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There is no title or author attributed to this psalm, making its origin and composition time unknown. The psalm takes a general tone, addressing the whole church. A notable feature is the frequent shift in pronouns, which has led some to suggest it was composed for singing by alternate choirs. Another interpretation proposes that the psalmist speaks from different perspectives, sometimes as teacher and other times as scholar, alternating between "thou" and "I." For our purposes, we will divide the psalm into four sections: The safe hiding-place of the godly (Psalms 91:1-2), The inviolable security of the godly (Psalms 91:3-10), The angelic ministers of the godly (Psalms 91:11-13), and The glorious privileges of the godly (Psalms 91:14-16). The first two verses set the tone for the entire psalm, describing the safety that comes from trusting in God, the safety of a believer rests on dwelling in the protective presence of God. Notice here: 1. **The condition**. To enjoy this security, one must "dwell" in the hiding-place of the Most High. The literal rendering is, "He that sitteth in the," &c. He dwells in quietude, he finds rest there, he is settled there. 2. **The promise**. To abide under the shadow of the Almighty means to reside constantly in God's presence and protection. Under the shadow is explained by some by the bird who hides her young ones under her wings for their protection. Others explain it as indicating the great nearness of God to His people, and their consequent safety. 3. **An expression of confidence**. "I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress; my God; in Him will I trust." Shadow of Thy wings will I make my refuge until these calamities pass. The Psalmist declares God as his refuge, his fortress, and his God, worthy of all obedience, reverence, confidence, praise, and glory. He trusts God confidently, believing in His power, goodness, and faithfulness. His faith is not just a declaration but an appropriation, claiming God as his own, which strengthens and inspires him. The Psalmist proclaims his confidence in God, saying "I will say of the Lord." He believes and speaks, unlike those who readily share their doubts. The Psalmist's great confidence in God is not only personal but also declared to others, urging them to trust God fully and forever. We too face trials and dangers, needing a refuge and defence. Our safety lies solely with God. Having Him as our God, we are secure from any real harm. We can secure His protection by trusting in Him. By faith, we dwell in the secret place of the Most High, always safe under His shadow. In Psalms 91:3-10, the Psalmist expresses his joyous song of confidence that he is safe from all dangers because God protects him. The inviolable security of the godly is represented as being affected by God Himself. Two features of Divine protection are brought into view: its tenderness and its effectiveness. The Psalmist feels protected by no less a being than God, who tenderly guards His people like a mother bird guarding her young under her wings. The Psalmist proclaims that Godhold's account of storms perishing with their brood during a fire in Delft is but a faint illustration of the Divine protection He provides. God's protection is our refuge and shelter. As Bernard says, under God's wings we are safe from harm, nourished, and cherished. The image of wings symbolizes divine care and love, yet also reminds us of vulnerability. Nevertheless, God's protection is strong and faithful, serving as a shield and buckler for His people. The Psalmist's words beautifully capture the theme of being safe from all perils: "The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night." The seventh verse seemingly refers to warlike relations and expresses the security of the godly in battle. Additionally, Psalms 91:10 may allude to the exemption of Israelites from the plagues of Egypt. However, let us focus on the main idea - that the godly are safe from perils of every kind. The Psalmist vividly paints a picture of dangers and fears to express his confidence in being more than conqueror over all things. St. Paul's fervent exclamation, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" is expressed in rich poetry. The godly man is preserved from the assaults of Satan, moral evil, enemies, diseases, plagues, and evil. Divine protection is exercised day and night, at noonday, and at all times. The Lord will preserve one's going out and coming in from this time forth and forevermore. Those who trust in God are safe in His keeping at all times. The Psalmist also writes that the godly man shall not be afraid of perils, whether by day or night, nor of pestilence walking in darkness or destruction wasting at noonday. Trusting in the Lord, one can walk calmly amidst dangers because of the all-sufficient protection of God. God's protection is paramount for those who trust in Him, rendering them secure amidst pestilence and peril. Three key aspects underscore this truth: (1) Faith in God bolsters one against disease and danger, as demonstrated by medical professionals recommending Psalm 91 as a safeguard against the cholera. (2) The godly man adheres to laws of health, escaping deadly diseases