

THE LORD IS MY SHELTER
Psalm 91 (Part 4)

ANNOUNCEMENTS :

- Emphasize Samaritan's Purse, Journey to Bethlehem, Seniors Carolling, Christmas Party
- Candidates for baptism : 1-hour seminar next week after worship service
- Birthday celebrants for November
- Breaking of the bread today

INTRODUCTION :

Before I came to Christ, I was so afraid of ghosts. You already know that asphalt road that leads to our house when I was still in university. You already know that story of my friend's advise that I have to imagine that there are two candles on my shoulders and when we are in the dark and afraid and walking alone on the road, I must not run fast or else the flames of the candles will be extinguished and that's the time I will see ghosts. There was also a time that when I was walking home in that dark asphalt road, the tricycle drivers scared me by saying, "May multo dyan" and I shouted at them saying, "Gago" But while I was walking, I was afraid that a ghost was following me that I started to run and shout. Or there was this time since it was very dark and there was only a faint light, I saw a shadow on the side of the road. I became so afraid because it might be a ghost but when I came closer, it was just a man wearing black with dark skin and then he smiled at me and I saw his pearly white teeth. He was just peeing on the side of the road.

At the end of the day, I was so afraid of things that aren't real or things that I don't even see and I'm not only mentioning about ghosts. (We'll talk about that today)

Psalm 91

*¹ He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
 will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.*

*² I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
 my God, in whom I trust."*

*³ Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare
 and from the deadly pestilence.*

*⁴ He will cover you with his feathers,
 and under his wings you will find refuge;
 his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.*

*⁵ You will not fear the terror of night,
 nor the arrow that flies by day,*

*⁶ nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
 nor the plague that destroys at midday.*

⁷ *A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.*

⁸ *You will only observe with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.*

⁹ *If you make the Most High your dwelling—
even the LORD, who is my refuge-*

¹⁰ *then no harm will befall you,
no disaster will come near your tent.*

¹¹ *For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways;*

¹² *they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.*

¹³ *You will tread upon the lion and the cobra;
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.*

¹⁴ *"Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him;
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.*

¹⁵ *He will call upon me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honor him.*

¹⁶ *With long life will I satisfy him
and show him my salvation."*

Pray

Study Outline:

- I. STAYING IN THE LORD'S SHELTER
- II. SAFETY IN THE LORD'S SHELTER
- III. SERVANTS IN THE LORD'S SHELTER
- IV. SALVATION IN THE LORD'S SHELTER

I. STAYING IN THE LORD' SHELTER

*1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
2 I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust.".*

For every promise there's a premise

II. SAFETY IN THE LORD'S SHELTER

*³ Surely he will save you from the Fowler's snare
and from the deadly pestilence*

What will God keep us safe from?

1. The Lord will keep us safe from the devil's plans.
2. The Lord will keep us safe from the deadly pestilence.

How does God protect us?

3. The Lord keeps us safe with his love.

*⁴ He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.*

Illustration : A news story came out. There was a woman who took particular comfort in Psalm 91:4. One day as she was getting in her car, a man came up to her with a gun and ordered, "Get in the car!" She got in her car and he did as well. "Now drive!" he yelled. She began driving and was filled with fear. She wanted some comfort through this trauma, so she began recalling her favorite scripture, Psalm 91:4 and repeating it to herself. "His feathers cover me. His feathers cover me." She first said them to herself, then out loud, louder and louder. Finally, the assailant shouted, "Stop the car! Let me out! You're crazier than I am!"

Last week, I exposed to you by God's grace verse by verse, how God protects us and even explained that based on the passage, that if you trust in the Lord, before the devil and harm can go to you, it has to go through God first. He's saying, "I will protect you with my own body" just to show you how much I love you.

We always hear the term, "Over my dead body" That's the greatest love according to our Lord Jesus.

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

And God has already shown the greatest love to us when He sent His own Son, God Himself to become flesh (having a body) to protect us from the results of sin by dying on the cross for us.

In short, God surrounds us with His protection.

Rampart : "sokhara" something surrounding you to keep you safe.

Illustration : (show photo of a hotel safe) When you enter a room in a hotel and open the closets, you will see a hotel safe. If you put your belongings inside the safe and close it, the metal box surrounds the belonging. No one can get inside that belonging except you who has the combination to the safe. When you are with God, someone stronger than a hotel safe surrounds you, it's God Himself surrounding you and no one can touch you unless God allows it because God is the only one who knows the combination to the safe.

Psalm 34:7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.

Theologians would say that when we see the phrase “angel of the Lord” in the Old Testament, it is called a theophany or a Christophany. A Christophany is the appearance of the pre-incarnate Christ, meaning, it’s Jesus showing Himself in the Old Testament even before He became flesh.

Examples :

- **It was the “angel of the Lord” who prevented Abraham from continuing to sacrifice Isaac.**

Genesis 22: 11 But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” 12 He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”

You see how the reference to God and the angel of the Lord interchanges in the statement.

- **It was the “angel of the Lord” who appeared to Moses in the burning bush.**

Exodus 3: 2 And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. 3 And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.” 4 When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.”

You see how the reference to God, Lord, angel of the Lord and God interchanges in the statement.

So in Psalm 34:7, when we put our trust in the Lord and hide under His wings, it’s the Lord Jesus Christ who surrounds us.

