

CHARITY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

ANSWERS

In the Shadow of the Almighty: A Study of Trust and Safety in Psalm 91
The Study of Psalm 91

1. What are the key divisions or themes in Psalm 91, and how do they contribute to its overall message?

ANSWER: The structure of Psalm 91 develops themes of trust, protection, and divine faithfulness.

Psalm 91:1-2	Declaration of Trust or Trust and Assurance. God is refuge and fortress. A foundation of trust in God's ability to provide security.
Psalm 91:3-8	Promise of Protection or Divine Protection from Dangers. Shares how God will deliver and protect the faithful from specific types of dangers such as deadly perils and diseases, from the terror by night or attacks by day. Reemphasize the security and peace in trusting God.
Psalm 91:9-10	Promise of Deliverance and Care or Assurance of Security. No harm to those who trust God receive divine protection.
Psalm 91:11-13	Angelic Protection and Victory Over Adversaries. God's promise of angelic guardianship and victory over adversaries, lions, and serpents. Overcoming challenges.
Psalm 91:14-16	God's Personal Promise and Response to the Faithful. God assures the faithful of His love and protection. God promises deliverance, honor, and long life.

The overall message is a comprehensive (complete, full, all-inclusive) picture of God as a source of ultimate security, protection, and deliverance. From trust to promises of safety, protection and personal affirmation from God. Each section builds on the previous verses and themes and reinforces the message of being steadfast in trusting God to ensure protection and care.

2. What do the various names and titles for God signify in Psalm 91? How do these names shape our understanding of God's nature and role in the psalm?

ANSWER: Most High, Almighty, Lord, and God.

Psalm 91:1

Most High (Elyon) signifies God's supreme authority and exalted position above all other powers. It emphasizes God's sovereignty (power, control, ruler). Other passage references for Most High God: Psalm 17:17, 78:35, Genesis 14:18-20. The name reassures believers that God is in control of all circumstances and is exalted above all earthly and spiritual forces.

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Almighty (Shaddai) reflects God's all-sufficient (adequate, omnipotence, appropriate) power. It highlights God's ability to provide and protect, and ability to overcome any obstacles, and is capable of fulfilling His promises and defending His people from any threat. Other passage references: Revelations 1:8 and Genesis 17:1.

Psalm 91:2

Lord (Yahweh) is His personal name revealed to Moses. It represents God's covenant relationship with His people, signifying His faithfulness and commitment. Other passage references: Exodus 3:14, Genesis 2:4, Psalm 23:1, and Matthew 22:27.

God (Elohim) represents God's power and majesty as the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. It highlights His divine authority and His role as the ruler of all creation. The name reminds believers of God's power as the Creator who has authority over everything and everyone. Other passage references: Genesis 1:1, 1:26, 2:4, and John 1:1.

3. Psalm 91 uses vivid images and themes, such as the "shadow of the Almighty" and "refuge and fortress." How do these images and themes help convey the psalm's message of protection?

Psalm 91:1 Shadow of the Almighty

Image: The shadow of the Almighty symbolizes closeness (nearness) and God's covering. A shadow is a protective barrier from the sun's heat. God's shadow is a place of safety (protection).

Psalm 91:2 Refuge and Fortress

Image: A refuge is a safe place of shelter and fortress represent a stronghold or a fortified place that provides defense against attacks. God is a protective shelter and a powerful defense. God provides a secure place where one can seek safety from danger.

Psalm 91:3 Snare of the Fowler

Image: A snare refers to a trap set to catch birds (fowlers are those who trap birds). God protects believers from subtle and insidious dangers that might be unseen or unexpected. God's covers the dangers that are not immediately apparent or easily avoided.

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Psalm 91:6 Pestilence that Stalks in Darkness

Image: Pestilence refers to deadly diseases, and the idea of it “stalking in darkness” suggests a stealthy and pervasive threat. God protection extends to the most insidious threats, including those that are difficult to see or predict. God provides safety from both overt and covert dangers.

Psalm 91:13 Lion and Cobra

Image: Lions and cobras are symbols of dangerous and powerful threats. God’s protection is powerful enough to overcome the most challenging opponents. God's safeguard extends to triumph over significant and terrifying dangers.

Psalm 91:16 Long Life and Salvation

Image: The promise of "long life" and "salvation" suggests physical preservation and spiritual deliverance and well-being. Conveys a sense of lasting security and eternal care, offering both temporal and spiritual assurances.