

## Jesus in the Psalms *The Shadow of the Almighty*

Psalm 91

December 15th, 2024

### I. Introduction: The Lord Speaks

Psalms 89 & 90 were meditations and lamentations on exile and on death. They were songs of the night, when God has hidden His face in anger. In those psalms, the Lord acted, but He did not \_\_\_\_\_. He was silent. But then we come to Psalm 91, and we hear the Lord's Word. The Lord even speaks in the first person: "Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore *I* will deliver him. *I* will set him on high . . . *I* will answer him . . . *I* will be with him in trouble." The Lord no longer remains silent. He has heard the laments and prayers of His people. And now He answers us.

### II. The Text: Psalm 91

*1 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." . . .*

### III. An Almighty Refuge

**The dangers are** \_\_\_\_\_. This psalm is not saying that we shouldn't fear because all the things we fear are really just imaginary. The dangers we face are real. In fact, we probably don't fear enough. We are surrounded by evils innumerable. Death is real. Our frailty is real. The evil of vanity, of vain labor, is real. Exile is real. Things really do fall apart. There certainly are grounds for us to fear—more than we know or would like to admit.

**An Almighty refuge.** This psalm does not alleviate our fears by saying that they are groundless, but by saying that our God is \_\_\_\_\_. All those who take refuge in Him don't have to fear all of those terrifying things. We come under His shelter, and we are safe. The dangers we face are real—but we have an Almighty refuge.

**Thick walls.** How does a refuge protect us? Why are we safe in a fortress? We're safe in a fortress because there's a big thick, fortified \_\_\_\_\_ between us and the danger—between us and that monster outside. Were we left outside its walls, we'd be exposed and vulnerable and probably dead. But the walls of the fortress keep us safe.

**He can face the dangers we cannot.** Our refuge is almighty, and He can, therefore, face the dangers we cannot. We would be destroyed by all these things on our own, but the Almighty wall that stands between us and these dangers is just that—He is almighty, and He can take all the damage. He can take all the pain and hurt and vanity and evil and sin and hell that threatens to destroy us.

**He did face the dangers we cannot.** He can, and, what is more, He \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus protected us from the Lion and the Serpent by taking the bite, by being torn to shreds. He, like a

strong refuge, like a strong wall between us and all our enemies, took the full force of the storm, the full pain of death, the full hell of sin.

#### **IV. Jesus Our Almighty Refuge (Rom. 8:31-39)**

Jesus takes us in and protects us from a thousand deaths. He takes all the damage, and we are left safe and secure, unscathed. Jesus took the storm of wrath that would have fallen upon our heads. He took all the malice and hatred of the devil and of wicked men. He absorbed it, received it, was struck down by it, until the strength of the storm was spent and nothing remained but the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

The dangers we face are real. There are grounds for our fear. But those who make Jesus their refuge, who fly to Him for help, there is \_\_\_\_\_ to fear. We are safe. Jesus has defanged all of these fears. God is for you, who can be against you? In all these things we are more than \_\_\_\_\_ through Him who loved us. None of these things can separate us from Christ; not one of them can take us out of our almighty refuge. Our life is hidden in Christ (Col. 3:3), and Jesus has defanged these things. As Paul says elsewhere, Jesus has removed the sting of death, and death is swallowed up in \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor. 15:54-56).

#### **V. More Than Conquerors (Rom. 8:28-30)**

What does this mean that we are more than conquerors? This means that all things are worked together by our God for our \_\_\_\_\_. They come not from the wrath of God, but from the love and compassion of our Father. These things are the Refiner's fire, meant to purify us and mold us and form us into the image of Jesus Christ. They come from the loving hand of our Father and are purposed for our glory and good. We drink His cup, but He has already absorbed all the hell. What's left for us will not hurt us, but help us: it is medicine meant to purge the poison of sin out of us and make us into perfect saints.

This means that whatever we face comes from the loving heart of our Father who has predestined us to be conformed to the image of our elder Brother Jesus, so that just as He became like us in every respect, so we, too, might become like \_\_\_\_\_ in every respect.

#### **VI. No Room For Fear**

If God is for us, who can be against us? If God did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us, won't He take care of us? If we have made the Lord our dwelling place, don't we dwell under the shadow of the Almighty? These things cannot destroy us, for Jesus has taken the hell out of them. He deals with us measure by measure—measuring out exactly what we need, not to destroy us, but to heal us and make us like Christ. So there is no room for fear, for we dwell in the secret place of the Most High and abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

Hiding in Christ does not lead to a \_\_\_\_\_ life. Jesus went forth and made war with the world. He went forth and proclaimed the Gospel of God, and laid down His life fearlessly caring for this world—not flying away from it. The apostles also fearlessly went forth and turned the world upside down. God has likewise called us to take dominion in this world—to cast off fear and take up all the weapons of our warfare in order to go forth triumphant.

#### **VII. Come & Welcome to Jesus Christ**