

1 **PROTECTING YOUR HOME**

PSALM 91 – PART 4

2 **HAVING CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S PROTECTION**

Psalm 91:7-12

3 **SECURE DEVOTION (91:4)**

- Hen covering chicks under feet
- Four blessings of being under the wings:
 - Protection from the attack of the hawks and kites = powers of the air
 - Concealment
 - Refreshment from shade
 - Nourished and cherished

4 **SHIELD OF DEFENSE (91:4)**

• *"Double armor has he who relies upon the Lord. He bears a shield and wears an all surrounding coat of mail—such is the force of the word 'buckler.' To quench fiery darts the truth is a most effectual shield, and to blunt all swords it is an equally effectual coat of mail (buckler)"*

5 **STAYED PEACE (91:5-6)**

- Peace that does not yield to circumstances
- Psalm 91:5-6 -- *Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; Nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; Nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.*

6 **TERROR BY NIGHT**

- This is the unexpected enemy that attacks without warning; the unseen danger
- Old Testament had specific laws regarding self-defense
 - Exodus 22:2 *–If a thief is found breaking in and is struck so that he dies, there shall be no bloodguilt for him*

7 **ARROW THAT FLIES BY DAY**

- This is the known enemy who attacks in ambush or silence.
 - Arabs refer to pestilence as the "arrow" of God
 - Could be those who try each day to take away our rights as Christians or citizens through subterfuge
 - Could be the person who slanders you privately

8 **PESTILENCE THAT WALKS IN DARKNESS**

- Men do not SEE how pestilence spreads
- This is the problem that comes out of nowhere with no warning and seems unexplainable
- Can include, but is not limited to, physical suffering

9 **PSALM 91:7-12**

A thousand shall fall at thy side, And ten thousand at thy right hand; But it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold And see the reward of the wicked. Because thou

hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, Even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, Neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, To keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, Lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

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10 **SPECTATORS OF CALAMITY**

Psalm 91: 7-8

11 **SPECTATORS OF CALAMITY**

- A *myriad* fall at your side and 10,000 at your right hand
- Like a force field
- “Near to danger but far from harm”

12 **EXAMPLES**

- The Lord still puts a difference between Israel and Egypt in the day of his plagues.
- Sennacherib’s army is blasted, but Jerusalem is in health.

13 **HOW SHOULD THIS MOTIVATE US?**

- God’s protection should make us grateful
 - For our own escape
 - For our security
 - For our favorable outcome by comparison
- We should have reverence for God’s Sovereign justice
- We should have compassion for the suffering of others
- We should be moved to confident and noble service

14 **WHO ARE THE WICKED? (91:8)**

- The “wicked” here are simply those who have not done what the righteous in verse 9 have done.
- The wicked have failed to make the LORD their refuge. They have failed to put their trust in Him.

15 **SOME BALANCE....**

“We may remark that the faith of the children of God does not necessarily anticipate that harm will never come to them. What extreme statements like this one mean is that it is possible for God to defend His own in cases of seemingly inescapable dangers, and He will frequently do so. But they also know full well that there will be occasions when it does not please God to work miraculous deliverance. In such an event they will cheerfully submit to whatever is the will of their Lord. Many who have been exposed to the dangers of the field of battle where many lost their lives could not help but apply these words to themselves when their life was spared. The verse states, not what must necessarily happen, but what God can bring to pass.

16 **A SAFE DWELLING**

Psalm 91:9-10

17 **A SAFE DWELLING (91:9-10)**

- *Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, Even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, Neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.*
- *Maḥseh* = shelter from danger; refuge
- גַּל (‘‘disaster’’) in v 10 has the basic meaning of a ‘‘blow/stroke/plague’’; a wound caused by a human, punishment by God, leprosy (Leviticus 13, 14)
- Disaster can strike both the righteous and the wicked; however, for the righteous, the consequences are temporary and work for an eternal value.

18 EXODUS 15:26

And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.

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19 THE CONDITION REQUIRED

- We must be in that ‘‘secret place’’ -- a place of intimate fellowship with God. This is the key and character of such safety.
- *‘‘Dependence on Christ is not the cause of his hiding us, but it is the qualification of the person that shall be hid.’’* -- Ralph Robinson.
- If the Lord is our dwelling, it doesn't matter whether we live in a hut or a mansion -- our security can be the same.

