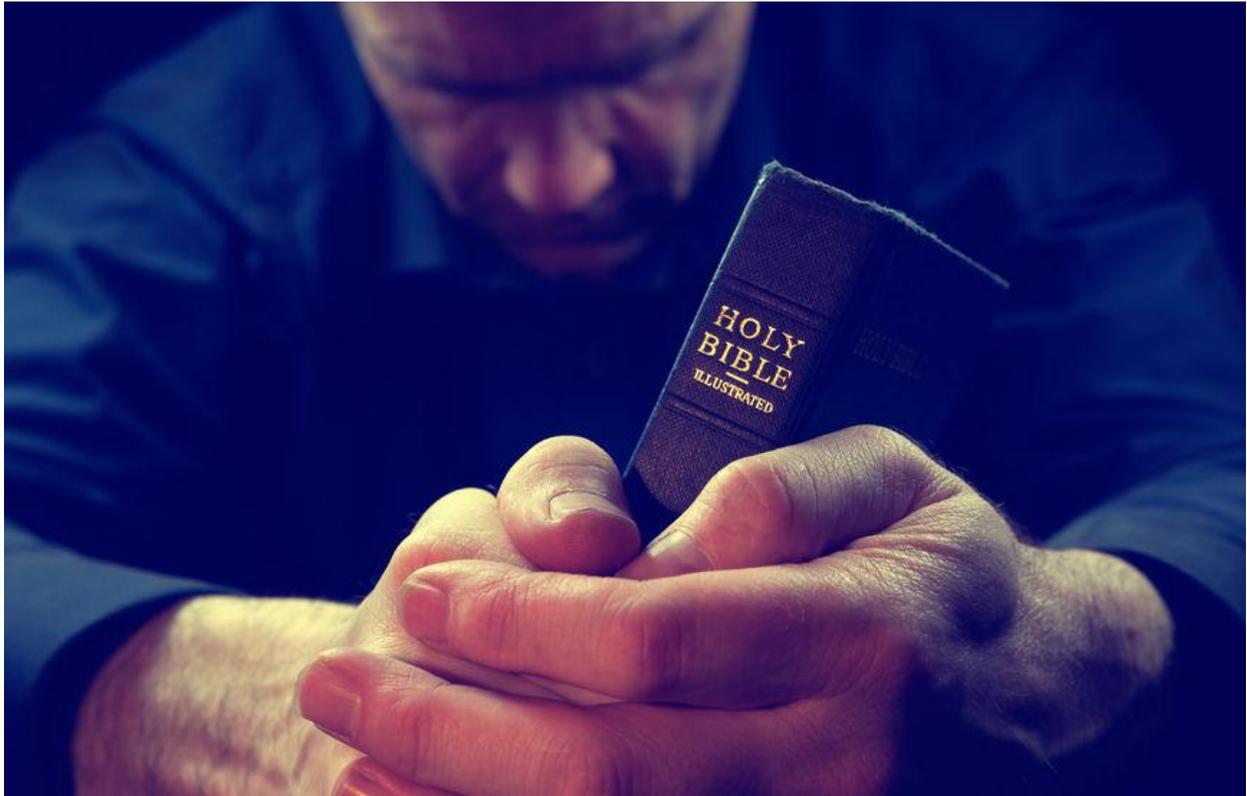


The Christian Response to Coronavirus



Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

We're going to cover Psalm 91 in this short study. And we're going to examine the promises from the Lord in that Psalm, in light of the expanding coronavirus crisis.

But first, let's talk for just a moment about confusion and deception: You've always known that confusion and deception are the two main tools of the enemies of Jesus Christ and Christianity. Right?

So when you see confusion and deception enveloping you, your friends, your nation, and even the world, you know this is the work of the enemy, and not of the Lord. *Confusion and deception* are not of the Lord. *Clarity and truth* are.

So in regards to coronavirus, or any calamity, for that matter, turn to the Lord for clarity and truth. Don't turn to man. Man will let you down. Man will baffle and confuse you with...well... bull droppings disguised as chocolate coated candy with colored sprinkles.

That's why, back in February at the start of this fear campaign over the coronavirus crisis, I wrote the short Bible commentary [God and Plagues \(Then and Now\)](#), which I strongly suggest you read, *first* (if you haven't already), before finishing this short study.

