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The Promises of God in Psalm 91

Sunday, January 10, 2021 4:00pm to 5:00pm Introduction and Context

Sunday, January 17, 2021 4:00pm to 5:00pm Privileged, Protected, Preserved

Sunday, January 24, 2021 4:00pm to 5:00pm Angels as God's Servants

Sunday, January 31, 2021 4:00pm to 5:00pm Confidently Trust in God's Promises

Syllabus



*“Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge,
Even the Most High your dwelling place, No evil shall befall you,
Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; ...” (Psalm 91:9-10)*

Instructor:

Rev. Valerie Crump
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SYLLABUS REVIEW

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Participants will engage in an in-depth study of Psalm 91. We will explore some of God's unquestionable promises regarding the privilege, protection, and preservation of those who establish and maintain a relationship with Him. We will also learn about the role of angels as servants and guardians over God's people. This study will take place in four sessions of one hour each on Sunday afternoons from 4:00pm-5:00pm.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of these lessons, you should:

- Know and understand the promises of God concerning His protection
- Know and understand the role of angels in carrying out God's promises of protection
- Know, understand, and confidently trust in God's promises.

PRIMARY TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

"The Holy Bible" (NKJV)

Various handouts

COURSE FORMAT

The course format includes group discussions, Q&A's, Scripture reading and interpretation, and life application.

COURSE OUTLINE

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| I. Introduction to Psalm 91 (Psalm 91:1-2) | January 10, 2021 |
| A. Introduction | |
| B. Context | |
| C. Contemporary Relevance | |
| C. Life Application | |
| II. Privileged, Protected, and Preserved (Psalm 91:3-10) | January 17, 2021 |
| A. Privileged | |
| B. Protected | |
| C. Preserved | |
| D. Life Application | |
| III. Angels as God's Servants (Psalm 91:11-13) | January 24, 2021 |
| A. God gives the angels charge over His Children | |
| B. God instructs the angels' work on behalf of His Children | |
| C. God guarantees the results of the angels' work | |
| D. Life Application | |
| IV. Confidently Trust in God's Promises (Psalm 91:14-16) | January 31, 2021 |
| A. God's Children will be delivered and lifted up | |
| B. God's Children will be answered when they pray | |
| C. God's Children will be satisfied and see Jesus | |
| D. Life Application | |

Scripture Reference: Psalm 91:1-16 (NKJV)

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

²I will say of the LORD, “*He is my refuge and my fortress;*
My God, in Him I will trust.”

³Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the ^[a]fowler
And from the perilous pestilence.

⁴He shall cover you with His feathers,
And under His wings you shall take refuge;
His truth *shall be your* shield and ^[b]buckler.

⁵You 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.

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

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

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

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

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

¹²In *their* hands they shall ^[c]bear you up,
Lest you ^[d]dash your foot against a stone.

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

¹⁴“Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him;
I will ^[e]set him on high, because he has known My name.

¹⁵He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble;
I will deliver him and honor him.

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

Footnotes:

- a. [Psalm 91:3](#) One who catches birds in a trap or snare
- b. [Psalm 91:4](#) A small shield
- c. [Psalm 91:12](#) *lift*
- d. [Psalm 91:12](#) *strike*
- e. [Psalm 91:14](#) *exalt him*
- f. [Psalm 91:16](#) Lit. *length of days*

I. INTRODUCTION TO PSALM 91

January 10, 2021

A. Introduction

Psalm 91 is a protection Scripture that believers have turned to for thousands of years whenever there is danger. As the Times of Trouble are upon us, the prayer of Psalm 91 is comforting and effective when prayed from the heart by those who love God and are in relationship with Him.

Psalm 91 may be the most important passage of Scripture for the days ahead. The reality of supernatural protection is paramount for the times of supernatural events of today and those that may be waiting on the horizon. Faith is not a last resort, but a first response! We would do well to meditate on Psalm 91.

1. Author

This psalm has no title, and therefore the author remains unknown. Because it shares some of the themes of Psalm 90, some think Moses was the author. Because it shares some of the themes and phrases of Psalms 27 and 31, some think the author was David. “Some of its language, of strongholds and shields, reminds us of David, to whom the Septuagint ascribes it; other phrases echo the Song of Moses in Deuteronomy 32, as did Psalm 90; but it is in fact anonymous and timeless, perhaps all the more accessible for that.” (British Old Testament Scholar Derek Kidner)

Charles Haddon Spurgeon an English Particular Baptist preacher said, “In the whole collection [of Psalms] there is not a more cheering Psalm, its tone is elevated and sustained throughout, faith is at its best, and speaks nobly.” Spurgeon further stated that “It [Psalm 91] is one of the most excellent works of this kind which has ever appeared. It is impossible to imagine anything more solid, more beautiful, more profound, or more ornamented [etched or written].”

2. Literary Conventions Used by the Author

The changes of point of view (first to second to third person) allowable in poetry are frequently made in Psalm 91. This writing convention is seen in some other Psalms written by David, i.e. Psalm 23.

