

Resting in the Shadow of the Almighty

Psalm 91

“When the psalmist identifies God as his God..., it is a way of saying that the shelter, shadow, refuge, and fortress are for those who really do dwell in God and trust him. Spurgeon wrote, ‘The blessings here promised are not for all believers, but for those who live in close fellowship with God. Every child of God looks towards the inner sanctuary and the mercy-seat, yet all do not dwell in the most holy place; they run to it at times, and enjoy occasional approaches, but they do not habitually reside in the mysterious presence.’” Boice

- I. The only true security believers have in this life is Jesus. He is the only source of refuge that we’ve been given to protect us while living in a sin sick fallen world. God wants us to stay under the shelter of his care to guard us from sins cruel effects, so that he can lovingly take us by the hand and walk us through life. The key to living securely in God’s care is to maintain a strong personal relationship with Jesus, which must be nurtured, treasured, and appreciated because of our salvation. He deserves our full trust because he has said, *“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”* So we say with confidence, *‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me’* (Hebrews 13:5b-6).

Psalm 91:1-2

*“The Most High (עֲלִיּוֹן ‘elyôwn), “the Almighty” (שׁדַּי Shadday), “the Lord” (יְהוָה Y’hôvâh = the existing one), “my God” (אֱלֹהֵימִי ‘êlôhîym = the true God) is a secure shelter, comforting shadow, safe refuge, and protective fortress for those **who make it a priority** to dwell in Him and trust Him.*

- II. The psalmist speaks of both the present and eternal effects of God's protection for us because we chose him over the world and its idols. He desires to protect each one of us personally from the consequences of living in this fallen world if we let him. For that to happen, we must make him the place where we choose to reside daily for safety and security. To reside elsewhere, is to open ourselves up to undue suffering from the consequences of the evil that he wants to protect us from.

Psalm 91:3-8

Psalm 63:7-8 *Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.*

Hebrews 1:14 *Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?*

- III. Our salvation is not conditional, but the writer of Psalm 91 tells us that the condition that must be met if we are to fully benefit from God's loving care, is to make sure that he is the place where we go for safety. The benefit of drawing near to him through good and bad is that he'll stand as a sentry over all the ways he has laid out for us. God personally promises to rescue, protect, interact with, and honor those who love him. He promises to give us satisfaction throughout life as we experience the benefits of the salvation, he has freely given us through his Son Jesus Christ

Psalm 91:9-16

"Martin Luther wrote that this refers to 'one who really dwells and does not merely appear to dwell and does not just imagine that he dwells in God.'" Boice

Heb. 1:13-14 *And to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?*