**Psalm 91**

**God our Loving Protector: Part 3**

**Intro & Review:**

* Gold mining slide showing South African mines.

-Started at surface with gold rush.

* Deep calls to deep: God wants us to go deeper.

-His secret counsel is with His woprshippers.

* The Psalms as a whole are described as the ‘heart’ of the Bible.

-Speaks to the intimacy and closeness of relationship with God.

-Vs ‘History’ of for example 1 & 2 Chronicles.

* The Psalms are part of the Hebrew ‘prayer and praise’ book:

-‘Tehillim’ is one of the seven Hebrew words for "praise"

**Seven Hebrew words for praise:**

* Hallal – To boast, shine, celebrate & be clamorously foolish. (‘Hallelujah’)
* Yadah - to worship with extended hand.
* Towdah – to extend the hand in acceptance of / in advance of receiving.
* Shabach – to shout, command, to triumph.
* Barak – to kneel and bless God in adoration.
* Zamar – to pluck the strings, to sing and praise with instruments.
* Tehillah – singing of halals using music

**Psalm 22:3**

*But You are holy,  
Enthroned in the praises (tehillah) of Israel.*

**Personally:** God is enthroned above negative circumstances when we praise Him.

Stories of Rhema worship in early days / Rodney / Tom

* You and I can personalize the Psalms: EG: Psalm 23 personalized.
* King David the ‘warrior poet’ expressed both gentle love with valiant battle postures.

-Sheep and swords were the stuff of His life.

**(Review with pictures)**

* The Tabernacle where God dwelt was at the heart of the whole nation:

-No separation of church and state here!

* Back in the day, cathedrals used to be the central focus of cities

-Now it’s banks and financial institutions.

* Yet God has always wanted to speak to us from the very heart of the tabernacle…

-From the mercy seat above the ark of the covenant.

* Our sin has been judged at the cross, and no longer stands in the way.

-The blood has ‘deep cleaned’ our hearts removing it away that we might no longer have even a consciousness of it.

**Hebrews 9:12-14**

*12 He did not enter by the blood of goats and calves, but He entered the Most Holy Place once for all by His own blood, thus securing eternal redemption. 13* [*For*](http://biblehub.com/greek/1063.htm)[*if*](http://biblehub.com/greek/1487.htm)[*the*](http://biblehub.com/greek/3588.htm)[*blood*](http://biblehub.com/greek/129.htm)[*of goats*](http://biblehub.com/greek/5131.htm)[*and*](http://biblehub.com/greek/2532.htm)[*bulls*](http://biblehub.com/greek/5022.htm)[*and*](http://biblehub.com/greek/2532.htm)[*the ashes*](http://biblehub.com/greek/4700.htm)[*of a heifer*](http://biblehub.com/greek/1151.htm)[*sprinkled*](http://biblehub.com/greek/4472.htm)[*on those who are*](http://biblehub.com/greek/3588.htm)[*ceremonially unclean*](http://biblehub.com/greek/2840.htm)[*sanctify them*](http://biblehub.com/greek/37.htm)[*so that*](http://biblehub.com/greek/4314.htm)[*their*](http://biblehub.com/greek/3588.htm)[*bodies*](http://biblehub.com/greek/4561.htm)[*are clean,*](http://biblehub.com/greek/2514.htm)*14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself unblemished to God, purify our consciences from works of death, so that we may serve the living God!…*

# Protection in the battle

**Psalm 91:7-8**

*A thousand may fall at your side,*  
*And ten thousand at your right hand;*  
*But it shall not come near you.*  
*Only with your eyes shall you look,*  
*And see the reward of the wicked.*

* We live in a spiritual warzone that sometimes manifests in the natural realm.

-Those that know God’s will is to protect them and apply faith enjoy it.

* We have an adversary that will use whatever weapons he can against us.

-While others perish through a lack of revelation, we’re protected.

* Most often the attacks come in the thought real crippling & crushing us in fear.

-On a sliding scale from procrastination to terror.

* Thoughts that are not brought captive to the obedience of Christ, take root.

-They grow into great big weeds that screen out the sun light of truth.

* You can’t stop the birds flying over your head, but don’t let them nest in your hair.

-With Christ in us we can defend ourselves with His Word.

* The chief attack hits at your very essence of ‘identity’.

(Tell story of influential Pastor J and what his teacher said to him as a kid)

**Matthew 4:3** *Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”*

-This after God had just declared pleasure over His son at His baptism.

-The tempter attacks Jesus identity: *“****If*** *you are!”* (His word against God’s.)

-If he can cut you off at the feet then you are weakened and can fall.

-Counter with a verbal counterattack: “It is written” - then you will stand.

-Our identity is **hidden** in Christ:

**Colossians 3:3** *For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.*

* **To summarize:** Christ carries us in His heart even after we put Him on the cross.

**Final Take Away**

**God’s Personal Promise of Protection**

# Psalm 91:9-10

*Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge,  
Even the Most High, your dwelling place,  
No evil shall befall you,  
Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;*

* The Lord (personally) is our refuge: not some ‘system’ or location.

-Wherever He goes, we go, and wherever we go He goes.

* The Lord = Jehovah (Covenant promiser) / Most High = Elyon (No one higher)

-No evil / no plague: no exceptions – the greatest potential is given!!

* **‘Place of refuge’** you can run to for protection after **unintentional** manslaughter.

-Joshua instructed to designate 6 cities of refuge in Canaan.

(Josh 20:3 / Deut 19:4-5)

-**Kedesh** – Sanctuary / **Shechem** – shoulder / **Kirjath Arba** – in Hebron (fellowship) / **Bezer** – fortress / **Ramoth** – highly exalted / **Golan** – joy)

-Put together: *“You can find sanctuary on the Lord’s strong shoulder, which He offers in fellowship. He is our fortress and He highly exalts us above our troubles with great joy”.*

* Jesus becomes our ‘city of refuge’ as we run **to** Him in trouble, (Not **from** Him).

-The Good shepherd goes after lost ad in distress sheep and carries them back on His shoulders to safety. (Luke 15:5)

-We only have to cry out and consent to be carried on His shoulders.

-‘Shoulders’ speak of ‘government’: we get into trouble when we don’t let the Lord govern in any area of our lives.

-You could argue that this applies personally, as well as in community:

(Come under local church authority & government & enjoy safety.)