

Part 4 – It Shall Not Come Night Unto Thee

In part 3 we learned more about the protection the Lord (YHVH) will give us *when* we dwell in the ‘secret place’ of the Most High (i.e. stay *spiritually* close to our Heavenly Father via studying His Word and praying to Him). And He gave us two analogies that explain the protection we receive *when* we keep our heart and mind firmly focused on God’s Word and strive to obey Him (sincerely) each day. The first was the wings, and feathers, of a mother bird. When we continue to dwell in the ‘secret place’ of the Most High (i.e. study God’s Word to absorb it into our heart, and mind, so that we can sincerely strive to obey Him) He will keep His ‘feathers and wings’ over us *by His Holy Spirit* that, literally, dwells *within us*. The Holy Spirit of God puts a ‘cover’ (or a hedge; a spiritual ‘fence’ of protection) upon us (physically and spiritually) when we keep our heart and mind firmly upon His Word. But, we must *remain under* His ‘hedge of protection’, i.e. God’s feathers and wings, which are symbolic of His Word and guidance of His Holy Spirit. If we neglect to study God’s Word – or to strive to obey it sincerely – then we are like a little chick that runs out from its mother’s wings and is thus, susceptible to being preyed upon by hawks and other birds of prey. Truly, *our only protection in life is when we remain spiritually connected to our Heavenly Father*. And ***it is the word of God*** (i.e. Jesus Christ; John 1:1,14, 6:63) ***that connects us to our Heavenly Father*** (spiritually) ***because His written Word IS His Holy Spirit in written form*** (John 6:63). So, *every time you study God’s Word, you are willingly taking the Holy Spirit into you – if you are sincerely seeking Him (the truth)*.

And, the second analogy we learned of likened God’s truth (i.e. His Word) to a shield and a buckler. The truth (God’s Word) will protect us in all our ways (as a shield all around us, or even a ‘coat of mail’) so that we won’t be harmed... so long as we keep the truth firmly in our heart (desires, emotions, intentions, motivations) and mind (thoughts), just as a person keeps their shield up to protect their body when they’re fighting in a war. And, as Paul pointed out in Eph 6:16, the most important part of the Gospel Armor (i.e. our spiritual armor) is *the shield of faith because that* enables us to ‘quench all the fiery darts of the wicked’, which are lies and deception (perversions of the truth). And we need this *because* it is lies and deception that Satan uses *to deceive people into giving up their faith in God* (i.e. Jesus Christ). So, just as we must remain under God’s protective wings (His Word and guidance of His Holy Spirit) so too must we keep our shield of faith up... **if** we want to be protected! And this is another vital point we learned of in our last study. Now, the Holy Spirit (via Moses) will begin to explain what we will be protected *from* when we remain under His protective ‘wings’ and keep our ‘shield’ of faith *up and strong*...

Psalms 91

5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

Herein is another promise to those who ‘dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High’ and ‘abide’ under the ‘shadow of the Almighty’ (vs 1). And let’s remember that, *historically*, this was written to those people who were *not* condemned to die in the wilderness. And, as page 809 in the *Companion Bible* points out, these ‘agencies’ (spoken of in verses 5-6 and 13) were likely things that killed those people who *were* condemned (by God) to die in the wilderness, within 40 years of their judgement (Num 14). So, in this Psalm 91, the Holy Spirit is pointing out (via Moses) that the ‘Church in the wilderness’ (those *not* condemned to die) would be *spared* from these things. Therefore, these things we’ll be learning about were *real* threats to the Israelites living in the days of Moses, when they were in the wilderness. But, those who trusted in the Lord (and were thus *not* condemned to die in the wilderness) *would be protected from them*. However, these verses are also very much applicable to us living today. As Paul wrote, in 1 Cor 10:11, *all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come*.

