Psalm 91

**Psalm 91 Comprehensive Ultimate Eternal Security:**

**Our CUES not to Fear**

**CAUSES OF INSECURITY**

Psalm 90 is a Psalm of Moses. In it Moses recounts the many times Israel had brought God’s wrath upon themselves because of their sin and rebellion. They had an intellectual faith because they couldn’t deny the great signs & wonders of God they had seen. But they never learned to love God enough to obey His Word from their heart. They never simply trust & obey. As a result a whole generation led by 600,000 men die in the wilderness. Psalm 90 speaks of that generation withering away beneath God’s anger against sin. Psalm 90 is the revelation that all sin has consequences even for the people of God.

**ETERNAL COMPREHENSIVE SECURITY IN THE LORD**

What a contrast we have in Psalm 91. What a beautiful summary of the life of Moses from his miraculous salvation as a baby and his divine protection throughout his life.

**As we study Psalm 91 it becomes evident it is written by Moses to encourage Joshua to lead the next generation of God’s people into the promised Land**. In Deuteronomy 3:21-22, 28 God specifically charged Moses “to encourage and strengthen” Joshua for that monumental task. The very brief encouragement recorded in Deut. 31:7-8 was a start but surely not enough to sustain Joshua through the great battles that awaited him. But how could Moses encourage him after they both witnessed so much of God’s just judgment & wrath upon Israel for 40 years in the desert? That heart breaking history summarized in Psalm 90 by Moses. Deuteronomy summarizes some of the root causes of their stubbornness:

Deut. 29:2  “And Moses called unto all Israel, and said unto them, Ye have seen all that the LORD did before your eyes in the land of Egypt unto Pharaoh, and unto all his servants, and unto all his land; (3)  The great temptations which thine eyes have seen, the signs, and those great miracles: (4)  Yet the LORD hath not given you an heart to perceive, and eyes to see, and ears to hear, unto this day.”  [*they had the same problem in Jesus’ day – Matt. 23:37; Acts 7:51-52*]

Moses could encourage Joshua in a powerful & profound way because he was different from those who died in the desert. He was a man of faith who “wholly followed the LORD” (Num. 14:24; 32:11-12; James 2:17-26). God’s Spirit was ‘in’ him (Num. 27:18; Deut. 34:9) & he was a faithful uncomplaining servant of Moses (Num. 11:28). His commitment to obey God’s Word caused both his character and faith to stand out among the multitudes of Israel. His unwavering trust in God’s Word gave him access to God’s mercy & blessing rather than God’s wrath & judgment.

For 40 years Moses observed how the character & faith of Joshua manifested through all the battles, trials, and judgments of Israel. So in Psalm 91 under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit he predicts some of the future blessings awaiting Joshua if he will continue to exercise those character traits and spiritual disciplines that make for long term success in life.

**In Psalm 91**, **the Holy Spirit also inspires Moses to prophecy of the even greater blessings that would come upon the future Messiah 1500 years later** [(Jesus, *Yeshua* or Joshua in Hebrew). Jesus & Joshua are the same name (Hebrews 4:8KJV)]. Supernaturally, the Holy Spirit as “the Spirit of Christ in Moses empowered Moses to “testify before hand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow” (I Pet.1:11). And just as amazingly for us, Psalm 91’s literal encouragement to Joshua, infused with prophecies of Christ, is also designed to minister unto us! (I Pet. 1:12; Heb. 11:40; Dan. 12:9). Only a sovereign, omniscient, eternal God could inspire such an amazing multi-faceted Word! And only a sovereign, omnipotent, immutable God could preserve that word throughout history for us “upon whom the ends of the world are come” (I Cor. 10:11; Rom. 5:4)!

