

=FAVORITE BIBLE CHAPTERS=

Lesson 16

Psalm 91

INTRODUCTION: The Psalmist was in trouble. He was running for his life when he wrote this, one of the most beautiful of all the Psalms. Many a serviceman has found refuge in the 91st Psalm. Many a person facing danger has found comfort and strength from these assuring words. Let us notice its sweet truths.

- I. THE SHADOW OF THE ALMIGHTY. See Psalm 91:1. This shadow is promised to us if we will dwell in the secret place of the most High. If we walk with God and spend time with Him, we will dwell under His shadow. This means that we will be close to Him, close enough so that His shadow can cover us. This is simply another way of saying what James said: “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you,” James 4:8a.

- II. THE WINGS AND FEATHERS OF GOD. Notice Psalm 91:4. Again and again in the Bible the Lord likens His protection of us to our being under His wings, beneath His feathers, etc. When Jesus wept over Jerusalem He said, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem...how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!” Matthew 23:37. Perhaps we could also say, “as a mother eagle would gather her eaglets under her wings.” At any rate, we are reminded that God wants us to stay under His wings, close to His heart, close to His breast. In other words, God wants us close to Him.

Ira Sankey, who was Dwight Moody’s song leader, wrote the music to which these beautiful words by William O. Cushing are sung:

Under His wings I am safely abiding;
Tho’ the night deepens and tempests are wild.
Still I can trust Him; I know He will keep me;
He has redeemed me, and I am His child.

Under His wings, what a refuge in sorrow!
How the heart yearningly turns to His rest!
Often when earth has no balm for my healing,
There I find comfort, and there I am blest.

Under His wings, O what precious enjoyment!
There will I hide till life’s trials are o’er;
Sheltered, protected, no evil can harm me;
Resting in Jesus I’m safe evermore.

Under His wings, under His wings,
Who from His love can sever?
Under His wings my soul shall abide,
Safely abide forever.

Oh, how God wants us to be close to Him and enjoy His presence!

III. THE PROTECTION FROM HARM. Notice Psalm 91:5-7. Many years ago when I was in college, I had a classmate who was reared in a preacher's home in Rome, Italy. She told of World War II and the bomb attacks in Rome. She said that when she was a little girl, nine years of age, often she would be going home from school when she would hear the roar of airplanes and the sound of bombs dropping. She would hide under a bridge or in a cave. As people were dying all around her, she would open her Bible and read Psalm 91:7, "A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee." She would hold it to her breast and claim its promises for comfort.

IV. THE CARE OF ANGELS. 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." The Bible seems to teach that when a person is saved, God charges a guardian angel to his care. The Bible plainly teaches that little children have angelic care. Notice also Psalm 34:7, "The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them." It was an angel who warned Joseph to flee into Egypt in order to protect the Baby Jesus from death. In Hebrews the writer reminds us that angels are ministering spirits to minister to the needs of God's people.

There are two groups of angels in Heaven. One group is under Michael, an archangel. The other group is under Gabriel, an archangel. Originally there were three archangels, but Lucifer, the third archangel, sinned and was cast out of Heaven. His angels were cast out with him. However, there are still two groups of angels under Michael and Gabriel.

The Scriptures seem to teach us that Michael is the angel who fights for Christians. It was Michael who defeated Lucifer for the body of Moses. It will be Michael who will fight Satan in the Tribulation Period. When Michael is mentioned in the Bible, he is mentioned as a fighter. His angels fight for Christians.

Then there is Gabriel. In the Bible Gabriel is always the messenger. His angels are heavenly messengers. So God has given us heavenly fighters and heavenly messengers to minister to our needs. An angel fed Elijah. In Matthew 4:11 the angels came to minister to Jesus. An angel opened the gate for Peter when he was in prison. In World War II hundreds of soldiers testified that an angel came and held the German forces back. Thank God for His care in giving to us guardian angels.

V. THE ANSWER TO PRAYER. What is the promise to the one who walks close with God, who trusts Him for care, who leans upon Him, who dwells under the shadow of His wings? Notice Psalm 91:14-16, "Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation." Here is a blessed promise that God will answer the prayers of those who walk with Him.

Think of all the prayer promises you can. Read Psalm 37:1-4; Jeremiah 33:3; and John 14:13, 14. Claim these verses as your own. Of course, all these are predicated upon the blessed fact that we walk with God, dwell close with Him, and abide under the shadow of the Almighty.