

Psalm 91

Not sure who's the Psalmist, some say possibly Moses, continuation of Psalm 90, others think David.

V1. Secret place. Time alone with God. Hide in the shadow of the Almighty. This word dwelling keeps coming up, reference John 15. Where do you call home? Is it 1 Sycamore Drive or close communion with God?

V2. What is a refuge and fortress in this context? When do you need them? Where is and how do you get there? 'In Him I will trust.' The psalmist obviously had a very close relationship with God. Prior to Jesus's death, resurrection and His ascension, God kept, His distance from Israel. He dwelt in the innermost section of the Temple, visited once a year by the High Priest. Only a few chosen prophets had an individual relationship with God.

V3. A fowler is someone who traps birds for a living. The psalmist is worried about traps and disease. What sort of traps and what diseases? More likely being deceived and sin than physical traps and flu.

V4. What does he mean: 'cover you with His feathers? Warmth. What saying of Jesus does this remind you of? Matthew 23:37. What does the psalmist and did Jesus mean, taking refuge under his wing? His truth (NIV) faithfulness (NKJV). A rampart (NIV) is a protective mound of earth or an embankment to act as a barrier against a hostile foe. A buckler (NKJV) is a small shield strapped to your arm. A buckler / rampart are designed to impede an enemy's attack in arm to arm combat as part of a suite of defensive tools, as opposed to a fortress or castle that gives total protection by keeping you away from the battle.

V5. You will not fear. If God is your refuge and shelter, why do we need to fear? Is the Psalmist saying that bad things don't happen to nice people? What is the terror of night? Afraid, imaginary or real? What is the arrow that flies by day? You're walking along the road, minding your own business, and suddenly there's an arrow sticking out your back. Is God going to prevent that?

V6. Ditto regarding pestilence at night and plagues in the day. Will God protect your garden from slugs and stop you from getting Covid?

What is our real danger or our enemy? Is it people who want to do you down, defraud you of your savings, demotivate you at work or bad mouth you on social media? Is it more sinister than that? Is it the Balaam's of this world? Balaam advised Balak on how to seduce the men of Israel away from God and so incur His wrath and punishment. Numbers 25:1-5. Is it more sinister than that? 1 Peter 5:8.

V7-8. Probably better to read v8 before v7. A reassurance that when God wreaks His revenge upon the wicked, His followers will be unharmed. Any examples in the Bible? Noah and the flood, Genesis 8:1-3, Armageddon, Revelation 19:19-21 What role does the believer play in that? Spectator.

V9. The key word here is IF. Practically speaking though, how do you go about making the Lord your refuge and the Most High your dwelling? Note verse 9 sets the context of the next few verses. They apply to, if you say the Lord is my refuge (NIV) ie: believers, not

Jesus. He did not say that the Lord was His refuge because He is the Lord.

V10. No harm will come to you or overtake you? No disaster will come to you (or your tent). What's the definition of disaster in this context? Compare overtake with not come near.

V11-12. The verse that Satan quoted to Jesus in Luke 4:10. Where was his error? V 9, the verse is about the believer, not about Jesus. What does this verse really mean? Anything to do with Matthew 18:10? How about 2 Kings 6:17-20? What if any role do angels play in our day to day lives?

V13. Assuming we have no special desire to actually tread on lions and serpents, what could this verse be about?

V14-15. What do you need to do to qualify for the benefits listed in these 2 verses? How many benefits or attributes do you enjoy when you love Him and acknowledge His name.

V16. Longevity. Exodus 20:12, Dueteronomy 5:33, Proverbs 16:31, 1 Peter 3:10. So what's gone wrong when someone dies early? Nothing, this verse is salvation and our eternal life.