**Joshua had the experience of seeing “the God of Israel” along with Moses and the elders** (Ex. 24:10-13). “They saw God and did eat and drink” [*a beautiful prophetic type of the Lord’s supper*]. Shortly thereafter Moses & Joshua went up into the mount of God (Ex. 24:12-18). At that time God gave Moses the plans for & command to build the Tabernacle (25:1-9). This Tabernacle was the means by which God would dwell among the people of Israel. As Moses & Joshua appeared together on the Mount in the Old Testament, so Moses & Yeshua (Jesus) appear together again on the Mount of Transfiguration in the New Testament (Matt. 17:1-8; Lk. 9:28-36). Joshua not only had a Word from God that God loved him (Deut. 7:7-9) he had experienced that love in very practical ways many times because of his faithful obedience. We have the same Word from God of His love for us and we can know that love in very practical ways if we will faithfully trust & obey our LORD (**John 14:15-26**) [*Without such faithful obedience you will lack the conception, perception & reception of God’s presence in your life!*]

Joshua was the minister of Moses (Ex. 24:13; 33:11). **He was privileged as the servant of Moses to enter into the Tabernacle**, **perhaps even the Holy of Holies**, **where the mercy seat was**. Whether Joshua was in the Holy Place or Holy of Holies he heard God “speak face to face with Moses as a man speaketh to his friend” (Ex. 32:17; Numbers 7:89)! Oh, what it must have been like to listen in on those conversations! We get to listen in on some of them as we read & believe the 5 Books written by Moses (Genesis – Deuteronomy).

***Many great and dangerous battles awaited Joshua as he was called of God*** (*given a charge*) ***to lead Israel into possession of their Promised Land*** (Deut. 31:14). Moses brought them out of bondage but was unable to lead them into the Promised Land! It is Joshua who leads God’s people into the Promised Land (Deut. 6:23). But there were enemies far greater than the giant human kings (Deut. 3:11; Amos 2:9) & armies of the land that would be trying to destroy Joshua and all Israel! This spiritual aspect of “war” is hinted at by the fact God warns Joshua “that the LORD would have war with Amalek from generation to generation” (Ex. 17:14-16; Ephesians 6:10-18). Joshua needed this Word from God to triumph over the unseen spiritual enemies, fulfill his calling, and enter into the promised rest! So do we (Heb. 3:7-19; 4:1-11)!