So, the first thing we’re told we *don’t* need to be afraid (#3372) of is the ‘terror by night’. The word ‘**terror**’ here means a (sudden) **alarm**. Properly, this refers *to the object feared*; but, by implication, it refers *to the feeling* (#6343). And it comes from a prime root that means *to be startled* (by a sudden alarm); hence, *to fear* in general (#6342). And the word ‘**night**’ means, of course, **night**. But, figuratively, it can also mean **adversity** (#3915). And, in the historical sense, this terror by night would have been *very literal*. While our Heavenly Father did provide Israel a pillar of fire, at night, to give them light so they could travel (when He told them to), this verse tells us that – for those who were condemned to die within the forty years – the pillar of light did *not* protect them from attacks from wild beasts or even bandits. It’s possible some of them may have even been terrorized by dreams at night (Ps 17:3). But, *whatever* the ‘terror by night’ was, the *reason for it* is clear: they refused to believe the Lord (YHVH) and be grateful for what He had given them. They continued to complain and chide with Moses and Aaron and even refused to enter the Promise Land when God told them to (Num 14). They were just outright rebellious and *consistently so*. Therefore, God allowed many ‘terrors of the night’ to afflict them, whatever those terrors may have been. But, for those who were *not* rebellious – and therefore dwelled in the ‘secret place of the Most High’ (vs 1) – they were *not* afraid of the ‘terror by night’, no matter what it may have been. And that promise remains *to us to this very day*, as Paul so succinctly wrote...

- 1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.
- 2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.
- 3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.
- 4 But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.
- 5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

6 ***Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.***
7 *For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.*
8 ***But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.***
9 *For God hath **not** appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,*
1 Thess 5:1-9

So, Paul explains that we who ‘dwell in the secret place of the Most High’ (Ps 91:1) are ‘children of the day’ and not ‘of the night’. That simply means we follow ‘THE Light’, who is (of course) Jesus Christ. As He said: ***I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life*** (John 8:12). And that’s really the ‘bottom line’ for why we won’t be afraid of the ‘terrors of night’. We don’t have to be afraid of physical darkness nor the spiritual darkness (lies and deception). So long as we use wisdom from God’s Word (not worldly wisdom, which is satanic, James 3:14-16) and strive to obey Him (sincerely), He’ll *always* protect us physically *and* spiritually.

And the second thing we’re told we need *not* be afraid of is the ‘**arrow that flieth by day**’. The word ‘**day**’ here means ***daily*** (#3119). And physical arrows (from bandits) truly were a *real* (physical) threat to those living in the days of Moses, when they wandered in the wilderness for the 40 penial years. However, this too has a spiritual application to it. As Ps 11:2 says: *For, lo, the wicked bend their bow, they make ready their **arrow** upon the string, that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart.* Ps 57:4 also says: *My soul is among lions: and I lie even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and **arrows**, and their tongue a sharp sword.* And Ps 64:2-4 also says: *Hide me from the secret counsel of the wicked; from the insurrection of the workers of iniquity: Who whet their tongue like a sword, and **bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words**: That they may shoot in secret at the perfect: suddenly do they shoot at him, and fear not.* Prov 25:18 also says: *A man that beareth false witness against his neighbour is a maul, and a sword, and a sharp **arrow**.* And Jer 9:8 also says: ***Their tongue is as an arrow shot out; it speaketh deceit: one speaketh peaceably to his neighbour with his mouth, but in heart he layeth his wait.***

So clearly, ‘arrows’ (as with swords) are used *figuratively* for lies, deceit, false witnessing and bitter words. So, while the promise to the ‘Church in the wilderness’ (those not condemned to die within 40 years) was protection from *physical* arrows, today we’re promised protection from the *spiritual* arrows of lies and deceit. They won’t harm us, *so long as* we have our trusty ‘shield of faith’ up! (Eph 6:16). As Eph 6:11-12 says: *Put on the whole armour of God, **that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.** For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.* So, the main threats we face today are spiritual. Thus, when we have the whole armor of God on (especially our faith), we’ll be able to stand against all the ‘wiles’ of

the Devil (Satan). The word ‘wiles’ here means *travesty* (i.e. *trickery*) (#3180). And Satan is ‘tricky’ because he presents himself – and his ideas – as righteousness and truth... when the reality is that his lies are ‘dressed up’ (disguised) to look like truth. In other words, he knows how to *bend the truth just a little bit*, to make it *appear as truth* but, *in reality, it’s a lie*. You can see his ‘trickery’ in the Garden with Eve [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/382>] and also when he tempted Jesus Christ [https://t.me/BibleStudyBookof_Luke/416]. But, for those who have the Gospel armor on (and know how to *use it*), his arrows will bounce right off our shield of faith! As David so well said, in Ps 23:4: *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. And also: What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me* (Ps 56:3-4).

