

In God We Trust

Psalm 91

- S&P downgrades the US credit rating to AA+ (if you're going to buy/house a car it better be today)
- Congressional Disapproval Reaches Highest Level on Record
- Many from Seal Team 6 died when their helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan
- Mysterious Orange Goo Baffles Alaska Village
- Protests in North London, Syria, Iran, Spain, Yemen, Egypt, Lybia, Greece, and Israel
- Grizzly Bear Mauls Hiker at Glacier National Park
- Ground Turkey with Salmonella May Still Be in US Homes
- Mexican town's entire police force quits because of the cartels
- Dallas hires their first Aussie cheerleader

Do you ever worry? What kinds of things do we worry about? (economy, Iran, N. Korea, Al Qaeda, terrorism, pedofiles, TAKS scores)

Are you a worrier? Do you know a chronic worrier? I do. One of our close relatives is a chronic worrier... mostly about her family. She's always worried about their future, their economic situation, what they will do if something bad happens, what if something bad happens, etc. When it is at its worst, you can see it eat her up like a wild animal... devouring her joy and peace.

Does worrying about our problems help? Why do we do it?

List of fears

Acrophobia – fear of heights

Thanatophobia – fear of death

Arachibutyrophobia - Fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of the mouth.

Aerophobia- Fear of swallowing air

Bibliophobia- Fear of books.

Alliumphobia- Fear of garlic.

Coulrophobia- Fear of clowns.

Amathophobia- Fear of dust.

Phronemophobia- Fear of thinking

Barophobia- Fear of gravity.

Panophobia- Fear of everything

What causes fear? (not being in control, etc.)

Luther said of Psalm 91, "This is the most distinguished jewel among all the psalms of consolation." Psalm 91 is a psalm that has carried missionaries through the darkest storms. This is a psalm that reminds us that we should not trust in ourselves but in the Lord for He is our refuge in time of trial.

When you take your eyes off of God, what do you trust in? I tend to trust in the government, our military might, my bank account. Yet, I know of people that have lost everything and been millionaires. I've read of societies that have fallen from within while they were strong.

Who do you trust in when trouble comes?

2 Warnings / 1 Truth

1. Psalm 91 is the psalm of choice for those going into battle or danger of any kind but it should not be viewed as a lucky charm.
2. This psalm is not a promise that nothing bad will happen or that you will always be delivered from adversity. Moses was going through suffering in Ps 90. Paul (2 Tim 3:12) and Jesus (John 15:18-21) both warned of persecution.

Truth - Security only lies in Yahweh whether our deliverance comes in this life or the next.

1-4 — Security

¹ *Whoever dwells in the **shelter** of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.*

² *I will say of the LORD, "He is my **refuge** and my **fortress**, my God, in whom I trust."*

³ *Surely he will **save** you from the fowler's*

snare and from the deadly pestilence.

⁴ *He will **cover** you with his feathers, and under his **wings** you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your **shield** and rampart.*

1. *Most High* is a title which cuts every threat down to size;
2. *Almighty* (Shaddai) is the name which sustained the homeless patriarchs who remembered His covenant while Israel was enslaved by the Egyptians (Ex. 6:3);
3. *The Lord* (Yahweh) assured Moses that "I am" and "I am with you" (Ex. 3:14, 12);
4. "God" is made intimate by the possessive "*my God*" (Kidner, *Ps.*, 332)

God is the focus not us. → Shelter. Refuge. Fortress. Wings. Shield.

This gives the picture of being hunted. A Mother bird with metal armor. She tucks her young under her wings. This metaphor shows the Father's tender love as well as His toughness.

What are the different things that we hide in? (finances, friends, family, kids, etc.) Yet, the Lord is the only true refuge.

5-8 — Confidence

⁵ *You will not fear the terror of **night**, nor the **arrow** that flies by day,*

⁶ *nor the **pestilence** that stalks in the **darkness**, nor the **plague** that destroys at midday.*

⁷ *A thousand may fall at your side,*

ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.

⁸ *You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.*

Fear of kids

Johns Hopkins University study in the 1960s

1. Animals
2. Being in a dark room
3. High places
4. Strangers
5. Loud noises.

Today

1. Terrorism (Al Qaeda)
2. War
3. Disease
4. Divorce
5. Death

Truth is so are adults!

Why do you think people's fears have changed over the years? (TV, news) ***How can we combat these influences?***

What does fear do to us?

Effects of fear:

1. Abraham's fear caused him to lie concerning the true identity of Sarah as his wife (Gen. 12:11-13; 20:11).
2. Moses was afraid to go to Egypt and lead Israel out of captivity (cf. Ex. 3–4).
3. The Israelites feared the “giants” in Canaan and did not possess the land God promised (Num. 13–14).

This promise was graphically etched into Israel's memory on the bloody night of the first Passover. The plagues were poured out on the Egyptians, but the Israelites who trusted in Yahweh were saved (Ex 7–12). Now from our view, Jesus is our Passover lamb. When we trust in Him, we will be delivered here or in eternity.

9-16 (Dan. 6/Luke 10:19/Josh 1:9)

⁹ *If you say, “The LORD is my **refuge**,”*

*and you make the Most High your **dwelling**,*

¹⁰ *no harm will overtake you,*

no disaster will come near your tent.

¹¹ *For he will command his **angels** concerning you to **guard** you in all your ways;*

¹² *they will **lift you up** in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.*

¹³ *You will tread on the lion and the cobra;
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.*

¹⁴ *“Because he **loves me**,” says the LORD, “I will **rescue** him; I will **protect** him, for he **acknowledges my name**.*

¹⁵ *He will **call on me**, and **I will answer him**;*

*I will **be with him** in trouble,*

*I will **deliver** him and **honor him**.*

¹⁶ *With **long life** I will **satisfy him**
and show him my **salvation**.”*

These final 3 verses are something of a divine oracle, prophetic pronouncement or declaration. The Lord is now the one speaking.

6 Promises

1. I will deliver him; exalt him; answer him; be with him in trouble; rescue him and give him honor; & satisfy him with a long life and show him My deliverance (Mosaic Cov. Deut 28:1-14, those who obey and trust in God tend to have longer lives).

3 Actions

1. Love God; Acknowledge God; & Call on God.

God promises to deliver and rescue those that trust in Him but that might mean that we have to endure the circumstance and then He will bring us safely through it. It may mean that He will deliver us through death. Following God is scary at times

- Jesus encouraged his disciples to count the cost (Luke 9:57-62)
- Paul warned of persecution (2 Tim 3:12).

What have you found that helps take your mind off of worry and put it on the Lord?

Application – *We should follow Yahweh, not because He will deliver us but because He is the only One who can.*