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| **Psalm 91**  **Intro** | Moses called *Oshea* (*Joshua*) the son of Nun *Jehoshua* (Num 13:16; Ex 33:11) *Oshea* means “he saves.” *Jehoshua* means “Jehovah saves.” Only he whose name reveals Jehovah’s salvation can complete God’s purpose for our life | | Ultimate fulfillment in *Yeshua* (Jesus) who fulfills the ministry of both Moses & Joshua |
| ***Security from countless dangers comes from an intimate relationship with God*** | | | |
| **91:1** | He that **dwelleth** in the secret place of the most High shall **abide** under the shadow of the Almighty.  (Psalm 27:5; 36:7) | Joshua loved to abide in Tabernacle of God’s presence. (Ex. 33:11) and experience the glory of the LORD there! (Ex. 40:34-35) | Even while walking on earth Jesus was in God’s presence in heaven (John 1:18; 3:13KJV; 8:29) |
| The secret place of the Most High was in the Holy of Holies of the Tabernacle directly above the mercy seat. For it was from there the LORD said: “I will meet with thee, & I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the 2 cherubims” (Ex. 25:22). They literally had been under the shadow of the Almighty with the “pillar of a cloud” by day & “a pillar of fire by night” (Ex. 13:21-22; 40:34-38; Neh. 9:19) which later was associated with God’s presence in & above the tabernacle (Deut. 31:15; Numbers 9:15-23).  Now because of Jesus Christ we have become the “Temple of God” and His presence is **in** us! (I Cor. 3:16; 6:19). And God’s glory is upon us (Isa. 60:1; 2Cor. 3:17-18). This must be related to “the secret of His tabernacle” (Ps. 27:5; Isa. 4:5-6). **But it is crucial to remember the Tabernacle was only a refuge because of the blood of the Lamb shed on its altars to atone for Israel’s sins! (see Lev. 1 thru 7; 9:4, 6-7; Num. 28 & 29).**  *He knew the importance of blood shed on the Day of Atonement to make atonement for all the sins of all the congregation (Lev. 16)*All the sacrifices without blemish were prophetic Types of the sinless Christ who is ‘the lamb of God’ who takes away the sins of the world! (John 1:29, 36). The secret place was the Holy of Holies. We have been made to sit in the true heavenly holy of holies, in Christ (Eph. 2:6). We have guaranteed access by the blood of Jesus (Heb. 10:19). Under the law it was death to go into the Holy of Holies; under grace it is death **not** to enter! | | | |
| **91:2** | I will say of **the LORD**, *He is* **my** refuge & **my** fortress: **my God**; **in him will I trust**. (**Josh. 24:15**) | He knew it wasn’t the building but the presence of God that was his true refuge typified by The pillar of fire by night & the cloud of glory by day | Jesus dwelt in the presence of God until He bore our sins on the Cross! (Ps. 22:1; Matt. 27:46; Mk. 15:34) |
| “Everyone which sought the LORD went out unto the tabernacle” (Ex. 33:7) They knew there was no house that could contain God (2 Chron. 6:18) for He is omnipresent! But they could meet God there. Joshua took full advantage of that incredible opportunity (Ex. 33:9-11)! All those who like Joshua “cleaved unto the LORD” survived the 40 years of trial in the wilderness (Deut. 4:3-4). Now because of the finished work of Christ on the Cross, God is not only with us, but “in” us forever! (Eph. 3:19; 4:6; 2 Cor. 6:16); the Holy Spirit is “in” us (John 14:7; Rom. 8:11); Christ is “in” us (Col. 1:27; 2 Cor. 13:5). One way we show that we have made God our refuge is by “planting ourself in the house of the Lord” (Ps. 92:13). Doing that comes with a promise of “bringing forth fruit in old age” (Ps. 92:14 with Ps. 1:2-3). | | | |
| **91:3** | Surely **he shall deliver thee** from the snare of the fowler, from the noisome pestilence. (Ezek. 14:21) (Rom. 14:13, 21; I Cor. 8:9) | The snare of the fowler refers to false prophets (Hos. 9:8). Gibeonites deception snared Joshua (Josh. 9:3-27) but saved from the pestilence of plague (Num. 11:33-35; 14:37-38) & leprosy (Num 12:10-15) | Jesus proves He is the LORD by healing all pestilence (Matt. 4:24; Lk. 4:40) & Leprosy (Lk 17:12-4). He over-came the snare of the fowler (Matt. 4:1-11) |
