

## 07.06.2025mThe Shelter of Being @ Home with God!

Summer of Psalms #2: Living in the Goodness of God

Psalm 91

Reminder of Summer of Psalms: Screen shot! (Slide)

**Big Idea:** In a world filled with threats and uncertainties, Psalm 91 calls us to make **Most-High God our ultimate dwelling place**, revealing His steadfast promise to be our refuge, protector, and deliverer as we abide in Him.

### Introduction: The Search for Security in an Insecure World

- **On** March 11, 2011 Sharon and I were at our dining room table, in Chiba, Japan, homeschooling Jonmarc and his friend, Joshua when the Great East Japan earthquake occurred...  
.....from natural disasters to personal fears, economic instability, or even just the daily anxieties of life. We all long for absolute security.
- **The Problem:** Where do we truly find our security?  
Can any **earthly** system, security measure, or personal strength truly guarantee our safety? The answer is no.
- **Psalm 91** doesn't just offer comfort; it paints a vivid picture of divine protection, a mighty fortress found not in institutions, but **in the very character and presence of God**. Our Most-High God promises profound security for those who truly "dwell" in Him.

**Transition:** Let's explore how Psalm 91 unveils God's multifaceted protection for those who choose to make Him their home.

**PRAY**

### 1. Our Dwelling Place: Abiding in God Most-High (Psalm 91:1-4)

- **A. The Promise of Abiding (v. 1):**

- *"Whoever lives/dwells in the shelter of God Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty."*
- **"Lives" / "Dwells" / "Rests":** These aren't casual visits, but a lifestyle of continual presence, reliance, and intimacy. It's about making God your habitual residence.
- El Elyon - (Genesis 14:18) **God Most-High** a title emphasizing **God's supreme power, sovereignty, and impenetrable protection**.  
Remember last week, **The Lord, the Eternal God**  
(Yahweh, El Olam, Genesis 21:33).<sup>[17]</sup> Emphasizing **His eternal, unchanging nature**.
- **"Shelter of God Most High" / "Shadow of the Almighty":** Like a vast, overshadowing presence, He provides covering. Like when you are out in the Spanish sun, and you find shade... doesn't it feel wonderful!

- **B. Our Confession (v. 2):**

- *"2 This **I declare about the Lord: (God-Most High ) He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him.**" Repeat Together!!!*
- **"My Refuge and My Fortress":** These are metaphors of ultimate safety from attack or danger. God is both the safe place to run to and the impenetrable stronghold that defends.

- **C. Rescue and Protection (v. 3-4):**

3 *"For he will rescue you from every trap and protect you from deadly disease.*

4 *He will cover you with his feathers. He will shelter you with his wings. His faithful promises are your armor and protection."*

- **Invisible Threats:** God protects from unseen traps and deadly disease.  
Ephesians 6: **12** *For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places."*

- **Intimate Care:** The imagery of wings and feathers speaks of tender, personal, and constant protection, like a mother bird.
- **"His faithful Promises are your armor":**  
Ephesians 6:10 *A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.* When we put on His character, He is our ultimate defense, strong and impenetrable.
- **Application:** Where do you instinctively run when fear or threat arises?  
Is your first instinct to "dwell" in God?  
Have you put on the full armor of God today?  
What does it mean for you to "say God-Most High is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him?"

## 2. Our Deliverance: Shelter from Fear (Psalm 91:5-8)

### • A. Fear Not! (v. 5-8): (Read)

- 5 *"Do not be afraid of the terrors of the night, nor the arrow that flies in the day.... 7 Though a thousand fall at your side, though ten thousand are dying around you, these evils will not touch you. 8 Just open your eyes, and see how the wicked are punished."*

### • B. Contrast:

#### Fear vs Trust (Read fear words)

- **Fear:** The anticipation of evil. The unpleasant emotion caused by the belief that someone or something is dangerous, likely to cause pain, or a threat. It often paralyzes, causes avoidance, and can lead to anxiety and despair.<sup>[SEP]</sup>
- **Courage/Trust:** The mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty. It's not the absence of fear, but the ability to act in spite of it, often rooted in confidence in our God Most-High and our firm belief in Him.

#### Contrast: Terror vs. Serenity/Peace

- **Terror:** Extreme fear; intense, overwhelming dread. It can be incapacitating, leading to panic, flight, or paralysis in the face of perceived imminent danger or horror.
- **Serenity/Peace:** A state of being calm, peaceful, and untroubled. It's an inner stillness and tranquility that remains even amidst outward chaos or potential threats, often derived from a settled trust.