due to his virtuous lifestyle, while the wicked are often preyed upon by pestilence. (3) Suffering and death hold different significance for the righteous, who view them as opportunities for growth, learning, and spiritual treasures. Ultimately, trust in God is crucial for securing His protection, making Him one's refuge and habitation. The suffering experienced by both righteous and wicked individuals can be likened to a test for the former and punishment for the latter. The divine rule in this world is just, with the faithful being protected by God and the unrighteous facing consequences. However, the righteousness of this rule may not always be evident on earth, requiring faith that its justice will ultimately be revealed. For those who fear not, but trust in their righteous path, they shall see the outcome of evil deeds and inherit a glorious future. In addition to divine guidance, it is also stated that angelic ministers are assigned by God to assist and defend His people. The term "angel" refers to a messenger or agent, often implying superhuman spirits with great power, intelligence, and moral purity. These beings possess strength, wisdom, and the ability to fulfill their duties in both natural and supernatural ways, serving as agents of God's will on earth and guiding the affairs of humanity. The concept of angels as spiritual agents of God's providence, involved in the process of human redemption and sanctification, is central to Christian theology. They are depicted as guardians and guides for believers, watching over them and delivering them from harm. The Bible describes angels as rejoicing over the repentance of sinners and bearing the spirits of the redeemed into paradise. The existence of angels can be understood through their interest in humanity, which is evident in Jesus' parable of the lost sheep (Luke 15:10) and the writings of Peter (1 Peter 1:12). Furthermore, since fallen angels led to human downfall and continue to seek destruction, it is reasonable that holy angels would aid believers in every virtuous effort. The natural order of creation dictates that higher beings should minister to lower ones, with stronger entities helping weaker ones. Our Lord Jesus Christ exemplified this principle, coming not to be served but to serve (Matthew 20:28). God, as the Great Minister of all His creatures, it is only logical that angels would minister to humans. While we may not fully comprehend how angels assist us, we accept their ministry as a precious reality. Scriptural passages confirm the commissioning of angels by God, emphasizing their loyalty and obedience to His will. The Bible states, "He shall give His angels charge over thee" (Psalm 91:11), indicating that angels are under God's authority and are responsible for carrying out specific duties on our behalf. In summary, the role of angels as spiritual agents of God's providence is a fundamental aspect of Christian theology. They are commissioned by God to serve humanity, watching over us, delivering us from harm, and guiding us in our spiritual journey. The godly have an unseen but vigilant protector watching over them at all times. This guardian is the angelic ministry assigned by God to care for every individual who trusts in Him. The angelic ministers serve under a higher authority, carrying out His divine purposes and obeying His commands without question. In exercising their role, these heavenly guardians are attentive to each godly soul as an individual within the larger community of believers. Just like a parent watching over their child, God is deeply concerned about the well-being of every person who follows Him, taking a personal interest in their lives. This means that every true believer can rest assured that they have angelic helpers constantly available to offer support and guidance whenever needed. However, this protection comes with a caveat: it is reserved for those who remain on the path of obedience and duty as prescribed by God. When individuals step out of their designated way or engage in self-seeking pursuits, they forfeit the help of these angelic ministers. Instead, their task becomes to oppose them and lead them back onto the right path. The path of duty is also a path of safety, and as long as one remains true to their calling, they can be certain that God's angels will not fail in their charge. This protection is available at all times, regardless of the circumstances or challenges faced by the believer, whether it be a difficult task, a severe trial, or even a peaceful period of progress. Thy ways, for thou art enabled by divine aid to surmount all obstacles and conquer any foe that stands in thy way. "They shall bear thee up on their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone." Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder; the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under foot. According to Perowne, the term "lion and adder" does not exclusively refer to powers of darkness or evil spirits. Rather, it encompasses all hostile forces, just as "a stone" denotes any hindrance. Through this angelic ministry, believers are preserved from falling into sin and aided in overcoming life's challenges. 1. Preserved from falling: The ministry of angels helps us avoid stumbling into sin by providing guidance and support. 