| The “snare of the fowler” was evident in the sexual trap that Balaam set for Israel (Numbers 25:1-3; 31:16; Rev. 2:14). We also must avoid the satanic traps to commit fornication (I Cor. 6:13-18; 7:5; Heb. 13:4). The snare of the fowler also signified the temptation to seek after & worship the false gods of the heathen (Deut. 12:30-31KJV; Ps. 106:36). Riches can be a snare that entraps us in self destructive behaviors (I Tim. 6:9-10KJV). False prophets (Hos. 9:8) & false teaching (2 Tim. 2:24-26) are a snare of a fowler. Jesus by his Divine wisdom avoided every snare set by Israel’s religious leaders (Matt. 22:15-22; Lk. 20:19-40).  Even if God judged Israel’s sins with His 4 great judgments: the sword, the famine, the noisome beast, & the pestilence (Ezek. 14:21) He would deliver the righteous (Ezek. 14:14, 22). Joshua experienced this deliverance 40 years in the wilderness while his generation in Israel died for their rebellion. [from the sword in all his battles (Ex. 17:10-15); from the famine with the manna (Ex. 16:3-6, 13-15); from the noisome beast, the fiery serpents (Num. 21:5-9); and from the pestilence (Num. 16:46-50). | | | |
| **91:4** | He shall cover thee with his feathers, & under **his wings** shalt thou trust:  (Deut. 32:9-13; Ex. 19:4;) | Under the wings of the Cherubim (Ex. 25:17-**22**) God communed with Moses. (***See Appendix 1***) | *Jesus as God comes to us with healing in His ‘wings.’* (Mal. 4:2) & fulfills this (Lk. 13:34) |
| ***God is pointing Joshua to the mercy seat****. It was the 1st piece of Tabernacle furniture God revealed to Moses (Ex. 25:17-22). The cherubim were part of the mercy seat and placed directly over the ark* ***which contained a copy of The Law****.* If you went into the holy of holies and bowed down before God, the shekinah glory above the mercy seat would cast a shadow of the cherubim wings over you (Ex. 37:9).Jesus has become our ‘mercy seat’ (I John 2:2; Rom. 3:25 – propitiation is the same word as mercy seat in Heb. 9:5) (Ps. 57:1). The mercy seat covered the Ark of the Covenant which contained a copy of the Law (God’s Truth).  Any Jew would understand “his wings” to also refer to the Tzit-Tzit that they were to wear on the 4 ‘borders’ of their garments (Num. 15:38; Deut. 22:12). In Hebrew these ‘borders’ are called ‘wings.’ These were memory aides to remember & do all 613 commands of God in the 5 Books of Moses (Num. 15:39-40). So every Jew considered himself literally under ‘God’s wings’ when he put on these special garments! *Jews entered the secret place when they prayed under their prayer shawl with the Tzit-tzit (Matt. 6:6)* | | | |
| ***An intimate relationship with God’s Word maintains our intimate relationship with God*** | | | |
| **91:4** | **his truth** *shall be thy* shield & buckler.  (Ps. 107:20; 119:25,107,154) | As a leader of Israel Joshua must have his own copy of God’s Word (Deut. 17:14, 18) | Jesus is the very “word of God” (John 1:1-3) & the truth (John 14:6) |
| *“The book of the covenant” had been read to Joshua & he had entered into a blood covenant relationship with God “concerning all those words” (Ex. 24:7-8, 13). Joshua had a “word from God” that he would defeat all enemies in the Promised Land (Ex. 34:10-14). He knew God had made a blood covenant oath to Abraham, Isaac & Jacob to bring them into the Promised Land (Deut. 6:23; 9:5; 10:11; 11:9). Joshua had also made a fringe with a ribband of blue on his garments to remember all God’s commandments to do them (Num. 15:37-41). So important was God’s Word to Joshua he even wrote them upon stone for all Israel to see & read (Deut. 27:1-4; Josh. 8:32). Joshua had been humbled by hunger & learned the Divine lesson of the manna (Deut. 8:3). He knew the most important place to keep God’s Word was in his heart (Deut. 11:18). To do that Joshua meditated in “the book of the law day & night” (Josh. 1:7-9). If he did that he knew he would prosper (Josh. 1:8; Ps. 1:2-3). Joshua did not conquer the Promised Land by his military skill but by his obedience to the Word of God! (Num. 32:4; Deut. 11:22-25; Ps. 44:3; Zech. 4:6). Thus God had given them every victory (Deut. 2:24, 31-33, 36; 3:2-3; 20:4, 13-14).* | | | |
