Good Morning!

“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.”

As I have often said, the nice thing about my personal daily devotionals is they are taken from my reading from the Robert Murray M’Cheyne scripture guide. Therefore, I am in four different sections of Scripture each day and I come upon all of those favorite sections of the Word sometime in the year. Today is Psalm 91. Few passages in the Word better describe a trust in the LORD in the time of trouble.

When I was at Washington Bible College our Theology professor was Dr. Sam Fowler. The theology courses are always the hardest for young students they demand a lot of work and study and lengthy papers. They are also hard in that young people are forced to confront their theological misconceptions and misunderstandings. So many times in Dr. Fowler’s class we would quote verse 3 in the King James, “Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.” I am sure Dr. Fowler knew and was amused because that was his nature.

This does bring us back to the poetical nature of these psalms. None of us are birds fleeing fowlers nor do we tread down lions and cobras (v. 13). However, there were terrors at night and arrows by day (v. 5). There was pestilence and destruction and thousands falling left and right (v. 6&7). The times were terrible and evil. These things happened in Israel for one reason - they had abandoned the LORD for other gods. He brought these things on them – as per the covenant they had agreed to – so as to bring them back to Him.

So this psalmist begins his prayer to God with the clear statement, “I will say of the LORD, ***He*** is my refuge and my fortress: ***my God***; in ***Him*** will I trust.” I have added the emphasis here, but I think that it is just the way the psalmist would have sung this psalm. I do not think that it is hard for you to imaging the godly living in a nation that has abandoned the LORD and suffers for it. The scene the psalmist paints for us should be familiar.

The other consideration we need to have is that all the godly in Israel knows that none of this means that evil does not fall on the godly. So how does the psalmist claim a security it what is demonstrably an insecure land?

The answer is found in the last three verses where the LORD Himself answers. “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.” Whatever happens in this world, the Lord know His own and will keep us. When trouble happens, “He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honor him.”

Then the last verse is so much richer in the Hebrew. The “long life” is really “length of days” which is meant to communicate an eternal life, not a mortal one. The very last phrase is not “let him see,” but “cause him to feast his eyes on My salvation.” We can rest all our mortal life knowing that the Lord Himself will cause the godly to “feast their eyes on His salvation!”

In Jesus Christ, the God who keeps us until the day…

Pastor EA