

Evening Sermon Outline – February 7, 2021

“God’s Secret Place” Psalm 91

I. God has a secret place for His people -

¹ He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. ² I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.” Psalm 91:1-2 (NKJV)

1. This is an exceedingly private place, a hiding place, it a place for sweet fellowship with God –
 - A. It is the place of the Most High implying that it is a heavenly spiritual place!
 - B. It is the place of the Most High implying that it is God’s place in a special way, it is a place where we would draw near to Him, even under His shadow.

2. The LORD Himself, He is the Refuge, the Fortress, protection for His people –

¹ God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1 (NKJV)

II. What kind, what level of protection does God provide for His people?

1. Deliverance from temptation –

³ Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler ... Psalm 91:3 A

- A. This is protection we are instructed to pray for –

¹³ **And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one.** ... Matthew 6:13 (NKJV)

- B. Our temptations are “common to man” –

¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; 1 Corinthians 10:13 A (NKJV)

- C. God provides a way of escape -

but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. 1 Corinthians 10:13 B (NKJV)

2. Deliverance from disease, especially deadly disease -
And from the perilous pestilence. Psalm 91:3 B

- A. Maybe a reference to what happened to the first born in Egypt, the last plague -

²³ For the LORD will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you. Exodus 12:23 (NKJV)

- B. Definitely not limited to that -

²⁶ and said, “If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you.” Exodus 15:26 (NKJV)

3. His caring protection is pictured in the animal kingdom –

⁴ He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; Psalm 91:4 A

4. God’s truth is a shield from lies and deceptions -
His truth shall be your shield and buckler. Psalm 91:4 B

III. Knowing God protects us should make us fearless -

⁵ You 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. ⁷ 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. Psalm 91:5-8

1. The terror, arrow, pestilence and destruction seem to alternate between night and day, darkness and noonday, indicating that God provides all day, every day protection, and as His people we should never fear!

2. Even if a thousand fall at our side, everything looking as bleak and hopeless as can be ... real destruction will not hurt us!

3. The scariest things we experience is the lot of the wicked!

IV. Making God our protection, our dwelling place,
means also His angels will protect us -

⁹ **Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place,** ¹⁰ No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; ¹¹ For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. ¹² In *their* hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone. Psalm 91:9-12

1. Satan tries to use verses :11 & :12, in a distorted way, to tempt Jesus to something foolish –

⁵ Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you,’ and, ‘In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “**It is written again, ‘You shall not tempt the LORD your God.’ ”** Matthew 4:5–7 (NKJV)

A. Lesson: God promises to protect us, even send angels to help us, that does not mean we should tempt God with reckless or self-destructive “throw Yourself down” behavior, the same applies to the next verse –

¹³ You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot. Psalm 91:13 (NKJV)

B. This verse is not an endorsement of snake-handling in the church! What it is communicating is, if we happen upon danger in the course of obedience to God, then we can count on God’s special protection.

2. In fact, this verse :13 may be speaking of victory over Satan, who is called in Scripture both a serpent and a roaring lion –

⁹ So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Revelation 12:9 (NKJV)

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 1 Peter 5:8 (NKJV)

But what is said unto Christ? “And thou shalt tread on the lion and dragon.” Lion, for overt wrath; dragon for covert lurking.—Augustine.

V. The last portion of Psalm 91 certainly applies to Jesus,
it would also apply to any one of us who sincerely
loves the LORD -

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. 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. ¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation.” Psalm 91:14-16

1. What the godly person has:

A. Love for God –

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Romans 8:28–29 (NKJV)

B. Knowledge of God –

³ **And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.** John 17:3 (NKJV)

2. Notice with these things comes:

A. Answered prayer – Psalm 91:15 A

B. God’s promised presence in trials – Psalm 91:15 B

C. Long Life / Eternal Life – Psalm 91:16 / John 17:3

3. We see these things apply to Christ –

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:8–11 (NKJV)

Because of His humble, self-sacrificing obedience:

A. Christ is set on high, given a Name above every name

B. He is delivered, raised from the dead, and honored, not only by God but by His people

C. He gains “salvation” for all of us!

Arnold Brevick