2. Enabled to conquer powerful foes: One angel can defeat a hundred and eighty-five thousand enemies at once, demonstrating the superiority of divine assistance over human strength alone. 3. Enabled to conquer cunning foes: The "adder" and "dragon" represent hidden dangers that seek to deceive through subtlety rather than force. However, with angelic aid, believers can triumphantly overcome both physical and spiritual opposition. 1. Enemies of good, who excel in strength, are sworn eternal foes. In human society, commerce, amusements, and literature, they abound. Additionally, the "fleshly lusts" that war against the soul must be considered. 2. The godly man faces various adversaries, including the world, the devil, and temptation's siren enticements. He battles with fierce attacks of persecution and the forces of evil that work in this world. 3. These foes are formidable and destructive; once they have the traveller in their power, they will destroy them. 4. The victory of the good is complete over all foes. This means overcoming the world, the flesh, and the devil, as well as persecutions, seductions, inward foes, and outward ones. 5. A conqueror shall tread upon the lion and adder, trample underfoot the young lion and dragon, and have power to overcome whatsoever annoys them. 6. Angels aid us against our foes, serving as intelligent, powerful, swift, and glorious allies. 7. God guarantees this victory, offering no room for doubt; thus, we must take courage in life's battles and trust in Him to fight alongside us for a glorious outcome. 8. The godly man possesses some notable features, including: - Love to God, stemming from gratitude for His deliverance and blessings, as well as from esteem of His divine character. - These loves are not sequential but intertwined, forming a profound and enduring affection towards Him. "Life's true essence lies beyond mere gratitude or expectation; it resides in the depths of genuine love for God." "God does not demand our affection out of fear, but rather an unwavering devotion born from His own selfless love. Set your heart on Me," He says, seeking a single-hearted commitment. A steadfast love for God is paramount, as underscored by Jesus' command: "Love the Lord with all your being." This devotion is not based on perfection; it's rooted in a willingness to serve and cleave unto Him. "God may answer by a refusal, an explanation, a promise, or a conditional grant. As Matthew Henry notes, God responds through promises (Psalms 85:8), providences, bringing timely relief, and His graces, strengthening them in their souls." by infinite Wisdom and whenever it ends he is satisfied. Full salvation will be shown to him when his life on earth is over and God admits him to the full enjoyment of His glorious and everlasting salvation in heaven. We catch glimpses of this salvation here; we shall see it fully revealed there. Here, its power is partially known; later, we will know it completely. In this world, we battle against sin; in heaven, the warfare is over, and victory is glorious and endless. The question remains: Do we have these characteristics of the godly? Do we love, know, and pray to God? If not, what hope do those who lack these traits have through Jesus Christ? Long life is desirable. We can have long life because of the obedience we render to God in this world, where it's often difficult. In heaven, obedience will bring joyous service and holiness is universal. We also serve our race by laboring for righteousness and truth on earth. Furthermore, obeying God grants us a reward in the life to come. True religion promotes long life by living virtuously, temperately, and cultivating cleanliness. A truly religious person prolongs their life through good deeds and a virtuous lifestyle. Long life is not measured by years alone but by the quality of one's life. As Sheridan said, only those who live virtuously have lived long. Time spent poorly is lost, and true fulfillment comes from living well in our thoughts, actions, and deeds. True living is not measured by the passing of time, but by the depth of our thoughts, feelings, and actions. "He most livesWho thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best," as Bailey once said. The length of one's life is not determined by its duration, but by its quality. As Bonar writes, "He liveth long who liveth well! All else is being flung away." A person living a godly life will be content with their time on earth, regardless of how short or long it may be. They understand that their days are in God's hands, and He orders all things for good. As the psalmist says, "In short measures life may come our way." To live well is to live in harmony with God's will. The Bible teaches us that those who dwell in the shelter of the Most High will be protected from harm. Psalm 91 describes this protection, saying, "He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence." The psalmist promises that God's faithful ones will not fear the terror of the night or the dangers that come during the day. Even in the face of great adversity, those who trust in God will be safe. "A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you," says the psalmist. Because they have made God their dwelling place, no evil shall befall them. Instead, God's angels will guard them and protect them from harm. The Book of Psalms is a collection of sacred songs and prayers that offer comfort and reassurance to those facing trials and tribulations. Psalm 91 is a powerful declaration of trust in God's protection and provision, drawing upon imagery from the wilderness and the dangers of the ancient world. The passage foreshadows the divine protection that will be extended to the faithful, even in the face of unseen threats and terrors. As we navigate the challenges of life, let us remember to live well and earnestly, trusting in God's care and provision. By His help, we can find peace and security, even in the midst of adversity. Whoever seeks shelter in the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty, Psalms 91:1-4 says. I declare that the Lord is my refuge, fortress, and God, in whom I trust. He will save me from hidden dangers and visible threats, cover me with His feathers, and under His wings, I'll find refuge; His faithfulness will be my shield and rampart. The Psalmist begins by emphasizing dwelling in the shelter of the Most High and finding rest in the shadow of the Almighty, a powerful reminder of God's overarching presence and protection. This sets the tone for the rest of the verses, highlighting the close relationship with and reliance on God. The declaration that the Lord is a refuge and fortress is a firm affirmation of faith, acknowledging Him as the one in whom we place our trust and seek protection. God promises deliverance from various perils like the fowler's snare and deadly pestilence, symbolizing traps laid out to ensnare and harm. His ability to safeguard His people from all forms of evil illustrates His sovereignty and power over any challenges that may come our way. The imagery of being covered with God's feathers and finding refuge under His wings is a tender and comforting picture of God's love and care, reflecting His nurturing and protective nature towards His children. God's faithfulness serves as a shield and rampart, emphasizing the unwavering nature of His promises and protection. This reinforces the idea that God's faithfulness acts as a defense against life's trials and tribulations, serving as a solid barrier of protection for those who trust in Him. These verses highlight the themes of trust, refuge, protection, and faithfulness in God, encouraging believers to seek shelter in His presence, recognizing Him as a stronghold and source of deliverance in times of need. God's protection over those who seek refuge in Him is evident in Psalms 91:5-8. When facing difficulties, trusting in the Lord as our refuge is essential. This message aligns with other biblical verses emphasizing faith in God's protection. Proverbs 18:10 states, "The name of the Lord is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe." Verse 11 assures believers that God's protection will shield them from harm. Psalm 91 emphasizes trust, divine intervention, and victory over evil for those who abide in the Lord. The verses remind us of God's presence and care for His people, offering comfort during troubled times. The passage encourages believers to place their faith in God as our ultimate refuge and protector. Know therefore that thy Lord is God, faithful unto thee, keeping covenant and steadfast love with those who walk in His commandments to an hundred generations. And behold, He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in affliction, deliver him and honor him. This section declareth the promise of God to be present and attentive to those who cry unto Him. It sheweth that God is ever ready to answer the prayers of His faithful servants and rescue them from their tribulations. And as it is written in Jeremiah 33:3, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and tell thee great things which thou knowest not." Furthermore, in verse 16, "With long life shall I satisfy him, and show him my salvation." God promiseth to grant long life and salvation to those who remain faithful and trust in Him. And this, O ye children of God, is the ultimate reward of salvation, a central theme throughout the scriptures. And as it is written in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Psalms 91:14-16 declareth the idea of divine protection, deliverance, and salvation for those who love and acknowledge God. It serveth as a comforting reminder of God's faithfulness and unwavering commitment to His people throughout the ages. And lo, we stand before thee, O congregation, with reverend Ogunlade at thy head, whose voice doth carry the weight of sacred text. The Almighty's protection and guidance are ever-present, shielding us against the trials that may come our way. Yet, the journey doth not end here. We shall explore how this unwavering faith can empower us to face the challenges that lie ahead, strengthening our resolve and deepening our connection to the divine in the next chapter. For the Lord's promise of salvation is not merely a distant hope, but a living reality that we must embrace, day by day.

Psalm 91 description. Psalm 91 sela. Psalm 91 orgel. Psalm 91 summary. Analyse psalm 91. Psalm 91 summary and analysis. Psalm 91 mijn toevlucht. Psalm 91 message.