

DEREK
PRINCE

ULTIMATE
SECURITY



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HOUSE

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Derek Prince Ministries—International
P.O. Box 19501
Charlotte, North Carolina 28219-9501
www.derekprince.org

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INTRODUCTION

SECURITY—A BASIC HUMAN CONCERN

Where can I find security? People everywhere ask themselves this question—regardless of their nationality, culture, or socioeconomic status. The languages they use to express the question vary. But the question of where to find security is the same for all people. We all are concerned with obtaining security. It is a universal quest. In fact, a major part of human activity is directed toward this end.

Security Agencies

One way to estimate the importance people attach to a pursuit is to measure how much they are willing to spend for it. In our contemporary culture, there are numerous agencies, industries, and organizations devoted in some way to providing security—involving the expenditure of countless billions of dollars every year.

Let's consider just a few such agencies and organizations. First, there are insurance companies. They do a tremendous job, but their scope is limited. You can insure yourself against an accident, but there is no way to ensure that an accident will not happen. You can insure your home or business against fire and theft, but there is no way to be completely certain a fire will not break out or a theft will not take place. So, insurance companies can guarantee some

protections against adverse circumstances, but other situations remain outside their control.

Then there are both public and private security agencies. Public security forces include national, state, and local law enforcement officers. As we all know, a whole new industry has arisen for providing security in airports. Also, there are countless private security agencies whose numbers are multiplying every year. Yet, in spite of the fine work of many of these agencies, it is a sad fact that crimes of violence and acts of terrorism continue to increase. This is not a criticism of these agencies, but rather a confirmation that there are limits to what security agencies can achieve.

Security Forces

Another type of security in our world today is represented by the armed forces of a nation, —such as the army, the navy, and the air force. Every country claims to maintain its armed forces for its own security. In many cases, this is probably true. However, these forces do not provide total security.

For example, consider the military forces of the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War years. The stronger the security forces of the Soviet Union, the greater the insecurity of the American people. And the stronger the security forces of the United States, the greater the insecurity of the Soviet people. It is a simple equation: What constitutes security for one nation may automatically be a source of insecurity for another nation.

Social Security

There is also what we call “social security.” Under this term, I include various governmental programs that have collectively become a major element in the life of nearly all Western nations.

This “cradle-to-grave security” is a system by which resources for every major need arising in the life of a normal person will be provided by his government. If he gets sick, his medical expenses, including any hospitalization costs, will be covered. When he becomes too old and weak to work, he will receive an income to cover his needs. Unfortunately, shaky economic conditions are already deflating some of the claims of “social security.”

Interestingly enough, various nations have achieved a very high degree of efficiency in their social-security systems. Two examples are Sweden and Denmark, which have marvelous social-security programs. Unfortunately, the provisions of those systems are matched by extremely high taxes.

It is also interesting to note that, even in the earlier years of the provision of such security, Sweden and Denmark were statistically ranked as two of the nations with the highest suicide rate in the world. What does that fact indicate? That even social security does not provide total security. Here were people who theoretically had all their obvious physical and financial needs cared for. Yet these same people somehow could not face life; rather, they opted for the alternative of suicide. Again, this is evidence that there is no such thing as “complete security” based on social programs.

Is Total Security Possible?

Many of the above entities that attempt to provide security are very worthwhile. They are to be commended and supported. However, none of them has achieved—nor can it achieve—either total or permanent security. Not only are there many areas in which those entities cannot provide security, but even in those areas in which they can provide a modicum of security, the scope of that security is limited by time and circumstances.

Therefore, since a basic drive of human existence is to seek security, it seems important to consider this question: *Where can I find true security?* In considering that question, I have come to one striking conclusion: In spite of all man's efforts and expenditures, he is ultimately powerless to achieve true security. Furthermore, I believe that the only hope of achieving real security is to admit this conclusion from the start—to face the fact that any man-made agency is ultimately powerless to bring security.

If that indeed is the case, we cannot build our lives and our hopes on any entity that provides only the illusion of real security. But there is a Source that can provide us with total and permanent security. That Source is the focus of this book, *Ultimate Security: Finding a Refuge in Difficult Times*.

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THE TRUE SOURCE

Having accepted the conclusion of the introduction to this book—that no human agency can provide anything other than an illusion of real security—where do we turn? Thankfully, there is another Source of security—one that is completely different in its nature and in the type of security it offers. This alternative can provide both total and permanent security. What is this Source? It is God, in whom are found all wisdom and provision.

As we begin to explore the nature of God’s wisdom, let us consider a passage from Proverbs 1 in which wisdom is personified. As you read this passage, notice carefully the alternatives that are presented: the instability of human achievement versus the total security God offers. Please notice, also, that it is not human wisdom talking here; rather, the wisdom of God is speaking through the Scriptures.

Wisdom calls aloud in the street, she raises her voice in the public squares; at the head of the noisy streets she cries out, in the gateways of the city she makes her speech: “How long will you simple ones love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge? If you had responded to my rebuke, I would have poured out my heart to you and made my thoughts known to you. But since you rejected me when I called and no one gave heed when I stretched out my hand, since you ignored all my advice and would not accept my rebuke, I in turn will laugh at your

disaster; I will mock when calamity overtakes you—when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind, when distress and troubles overwhelm you. Then they will call to me but I will not answer; they will look for me but will not find me. Since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the LORD, since they would not accept my advice and spurned my rebuke, they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes. For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; but whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm.”

(Proverbs 1:20–33)

Please ponder that last sentence with me: “*But whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm.*” That is total security—the offer of God’s wisdom speaking to us through the pages of Scripture.

We should note that even though Wisdom makes this offer to everyone, there are few who accept it. This passage specifically indicates that there are many who are unwilling to receive Wisdom’s instruction and heed her rebuke. Consequently, they are headed for a calamity they could have avoided.

The question each of us must answer is this: Am I prepared to listen and give heed to the voice of Wisdom? Will I give myself to God’s wisdom, the only source that promises me total and permanent security?