

Psalm 11 God is Our Refuge

by Pastor Roy Hogan

Psalms 20:7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.

*Zechariah 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, **Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.***

This Psalm 11 is an encouragement to us all. It is a beautiful passage in the Word of God. There are times in life when we question our pathway. One may say “Are we going in the right direction? Are we in the Lord’s will?” Sometimes, we reach a place of wondering where God is. We wonder what we have done wrong. I know we should not doubt God nor question God, but we face challenges that are beyond our ability to handle. I know we are educated, but sometime education must take a backseat. I know we have finances to get us by in life. However, there can come times when finances fail. We have a good country, the USA, the best in the world. Situations arise that our country cannot handle.

What shall we do in moments of despair? Shall we trust in chariots? Shall we trust in horses? Shall we depend on the power and might of mankind? We must depend on God. I realize God is always the answer in every situation. This is what I was taught. We do, however, handle a lot of things because of what we learned from God in past situations. Because David had slain a bear, he knew how to handle the lion when the lion came along. What about those situations when our back is against the wall?

A Boeing 747 jet weighs 735,000 pounds with cargo and fuel. However, a microscopic virus has taken the jet out of the sky and parked it on the ground. Today’s modern large cargo ships can weigh from 100,000 tons to 500,000 tons. Around the world, such ships are docked in the port.

Shall we trust in horses and chariots? The government of country-after-country around the world is at a loss of what to do all because of a microscopic virus called COVID-19.

11:1

In the LORD put I my trust: how say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain?

David appears to be in a moment of crisis at the time God allowed him to pen down this Psalm.

Some, as we see in this verse, urged David to run away from his trials- *how say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain?* A bird has a wonderful advantage over its predators. A bird can take wings and fly up and away from danger. Humans don't have wings. We can't fly away. I have many times wished I could take wings and soar above the problems of life. It is said an eagle has the ability to fly so as to be able to get above storm clouds. This is amazing.

Then, if we had wings, where would we fly to? David must have had a mountain for the verse mentions *your* mountain. I don't have a mountain. There is no mountain with my name on it. There is no mountain where I am welcome. There is no mountain that I can call home.

David resolved not to run away. He decided that was not the answer for getting away from problems of life. He had other options. Seeing he had great favor with the people, he could have assembled an army of supporters to attack his enemies. He has slain the greatest giant in the land. He was a champion warrior. He was charismatic and able to draw the hearts of the people. David decided to stay with the Lord and place his trust in him.

There is an ol' time song that bears to title *Where Could I Go but to the Lord*. David had learned the message in this song.

11:2-3

*For, lo, the wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart.
3 If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?*

I suspect that if I were to flee to a mountain, my enemy would follow me there. A bow with arrows is a popular weapon in the Bible. To my knowledge, there is no handgun mentioned in the Bible. Skilled hunters and warriors in Bible's times could take deadly aim at the target and achieve very good results. Life has a bow and arrows. Life has a quiver full of arrows. Life is highly skilled with a bow and arrow. Today, it may be the arrow of sickness. Tomorrow, it may be the arrow of finances and day-after-tomorrow, the arrow of broken relationships. No one knows what life's next arrow may bring.

The Devil has a bow and arrows. The wicked are mentioned in verse 2. The wicked seem to be reprobate sinners. They are sinners who are obsessed with evil. They lie on the bed in the evening plotting evil. They shoot privily, that is, they shoot *in the dark*. The wicked are often cowards. They hide in darkness and shoot at the upright in heart.

Saul was wicked and somewhat of a coward. He lured David into his chamber to play the harp for him and, then, he suddenly threw his javelin at David.

Please commit verse 3 to memory- *If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?* David saw in his mind the dream of being king of Israel crumble. During all the strife with Saul, he was likely thinking back to his day of anointment when Samuel had placed the oil on his head that made him the future king. Just as he stood and strummed on his harp in peace and harmony in Saul's chamber, the sound of a javelin whizzed by his ear. You can never plan well enough to anticipate the arrows of the Devil. He sends the arrows when you least expect them to come.

The foundations of the righteous are crumbling as I speak. The falling away is in full swing. Many are quitting. Many are changing. Few are of the notion to *stay with the stuff*.

11:4-5

The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men. 5 The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.

While we listen at the cracking of the foundation of our country, God is on his throne. While we read about churches closing, God is still in business. While evil men are hiding behind trees to fire arrows of evil at the righteous, God is on his throne. I am in Athens, Tennessee. God is in Heaven on the throne. Evil men and seducers wax worse and worse, but God is still pure and holy.

God is not dead nor even old and feeble. One of the greatest challenges to aging is the loss of eyesight. God has perfect vision. He has eyes, and he is awake. He doesn't wear glasses. *His eyelids try* bears the meaning that he is doing something we might call squinting when we narrow our eyelids to focus in on an object to see it better. Nothing gets by the eye of God. No, you cannot drive to Vegas and sin a little because you think God cannot see that city.

God was taking a sharp look, not only at David, but at David's enemies. God sees both sides of the story. God tries the righteous. Children of God are under the eye of God. However, it is a far different story for the wicked. I stated earlier that the wicked seem to be a super class of sinners. It may be said that the wicked are sinners on steroids. God said, in verse 5, that the wicked *loveth violence*. Yes, the wicked are a special class of sinners.

11:6

Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup.

Has God changed? Can God turn his head to wickedness? Can God let this generation of reprobate rioters get by? Can the abortionists

skate? The answer to these questions can be found in two words- the Flood. There are two more words that answer these questions- Sodom and Gomorrah.

God will rain snares, that is, the wicked will entangle themselves as did Haman who hanged on the very gallows he built for Mordecia whom he despised. Fire and brimstone are about to fall. Read the book of The Revelation. A great storm is about to unfold. Read the book of The Revelation.

11:7

For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.

I am glad I am on the Lord's side. I am glad he is on my side.

Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.