#### Contrast: Arrows vs. Protection/Shielding

- **Arrows:** Represent sudden, targeted, and often unseen attacks or dangers, whether literal (weapons) or metaphorical (slander, unexpected misfortune, sharp words). They imply vulnerability to external, intentional harm.
- **Protection/Shielding:** The act of guarding or preserving from injury, danger, or damage. It implies a strong, active defense or covering that deflects or absorbs harm, ensuring safety. Think of the Shield of Faith, which is used to extinguish the arrows of the devil.

#### Contrast: Dread (anxiety) vs. Hope/Assurance

- **Dread (anxiety):** A feeling of great apprehension, alarm, or uneasiness about something unknown, uncertain, or that may happen. It's a debilitating preoccupation with future negative outcomes, often paralyzing present action.
- **Hope/Assurance:** The confident expectation of something good in the future, based on a firm foundation or promise. It's an internal certainty that things will ultimately be well, which empowers action and brings peace in the present.

#### Contrast: Disaster vs. Restoration/Resilience

- **Disaster:** A sudden event, such as an accident or a natural catastrophe, that causes great damage or loss of life. It signifies overwhelming destruction and chaos beyond human control.

- **Restoration/Resilience:** The act of returning something to its former condition or state, or the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties. It's the ability to bounce back, rebuild, and find new strength after experiencing significant hardship or destruction.

### Contrast: Death vs. Life/Eternity

- **Death:** The permanent cessation of all biological functions that sustain a living organism. It represents an end, separation, and the ultimate loss of earthly existence.
- **Life/Eternity:** The state of being alive; the principle or force by which living things exist. In a spiritual context, it signifies unending existence, spiritual vitality, and a perpetual connection with God beyond physical demise.

### Contrast: Wicked vs. Righteous/Holy

- **Wicked:** Evil or morally wrong behavior; characterized by malice or depravity. It denotes an active intent or nature that is contrary to moral good and often seeks to cause harm.
- **Righteous/Holy:** Morally justifiable; acting in accordance with divine or moral law; morally upright. **Holy** further implies being set apart for God's purposes, pure, and distinct from sin. It signifies alignment with divine character and action that seeks good.

### Contrast: Evil vs. Good/Benevolence

- **Evil:** Profound immorality, wickedness, and suffering. It is a powerful force or influence that causes harm, destruction, and moral corruption.
- **Good/Benevolence:** Morally excellent; that which is beneficial or virtuous. **Benevolence** specifically refers to the quality of being well meaning; kindness. It represents positive, constructive, and virtuous actions or intentions that foster well-being and flourishing.

### Contrast: Plague vs. Healing/Deliverance

- **Plague:** A contagious disease that spreads rapidly and kills many people, or more broadly, any widespread and destructive affliction or nuisance. It represents systemic suffering and widespread peril.
- **Healing/Deliverance:** The process of becoming sound or healthy again after an illness or injury. **Deliverance** is the action of being rescued or set free from a dangerous or restrictive situation. It signifies recovery from affliction, liberation from bondage, and restoration to wholeness.

Remember, last week we talked about, **The source of all brokenness- Self-Will- "I must have my way, no matter what."** We all experience brokenness... but in the middle of all this is... **Jesus comes to deliver and heal!**

- **C. "Just open your eyes." The gift of Jesus. (v.8)**  
True healing and overcoming brokenness is a process that involves learning to be like Jesus. **Apprenticeship means, Learning to act like Jesus!**

Those who abide in him will never experience death; never experience desertion, they are sufficient in God.

### Do you really believe that?

If you really dread nothing, because of your knowledge of God, then you are moving out of brokenness. You don't think any more how deficient you are, because your sufficiency is in Christ.

"Think of your faith in Christ as confidence **in Him**. When you have confidence in Him, you believe what he does is right. You believe what he said is right."

Key Question: And steps to finding healing in brokenness.

Who am I?

1. **I am a disciple of Jesus!** (Everyone Repeat). Say this before God, self, and others.  
In our modern context you can be a Christian and not be a disciple of Jesus.
2. Consider what you would like to learn from Jesus, to do? Which of His teachings would you like to work on?  
Choose from any of the beatitudes (Matthew 5) or any of the negative lists... for example, Mark 7:20-23

**20** And then he (Jesus) added, "It is what comes from inside that defiles you. **21** For from within, out of a person's heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, **22** adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, **envy**, slander, pride, and foolishness. **23** All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you."

