

**Tuesday, June 13, 2023 • Read Psalm 91**

Questions from the Scripture text: Where does the person in this Psalm dwell (v1a)? Under what does he abide (v1b)? What does he say of Whom (v2)? From what dangers will God deliver him (v3)? What image does v4a–b use for his safety? What, especially, equips this person (v4c)? What won't intimidate him (v4–6)? What sorts of things come upon others as their reward (v7a–b)? But what is the experience of the one who takes refuge in Yahweh (v7c–8b)? What does v9 emphasize as making the difference? When pain or illness come to a believer, in what way do they not come (v10)? What is one way that God ensures that only what He has ordained for good happens to believers (v11)? What marvelous picture does v12 give of even the believer's ordinary walking? In what other hyperbolic situation would this still be true (v13)? What do v11–13 tell us about to Whom these blessings especially belong (cf. Mt 4:6; Lk 4:10–11, Gen 3:15)? What did He (and those who are in Him) especially do (v14)? What did/will the Lord do for Him? What would He do (v15)? How would the Lord respond (v15–16)? What would the Lord give Him?

**What are the blessings of belonging to the Lord?** Psalm 91 looks forward to the opening portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these sixteen verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **belonging to the Lord means that He is our Refuge and Reward, because He is our Redemption.**

**Refuge, v1–6.** Those who belong to the Lord have Him as refuge from being hunted (v3a), from pandemic (v3b, 6a), from war (v4c, 5b), from destruction (v6b), even from terror itself (v5a). Man can flatter (and has flattered) himself about the ability to deal with all of these. But ultimately, none of these are as great a danger as the reason behind them all: our guilt before God and His wrath against sin. If we are to be truly safe from anything, we need a refuge that is as strong as God Himself. We need to have the Most High, the Almighty, as our secret place and hide-out (v1). We need to be able to say, "my" "my" "my" about the living God as in v2. This is the glorious reality for the Christian. He can say, "I am my Beloved's, and my Beloved is mine."

**Reward, v7–10.** For the believer, whatever trouble comes into the world (or even in his life) is not his "reward." It is the reward of the wicked (v8b), but it does not come into his life as an evil or plague (v10). The believer sees it (v8a), but Yahweh the Most High is still his refuge and dwelling place. It is He Himself, Who is the believer's reward. And they can know that He Who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all (cf. Rom 8:32), is giving even the things in Rom 8:35 to them for good. He is their reward.

**Redemption, v11–16.** Ultimately, this is because God and all His mercies belong to Christ both by right and by merit. v11–12 belong to Him, which is why Satan's misuse of them was such a temptation in Mt 4:6/Lk 4:10–11. But Jesus didn't give in to the temptation to "test" whether God's words would be true. He perfectly believed that they were. And so must we. The image in v12 belongs to a literal walk in the park as much as it would have to a dive off of the temple. Every footfall of a believer's step must land exactly as is good for them. Even in the most perilous situation (v13). v13 came true in an ultimate sense at the cross (cf. Gen 3:15), and it continues to come true in believers' lives (cf. Rom 16:20). Jesus has done the loving and knowing in v14, and those who believe in Him receive with Him the deliverance, raising up, answers to prayer, presence, honor, eternal life, and salvation (v14–16)!

What troubles and terrors have come into your life? How can you know if they come into your life as punishment or mercy? Who deserves for them to be mercies? How can such mercies be yours?

*Sample prayer: Lord, You are our Refuge in every trouble and terror. Christ has set His love upon You and known your Name. He did not put You or Your Word to the test. Now give us the ministry of the Spirit, that we may know and love and trust You in Christ. Grant that we would be conformed to Him, even as we worship You through Him, we ask in Christ's Name, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs: ARP91 "Who With God Most High Finds Shelter" or TPH91B "Who with God Most High Finds Shelter"**

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**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](http://hopewellarp.org))**

Psalm 91. These are God's words. He who dwells in the secret place of the most high. Shall abide under the shadow of the almighty. I will say if yahweh he is my refuge and my fortress My god and him. I will trust. Surely he felt deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence.

You should cover you with this feathers and under his wings. You shall take refuge. His truth shall be your shield and buckler. It's not be afraid of the terror by night. Nor of the era that flies by day. Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness. Nor of the destruction that lays waste, it noontday.

A thousand may fall at your side in 10 thousand at your right hand. But it shall not come near you only with your eyes so you look and see the reward of the wicked. Because you have made your way who is my refuge. Even the most high, you're dwelling place.

No evil shall befall you Nor shall only plague come near your dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over you to keep you and all your ways. And their hands. They shall bear you up. Bless you dash your foot against the stone. You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra.

The young lion and the serpent usual trample. Underfoot 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. He saw call upon me, and i will answer. I will be with him in trouble. I will deliver him and honor him with long life, how satisfy him.

And show him my salvation.

So, for the reading of gods inspired and Inertward.

When we trust in the lord. We have him as our refuge. And we have him as our reward. And this is through the redemption. That he gives us in the lord jesus. If you have, if you trust in the lord, then You have him. As you wrap your refuge, you have him.

As your safety. In the midst of travel doesn't mean you will not have trouble. But it means that god is your safety in the midstament? So, Uh, whether by night or

whether by day, Whether? Uh, attack by man. Like the arrow in verse 5. Or whether some Disease. But it comes like the Past perilous pestilence, and verse 3.

