

**8/9/18**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

We needed a shelter, a refuge from the storm. Hurricane Irma was bigger than the state of Florida. Millions of people sought shelter. They sought out places where they could be safe from the violent wind and rain. Many people fled the state. Many went to community shelters. Many hunkered down in their homes or in homes of friends and neighbors. People sought a refuge where they would be safe from the violent storm.

Someday the end of the world will come. “The LORD” has promised it—the LORD always keeps his promises. The LORD has promised that he will roar and thunder so strongly that the earth and the sky itself will tremble and shake. And sinners like you and me have to face that! Wow, do we need to refuge, a shelter!

*The LORD will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the sky will tremble. But the LORD will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel. Joel 3:16*

God promises that HE will be our shelter. The LORD who always keeps his promises—he will shelter us and be our refuge. The one who lived for us, died for us, and rose for us—he will protect us from the judgment which we deserve. Why? Because the LORD thundered and roared at himself, at Jesus, who bore our sins on the cross. So, the Last Day no longer means punishment for those who trust in Jesus. Rather, the Last Day means only salvation for those who trust in Jesus.

God himself will be your refuge, your stronghold. He promises. And he always keeps his promises!

***Prayer:*** *O LORD, remind me that you have promised to be my refuge not only at the Last Day, but all through my life. Amen.*

*(WELS E-Devotion, adapted)*

...See you in worship.

Keep looking up because the Lord is always looking down – Psalm 121

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