

Psalm 91

by Ekkehard Hornburg

About 100 years ago, during the First World War, the 91st US Infantry Brigade was preparing for combat in Europe. The commander, a committed Christian, gave each of his soldiers a small card on which Psalm 91 was printed, the number of the brigade. They agreed to read this psalm every day. After they had started praying this psalm every day, the 91st brigade was sent into three of the bloodiest battles of the First World War: Chateau Thierry, Belle Wood and the Argonne. Other US units that fought there suffered up to 90% casualties. Only the 91st brigade lost not one single soldier. We are living in uncertain times, but God has promised to be our refuge, our hiding place. In this place, the devil cannot find us. When God's judgement came over the earth and it was destroyed by a flood, God had a safe place for Noah and his family. For us, too, there is a safe place like that. This place is called "In Christ". In him we are protected and hidden from all the attacks of the evil one. The Bible says that our life is hidden with Christ in God. The safest place on earth is being in the will of God. God makes seven promises to those who love him and have made him their place of refuge: verses 14 to 16

- 1. I will rescue you!** *Call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honour me*, Psalm 50:15. This poor man called, and the Lord heard him; *he saved him out of all his troubles*, Psalm 34:6. *The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all*, Psalm 34:19. The name Jesus means saviour, and everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Jesus is your saviour. He hears the weakest cry and hurries to your aid. He sends his angels to save you. An angel released Peter from prison and saved him from execution. An angel protected Daniel in the lions' den. Angels are ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation, Hebrews 1:14.
- 2. I will protect you,** *for you acknowledge my name!* The name of Jesus is our protection. For he will rescue you from every trap and protect you from deadly disease, Psalm 91:3 (NLT). Say the following: "This I declare about the Lord: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him," Psalm 91:2. *The name of the Lord is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.* Me in Jesus and Jesus in God, that is a safe place.
- 3. I will answer you!** *Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know*, Jer. 33:3. When Elijah prayed, God answered and the fire fell. When Solomon dedicated the temple and prayed, God answered and the glory of God filled the house and the fire of God fell. God answers prayer! Miracles happen when we pray.
- 4. I will be with you in trouble!** "Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul.'" Not only are angels helping us, but God has also sent the Holy Spirit as our helper and advocate, John 15:26. He helps us and wants to show us the way out of all hardship.
- 5. I will honour you!** Jesus said: *My Father will honour the one who serves me*, John 12:26. We honour God if we hear his word and do it. We honour the Holy Spirit if we listen to him and give him the place he deserves. If we are ashamed of God, his word and the Holy Spirit, then Jesus will disown us before his Father and the angels and we will have a low place in his kingdom.
- 6. I will satisfy you with long life!** The first commandment with a promise is: *Honour your father and mother so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.* Someone may say: But I did not honour my parents and they are already dead; does that now mean I have to die sooner? No, for God is a God of forgiveness if we ask him. God wants to bless us with a long and fulfilled life until we are satisfied.
- 7. I will show you my salvation!** *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God*, Matt 5:8. *Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?* John 11:40. God wants us to see and experience his glory and miracle-working power here and now. God promised to let Moses see his glory because Moses had found favour with God and God knew him by name, Exodus 33:17. You and I have also found favour with God through faith in Jesus. He knows us by name and we can see his glory.