

15. Is there a particular promise amongst these that you find encouraging at this time and if so why?

16. These verses are not all about what God says He will do. What things are we told to do and what do you think each means in practice?

Pray

Pray for the end of term service coming up for St James school and for all those who will be moving from one school to another or leaving for college, university or work. Pray also for refreshment for teachers and pupils over the summer.

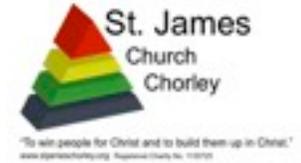
Give thanks for the Keswick Convention and pray for all those who will be going this year particularly those from St James. Pray that it will be a time of spiritual encouragement and of rest and recreation in beautiful surroundings.

Pray for our continuing sermons on the Psalms over the summer weeks that they would encourage people to make the most of this amazing spiritual treasure store given to us through the Holy Spirit.

*David Phillips,
June 2018*

The Psalms

Psalm 91 : Under His Wings



The shape of this Psalm can be seen in its use of pronouns: Verse 1 is about "he" who dwells etc. In verse 2 the believer responds "I" will say etc. Verses 3 to 13 are about "He" (God) and "you". In the final verses God speaks saying "I" will deliver "him" etc.

Read Psalm 91 you might like to have 4 people read it as above.

"He who dwells..." v1

1. At first sight verse 1 looks like typical Hebrew poetry with the two halves saying the same thing in different ways. But what promise does the second half contain and what does it mean?

2. Some say that Psalm 91 is a meditation on Deuteronomy 33.27 which we also thought about last week. What is the similarity between the opening to the Psalms 90 and 91?

"I will say..." v2

3. Some can talk about what Christians believe but others can say "I believe"? What is the difference and how do we see something similar in verse 1 and 2 of this Psalm?

4. Some can look back at a time when they knew about God, but could not truly speak of "my God, in whom I trust". Is that your own experience? (What about others in your group?)

“He will deliver you...” v3-13

5. Pick out some of the different ideas and images used in these verses to explain what it means that God is our refuge and fortress.

6. Many can look back at times when they have known God’s protection in incredible ways. Can you think of any from your own experience, from Christian biographies or from the Bible?

7. However, if Psalm 91 is just promising us we will come to no harm in this life how can it be true? In what ways do we see people, including Jesus, “suffering for righteousness sake” (1Pt 3.14)?

Read Matthew 4.5-6

8. Which verses of this Psalm did the devil quote? What was he tempting Jesus to do? Was it a proper use of the Psalm?

Read Romans 8.35-39

9. What sort of troubles does Paul mention? Does he say we will escape them if we trust God? How do these verses show that God does not promise to keep us safe **from** trouble but safe **through** trouble?

10. How then can Psalm 91 be a great help to us when going through times of trouble?

Go back to **Matthew 4** and **read verse 11**.

11. What had the devil falsely said the angels would do but what did they actually do after Jesus had endured forty days of fasting and temptation?

12. There is only one other occasion when we read about an angel helping Jesus, in Luke 22.43. What was the trouble Jesus was facing there and how did the angel help?

Read Hebrews 1.14

13. There is a lot of nonsense around today about angels which has nothing to do with the Bible but knowing that even Jesus needed such help what encouragement can we draw from Psalm 90 verse 11.

“I will deliver him..” v14-16

Verse 3 says “He will deliver you” but in verse 14 God says “I will deliver him”.

14. How many times does God say “I will...” in these three verses and what does each promise?