

# *“Safe in His Arms”*

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## *Psalm 91*

*This faith filled and intimate psalm describes the confidence that the believer may have through this journey of life even when faced with all types of trials and difficulties. The psalm speaks about the believer who abides in God and the promised security that is found only in Him.*

- ❖ **Vs. 1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide in the shadow of the Almighty.** (John 15:4 *Dwell in Me and I will dwell in you. Live in Me and I will live in you.*)

**He** - Anyone who so ever - **Dwells** - to sit down, remains, stays, to have one's home (abode); to possess a place and live there in.

**Secret place** - a hiding place... with God, secrecy ... with God

**Another way to say it:** He who takes up permanent residence in secrecy with God; He who makes the secret place of God his abiding place at all times (Matt 6:6; Matt 6:18). **This one is more than just a visitor with God, he is the one who lives with God and lives for God alone. This is a lifestyle of intimate communion; prayer and obedience to God (spiritual intimacy).** Jesus exemplified this lifestyle. He lived it fully. God becomes your dwelling place.

**This is much more than just regular prayer times, although regular “secret” times of prayer are needed (Matt.6:6) and help sustain our communion with Him.** Jesus sustained his communion with the Father by often having secret time where he would retreat to the mountain alone or depart while it was not yet day (Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16). So we too must follow His example if we are to dwell in the “secret place” with the Most High God.

The “dwelling” in the “secret place” is of critical essence. Making God our dwelling place is the condition upon which all the promises up to verse 13 rest.

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**Matthew Henry commentary:** It is the character of a true believer that he dwells in the secret place of the Most High; **he is at home in God**, returns to God, and reposes in him as his rest; ... and makes heart-work of the service of God, worships within the veil, and loves to be alone with God, to converse with him in solitude.

**Most High** - “*Elyown*”- The Highest; a name of God; Most High God; The Lord Most High

**Shall Abide** - shall lodge, be firmly fixed, shall remain, and spend the night under the “shadow.” **Shadow** - shade (as of protection); to have a protective covering

**Almighty** - *Shadday* - most powerful; when it appears as El Shaddai it means God Almighty - Almighty God, the Most Powerful One, will be your Covering.

**Matthew Henry commentary:** A great truth laid down in general, that all those who live a life of communion with God are safe under His protection, and may therefore keep a holy serenity and security of mind at all times.

For the one who trust in and dwells in God fear is to have no place.

In the “shadow of the Almighty” refers to the protection the believer has when **God Almighty, the Most Powerful One, is very near and present with you.** Jesus explains in the gospel of Matthew how the Father gives His attention to the sparrow. He is mindful and sovereign over the sparrow that seemingly is insignificant. How much more will He watch over and overshadow the one who takes his refuge in Him; who has faithful communion with Him?

**Matt 10:29-31** What is the price of two sparrows—one copper coin? But not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. **So don't be afraid;** you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.

❖ **Vs.2 I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.”**

Faith must be proclaimed. I must say! We must not be silent. We must stand and speak that which we believe as the psalmist declares, “I will say of the Lord.”

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**2 Corinthians 4:13** And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," **we also believe and therefore speak.**

The devil must hear it. Those around us must know it. For those who utterly rely on the Lord our faith must have a voice. The Lord is a secure defense for those who take refuge in Him. We must speak it! **That which is in our heart must come out of our mouth. For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. (Matt. 12:34)**

**Romans 10:10** With the heart one believes... with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

**Several definite terms for security “are spoken” here:** shadow (protection under His wings); refuge (safe place; source of help and comfort in times of trouble) and fortress (stronghold; **fortified place of exceptional security**; protecting one from attack of the enemy)

**My God in Him I will trust:** (Amp) My God; on Him I lean and rely, and in Him I confidently trust!

❖ **Vs. 3 Surely He shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler (hunter/trapper) and the deadly pestilence.**

**God is our Deliverer!** We must know this. We must believe this. We must confess and expect this.

Jesus tells us to pray to the Father ... “deliver us from evil”; “deliver us from the evil one.” It is in the will of God to be our Deliverer from all manner of evil.

**Snare of the fowler:** He shall save you from **Satan’s traps and temptations to destroy you** (as you dwell in the secret place).

