

Psalm 91: God's Providence



Psalm 91 (90) (Mode 3. 3....12 / 4.....271)

A Psalm about the importance of being
under the protection of the Lord

You who live in the shelter of the Most High (‘elyon, עֶלְיוֹן) who abide in the shade of the Almighty (shadday, שַׁדַּי), say to the Lord, ‘My refuge, my fortress, my God (‘elohim, אֱלֹהִים) in whom I trust.’

Yes, God will deliver you from the snare of the hunter and from the deadly pestilence.

God will cover you like a nesting bird.

God’s wings will shelter you.

You will not fear the terrors of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the pestilence that stalks in the dark,
nor the destruction that strikes at noon.

A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right,
but you, you will not be harmed,
for God's faithful love is your armour.

You have only to open your eyes
to see how the wicked are repaid.

You have made the Lord your refuge,
the Most High your dwelling.

‘The eyes of the Lord are on those who love him, a mighty shield and strong support, a shelter from scorching wind and a shade from noonday sun, a guard against stumbling and a help against falling’(Sirach 34:19).

No evil will befall you,
no scourge come near your tent.
For God will command the angels
to guard you in all your ways.

‘I am going to send an angel in front of you, to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared’(Exodus 23:20)

‘I will send an angel before you,
and I will drive out the Canaanites’(Exodus 33:2).

‘The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them’(Psalm 34:7).

They will bear you up on their hands
lest you dash your foot against a stone.
You will tread on the lion and the adder.
You will trample on the young lion and the serpent.

‘See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes
and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy;
and nothing will hurt you’(Luke 10:10)

‘These signs will accompany those who believe: by
using my name they will cast out demons ... they
will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink
any deadly thing, it will not hurt them’(Mark 16:17-18).

I rescue those who cling to me in love.

I protect those who know me.

When I hear their cry,

I answer: 'I am with you.'

I am with them in trouble,

I rescue them and bring them glory.

With a long life I satisfy them,

and show them my power to save.

‘Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you’(1Peter 5:8-10).