

# **Empowering People to Change the World**

The Secret Place Psalm 91 Steve Holt

#### Psalm 91- The Secret Place

- Psalm 91 is one of those Psalms that presents to us a God Who will protect and give provision and power to the believer who will trust in Him.
- There is a clear cause and effect in Psalm 91 of "if—then." For the Spirit-filled Christian who will "dwell in the secret place of the Most High," he/she "will abide under the shadow of the Almighty."
- This is a Psalm with distinct rewards and amazing results for one who will dwell in the secret place.

My thesis for Psalm 91: If you abide in God's "secret place," you will live under His protection, provision, and power.

#### Verse 1

God has a secret place. Isn't it strange that God has a secret place?
 I wonder if this is the place where <u>His manifest presence is the</u> greatest?
 I have wondered if this is a guarded place, like heaven, where no evil can enter? I don't know exactly.

# The secret place is a relational connection with God, not an actual place on earth.

- Finding God's secret place is the key to a life of protection, provision, and power.
- The secret place is under the shadow of "the Almighty," Shaddai, one of three titles for God in this Psalm, besides the personal name, Lord (Yahweh):
  - Elyon-Most High
  - Elohim-Sublime God
  - Shaddai-the Almighty
  - Other descriptions for Shaddai would be "mighty, unconquerable, all-mighty God; 50 times in the Old Testament.

It was the name used by the Patriarchs—men like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses.

- Some scholars say the word comes from the Akkadian word for "mountain," indicating God's mighty strength over nature. Shadday has the combination of sheh-who and day-sufficient, the meaning of all sufficient for every need.
- To dwell in the secret place of God is to abide in the shadow of Shaddai. To abide in something or someone's shadow means you're quite close. The shadow indicates in the presence of something.
- Being in the presence, the shadow of Shaddai! Where else would anyone really want to be?

#### Verse 2

# When we say, "He is my refuge and fortress," we are entering His secret place.

- The secret place is an attitude and direction of the heart: trusting in God.
- This is the key to peace during storms, tranquillity in times of turmoil, and wisdom in periods of confusion.
- Should it not be the quest of all of us? To dwell as much as possible in God's secret place?
- Life brings tribulation, trouble, and turmoil. But the secret place of God is protection, provision, and power.

# Where is the secret place of God?

The secret place is the place of His manifest presence. It is the spiritual state of God's presence and peace. It is not a location—He doesn't dwell in temples or church made by men's hands (Acts 7:48; 17:24). He doesn't dwell in America per se—though His secret place can be found here. He doesn't dwell in big conferences per se—though He does sometimes show

up there. He doesn't dwell with a particular man or woman—though that person must learn to dwell in the secret place if he/she wants His anointing.

As I have studied Scripture, as I have lived the Christian life as a leader and student of God's ways, I see three distinct spiritual states that could be defined as "God's secret place."

The first is found in Psalm 22:3. God's secret place is wherever and whoever is offering praise to Him.

# 1) Praise is a secret place of God.

 God's secret place is the place of His presence. The presence of God's Kingdom peace and power is directly related to the practice of God's praise. The verb "enthroned" indicates that wherever God's people exalt His name, He is ready to manifest His presence and thus, His power (see Spirit-Filled Study Bible on Psalm 22:3).

# 2) Prayer is a secret place of God.

Jesus said, "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." (Matthew 6:6)

"Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart." (Jeremiah 29:12-13)

"Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." (Jeremiah 33:3)

God's secret place may surprise you on this one...Psalm 62.

Verses 1-2, 5-7, 11

# 3) Patience in waiting on God is a secret place.

 For the person who will wait on God, he/she must learn to say, "He is my refuge and fortress."  There is a secret place for the one who will find refuge and fortress in God.

# What is God's response to those who dwell in His secret place?

#### Verse 3a

- 1) He delivers us from traps set by people.
  - As you live for Christ and abide in Christ, you will not be in step with the world, and people are going to dislike you; people in your own family may turn against you.
  - The bolder you are in your faith, the more traps people will set to ensnare you.

Jesus said, "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

Peter writes, "Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you..." (1 Peter 4:12-14)

- Fiery trials are from people. People make traps, and traps have bait.
   Don't take the bait. Don't get yourself in useless, baseless debates that are just traps with bait.
- Takes stands, but don't take the bait.

#### Verse 3b

- 2) He delivers us from plagues and diseases.
  - This is a major theme in Psalm 91.