Psalms 91

6 Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.

Now, there’s two more things that those who dwell in the ‘secret place’ of the Most High will be protected from. And again, we should not forget that, for those living during the days of Moses, but were *not* condemned to die in the 40 years of penial wanderings, this protection *was literal*. Therefore, they *were* protected from the ‘pestilence that walketh in darkness’. The word ‘**pestilence**’ here is the same as it was back in verse 3, which does indeed mean *a pestilence* (#1698). However, note that verse 3 promises protection from the ‘noisome’ (*ruinous*) pestilence while this verse 6 promises protection from the pestilence that ‘walketh in darkness’. So, it must be a *different* type of pestilence. And, just as a reminder, a pestilence is *a contagious or infectious epidemic disease that is virulent and devastating*, but can also be *something that is destructive or pernicious*. And then the word ‘**walketh**’ here simply means *to walk* (#1980) and the word ‘**darkness**’ means *dust* (#652) referring to what happens *after the sun sets* (#651). So, it’s quite possible that this ‘pestilence’ that ‘walketh in darkness’ refers to what we’d call ‘sexually transmitted diseases’, which were around even back then. And the reason those who dwell in the ‘secret place’ of the Most High are immune to them is because *they are not doing* the kinds of things (fornication and adultery) that *bring on* the ‘pestilence’ that ‘walketh in darkness’. As Paul so rightly warns us, in Col 3:5-6: *Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience...*

And then we’re also told we (who dwell in the ‘secret place’ of the Most High) *don’t* need to be afraid of is the ‘*destruction that wasteth at noonday*’. The word ‘**destruction**’ here means *ruin* and comes from an unused root meaning *to cut off* (#6986). And the word ‘**wasteth**’ means *to swell up*, i.e. figuratively (by implication of insolence) *to devastate* (#7736) while the word

‘**noonday**’ simply means **noon** (#6672). This may refer to the scorching effects of the sun and heat or some other destructive ailment (heat stroke, perhaps) that occurs on account of the being in the hot sun. But the point to remember is that, when you love, trust and serve the Almighty God – and remain firmly under the ‘shadow’ of His protective wings (vs 1) *you don’t have to be afraid of these things*. And while these promises *don’t* mean we won’t *ever* get sick or have a disease to deal with, when we strive to dwell in the ‘secret place’ of the Most High, He’ll make sure our health is *good enough* to serve Him on earth... so long as we are *trying* to do ‘our part’ to keep our body as healthy as possible and *obey Him* (His Word). After all, God’s Laws are *for our good*, not to keep us from having fun! Now, also think about the fact that these past two verses (5-6) give two examples of ‘threats’ from *the night* as well as *the daytime*... this teaches us that, *day or night*, we need *not* be afraid. That is, so long as we dwell in the ‘secret place’ of the Most High and *remain* safely under His protective wings (Ps 91:1; John 8:31)...

Psalm 91

7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.

After explaining the things that those who dwell in the ‘secret place of the Most High’ will be protected *from*, the Holy Spirit (via Moses) now gives *another promise*. And we should remember that, historically, this is a promise to those who were under twenty at the time that God judged Israel to die in the wilderness, because of their continued disobedience to Him (in Num 14). And, as we learned in Ps 90:5, there were *so many* people dying at that time (likely from the things we just learned about in the previous verses) that Moses likened their many deaths to God ‘sweeping them away as a flood’. And that explains why, here in this 7th verse, they are promised that, even if there would be a thousand – or even *ten thousand* - fall (from death) around them, those agencies (explained in the prior verses) would *not come nigh* (near, #5066) *unto them* - which means *they would not be hurt* by those things that the others (who disobeyed God) were *killed* by. The word ‘*side*’ here can also mean, figuratively, *an adversary* (#6654) and the words ‘**ten thousand**’ means *abundance* (in number), i.e. (specifically) *a myriad* (whether definite or indefinite) (#7233). And the **right hand** (or arm) is used (figuratively) in the Bible to refer to *power* because it’s the stronger and thus more dexterous hand (or arm) on our body (#3225).