Basically, it points out, through Scripture, that those who *draw near to the Lord* are the ones protected from plagues. We'll discover even more on that subject, as well, in this study of Psalm 91. So let's get moving:

The Comforting Promises of Psalm 91

Psalm 91 is chock-full of promises from the Good Lord. Every one of them should be *understood, believed in and faithfully claimed*, now, and in all times of trouble. Let's get started:

Psa 91:1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

The term "secret place" should have been translated "cover and protection" (Strong's H-5643 and H-5641). And the term "abide" should have been translated "stay permanently" (Strong's H-3885).

In other words, those who make their dwelling place under the cover and protection of our heavenly Father (via the faithful study and implementation of His Word into their lives) shall *stay permanently* under the shadow of the Almighty, meaning He'll be there for you, *eternally*.

So if you fit the bill -- i.e., if you're one who lives for the Lord and His Word -- then He's as close to you as a man's shadow is to his body. That's a *promise* to you from the Lord. And you can claim it, *right now*.

Hey, so far this is great. So let's see what's next:

Psa 91:2 I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

The word "say" should have been translated "affirm" or "vouch for." David is vouching for the Lord as His refuge and fortress, the One in whom he puts his trust. Do you so vouch for the Lord, as well? There's great blessing in doing so.

The word "refuge" means "a shelter." It comes from the Hebrew word *machaseh* (i.e., Strong's H-4268). But the Hebrew word *machaseh* comes from the Hebrew root word "*chaseh*" (i.e., Strong's H-2620), meaning "to flee for protection."

In other words, the Lord is your refuge or shelter *to whom you can flee for protection* whenever necessary.

That should be very comforting to you. But there's an "if" involved.

The Hebrew language in this verse indicates that *if* you put your trust in the Lord, He becomes your “refuge” and your “fortress,” which means He’s your defense...your stronghold. If you’re faithful, He’s your ultimate security.

As King David once stated of God, “*What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee*” (Psalms 56:3). In Psalm 91:2 above, he states it again, “*...in Him will I trust.*”

That’s the condition upon which this promise from God’s Word rests. You see, trust is a BIG part of being a Christian. You either trust that the Lord knows what He’s doing *in* your life and *with* your life, or you *don’t*.

If your works in this flesh life don’t reflect trust in the Lord, this promise simply doesn’t apply to you. Neither do any of the other promises in this Psalm, or anywhere else in the Bible for that matter.

But if you *do* trust in Him, and work faithfully within His great plan to save His children, these promises are definitely for you. Claim them, in Jesus name. Every one of them. That’s what He’s given them to us for, beloved.

You see, it’s a *quid pro quo*. You do your part. And He’ll do His. It’s that simple.

Now, let’s get down to where the rubber really starts meeting the road. If you can identify yourself in the first two verses of this Psalm as one having Davidic-like faith and trust in the Lord, then the rest of this Psalm is for you:

Psa 91:3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

The word “surely” is translated from the Hebrew word *kîy* (i.e., Strong’s H-3588), meaning “with certainty,” or “doubtless.”

In other words, if you’re one of His faithful servants you can take the promises in this verse (and this Psalm) to the bank. You can count on them. So *claim* them, in Jesus name. That’s what they’re there for. Put your faith in His Word, and not in the deceptive and confusing words of mere man.

The word “deliver” in this verse should have been translated “rescue” (i.e., Strong’s H-5337).

The term “snare of the fowler” should have been translated “the net of the entangler” (i.e., Strong’s H-6341 and H-3353 respectively).

And finally, the term “noisome pestilence” should have been translated the “rush of destroying pestilence” (see Strong’s H-1698 and H-1942) -- something we’re watching play out before our eyes even as you read this.

So the verse states that *without a doubt* the Lord will rescue you from the net of the entangler (meaning when you've already become entangled in Satan's net, and you need a way out, He'll be there for you). And He'll rescue you from the rush of the destroying pestilence, which of course, is the plague.

The "net of the entangler" is symbolic of *any* trap the enemy sets for you. And the "rush of the destroying pestilence" symbolizes any overwhelming evil or deceptive mischief the enemy sends against you.

Have you ever looked up to the Lord in a time of trouble, and said, "*Lord, please get me out of this?*" Are you still in that very same trouble today? No? Well then, I guess I've made my case. The Lord is indeed "*a very present help in trouble*" (Psalm 46:1).

