

Thursday, 29th July 2021

Dear Church Family,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Psalm 91:1 -16

- Declaration**     **1** He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High  
                              Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2** I will say of the Lord, "*He is my refuge and my fortress;  
My God, in Him I will trust.*"
- Danger**           **3** Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler  
                              *And* from the perilous pestilence.
- Deliverance**    **4** He shall cover you with His feathers,  
                              *And* under His wings you shall take refuge;  
                              His truth *shall be your* shield and buckler.
- Danger**           **5** You shall not be afraid of the terror by night,  
                              *Nor* of the arrow *that* flies by day,  
**6** *Nor* of the pestilence *that* walks in darkness,  
                              *Nor* of the destruction *that* lays waste at noonday.
- 7** A thousand may fall at your side,  
                              *And* ten thousand at your right hand;  
                              *But* it shall not come near you.
- Deliverance**    **8** Only with your eyes shall you look,  
                              *And* see the reward of the wicked.
- 9** Because you have made the Lord, *who is* my refuge,  
                              *Even* the Most High, your dwelling place,
- Danger**           **10** No evil shall befall you,  
                              *Nor* shall any plague come near your dwelling;
- Deliverance**    **11** For He shall give His angels charge over you,  
                              To keep you in all your ways.
- 12** In *their* hands they shall bear you up,  
                              Lest you dash your foot against a stone.
- Danger**           **13** You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra,  
                              The young lion and the serpent you shall trample  
                              underfoot.
- Deliverance**    **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.
- Declaration**    **15** He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him;  
                              I *will be* with him in trouble;  
                              I will deliver him and honour him.
- 16** With long life I will satisfy him,  
                              *And* show him My salvation."

As we continue through Psalm 91, there is a pattern found in verses 1-4, that is repeated in the final verses 5-16. The Psalm begins with a bold declaration about the safety that God provides, conditional upon us learning to dwell In the secret place; "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of

the Almighty” (v1). Upon this condition the Psalmist is able to “say of the Lord, He is my refuge and fortress; My God, in Him I will trust” (v2). He then goes on to speak of the dangers we will face due to “the snare of the fowler and the perilous pestilence” (v3), before reminding us that deliverance comes when “He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge and His truth shall be your shield and buckler” (v4). The Psalm begins with a declaration (vv1-2), followed by danger and then deliverance, repeating this until the final declaration in verses 15 and 16.

With this pattern in mind, let’s take a look at what it says about the dangers we will face. The dangers are the snare of the fowler and the perilous pestilence (v3), the terror by night nor the arrow by day (v5), pestilence nor destruction (v6), a thousand who fall and ten thousand (v7), no evil nor plague (v10), and the lion and the cobra (v13). Each of these produce fear, insecurity and anxiety in us, which causes us to lose hope and peace. When this happens what do we do?

The passages that I have called deliverance, tell us how God would want us to respond to the dangers. Here are the ways in which God delivers us; covering us with His feathers and under His wings take refuge, His truth our shield (v4), will see the reward of the wicked because He is our refuge and dwelling (v8-9), Gives His angels charge over us and in their hands the bear us up (v11-12), and because we love Him, He will deliver us and set us on high (v14). Each of these acts of deliverance counter the fear, insecurity, and anxiety and produce in us courage, security, and calm to restore hope and peace. When danger comes we are created to turn to our God in trust that He alone is able to deliver us.

The final declaration in verses 15-16 inspires hope and confidence in our God.

**15** “He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him;  
I will be with him in trouble;  
I will deliver him and honour him.

**16** With long life I will satisfy him,  
And show him My salvation.”

These are wonderful promises given to those who learn the truth of verses 1-2.

**1** He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High  
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

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

Blessings to everyone,

Don

PS. I have inserted the declaration, danger, and deliverance in the left side margin of the Scripture on page 1 to make it easier to follow what I said.