| ***An intimate relationship with God & His Word enables us to triumph over fear*** | | | |
| **91:5** | **Thou shalt not be afraid** for the terror **by night**; *nor* for the arrow *that* flieth **by day**; (I Kings 22:34) Moses had been protected (Ex. 17:4 | God removed Joshua’s fear with His Word (Josh. 1:9). He was supernaturally protected from the arrows of Amalek (Ex. 17:9-14) & the arrows of the Amalekites & Canaanites by obeying God’s word (Num. 14:40-45) | No terror could cause Jesus to fear (Mk. 4:35-41). When they would hurl stones like arrows at him he escaped (John 8:59; 10:31, 39; 11:8-9 |
| Joshua had been saved many times from the arrow that flieth by day in the many battles in the wilderness. He was protected in the battle against Edom (Num. 20:18-21); against king Arad the Canaanite (Num. 21:1-3); against Sihon king of the Amorites (Num. 21:23-24, 30-32; Deut. 2:24-36; 29:7-8; 31:4; Josh. 2:10-11); against Og the king of Bashan (Num. 21:33-35; Deut. 3:1-13; 29:7-8; 31:4; Josh. 2:10-11) who was a Giant (Deut. 3:11). He had a promise from God he would recover from all his sickness & not die prematurely in battle (Ex. 23:25-26; Deut. 7:15)! | | | |
| **91:6** | *Nor* for the pestilence *that* walketh **in darkness**; *nor* for the destruction *that* wasteth **at noonday**. | The destruction was a result of their complaining (Num. 11:1-3). Joshua was saved from the destruction of the serpents (Num. 21:4-9) | Jesus referred to the brazen serpent of Num. 21:4-9 as a prophetic type of the Cross (John 3:14-15; 2 Cor. 5:21). |
| The terror by night & pestilence in darkness encompasses all the threats to our life we can’t see for they hide in the darkness. It causes us to fear the unknown. The dangers of the day (in the light) we see and are aware of & can take steps to avoid or defeat. Notice Joshua will have 24/7 protection, morning, noon & night! This was supernaturally & literally confirmed by the presence of the Pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night (Num. 14:13-15; Neh. 9:19). They were protected from Judgment by “the greatness of God’s mercy” (Num. 14:19-21). Joshua was saved from the noonday destruction of Dathan & Abiram (Deut. 11:6) | | | |
| ***Intimacy with God makes us immortal till its our time to go Home [Deut 31:14; 2Tim. 4:6-8]*** | | | |
| **91:7** | A thousand shall fall at thy side, & ten thousand at thy right hand; *but* it shall not come nigh thee. | Num. 26:65. The 1st time Joshua is mentioned in the Bible is in context of war with Amalek (Ex. 17:8-16) won by the supernatural intercession of Moses (Ex. 17:11-14) | As Moses prayed to give Joshua victory so Jesus prays to give us victory (Heb. 7:25) & destroys Amalek for ever (Num. 24:20) |
| Amalek is a prophetic type in the Bible of the spiritual warfare God’s people will have with satan throughout history [until Rev. 20:10-15]. These spiritual enemies also mentioned in Ps. 91:13. Joshua survived when 3000 died by the sword & the plague after worshipping the golden calf (Ex. 32:27-28, 34-35) and when 14,700 fell at his side under God’s judgment (Num. 16:41-50) and when 24,000 fell at his side when Israel worshipped baal & committed whoredom (Num. 25:1-3, 9). The 603,550 men of the 1st census (Num. 1:46) fell at Joshua’s side over the 40 years wandering in the wilderness. Of the 601,730 men of the 2nd census in Numbers 26 only Caleb & Joshua had survived from the 1st census (Num. 26:63-65). Why? Read Numbers 14:20-35. *Will you be like the faithless majority who die in the wilderness of this world or will you be faithful like Joshua & Caleb & receive your eternal reward? (Heb. 4:1-10; Num. 32:8-13)* Illustration: George Washington | | | |
| **91:8** | Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold & see the reward of the wicked. | Joshua saw Korah descend live into hell (Num. 16:26-34). He saw God’s revenge on the Midianites (Num. 31:1-7) | The Father has given Jesus the authority to execute all judgment (John 5:27-29 |
