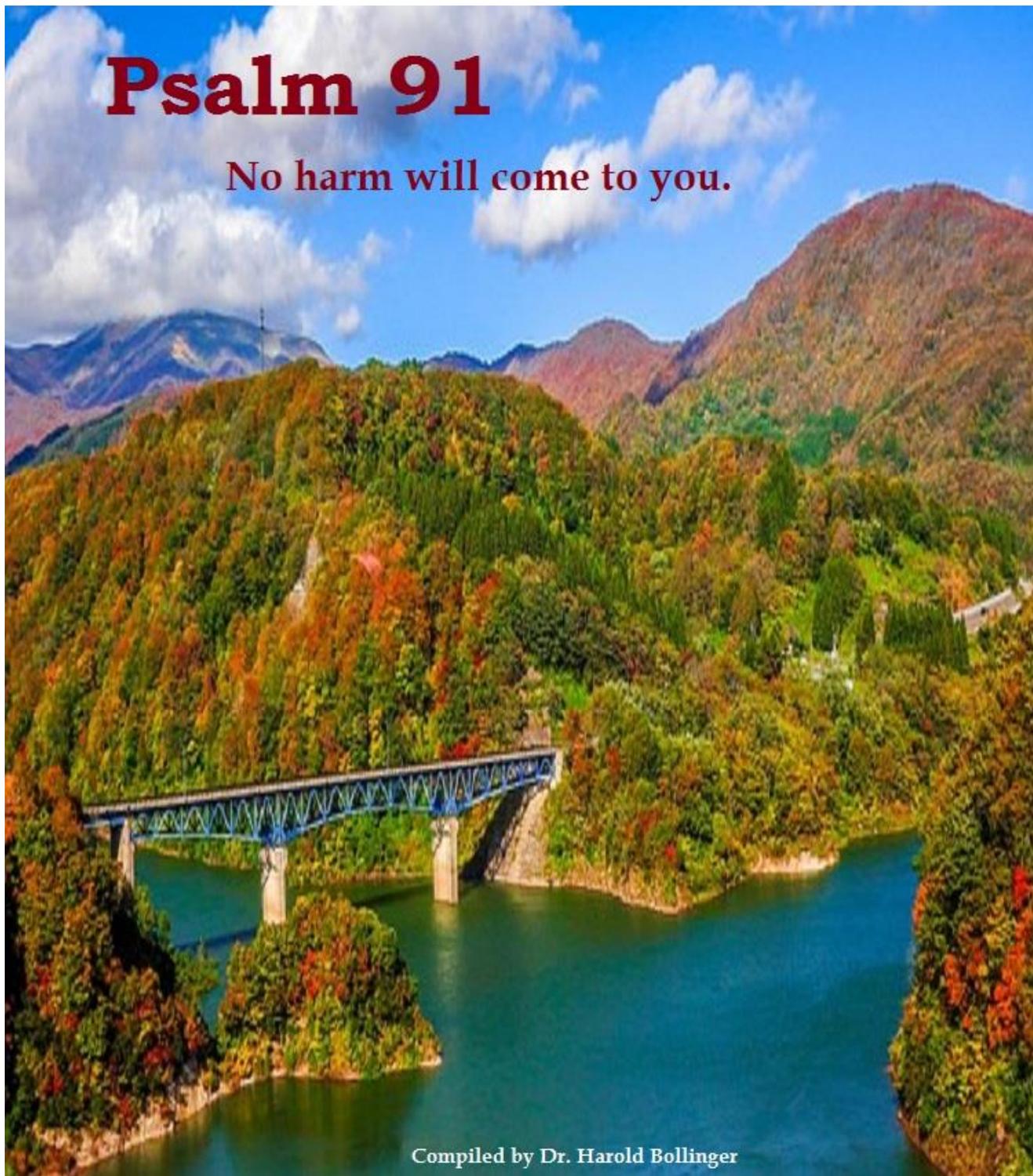


Psalm 91

No harm will come to you.



Compiled by Dr. Harold Bollinger

Psalm 91:1-16

Those who live in the shelter of the Most High
will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

This I declare of the Lord:

He alone is my refuge, my place of safety;
He is my God, and I am trusting him.

For he will rescue you from every trap
and protect you from the fatal plague.

He will shield you with his wings.
He will shelter you with his feathers.
His faithful promises are your armor and protection.

Do not be afraid of the terrors of the night,
nor fear the dangers of the day,

Nor dread the plague that stalks in darkness,
nor the disaster that strikes at midday.
Though a thousand fall at your side,

though ten thousand are dying around you,
these evils will not touch you.

But you will see it with your eyes;
will see how the wicked are punished.

If you make the Lord your refuge,
if you make the Most High your shelter,

No evil will conquer you;
No plague will come near your dwelling.

For he orders his angels
to protect you wherever you go.

They will hold you with their hands
to keep you from striking your foot on a stone.

