

Psalms 91

This evening - we're continuing our overview of the Old Testament book titled Psalms.

With this as our focus - let's open our Bibles to Psalms chapter 91 - and as we make our way to the 91st Psalm...

...I should take a moment to point out that - this is one of the Psalms - whose author remained anonymous.

You might be interested to know that - one-third of the psalms found in this book - were written by anonymous Psalter.

At the same time - we can also rejoice in knowing that the Holy Spirit inspired all of the Psalms that we find in the Bible.

Some scholars speculate that King David was the author of this Psalm.

And one reason why is because - the Septuagint attributes the lyrics of this song to King David - in the superscription section of this Psalm.

Others would have us to believe that Moses wrote this Psalm...

...and one reason why is because - the Midrash and Talmud both teach that Moses wrote this song...

...while ascending into the divine cloud on Mount Sinai.

Then there are those who believe that Moses is the author of the 91st Psalm...

...because they ascribe the authorship of the anonymous Psalms - to the author of the previous Psalm.

Here's how Spurgeon explained it - in his commentary of this song...

This Psalm is without a title, and we have no means of ascertaining either the name of its writer, or the date of its composition, with certainty. The Jewish doctors consider that when the author's name is

not mentioned we may assign the Psalm to the last named writer; and, if so, this is another Psalm of Moses, the man of God. Many expressions here used are similar to those of Moses in Deuteronomy, and the internal evidence, from the peculiar idioms, would point towards him as the composer.

If Spurgeon is right - then - Moses was not only that author of the 90th Psalm - but - he is also the author of the 91st Psalm.

And if so - then what this also means is that - Moses was creating a lyrical contrast...

...between the solemn sadness of the previous Psalm...

...and the confident comfort of saving faith that is described - here in the 91st Psalm.

Well - regardless of the author's true identity - what we can say for sure is that...

...this is one of the most encouraging and comforting Psalms found in the entire bible.

Not only that - but - this Psalm was often used by the children of Israel as a bedtime prayer...

...as they invoked the promise of protection - found in the lyrics of this Psalm.

And as we make our way through this Psalm - it's my prayer that we'll all be encouraged - and comforted...

...by this proclamation of praise.

With this as our focus - let's turn our attention to the lyrics that we find here in the 91st Psalm.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 1 - where the Psalmist declared...

Psa 91:1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Psa 91:2 I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress;
My God, in Him I will trust."

Here in the beginning of this Psalm - we find the psalmist - singing the praises of the LORD.

And while the author of this Psalm was quick to point out that He's singing the praises of YAHWEH...

...He also described the LORD as being the Most High - and the Almighty.

Just to be clear - the term - Most High - found there in verse 1 - was translated from the Hebrew word - Elyon...

...which speaks of the supreme elevation of the LORD.

And it's for this reason that the Psalmist was singing the praises of the LORD Most High.

He also described YAHWEH as the Almighty One - and that word - Almighty - found there at the end of verse 1...

...was translated from the Hebrew word - Shaddai - which was used of the omnipotence of the LORD.

And from this - we can see that the LORD our God is not only exalted to the highest position of authority...

...but - He is also the One Who has the almighty power that is necessary...

...for accomplishing His perfect will.

With that being the case - it's no wonder that the Psalmist rejoiced in knowing that...

...those who dwell in the secret place of the Most High - Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

In other words - those who seek the spiritual shelter of the LORD Most High...

...can take comfort in knowing that - YAHWEH is a fortress to those who trust in Him.

I like the way that the scholars who created the Christian Standard Bible rendered verses 1 and 2 - they put it like this...

Psa 91:1 The one who lives under the protection of the Most High dwells in the shadow of the Almighty.

Psa 91:2 I will say concerning the LORD, who is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust:

Christian - listen - those who trust in the Most High God - can rest in the refuge of His redemption.

And those who place their faith in the Almighty LORD - will find themselves in a fortress that frees us from every fear.

I like the way that the Psalmist put it in the 18th Psalm - it's verse 10 where he declared...

Pro 18:10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower;
The righteous run to it and are safe.

Rather than allowing the fears of this world to overwhelm us...