| Joshua saw God’s judgment even upon fearful Israel when they played the part of the wicked by refusing to obey God’s command to enter the Promised Land (Deut. 1:26-38). Joshua had a promise from God that the seven nations in the Promised Land would be cast out (Deut. 7:1; Deut. 7:1-2, 16-19, 22-24; 19:1; Acts 13:19). They were judged by God when their sins & abominations were full (Deut. 9:4-5; 12:29-31; 29:16-18), especially their idolatry (Deut. 18:9-14; 20:16-18; Judg. 2:2; 6:10) and gross immorality (Lev. 18:21-25, 27-28; 20:22-23), & they reached the point of no repentance (Gen. 15:16). But the congregation of Israel were also sinners (Deut. 9:7, 12-20, 24)! What about them? Joshua new of the prophetic warnings in Leviticus 26 & Deuteronomy 28 that revealed even Israel would be rewarded according to her sins if they rebelled against the LORD who had freed them from slavery in Egypt. But Israel would never be utterly destroyed because of God’s eternal blood covenant with Jacob, Isaac & Abraham (Lev. 26:42-45). The reward of the wicked, not in blood covenant relationship with God, was just as severe but they would be blotted out forever. We too must never forget that we are sinners saved by grace (I Tim. 1:13-15; Eph. 2:11-13) | | | |
| ***We are responsible to pursue intimacy with God to reap its rewards*** | | | |
| **91:9** | **Because thou hast made** the LORD, *which is* my refuge, *even* the most High, thy habitation; (*modern Heb.- preschool*) | This was evidenced in Joshua as he loved to abide in the Tabernacle of God’s presence (Ex. 33:11) | Jesus made God his habitation by spending so much time in His presence in Prayer (look up all night |
| Jesus emphasized the importance of us “abiding in Him” (John 15:4-7). One of the keys to abiding in Christ is to keep His word (John 8:31; Lk. 8:15) & keep practicing it in our daily lives (I John 2:6; 2John 1:9) | | | |
| **91:10** | **There shall no evil befall thee**, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. | Joshua knew this by experience & by direct Word from God (Josh. 1: | Luke 4:28-30; John 8:59; 10:39; |
| So we are also to pray without ceasing: “deliver us from evil” (Matt. 6:13; I Chron. 4:10; John 17:15; Gal. 1:4; 2 Tim. 4:17-18; I Thess. 1:10). | | | |
| ***Intimacy with God brings us into an intimate relationship with the unseen spiritual world*** | | | |
| **91:11** | For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. (Isa. 63:9) | Joshua experienced this (Ex. 14:19; 23:20, 23). He had the blessing of meeting the most special of these angels (*a man*) (Josh. 5:13-15) | Jesus is this special “angel of the LORD.” This prophecy used by satan to tempt Jesus to to sin (Matt. 4:6). |
| The LORD (Jehovah) told them about a special Angel “that would go before them & bring them into” the promised Land (Ex. 23:20-23; 32:34; 35:2). This special Angel was the “man” Joshua met in Joshua 5:13-15 (the captain of the LORD’s host)! This Angel was a ‘Christophany:’ a preincarnate manifestation of the son of God. Because Jesus is a member of the Trinity the LORD’s “name is in him” (Ex. 23:21; John 8:58; Isa. 44:6). Amazingly He came by water (*the Jordan {Josh. 3:13-17}*) & by blood (*the Passover lamb {Josh. 5:10}*) Just as Jesus did in the N.T. (I John 5:5-6KJV). How comforting to know that angels are assigned to minister unto us (Heb. 1:14; Ps. 34:7; Matt. 2:13; Lk. 16:22; Act 27:23) even though we might be unaware of their presence (Heb. 13:2; Matt. 18:10) | | | |
| **91:12** | They shall bear thee up in *their* hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. | God commissioned Joshua to lead Israel into the Promised Land. Nothing could prevent it | The angels ministered to Christ after satan’s temptation (Mk. 1:13) |
| Notice the crucial lesson from Jesus. Satan subtly attempts to mis-apply scripture to get us to unknowingly disobey God. He tries to keep Jesus from going to the cross (or suffer) for God! Satan will do everything he can to keep you from suffering for God or if you do suffer make you angry at God! | | | |
