
Shelter in “The Secret” Place

The Secret Place of Holiness

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Sermon: The Secret Place of Holiness: Shelter in “The Secret” Place

New Series Messages: “The Secret Place of Holiness”

- Theme Scriptures:
 - Psalm 91:1-16

Lesson Text

Psalm 91:1–16 (AV)¹ He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. ² I will say of the LORD, *He is* my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. ³ Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, *and* from the noisome pestilence. ⁴ He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth *shall be thy* shield and buckler. ⁵ Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; *nor* for the arrow *that* flieth by day; ⁶ *Nor* for the pestilence *that* walketh in darkness; *nor* for the destruction *that* wasteth at noonday. ⁷ A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; *but* it shall not come nigh thee. ⁸ Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. ⁹ Because thou hast made the LORD, *which is* my refuge, *even* the most High, thy habitation; ¹⁰ There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. ¹¹ For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. ¹² They shall bear thee up in *their* hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. ¹³ Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I *will be* with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. ¹⁶ With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

Introduction

In our previous series on Holiness as a lifestyle, we looked at Holiness from the perspective of what we do, what we love, and how we walk. We concluded it with 4 messages; the first being Standing Still, and the last 3 on Still Standing (Knowing Your Enemy, Standing on the Word of God, and Constant Prayer)

Today we want to start a new series that deal with the Promises of Holiness or Holy Living.

The 91st Psalm is known as the most distinguished jewel among all the psalms of consolation, solace, relief, and support. It was a Psalm given to the people of God for times of terror, darkness, hidden danger, death, pestilence and disease.

This Psalm is certainly apropos to the current environment we find ourselves living in with Coronavirus (Jesus) or COVID-19 (Jesus).

A few years ago, a new phrase entered into our lexicon, the modern vernacular of our vocabulary as a result of terrorism and active shooters, and that was “Shelter in Place”. It is synonymous with hiding in fear because danger is near or all around you.

Whether its terrorism, an active shooter, or an unseen disease or pestilence, we are now being told to “Shelter in Place”.

Isaiah 26:20 (AV)²⁰ Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.

Unlike the world’s “Shelter in Place” because of fear, God tells His people in times of danger to shelter in a place of comfort, solace, relief, and consolation! That place is not in our homes in fear, but in the Secrete Place of the Most High, a place within the presence and nearness of God.

***Series and Sermon: The Secret Place of Holiness: Shelter in “The Secret” Place
“Shelter in the Shadow, Shelter in the Refuge, Shelter in the Fortress”***

I. Shelter in the Shadow

Psalms 91: ¹ He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

This is a great promise of blessings to believers. However it is for those who just believe, but to those that believe and abide.

James 2:19 (AV)¹⁹ Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

The promise is to those that believe and abide. To abide here means to pass the night or spend the night. It implies not just a temporary visitation during times of trouble or calamity, but constant and continuous dwelling. To take up residence in the Secret place.

John 15:7 (AV)⁷ **If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.**

When we abide, dwell, take up residence in the Secret place, we are given the promise of the Shadow of the Almighty.

“The Almighty” here is El Shaddai, the Almighty God. The Shadow of the Almighty represents the protection of El Shaddai.

In the mob, when you become a “made man”, it means that no one can touch you because you are under the protection of the mob.

Well when the believer abides in God, they become a “made man / made woman” in Christ. And when we are made, we are under the shadow or the protection of the Almighty God.

You are under the Almighty Shadow of Protection: Isaiah 54:17 (AV)¹⁷ No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; ...

You are under the Almighty Shadow of Healing: Exodus 15:²⁶ ... for I *am* the LORD that healeth thee.

You are under the Almighty Shadow of Supply: Philippians 4:19 (AV)¹⁹ But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

You are under the Almighty Shadow of Blessings: Deuteronomy 28:² And all these blessings shall come on thee and overtake thee if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

You are under the Almighty Shadow of The Almighty: Psalm 23:4 (AV)⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

“Shelter in the Shadow, Shelter in The Secret Place”

II. Shelter in the Refuge

Psalm 91: ²I will say of the LORD, *He is* my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

Refuge means sanctuary, shelter, haven, or asylum. It represents a place that one retreats to when they are in trouble.

Many people who come to America from foreign countries come as Asylum-Seekers. These are people who come seeking protection because they face racial, religious, national, or political persecution.

Well during the times when God’s people are being persecuted, they need to seek asylum;
Become a Spiritual Asylum-Seeker.

Psalm 27:2–3 (AV)² When the wicked, *even* mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. ³ Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this *will I be* confident.

We are living in a time where physically, emotionally, and spiritually we are under attack. Our physical existence is under attack. Our mind and emotional existence are under attack. Our very faith and spiritual existence are under attack.

We have to become “Spiritual Asylum-Seekers”!

Psalm 27:4–5 (AV)⁴ One *thing* have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple. ⁵ For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

Psalm 46:1–3 (AV)¹ God *is* our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ² Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; ³ *Though* the waters thereof roar *and* be troubled, *though* the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.

“Shelter in the Refuge, Shelter in the Secret Place”

III. Shelter in the Fortress

Psalm 91: ²I will say of the LORD, *He is* my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

To Shelter in “The Secret” Place means

- To Shelter in the Shadow of the Almighty God because you are a “made man/woman”
- To Shelter in the Refuge and Strength of God because you’re a Spiritual Asylum-Seeker
- Finally, to Shelter in the Fortress of Protection because you Trust God

Fortress is a fortification, citadel, fort, castle, or stronghold. A place that has been fortified so as to protect it against attack. A military stronghold, especially a strongly fortified town fit with a large garrison.

Being in the shadow or protection of someone means nothing if that person can’t protect you. Seeking Asylum means nothing if the enemy can come into the Refuge and take you out.

So, God has equipped His Shadow and His Refuge with a Fortress of Protection that can’t be breached, that can’t be over runned, that can’t be defeated. And as a result of this protection, we Trust in God.

- Psalm 146:³ Put not your trust in princes, *nor* in the son of man, in whom *there is* no help.
- Proverbs 3:⁵ Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.
- Psalm 91: ²I will say of the LORD, *He is* my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

Our Fortress is Strong: Proverbs 18:¹⁰ The name of the LORD *is* a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

Our Fortress is Fortified: Psalm 94:²² But the LORD is my defence; and my God *is* the rock of my refuge.

Our Fortress is Protected: Psalm 34:⁷ The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

Our Fortress Fights Back: Matthew 11:¹² **And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.**

“Shelter in the Secret Place of the Shadow of the Almighty; Shelter in the Secret Place of the Refuge and Strength of God; Shelter in the Secret Place of the Fortress and Protection of God”

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Shelter in “The Secret” Place)

Lesson Text

- Psalm 91:1–16

Sermon Outline (Notes)

I. *Shelter in the Shadow*

II. *Shelter in the Refuge*

III. *Shelter in the Fortress*

Questions

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. Have you ever played “Hide and Seek”? What was your strategy for staying hidden?
2. Tell which of the following games you enjoy and why: Chess, Battleship, Checkers, Monopoly, Risk and Mastermind.

II. Into the Bible

1. The two names mentioned in Psalms 91:1 are El Elyon, (the Most High) and El Shaddai (the Almighty). What do these two names reveal about the character of God and what does it mean to the believer?
2. According to Matthew 6:5-6 (NKJV), “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.” What is Jesus revealing to us about the significance of praying to the Father in the secret place?

III. Life Application

1. Other than virtually assembling for church, what other creative ways can you assemble together with believers while sheltering in place? What creative ways can you evangelize while sheltering in place?
2. How will you apply Psalm 91 to your life under these circumstances?