So Psalm 91:3 above says that if you're one of God's faithful servants, working within His great plan to save His children, He, *with certainly*, will help you get out of the trouble.

You're one of His servants, and you're doing His will, which is to help in His great plan to save His children. And because of that, He's not going to let the enemy take you down prematurely.

Hey, when it's finally your time to go home, then it's your time. But...if it's *not* your time to go, then God isn't going to let some little coronavirus take you down. To put it in "Job" terms, you might get the boils, but you'll also get the healing. So don't worry. God's got your back.

The promises in Psalm 91:3 above should be very comforting. Claim them. But please note: It doesn't mean you can act *recklessly* and be rescued by God from trouble. If, for example, you're French-kissing a coronavirus patient, you're going to get the darned virus, along with all of its concurrent risks. Don't tempt (test) the Lord.

God will rescue the faithful. But He won't bless or reward foolishness. Be *faithful*, not *foolish*.

Psa 91:4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

Wow. More great and invaluable promises to claim.

The phrase "cover thee with his feathers" should have been translated "fence thee in with His wing." Think of a mother eagle covering her young ones in the nest and protecting them from the elements (or from falling out of the nest) with her great and powerful outstretched wings.

Well, that's exactly what the truth of God's Word does for *you*, beloved. It covers and protects you like the wing of a great mother eagle protects her young.

It's a reference to Deuteronomy 32:11-12, which states that God alone led Jacob (put for all 12 tribes of Israel) into the Promised Land, "*As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: So the LORD alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.*"

It should also remind you of the following verse, which is directed to God's faithful church/bride in her battle against Satan in the end of this flesh age:

"And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent." (Revelation 12:14).

The eagle's wings are protective. Just as God "carried" Israel safely into the Promised Land, so He carries us, as well, into the promised land of the Millennium rest, with those two great wings that spring from His Word.

Psalm 91:4 above also states, "*...and under His wings shalt thou trust.*"

Think of your Bible laying on your desk, with both covers open. Wings, right? God loves to see your Bible open, and your face in it. That's where you're to put your trust, i.e., in the Word of God, which also just happens to be "the sword of the Spirit" (Ephesians 6:17) -- your battle weapon against Satan and his minions.

Finally, Psalm 91:4 above says, "his truth shall be thy shield and buckler."

The word "truth" should have been translated "stabilizing truth" (i.e., Strong's H-571 and H-539). There's nothing better than the truth of God's Word for achieving mental, emotional, physical and spiritual stability in your life, even (and especially) during tumultuous times.

As II Timothy 1:7 states, "*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*"

In other words, if you're operating under a spirit of fear, you can rest assured it's not of God.

Feeling out of sorts? *Get back into His Word of truth.* The news headlines have you scared half to death? *Get back into His Word of truth.* Coming under attack from an enemy? *Get back into His Word of truth.* That's where your stability comes from. His Word of truth. Period. There is no other.

That stabilizing truth is likened, in the verse above, to the shield and buckler that protected the vital parts of a soldier's body from the weapon thrusts and arrows of the enemy.

In Old Testament times, the "shield" was the large shield you'd use for protection against enemy sword blows and enemy arrow attacks during close-quarter combat. The "buckler" was the small shield sometimes worn on the forearm, which was used to block knife thrusts to the body.

God's Word of truth will do that for you. As you grow more and more familiar with it, and with how to use it, it will become your "shield and buckler." It will shield you from the deceptive thrusts and blows of the enemy, which is to say, the "fiery darts of the wicked" (Ephesians 6:16).

Hey, there's a *ton* of promises in that verse. I hope you're claiming them all, in faith, and moving forward on each of them. I know I am.

Psa 91:5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

More great promises for you to claim. Got fear? Get rid of it. Now.

Those who love the Lord, and His Word, and who make their spiritual dwelling place under His great and protective "wings," will simply NOT be afraid of adversities that can strike, night or day.

And by the way, "night" and "day" are brought up in that verse above so you understand that God is there for you, 24/7. There's simply no time of the day that he's unavailable to you.

So if you've got the fear, approach the throne. Let Him remove the spirit of fear from you. As it's written in Hebrews 4:16, "*Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*"

Psa 91:6 Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.

Again, note the juxtaposition between darkness and light (noonday). Father has you covered all day, and all night.