**Deadly pestilence:** He shall deliver you from the **fatal epidemic of sin** which is out to destroy you. This promise is for the one who remains close to the Lord; for the one who dwells in the secret place with God.

**Matthew Henry commentary:** This promise is for the natural life also, and is often fulfilled in our preservation from those dangers which are very threatening and very near, while yet we ourselves are not apprehensive of them, any more than the bird is of the snare of the fowler. We owe it, more than we are sensible, to the care of the

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divine Providence that we have been kept from infectious diseases and out of the hands of the wicked and unreasonable.

**Ps 18:2** The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust...

❖ **Vs.4 He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler.**

This is a very tender metaphor descriptive of God’s desire to take His own close to Himself and care for them. As the parent bird protects its young from danger and the mother hen gathers her chicks unto herself to protect them from birds of prey, so the Lord similarly offers tender care and protection for those who will put their trust in Him.

**Matt 23:37-38** "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God's messengers! **How often** I have wanted to **gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn't let me.**

**His “Truth” means:** 1) His faithfulness to be there in our time of need; 2) His Word (Bible) This represents a double armor in time of battle.

**His truth is our shield and buckler:** We not only receive tender protection but a strong defense.

There is double armor for the one who relies upon the Lord- God’s faithfulness and His Word. We have a shield in our hand and an all surrounding protective coat of mail—such is the meaning of the word "buckler." To quench the fiery darts of Satan, God’s “truth” is the most effective defensive measures we have. Let us go into battle dressed for the war, and we shall be safe in the thickest of the fight.

**Eph 6:16** “... above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.”

❖ **Vs 5-6 You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.**

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**You shall Not Be Afraid!** Faith and fear cannot exist together. **Fear takes over our emotions when unbelief in God’s care and goodness fill our thoughts.** Fear is expecting bad things to happen. Fear is an open door to the work of the devil. On the other hand, faith believes in God and his goodness in every situation. Faith is trusting God to work things out for our good. Faith is belief that God is good and He has good coming our way as we walk uprightly and trust in Him.

**Hebrews 13:5-6** For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. ...

**Isa 41:10** Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

These destructive forces and calamities mentioned in Psalm 91 can be viewed as the judgments of God sent to his enemies such as, the Egyptian plagues; therefore, they are not directed to those who live in communion with the Lord and will not touch them.

**Ps 112:6-8** Those who are righteous... They do not fear bad news; they confidently trust the Lord to care for them. They are confident and fearless and can face their foes triumphantly.

**Gill’s Exposition:** Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night: The terrible things that happen in the night; as fire, storms and tempests, invasion of enemies, murders, thefts, and, robberies: a good man, **when he has committed himself and his family to the care and protection of God by prayer, has no reason to be anxiously careful of these things, or to indulge a slavish fear about them.**

❖ **Vs. 7-8 A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you. Only with your eyes shall you look, and see the reward of the wicked.**

A thousand falling alludes to the judgments of God on his enemies. Only with thy eyes shall thou behold and see the just reward of the wicked, which perhaps refers to the destruction of the first-born of Egypt by the pestilence, **for the sprinkling of the blood of the lamb secured the first-born of Israel when thousands fell all around them in Egypt.**

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- ❖ **Vs. 9-10 Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place, No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague (displeasure/punishment) come near your dwelling;**

This was the case with Israel when the Egyptian first-born were smitten (Ex 12:23-30). The blood of the lamb applied to the door post of each dwelling protected all within from the angel of death. So be it! And thank God for the safety promised to the household who believes and applies the blood of the lamb to the door post of its house by faith.

**Spurgeon’s Commentary:** The psalmist in these verses assures the man who dwells in God that he shall be secure ... the Lord rewards faith wherever he sees it. He who makes God his refuge shall find him to be a refuge; he who dwells in God shall find his dwelling protected. We must make the Lord our habitation by choosing Him for our trust and rest, and then we shall receive immunity from harm; no evil shall touch us personally, and no stroke of judgment shall assail our household. ...Get into God and you dwell in all good, and ill is banished far away.