3. Themes in Psalm 91

In Jewish thought, **Psalm 91** conveys the **themes** of God's protection and salvation from danger.

B. Context (Psalm 91:1-2)



When life is draining and there seems to be no time or place to rest, the words of *Psalm 91:1-2* are reassuring, comforting, and encouraging. When things appear to be their worst, we tend to get a bit negative. Our natural tendency is to get down and miss out on what God may be doing in our situation. When we find ourselves in these negative places, our goal should be to renew our minds (*Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:9-10*) to fend off the negative and say of the Lord that He is my God in whom I trust, just as the writer of this Psalm did.

Question:

What does it mean to dwell in the shelter of the Most High?

In what way is God your refuge?

God's strength and evidence of His desire and ability to protect and deliver us is signified in His names found in Psalm 91:1-2. In these verses, there are four names for God: **the Most High, the Almighty, the Lord, my God.**

"Most High"

The first name, **the Most High**, is the Hebrew word **Elyon**. It suggests a Supreme monarch, one who is elevated above all things. The name signifies God's majesty, sovereignty, and pre-eminence. It carries a connotation of a Davidic king that reigns above all other kings and is first used in Scripture in Genesis 14:18, describing Abraham's encounter with the priest/king Melchizedek, "*Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High.*" Melchizedek gives us a picture of Christ in several ways, and it is fitting that this story contains the first use of this name of God in Scripture. Verse 1 speaks to the protection of one who 'dwells in the shelter of the **Most High**,' and it causes us to ask where it is that *we* dwell. Do we dwell in our own self-doubt? Do we dwell in anger? Do we dwell in

what could be or what could have been? Or do we dwell in the shelter of the **Most High God**, the Holy King of heaven who promises to protect and keep us?

"The Almighty"

The second name, **the Almighty**, is translated from the word **Shaddai**. Shaddai has many meanings, but as you may imagine, it primarily suggests a mighty, powerful God who is strong beyond our imagination and is more than capable to supply our every need. He is the God who parted the sea and controls all of creation. In His name and in His power, there is no need that cannot be met, and no circumstance he cannot overcome.

"The Lord"

The third name, **the LORD**, is the personal name for God, revealed to Moses at the burning bush (Exodus 6:2). This personal name for God was considered so sacred in Judaism, that the original pronunciation is uncertain, only that it contained the letters YHWH, (JHVH in Latin). It has been translated as Yahweh, Jehovah, and more often as the LORD (in all caps). The significance of this name is that it represents a relatable God who seeks for us to know Him on a deep, personal level. The God who is the all-powerful, Divine ruler of all things is also the God who knows every hair on our heads, every joy and fear in our hearts, and desires us to know Him as intimately as a friend. This God who created the universe and all it contains is not just some far-off unknowable being, but a Father, redeemer, and friend.

"My God"

The fourth name, **my God**, comes from the Hebrew **Elohim**. This name first appears at the very beginning of the Bible in Genesis 1:1, "*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*" When Elohim occurs in Scripture, it is typically translated as "God." In Greek, it is translated as *Theos*, which is where we get our word *theology*. It means the one who is first, or the creator, and is technically a plural word. So it is fitting that this is how God is referenced in Genesis 1:1; as a creator who is one, yet plural (Father, Son, Spirit). The Psalmist is proclaiming that the God in whom he trusts is the same God who created all things, the first and the last, and the God who is forever faithful to His creation.

In the span of just two verses, we see the beauty of God: **His ways are higher than our ways, yet we can speak to Him as a friend**. God is at the same time unsearchable yet so near to us. In His shadow and in His shelter, we find strength, comfort, and rest for our souls.

Keeping it **100!**

Does every person receive God's protection? No. God does not shelter everyone. Only the person who dwells with Him receives this protection. The word "dwell" denotes living. A person chooses where to live. When choosing a house, people look at the schools, transportation, taxes, price, etc. Finally they decide, and generally they will stay in that location. In a similar manner, people choose spiritually where to live. They can choose to live in God's kingdom and obey His authority or they can choose to live in this world, in the realm of Satan. Dwelling in this world apart from God is easier in some respects. A person can do whatever he wants. He does not need to give up anything. But the person who dwells in this world without God is on his own. When trouble comes, she has to face it alone, depending on her own strength and intelligence. Believers choose to make God's kingdom as their dwelling place. John describes this in a similar way. A follower of Jesus chooses to abide with Him (**John 15:5**). We submit ourselves to His authority. We trust in His goodness and power. We

give up things in the world and pursue the things of God. In return, He gives us His protection and care. We can live within the walls of His castle, which nothing can break.

C. Contemporary Relevance

Question:

What difficulties are you facing now that you can trust God to help you with?

D. Life Application

Question:

What will you do differently in the face of today's difficulties if you are trusting in God?

NEXT WEEK'S LESSON

Sunday, January 17, 2021 4:00pm to 5:00pm

Privileged, Protected, Preserved

Psalm 91:3-10