No matter what the enemy might have up his sleeve, we're not to fear it. After all, as Christ stated, "*In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*"

Neither the unseen pestilence (think coronavirus) that sneaks in under the cover of darkness (think China), nor the destruction taking place in broad daylight (our own

government's actions in locking everyone down and taking over the economy) will make those who dwell under Father's protective wings afraid. We *know* Father is there for us when we're doing His will.

Get ready for the next promise. It's a doozy:

Psa 91:7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.

Now, we know that prophetically, this is talking about the multitudes who fall hook, line and sinker for Satan's deception when he gets to this earth pretending to be the Messiah of God.

That deception won't strike you, because of your deep and abiding familiarity with God's Word. You know the difference between the antichrist and the true Christ. You already know the antichrist shows up first pretending to be God's Savior, and then Jesus Christ arrives afterwards to throw the false one in the pit and to usher in the Millennium teaching period.

And just as the deception of Satan won't touch you because of your profound faith in God and knowledge of His Word, so, likewise, there's no way Father is going to allow you to fall to some stealth virus unless it's simply your time to return home to Him and that's the method He chooses to bring that about. Meanwhile, you've got work to do on His behalf. Get to it. Quit worrying.

As St. Paul once wrote, "*And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever*" (II Timothy 4:18).

Let's see what's next in this promise-filled Psalm:

Psa 91:8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

Do you understand that promise? Father is saying, through David, that your reward for such faithfulness and fearlessness is that you'll be there to see it with your own eyes when the devil and his children get their just rewards, i.e., their punishment.

Yes, after suffering under Satan for all of these years -- after all, he's the god of this decaying world (II Corinthians 4:4) -- you'll finally get to see him get his rightful comeuppance.

Let's keep moving, because there's more, and the best is yet to come...

Psa 91:9 Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;

Psa 91:10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

Psa 91:11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

Psa 91:12 They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Look at those promises! Study them. Understand them. They're *yours* to claim...*IF* you meet the qualification, i.e., "*because thou has made the LORD...thy habitation.*"

Beloved, it's important, now, more than ever, to dwell inside the Spirit of the Lord, because outside of that beautiful and enlightening Spirit there's only one other thing, i.e., the world. And the world *hates* you and your Lord and Savior (John 15:18-25).

You've likely already studied Matthew 4:1-11, where Satan used these very verses to try to deceive our Lord and Savior into worshipping him. Satan set Christ on the pinnacle of a high temple, and told Christ to throw Himself down to the ground to prove God's promise that the angels would bear Him up and protect Him.

But as I stated earlier, God's promises don't give you the right to act recklessly and irresponsibly, and then expect God's help. For example, every man who's ever tried to make a big name for himself by walking on water has ended up...well, soaking *wet*.

Ergo, if you're French-kissing a known coronavirus patient, you're going to end up with coronavirus. Likewise, if you tempt the Lord God by doing something stupid, like throwing yourself off of a tall building, God is *not* going to intervene on your behalf. The promises are for those who faithfully *serve* Him. Not for those putting on a circus sideshow act.

Christ Jesus showed us the way in Matthew chapter 4. He renounced Satan's temptations to test the Father. He rebuked the devil. And He set His mind to move forward in God's great plan to save His children. And that's what *we're* supposed to do, too.

But wait. There's lots more...

Psa 91:13 Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.

Yes, we're going to get to walk across the very ashes of our "adversary the devil," who, "as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour..." (I Peter 5:8).

You'll get to watch him burn up from within (Ezekiel 28:18) and be brought "to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee" (Ezekiel 28:18). And guess what? That goes for his wicked offspring, too (Isaiah 14:19-23).

What a beautiful promise! You'll be there when the enemies of the Lord are devoured instantaneously in the flames of the great lake of fire (Revelation 20:11-15). You'll get to see them be destroyed, just as they've destroyed so many others, both in this world and the world that was when Satan first rebelled against our heavenly Father.

Next, let's take a look at God's *will* in this matter:

Psa 91:14 Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

Don't pass over this precious promise. Because you've set your love upon the Lord, meaning you willingly and faithfully serve Him in the Spirit of Jesus Christ and in His great plan to save His children, the Lord will deliver you and set you on high.

Why? Because you "hath known my name."

And what name is that? As we're told in Revelation 19:13, "*And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.*"

Because you've known the true Word of God -- Jesus Christ Himself (John 1:14-18), Who is the Living Word of God -- and have faithfully stood by Him through thick and thin, you'll be delivered from trouble by the Lord, and you'll be set on high for your faith.