Or the Pestilence that walk some darkness for six. Or some. A great catadysmic. Event a destruction. That lays waste in noonday. In verse 6. There's nothing bad that can happen. That is. More powerful than the lord. In fact, we know, That all of these come because of our sin and The one from whom we need protection.

The most is God himself. In his wrath and so he has given himself. To be. Our refuge. And not only in strength. But also in tenderness. You see, the In the images of dwelling under his shadow. In verse 1. And him covering us. Uh, with us, uh, like a Parent bird.

Covers the chicks with. This wings or wings. So, the lord is Our refuge. We have a refuge that is as strong as Uh, god himself. And, One of the sweetest parts of having him as our refuge. Is those first person singular possessives? In verse 2, i will say of y'allah.

He is my refuge. My fortress. My god. With him, i will trust This is what you. Or to know for yourself and the lord jesus christ. And if you belong to jesus by faith, Then god is your very own. Not just that he is a refuge. That is a fortress.

So that he is a god or the god That he is yours. That you have him belongs to you. And then, when Uh, when these things do come. Into the world and in, And into. Your experience, you know, that they come to you for good. Because the lord is your reward.

And the pestilence, or the arrow, or You know, war or Disease or destruction. They don't come as your reward, although they do commas, the reward of the wicked So over seven a thousand, may fall your side 10 thousand to right hand. It's up to not come near you. You think, wait a minute, if it's at my side in my right hand, that sounds like it's near me.

He says, only with your eyes. So you look And see their award of the wicked. The more fundamental reality in. The believer's experience. Of. Painful or difficult. Things is not. The pain or the difficulty the trouble. It is whatever good the lord is doing to us. And for us in the trouble.

Because he is our reward. The trouble is not our reward. The trouble is For the believer, a mechanism by which the lord. I means by which the lord is bringing us? To our reward. Remember Even from matthew 6, Verse 34, the end of The morning determined passage from this past week.

Sufficient for the day is its own trouble. Those are God who gives us the right amount of food? The right clothing. It gives us all the right providence, including The right trouble and the right amount of it for each day. So he is, he is our reward. And here's our reward.

Through the redemption. That is in the lord jesus christ. Uh, you remember verse 11 and 12 We're used in his temptation. Look for matthew 4. And, And they do apply to christ, but he refused. To put the lord to the test. He was confident that verse 11 and 12 were true for him.

Without trying to force god, to prove that it's true. So in satan tempted him to throw himself. Off the top of the temple. Instead, you shall not put the The lord your god to the test. In fact. He was in a sense treading upon the serpent, wasn't he? In the moment that he rejected the devil, And so, Foolish devil, who's Who's attacks are always end up upon his own head.

Literally, He quotes from a psalm. In which the very next verse. That jesus had grown up singing, and praying was about him defeating the serpent. And so, he He defeats him. But not just The serpent upon all his. Upon all his enemies and You see then in verse 14.

God's delight in the Obedience of his son. Which becomes our obedience. Um, in the union of the lord jesus. It says, 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. And verse 15. Not quite precious.

Always true of christ. Except for, At the cross. In which? The wrath continued to be poured out. Upon him for our sakes. Until? It was done, it was finished. And jesus, who entrusted himself to him who judges justly? Had completed the task, then the Lord did answer him. But the lord never forsakes us.

Even though. In order for that to happen. His son one day. Was under such wrath that he rightly and truly cried out. My god. My god, why have you forsaken me? But in all of that, the lord jesus, Still was setting his love upon god. Still is knowing the name of god.

Still calling upon the name of god. And the Deliverance and honor and long life and salvation. That are his. By reward in verse 14 and 16 has 14 through 16 is by merit our hours. By redemption their hours by grace. God is. The appropriate reward for the lord jesus.

And that's what the lord jesus has earned for us. To have god as our very own. So that when trouble comes, God is our refuge. When we see it. Happening. We know that for those who don't have Christ, that's the reward, they're getting what they deserve. But that for us, we have christ god as our reward.

And so the difficulty is coming. In order to give us. Him. To get rid of those things. That are preventing us from having or enjoying himard glorifying him. As we ought. Blessed psal. Favorite. I think for many believers. I don't know if it's unholy to have. Favorite psalms? But it's One of jesus's 150 favorite songs.

And he definitely. Is one of the ones that is more. Um, overtly Uh, explicitly about him. And this brushes to us, therefore not just For the fact that Unbelievers are in trouble. This is a song. That helps us going to god. But for the sweetness of What we see of our savior's mind and experience in it.

The fellowship that it gives us with him. Let's pray.

We ask glory that your spirit would. We just know you as our reward. So that we can find. Sweet and steady and strong comfort. Whenever we rest upon you as our refuge, We praise you, lord jesus for your perfect faithfulness. For your perfect knowledge of god's love and your love for him.

And even for your experiencing, The big forsaken. So that we may be certain that we are never forsaken in you, So we pray that your spirit would stir up our faith towards you. That our minds and our hearts might might make right use of this psalm. That we would have refuge and even sweetness.

In every trouble. Granted, we ask in your precious name. Lord, jesus. Amen.