

PSALM 91

Security of the One Who Trusts in the LORD.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. From Roy H. Enoch (12-13-95).
- B. Coffman points out that Jewish tradition assigns this psalm to Moses, and others have agreed that the contents of the psalm are in harmony with that contention. A difficult characteristic of the psalm is the changing of the person from first person to second person suddenly from time to time. A careful study of the context is needed to identify who is being referred to.
- C. Coffman uses the paragraphing of Briggs:
 - I. Security of the True Worshipper of God (91:1-4).
 - II. Exhortation Not to Fear the Pestilence (91:5-8).
 - III. A Messianic Note (91:9-13).
 - IV. Deliverance and Longevity Promised (91:14-16).

COMMENTS.

- A. Security of the True Worshipper of God (91:1-4).

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
Will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

2 I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress,
My God, in whom I trust!"

3 For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper
And from the deadly pestilence.

4 He will cover you with His pinions,
And under His wings you may seek refuge;
His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark.

[v1,2] "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High..." This would seem to refer to those who consistently and conscientiously serves and worships God, who is in the secret place. This person is "under the shadow of the Almighty" and completely trusts Him.

[v3] "Surely He shall deliver you..." Two figures of danger were of their time. The "snare of the fowler" was a hidden net that would spring and catch birds. "Perilous pestilence" referred to outbreaks of disease that could cause thousands of deaths. Both of these dangers were unseen and struck the strong and weak alike.

[v4] "He shall cover you with His feathers..." The figure seems to be from a bird covering her young to protect them from discomfort and danger. "His truth shall be your shield and buckler." This reminds us of Paul's "whole armor of God" in Eph. 6:10-17.
- B. Exhortation not to Fear the Pestilence (91:5-8).

You will not be afraid of the terror by night,
Or of the arrow that flies by day;

6 Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
Or of the destruction that lays waste at noon.

7 A thousand may fall at your side
And ten thousand at your right hand,
But it shall not approach you.

8 You will only look on with your eyes
And see the recompense of the wicked.

[v5-7] Several kinds of terror are listed that the man, secure in his faith in God, will not fear.

[v8] The key to confidence and lack of fear is where we look. If we focus on dangers or the temptations of the world, we will fear. But if we focus on God's word that shows His power and promises, we will not fear.
- C. A Messianic Note (91:9-13).

For you have made the LORD, my refuge,
Even the Most High, your dwelling place.

- 10** No evil will befall you,
Nor will any plague come near your tent.
- 11** For He will give His angels charge concerning you,
To guard you in all your ways.
- 12** They will bear you up in their hands,
That you do not strike your foot against a stone.
- 13** You will tread upon the lion and cobra,
The young lion and the serpent you will trample down.

[v9,10] When we live with God, we are protected and confident. David used this figure in Psa. 15:1. David describes the characteristics of the righteous man who lived with God.

[v11,12] Some apply these verses to Christ because the devil did in Mt. 4:6. But we do not accept the devil's application, because in this context it seems to describe the man who dwells with God rather than God in the form of man. Hebrews 1:13-14 seems to bear this out.

[v13] This is similar to the promise Jesus gave to His apostles that they would be able to handle deadly serpents and drink poison (Mk. 16:18).

D. Deliverance and Longevity Promised (91:14-16).

“Because he has loved Me, therefore I will deliver him;
I will set him *securely* on high, because he has known My name.

15 “He will call upon Me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and honor him.

16 “With a long life I will satisfy him
And let him see My salvation.”

These verses use the first person and seems to refer to God promising to bless those who faithfully serve Him out of genuine love and gratitude.