

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: May 17, 2020

Title: "Under His Wings"

Text: Psalm 91:1-16

INTRODUCTION:

"This is a noble psalm of trust which can rightly be compared with Psa. 46. It has been the comfort and source of strength for believers in all sorts of situations. It has been committed to memory by many and used faithfully by generation after generation." (**H. C. Leupold**)

- It celebrates, with considerable variety and beauty of expression, God's loving and watchful care, and the perfect peace and security of those who make Him their refuge.... It's Paul's fervent exclamation: "If God be for us, who can be against us?" expressed in rich and varied poetry. (**Perowne**)

The changes of person (obscured in some modern versions), from 'I' to 'you' and on to the divine 'I', mark the divisions of the psalm & are indicated in the three main headings suggested here.

MY REFUGE (vv. 1-2, 9b)

These opening verses set out the basic theme of the whole Psalm: the Lord is a secure defense for those who take refuge in Him.

Take note of the . . .

1. Four **titles** of God

Significant for they stress His power as the sovereign ruler of the world:

Most High (El-Elyon)

Almighty (El-Shaddai)

LORD (Yahweh)

My God (Eloha)

2. Four **terms** for security

These metaphors vividly portray divine protection!

The **shelter** of the Most High

The **shadow** of the Almighty

My **refuge**

My **fortress**

YOUR REFUGE (vv. 3-13)

The second personal pronoun "you" or "your" is singular 22x throughout. Note the kind of protection the Lord provides . . .

1. _____ protection (vv. 3-6)
2. _____ protection (vv. 7-10)
"But to YOU it will not come near" (ver. 7b). This is a statement of exact, minute providence, not a charm against adversity.
3. _____ protection (vv. 11-13)
In Matt. 4:6 (cp. Lk. 4:10-11), the devil quotes these verses (vv. 11-12). He denounces the idea as "testing" God.

GOD'S PLEDGE (vv. 14-16)

PROBLEM:

Some argue that the teachings of the psalm are simply not true. They think of someone who was not protected from or delivered from tragedy & conclude on that basis that this psalm is mistaken. What are we to say about this?

- 1) Most of the time God does keep us from tragedy.

Calvin comments: "When we look back on our life from the perspective of eternity, we are going to see that the power of Satan was so great, that the weakness of our flesh was feeble, and that the hostility of the world was so strong, that every day of our lives—if God had not intervened—we would never have made it through a day."

- 2) Sometimes God allows tragedies to come upon us for our good.

Matthew Henry comments: "Though trouble or affliction befall thee, yet there shall be no real evil in it, for it shall come from the love of God and shall be sanctified; and it shall come, not for thy hurt, but for thy good; and though, for the present, it be not joyous but grievous, yet, in the end, it shall yield so well that thou thyself shall own; no evil befell thee."

- 3) When God does allow something hurtful to come into our lives, He is there to strengthen us and to help us bear it.

1 COR. 10:13: "No testing (trial; temptation) has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and He will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing He will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it."