

## Sing a Song of Faith: Psalm 91 (4/3/2020)

Our God is called the “Most High” fifty-eight times in the Bible. This reminds us our God is King of kings and Lord of lords, the Ruler of the Universe. There is no power, there is no force, there is no ruler or authority in the entire universe that is above him. He is the all-powerful Creator of all things, visible and invisible. He is the Most High.

Not only did he create us, but he also preserves and protects us. He is pictured as a shelter who gives us shade. In Israel, where temperatures can reach 120° F, shade is vitally important to prevent heat stroke. The sweltering rays of the sun beating down upon people and draining them of life is symbolic of the devil’s countless attacks beating against us as he seeks to drain us of spiritual life. But as we rest in the shadow of the Almighty, we are shielded from Satan’s assaults.

The psalmist also reminds us that the devil, with his lies and deceit, is like a bird hunter who sets up snares to capture his prey. The devil is constantly setting traps to capture us for an eternity in hell. However, our God saves us from Satan’s snares and, like a mother bird protecting her young with her wings, our God safely covers us with the feathers of his faithfulness.

The picture shifts to a walled city that is under siege. God’s people are behind its protective walls, for God is our refuge, our shield, and our rampart. He continually answers the Seventh Petition of the Lord’s prayer, “But deliver us from evil.” Martin Luther wrote, “We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would deliver us from every evil that threatens body and soul, property and reputation, and finally when our last hour comes, grant us a blessed end and graciously take us from this world of sorrow to himself in heaven.”

He has an invisible army which assists him in protecting us—the countless angels. Sometime during the six twenty-four-hour days of creation, God created the angels. The Bible says that there is a set number of them—thousands upon thousands and ten thousand times ten thousand. They are neither male nor female and don’t marry or reproduce. They are mighty, but not almighty. They are wise, but not all-knowing. They are able to learn things they didn’t know before. As spirit-beings, they are in a place, but don’t take up space. They are swift, able to quickly move from one place to another. They are able to look after God’s children on earth and at the same time see the face of our Father in heaven.

Throughout history, seeking to advance God’s plan of salvation, the angels have been waging an invisible war against Satan and his forces of evil. What a comfort it is to know the angels are always fighting on our behalf. Although there is no promise of angelic protection for unbelievers, those who trust in Jesus as their Savior can be sure the Lord sends his angels to protect them.

The word “angel” means messenger. At different times the Lord sent his angels to bring a special message to his people. The angel Gabriel announced the birth of John the Baptist. He visited the virgin Mary and announced that she would conceive by the power of the Holy Spirit. An angel announced Jesus’ birth to the shepherds in the field near Bethlehem. Angels announced Christ’s resurrection to those who visited his tomb on Easter.

The Lord not only sends his angels to protect his people throughout life, but he also sends them to escort the souls of believers to heaven when their life on this earth is over. On the Last Day, the archangel Michael will announce the Lord’s coming with a loud shout. The angels will separate the believers from the unbelievers. We will be gathered into our eternal home where we will join the angels in praising our God throughout eternity.

I walk with angels all the way; They shield me and befriend me.  
All Satan’s pow’r is held at bay When heav’nly hosts attend me.  
They are my sure defense; All fear and sorrow, hence!  
Unharm’d by foes, do what they may, I walk with angels all the way.

*After sharing this devotion with your family, take the time to read Psalm 91 and Matthew 4:1-11*

Pastor Zuberbier