

PSALM 11

First Psalm of the wicked. To the chief musician. A Psalm of David.

Confidence in God

In this psalm, we have David's struggle with and triumph over a strong temptation to distrust God and begin to seek other means for his own safety in a time of danger. It is believed this Psalm was penned when David began to feel resentment of Saul's envy and had the javelin thrown at him once and again. He was advised to begin to take over his country. He answers, "No, I trust God, and therefore will leave the future to Him."

Observer:

1. How he represents the temptation and discusses it, (Vv. 1-3).
2. How he answers it and puts it to silence with the thought of God's dominion and providence (v. 4), He favors to the righteous, and the wrath that the wicked are reserved for, (Vv.5-7).

In times of public fear, when the abuse of our enemies is daring and threatening, it will be profitable to meditate on this psalm.

In The Lord, I Put My Trust

This Psalm rebukes those who counsel flight or compromise when Biblical principles are at stake. Faithful believers will take refuge in the Lord, and remain committed to righteousness even if the moral and spiritual "foundations are destroyed" in both societies and in the church.

The result will be that the Lord's countenance doth behold the upright.

**11: 1 (Amp) “In the LORD I take *refuge* [and put my trust];
How can you say to me, “Flee like a bird to your mountain;”**

David expresses (confidence) in the Lord as his *refuge*, he rejects the counsel of despair of those fearful of the wicked.
From God’s dual vantage point of his holy temple and his heavenly throne, his eyes survey the world, (examining and judging) both the righteous and the wicked...and *vindicating the upright*.

REFUGE: Shelter or protection from danger or distress.z

Taking “refuge” in something physical, where you are trusting it will take care of you or at least make you feel safe and secure.

When we (take refuge in God) it means that we can find complete safety in Him. He is our shield from danger and trouble.

When we (shift) our perspective to depend on God, the way we live our lives changes completely, in the good times and the bad.

To take (refuge) in God means, despite our underlying circumstances we can make the decision to *put our lives* in the hands of God and to find complete security in Him.

Psalm 46:1 NIV “God is our (refuge) and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

In God is where we find our soul at peace and at rest, and that is found looking to Him for a place of (refuge) and restoration.

Sometimes we have to recount how God has been our (refuge) in times past, in order to be confident that He is our (refuge) in the present.

Testimony Time:

When I look back over my life and I think things over, I can truly say, that I’ve been blessed!!!

I’ve got a testimony that God’s sho-nuff been good to me!

Over, and over, and over, and over, again!!!

God’s been good to me!

Glory, glory...Hallelujah!

11:2 AMP “ For look, the wicked are bending the bow; They take aim with their arrow on the string, to shoot [by stealth] in darkness at the upright in heart”.

This is an ominous sight of the wicked doing this against (David) God’s anointed, a man after God’s own heart.

In this Psalm, the context is Saul’s attempt to kill David who is newly anointed to be king, while Saul is yet still king of Israel.

Saul has an infestation of jealousy, envy, fear, embarrassment, and hatred. He has been given over to a murdering spirit.

His counselors have advised him to forsake his trust in God and flee from King Saul.

Perhaps they have ulterior motives, and were concerned more about maintaining their position and status...” thus, a good run is better than a deadly strand”!

11:3 AMP “If the foundations [of a godly society] are destroyed, what can the righteous do?”

The counselors have asked David what he can do against King Saul’s attempt to kill him, what with King Saul’s vast resources that are able to track David down and kill him.

In other words, the counselors are advising David to forget his trust in God, flee, and hide. However, David, unlike his counselor, was motivated by faith and not by fear! David’s faith was generated from God’s previous victories throughout David’s life.

The “foundations” refer to truth and righteousness that hold society together. King Saul has wrought havoc on society with his poor administration of the kingdom (priest killings, etc).

“What can the righteous do?” If they are in a defeatist mode, the fearful do not refer to truth and righteousness, they do not drum up memories of past victories; they instead flee and hide, or else they simply...switch sides.

What David is saying, is that he will not flee nor turn from truth and righteousness and that he will maintain his trust in God to deliver him from King Saul's evil aspirations.

11:4 NLT "But the LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD still rules from heaven. He watches everyone closely, examining every person on earth".

The temple and the ark within it were the earthly manifestations of God's heavenly throne.

"His eyes": God's watchful eyes signify protection for his people.

(17:8) "Keep me as the apple of your eyes, hide me in the shadow of your wings."

"Pupil", is a part of the body that one would protect at all costs.

"Shadow of your wings" - This to is a place of *refuge* and security.

11:5 NIV "The LORD examines the righteous, but the wicked, those who love violence, he hates with a passion."

God does not shield believers from difficult circumstances, but he tries (tests) both the righteous and the wicked. For some, God's test becomes a refining fire, while for others they become an incinerator for destruction. Don't ignore or defy the test and challenges that come your way. They are (opportunities) for you to grow.

Even though Kings and Rulers rise up (or take a stand) against the Lord and his anointed, in the end, they cannot stand in (God's) presence.

(James 1:12) "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial, because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those that love him".

A wreath is placed on the head of a victorious athlete or military leader.

"Crown of life": the crown that consists of eternal life (Rev.2:10)

11:6 NIV “On the wicked, he will rain fiery coals and burning sulfur; a scorching wind will be their lot”.

This recalls not only the same punishment that befall Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19:24) but also the fiery lake of (Rev. 14:10):

Genesis 19:24 “Then the Lord rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah; from the LORD out of the heavens”.

In the story of Sodom and Gomorrah, we see two facets of God’s character: his great patience (agreeing to spare a wicked city for 10 good people) and his fierce anger (destroying both cities). As we grow spiritually, we should find ourselves developing a deeper fear of God because of his anger toward sin, and also a deeper love for God because of his anger toward sin, and also a deeper love for God because of his patience when we sin.

The unusual nature of this exceptional event underlines that it is an act of divine punishment. Against this background, Lot’s rescue emphasizes God’s concern for the righteous in the midst of a world that stands condemned for its sinfulness of human depravity.

Revelation 14:10 “They too, will drink the wine of God’s fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the Holy Angels and the Lamb”.

The ultimate result of sin is unending separation from God. Because human beings are created in God’s image with an inborn thirst for fellowship with him, separation from God will be the ultimate torment and misery. Sin always brings misery, but in this life, we can choose to repent and restore our relationship with God.

If we do this, we will enjoy everlasting fellowship with him.

11:7 “For the Lord is righteous, he loves justice, the upright will see his face”.

David affirms that the Lord, the righteous judge, will show his face to the upright, in effect rebutting the words of the wicked who assert that he covers his face and never sees (10:11). Here David speaks of special freedom of access before the heavenly king for the upright.

(Ps. 27:8) “My heart says of you, “Seek his face!” Your face, LORD, I will seek.

“Seek his face”! Desire the utmost “intimacy” with God.”