...I encourage you to seek refuge in the loving arms of the Lord...

...because - the perfect love of the LORD - is able to cast out every fear.

With this as our focus - let's turn our attention back to the 91st Psalm - where we find the Psalmist - rejoicing in the refuge that we have in our Redeemer.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 3 - where the Psalmist declared...

Psa 91:3 Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler
And from the perilous pestilence.

Psa 91:4 He shall cover you with His feathers,
And under His wings you shall take refuge;
His truth shall be your shield and buckler.

Psa 91:5 You shall not be afraid of the terror by night,
Nor of the arrow that flies by day,

Psa 91:6 Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness,
Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.

Here in these verses - we find the Psalmist - describing the way that the LORD delivers those who trust in Him.

And he began by comparing the enemy to a fowler - which is a trapper who hunts wild birds.

The chances are - the Psalmist was referring to the enemies of Israel...

...who were attempting to trap them - and kill them.

And whether we're talking about Moses - or King David...

...both men witnessed the way in which the Lord saved them from the fowler.

For example - it was shortly after Moses led the people out of Egypt...

...when they found themselves trapped between the Red Sea - -
and the massive Egyptian army.

It was at that point in time when the Lord led Moses to lift up his rod over the Red sea and divide it.

And in this way - the Lord enabled the children of Israel walk on dry ground - through the midst of the sea.

And not only that - but - the LORD also used the waters of the Red Sea...

...to drown the Egyptian army.

Not only that - but - the Lord also spared the children of Israel - from the perilous pestilence that He poured out on the inhabitants of Egypt.

And in this way - the Lord covered them with His proverbial feathers...

...like a momma bird protects her brood - under her wings.

I like the way that Spurgeon explained it in his commentary of this passage - he put it like this...

Even as a hen covereth her chickens so doth the Lord protect the souls which dwell in him; let us cower down beneath him for comfort and for safety. Hawks in the sky and snares in the field are equally harmless when we nestle so near the Lord.

Whether we're talking about a natural enemy - like the armies of an invading nation...

...or we're talking about a supernatural enemy - like the devil and his demons...

...we can rejoice in knowing that our God is the Almighty One...

...Who has the power to protect those who trust in Him.

The Psalmist also assured us of this fact - by informing us that the truth of the LORD shall be our shield and buckler.

Notice with me again - there in the second half of verse 4 - where he declared...

Psa 91:4b His truth shall be your shield and buckler.

In other words - the faithful promises of the LORD - will serve as our armor and protection.

And according to Paul - it's the shield of faith that enables us to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

That being the case - there is no reason for those who trust in the LORD...

...to live in fear of the Enemy.

Let's consider again how the Psalmist explained it - there in verses 5 and 6 - where he declared...

Psa 91:5 You shall not be afraid of the terror by night,
Nor of the arrow that flies by day,

Psa 91:6 Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness,
Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.

Here we find the Psalmist - assuring his audience that - the Almighty God - Who is LORD over His creation...

...is able to protect us from everything - at any time.

This includes the terror that fills our hearts at night - and the arrows that flies by day.

This includes the pestilence that lurks in the darkness...

...and the destruction that takes place at noonday.

Regardless of the time it is - and now matter the attack - the Most High God never slumbers - nor sleeps.

And with that being the case - we can rejoice in knowing that...

...the faithful promises of the LORD - provides us with His armor and protection.

It's for this reason that those who's hearts are filled with fear...

...should remember that the name of the LORD is a strong tower...

...the righteous run to it and are safe.

In order to further grasp the way in which the Lord protects those Who trust in Him - let's continue to consider the content of the 91st Psalm.

Look with me beginning there at verse 7 - where the Psalmist declared...

Psa 91:7 A thousand may fall at your side,
And ten thousand at your right hand;
But it shall not come near you.

Psa 91:8 Only with your eyes shall you look,
And see the reward of the wicked.

Psa 91:9 Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge,
Even the Most High, your dwelling place,

Psa 91:10 No evil shall befall you,
Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;

Psa 91:11 For He shall give His angels charge over you,
To keep you in all your ways.

