

Series: Psalms

Title: Under His Wings

Text: Ps 91

Date: Nov 4, 2021

Place: SGBC, NJ

When our Lord Jesus was in the wilderness, tempted of the devil, we read:

Matthew 4: 5: Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, 6: And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in *their* hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

That was God the Father's promise to Christ his Son. The promise is found in Psalm 91: 11-12.

Psalm 91: 11: For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. 12: They shall bear thee up in *their* hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Psalm 91 is Christ communing with his own heart concerning God the Father's covenant promises to him. Since these are God's promises to Christ, these are his promises to all who believe on Christ.

Proposition: I begin each message with one statement, a proposition, that summarizes the whole message. That is what Christ does in the first verse,

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

We see two things here. One, those who know God's covenant promise shall abide under his shadow by looking only to Christ in faith. In the first half, we hear Christ communing with his own heart of God's promises, abiding under the shadow of the Almighty in perfect faith.

Two, God shall keep every believer dwelling in the secret place under his shadow. In the last verses, God gives promises which he fulfills to those who trust him keeping us in him.

The "secret place" of the most High is not a place separate from Christ, it is Christ. Christ is the secret place OF the most High. He that DWELLS IN CHRIST shall abide under the shadow OF THE ALMIGHTY.

Psalm 31: 20: Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.

In the tabernacle, God's presence was in the holiest of holies over the mercy seat. Christ is the believer's mercy seat, our Propitiation, at God's right hand in the holiest of holies of which the holiest of holies and the mercy seat in the tabernacle was but a type.

Psalm 27: 5: For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

God put his people in Christ his Son in eternity by divine election. God hid us in Christ. In time, the Spirit calls each one into Christ our hiding place by regeneration. He gives us faith

and we believe we were in Christ when he redeemed us and we are in Christ now that he has arisen to God's right hand. So by faith we dwell in Christ who abides in God. In Christ, we have double safety. We are dead and alive and our life is "hid" with Christ in God.

Colossians 3:3: For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Believer, the most high God keeps us under his protection continually in Christ. Whatever we suffer, whatever our difficulties, temptations, trials, we are always "*under the shadow of the Almighty.*" Those who know this, consciously abide in faith trusting the Almighty to save us.

CHRIST LOOKING TO THE FATHER

Hear Christ speaking. Hear Christ communing with his own heart. Having God's covenant promise, this is Christ's resolve to abide in the most High by looking only to God his Father. So it was with the Psalmist and so it is with each sinner that God has given faith in Christ.

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

When the Son of God took flesh and walked this earth, Christ was always in the bosom of the Father. He was always "*in the secret of his presence.*" As he served the LORD as Head of his people, Christ was perfectly faithful to trust his Father, his God, "*I will say of the LORD, He is MY refuge and MY fortress: MY God; in HIM will I trust.*" He said in another Psalm, "*Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble.*" (Ps 32: 7).

You who are born of God are inseparably united to Christ, hidden in the secret place of the most High. Knowing this, let us do as Christ did. At all times keep your heart stayed on Christ. Faith is personal. No one else can believe God for you. Let us continually commune with our hearts, believing at all times, "*Christ is MY Refuge, MY Fortress, Christ is MY God—In HIM will I trust.*" The Lord speaks of Christ in Isaiah 32: 2, "A man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land."

CHRIST SPEAKS OF GOD'S PROMISE TO HIM

Our confidence in Christ is that Christ was tempted in all points like we are, yet without sin. He perfected faith for his people. It is his faithful obedience that is our righteousness. Christ believed God's promise to him and perfectly trusted the Father in every trial. It is God the Father's covenant promises to him that Christ speaks to himself of in the next verse.

Psalm 92: 3: Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, *and* from the noisome pestilence.

"The fowler" represents the enemies of our Lord. The fowler, the bird hunter, is the devil. Christ and his people are compared to "doves." God's children are as weak as doves hunted by the fowler, the devil. Scripture speaks of the "snare of the devil". The devil attempted to trap Christ as one would trap a bird. The devil uses great wiles and devices to trap.

The "noisome pestilence" is the engulfing, destructive, wicked disease of sin. The devil hunted Adam. He set the trap and ensnared Eve, and using Eve, Adam sinned and all fell in Adam. Therefore, all are engulfed with the destructive wicked disease of sin. The devil goes about hunting whom he may devour.

But when the devil hunted and tempted our Savior, this was Christ's word to himself. This was Christ's perfect faith in God his Father as he communed with his own heart concerning his Father's covenant promises, "*Surely [the most High] shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.*" While the devil hunted and attempted to snare our Redeemer as a bird, Christ communed with own heart of God his Father covering him. How?

Psalm 90: 4: He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

Christ is God Almighty. But while serving for his people, perfecting and finishing faith by which his people are made righteous, as a harmless dove Christ was hunted by the fowler. But in perfect faith the Lord Jesus trusted the Father to cover him like a mother eagle protects her chicks under her wings. The truth of God the Father's faithfulness and God the Father's covenant promise was his shield and buckler.

Christ is the Truth. He is the Shield which believers hide under. God's faithfulness to his covenant promises was the shield of Christ's faith. And Christ in whom those promises are fulfilled is the Shield of our faith. Christ is the Author and Finisher of our faith. His people are weak birds hunted by the fowler. But by Christ's obedience trusting God unto the death of the cross, he has delivered his people from the fowler by putting away our sins forever.

