

Valparaiso University

ValpoScholar

Walter E. Keller's Devotional Studies of Psalms

University Archives & Special Collections

2001

Psalm 91

Walter E. Keller

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholar.valpo.edu/kellerpsalms>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives & Special Collections at ValpoScholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Walter E. Keller's Devotional Studies of Psalms by an authorized administrator of ValpoScholar. For more information, please contact a ValpoScholar staff member at scholar@valpo.edu.

Psalm 91

(ESV)

- ¹ He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.**
- ² I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust.”**
- ³ For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence.**
- ⁴ He will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.**
- ⁵ You will not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,**
- ⁶ nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.**
- ⁷ A thousand may fall at your side.
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.**
- ⁸ You will only look with your eyes
and see the recompense of the wicked.**
- ⁹ Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—
the Most High, who is my refuge—**
- ¹⁰ no evil shall be allowed to befall you,
no plague come near your tent.**
- ¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.**
- ¹² On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**
- ¹³ You will tread on the lion and the adder:
the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.**
- ¹⁴ “Because he clings to me in love, I will deliver him;
I will protect him, because he knows my name.**
- ¹⁵ When he calls to me, I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and honor him.**
- ¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation.”**

Psalm 91 is a meditation, serene and confident, by one who trusts God. The theme is God's help and protection in all circumstances for the person who loves God. This Psalm may be viewed as a wise man's affirmation of his faith.

Verses 1-2 speak of God somewhat generically as the Most High and the Almighty, but who is then further identified as the LORD Yahweh, the God who calls Israel his own, and who is then claimed by the Psalmist as "*my* God in whom I trust." Christians will pray this Psalm under the yet further revelation of Yahweh as the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who binds us to himself with his Spirit. Verses 3-8 go on to speak of God's unfailing protection under a variety of images. Verses 9-13 proclaim assurance that those who trust in Yahweh will be able to withstand all danger as symbolized by the lion, adder, young lion and serpent. Verses 11-12 are particularly notable because Satan misquoted them when he tempted Jesus for the second time (Matthew 4:5-6) by omitting the important verse 11b, "to guard you in all your ways."

Then in verses 14-16, God speaks his promises confirming the message of assurance in the preceding verses. These verses are a divine oracle – perhaps originally delivered in worship through a Temple priest. Note the parallelism of verse 14: in verse 14a, "I will deliver him" is paralleled in verse 14b to "I will protect him" and in verse 14a he who "clings to me" is paralleled in verse 14b to he who "knows my name." Really to know the Most High—the Almighty—Yahweh—Father Son Holy Spirit, is to recognize his revealed character, and to entrust ourselves to the One who shows us his salvation (verse 16).

Prayer to accompany Psalm 91:

Lord Jesus Christ, when tempted by the devil, you remained true to your Father, who commanded his angels to keep watch over you. Guard your church from the plague of sin, so that we may remain faithful to you until the day when we enjoy the fullness of your salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.