

God Is My Refuge  
A Devotional and Study Guide

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## *God is my Refuge*

Safety and security are fundamental needs for all human beings, but where can we truly find them? In what or whom can we truly trust? Where can we truly rest secure, comfortable, at home? The world points us in many directions—to jobs, to money, to position, to possessions, to power, to relationships, to family. Jesus says “Come to me...” The God of the Bible calls us to find our home, our trust, our rest in him.

It has been fascinating to discover more of what this meant to the ancient Hebrews and what it means in my own life. This series has been a year in the making. There are ten paintings altogether. Using Concordances and Bible helps to dig into the word “refuge”, I discovered seven Hebrew words which are translated refuge or stronghold or something similar by our English Bibles. Six of them refer to our relationship with God.

The first part of this devotional brings together paintings, scripture and meditations with these six Hebrew words. I have numbered and color coordinated the six Hebrew words so you can recognize them in the different scriptures. The stories are also in colored type (red brown) to help distinguish them from the meditations.

In the second section of this book you will find more scripture and a study guide with a Hebrew dictionary. This takes you through some of the exciting things I discovered along the way. Enjoy the journey.

Julie Drew

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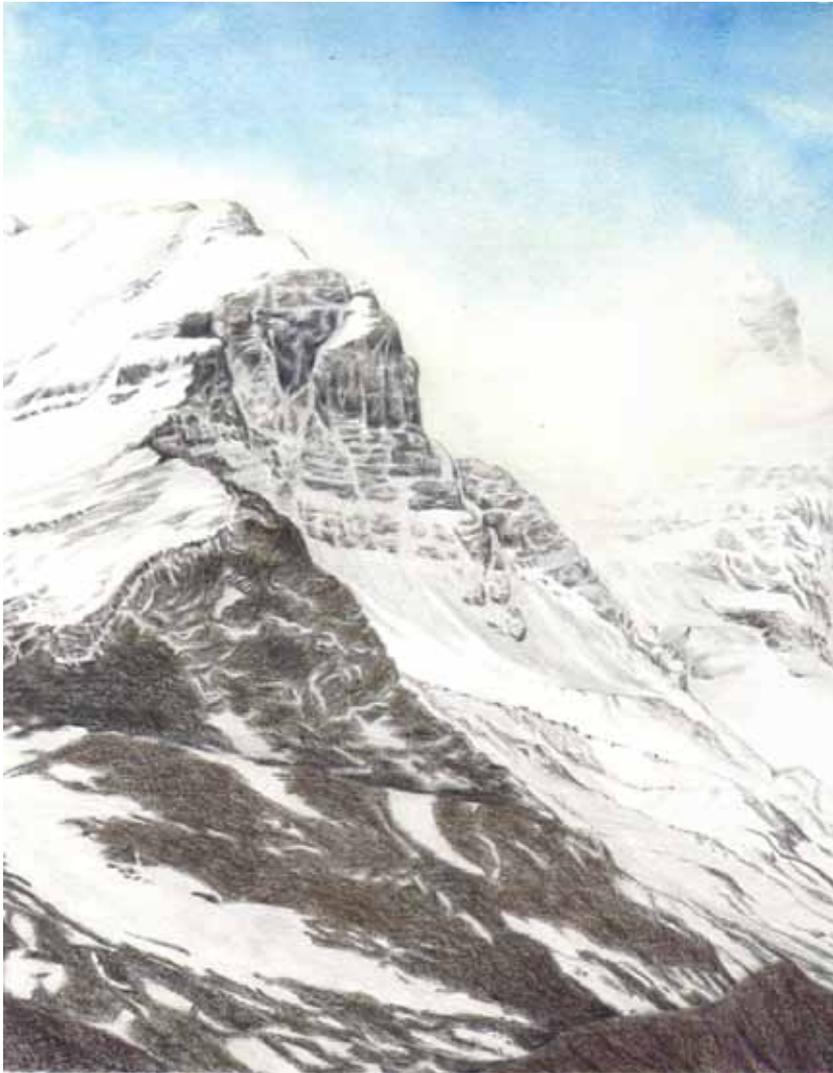
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*Steadfast*, Watercolor, 29in x 21in, 72.5cm x 52.5cm

## ***Steadfast***

***Refuge(1) manowc(maw-noce)***

***I run and flee (to God) in times of distress and trouble. He is a place to retreat to.***



When my heart aches I run to God. He alone is my comfort when I am distressed. He is rock solid; never changing, though the storms may come and go. He is, and always will be.

## 1993 (Part 1)

Our lives were on hold. It was February, and it was snowing. We lived in Eugene, Oregon. The economy was depressed, and my husband, Sam, had been 7 months without a permanent job. But now things were finally looking up. Sam had an interview for a good job in Spokane, Washington, eight hours away. Sam, myself, and our two young boys crammed into our little car hoping we were on the road to stability. We hadn't traveled even half way there when a storm blocked our path. It was too dangerous to go on that night, yet that meant missing the interview. But we had no choice. The next morning, Sam rescheduled his interview so we had more time, but now what? Do we continue or go home? More storms were predicted; the roads were bad both going on and going home. We headed one way, and then the other, and finally we did neither. We went southeast to Enterprise, Oregon, to find Sam's Dad, Cy.

Cy had lived a lonely wandering life since he and Sam's mom divorced 18 years before. We didn't even know exactly where he lived. We thought the most important thing was for Sam to get this job, but God had other things in mind. All the way to Enterprise the roads were amazingly clear.

### Psalm 59: 16-17 (NRSV)

16 But I will sing of your might, I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning;

for you have been a **fortress(2)** for me,  
and a **refuge(1)** in the day of my distress. 17 O my  
Strength, I sing praise to you;  
for you, O God, are my **fortress(2)**, the God  
who shows me steadfast love.

**Jeremiah 16:19** O LORD, my strength and my fortress,  
my **refuge(1)** in time of distress,  
to you the nations will come  
from the ends of the earth and say,  
“Our fathers possessed nothing but false gods,  
worthless idols that did them no good.



*(Detail) Steadfast, Watercolor, 29in x 21in, 72.5cm x 52.5cm*