And, while this verse is referring to the ‘snare of the fowler’, ‘noisome pestilence’ (vs 3), the ‘terror by night’, ‘arrow that flieth by day’ (vs 5), the ‘pestilence that walketh by night’ and the ‘destruction that wasteth at noonday’ (vs 6), this was also a promised blessing in Lev 26:7-8 which says: *And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword. And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword*. So, this verse perhaps even alludes to the success that they would have when invading, and conquering, those heathen armies in the

Promise Land, which only those under twenty (at the time of judgment) would be able to experience because the older (rebellious) generation was condemned to die in the wilderness; they were *not* allowed to inherit the Promise Land (Num 14). Yet, this is also a promise to us today too. Not only does God promise to bless our physical armies – when we obey Him – He also promises to bless us in the spiritual war... so long as we remain dwelling in the ‘secret place of the Most High’ (vs 1), which means we remain spiritually close to Him by studying His Word and sincerely striving to obey it.

It’s also important to understand that this (again) does *not* mean we won’t *ever* be sick nor that our armies won’t *ever* have anyone die in battle. It means that God will *always* give us the victory over our enemies and that we won’t be ruined by diseases, or sickness, if we remain loyal to the Lord (YHVH). And, prophetically, this verse also looks forward to the success that Jesus Christ will have at His Second Advent. And truly, the success *we have through our faith in Him*. As Paul pointed out, in Heb 2:14-18, because Jesus Christ died for our sins, He has destroyed the power of death (the Devil, i.e. Satan). And that means we have victory over *spiritual* death, when we believe in (and faithfully serve) Jesus Christ (1 Cor 15:57).

Psalm 91

8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

This is yet another promise to those who dwell in the ‘secret place of the Most High’ (vs 1). And it not only refers to the younger generation of Israelites living during the days they wandered in the wilderness; it also refers to those of us living today too. We are promised to see the ‘reward’ of the wicked. The word ‘**only**’ would have been better rendered as **surely** (#7535) and to ‘**behold**’ means **to look intently at** (#5027). And you can be assured that the ‘**reward**’ of the wicked is not a good thing, because it actually means **retribution** (#8011), which is the dispensing, *or receiving*, of reward *or punishment* especially in the hereafter; and it can also mean something given, or exacted, *in recompense*. And the word ‘**wicked**’ means **a morally wrong** or, an (actively) **bad person** (#7563). The *Companion Bible* even renders it as a ‘**lawless**’ person (apx 44 x) while the *Moffett Bible* renders it as ‘**evil men**’. And this promise - that the faithful to the Lord (YHVH) will see the wicked punished – is a consistent promise God gives us throughout the Bible. In fact, you could even say it’s a common ‘theme’ of the Bible! In our Heavenly Father’s Word, we’re *repeatedly* assured that, short of sincere repentance, the wicked of this earth will be convicted and die by their own sword - which is to say, by the weapons of their own devising, which includes the lies, deception and decrees *coming out of their mouths* which they’ve used to help tear down Christianity (and the western Christian nations) and largely place themselves in charge of our heavenly Father’s kingdom on this earth (Mt. 11:12). There are so many other places, especially in the Psalms, that promise this (Ps 5:10, Ps 7:14-17, Ps 9:15, Ps 10:2, Ps 34:21, Ps 35:4-8, Ps 37:14-15, Ps 57:6, Psalm 64:1-10, Ps 69:22, Ps 140:4-5, Prov 1:29-

31, 11:5-6, Jer 23:11-12, Mth 21:28-44). And one of the loveliest Psalms this ‘timeless truth’ is written, is in the great Psalm 37...

