

This I Declare - God Our Protector

November 22, 2020

Scriptures: Psalm 91:3-13; Romans 8, 2 Corinthians 4

Bottom Line: The offers us true refuge forever.

The Psalms are a book of musical and poetic prayers, intended to evoke emotion and response.

Psalm 91:3-13

Is Psalm 91 like a “blank cheque” promise that Christians can pray and claim?

Let Scripture Interpret Scripture

- Psalm 44
- Matthew 4 - Satan quotes Psalm 91 to Jesus
- Don't take God's promise of protection as a licence to be foolish
- Jesus embraces suffering

The Paradox of God's Protection

- There is evidence that God does amazingly deliver people from suffering
- Scripture also promises suffering for those who trust in Him

The worst thing that can happen to us is not physical suffering, but eternal separation from God. Thinking of protection in this life is too small a scope for the protection that God offers. He has a much broader view of suffering, and a much broader understanding of what protection looks like.

Declaration

“I am one in whom Christ delights. I live in the strong and unshakeable kingdom of God. The kingdom is not in trouble and neither am I.” - James Bryan Smith

LISTENING

Have someone in your group share something about their week. They could answer one of the following questions:

- What was a big challenge or problem you faced this week? How did you handle it?
- Where did you experience God this week? Or where do you wish you had experienced God this week?
- Based on your life experience this week, what do you think God is trying to teach you right now? What is He trying to build in you?

After the person shares, the group can respond. Make sure you let them know you heard them: tell them what you heard, offer wise advice where it's asked for, share from your own experience as well.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Review Sunday's message. What stood out to you? What challenged you? Are there any lingering questions?
2. How have you seen God's protection in your life, or in the lives of those close to you?
3. Have you ever struggled with the question of why bad things happen to us? Where have you looked for answers and perspective?
4. What opportunities is the Holy Spirit leading you into to be a refuge for someone else this week?