



Psalm 91: A Refuge in Times of Trouble

Psalm 91 is one of the most comforting texts in the Bible, offering promises of divine protection and security for those who trust in God. Through this analysis, we will explore its possible authorship, date of writing, and a detailed study of its verses, discovering the profound spiritual truths it has inspired believers for millennia.

LP by Leticia Turra - Stile Pilates

Authorship and Historical Context

Possible Authors

The author of Psalm 91 is not explicitly identified in the Bible. Some Jewish and Christian traditions suggest that Moses may have been the author, given the similar style to Psalm 90, which is attributed to him. Other scholars point to David, due to the tone of trust and dependence on God present in many of the Davidic psalms.

Dating

The exact date of Psalm 91 is unknown. If it was written by Moses, it could date to the Exodus period (circa 1440–1400 BC). If it was written by David, it would be around 1000 BC.



Dwelling in the Refuge of the Most High

Verses 1-2

"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and rests in the shadow of the Almighty says to the Lord: 'You are my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'"

Explanation

These verses introduce the idea of an intimate and constant relationship with God. Dwelling in the hidden place of the Almighty means living in God's presence, fully trusting in His care and protection.

Divine Protection Against All Danger

Verses 3-4

"He will deliver you from the fowler's snare and from the destructive pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is your shield and buckler."

The psalmist emphasizes that those who trust in God are free from fear, whether from visible or invisible dangers. He will cover them with His wings, as a bird protects its young, offering safety and refuge.

Verses 5-6

"You will not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor of the destruction that destroys at noonday."

These verses reinforce God's personal protection for those who trust in Him, even in the midst of destruction around them. Faith in God eliminates fear of the dangers that lurk both day and night.



Safety in the Midst of Destruction

Verses 7-8

"A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. Surely you will behold with your own eyes and see the reward of the wicked."

The psalmist encourages everyone to experience God's goodness through faith. Although destruction and death may surround them, those who trust in God will be preserved. Furthermore, they will see the judgment of the wicked, which underscores divine justice.



The Most High as a Refuge



Verses 9-10

"Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, the Most High, your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your tent."



Meaning

These verses emphasize the importance of faith and trust in God as a refuge. If the Almighty is made a dwelling place, no calamity or plague will affect the believer, for God Himself is their protective shield.



Angelic Protection



Verses 11-12

"For he will give his angels charge over you to guard you in all your ways. They will bear you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

God promises to send His angels to protect and guide those who trust in Him. This angelic protection ensures that the believer will not stumble or fall, even in the most difficult times.

Victory Over Dangers



Verses 13-14

"You will trample on the lion and the adder; you will trample the young lion and the dragon. Because he has set his love on Me, I will rescue him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name."



Explanation

These verses symbolize victory over the forces of evil and danger. Those who love God and know His name will be delivered and exalted, demonstrating the power of faith over adversity.

Divine Promises of Answer

Invocation

"He will call upon me, and I will answer him..."

God promises to answer the prayers of those who call upon him in sincerity.

Presence

"...I will be with him in trouble..."

God assures us of his constant presence, especially in times of difficulty.

Release

"...I will deliver him and glorify him."

The divine promise includes deliverance from danger and exaltation of the faithful.



The Final Promise: Salvation and Full Life

Verse 16

"I will satisfy him with long life, and show him my salvation."

This final promise of Psalm 91 encapsulates the supreme blessing for those who trust in God: a full life and the revelation of divine salvation. It offers not only protection in this life but also the hope of eternal salvation, thus completing the circle of divine promises that make this Psalm a spiritual refuge for all believers.

