

# THE PSALMS IN HUMAN LIFE

## PART 11

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### PSALM 91

#### **Certainty in a world of Uncertainty**

1 *He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.*

2 *I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."*

3 *Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.*

4 *He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.*

5 *You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,*

6 *nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.*

7 *A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.*

8 *You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.*

9 *If you make the Most High your dwelling—even the LORD, who is my refuge—*

10 *then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent.*

11 *For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;*

12 *they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.*

13 *You will tread upon the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent.*

14 *"Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.*

15 *He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honour him.*

16 *With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation."*

**Spurgeon** says “This *Psalm* is without a title, and we have no means of ascertaining either the name of its writer, or the date of its composition, with certainty. The Jewish doctors consider that when the author’s name is not mentioned we may assign the *Psalm* to the last named writer; and, if so, this is another *Psalm* of Moses, the man of God”.

I have given this *Psalm* this particular title because of what has been written, for the *Psalm* gives assurance and a sense of **certainty in a world of uncertainty**.

Any certainty that is instilled in us as a result of reading the *Psalm* is because of the positive words stated by whoever wrote the *Psalm*. The certainty of the believer is founded on the unchanging, unfailing aspects of truth relating to the nature and character of God. There is a sufficiency in God which is maintained by God Himself. He has the ability to maintain and sustain others whilst maintaining and sustaining Himself.

Quoting **Spurgeon** again he says: “No Latin or Greek gives to us the beauty of the Hebrew rendering of this Psalm”.

**Alexandra McLaren** in his commentary says: “A man, who dwells in the secret place of the most high, has absolute immunity from all sorts of evil”.

Please note that the Psalmist

**(a) Generalises.**

**(b) Personalises.**

**(c) Specifies.**

**(d) Prophesies.**

Let us consider the *Psalm* as follows.

**1. THE POSITIVE STATEMENT. Verse 1.** *“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.”*

It is only those who dwell in the secret place of the Most High that abide or dwell in His shadow. This verse conveys to us that to be covered by dwelling in God’s presence, is to be under the protection of the only one who is all sufficient and capable of overseeing all aspects of ones life. Constant communion, and contact with God, results in a person living with the knowledge of the Lord’s protection.

The scriptures are full of positive statements about the Lord by people who have known and experienced His protection. Here are a few of them.

**Psalm 23 v 1** *“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.”*

**Psalm 27 v 1** *“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”*

**Psalm 103 vs 2 to 8**

2 *“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.*

3 *Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;*

4 *Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowned thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies;*

5 *Who satisfies thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle’s.*

6 *The LORD executes righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.*

7 *He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.*

8 *The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.”*

**Psalm 130 v 4** *“But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou may be feared*

*These are the certainties of God’s word.”*

**2. THE PERSONAL STATEMENT. Verse 2.** *“I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust”.*

This expression here is obviously from a person who has, and is, benefiting from living under the shadow of the Almighty. I do not believe the *Psalmist* is saying something, which has been told him; he is expressing what he knows to be true of the Lord.

Such statements as this could only be made by someone who had actually experienced knowing God as the ‘All Sufficient One’. There are certain places of refuge that can be broken into, and the people taking refuge removed or hurt. Here however the *Psalmist* is confident about the security of their dwelling place.

Paul writes in **Colossians 3 v 3** *“For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God”.*

Someone has said **“Companionship with God will be a safe refuge from satans power. The person who dwells by day, shall abide by night under the shadow of the almighty”.**

**3. THE PROVIDENTIAL STATEMENT. Verses 3 to 13.**

Can the providence of God, asked one man, be taught in a more tender spirit than it is here?

As these verses are read it is noticeable that there is overwhelming evidence that God is well able to take complete charge of the affairs of our lives. The *Psalm* celebrates with considerable beauty of expression God’s loving watchful care, and the perfect peace and security of those who make Him their refuge. God can take care of each one in every kind or type of peril.

**Verse 4** says *“He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his **faithfulness** will be your **shield and barricade**”.* God is faithful to His word, and also consistent in His character.

**Duet 7 v 9** *“Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the **faithful** God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands”.*

**1Cor 10 v 13** *“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is **faithful**; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it”.*

We all know what a **barricade** is. In the K.J. it is called a ‘buckler’. The following scriptures are about God as our defence.

**2Sam 22 v 31** *“As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is flawless. He is a **shield** for all who take refuge in him”.*

**Psalms 18 v 2** *“The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my **shield** and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold”.*

**Rev 2 v 7** *“He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a **shield** to those whose walk is blameless”.*

It is good to read of the specifics in scripture relating to the providential care of God concerning those who dwell in the secret place.

In **verses 9 & 10** we have reference to **two dwelling places**.

**Verse 9:** *“If you make **the Most High your dwelling**”*

**Verse 10:** *“Then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near **your dwelling**”.*

**Verse 11** is a quote used by the devil in **Matt 4 v 6** *“If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: ‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone’”*.

Finally we have.

#### **4. THE PROPHETIC STATEMENT. Verses 14 to 16.**

In these verses you will see that there are six **‘I wills’**.

14 *“Because he loves me,” says the LORD, “**I will** rescue him; **I will** protect him, for he acknowledges my name.*

15 *He will call upon me, and **I will** answer him; **I will** be with him in trouble, **I will** deliver him and honour him.*

16 *With long life **will I** satisfy him and show him my salvation.”*

The **‘I wills’** of God are prophetic and have a futuristic element in them.

**Gen 3 v 15** *“And **I will** put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel”*.

**Joel 2 v 28** *“And afterwards, **I will** pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions”*.

**Matt 16 v 18** *“**I will** build my Church”*.

**John 15 v 26** *“But when the Comforter is come, whom **I will** send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me”*.

In these last the verses we have noted how the *Psalmist* enters into the prophetic, and concludes with words of total confidence in the God who cares and protects His children.

The *Psalm* ends with a note of triumph and the assurance of salvation. It is good to know '**Certainty in a world of Uncertainty**'.