12 The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth.

13 The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming.

14 The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation.

*15 **Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.***

Ps 37:12-15

Of course, just as the sword of the Lord is His great Word of truth (Revelation 1:16 and 2:16), in like manner the sword of the wicked is composed of their great, swelling words of deception. In other words, our Heavenly Father’s “sword” is the sword ***of truth***, and their sword is a “sword” ***of deception***. But our heavenly Father assures us, in this Psalm 37, that “*their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.*” In other words, they’ll be judged and die by the weight of their own words and schemes against us. They’ll pronounce their own sentences upon themselves. You see, *it’s the deception they’ve used against us, and the judgment they’ve pronounced against us, that is the very sword our heavenly Father will inevitably make sure is used against them.* And that’s exactly what this 8th verse (in Ps 91) is promising as well, *prophetically* speaking. And, in the parable of the householder and his vineyard (in Mth 21), Jesus Christ Himself explained this principle, in no uncertain terms, *directly to the enemy*. This means Christ taught that *His enemies would pronounce their own sentence upon themselves*. In other words, *they’d be trapped by their own words*. Indeed, their punishment for murdering Christ, and trying to steal His kingdom for themselves (and on behalf of their father the devil, John 8:44) would be the very punishment *they decreed with their own mouths* upon the husbandmen in Christ’s parable, “*He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.*”

An you know what? You will get to see the wicked punished when Jesus Christ. That is, IF you remain dwelling in the ‘secret place of the Most High’! As Ps 37:34 also says: *Wait (#6960) on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it.* As Jesus explained...

47 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:

48 Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.

49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,

50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Matt 13:47-50

And elsewhere, we're given more specifics as to what happens to the wicked verses the just...

40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

*41 **The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;***

*42 **And shall cast them into a furnace of fire:** there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*

Matt 13:40-42

*29 Immediately **after the tribulation** of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:*

30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

*31 And **he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.***

Matt 24:29-31 [also written in Mark 13:24-27]

So, when the 'just' (those who remain faithful to Jesus Christ) are gathered by Jesus' angels, they will indeed get to see the wicked rounded up and judged as well. Paul gives more details as to the rewards of the righteous when Jesus returns (i.e. being given eternal life and allowed to serve in Jesus' eternal government), in 1 Cor 15 [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Corinthians/33]. And, in Mth 25:31-44, Jesus also gave us a parable explaining how He will separate the 'goats' from His 'sheep' when He returns. *That separation is part of the 'judgment seat of Christ'*. And this is also written of in Isa 24:17-23, as well as in Rev 20:1-5, where we're even told that Satan himself will be publicly arrested and put in prison (solitary confinement) for the entire Millennium. Paul speaks of this too, in 2 Thess 2:8 when he points out that Jesus Christ's return will destroy Satan's 'image' that he portrays to the world, which is the lie that he's God, the 'savior' of the earth (2 Thess 2:3-4). So indeed, we will get to see the wicked 'rewarded' (with punishments they so very much deserve) when Jesus Christ returns. But, that's only IF we remain loyal to the true Jesus Christ and do *not* bow to Satan [the antichrist <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/345>] when he's on earth pretending to be God, the 'savior' of mankind (Rev 12-13, 2 Thess 2).

And that's why Paul says that we should *work hard to faithfully* serve our Lord, Jesus Christ, so that (whether in this flesh body or after we die) we may be accepted of Him (Jesus Christ). *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad* (2 Cor 5:9-10). So, if

you want to see the wicked ones punished for their gross sins, you must make sure that you remain dwelling in the ‘secret place of the Most High’ so you are not *unwittingly* in that group that will be punished, as Jesus warned us of in Matt 7:21-27...

3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

4 A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.

*5 A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but **he that regardeth reproof is prudent.***

6 In the house of the righteous is much treasure: but in the revenues of the wicked is trouble.

7 The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish doeth not so.

*8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but **the prayer of the upright is his delight.***

*9 The way of the wicked is an **abomination** unto the LORD: but **he loveth him that followeth after righteousness.***

10 Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: and he that hateth reproof shall die.

Prov 15:3-10

We'll pick this up in part 5...

AMEN.