

## 20:20 Vision Ministries—Devotions by Roger Browning Week 47 (November 17-23, 2019)

As we move toward Thanksgiving, I want to prepare your hearts for this celebration by using the book of Psalms for our devotions.

**Sunday**, November 17 (read Psalm 91:1-2)

*He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. (Psalm 91:1)*

Today's verses contain one of the greatest promises of the Old Testament. It is called a "conditional promise" because its fulfillment depends on our faith and trust. Notice the verbs, **dwells**, **rest**, and **trust**, all require faith in the One giving the promise. With all my heart, I want to learn to trust the Lord in **everything**. The closer I get to my goal, the more at peace I am and the more joy I experience. That's why I so desperately want you to experience this walk of faith. Whatever you now use to bring about temporary happiness (sex, drugs, alcohol, pornography, shopping, eating, etc.), it will always leave you feeling empty and guilty in the long run. God wants you to know what it's like to say, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust" (v. 2). Do you desire to move closer to Him? Examine your heart to see who/what is lord of your life.

**Monday**, November 18 (read Psalm 91:3-4)

*Surely He will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. (Psalm 91:3)*

In today's text God is using a personification to illustrate a truth. The Lord wants His children to understand just how safe they are in His care. For example, John 10:27-30 is a classic illustration of how He protects us, His **sheep**. Today's verses compare us to **chickens** that are protected from being caught in the fowler's snare (v. 3a). There will always be folks, even in the church, who will try to catch us in their trap, but to those who **dwelling**, **rest** and **trust**, deliverance is promised. The dictionary defines **pestilence** (v. 3b) as follows: "Any infectious or contagious epidemic disease that spreads rapidly, often causing many deaths." In other words, it is capable of breaking down the body's immune system. Immediately we think of **aids**, but the person who **dwells**, **rests**, and **trusts**, will abstain from the sexual sins that spread the disease. Do you feel safe in the arms of Jesus?

**Tuesday**, November 19 (reread Psalm 91:3-4)

*He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. (Psalm 91:4)*

God could find no better word picture to illustrate His care for us than to make reference to a mother hen. I still have vivid childhood memories (from my days as a chicken farmer) of the mother hen working relentlessly to protect her chicks from predators by covering them with her wings, even as they tried to find "freedom" outside her parental control. Jesus uses the same picture when He cries out on behalf of the city in which He will reign someday, saying, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing" (Matthew 23:37). God's Word is not difficult to understand if you will allow Him to illustrate it from nature's visible examples! Is He your shield and your rampart (fort)? If so, you have nothing to fear!

**Wednesday**, November 20 (read Psalm 91:5-8)

*A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. (Psalm 91:7)*

I encourage soldiers to pray this psalm when they are on the lonely battlefields. Many of you are probably thinking, "It doesn't work for **all** our military." Instead of trying to find exceptions that make you doubt, try just taking God at His Word! Trust Him to do what He says He will do and you will find peace in the midst of the battle. "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment" (1 John 4:18). The person who **dwells, rests** and **trusts** can claim this wonderful promise, but the person who lives with doubts will not enjoy the full package of benefits (see James 1:6-7). Read today's text over again. God warns that you will see evil all around you, but you will be kept safe!

**Thursday**, November 21 (read Psalm 91:9-13)

*You will tread upon the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the **serpent**. (Psalm 91:13, emphasis mine)*

Satan accurately quotes Psalm 91:11-12 while tempting Jesus (see Luke 4:10-11), but he stops before quoting v. 13, the printed verse above. This partial passage that he is using out of context reveals that Jesus will trample him and his earthly kingdom in the future. Don't miss the word "if" in v. 9, because it reminds you to whom these promises pertain, namely, those who  **dwell, rest** and  **trust**. I wonder how secure we would be if God would open our eyes for a moment to observe the angelic protection true believers have all the time (see 2 Kings 6:8-23). We would eliminate fear and replace it with His perfect peace (see Isaiah 26:3).

**Friday**, November 22 (read Psalm 91:14-16)

*With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation. (Psalm 91:16)*

Of all the wonderful promises in Psalm 91, none can compare to the final one given in the printed verse above. I love the fact that he rescues me (especially from sin) and protects me (v. 14). I also love the fact that I can go to Him in prayer at any time, day or night, and He hears and answers. I have found out that he delivers me **in** trouble and not **around** trouble (see Romans 8:37), and I marvel at the fact that He honors me instead of humiliating me (v. 15). None of these, however, compare to the promise that I will spend **eternity** in His presence because of what He provided on the cross of Calvary. Rejoice today that you are His child (see 1 John 3:1-4). Relax! The Master is in charge!

**Saturday**, November 23 (read Isaiah 54:16-17)

*"This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord and this is their vindication from me," declares the Lord. (Isaiah 54:17c)*

I can think of no better way to close this week of studying Psalm 91 than with the wonderful promise in today's text. Since God created **everything**, this includes our **enemies** as well as all **weapons** that can be used against us. His promise is, "no weapon forged against you will prevail . . ." (v. 17a). The weapon most often used against you is the tongue, so God promises, "you will refute every tongue that accuses you" (v. 17b). Wow! The servants of the Lord (those who  **dwell, rest** and  **trust**) can claim all this. Can you afford to spend the rest of your life in doubts and fears? God wants you to "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). Will you trust Him enough to live each day in His presence?