

# Traps in Life

Psalm 91:1-16 (KJV)

**By way of Introduction:** (ALL SCRIPTURE IS KING JAMES VERSION)

This is a Psalm that some say was written by David, but others say it may have been a Psalm written by Moses. In either case we don't know, but what we are sure of is its contents.

## **Psalm 91 Authorized (King James) Version**

<sup>1</sup> He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

<sup>2</sup> I will say of the LORD, *He is* my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

<sup>3</sup> Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, *and* from the noisome pestilence.

<sup>4</sup> He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth *shall be thy* shield and buckler.

<sup>5</sup> Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; *nor* for the arrow *that* flieth by day;

<sup>6</sup> *nor* for the pestilence *that* walketh in darkness; *nor* for the destruction *that* wasteth at noonday.

<sup>7</sup> A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; *but* it shall not come nigh thee.

<sup>8</sup> Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

<sup>9</sup> Because thou hast made the LORD, *which is* my refuge, *even* the most High, thy habitation;

<sup>10</sup> there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

<sup>11</sup> For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

<sup>12</sup> They shall bear thee up in *their* hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

<sup>13</sup> Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.

<sup>14</sup> 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.

<sup>15</sup> He shall call upon me, and I will answer him:

I *will be* with him in trouble;

I will deliver him, and honour him.

<sup>16</sup> With long life will I satisfy him,  
and shew him my salvation.

- Listen to how this wonderful Psalm records for us “the traps in Life”.
- ✓ If the Psalmist could have been any more specific, he would have.
- **These are spiritual messages in Psalm 91, not intended for the physical, but apply to the spiritual aspects of man.**
- 1. All biblical references are figurative. Exception is Amos 3:5.
- 2. A variety of means are mentioned in Scripture: Snares Psalm 124:7, Our Soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped.
- 3. Traps Psalm 141:9, Keep me from the snares which they have laid for me, and the gins of the workers of iniquity. (trap or snare). Also Jer 5:26. Job 18:10.
- ✓ We are told here in Psalm 91 that we visiting this morning, that there are many different ways of entrapment. These truths are not with the physical side of man but his spiritual well being.
- ❖ Let’s take a closer look together at what it says.

In verse 1 to verse 3 we read....the following.....

**Verse 1.** He that dwells in the secret place of the most High, shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

1. To be delivered from the snare of the fowler is speaking about someone who is a trapper, in this case a trapper of birds, and he has set his trap to catch birds.
2. So here we are associated or likened to someone who has set up his trap to catch birds.
3. But as this is applying to us as in the very same way that Satan sets up his traps, or a snare to catch his prey.
4. Verse 7 says a thousand shall fall at thy side and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. A promise from the Lord to those who have put their faith in the Son of God. This is not talking about a physical protection but a Spiritual protection.
5. This spiritual protection we can confirm by taking a look again at the first three verses of the psalm. He who “Dwells” in the secret place of the most High, is a place of refuge, it is a place of spiritual refuge.

- Now that we have concluded what the Psalmist is speaking about, I would like to take the time to examine the matter of being caught in the snare of the fowler.
- ❖ Think about the snare with me for a moment.....
- ❖ What is s snare.....and how does it work.....?

The “fowler”.....or the trapper as the psalmist is talking about.....goes about setting up a snare to catch his prey.....

A trapper cannot be called a trapper if he is no good at what he does, and that is to trap animals or birds in this case.....

He must set about his trap, with all cunningness and craftiness, so that the quarry or prey will not suspect that there is any danger or anything out of the ordinary to prevent him from otherwise being caught.

- ❖ That's the whole purpose of a trap.
- ❖ The trap in this example is compared to for trapping birds and it, may be a net or cage, or lure, but whatever method that is employed is designed to entrap and ensnare the animal. Then once the animal is caught it can be delivered the final blow.

This is exactly spiritually speaking what Satan does. We are the birds and Satan is the fowler (the trapper).

1. This is what Satan does. His snare is set up ever so carefully, and craftily, so that you won't suspect anything is wrong, and then he will ensnare you.
2. You won't even be aware of the danger that lies there because you have cunningly been deceived.
3. People will say, impossible, I will know when something is wrong, and I can avoid it?
4. But they wrong you know. Satan does not come announced and dressed in a royal Red Walt Disney costume with two horns and a pointy 3 prong pitchfork, with a spear-like tail.
5. But, He is a deceiver, a murderer of souls, and he is the father of all lies.

To remind us, Jesus said this about Satan.

**John 8:44**

Ye are of *your* **father the devil**, and **the lusts of your father ye will do**. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. **When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.**

6. How fickle to think that you alone can defeat the devil (Satan).
- ✓ The Psalmist also tells us in Psalm 91verse 3.....that the Lord is also able to deliver us from the noisome (*fatal*) pestilence. (speaking of sin).

