

## Jehovah Aids the Forsaken

### Psalm 27:10

**“When my father and my mother forsake me,  
then Jehovah will take me up.”**

During my late-forties and fifties I resided only 490 highway miles from my parents’ residence. I therefore was able to visit them multiple times every year. Some of those visits were solo due to my beloved being prevented from accompanying me because of obligations to be elsewhere. On those occasions, and after I had retired for the night, my mother would come to my bed, bend over and plant a kiss on my forehead or cheek, and say, “I love you. Good night, Sweetie.” Just like she did when I was a very wee lad!

That image comes to mind every time I read “When my father and my mother forsake me, then Jehovah will take me up [or *take care of me*]” (Psalm 27:10).

I happily report that I have no experiential knowledge regarding the meaning of the first part of this verse. My father and mother ever loved me and cared for me. Their love to me and care for me never failed.

But this I do know: If my Lord’s love to me and care for me is greater than that of my parents, whose love and care was beyond any limit known to me, then His love and care is beyond my comprehension.

The Christian therefore here expresses his confidence that **Jehovah aids the forsaken.**

Let us here consider:

1. The Christian should expect to be forsaken by others.
2. Jehovah will take care of His forsaken ones.

#### **I. The Christian should expect to be forsaken by others:**

*“When my father and my mother forsake me, ...”* The psalmist does not say they *will* forsake him. But he does indeed acknowledge the possibility that they *could* do so. And the psalmist here sets forth the love and care of parents to and for their children as being beyond that of other persons. One’s parents are expected to be the last to forsake him.

But Christian, if your own parents *may* forsake you, do not be surprised if others *indeed* do so.

1. *Christians will be forsaken by even those closest to them* (Luke 21:16f): “You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake” (cp. Matthew 10:21f / Mark 13:12f).

Not all Christians will be physically killed for Jesus’ sake.

But all will be hated and forsaken by at least someone for Jesus’ sake.

2. *Jesus Christ is the foremost example of one being forsaken by others.* He was never forsaken by either of His parents. However:

i. Jesus Christ was *disbelieved by His own brothers.* This was prophesied (Psalm 69:8): “I have become a stranger to my brothers, and an alien to my mother’s children.”

This prophecy was fulfilled (John 7:5): “For even His brothers did not believe in Him.” Indeed, this was the reason why they chastised Him for not publicly revealing whom and what He was said to be (vv.3f).

Surely Jesus Christ was well-acquainted with His doctrine that “A man’s enemies will be those of his own household” (Matthew 10:36, quoting Micah 7:6).

ii. Jesus Christ was *betrayed by Judas Iscariot*, one of His apostles. This also was prophesied in The Psalms:

- “Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me” (41:9);
- “For it is not an enemy who reproaches me; then I could bear it. Nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me; then I could hide from him. But it was you, a man my equal, my companion and my acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together, and walked to the house of God in the throng” (55:12-14).

I suppose we all know the fulfillment of this prophecy (John 13:18-30).

iii. Jesus Christ was *deserted by His disciples.* This also was prophesied (John 16:32): “Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone.”

This prophecy was fulfilled when Judas the betrayer brought soldiers to arrest the Lord (Matthew 26:56 / Mark 14:50): “Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.”

iv. Jesus Christ was *denied by Simon Peter*, a foremost disciple. This also was prophesied (Matthew 26:33f): “Peter answered and said to Him, ‘Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.’”

This prophecy was fulfilled just as Jesus said (vv.69-75).

v. Jesus Christ was *rejected by His countrymen* (Mark 15:13f): When the Roman governor Pontius Pilate offered to release Jesus Christ, the Jews cried out against Him, “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!”

vi. Jesus Christ was *rejected by all men in general* (Isaiah 53:3): “He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. and we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.”

All men will, of their own will and volition, reject Jesus. No man will, apart from divine grace, accept Jesus.

This fact was graphically proven in the last days of Jesus on the earth.

- Herod Antipas, who was the king of the Jews, and Pontius Pilate, who was the Roman governor in Jerusalem, hated each other; but they became allies in opposing Jesus.
- And the Gentiles and the Jews in Judaea, who hated each other, became allies in opposing Jesus.
- They in so doing fulfilled the prophecy that the nations raged against Jehovah’s Anointed, and the people plotted against Him (Psalm 2:1f; cp. Acts 4:25-28).

Brothers and sisters, if Jesus Christ was forsaken by men, you should expect no less.

But here is good news for you when you are forsaken:

**II. Jehovah will take care of His forsaken ones:** “... then Jehovah will take me up.”

1. *Jehovah took care of Jesus Christ when He was forsaken by all.*

Some may now object that God, instead of taking care of Jesus when He was forsaken by men, also forsook Him when He was crucified. For Jesus cried out in anguish, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Matthew 27:46, quoting Psalm 22:1).

The answer to the question why Jesus was forsaken by God is found in Isaiah chapter fifty-three. Jesus on Calvary was the substitute for all God’s chosen people of every age. Jesus was hanged there in their place and stead. And all their sins were laid on Him. God therefore, as the righteous Judge, dealt with Jesus in strict justice, showing no legal favoritism to Him. Jesus therefore was by God stricken, smitten, and afflicted – wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities.

But Jesus as the sinless Son of God was not forsaken by His Father’s eternal and immutable love. Note that Jesus said “My God, why have You forsaken Me?” – not “My Father, why have You forsaken Me?” Jehovah as the righteous Judge forsook the Man who was the sinner’s substitute and their sin-bearer (see Habakkuk 1:13a). But Jehovah as the loving Father did not forsake His sinless Son.

Jesus Himself had earlier prophesied of this when He declared to His disciples, “Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me” (John 16:32).

Jesus Christ more than any person knew what it was to say “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me” (Psalm 23:4).

Even when Jesus Christ was made to be sin, He was loved by His Father as much as He was loved before the foundation of the world, when He was “daily [His Father’s] delight” (Proverb 8:30). Jesus Christ is eternally Him whom the Father calls “My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17 & 17:5).

Therefore, the Father took care of His Son as He suffered for sin on the accursed tree. He fulfilled the prophecy that “I have given help to one who is mighty .... With him My hand shall be established; also My arm shall strengthen him” (Psalm 89:19-21).

2. *Jehovah takes care of His church, and all within her, even when she thinks she is forsaken by Him* (Isaiah 49:14-16f): “But Zion said, ‘The LORD [Jehovah] has forsaken me, and my Lord [Adonai] has forgotten me.’ [He replies,] ‘Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you [not merely your name, but you yourself] on the palms of My hands; your walls are continually before Me.’”

We happily report that eventually:

- Jesus’ disbelieving brothers believed in Him (Acts 1:14);
- Jesus’ forsaking disciples returned to Him (Mark 16:7, 14ff);
- Jesus’ denying disciple strengthened other disciples (Luke 22:32);
- many of Jesus’ rejecting countrymen were converted to Him through Peter’s preaching (Acts ch.2);
- and multitudes of Gentiles who rejected Him have received Him.

For God through Jesus Christ forgives and aids all repentant forsakers!

Child of God, you may be forsaken by men. But Jehovah will never forsake you. And He will aid you when they forsake you.

– Daniel E. Parks