20 A DIFFERENT KIND OF FAITH

- FAITH OF RELIANCE – Expects deliverance from God
- FAITH OF RECOURSE -- This is the faith like the Hebrew children thrown into the furnace. They cast their uncertain future upon the Lord because He is the only appropriate destination for their lives.
 - *If I perish, I perish....*
- While it is possible to have two houses, no one truly has two homes -- there can be no other refuge for our souls.

21 SERVING ANGELS

Psalm 91:11-12

22 PSALM 91:11-12

- *For he shall give his angels charge over thee, To keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, Lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.*
- Quoted by Satan in tempting Christ (Matthew 4:6; Luke 4:10-11)
 - Satan omitted which shows that God's most marvelous promises can be foolishly applied

23 WHO ARE THESE ANGELS?

- ‘‘Bodyguard of the princes Imperial of heaven’’
- One angel destroyed 185,000 in one night -- 2 Chronicles 32 -- of Senacherib's army.
- And yet He gives many angels a charge to care for us.
- Angels are instant in obedience; mighty in power
 - Ps 103:20 *Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments,*

hearkening unto the voice of his word.

• Ps 103:21 *Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.*

24 **WHAT IS THEIR JOB?**

- To *keep thee in all thy ways*
 - Out of the way it is their charge to oppose us, as to preserve us in the way.
 - Angel opposed Balaam when he was riding his donkey
 - Angels protect God's children in all their goings when they are in HIS way – following HIS path.

25 **AM I IN MY WAY?**

- I am now idling away my time, but am I in my way? Oh my soul, am I in my way? I am in my calling this day without prayer in the morning and reading the Scriptures; but am I in my way? Oh, my soul, am I in my way? I am now in such frothy company where I get no good, but hurt; but am I in my way? Ever consider this, Am I in my way? You may expect the Lord's protection and the angels' attendance, if you be in your way, but not else. -- William Bridge.

26 **THE MINISTRY OF ANGELS**

- As employed by God
 - Official: "he shall give"
 - Personal: "over thee."
 - Constant: "in all thy ways" = wherever we go
- As enjoyed by man.
 - For preservation: "shall bear thee," tenderly but effectually.
 - Under limitation.
 - They cannot do the work of God, or of Christ, or of the Spirit
 - They cannot substitute for the Word of God
 - They minister to the saints, but it is our job to share the Gospel

27 **THE TALMUD ON ANGELS**

- The Jewish Talmud – a collection of rabbinical teachings that total about 6200 pages – taught that each person had 2 angels that accompanied him throughout life. These angels would testify about the person's conduct to a heavenly tribunal after the person's death.
- Obviously wrong, but a rather sobering thought...

28 **WE ARE UNDER OBSERVATION**

- 1 Peter 1:12 -- *Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.*
- Hebrews 13:2 -- *Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.*
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29 **STRONG CONFIDENCE**

Psalm 91:13 – We can be confident in the Lord's protection against the worst of enemies

30 **PSALM 91:13**

- Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: The young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.
- Four metaphorical enemies depicted:
 - Lion
 - Adder (serpent)
 - Young lion
 - Dragon

31 **1. THE OLD LION**

- Lion – An older lion makes its presence known and roars to cause the prey to run in fear in the direction where young lions wait to kill the prey.
- Satan uses the elements of surprise and fear to cause us to take sudden action in a wrong direction.

32 **2. THE SERPENT**

- Adder -- Poisonous and hidden
 - This is a hidden danger that suddenly springs up and poisons its victim.
 - Like the lion, it remains hidden until the opportune moment.
 - Poison enters through small punctures

33 **3. THE YOUNG LION**

- Young lion -- Hidden and voracious
- Satan's purpose is to devour us
- God is our only refuge and protection

34 **4. THE DRAGON**

- Dragon = dinosaur -- terror (or figurative of Satan)
- While the most terrifying creature here, it too may be trampled on by those in God's protection

35 **CONCLUSION**

- We are to have a secure devotion to Christ.
- He provides for us:
 - a shield of defense
 - a stayed peace
 - a safe dwelling
 - serving angels
 - and a strong confidence

36 **CONCLUSION (2)**

- We are not promised freedom from trials in the short term
- But we are promised victory in the long term
- We need not live in fear but in power
- Our enemies are defeated
- But we must actively put our trust in Jesus our Refuge and Strength
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