It is impossible that any ill should happen to the man who is beloved of the Lord; the most crushing calamities can only shorten his journey and hasten him to his reward. Evil to him is no ill, but turns for good in a mysterious form. ... Reproach is his honor; death is his gain... No evil in the strict sense of the word can happen to him, for everything is overruled by God for good. Happy is he who is in such a case. He is secure where others are in peril, he lives where others die.

- ❖ **Vs. 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.**

Satan used this scripture when speaking to Jesus in Matt. 4:6. Satan was well aware that if Jesus was the Son of God that He as well as all true children of God could confidently rely on the protection of the Father and His holy angels.

**A Parallel Scripture: Psalm 34:7** The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them. O taste and see that the LORD is good; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him...

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Angels are spirit messengers of God who carry out His will concerning His people. Among many assignments they are known for keeping God’s people out of physical danger, as in the cases of Daniel and the lions; his three friends in the fiery furnace (Daniel 3 and 6). Also, for delivering God’s people out of danger once they’re in it. Angels released the apostles from prison in Acts 5, and repeated the process for Peter in Acts 12.

**Matthew Henry:** The charge is given to the angels concerning the saints. ... He shall give his angels a charge over thee, not only over the church in general, but over every particular believer. The charge is to keep thee in all “thy” ways; here is a limitation of the promise: They shall keep thee in thy ways, that is, “as long as thou keepest in the way of thy duty;” those that go out of that way put themselves out of God's protection.

❖ *Vs. 13 You shall tread on the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shall you trample under feet.*

**The lion and the adder:** The fierce roaring lion and the venomous serpent are both representations of Satan. The young lion and the dragon are also symbolic of Satan himself. As believers we have victory over Satan. This victory comes through Christ death on the cross; his resurrection and accession into heaven. We have His shed blood; we have His name; we have His Holy Spirit; we have His word; we have His presence; we have praise on our tongues. We are equipped to defeat the enemy.

Scripture tells us that Christ has triumphed over Satan at the cross and stripped him of his weapons (Colossians 2:15). Those of us who are in Christ have authority and power over all the wiles of the devil. We need to take this stand and see Satan flee.

**1 Peter 5:8-9** Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith.

❖ *Vs. 14 Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name.*

**God Himself is speaking hear!** (A divine oracle) God himself now speaks by the mouth of his prophet, and makes promises in his own Person to assure the one who dwells in Him that He will be his Deliverer and Helper. Let’s take this to heart.

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**Because he hath set his love upon me** - He has become attached to me; has united himself with me. The Hebrew word expresses the strongest attachment, and is equivalent to our expression "to fall in love." *It refers here to the fact that God is the object of supreme affection on the part of his people.* (Because we have fallen in love with God... the promises are sure.)

**Therefore, will I deliver him** - I will save him from trouble and danger. I will cause him to escape. I will bring him into a secure place. God will provide a way of escape. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

**I will set him on high** - I will place him above the situation that he may fulfill my holy will. I will give him honor. I will place him out of the reach of his enemies and exalt him, because he hath known my name. I will make him inaccessible high (from capture).

**Because he hath known my name** - Because he has known me (an intimate knowing through relationship) that is, he understands my true character, and has learned to love me as Jehovah God... The Great I Am, Jesus!

❖ *Vs. 15 He shall call on me, I will answer; I will be with him in trouble. I will deliver him and honor him.*

**He shall call upon me....** When he calls out to me or calls out my name in prayer I will answer him.

**I will be with him in trouble** - Literally, "I am with him" as soon as the trouble comes.

**I will deliver him** - For his good I may permit him to be tested for a time, but I will deliver him.

**And honor him** - "I will glorify him." I will load him with honor; that honor that comes from God. I will even show to men how highly I prize the ones who set their love on me.

❖ *Vs. 16 With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation.*

**With long life** - Literally, with "length of days" will I fill him up, bless him and satisfy him. The meaning is that I will give him length of days as he desires, or until he is fully satisfied with life.

**Show him My salvation** - I will reveal to you and cause you to experience salvation.



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**Salvation: yeshuw`ah** – salvation, deliverance - a) Welfare, prosperity, health b) Deliverance c) Salvation (by God) d) Victory

The blessing of salvation from Jesus is certainly for this life, but most certainly and completely extends beyond the grave! Amen and thank you Jesus!