: This verse reminds us that God's care for us and rejoicing over us is as the bridegroom with his bride* There are many verses in the Bible which teach us that God enjoys His people and that we are His inheritance (Deut. 4:20; Eph. 1:18). The Christian should not believe he is inferior or a second-rate person.

II. God Describes Himself as a Husband, Jeremiah 31:31,32. (Jer. 3:14; Hosea 2:19)

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah. Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, which My covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord.

Observation: As the husband will choose his wife in love and assume all responsibility for her - so our God has done that for us. All that a husband could do for his wife God wants to do that for us only in an infinite way.

III. God Describes Himself as a Father, II Cor. 6:18. (Psalm 103:13; Jer. 31:9)

And will be a Father unto you and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Observation: No matter what kind of a father we have had all of us can understand this verse. God wants to be and can be all that a father could and should be to his child only infinitely so. As a child does not doubt his father's provision so we have no need to doubt God's care. He wants us to trust Him and rejoice in this relationship.

IV. God Describes Himself as a Mother, Isaiah 66:13.

As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you, and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

Observation: It has been said that perhaps no single person means more to an individual than his or her mother. Here we are reminded that God wants to be to us as a mother. This involves love, care, teaching, discipline, comfort, fellowship and the best of all personal relationships.

V. God Describes Himself as a Shepherd, John 10:11. (Ez. 34:12; Hebrews 13:20)

I am the good Shepherd, the good Shepherd giveth His life for the sheep.

Observation: This illustration of God's loving care is one of the most popular in the Bible. David affirmed that God was his shepherd (Psalm 23:1). The Lord Jesus Christ is described as the "good shepherd" (John 10:11); the "great shepherd" (Hebrews 13:20); and as the "chief shepherd" (I Peter 5:5). We can only imagine what the right kind of a shepherd could be to his flock. God can be that to us in an Infinite way.

VI. God Describes Himself as a Hen, Matthew 23:37. (Psalm 17:8; 91:4)

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not.

Observation: This illustration may sound strange to us. Not many people would appreciate being likened to a bird. God, however, is showing us a great truth in this verse. He cares for us in every conceivable way. We have all seen a mother hen gather up her chickens under her wings to protect them. God wants to be our protection.

VII. God Describes Himself as an Eagle, Deut. 32:11,12. (Exodus 19:4)

As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings, so the Lord alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.

Observation: As an eagle will tear up its nest and force its young to fly and will catch them when they falter and are tired - so the Lord seeks to train, comfort and support His children. He Who made the eagle to instinctively do this with its young so God wants to do this infinitely so with His children. As we would ask about the eagle's young, "What would it have to fear?" and would answer "Nothing" - so we should learn this lesson and put our trust in God's loving care.

Conclusion:

A. In I Peter 5:7 we are told, "Casting all your care upon Him, for He careth for you." These illustrations bring his "care" before us in a very bold fashion. We need to accept this and respond to God in loving trust and thanksgiving.

B. We now see there is no place for doubt in the believer's life.

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