

“How to find peace in the sovereign loving protection of God” (Psalm 91)

Verses to Remember: “A thousand may fall at your side And ten thousand at your right hand, But it shall not approach you. ⁸You will only look on with your eyes And see the retaliation against the wicked. ⁹For you have made the LORD, my refuge, The Most High, your dwelling place” (Psalm 91:7-9).

Notes and Scripture references

- What is pictured here may have its grounding in a historical incident in the history of Israel. There is a strong connection to God sparing the tents of the Israelites while bringing judgment on Egypt who held them in slavery. Moses may have written this having seen God’s deliverance. This Psalm is anonymous but Psalm 90 was written by Moses and there are verbal and thematic links, including that of God as our dwelling place (90:1; 91:9).

How to find peace in the sovereign loving protection of God

1. Know that God protects through his power and providence

- Our God is the “Most High” the “Almighty.” There is no one who is higher that we should fear. There is nothing God cannot do.
- Even though God can fully protect us, we should not test God, as Satan tempted Jesus to do (Matt 4:6-7 cf. Ps 91:11-12). We should take precautions and be wise while still trusting in the sovereign loving protection of God.
- Even though God can fully protect, he allows some of his followers to fall, and yet the death of his godly ones are precious in his sight (Ps 116:15).
- Jesus faced the threat of death many times (e.g. Luke 4:29-30), but was protected with precision until it was his time to atone for our sins (John 7:6, 12:23). In the meantime, Jesus did not test God (cf. John 8:59). And so we can trust in that same precision of God’s sovereign protection, that there is nothing to fear. We should trust in God and his sovereign timing, being content with what he allows.

2. Know that God protects through angels

- Angeles are charged with protecting and guarding us. They are stronger than the young lion, and so we should not fear.
- Angeles are very real, and are mentioned over 250 times in Scripture. Know that you have angels watching out for you, to guard you.

3. Know that God protects by removing the taste of death

- Ultimately the long life that we are guaranteed is eternal life; this is that salvation “*y’shua*” that we are shown in verse 16. Not only are we saved, but verse 15 tells us that we are also honored. What an amazing loving God who honors those he saves. To be rescued we are to make God our dwelling place (vv. 1, 9). Speak your trust to him (v.2). Love him, know his name, and call on him (vv. 14-15).