

Psalm 91 - Review

In chapter ninety-one, part 1, we learned that the subject/title of this Psalm is “***Rest Provided In, And For Messiah***”. And it was written (likely by Moses) for the comfort of “the Church in the wilderness”, which were those *not* condemned to die in the wilderness during the 40 years of penal wanderings in the wilderness. While Psalm 90 spoke much about the sorrows of the vast multitude in the wilderness, who were condemned to die within forty years, this Psalm 91 (on the other hand) presents the contrast of those under the ‘shadow of the Almighty’. Thus, we also learned about an analogy our Heavenly Father used. Just as an eagle protects her eaglets, and also teaches them to fly, by using her wings, so too did our Heavenly Father protect Israel with His cloud (that He was in via His flying vehicle) as they were coming out of Egypt *and* in the wilderness.

But, we also learned that this beautiful type, which was physical for Israel back then, has an astounding *spiritual* lesson for us today. For, we also learned that the *spiritual* application of dwelling in the ‘secret place’ of the Most High (YHVH) means *to trust in* God, and in Jesus Christ (who is God incarnate). It is our *trust in* the Word of God that keeps us *spiritually* close to Him (i.e. *in* His ‘secret place’), who is on the throne in heaven. And so long as we *continue* to trust in, *and obey*, God (and Jesus, John 8:31-32) we will *always* remain under His protective ‘shadow’ of His precious ‘wings’ via the Word of God, and the Holy Spirit, that dwells *within us*. And that’s because Jesus Christ is our intercessor, who is literally at the right hand of God (Rom 8:26-34) – i.e. He’s *also* in the ‘secret place’ of the Most High. And that’s why Jesus told us we *must* ‘abide in Him’ (keep our heart and mind firmly on Him) and He ‘in us’ (His Words and Holy Spirit in us) *if* we want to be, *and remain*, part of the Vine (in the ‘secret place’, being spiritually close to God), which is the Body of Christ that will rule with Jesus Christ (forevermore) when He returns (John 15). But, being part of the ‘Vine’ is also what makes us productive servants *here on earth* and ensures we’ll *always* be under the protection of God’s mighty wings (shadow) as we serve Him in a world full of sin and wickedness.

In part 2 we learned how, when we dwell (and *remain*) 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) then we’ll *always* be able to find peace of mind, and internal strength, from trusting in God’s Word no matter how hard times get. And Moses used the terms ‘refuge’ and ‘fortress’ to explain the protection our Heavenly Father gives us, when we love and serve Him. A "refuge" is *a place people can fall back to* in times of hardship or danger. A fortress is similar, but the typical "fortress" is a building designed for battle. It provides safety from an attacking enemy and gives those inside *the means to withstand an assault*. So, whenever we’re having hard times, the Word of God is what we can (and should) *always* ‘fall back to’ by studying, and *remembering*, the Scriptures, which *give us hope* that the Lord (YHVH) will *always* help us through whatever

comes our way. And, when we do this, the Holy Spirit will *always* give us the strength to endure (withstand) whatever spiritual attacks (assaults) that come our way.

And we also learned of two things we'll be protected *from* when we abide under the shadow (protection) of His wings (His Word and Holy Spirit). And one of them is the 'snare of the fowler', which symbolizes the many ways Satan tries to 'entrap us' by enticing us to sin against our Heavenly Father. Satan's ultimate goal is to try to get all of God's children to apostatize, which means to rebel against God by *willfully* (and *habitually*) sinning against Him. But, if we keep our heart and mind firmly on God's Word (our 'Rock') then we won't fall into Satan's traps (snares). And, if we should happen to stumble (for we all sin at times, Rom 3:23) the Lord will help us to get back up (repent) and learn from the experience, so we become stronger in our faith and learn how to better resist temptations. And we also learned that, if we continue to 'dwell in the secret place of the Most High' (trust and obey Him), then He'll also protect us from the noisome pestilence, which is an *epidemic disease that is virulent and devastating* and is also symbolic of *something that is destructive or pernicious*. And, while this doesn't mean we won't ever get sick, it means He won't let us be ruined (spiritually or physically) by any diseases going around *and* He certainly *will not* let us die before it's our time to go. Our Heavenly Father will *always* make sure we've got what we need (decent health included) to serve Him in the capacity He wants us to do so. That is, however, so long as we do our part to take care of our flesh body and strive not to step into Satan's traps on purpose! So long as we do our part to stay under His protective wings (in the 'secret place') then He'll always protect us *and* enable us to serve Him on earth.

In part 3 we learned more about the protection the Lord (YHWH) 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!

In part 4 we learned of four more things that those who dwell (and *remain*) in the 'secret place of the Most High' (love and serve God faithfully) will be protected from. And this was true for those in Moses' day (who were *not* condemned to die, due to their rebelliousness) as well as for us today. So, we learned that there is no 'terror by night', 'arrow that flieth by day', 'pestilence that walketh in darkness' nor any 'destruction that wasteth at noonday' that will afflict us **if** we keep our heart and mind firmly on God's Word and strive to obey Him *faithfully*. Thus, while there were thousands upon thousands of people (the older generation condemned to die from their rebelliousness) that died all around the younger people (from the various agencies described above) *none of them* were harmed from those things. And that's an excellent example (1 Cor 10:11) of how we too will be protected (spiritually and physically) when we serve Jesus Christ faithfully. While we might get sick, and troubles will surely come our way at times (as it does for all who faithfully serve Jesus Christ, 2 Tim 3:12), *nothing* will destroy our faith in Jesus Christ *nor* stop us from fulfilling our mission in life to spread the Gospel, through whatever gift(s) God has given us – that is, so long as we *continue* to dwell in the 'secret place of the Most High' by loving and serving God (Jesus) faithfully (John 8:31-32).