Finally, in the verse above, note the use of the two terms "will I" and "I will." God has actually made this promise *a part of His will*. In other words, it's your *inheritance* in Christ to be delivered from trouble and set on high afterward.

Claim it! And quit cringing in fear over some stupid virus when you have such great and abiding promises to sustain you as a Christian, until your job is finally done on this earth.

Now, let's take a look at the final two verses:

Psa 91:15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

Psa 91:16 With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

In verse 14, God used the terms "will I" and "I will" twice. In these final two verses, He uses those terms four more times, for emphasis.

This means it's now part and parcel of His very will that you be with God in times of trouble...answered of God when you call on Him...delivered from all of Satan's traps...set on high and honored for your service afterwards, just as Christ Jesus was.

Not only that, but you'll be satisfied (i.e., satiated) with long life, meaning eternal life. And you'll be shown the Lord's salvation, which simply means you'll get to watch the whole show as the enemies of God are destroyed and you're rescued.

Is that not what Moses told the people when the Egyptian army had them penned in at the Red Sea? *"And Moses said to the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and **see the salvation of the LORD, which He will shew to you to day**; for the Egyptians who ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever."*

As one ancient Bible commentator wrote of these last two verses, *"Our conceptions of God's care are too narrow. We fail to make enough use of the power, love, and presence of His fatherhood, which is waiting and longing to be called upon. Only we must exercise an appropriating faith."*

Exercise your faith in His Word. Stand firm in it. Claim the promises spelled out in His Word. All of them. He longs to hear you claim His Word and act on it. Great are the rewards of those who do.

This is the Christian response to the coronavirus crisis. And it's the Christian response to any crisis. Turn to God. Claim His Word. Move forward in faith, to the end. Then be rewarded. It doesn't come much better than that, beloved.

Last Thoughts

Nowhere in Scripture does God tell Christians to panic or fear. Instead, dozens of times throughout the Old Testament and New, alike, the Lord says "Fear not." For example:

Pro 3:25 Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh.

Pro 3:26 For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

If you cast away the fear, and turn to the Lord, He'll be your confidence, meaning He'll be there to help keep you grounded, mentally, emotionally and physically. He'll keep your foot from being captured in the traps and snares of Satan.

You can count on it. But you have to do *your part*, first. He won't come looking for you if you're quivering in fear in a closet. He can't use you in that condition. He expects you to be out working in the field, faithfully carrying your weight.

So why are we to “fear not”? Well, for two reasons:

One, because fear, though a natural human emotion, can run through our lives like a freight train, and carry us away from all reason and rationality, if we allow it to.

And two, because fear is not of the Lord. Fear is of the world. As it’s written:

2Ti 1:7 For God hath **not** given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

So God does not give us the spirit of fear. Quite the opposite. He gives us the spirit of confidence, love, compassion and faithfulness. Let’s stick with those, and cast out the spirit of fear.

The term “sound mind” should be translated “self control” or “discipline.” As Christians, we don’t allow fear and sensationalism to control us. We use self-control. We discipline ourselves to cast the fear aside. We seek God’s Word on the situation. And then we *act on it*, in faith that He’s always right and the world is almost always wrong.

Fear robs us of our faith. It propels us into doing exactly the opposite of what we should be doing, which is turning to the Lord and His Word, and continuing to act within His great plan to save His children.

Whether it be persecution, pestilence or privation -- be steadfast...immovable...solid as a rock. Again, fear is not of the Lord. It’s of the *world*.

Pastors canceling church services? Where in the Scripture can the state tell you *where*, *when* and *how many* can assemble and worship God? Nowhere.

Where does the Bible say to placate the beast when it tries to remove your rights to fellowship and worship? Nowhere.

As Doug Giles of ClashDaily.com recently stated:

“When the news media begin their drumbeats of fear, run what they’re saying through the gauntlet of reason, and especially the gauntlet of Scripture. In Scripture, every time the majority believed something, they were usually wrong. The ones who were right were the ones who believed God’s Word over man’s, and did what God says.”

So what’s the Biblical response to the coronavirus crisis? Let’s let David tell us:

Psa 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Psa 23:5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Psa 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Even in the worst of times, God is there for His faithful servants. You couldn't ask for more. *So be faithful instead of fearful.*

-- End --

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