

PSALM 91 – Safety of Abiding in the Presence of God – My Refuge & My Fortress!

4/15/23 Sat. Morn Prayer - P. Twente, www.ptwente.com 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD - Martin Luther (1529) Festival Choir (2:01)

*A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing; Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing:
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe; His craft and pow'r are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.*

*That word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth; The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with
us sideth; Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; The body they may kill God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.*

PSALM 91 – The LORD is our greatest source of protection when in danger!

Psalm 91 describes God's ongoing sovereign protection of His people from the ever-present dangers and terrors which surround humanity. The original setting may be that of an army about to go to battle. Most of the terrors mentioned in this psalm are left undefined, no doubt intentionally, so that no kind of danger is omitted from application. Believers in every age can read this psalm to learn that nothing can harm a child of God unless the Lord permits it. However, in light of the many references in the Psalms to the future Messianic kingdom (especially *Psalms 96-100*), this psalm must be read as being literally fulfilled then.

PSALM 91 - My Refuge and My Fortress

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."

- The blessings here promised are not for all believers, but for those who live in close fellowship with God. God is our protection – Our *refuge* and our *fortress*. He is speaking of our needing protection and that God is the One who is able to protect us.

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

- The Psalmist begins to lay out what God will be to those who trust in Him. He will deliver us from those, such as Satan, who set traps for us. Protection from the *perilous pestilence*, from disease.

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.

- God will protect us like a mother hen, one who is very active in protecting her chicks.

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

- He shall protect us at night from any who would break into our house. Such frail creatures are we that both by night and by day we are in danger, and so sinful are we that in either season we may be readily carried away by fear; the promise before us secures the favorite of heaven both from danger and from the fear of it

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

- The whole idea of our walking with the LORD keeps us out of places, of vulnerability that sin would lead us into places of danger in life. Even diseases that walks in darkness, or diseases that people can contract in the darkness. This walk with the LORD protects us from criminal activity or being in the wrong place at the wrong time, yet those who dwell in God are not afraid of it.

Psa 91:7-8 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.

- God protects us from His judgment that He brings upon 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.

- Notice that angels are in the plural. Some of us must require more than one angel to look after us!
- Angels were active in our Lord Jesus' ministry, but it didn't mean that He was going to escape the purpose for which He was born into the world and that was to die a terrible death upon the cross for our the forgiveness of our sin.

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

- Verses 11 and 12 are quoted in the New Testament by the devil in his temptation of Jesus in the wilderness. Satan must know and have known that the angels are very effective in protecting Jesus and us.
- We must never quote verses like Satan did to tempt God. Jesus answered all three times quoting from Deuteronomy, the book of obedience to God.

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

- God will send angels to us as necessary to assist us. **Heb 1:14** *Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?*

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.

- Now God confirms the truthfulness to what the Psalmist has been saying.

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.

- He will have need to pray, he will be led to pray aright, and the answer shall surely come. Saints are first called of God, and then they call *upon* God; such calls as theirs always obtain answers. Not without prayer will the blessing come to the most favored, but by means of prayer they shall receive all good things. "I will be with him in trouble," or "I am with him in trouble." Heirs of heaven are conscious of a special divine presence in times of severe trial. God first gives us conquering grace, and then rewards us for it.

Psa 91:16 With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation."

- God comes in and says everything that the Psalmist has said—**I will answer, be with, deliver, honor, satisfy and show My salvation**-- that I will be that to you!

SUMMARY:

- The point the Psalmist is making is that the safest place in the whole world to be, is in an intimate personal, obedient, and a loving relationship with God, loving Him above all else and everything else. It was true 3000 years ago and it's true today!

LEANING ON THE EVERLASTING ARMS - A. Showalter/E. Hoffman, Sovereign, Kauflin (2:45)

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, Leaning on the everlasting arms;

What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms; Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk, In this pilgrim way, Leaning on the everlasting arms;

O how bright the path grows from day to day, Leaning on the everlasting arms. (Refrain)

What have I to dread, what have I to fear, Leaning on the everlasting arms;

I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, Leaning on the everlasting arms. (Refrain)

PRAY FOR OUR NATION'S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD LEADERS: -

Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation, including: Xi Jinping – China (1,385 million; 7.5% Christian); Narendra Modi- India (1,297; 2.2%) Joe Biden – USA (329; 26.4%); Joko Widodo – Indonesia (263; 3.1%); Luiz Lula da Silva – Brazil (209; 24.5%) Arif Alvi – Pakistan (208; 0.6%) Shehbaz Sharif – Nigeria (203; 26.2%) Hasina Wazed – Bangladesh (159; 0.4%) Vladimir Putin- Russia (142; 1.4%); Lopez Obrador – Mexico (126; 10.3%) Benjamin Netanyahu – Israel (8.4; 0.4%) Olaf Scholtz – Germany (80; 2.1%) Rishi Sunak – U.K. (65; 7.8%) Kim Jong-un – North Korea (25; 1.5%)

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE OFFICERS/MILITARY; ISRAEL:

CC LIVING WORD STAFF/LEADERSHIP:

Terry & Sheila Walker – Senior Pastor

Daughter – Melissa; Daughters Kate(10) Lauren (8)

Son – Josaih – wife, Kirstie – Daughter Camille (3)

Son - James – wife, Karla - daughters , Autumn (6), Juniper (5); One son Santiago (4)

Mike Harris – Worship/Associate Pastor – three kids – Jacquelyn (25) Madelyn (22) Cayden (17)

Jeremy Isabella Ampe – Outreach/Associate Pastor – Three kids - Ezekiel (17) Jedediah (12) Lexi (7)

John & Meg Schneider – Children's Ministry – Kyle (30) Adam (30) Paige (28) - Grandkids – Ayla (2) ; Noa Grace

Nick & Cindy Baran – Youth-Jr. High/HS - Lila, Emet and new baby, Abigail

Fred & Anne Afshar – Persian Ministry – daughter Melanie

Daniel & Janette Carter – three kids – Ethan, Shiloh, Yael