Study Guide

Highlights

Psalm 91 stands as a profound testament to the multifaceted nature of God’s protection, deliverance, and unfailing commitment to those who seek refuge in Him. The psalm collectively underscores the communicable divine attributes such as faithfulness and love, exemplified by the intimate imagery of refuge and shelter, and the incommunicable attributes of omnipotence and omniscience, as seen in God's command over angelic beings and the promise of omnipresent protection. It delineates an omnipotent God who engages with humanity in a deeply personal manner, inviting believers to partake in a covenantal relationship wherein their acknowledgment of His sovereignty invites His divine intervention. In Christian faith, this Psalm encapsulates the very essence of divine providence, echoing the salvific purpose of God for man—offering not only physical protection but also spiritual salvation through Jesus Christ, the ultimate manifestation of God's love and protection for humanity. The relevance of this Psalm is timeless, encouraging believers to seek God's presence as the ultimate sanctuary against the tribulations of life.

Assurance of God’s Protection

Psalm 91 offers the faithful assurance of God’s protection against the perils of life (Psalm 91:1-4). The Psalmist begins with a declaration of trust in the Lord as a refuge and fortress, affirming God's role as protector. In the shadow of the Almighty, one finds a metaphorical shelter depicted as a place where trust is placed in God’s fidelity. The passage employs imagery of a bird shielding its young with its feathers, evoking a sense of warmth, care, and impenetrable security. The truthfulness of God is portrayed as a shield and buckler, suggesting a defense against attacks both seen and unseen.

Focus

* What images are used to describe God’s protection in these verses? The images used include a refuge, fortress, bird's feathers, shield, and buckler.
* How do these metaphors deepen our understanding of God's protective nature? These metaphors create a vivid image of safety and security that relates to the comprehensive protection God offers, emphasizing His guardianship and reliability.

Reflect

* Reflect on a time when you have experienced God’s protection in a tangible way.
* Consider how this experience developed an imagery of God as a refuge and fortress that influences your approach to trust and faith.
* Discuss how you can communicate the assurance of God’s protection to others who may be fearful.

Divine Deliverance from Fear

The psalmist describes God's deliverance from fear and nocturnal threats (Psalm 91:5-6). The emphasis here shifts to a fearless stance in the face of terrors that plague the night and the arrow that flies in daylight. This portion of the Psalm is designed to embolden the believer, asserting that fear is unnecessary when one dwells under the divine auspice. The nocturnal and diurnal dangers represent a comprehensive metaphor for all times of peril, suggesting that God's care is not limited by time or circumstance.

Focus

* What forms of dangers are mentioned in these verses, and what do they represent? The dangers include terrors of the night and arrows in the day, representing both literal and figurative threats that one may encounter at any time.
* In what way does this promise extend to our lives today? This promise reassures us that no matter what fears we face, whether at night or during the day, God’s presence offers us deliverance and peace.

Reflect

* Reflect on how recognizing God’s deliverance has affected your ability to face fears
* Think about times when you’ve been anxious and how trust in God’s word might have assuaged your fears
* Share ways in which you can help others understand and embrace this divine deliverance from fear

God’s Angels to Guard

The Psalm asserts that God commands His angels to guard the faithful in all their ways (Psalm 91:7-12). This section paints a picture of divine intervention where angels are dispatched to protect individuals from harm. The promise that not even a foot will strike a stone is particularly powerful, indicating a level of care and attention to detail in God’s protection. This is an ultimate reassurance that God’s protection is proactive, not just reactive, engaging heavenly beings in the safeguarding of His people.

Focus

- What role do the angels play according to these verses?

- Answer: Angels are sent to guard and protect the faithful, ensuring not even minor harm comes to them.

- How does the promise of angelic protection contribute to the overall theme of safety in Psalm 91?

- Answer: It underscores the extent of God's protective measures, involving the supernatural to care for His people, which adds depth to the psalm's assurance of safety.

Reflect

- Contemplate on how the concept of angelic guardianship influences your perception of God’s care

- Reflect on moments when you felt a divine presence guiding or protecting you in your life journey

- Explore ways to remain mindful of this angelic protection in daily life

Unconditional Divine Rescue

The Psalmist speaks of God’s promise to rescue and honor those who love Him (Psalm 91:13-16). The verses assure of triumph over forces that would otherwise be overpowering, like lions or serpents, symbolizing formidable adversaries or dangers. This commitment from God to rescue and honor His followers illustrates a reciprocal relationship based on love and trust. It is a testament to the benefits that come with the knowledge of God's name - an ancient expression signifying a deep, personal relationship with Him.

Focus

- What does God promise to those who love Him and acknowledge His name in these verses?

- Answer: God promises rescue, protection, long life, and salvation to those who love Him and acknowledge His name.

- How do the metaphors of lions and serpents deepen the meaning of God’s protection?

- Answer: They represent powerful and potentially overwhelming dangers, suggesting that God's

protection enables us to overcome even the most intimidating challenges.

Reflect

- Reflect on the relationship between loving God and receiving His protection and honor

- Contemplate the significance of acknowledging God’s name in the context of personal trials and tribulations

- Share personal experiences where you felt that God has rescued you as a response to your love and acknowledgment of Him

Reflect on the ways in which the collective themes of Psalm 91 resonate with your own spiritual journey

Consider how this Psalm can be a source of comfort and encouragement during times of trouble or fear

Discuss how Psalm 91’s portrayal of God can inform and transform your daily walk of faith