

The Inscrutable Question: Conscience: Are You Better than a Bird?: “In the Shadow of Your Wings,” Psalm 36:7

11. We are better than birds. If you can't use the *a fortiori* comparison of our Lord to rest in the care of divine grace then you have no spiritual self-esteem and as a result you have no personal sense of destiny.

Psalm 36:7 - How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God [**the undiminished love of God**]! And the children of men take refuge [*hsj / chasa /: figurative, to place one's confident trust in God*] in the shadow of Your wings [*lx pnK / sel kanaph /: idiom for the divine protection provided by the undiminished love of God to his children who seek refuge in Him*].

12. This confident trust expressed by David indicates that he had the Old Testament equivalent of a personal sense of destiny and relied upon the integrity of God for protection from not only his enemies without but also his sinful nature from within.

13. The principles of a personal sense of destiny, the undiminished love of God, and His divine protection for the believer is expressed by my friend Ron Block, a member of Alison Krauss & Union Station, in his song, “In the Shadow of Your Wings.” Here are his lyrics:

Block, Ronald. “In the Shadow of Your Wings.” On compact disk of *In the Shadow of Your Wings*. The Forbes Family. Rebel Records CD-1733.

In the Shadow of Your Wings

© Ron Block (Moonlight Canyon Publishing – BMI)

Not a sparrow can fall from the heavens
If You won't allow it to be;
No man can fall from Your favor
If a man puts his trust in the One he can't see.

Oh I want to fly like a sparrow
Who fears not the days yet to come
And sings in the shadow of Your wings.

A sparrow won't try to deserve You,
He'll trust You to feed him again.
No man can gain Your approval
But by faith in the One who washed away my sins.

Oh I want to fly like a sparrow

Who fears not the wrath from Your hand;

He sings in the shadow of Your wings.

I want to walk in the shadow of Your wings.

I want to know You know what is best.

And when troubles come I'll be singing still,

"Let me rest in the shadow of Your wings."

14. Ron captures the idea of a believer who has arrived at a personal sense of destiny and therefore sees the affairs of this world in the light of antecedent and eschatological grace—the undiminished love of God and His faithful care and protection of His children.
15. Our Lord further emphasizes the imagery of protection provided by the lovingkindness of God with another wing analogy in:

Matthew 23:37 - "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling."
16. This verse emphasizes the principle that in human history the sovereignty of God and the free will of man must coexist by divine decree. God's love is undiminished but man's volition remains free.