Psa 91:12 In their hands they shall bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Psa 91:13 You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra,
The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

Here in these verses - we find the Psalmist - assuring his audience - about the protective power of the Lord.

And while it's true that the wicked will eventually receive their just reward...

...it's also true that those who make their Lord their refuge - will escape the evil that befalls those who are evil.

Now - listen - this is not to suggest that - those who trust in the LORD will never experience anything that we perceive to be bad.

And I'm sure we all realize that church history is filled with stories of Christians - who suffered at the hands of evil doers.

This not only includes the apostles - who were martyred for their faith in Jesus Christ...

...but - there's a long list of believers who have been martyred in every generation of the church age.

Most recently - the Christians living in northwestern Nigeria are currently being kidnapped and killed by Muslim terrorists.

What's even worse is that - things are even worse for the Christians living in...

...North Korea - Somalia - Yemen - Sudan - Eritrea - and Syria.

That being the case - it's important for us to realize what the Psalmist meant...

...when he informed us that those who make the LORD their refuge...

...will escape the evil schemes of the enemy.

With this as our focus - let's take another look at the lyrics of this song - beginning there at verse 10 - where the psalmist declared...

Psa 91:10 No evil shall befall you,

Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;

Psa 91:11 For He shall give His angels charge over you,

To keep you in all your ways.

Psa 91:12 In their hands they shall bear you up,

Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Psa 91:13 You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra,

The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

Now - as we take another look at these verses - I should take a moment to remind you that...

...this was actually the section of scripture that Satan used - - when He tempted the Lord Jesus to sin.

And with this as our focus - we should take some time to consider how the temptation of Jesus helps us to see...

...how those who take refuge in the Lord - will escape the evil attacks of the enemy.

Hold your place here in the book of Psalms - and let's turn in our Bibles to Matthew chapter 4.

And as we make our way to the fourth chapter of Matthew's gospel account...

...I wanna take a moment to point out that - the Lord Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness.

And after He fasted forty days and forty nights - He was then presented with three temptations.

Let's consider the apostle Matthew's account - found here in Matthew 4 - look with me beginning there at verse 3 - where we read...

Mat 4:3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

Mat 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

Mat 4:5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple,

Mat 4:6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written:

'He shall give His angels charge over you,'
and,

'In their hands they shall bear you up,

Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

Mat 4:7 Jesus said to him, “It is written again, ‘You shall not tempt the LORD your God.’ ”

Mat 4:8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory.

Mat 4:9 And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.”

Mat 4:10 Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ”

Mat 4:11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

Here in these verses - we learn about the way that the Lord Jesus was tempted by the enemy to sin.

And as we consider all three temptations - we can see how Jesus was tempted...

...according to the lust of the flesh - the lust of the eyes and the pride of life.

I should also point out that - it's there in the second temptation - found in verses 5 thru 7...

...where Satan used the promise found in the 91st Psalm...

...as the Biblical basis for why the Lord Jesus should jump off the pinnacle of the temple.

The enemy was tempting Jesus to test His Heavenly Father's promise of angelic protection.

Thankfully for us - the Lord Jesus knew that this was a trap.

And in response - He rebuked the devil by quoting Deuteronomy 6 - verse 16 - where Moses declared...

“You shall not tempt the LORD your God.”

Now - as we consider the way in which Satan tempted Jesus with the 91st Psalm...

...I should take a moment to remind you that the promise of angelic protection is preceded by the promise found in verse 10...

Psa 91:10 No evil shall befall you,
Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;

As we consider this promise - in light of Christ's crucifixion...

...we should take a moment to ask - how can we square
this verse...

...with the evil scheme that resulted in the sacrifice of
our Savior?

In order to solve this conundrum - it's important for us to understand
that...

...the Lord is able to use the evil schemes of Satan - for the good of
those who trust in Him.

For example - when Joseph's brother's sold him into slavery - -
they were engaging in an evil scheme.

And yet - the Lord used their evil plans - to place Joseph
in the most powerful position in Egypt...

...only second to Pharaoh himself.

It was 40 years after they sold their brother into slavery - when the sons
of Israel were reunited with Joseph.