You will trample down lions and poisonous snakes;
You will crush fierce lions and serpents under your feet!

The Lord says, "I will rescue those who love me.

I will protect those who trust in my name.

When they call on me, I will answer;

I will be with them in trouble.

I will rescue them and honor them.

I will satisfy them with a long life

and give them my salvation."

God is a shelter, a refuge when we are afraid. The writer's faith in the Almighty God as Protector would carry him through all the dangers and fears of life.

This should be a picture of our trust—trading all our fears for faith in him, no matter how intense our fears.

To do this we must "dwell" and "rest" with him (Psalm 91:1).

By entrusting ourselves to his protection and pledging our devotion to him, we will be kept safe.

Angels are involved in our protection.

One of the functions of angels is to watch over believers

Hebrews 1:14

But angels are only servants. They are spirits sent from God to care for those who will receive salvation.

The name Jesus inherited that is superior is “Son of God.” This name given to him by his Father is greater than the names and titles of the angels.

False teachers in many of the early churches taught that God could be approached only through angels. Instead of worshiping God directly, followers of these heretics revered angels.

Hebrews clearly denounces such teaching as false. Some thought of Jesus as the highest angel of God. But Jesus is not a superior angel; and, in any case, angels are not to be worshiped (see Col. 2:18; Rev. 19:1-10).

We should not regard any intermediaries or authorities as greater than Christ. Jesus is God. He alone deserves our worship.

There are examples of guardian angels in Scripture

1 Kings 19:5;

Then he lay down and slept under the broom tree. But as he was sleeping, an angel touched him and told him, "Get up and eat!"

When Elijah fled to Mount Horeb, he was returning to the sacred place where God had met Moses and had given his laws to the people. Obviously,

God gave Elijah special strength to travel this great distance—over 200 miles—without additional food. Like Moses before him and Jesus after him, Elijah fasted for 40 days and 40 nights (Deut. 9:9; Matthew 4:1-2). Centuries later, Moses, Elijah, and Jesus would meet together on a mountaintop (Luke 9:28-36).

God sent an angel to protect Daniel

Daniel 6:22

My God sent his angel to shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, for I have been found innocent in his sight. And I have not wronged you, Your Majesty."

The man or woman who trusts in God and obeys his will is untouchable until God takes him or her. To trust God is to have immeasurable peace. God, who delivered Daniel, will deliver you. Do you trust him with your life?

Angels are in the presence of the heavenly father.

Matthew 18:10

"Beware that you don't despise a single one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels are always in the presence of my heavenly Father.

Our concern for children must match God's treatment of them. Certain angels are assigned to watch over children, and they have direct access

to God. These words ring out sharply in cultures where children are taken lightly, ignored, or aborted.

If their angels have constant access to God, the least we can do is to allow children to approach us easily in spite of our far too busy schedules.

Jesus gives an example of his death

Luke 16:22

Finally, the beggar died and was carried by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried,

The Pharisees considered wealth to be a proof of a person's righteousness. Jesus startled them with this story where a diseased beggar is rewarded and a rich man is punished.

The rich man did not go to hell because of his wealth but because he was selfish, refusing to feed Lazarus, take him in, or care for him. The rich man was hardhearted in spite of his great blessings.

The amount of money we have is not as important as the way we use it. What is your attitude toward your money and possessions? Do you hoard them selfishly, or do you use them to help others?

This Lazarus should not be confused with the Lazarus whom Jesus raised from the dead in John 11.

The rich man thought that his five brothers would surely believe a messenger who had been raised from the dead. But Jesus said that if they did not believe Moses and the prophets, who spoke constantly of the duty to care for the poor, not even a resurrection would convince them.

Notice the irony in Jesus' statement; on his way to Jerusalem to die, he was fully aware that even when he had risen from the dead, most of the religious leaders would not accept him. They were set in their ways, and neither Scripture nor God's Son himself would shake them loose.

The angel comes to deliver Peter from prison.

Acts 12:7

Suddenly, there was a bright light in the cell, and an angel of the Lord stood before Peter. The angel tapped him on the side to awaken him and said, "Quick! Get up!" And the chains fell off his wrists.

God sent an angel to rescue Peter. Angels are God's messengers. They are divinely created beings with supernatural powers, and they sometimes take on human appearance in order to talk to people. Angels should not be worshiped, because they are not divine. They are God's servants.

There is no indication that one angel is assigned to each believer.

Angels can also be God's messengers

Matthew 2:13

After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up and flee to Egypt with the child and his mother," the angel said. "Stay there until I tell you to return, as Herod is going to try to kill the child.

This was the second dream or vision that Joseph received from God.

Joseph's first dream revealed that Mary's child would be the Messiah (Matthew 1:20-21).

His second dream told him how to protect the child's life.

Although Joseph was not Jesus' natural father, he was Jesus' legal father and was responsible for his safety and well-being.

