

10-03-2021, COTR Texarkana

Title: God is Our Refuge in the Storm

Purpose: Help people find a refuge in God when facing the storms of life.

Text: Psalm 91

Topic: Storms, Trouble, Peace, Refuge,

## God is Our Refuge in the Storm

### I. Introduction

- A. Review: Last week we talked about Psalm 23 as a guide to find peace in the chaos and crisis that surrounds us. // Picture (The eye of the hurricane is the small zone of calm in the midst of chaos, ferocious rains and battering destruction.)<sup>1</sup> Jesus said we can find peace in Him in life's storms. [John 16:33 (NIV) "I have told you these things, so that **in me you may have peace**. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."]
- B. Today we'll continue last week's message. We'll examine Ps. 91 and learn how to find a refuge from the storms of life in the secret place with God. There are many titles of psalm 91 that summarize its message: "God Is Our Protector," "Security in God"; "God is the One Who Defends Us," "God is the One Who Takes Care of Us."<sup>1</sup>
- C. Title: God is Our Refuge in the Storm
- D. Truth for Today: We can find a refuge in God to face the storms of life.

### II. We can find refuge in the secret place with God.

- A. [Vs. 1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."]
  1. Def. refuge: Shelter or protection from danger or calamity; a strong hold which protects by its strength; any place inaccessible to an enemy.<sup>4</sup>
  2. The psalmist tells us that whoever trusts in the Most High finds security and protection, a shelter in the storms of life. The titles of God, *Most High and the Almighty*, stress His power as the sovereign Ruler of the world.<sup>2</sup>
  3. The key to protection and peace is *dwelling in the secret place of the Most High*, i.e., we have a daily walk with God: we talk to Him in prayer, He talks to us through the Bible, we ask Him questions and somehow He answers us. Then when trouble comes, we don't have to frantically search for God we just move a little closer, // child in dad's arms in a storm.
  4. Song 'Rock of Ages', cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee. 2 Pictures, In 1762, a young minister Augustus Toplady traveled through England's Cheddar Gorge when the clouds burst and torrential sheets of rain pummeled the earth. He found protection from the storm under a rocky overhang. There, protected from the wind and rain, he wrote one of the most popular hymns ever written, "Rock of Ages, Cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee."

### III. God will protect and deliver those who take refuge in Him.

- A. [Vs. 3 Surely **He shall deliver you** from the snare of the fowler And from the perilous pestilence. 4 He shall cover you with His feathers, And **under His wings**

**you shall take refuge**; His truth shall be your shield and buckler. 5 **You shall not be afraid** of the terror by night, Nor of the arrow that flies by day, 6 Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday. 7 A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you. 8 Only with your eyes shall you look, and see the reward of the wicked.

1. The dangers we face include both human and demonic forces Picture as a *fowler's snare*/ bird-catcher's trap meaning "all hidden dangers". *Perilous pestilence* means "All deadly diseases" including epidemics. Others translate it as false accusation, a witch's spell or "raging tempest."<sup>3</sup>
2. *He will cover you like a bird covers its young under its wings* speaks of God's protection, Picture eagle *His truth shall be your shield and buckler*, (NLT) **His faithful promises are your armor and protection**. "God is faithful and will protect you like a shield" or "God keeps his promises and will protect and defend you."<sup>3</sup> [1 Corinthians 1:9 (ESV) **God is faithful**, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.] Def. faithful: Grk. 'pistos" God is reliable, believable, trustworthy.
3. Vs. 5-6, *You shall not be afraid*. Our world is filled with things to be afraid of: covid, job loss, money problems, terrorism, violent attacks, etc. The psalmist says we will be protected from the things from the things that make us afraid if we stay close to God. [Is. 41:10 (NLT) **Don't be afraid, for I am with you**. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you...]
4. What if I believe this and something bad happens to me? How do we interpret verses like this? Are these words general guidance or absolute promises? Were they for people in the past or for us today? Sometimes we don't the answers to these questions but these words are anchors for faith in God and hope for the future. // turkey hunting, hear a gobble and crossing a creek. Faith helps us get to the other side of problems whether receiving or enduring.

#### IV. Angels are assigned to protect us.

A. [Vs. 9 **Because you have made the Lord**, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, **your dwelling place**, 10 **No evil shall befall you**, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; 11 For **He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways**. 12 In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone. 13 You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.]

1. How can we be kept safe from danger? (1) Because we made the Lord our *refuge/dwelling place*. This implies deliberate choices on our part to daily walk with God. (2) God has assigned angels to watch over us.
2. Angels are intelligent, spiritual beings created by God who worship him and carry out his will. Angels possess great power. Their primary functions are to engage in the worship of God in heaven and carry out his purposes on earth. Though they are invisible, angels sometimes have manifested themselves on earth and have interacted with humans. e.g., God commissions angels to protect his people, deliver them from danger, transmit divine messages, and encourage believers. Angels often appearing at significant moments—such as the birth of Christ, the resurrection, and the ascension.<sup>5</sup> The exact number of angels is unknown,

but [Rev. 5:11 (NLT)...I heard the voices of **thousands and millions of angels around the throne...**]

3. What do angels do for us? [Heb. 1:14 (NIV) Are not all angels ministering spirits **sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?**] Guardian angel, [Mt. 18:10–11 (ESV) “See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that **in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.**”]

## V. Conclusion

A. [Vs. 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. 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. 16 With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation.”]

1. To be protected in life’s storms, we have a part and God has a part: (1) Our part is to love Him, trust Him and call upon Him. (2) God’s part is to *answer us; be with us in trouble; deliver and us honor us. With long life He will satisfy us, and show us His salvation.*
2. Let’s face our troubles with faith, believe God for the best, step into the creek and keep going till we get to the other side.

## VI. Response

- A. Communion: Rock of Ages
- B. Prayer
- C. Souls

## VII. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. Bratcher, R. G., & Reyburn, W. D. (1991). [\*A translator’s handbook on the book of Psalms\*](#) (p. 801). New York: United Bible Societies.
2. Ross, A. P. (1985). [\*Psalms\*](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 860). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.
3. Bratcher, R. G., & Reyburn, W. D. (1991). [\*A translator’s handbook on the book of Psalms\*](#) (p. 801). New York: United Bible Societies.
4. Webster, N. (2006). [\*Noah Webster’s first edition of An American dictionary of the English language\*](#). Anaheim, CA: Foundation for American Christian Education.
5. Emadi, S. (2018). [\*Angels\*](#). In M. Ward, J. Parks, B. Ellis, & T. Hains (Eds.), *Lexham Survey of Theology*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

## VIII. Lyrics, Rock of Ages

- A. Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee;  
Let the water and the blood,  
From Thy wounded side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure,  
Save from wrath and make me pure.
- B. Not the labor of my hands  
Can fulfill Thy law’s demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know,

- Could my tears forever flow,  
All for sin could not atone;  
Thou must save, and Thou alone.
- C. Nothing in my hand I bring,  
Simply to Thy cross I cling;  
Naked, come to Thee for dress;  
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;  
Foul, I to the fountain fly;  
Wash me, Savior, or I die.
- D. While I draw this fleeting breath,  
When my eyes shall close in death,  
When I rise to worlds unknown,  
And behold Thee on Thy throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee.