

Saturday, May 2, 2020

Turn off the outside “noise” for a couple of minutes and consider this message from God’s Word.
I am praying that it calms your spirit and encourages your heart.

PSALM 91:1-16 (TNIV)

¹ **WHOEVER DWELLS** in the *shelter* of **①THE MOST HIGH**
will rest in the *shadow* of **②THE ALMIGHTY.**

² **THEY SAY OF ③THE LORD,** “He is *my refuge* and *my fortress,*
④MY GOD, in whom I trust.”

³ **SURELY** he will save you
from the fowler’s snare
and from the deadly pestilence.

⁴ He will **cover** you with his feathers,
and under his wings *you will find refuge;*
his faithfulness *will be your shield and rampart.*

⁵ **You will not fear** the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,

⁶ nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday.

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

— PART 1 —

*I found that when a passage of Scripture has been very familiar to me for a long time — such as this passage! — if I will simply **slow down** . . . take my time . . . and read thoughtfully and reflectively, it can become alive to me in new and fresh ways.*

Look at the challenges the Psalmist faced in his day. **He sees them everywhere he looks!**

- ³ the fowler’s snare
the **deadly pestilence**
- ⁵ **the terror of night,**
the arrow that flies by day,
- ⁶ the **pestilence** that stalks in the darkness,
the **plague** that destroys at midday.
- ⁷ A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand...

How about you and I? We face a few of these in our own everyday lives, right? We haven’t been too worried about “the fowler’s snare” or “the arrow that flied by day” — but we know that **“the deadly pestilence”** is gunning for us!

Some of us are struggling with **“the terror of night,”** I’m sure. **Anyone out there struggling with insomnia these days?** So many things to worry about. Our health. Our loved ones. The economy. **Our** own personal “economy”! Our jobs. “INFOR-

MATION OVERLOAD"! Contagious uncertainty, fear, and anger in our communities. Divisive political demagoguery. Conflicting medical and health prognoses. Those last items in v. 6 also ring a bell: **"the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, and the plague that destroys at midday."**

Verse 7 is beginning to hit home for us as well: **"A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand..."** We are saddened at the mindboggling numbers of people who have been exposed to this virus . . . who have contracted it . . . who have been hospitalized . . . who have lost their lives. Who have lost someone they love. Who have lost a job. Who have lost money. Who have lost hope.

And yet.

In the words of David Crowder, "in the middle of the *mess*, there is **MAJESTY**."

¹ **WHOEVER DWELLS in the *shelter* of ❶THE MOST HIGH will rest in the *shadow* of ❷THE ALMIGHTY.**

² **THEY SAY OF ❸THE LORD,**
"He is *my refuge* and *my fortress*,
❹**MY GOD**, in whom I trust."

❶ We have a SHELTER, in whom we can *dwell* . His name: **THE MOST HIGH GOD**.

❷ We know **THE ALMIGHTY GOD**, and we can *rest* in his shadow.

❸ We have a REFUGE, and a FORTRESS: **THE LORD**, in whom we are *protected* .

❹ And we have *put our trust* in **OUR GOD! He's got this!**

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So, MOST HIGH GOD — ALMIGHTY GOD — LORD — "OUR GOD" —
we turn to you...we look to you...we throw ourselves on your mercy.

*We are truly "at home" in your shelter.
We can completely "rest" in your presence.
We are utterly secure in your refuge.
We are absolutely safe in your fortress.
AMEN. HALLELUJAH!*

Pastor Doug

P.S. *I hope to "see" you* (virtually) at our **LIVE-STREAM Worship Service** Sunday at 10:30 A.M.! **It's the first Sunday of the month**, so we'll celebrate the Lord's Table; be ready with the bread and cup — use whatever you have available in your home. **Bring your tithes and offerings — we need your financial support more than ever!** Give online, mail a check, or bring it with you on a **FAMILY FIELD TRIP** after watching our online service! Some of our staff will be there to greet you after the service tomorrow from 11:45-12:30, with facemasks. Canned goods for the Food Pantry would be welcome. And our Children's Ministry will have something for your kids!