| **91:13** | Thou shalt tread upon the lion & adder: the young lion & the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. (Gen. 3:15) | These are each symbolic of invisible spiritual enemies (I Pet. 5:8; Gen. 3:1-7; Isa. 27:1; Rev. 12) of which Joshua was made aware of in his battle with Amalek (Ex. 17:16) | Satan’s deception avoids this verse (Matt. 4:6-7). But Jesus knew God’s Word & thus His destiny (Heb. 2:14; I John 3:8; Col. 2:15) |
| As the angels were sent to minister to Joshua and Jesus so they are “sent forth to minister for us who shall be heirs of salvation (Heb. 1:14; Acts 12:7-10; 27:23). But notice the important lesson on spiritual warfare. Satan knows the bible and will quote it to deceive us. We must know God’s Word well enough (Ps. 91:4) to defeat him. This is the “sword of the spirit” for us! (Eph. 6:17) Jesus models this by quoting Deuteronomy 3 times (4:15; 6:16; 10:20; 6:13) to expose the deceptions of satan. In Revelation 12:11 the brethren overcame the devil “by the word of their testimony.” | | | |
| ***Intimacy with God will cause us to fall deeply in love with Him. Do you Love God?*** | | | |
| **91:14** | **Because he hath set his love upon me**, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. (Ps. 34:19) | Joshua knew the name of God because his own name was “*Yeshua*” which became the name of the Messiah when He was born of the virgin! (Lk. 1:31; 2:21) | The name of God Jesus revealed to us is “Father” (Matt. 6:9). God delivers his people out of trouble (2 Tim. 3:11-12) |
| Joshua had “circumcised his heart” (Deut. 10:16) so he could “love the LORD with all his heart” (Deut. 6:5; 10:12; 11:13; 30:16, 20). Joshua’s name in Hebrew means ‘Jehovah saves’ & Jesus’ name in Hebrew means ‘salvation.’ So Joshua knew the LORD’s name & the Messiah’s name in a profound prophetic way! (Hosea 12:10). But for us to know the LORD’s name in an even more profound experience Jesus came to reveal God to us by His hallowed name “Father!” (John 17:1, 6, 11, 26; Matt. 6:9) | | | |
| ***Prayer naturally flows out of an intimate relationship with God & is crucial for deliverance*** | | | |
| 91:15 | He shall call upon me, & I will answer him: I *will be* with him in trouble; I will deliver him, & honor him | Joshua knew the importance of prayer to receive God’s deliverance (Ex. 2:23; Deut. 26:5-9; Ps. 102:19-20) | Jesus lived a life of prayer (Heb. 5:7-8; Lk. 6:12; John 11:41-42)  God was with Him in trouble (John 16:32) |
| *We will have trouble but God is with us in all our troubles to help us grow & triumph.* Joshua suffered many troubles because of the unbelief of Israel. But he had faith to take the Promised Land (Num. 14:6-9) & God honored his faith & brought him there 40 yrs. Later!Our troubles help us learn God’s word (Ps. 119:71) | | | |
| ***Intimacy with God culminates in an eternity of fulness of joy & pleasure (Ps. 16:10-11)*** | | | |
| 91:16 | With long life will I satisfy him, & shew him my salvation (Heb. = *Yeshua*). | Joshua lived to be 110yrs old (Josh. 24:29). Salvation in Hebrew is “yeshua” which is the Hebrew name for “Jesus” which is Greek. | Jesus died at 33 but now lives forevermore (Rev. 1:17-18; 5:9-14; John 5:26; Heb. 7:16) |
| We will have “trouble” but God will deliver us! Joshua knew of all the troubles Joseph had to endure. But His intimate relationship with God enabled him to say to his brothers: “Ye thought evil against me, but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive” (Gen. 50:20; 45:5-8; 2Cor. 11:23-33; Rom. 8:28). Joshua’s name in Hebrew. “And Moses called Oshea the son of Nun Jehoshua.” (Numb. 13:16). Oshea means “he saves.” Moses changed his name to Jehoshua which means “Jehovah saves.” He learned an important lesson in his God given name: it is not man who saves but God. There is a powerful application for us in verses that reveal “salvation” (*yeshua*) in Hebrew is the name of Jesus in Hebrew (*yeshua*): “The LORD (Jehovah)… he is become my salvation (*Yeshua*) (Ex. 15:2; Ps. 88:1; “the LORD JEHOVAH…is become my salvation (*Yeshua*)). | | | |