Envy denotes a longing to possess something awarded to or achieved by another... in short Opposite to a feeling of discontent or resentment at someone else's possessions, qualities, or luck; generosity, comfort confidence, contentedness. Which would you rather be, a person of Envy or Contentment? If you learn how to do two or three things, they will affect the other part of your life.

3. Be sure you want to change, one of the hardest parts, it is really hard to be honest here.  
Would I like to be the kind of person who spontaneously blesses the one who curses me? Would that really be me? But, I kind of like me?  
I want to be the kind of person who blesses (even when cursed)!  
Biggest problem is really wanting to change!  
Most people feel they would not be themselves,
4. If you can settle this you can begin to learn why you have trouble with the things you have listed. There is a reason. To deal with these, things that keep me back, begin to learn why I have trouble with these things... no quick fix, study these things with Jesus.... As you go along, He will teach you!

- **Divine Distinction:** Even in the midst of widespread calamity, God promises a unique preservation for those who dwell in Him.

### 3. Our Dependence: Shelter Under His Wing (Psalm 91:9-16)

- **A. More than conquerors! (v. 9-12):**

- *"9 If you make the Lord your refuge, if you make the Most High your shelter,  
10 no evil will conquer you; no plague will come near your home.  
11 For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go.  
12 They will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone."*

**IF You Abide:** The condition from verse 1 is repeated. This protection is for those who *actively* trust. Those who believe God is who He says He is!

- How do we make the Lord our refuge?  
Hebrews 4:14 *So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. 15 This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testing we do, yet he did not sin. 16 So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.*
- **Divine Delegation:** God mobilizes His heavenly hosts for our protection, even in seemingly minor dangers. We may access the Throne Room of Grace anytime!
- **B. Triumph Over Evil (v. 13):**
  - *13 "You will trample upon lions and cobras; you will crush fierce lions and serpents under your feet!"*
  - **Victory Over the Forces of Evil:** This powerful imagery signifies triumph over formidable, demonic, or malicious forces. Talk about spiritual warfare...

- **Application:** Do you truly believe in God's comprehensive protection, even when circumstances seem overwhelming? Or do you prefer liability (as in car insurance)? Liability comes with a high deductible and in spiritual terms, as in insurance, you pay a high price when something happens. How does this passage challenge any lingering fear or anxiety you might harbor?

#### **C. The Reason for God's Deliverance (v. 14):**

- *"14 The Lord says, "I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name."*
- **God's Initiative: LOVE:** The ultimate reason for God's protection is His divine love for us. It's not earned.
- **"Those who Trust in My Name":** This implies more than just knowing His name; it means knowing His character, His power, and living in reverence and reliance upon Him. However, there IS Power in the Name of Jesus. We can call upon Him at any time!<sup>[1][SEP]</sup>

- **D. Access in Trouble (v. 15):**

- *"15 When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honor them."*
- **Responsive God:** God answers when we call. He doesn't abandon us in trouble but **is with us**, actively delivering and honoring.

- **Philippians 4: 6** “Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. **Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.** 7 Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.”
- **"I will be with you in trouble":** This is crucial. Protection isn't always the *absence* of trouble, but God's presence *within* it, leading to ultimate deliverance and honor.
- **E. Long Life and Salvation (v. 16):**
  - "16 *I will reward them with a long life and give them my salvation.*"
  - **Holistic Blessing:** Not just immediate rescue, but a fulfilled life, culminating in the ultimate salvation that God provides. This speaks to both earthly blessings and eternal life.
- **Application:** Are you cultivating a deep, loving relationship with God that fuels your trust?  
Are you calling on Him, at all times?  
Do you truly believe His promise to be *with* you, even when life is hard?

## Conclusion: Our Invitation to Abide

- **Recap:**
  - Psalm 91 reveals God as our eternal, all-powerful **Dwelling Place**, offering ultimate security.
  - For those who abide in Him, He provides **Deliverance** from seen and unseen dangers, sending angels to guard, and granting victory over evil.
  - **Dependence** flows from a deep, loving relationship with a God who hears, answers, is *with* us in trouble, and promises ultimate satisfaction and salvation.
- **Challenge:**
  - In a world that constantly promises security in temporal things, where do you genuinely seek your refuge?<sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
  - Will you intentionally choose to "dwell in the shelter of the Most-High" this week, making conscious decisions to abide in His presence, trust His promises, and call on Him?
  - Let Psalm 91 become your personal declaration and the foundation of your confidence: “God Most-High is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”
- **Pray:**