SHRUBS

We see shrubs all over our neighborhood. Some are large and full and others are small. In some places shrubs form a living wall around a yard. In other places they are little islands of color in a yard or field. Large or small, it seems that we often hear birds singing from within the protection of a shrub.

If we look at a shrub, it appears solid. It is really not solid but made up of branches and leaves with many

open spaces in it. These open spaces provide shelter for birds and small animals. They can hide from animals hunting them or from rain or from the cold and snow of winter.

What can we learn from God's creation of the shrub?

Shrubs act as a shield for a yard against the outside world. They keep the yard safe from people and animals that would damage the yard. This is how God cares for us. The Bible tells us in Psalm 121:7, "The Lord will keep you from all harm, he will watch over your life." The Bible also tells us in 2nd Samuel 22:31, "As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in him." The shrub gives us a picture of how God surrounds us with His love and protection.

The shrub is also a wonderful home for many birds and small animals. When they hide in a shrub they are safe from harm. The Bible tells us that we can hide in God's love and protection in Psalm 32:7, "You (God) are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and

surround me with songs of deliverance." If you quietly listen near a shrub, you will probably hear birds singing. Birds sing when they feel safe and happy. It is just like the passage from the Psalms above when we hear birds singing songs of deliverance from harm. God uses the shrub to give us a very clear picture of how He protects us.

Shrubs are seen everywhere. It is wonderful that God loves us so much that He puts this lesson before our eyes all around where we live.