Why was Moses giving Joshua so much assurance against every form of trial & every major Battle & Struggle we might encounter in life?

**The LORD would be his refuge & fortress**…

“from the snare of the fowler” (3)

“from the noisome pestilence” (3)

“for the terror by night” (5)

“for the arrow that flieth by day” (5)

“for the pestilence that walketh in darkness” (6)

“for the destruction that wasteth at noonday” (6)

“there shall no evil befall thee” (10)

“neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling” (10)

“I will deliver him (14)

“I will be with him in trouble” (15)

“I will deliver him” (15)

It is evident that all these are prophetic of “the sufferings of Christ” (I Pet. 1:11). Then verses 14-16 of Psalm 91 briefly prophesy of some of the “glory to follow.”

**91:5-6 – Illustration**. The mother who one night asked her young daughter to go outside and get the broom. She said she was afraid and wouldn’t go. Her mother said “you don’t have to be afraid: Jesus is there, He will watch over you.” So the little girl opened the back door just a crack and said: “Jesus, would you please hand me the broom.”

**91:6-7 – Illustration. Rodney Stark**

Current social conditions are strikingly similar to the paganism practiced in Ancient Rome around the time Christianity came along, as **Rodney Stark describes in his 1996 classic** “[The Rise of Christianity](about:blank).” Perhaps we can learn how to deal with the New Paganism by considering how Christians replaced the Old Paganism in a very short time (at least by historical standards).

**But another phenomenon also helped boost Christian growth: the sudden onset of two epidemics, one in 165 A.D. and the other in 251 A.D.** The first was likely smallpox and the second measles. **In each case, they produced devastating mortality, killing as much as 30 percent of the population each time**.

**The pagan response was to flee as far from infected people as possible**. Even the famous physician Galen fled to his country estate in Asia Minor to wait until the danger was past. Neither pagan scientists, priests, nor philosophers had an explanation for the calamity—it was just the whim of the gods and nothing could be done about it.

**But the Christian explanation was radically different**. **They believed God was testing and judging humans**. **Even though some of the faithful might die, they would also be rewarded in the afterlife for their response to the crisis**. And what did God expect their response should be? He wrote it all down in Scripture: love your neighbor as yourself, care for the sick and the lame, act as the [Good Samaritan](about:blank) acted. That is exactly what Christians did: they cared for one another even in the face of death.

**The consequence of this caring could easily be seen as miraculous**. As Stark writes, “**Modern medical experts believe that conscientious nursing *without any medications* could cut the mortality rate by two-thirds or even more**” (emphasis in original). This nursing could be as simple as providing hydration and nourishment until the patient recovered. **As patients recovered, they would be immune from the disease and could care for the newly sick without fear**.

**So while pagans were abandoned and left to die in droves, Christians fearlessly cared for their own (and later for their pagan neighbors) and recovered in large numbers**. What religion could be more appealing?

After all this, Rome did not decline because of invasion by “barbarian hordes” (as many of us were taught in school), but through depopulation. The barbarians were invited in to take over abandoned farms and serve in Roman armies, while Christianity grew to become a majority religion in just a few generations.

God gave Israel a direct prophecy that Moses was a prophetic Type of the coming of the Promised Messiah in Deuteronomy 18.

But amazingly Joshua in name, person, and ministry was designed to be “a similitude” of the future Messiah who would conquer Israel’s Enemies and bring them into their blood covenant Promised Land! (Hosea 12:10)

Joshua’s victories over the Giants (Deut 3:3, 11, 13; 2:10-11; Josh. 15:14) surely must have helped inspire David to believe he could defeat Goliath as David was a man who meditated on God’s Word day and night and treasured it in his heart! (Ps. 119:11) May the ‘testimonies” of both Joshua & David inspire you to defeat the giants in your life!

Because Joshua knew the certainty of God’s judgment on all forms of idolatry and disobedience (Deut. 13 ). He was so adamant in his commitment to “serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:15; Gen. 18:19; Acts 11:23)

**Appendix 1**

**The 1st covering over the Tabernacle had Cherubim designed into it.**

A picture containing rack, close, thread, fabric

Description automatically generated

The veil into the Holy of Holies also had cherubim designed into it picturing the cherubim that spread their wings over the mercy seat.

A picture containing text, indoor, curtain, furniture

Description automatically generatedA picture containing text, furniture

Description automatically generated

The images of the cherubim would have been multiplied manifold times by their reflection off the pure gold walls of inside of the Tabernacle!

Truly Joshua who had spent much time inside the Holy place (maybe also the Holy of Holies before God restricted it to the High Priest alone, once a year). He would have had such an awe inspiring revelation of literally experiencing Psalm 91:4:

“He shall cover thee with his feathers, & under his wings shalt thou trust”

Moses & Joshua in the tabernacle painting by Tissot

A picture containing text, ground, outdoor, old

Description automatically generated