And, just as the younger people in Moses' day truly did see the 'reward' (punishment) of the wicked (older generation who rebelled consistently against God) – by seeing them die off 'as a flood' (Ps 90:5) – so too are we promised to see the reward (punishment) of those who worship Satan, and his wicked beast governing system, which will be when the *true* Jesus Christ returns to take over the world. For, Jesus' holy angels *will* gather both the good and the bad people, and *separate them* for judgment. And, just as the wicked will get to see the righteous (those faithful to Jesus Christ) rewarded with *eternal* life - and *then* given authority to rule the world *with Him* - so too will the righteous get to see the wicked one's punishments that they *so richly* deserve.

In part 5 we learned of more promises to those who ‘dwell in the secret place of the Most High’ by loving, and serving, our Heavenly Father. And when we continue to flee to Him for help (spiritually) then no evil will overtake us, physically or spiritually. And, while that doesn’t mean we won’t have hard times, nor that we’ll never get sick, it means we *won’t be destroyed* by those things, for our Heavenly Father promises not to let anything happen to us that we cannot endure and overcome (1 Cor 10:11). And He also won’t let us (when we serve Him faithfully) depart from this flesh body (i.e. die) until it’s ‘our time to go’. We are, after all, *His servants on earth*. And He promises to help us *serve Him* while we’re here. That’s why this Psalm also promises that God will give us what some might call ‘guardian angels’ to help protect us *when* we’re serving *the Lord* (YHVH) on the frontlines of the spiritual battle (i.e. here on earth). And we also learned about one of Satan’s favorite methods of tempting people: by using Scripture! Thus, while Satan quoted from verses 11-12 (while tempting Jesus Christ) he did *not* do so *accurately*. Instead, he *left out* the words ‘in all thy ways’ and then *added* the words ‘lest at any time’ (Mth 4:6). And this totally *perverted* the Scriptures. And that’s what we must be on guard for too (2 Cor 11:13-15). But thankfully, we also learned how to spiritually fight against that; for Jesus simply quoted Scripture back (accurately), which proved Satan was twisting the Scriptures (Mth 4:7). This teaches that we spiritually fight against lies (all perversions of God’s Word) with *truth*. That’s why Eph 6:17 calls the Word of God our *spiritual* sword, which is (by the way) our *only offensive* weapon, *spiritually* speaking. And then we also learned about God’s promise to give us power to tread upon ‘the lion, young lion, adder and a dragon’. And, as Lk 10:19 reveals, Jesus did indeed give us power over ‘all the enemy’ but only ‘in His name’ (John 14:13-14, John 15:17, John 16:23-26). So, there are rich, and abundant promises in this great Psalm 91. And we have only to learn to *claim* them, by learning how to *trust and obey* our Heavenly Father (i.e. ‘dwell in the secret place of the Most High’, vs 1).

In part 6 we learned of yet *more* promises to those who ‘dwell in the secret place of the Most High’ by setting their love upon the Lord God Almighty (YHVH) and knowing His name. When we fervently seek, love and obey our Heavenly Father, then He’ll always deliver us from tribulations, and temptations, so that we can serve Him faithfully. While this is not a promise that we’ll never have hard times, or get sick in the flesh, it’s a promise that these things won’t ever destroy us or make us unable to serve the Lord. And, just as God set Jesus Christ ‘on high’ and gave him ‘length of days’ (through the resurrection) – *because* Jesus faithfully obeyed God, set His love upon Him and knew His name - so too does God promise to do so for us, when we faithfully serve Jesus Christ. For, just as God gave Jesus Christ ‘length of days’ by rising His flesh body from the dead (so He now has eternal life) so too does God promise to give us eternal life. And, just as God ‘set Him on high’ (Jesus Christ) so too will He do, *for us*, when Jesus Christ returns. For, those who earnestly seek, love and serve our Heavenly Father (and Jesus Christ) will not only receive *eternal* life, but also the *great* honor of *serving* in Jesus’ eternal government when He returns to take control of the entire earth. Yet, even before that, obeying our Heavenly Father will also give us great peace of mind and, most likely, lengthen our days on

earth too. For those who obey God's health laws (etc.) are much more inclined to live longer than those who eat unhealthily and abuse their body with perverted sex, drugs, etc.

So, while this Psalm 91 promises salvation, and a long life, to those who love and serve the Lord (faithful Christians) - which *can* mean deliverance in this life - it *always* means the forgiveness of sins *and* the gift of *eternal* life through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (John 3:16–18). And that's the 'bottom line' we must never forget! And Jesus Himself said, *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid* (John 14:27). And again, in John 16:33, He said: *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.* And shortly before He ascended into heaven, He also promised: *lo, I am with you **always**, even unto the end of the world* (Matt 28:20) ...

AMEN.