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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Our Rescuing God Psalms 91:1-8, 11-16

Lesson Background and Introduction

The historical setting of Psalm 91 is unclear, but the literary context sheds light on its meaning. The preceding psalm, Psalm 90 (which begins Book IV of the Psalter), is a lament. As such, it reflects mournfully about the fleeting nature of life, which withers under the wrath of God because of sin. That psalm ends with a petition for renewal from God. Psalm 91 seems to be a response to the lament of Psalm 90. Psalm 91 is comprised of four stanzas, which are distinguished by shifts in speaker. These four are verses 1, 2; 3–8; 9–13; and 14–16. Analyzed in a more technical way, the structure of Psalm 91 has as its touchstone a certain Hebrew conjunction that can be translated in various ways. Depending on context, some possibilities for translating this word are “for,” “that,” “if,” and “when.” This word also can be an emphatic “indeed,” “truly,” or “surely,” again depending on context. In Psalm 91 this conjunction is translated “surely,” “if,” and “because” in verses 3, 9, and 14, respectively. We should also keep in mind that the psalms are poetry, and one of the defining features of Hebrew poetry is parallelism. As discussed in previous lessons, this is often seen where one line corresponds in some way with the line that follows, as the second line repeats the thought(s) of the first line in different ways. Parallelism can also feature contrasting ideas or even show how one event or action leads to a certain consequence. While English poetry is often identified by the rhyming of words, Hebrew poetry has been described as the “rhyming of ideas”—that’s parallelism.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

The psalmist knew fear and trouble full well and gave them names. But another reality is described in this psalm, one which overshadows the great troubles of this life. The psalmist knew the Father is the only true refuge we will ever find both in this life and the next. We have a part to play, as the psalmist tells us—we stay close; we recognize the Lord as our only true refuge; we put our trust in Him; we make Him the dwelling place of our heart; we attach ourselves to Him in love; and we call upon Him at all times. But too often, as Isaiah said, “We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way” (Isa. 53:6). I have turned to other ways, to other things I thought were solid and secure. I have trusted people and places with my very life and soul, only to discover they were not fortresses; when the wind and storms came, they crumbled. It took me many years and many wrong turns to realize that the Father is the only fortress where there is true safety and deliverance. Once, when I was staying in what I thought was a safe place with people who truly loved me, I clearly heard Him speak to me and warn me about my situation. His words were terse and reprimanding, like a father whose child had run out into a busy street. “Stay Close to Me!” I did, and when I turned to Him, I saw that I needed to leave and find security in Him. I have learned to listen to His voice and remember what He says throughout the Psalms: “Make Me your refuge”; “Dwell in My shelter”; “Abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” When I stay close to Him, He will do the rest. He will answer when you call; He will rescue you; He will show you His salvation.

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Jesus Christ was born to save all who will accept His offer of salvation

POEM FOR THE WEEK:
Use us, Lord, and make us humble,
Rescue us from foolish pride;
And when we begin to stumble,
Turn our thoughts to Christ who died. —Sper

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many
(Mark 10:45 NKJV)

from "Our Daily Bread", Sept 11, 2014)

New Series: Discipleship & Mission

UNIT: Call To Discipleship

NEXT WEEK

Called to Serve
(Luke 14:7-14)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Rescue from Troubles (Ps 91:1-4)

Rescue from troubles through God's indwelling (1-2)

- God's indwelling delivers through power (Ezek 36:27)
- God's indwelling delivers because the Holy Spirit guides in truth (John 16:13)
- God's indwelling delivers because the Holy Spirit teaches how to live (Gal 5:16)
- God's indwelling delivers because the Holy Spirit is the conduit of the fruits of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)

Rescue from troubles through God's refuge (3-4)

- God is a refuge for the oppressed and those in trouble (Ps 9:9)
- God is a refuge because He is a fortress and shield (Ps 18:2)
- God is a refuge because He is all powerful (Ps 46:1)
- God is a refuge to those who trust in Him (Nah 1:7)

Rescue from Terrors (Ps 91:5-6)

Rescue through not being afraid of man and his actions (5)

- Man can only kill the body, not the soul (Matt 10:28)
- Man only can harm temporarily (Isa 51:12)
- Do not fear suffering from man's hands for doing right (1 Peter 3:14)
- If we are faithful to God, He will deliver us from man's persecutions (Rev 2:10)

Rescue through not being afraid of earthly troubles (6)

- Do not worry about tomorrow's trouble because today has enough on its own (Matt 6:34)
- Life is too short to worry about tomorrow (James 4:13-14)
- Every man's days are full of trouble (Job 14:1)
- Man may cause us troubles, but these cannot separate us from God's love (Rom 8:35-39)

Rescue Assured (Ps 91:11-16)

Assurance because of angels (11-13)

- Because God sends His angels to protect those who are representing Him (Dan 6:22)
- An angel delivered Peter from jail (Acts 12:6-11)
- God gathers through His angels (Matt 24:31)
- Angels encamp around God's children (Ps 34:7)

Assurance through God's love (14)

- God's love provides assurance and confidence (1 John 4:15-18)
- God's love provides assurance by making us alive in Jesus (Eph 2:4-5)
- God's love provides assurance through the promise of eternal life (John 3:16)
- God's love provides assurance through answered prayers (John 16:26-27)

Assurance through prayer (15-16)

- Prayer provides assurance through the confidence to approach God's throne (Heb 4:16)
- Prayer provides assurance because Jesus is interceding for us (Rom 8:34)
- Prayer provides assurance because the prayer offered in faith is effective (James 5:15-16)
- Prayer provides assurance because God hears prayers (1 Kings 8:39)