

## Psalm 91 – The Psalm of Protection

This powerful Psalm of protection has your part and God's part. Let's see what we need to do and what God will do as a result with the intent of applying these truths in our daily walk.

### Vs 1

The opening verse tells us this Psalm is addressed to he who "dwells" – present tense. It doesn't say, "he who dwelt" or "he who will dwell," but it clearly says, "he who dwells" in the secret place of the Most High. The word "dwell" means to take up permanent residence in. It denotes an active willingness to stay within the territory of God.

As a Christian you (your born-again spirit) are seated in the Heavenly Places in Christ Jesus (Eph 2:6). Col 3:3 your life is hidden in Christ Jesus. I offer to you this is the secret place we dwell in.

This means that you can't be dwelling in God's secret place while enjoying the pleasures of sins. God does not "wink" at sin (Hab 1:13).

The phrase translated "secret place" is the same phrase used in Exodus 24:18 when Moses was in the midst of the Glory Cloud of God as he went up the Mountain.

Most High – in Hebrew, it is Elyon. It means lofty, elevation, and supreme. Most High denotes God's supreme authority over all other authorities.

Notice the result of dwelling in the secret place is abiding (remain, cause to rest, lodge)

Shadow means protection. To be in someone's shadow you have to be very close.

Almighty – in Hebrew, it is Shaddai. It means most powerful, denoting that there is no power greater than God in the vast universe.

**Your part?** Choose to take up residence in the Glory Cloud of God.

**God's part?** You will remain, be at rest, under God's powerful protection.

### Vs 2

Your words are important. What do you say about your Lord?

LORD – in Hebrew, it is written as YHWH. Most scholars would agree that it is pronounced as Yahweh. YHWH literally means the Self-Existent or Eternal One. The name Yahweh itself implies the eternal nature of God. He is outside the physical realm. He is not limited by time, space, and matter! Yahweh has no beginning or end. We see this in Psalm 90:2 and Psalm 93:2

Refuge means protection from rain or storm, from danger of falsehood

Fortress means stronghold, fort, defense

God – from the Hebrew word, Elohim. It basically means God.

**Your part?** Believe in your heart and declare with your mouth (Romans 10:9) Who you trust to protect and defend you

### **Vs 3-4**

Notice these verses come right after you make your confession of faith that God is your protector and in Whom you trust. As a result, He will deliver you (snatch you away) from the snare of the fowler (in other words the traps of the enemy) and from terrible diseases.

He will cover you (hedge you about, like Job had a hedge about him) with his feathers or wings (prayer shawls worn by Priests were called wings). The Psalmist is using the metaphor of a bird with his mother. God is the protective mother who feeds, nurtures, and protects her young. The image is meant to invoke safety and warmth when we dwell in God. As chicks with their Mama hen, those chicks who stray outside her protection are vulnerable.

Wings are what the corner of a garment was called (Ruth covered by Boaz Ruth 3:9). God's covering over you is your refuge (safe place).

His truth (meaning to be firm, to build up, to support, to nurture, or to establish. The primary meaning is that of providing stability and confidence, and trustworthiness.) is your shield (which protects you from the fiery darts of the wicked one Eph 6:10) and buckler. A shield is used to cover the body of a soldier. A buckler is a smaller shield the soldier used to maneuver into the path of oncoming weapons. This is the only place in the Bible this word (in Hebrew so-khay-raw') is used.

### **Vs 5 – 6**

Continuing on the benefits from doing your part (dwelling in the secret place and confessing Who the Lord is to you), you will not be afraid of the following things;

- Terror, or dread, that comes at night (in your darkest hour)
- Attacks that come in the daylight
- Diseases or plagues that come in the darkness or gloom
- Destruction (or the act of destroying) that causes ruin, spoil or devastation in the middle of the day

Vs 6 in the NLT translation “do not dread the disease that stalks in darkness, nor the disaster that strikes at midday” We are commanded not to fear 365 times in the Bible.

### **Vs 7 – 8**

Continuing with the benefits of doing your part, others might be struck at your side, and be as close as your right hand but God will keep them from coming near you. You will see the wicked being punished but will not experience it.

**Vs 9-13** Repeating the promise of deliverance and assurance of victory;

→ **Your part** Verse 9, echoes verses 1 & 2

## → **God's part** Verse 10 - 13

Verse 10 echoes verses verses 3 & 6.

Vs 13 Lions (1 Peter 5:8) and snakes (Genesis 3) are often used to refer to satan. You are above and not beneath (Deu 28:13). Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world 1 John 4:4! Satan us under your feet Eph 1:22!

**Vs 14-16** God's promise to, and blessing over, the one who loves Him. Notice the word "will" – how many times is it used in these verses?

Vs 14 **Your part:** Set your love on God. Set – to be attached to. Know His Name (John 17:3) which is eternal life.

**God's part:** He will deliver you and set (affix) you inaccessibly high, out of the reach of the enemy (in that secret place from verse 1).

Vs 15 **Your part:** call upon the Name of the Lord when you are in trouble (Matt 14:30 Peter called out to Jesus when he was sinking)

**God's part:** He will answer you (Mathew 7:7), deliver you and honor you. You are NEVER alone when you are a Child of God. He has promised to never leave or forsake you (5 times in Scripture; Heb 13:5). You will live a long and satisfied life and God will show you His salvation. Salvation – Yeshua which one of the Names of Jesus!

Notice how the names of God are used in this Psalm, showing we can have the full assurance that the Most High, Almighty, Yahweh, God and Savior is on our side. He is the one who is protecting us! Even if you combine all the forces in the world, including Satan's evil devices, NOTHING can overcome God's ability to protect us from danger.

## **Summary of Psalm 91**

The Psalm opens with a statement of the security and protection enjoyed by those who trust in God and live their lives constantly in God's presence.

The singer then addresses his remarks directly to such believers. God will protect them from dangers, both seen and unseen, both by day and by night. Neither cruel enemies nor deadly diseases will overcome them. God will guard their lives as a mother bird guards her young and as a soldier guards his fortress. Others may fall, but those who trust in the Most High will be safe. Because they have committed themselves to God's safe-keeping in complete faith, God will direct his angels to watch over them with special care. They will triumph over the strong and fierce, the cunning and deceitful.

Another singer, representing God, adds his blessing. He notes that such believers have a close personal knowledge of God, love him and talk with him; consequently, God will protect, deliver, guide, comfort and honor them. He will give them the blessing of long life by which they can enjoy God's salvation to the full.