And as they realized that Joseph had the authority to order their
execution...

...Joseph simply assured them that God used their evil scheme to
exalt him - by declaring...

Gen 50:20 "...as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."

Christian - listen - God is able to work all things together for the good of those who love Him.

And that was not only true for Jospheh - but - it was also true of Christ's crucifixion.

It was Satan's plan to kill Christ Jesus - in order to stop our Savior - from saving us from the wrath of God.

What the devil failed to realize is that - our Heavenly Father was planning to use Satan's evil scheme...

...to secure the salvation of those who trust in the cross of Christ.

That being the case - we can rejoice in knowing that No evil will befall those who trust in the Lord Almighty...

...and the reason why is because - the Most High God is able to work all things together for the God of those who love Him.

And yes - this includes the way in which the Lord is working a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory...

...for the Christians who are murdered - and martyred for their faith in Jesus.

The suffering of the Saints will eventually give way to everlasting rewards...

...while the enemy is receiving everlasting punishment.

Let's consider how the Psalmist explained it - back in the 91st Psalm - - and so - let's turn back to Psalm chapter 91.

Let's take another look at verse 13 - where the Psalmist declared...

Psa 91:13 You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra,
The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

Now - as we consider this promise which was made to those who trust in the Lord Almighty...

...I can't help but to remember how Satan is compared to both a roaring lion - and a serpent.

For example - it's in 1st Peter 5 - verse 8 - where the apostle Peter declared...

1Pe 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

That's right - the devil is comparable to a roaring lion - who is on the prowl.

Thankfully for us - those who trust in the Most High God will be able to tread upon the lion.

As for the serpent - I'll remind you that it's in 2nd Corinthians 11 - verse 3 where Paul referred to Satan as the serpent who deceived Eve.

And while this imagery is sure to scare the average person - those who trust in the Lord Almighty can rejoice in knowing that...

...we shall trample the serpent underfoot - according to the promise of the Lord.

I like the way that Paul put it - in Romans chapter 16 - where he declared...

Rom 16:19b I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.

Rom 16:20 And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Paul was pointing to the day when the serpent will be crushed under the feet of those who trust in Jesus Christ.

And as we look forward to that day - it's important for us to realize that...

...the Lord is able to take the evil schemes of Satan - and use them to accomplish His perfect will.

That being the case - no evil will befall those who are resting in the refuge of our Redeemer.

In order to further grasp this glorious truth - let's consider the final stanza of the 91st Psalm.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 14 - where the Psalmist writes...

Psa 91:14 "Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him;

I will set him on high, because he has known My name.

Psa 91:15 He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him;

I will be with him in trouble;

I will deliver him and honor him.

Psa 91:16 With long life I will satisfy him,

And show him My salvation."

Here in the final verses of this Psalm - - we find the psalmist - presenting us with the perspective of the Lord.

And as we consider the perspective of El Shaddai - we must not fail to recognize that...

...He doesn't deliver us from evil - because - we deserve it.

And He doesn't deliver us from evil - because - we are worthy of His love.

No - instead - He delivers us from evil - because of the loving relationship that we have with Him.

And while it's true that He delivers those who love Him - from the troubles of this world...

...we must not forget that we love Him - because He first loved us.

I like the way that the apostle John put it - in 1st John 4 - it's verses 17 thru 19 - where he declared...

1Jo 4:17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.

1Jo 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

1Jo 4:19 We love Him because He first loved us.

We love Him because He first loved us.

And those who love Him can rejoice in knowing that...

...He will be with us in times of trouble - and he will deliver us...

...as He reveals His salvation to those who rest in the refuge of our Redeemer - Jesus.

With that being the case - I encourage you to remember that...

Psa 91:1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Psa 91:2 I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress;
My God, in Him I will trust."

Those who live by faith - in the shelter of God - Most High
will find rest in the shadow of El Shaddai.

And as we face the trials and troubles of this world - we can rejoice in knowing that...

...the Lord alone will provide us with perfect protection...

...as we rest in the refuge of our almighty God.

And it's there where we will experience the deliverance of the One...

...Who exalts those who trust in His holy name.