- Look also at verses 6, 9, and 10.
- Plagues of locusts and diseases were common in the Middle East.
- This was very important in ancient times because of the encounters with so many kinds of people on the trade routes.

## God wants to bless us physically!

## **Deuteronomy 7:15**

"And the Lord will take away from you all sickness, and will afflict you with none of the terrible diseases of Egypt which you have known, but will lay them on all those who hate you."

Psalm 103:1-3
"Bless the Lord, O my soul;
And all that is within me, bless His holy name!
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget not all His benefits:
Who forgives all your iniquities.
Who heals all your diseases."

- Forgiveness and healing always go together. The greater healing is forgiveness, and the results will be less sickness.
- You and I have a responsibility to take care of our bodies. Kingdom living is being aware of the right foods to eat and the right supplements to take.
- Be aware that the foods you are eating now are <u>not</u> what your parents ate. The chemicals, pesticides, and GMO's that are our food today are in many cases, 75% less vitamin enriched than 50 years ago.
- Tim Hawkins prayer: "Lord, as I eat this Big Mac, I ask You to miraculously take this chemically-saturated, preservative-injected, vitamin-less piece of meat and bun, and turn it into celery, carrots, and vitamin-enriched protein before it hits my gut. Amen."

#### Verse 4

# 3) His truth is our shield against deception.

- There are 150 passages in the Bible about the end times, and most of them are about not being deceived. There is more about deception than tribulation.
- If you love the truth, it will set you free!
- Most of what you here from the Legacy Media is about controlling you through subtle deception.

## Put up the shield of truth in three ways:

- 1) Read God's Word every day.
- 2) Become familiar with new outlets that tell the truth: Mercola articles, The Lunatic Farmer, Children's Health Defence, Gateway Pundit, Tucker Carlson, and Zero Hedge.
- 3) Prayer—come to Noonday Prayer! Our newest staff member, Josh Floyd, is leading us in worship, Bible, and prayer.

#### Verse 5

# 4) He provides peace in times of terror.

- This is huge. So many Christians have just as much fear as non-Christians. They are not spending time in the secret place!
- The Prince of Peace wants you to experience His peace on a daily basis. There is a Peace in the Lord (salvation) and a Peace of the Lord (daily experience of trusting in the Lord).
  - The Peace in the Lord comes when we get saved, when we get justified in Christ.
  - But the Peace of the Lord, is abiding next to Him in hard times and letting His peace guide you.
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## Philippians 4:6-7

"Be anxious for nothing, but <u>in everything by prayer and supplication</u>, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

#### Verses 7-8

# 5) He rewards us for faithfulness.

 The wheat and the tares will come up together. Then there will be a harvest time when the Lord comes; the true believers will be rewarded, and the posers, pretenders, and unbelievers will be judged.

#### **Verses 11-12**

## 6) He surrounds us with angels.

We are talking about Shaddai - the God of Angel Armies!

#### Verse 13

# 7) He brings unusual victories.

- Have you read this Book? God can bring unusual victories in unusual situations.
- "And they blessed Rebekah and said to her: 'Our sister, may you become the mother of thousands of ten thousands; and may your descendants possess the gates of those who hate them." (Genesis 24:60)
- "Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you." (Luke 10:19)
- Ex. Moses at the Red Sea, Daniel in the lion's den, David and Goliath, Peter in prison, Paul and the viper.

 Ex. <u>Healthy Recovery Ministry</u> with Pam Holloway; <u>Church Voter</u> <u>Guide</u> with Chaim Goldman; <u>Joseph Enterprise</u> with Mark McWilliams and Glenn Holloway...These are unusual strategies that have brought unusual victories!

#### Verse 14

## 8) He will promote us.

• In my book, Worshipper Warrior, I have a chapter on "Interview," regarding just how God is always interviewing you for the next job...

#### Verse 15

9) He will answer your prayers.

#### Matthew 7:8

"For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."

#### John 16:23-24

"And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full."

#### Verse 16

# 10) He will bless you with a long productive life.

 A long life means nothing if it's not productive! I love the way Moses is described at the end of his life:

"Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished. And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. So the days of weeping and mourning for Moses ended.

Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the Lord had commanded Moses.

But since then there has not arisen in Israel a prophet like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face." (Deuteronomy 34:7-10)

So, have you discovered Gods secret place? Praise, prayer, waiting? God is ready to blow your socks off if you will choose His secret place!