- ✓ Remember, The Devastating epidemic plagues that the OT Prophets understood to be sent by God. (Exodus 9:15, Jer.15:2, Amos 4:10). God had sent pestilence as punishment for persistent unbelief and to encourage repentance (turning) towards God.
1. The “noisome pestilence” can be a fatal disease or virus just like the bubonic plague that killed about half of the population in the early history. If not like the HIV Aids virus that is here today. There is no cure for it.
  2. When you are infected, there is no way out of it and there is no other cure for that disease. It is terminal and there is no way out of it.

So, what now?

3. Sin is like this pestilence. And you cannot cure it. The Law was not able to cure it. The Law could only identify what it was, but there was no cure.
- ✓ But .....the Lord is able.....Psalm 91 verse 4.

Have you ever seen a mother hen with her little chicks. She broods over them, and when danger is about, she covers them with her wings. Her feathers hide the little ones from danger. Their place of refuge is under her wings.

- ✓ In Psalm 57 we can also read how King David called out to God.

**Psalm 57 - David, when he fled from Saul in the cave.**

<sup>1</sup> Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me:  
for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, **in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge**, until *these* calamities be overpast.

- ✓ But, When the Psalmist refers to the disease in Psalm 91 of our text this morning, “the pestilence” he is speaking of is the sin riddled diseased body of a man.
1. It is the disease that kills the soul for the Lord.
  2. The reason Satan is out to get you and me is because he was cast out of Heaven. And he is the destroyer of souls. He is against our Lord.
  3. Isaiah 14:12-14. – Reminds us of Satan cast out of heaven.

<sup>12</sup> How art thou fallen from heaven, **O Lucifer, son of the morning!**  
*how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

- ✓ By way of a spiritual side note for you: It is only the King James bible that uses the word Lucifer. No other modern bibles or bible versions use that word for Satan.
- The snare that was set in Psalm 91verse 3.....will be either the snare of the fowler the trapper, or the snare of deadly pestilence of sin in unbelief.
  - But, don’t despair, the Lord is able to deliver you from it.

## **How does the trapper set his trap**

- A. First it is set up as completely invisible.
  - i. The trapper in the woods first sets his sights on a target.
  - ii. Next, he decides what kind of trap he is going to use.
  - iii. Then he will choose the bait very carefully. Sometimes he would even use any bait. He will allow the trap to do its own dirty deed.
  - iv. Other times he will use a decoy. A device or a substitute to get the innocent bird's attention he is about to trap. This may even be a dead bird propped up inside the trap or snare or net he has set. But in either case it is designed to lure and entice and attract the innocent bird.

## **What makes a good trapper**

- B. A good trapper has to be Invisible.
  - i. If a trapper is to get his prey, then he has to set the snare or net to be invisible to the bird he is preying upon.
  - ii. A good trap or snare is one that is placed where many other birds are hanging out already.
  - iii. It is trap that once you are in far enough, it does not matter if the bird realises its plight and decides to flee. To late no escape.
  - iv. A good trap is one that will not allow its captive to escape no matter how hard it tries but will only sap its very strength out of it as it struggles to escape.

## **The Nature of a trap**

- 1. Is to inflict pain.
  - a). You see when a trap inflicts pain on its victim, the victim will eventually stop struggling.
  - b). It realises there is no way out.
  - c). It is designed and intended to injure the trapped prey.
- ❖ We have a had firsthand accounts of how a snare, or trap works.

The snare wire wraps itself so swiftly and so tightly around the animal hoof or neck. With each pull and kick to set itself free, the wire ever get tighter and cuts into the skin of the animal, shutting off the blood supply to that member. In pain and agony, it cries out, and all the while getting weaker and weaker, and the stressed animal loses hope and lies down.

Fortunately, we can say the desperate cries of the animal was heard by the cattle herder, and help was quickly sought. But still night after night the animal still lay there not strong enough to get up or even take a drink of water. For days it was assisted to its feet, and finally on a day it stood up. The swollen foot still numb, and possibly still to lose its foot. Her little calf standing all night next to her mother's side, not able to take drink, but

standing there waiting for its mother. Thankfully the cattle herder arrived to help.

You see, the snare had been invisible. It was a rusty old snare, but it had been baited waiting for the day when she would come along. Deadly as ever, remaining undetected.

- ❖ They ensnare, and lock the animal into subjection, and all it waits is for death, the fatal end blow to come.
  - ❖ It chokes, and cuts off blood supply until they are hopelessly distraught with now where to go. Then they give up and succumb.
2. This is how Satan works, and the Lord knows that.
  3. That is why he offers you, His refuge.
  4. To seek him early before it is too late.
  5. The fowler is out there fixing his eyes on his next prey.

But the Lord's refuge is to be found. Where nothing can touch or harm His people as we see in Psalm 91 Verse 14-15.

- ❖ So as a Psalm of David or Psalm of Moses, we don't know, but truly a Psalm of protection to those who the Lord loves, to those who love him in return. To those that have called upon His mighty name for salvation.
- ❖ Jesus is that mighty name.

We close on this wonderful scripture.

**Acts 4:12** <sup>10</sup> be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by **the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth**, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, *even* by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

<sup>11</sup> This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

**<sup>12</sup> Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**

PRAYER.....