Divine guidance comes only to prepared hearts. Joseph remained receptive to God's guidance.

An angels stands by Paul for protection.

Acts 27:23-24

For last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me, and he said, 'Don't be afraid, Paul, for you will surely stand trial before Caesar! What's more, God in his goodness has granted safety to everyone sailing with you.'

Why would Paul talk to the crew this way? Paul was not taunting them with an "I told you so," but was reminding them that, with God's guidance, he had predicted this very problem (Acts 27:10). In the future, they listened to him (Acts 27:30-32) and their lives were spared because of it.

Angels are not visible, except on special occasions

Numbers 22:31

Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the roadway with a drawn sword in his hand. Balaam fell face down on the ground before him.

The donkey saved Balaam's life but made him look foolish in the process, so Balaam lashed out at the donkey. We sometimes strike out at blameless people who get in our way because we are embarrassed or our pride is hurt. Lashing out at others can be a sign that something is wrong with us. Don't allow your own hurt pride to lead you to hurt others.

Jesus birth is announced.

Luke 2:9

Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terribly frightened,

God continued to reveal his Son, but not to those we might expect. Luke records that Jesus' birth was announced to shepherds in the fields. These may have been the shepherds who supplied the lambs for the temple sacrifices that were performed for the forgiveness of sin.

Here the angels invited these shepherds to greet the Lamb of God (John 1:36), who would take away the sins of the whole world forever.

What a birth announcement! The shepherds were terrified, but their fear turned to joy as the angels announced the Messiah's birth. First the shepherds ran to see the baby; then they spread the word. Jesus is *your* Messiah, *your* Savior.

Do you look forward to meeting him in prayer and in his Word each day? Have you discovered a Lord so wonderful that you can't help sharing your joy with your friends?

The greatest event in history had just happened! The Messiah had been born! For ages the Jews had waited for this, and when it finally occurred, the announcement came to humble shepherds.

The good news about Jesus is that he comes to all, including the plain and the ordinary. He comes to anyone with a heart humble enough to accept him. Whoever you are, whatever you do, you can have Jesus in your life. Don't think you need extraordinary qualifications—he accepts you as you are.

It is comforting to know that God watches over us even in times of great stress and fear.

An angel slaughtered the enemy of Israel.

2 Kings 19:35

That night the angel of the Lord went out to the Assyrian camp and killed 185,000 Assyrian troops. When the surviving Assyrians woke up the next morning, they found corpses everywhere.

God would defend Jerusalem for the sake of his honor and for David's sake in remembrance of his promise to David. Assyria had insulted God. They would not be his instrument to punish Jerusalem. What Jerusalem could not possibly do, God would do for them. God is prepared to do the impossible if we trust him enough to ask.

The Lord opened the eyes of Elijah's servant.

2 Kings 6:17

Then Elisha prayed, "O Lord, open his eyes and let him see!" The Lord opened his servant's eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire.

Elisha's servant was no longer afraid when he saw God's mighty heavenly army. Faith reveals that God is doing more for his people than we can ever realize through sight alone.

When you face difficulties that seem insurmountable, remember that spiritual resources are there even if you can't see them. Look through the eyes of faith and let God show you his resources. If you don't see God working in your life, the problem may be your spiritual eyesight, not God's power.

Personal Testimony

During my life time, I have had many experiences when angels were present. I will relate a few.

I was working on a generator in the shop of an Alaskan Village School from which the school and teacher housing received electrical power. My wife and I were teaching there.

I was trying to put a part on a large diesel motor.

Suddenly in the building, standing next to me stood a man with looks unlike the native people who lived in the village. He asked me what I was doing. I told him. He explained how to put on the part, but

somehow it didn't fit. He took the part, spun it around and handed it back to me.

I put the part on and it worked perfectly. I looked to where he was standing, and he was gone. It had to be an angel.

At one time, the Lord sent an angel to pull my car out of a snow drift on a busy highway.

Once while I was pasturing a small church in the Midwest, there was an exciting happening.

On a midweek service, all the people present sat on one side of the auditorium.

I ask the Lord to show me why there were so few people.

Suddenly my eyes were opened and I saw the empty side was completely filled with angels sitting shoulder to shoulder.

I asked the Lord why they were there, and I heard. "They have come to be taught the word of God".

If more pastors realized that the angels are present to be taught the Word, maybe they would teach the Word of God, rather than seek to entertain.

Jude 1:24-25

And now, all glory to God, who is able to keep you from stumbling, and who will bring you into his glorious presence, innocent of sin and with great joy.

All glory to him, who alone is God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Yes, glory, majesty, power, and authority belong to him, in the beginning, now, and forevermore. Amen.

Matthew 11:28

**Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.**



To ask Jesus to come into your heart please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

Holy Bible: New Living Bible translation.

Additional comments and charts are taken from: *Life Application Study Bible*. Illinois: Tyndale House 2007. Print

