

## *The Story of a Spider*



*“And the LORD shall help them and deliver them;  
He shall deliver them from the wicked, and  
save them, because they trust in Him.”*

*(Psalm 37:40)*

I’m sure that you like to listen to an interesting story—even better if it’s exciting! Young Spurgeon certainly did. He was sitting on his grandfather’s knee one day, and James told him this true story, and it all happened in the town where they were, in Stambourne.

Many years before a man called Havers lived there, and he was a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. It was a difficult time for Christians then, and they were often persecuted and arrested and put in prison. One day someone heard that Havers was going to be arrested, and told him about it. He hid in a malt-house, a place where beer was made. He found an empty kiln, which is like a large oven, so he hid in there.

There was not much to look at in this dark kiln, but he did notice a spider. He watched as the spider went to the narrow opening into the kiln, and fixed the first line of a web across the entrance. It was fascinating watching the spider weave his web, crossing and re-crossing the entrance. Havers quite forgot about the danger he was in! He thought of how great and wise God is to have made a spider who could weave such a beautiful web.

But then he heard the men who had come to arrest him.

They came into the malt-house. Surely they would find him! One of them came over to the kiln where he was hiding. He was going to be caught! But then he heard the man say, "It's no use to look in there. The old villain can never be in there! Look at that spider's web. He could never have got in there without breaking it!" The men who had come to arrest Havers left, and he escaped.

It is sad that those who love and follow the Lord are sometime persecuted. That happened in Old Testament times, and in the New Testament as well, and ever since. Many Christians have been put in prison or even martyred because of their faith and obedience. Still today in some parts of the world Christians face this danger, and even in our own country it is often difficult to live the Christian life and to please the Lord. Whatever happens to the Christian, the Lord will look after him, maybe in an amazing way, as Havers found out, or maybe by giving him the help he needs to suffer for the Lord, or maybe by taking him straight to heaven! The Lord knows what is best for all His children. Havers might well have read this verse, and said, "Amen!" after it—"*And the LORD shall help them and deliver them; He shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in Him*" (Psalm 37:40).