

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
PSALMS-LESSON 17
WEEK OF JANUARY 25–JANUARY 30
PSALM 91
THE SHADOW OF THE ALMIGHTY

“This Psalm describes God's ongoing sovereign protection of His people from the ever-present dangers and terrors which surround humanity. The original setting may be that of an army about to go to battle. Most of the terrors mentioned in this psalm are left undefined, no doubt intentionally, so that no kind of danger is omitted from application. Believers in every age can read this psalm to learn that nothing can harm a child of God unless Yahweh permits it. However, in light of the many references in the **Psalms** to the future messianic Kingdom (cf. especially **Pss.96-100**) this Psalm must be read as being literally fulfilled then.”

MacArthur LSB Study Bible, footnote Ps. 91

As you read and meditate on the truths of Psalm 91, pray that you will grow in continually abiding in Him through intimate, daily fellowship with Him, trusting Him through prayer, study of, meditation upon and obedience to His Word; whole heartedly trust in Him as your great and powerful protector, shield, defender and fountain of peace in the midst of threats, calamities and troubles of this life.

Read Psalm 91:1-2 Safety and Security in God's Presence

1. How is the believer's faith and trust in God described in **verses 1 and 2**?
2. In **verse 1**, what does it mean to abide (LSB) dwell (NASB) in the shelter of the Most High; to abide (LSB)(NASB) in the shadow of the Almighty? See **John 15:4-10**
3. How does the Psalmist describe God's protective care in **verses 1 and 2**?

The “*shelter of the Most High*”, the “*shadow of the Almighty*” do not refer to physical locations, but rather a relationship. It describes an intimate, daily fellowship with God, trusting in Him, obeying Him and depending entirely on Him, experiencing His care and protection.

Read Psalm 91:3-8 God's Protection From Many Dangers

4. What dangers are described in **verse 3**?
5. What does God promise the believer in **verse 4**?
6. What are the dangers in **verses 5 and 6**? What does the Lord promise and provide in **verse 5** in the face of those dangers?
7. **Verses 7 and 8** describe widespread devastation. Who are the recipients of the death and destruction?

“This interprets the death of the thousands as God's punishment for sin and places the deliverance of God's people in that context. In other words, it is not a promise that those who trust God will never die of disease or even in some military conflict, but that they will not suffer those or any other calamities as God's judgment against them for their sin. Their sin has been atoned by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Psalms Vol.2, James Montgomery Boice, pg 750

Read Psalm 91:9-13 and Romans 8:28-39 God's Protection and Provision of Ministering Angels.

8. In **verse 9**, the Psalmist restates the truths of **verses 1 and 2** underscoring the importance of that intimate trust in the Lord as our refuge and dwelling place. What does God promise in **verse 10** to those dwelling in the Most High? How does **Romans 8:28-39** help to understand these promises from an eternal perspective?

“It is impossible for any ill to happen to those who are the Lord's beloved. The most crushing calamities can only shorten the journey and hasten their reward. To them, ill is no ill, but only good in a mysterious form. Loss enriches them, sickness is their medicine, reproaches their honor, and death is their gain. No evil, in the strict sense of the word, can happen to them, for everything is overruled for good. They are secure where others are in peril; They live where others die.” Treasury of David, C.H. Spurgeon, pg.814

9. What provision and protection does God provide to the redeemed in **verses 11 and 12**? How is that promise misquoted and misused by Satan in **Matt. 4:5-7**? What is Christ's important instruction from **Matthew 4:7**?
10. The references to the lion, cobra, young lion and serpent are symbolic of wicked, dangerous and deadly forces. What victorious promise does God make?

Read Psalm 91:14-16 God Speaks to His Redeemed

11. How is the believer's relationship with the Lord described in **verse 14**? How is that similar to the description of the relationship between the Lord and the believer in **verses 1,2 and 9**?
12. How are you challenged by the descriptions of the close, intimate fellowship and trust in the Lord? What specific actions will you take to deepen your devotion to and love for the Lord?
13. What are the great promises God makes to His redeemed in **verses 14-16**? Which promises are most encouraging and helpful to you in current challenges or trials?

Psalm 91 is a call to trust in God's sovereignty and His providential care. We experience that care and protection as we live in intimate, daily fellowship with Him, trusting Him through prayer, study of, meditation upon and obedience to His Word. “The closer we cling to our Almighty Father, the more confident we are.”

Treasury of David, C.H. Spurgeon, pg.814