

# THE BULWARK

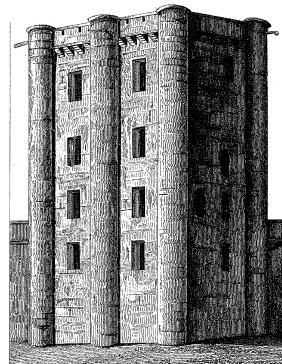
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*“Mark well her bulwarks,  
consider her palaces, that  
you may tell it to the  
generation following”*  
Psalms 48:13

## A ROUSING GAME OF HIDE AND SEEK

Oh, the halcyon days of childhood. Days that gave way to twilight, when friends would gather together to play “hide and seek” before being called to go home for the evening meal. Someone would close their eyes, count to twenty (though that number was subject to who was counting, “..10-13..17..20, here I come!) and then seek out those who were in hiding. Now for those who had taken off, trying to conceal themselves, some thought if they were out of the direct line of sight and had turned their backs and closed their eyes they were hidden. With erroneous thinking if they couldn’t see the one seeking them, they couldn’t be seen. Illogical to be sure, but it seemed to make sense at the time.

Looking back it makes one smile at the naïveté. But there is a take away of a spiritual nature that can be applied, that being as adults we try to hide away from God when we engage in things contrary to His word. Which is precisely what Ezekiel discovered was going on with the elders of the Israel in a vision given to him by God. *“Then He said to me, ‘Son of man, have you seen what the elders of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the room of his idols? For they say, ‘The Lord does not see us...’”* (Ezekiel 8:12)

Elihu, who accompanied Job’s three “comforters”, noted rightly the following. *“For His eyes are on the ways of man. He sees all his steps.”* (Job 34:21) Which harmonizes with those of Solomon as seen in Proverbs 15:3.



*“The eyes are the Lord are in every place, watching the evil and the good.”* The “weeping prophet”, Jeremiah quoted God as found in the sixteenth chapter and verse seventeen of Jeremiah. *“For My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from My face, nor is their iniquity hidden from My eyes.”*

Imagine that, no matter how good one may think they are at hiding, the truth of the matter is; not so much.

With the reality of you can run but you can’t hide from God, as Jonah discovered (see Jonah 1:3-10); we would do well to awaken to that same reality. Jonah was trying to hide in order to shirk what God had directed him to do. In his mind Jonah perhaps thought he was justified because the Ninevites were on the cusp of making a move to take captive Israel. He wasn’t. In our mind we may think of any number of reasons why we are “justified”; hiding behind various rationalizations. But the truth of the matter is seen Hebrews 4:12-13. *“For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, even penetrating as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him to whom we must answer.”*

Even in the Garden of Eden, mankind was trying to hide from God after sin had entered into the world (see Genesis 1:6ff), but to no avail. But praise be to God He extended mercy to us (Romans 5:8) (wbe)