Important : In short, beloved of the Lord, no harm will come to us that God hasn’t allowed. Now if God has allowed it, it’s what you call a trial.

Remember the story of Job?

The story goes that the angels appeared to present themselves to the Lord. And the Lord asked Satan, “Where did he come from?” Satan said that he was roaming the earth. Obviously, he was looking at people because here’s what the Lord said to Satan. *Job 1:8 “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.”*

This means God is saying to Satan, “Job trusts in Me. Job has made me His shelter.” But look at the answer of Satan.

Job 1:9 “Does Job fear God for nothing?” Satan replied. 10 “Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. 11 But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.”

See that, God surrounds Job with his protection because Job trusts in Him. And Satan is saying, Job only trusts in you because you protect him.

That's why the Lord answered Satan

12 The Lord said to Satan, “Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.”

In short, God is the shield and the buckler of those who dwell in Him. God puts us under His wings and nothing will happen to us that doesn't pass through His grace-filled hands.

And if He allows it, it's what you call a trial.

Best definition of trial I have ever seen : A difficult circumstance that God has allowed in our lives to shape our conduct and our character. – James McDonald

That's why some people ask, “Lord I am following your will and why has this thing happened to me or to my loved one?” It's because God has allowed it in order to shape our conduct or our character.

Quote : “God is more interested in your character than your comfort. God is more interested in making your life holy than He is in making your life happy.” - Rick Warren

Please note that a trial is a difficult circumstance and not a difficult consequence.

Make sure the reason why you are suffering, it's not because of your own doing.

1 Peter 4: 14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 15 If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler.

And if you are suffering because you are a Christian and you are following Christ, the Bible says

James 1: 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,[a] whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

In short, the trial was allowed to shape our conduct and our character.

What is the result of the Lord's safekeeping?

- We will not fear.
- We will not fall.
- We will not fear.

*5 You will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,*

*6 nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday.*

In these two verses, we will see The Four Greatest Fears of Man and if you trust in the Almighty God, you will never have to fear them again.

In the interest of time today, we will only be talking about

1. We need not fear the Unknown

5 You will not fear the terror of night,

Etymology : terror “pakhad” dread

Terror of night, you have to put it in the context that when nighttime comes in that time, it's really dark.

Some children are afraid of the dark. It's because of the fact they can't see anything and that's when their imagination begins to creep in.

There is something in the unknown that makes us fear.

What will happen tomorrow? What will happen next year? What will happen now that my husband passed away? What will happen now that I've lost a job?

And most of the time what we fear is not what's happening right at the moment but what might happen tomorrow. There's a word for that.... Anxiety.

Anxiety is not based on reality. Anxiety is fear that something bad might happen.

Quote : We need to surrender what might happen to the Almighty. He is the one who is real.

Remember, the reason one of the greatest fears is fear of the unknown, it's because we do not see and we become fearful or insecure.

Fear of the unknown is fear of what we do not see...

What Antidote to fear of the unknown?

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

This is a story worth repeating again.

One time a father was coming home from work after a late shift when he saw fire coming out of his house. He ran towards the house and saw everyone was safe except for his little Johnny, who was on the second floor. He was shouting for help through the window and because of the thick smoke he couldn't see anything. The dad saw him and said, “Jump, I'll catch you.” Little Johnny said, “I'm scared.” The dad said, “Don't be afraid little Johnny, just jump and I'll catch you.” Little Johnny said, “I'm afraid to jump Dad because I can't see you.”. The dad then shouted back, “Jump little Johnny, don't worry because I can see you.”

As Christians, we need not fear the terror of the night...or the unknown or what's going to happen it's because God is with us.

Remember, faith is the opposite of fear.

I have heard it said that one of the phrases that God always tells His people is “**Do not fear or do not be afraid.**” I’m not too sure about the accuracy of this, that there are around 365 “Do not fear” verses in the Bible, which people are saying, everyday, God is telling His people, “Do not fear” . Whether this is accurate or not, the fact remains that God wants us to trust in Him, to make Him our shelter. For faith is the opposite of fear.

Story : The early American Indians had a unique practice of training young braves. On the night of a boy's thirteenth birthday, after learning hunting, scouting, and fishing skills, he was put to one final test. He was placed in a dense forest to spend the entire night alone. Until then, he had never been away from the security of the family and the tribe. But on this night, he was blindfolded and taken several miles away. When he took off the blindfold, he was in the middle of a thick woods and he was terrified! Every time a twig snapped, he visualized a wild animal ready to pounce. After what seemed like an eternity, dawn broke and the first rays of sunlight entered the interior of the forest. Looking around, the boy saw flowers, trees, and the outline of the path. Then, to his utter astonishment, he beheld the figure of a man standing just a few feet away, armed with a bow and arrow. It was his father. He had been there all night long. - Our Daily Bread.

We need not fear of things we do not know or we do not see because the Lord is our shelter and He is always there to protect us.

Isn't that what they call our Lord Jesus Christ, “Immanuel”, meaning “God with us”.

5 You will not fear the terror of night,

Next week, we will talk about the three other greatest fears and why we shouldn't fear them ever again.

2. We need not fear Physical Threats
nor the arrow that flies by day,
3. We need not fear Pestilence.
6 nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
4. We need not fear Plagues
nor the plague that destroys at midday.

S.G.D.