



College of Theology & Evangelism Fiji

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Psalm 91:3–13 “Under His Wings”

*“For it is He who **delivers** you from the **snare of the trapper** and from the **deadly pestilence** (v. 3).*

*He will **cover** you with His pinions, and **under His wings** you may seek **refuge**; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark (v. 4).*

*You will not be afraid of the **terror** by night, or of the **arrow** that flies by day (v. 5).*

*Of the **pestilence** that stalks in darkness, or of the **destruction** that lays waste at noon (v. 6).*

*A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall **not approach you** (v. 7).*

*You will only look on with your eyes and see the **recompense** of the wicked (v. 8).*

*For you have made the Lord, **my refuge**, even the Most-High, your **dwelling place** (v. 9).*

*No **evil** will befall you, nor will any **plague** come near your tent (v. 10).*

*For He will give His angels charge concerning you, to **guard** you in all your ways (v. 11).*

*They will **bear you up** in their hands, that you **do not strike** your foot against a stone (v. 12).*

*You will **tread upon** the lion and cobra, the young lion and the serpent you will **trample down** (v. 13).”*

Psalm 91 is an illustrious psalm for refuge. It contains some of God’s most beloved promises of protection for those on a journey. The older Rabbis noted Ps 91 as an answer to Israel’s exemption from the Egyptian plagues. The Septuagint (LXX) ascribes Ps 91 to David, although nothing convincingly links. A few Rabbis rightly point its messianic character, how God’s special providence watched over Jesus’ manhood, guarding Him from plagues, accident, and Satan’s plots, until His appointed time. But most scholars see Ps 91 as **anonymous** and **timeless**, making it perhaps all the more accessible.

The **purpose** of this psalm is to instill greater faith in God’s people, and the first section (**vv. 1–2**) helps the singers to feel that **God is trustworthy**. In **verses 3–13**, we find a long list of benefits that come to those who **trust** in the LORD. In fact, these promises of security are not for people who run to the Lord only in time of danger but those who **dwell** in His presence (v. 1) and make the Holy of Holies their habitation (v. 9). How comforting to know that under **God’s wings**, there are no exclusions in this insurance policy, *hidden away in the small print!* Note the threefold protection promised:

I. It is an All-Around Protection (vv. 3–6).

The psalmist declares in this all-inclusive list that there is nothing at all God’s people need to fear, although the dangers and troubles of this life might be terrifying and destructive. His confident rests on the kind of power that God has over all things that happen on earth. The psalmist believes that nothing can ever stand in the way of the Warrior-King’s deliverance. If verses 3–6 are taken metaphorically, they stand for an even wider range of ills. If taken in the literal sense, any of these troubles could happen to us. However, when trouble appears, fear ought to be absent since God shelters!

II. It is an Individual Protection (vv. 7–10).

The psalmist’s personal experience serves as an encouragement to embrace the way of wisdom by making the **Most-High**, one’s dwelling place. Here, the Lord does not guarantee that no evil will befall those who trust Him, but all will find refuge in Him. The “*You*” is emphatic: “it shall not approach *you*.” This is, of course, a statement of exact, minute providence, not a charm against adversity. In the Fiji Islands, it is quite common to see people wearing charms and amulets. The delusion is that it fends off evil. Not so with this Psalmist. His mind is obsessed, not by these life-threatening dangers, but by the security of those who dwell *in the secret place of the Most-High*. The promise stands: Yahweh will protect His own!

III. It is a Miraculous Protection (vv. 11–13).

The promise of these verses is conditioned on an appropriate response to verse 9, “**For you, O LORD, are my refuge.**” It was characteristic of God, that angelic help was sent when it was most needed (Matt. 4:11; Luke 22:43), accepted as strength for service and sacrifice, and refused for self-advantage (Matt. 26:53f.). Yet regrettably, these verses have been perverted to serve an evil purpose. Psalm 91:11–12 are verses that Satan used to tempt our Lord (Matt 4:6). Nonetheless, the truth in verse 11 opens our minds to a great mystery: not just one guardian angel apiece, but *angels* (plural) *to guard you* (singular)! What an insight since we are normally unaware of the presence of angels and their ministry (2 Kings 6).

In principle then, the **whole of Psalm 91** indicates, from different perspectives, what happens to a person who “trusts” in Yahweh alone. The assurance of safety and security in times of terrifying threats comes from a wholehearted trust in the presence of the LORD Almighty who has entrusted the faithful to his angels for protection and deliverance.

Similarly, in the New Testament we see that the dangers are just as real, and while we are called to endure them (2 Tim 1:8; 3:1; 1 Peter 4:12), we can cling to God’s word (Matt. 4:4). And Paul reminds us that no evil in the strict sense can happen to him, for everything is overruled for good (Rom 8:28). In fact, God does not prevent the misfortune from falling on us, but when it comes, He enters into the situation and transforms it.

Thus, the time of trouble can result in our character being built up, in our discovering new ways of serving both God and our fellows, and in a richer and deeper experience of God’s presence with us (Rom 5:3–5; 2 Cor 12:7–10). May we appreciate how blessed we are to dwell “**under His wings**”! *Grant to me, LORD, the faith to believe in Your unfailing love and protection during the time of suffering. May I always hold on to Christ, so that I may know Him.*

MINISTRY & FAMILY NEWS

⇒ **Four more weeks of lectures to go in the residency program.** Some of the classes that I am teaching are:

- (i) Church History II;
- (ii) Exposition of Daniel;
- (iii) Exposition of Galatians;
- (iv) Intro. to Hebrew Grammar;
- (v) Spiritual Life “Lessons on suffering & the glory of God.”

⇒ The College Graduation date is **November 14th, 2020**

⇒ From August 3–7, I taught a **NT Exposition Class** (Epistle of 1 Peter) at our Suva Extension Campus which is 4 hours away from home. *See picture insert.*

⇒ From August 31–September 4, I taught the same **Epistle of Peter class** at our Lautoka Extension Campus.

⇒ This current pandemic has put us 4 months behind schedule in our **Extension Campus program**.

⇒ In this month of September, Fiji has only **3 active cases**, and so far, only two deaths.

⇒ Two of my dearly beloved professors from The Master’s Seminary donated their entire **theological library books** to the Fiji ministry. What a blessing for our institute to have received this special gift! The next step is to unpack and place these books in the College library.

⇒ The Lord recently saved a family of three out of Hinduism. It has been a joy discipling them. The family was traumatized from witchcraft and demonic oppression for over a decade. One Saturday, in the month of March, the family, bewildered, arrived at the College campus. Their lives took a radical turn as they embraced Christ!

The class met on Monday to Thursday from 6pm–9pm. The Word seemed to have been received well. The students are from various denominations.



These containers loaded with books left Buena Park, CA on **April 1st** and was received at CTEF, Fiji on **July 30**. Our dear friend and partner in ministry, Michael Seehusen and his family were a great help in working out the logistics of getting all of the shipment to Fiji.

By God’s grace our family is doing well. It has been a challenging but a fruitful season for us. Thanks be to God’s stamp of mercy (2 Corinthians 4:1). **Charlene** started her online classes last week. **Abigail** is able to continue school. She is currently in 4th grade. Family, church, and college keeps Ashwin and me equally occupied.

Serving the Lord amid this pandemic has brought its own set of challenges but knowing that God has us “under His wings” bring tremendous enthusiasm and encouragement!

Thank you for your faithful and generous support to our ministry.

Premend & Ashwin