Psalm 124:7: Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped.

So Christ promises to cover us under his wings. The Shield of our faith is Christ the Truth. The promises of God are yes and amen in Christ (2 Cor 1: 20). Let us constantly remind ourselves of Christ the Truth. Let us commune with our own hearts concerning Christ's faithfulness. He has and he shall deliver us. It is the Spirit making us to remember that Christ alone is our salvation that our hearts are kept. It is only through faith in Christ, staying on Christ. This is how the firey darts of the wicked shall not harm us. It is only by Christ our Shield.

Hear Christ as he experienced troubles far worse than any we face. But hear Christ stay himself on God's sure promises saying to himself,

Psalm 90: 5: Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; 6: Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. 7: A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. 8: Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

That was God the Father's promise to Christ his Son. It is Christ's promise to you and me who believe on him. So Christ gives the same sure promise in these verses to you, believer. Believing on Christ, we have no reason to fear the devil's terror by night, nor the arrow that flies by day. In and by Christ we have no reason to fear the pestilence of sin that destroys by night and by day. As we see Christ taking the shield of faith throughout the Psalm—setting his heart on God's covenant promises to him—so we are to take Christ our Shield, trusting Christ to protect us as he promises in his word. It is not merely our faith that is the shield. Our Shield is Christ who our faith believes to save us.

Ephesians 6: 16: Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

1 Peter 5: 8:...the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9: Whom resist stedfast in the faith knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

CHRIST DEFEATED THE FOWLER

By Christ believing the Father unto the death of the cross, Christ has defeated the devil and made his people the righteousness of God in him. Hear Christ speaking. Hear God's sure promise to Christ because Christ trusted the Father in perfect faith. Therefore, this is Christ's sure promise to you who trust Christ.

Psalm 91: 9: Because thou hast made the LORD, *which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; 10: There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.*

These are literal things conveying spiritual meaning. We have known brethren who died of disease, pestilence. But this speaks of the devil and sin never being able to separate the believer due to Christ's finished work of redemption. It is interesting, the devil quoted this Psalm when he tried to get Christ to throw himself off the temple. The devil quoted verses 11 and 12 when he tried to get Christ to cast himself off the temple.

Psalm 91: 11: He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways 12: They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

But the devil did not understand the verse he quoted. Christ to whom the devil spoke is the Stone. Christ is the Rock against whom many dash their foot and stumble and are taken. The reason Christ is our Rock is because even when tempted of the devil, Christ perfected faith, trusting his Father. That is why the devil did not quote verses 9 and 10 before he quoted verses 11 and 12. Read them all together and behold Christ.

Psalm 91: 9: Because thou hast made the LORD, *thy refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; 10; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. 11: For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways 12: They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.*

It was because Christ, in perfect faith, made the LORD his refuge, even the most High, his habitation that these promises were Christ's from the Father. And it is due to Christ's perfect faithful obedience to the Father that his people are made righteous in him and given faith to make Christ our Refuge. Therefore, God the Father makes these promises sure to every believer in and by Christ and for Christ's sake.

Be sure to get this. Christ's dwelling is in his Father and in his people, his church. The Son of God came to declare God just and justify his people. By his obedience unto the death of the cross, neither God our Father nor his people shall ever be charged with anything but perfect righteousness. The evil of the curse and separation for sin came on his people when it came on Christ on the cross. Now, it shall never come upon us due to Christ our Righteousness in whom we dwell and who dwells in us.

God's covenant promise to our Mediator was that if Christ trusted the Father perfectly bearing the sin and curse of his people to the satisfaction of justice then no evil and plague of the curse would ever again befall his people nor come near his dwelling, his church. That is God's sure, everlasting covenant promise to every believer who rests in Christ our Habitation and looks only to him to save. Therefore, the devil surely did not quote verse 13 because it speaks of Christ destroying the devil.

Psalm 90: 13: Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.

The devil is the lion, the serpent, the dragon. He bruised Christ's heel on the cross. But Christ struck the death blow to the devil's head. By Christ taking away the sin of his people and regenerating us to faith in Christ, Christ delivered his people from the devil's bondage, who kept us fearing death by his constant accusations.

Christ is a stone of stumbling and rock of offense for those who refuse to bow to him. But Christ sends his angels, his preachers and his literal angels, and the Spirit gives his people faith in Christ. By the Spirit keeping us trusting Christ, we shall never dash our foot against that Stone. Christ keeps us laying down on Christ the Rock, trusting him alone. And Christ promises us we shall never be ashamed or confounded for doing so. By his holy angels he protects us daily so that we shall never fall away. When the devil charges his child, the Spirit guides us into the Truth of Christ our Shield who declares,

Romans 8: 33: Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth. 34: Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. 35: Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36: As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37: Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38: For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39: Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God fulfilled this promise to Christ and Christ fulfills it to those who believe on him. Read these next verses hearing God's promise to his Son. And read them hearing God the Father's promise to you who believe on his Son.

Psalm 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. 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. 16: With long life [eternal life] will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

Believe on Christ. In every trouble and every good time, never cease believing on Christ and trusting him to be your only Righteousness. It is by Christ's obedience to the Father—his perfect faith—that Christ has made us accepted and promises to deliver, deliver, deliver until he brings us safely home to behold, face to face, Christ our Salvation!

Amen!