

“God, Where’s My Help?” // Help #5 // Psalm 91

Psalm 91 if you have your Bibles... We’re in a series called *Help...* in which we are looking that prayers almost all of us have prayed at some point...

This week I want to deal with the problem of unanswered prayer. Those times when you have looked up toward heaven and said, “*God, why aren’t you listening to me?*”

(If you are like me, sometimes **you have read these promises in the Bible of God’s help and protection and wonder** where they have been at various points in your life.

- **Some people say you have a guardian angel** but you think, “Well, if so, mine seems to have been asleep at the wheel at very some key moments.”
- **In 1st grade** I remember my very godly teacher explaining how she had gotten stopped at a stoplight... What about the people in the wreck, why didn’t God do that for them? Where was **their angel?**

I love God’s promises of protection, but I’m not always sure what to do with them.

I find myself gravitating toward them more and more now— particularly as a I get older. (When I was younger, I was amazed at how much older people seemed to worry. I lived with this **general**

¹ *MacBeth*, A4, S3

Works Consulted:

“Disciplines of Guidance,” Tim Keller

“Listen Here,” Andy Stanley

“Listen Up,” Andy Stanley

“Psalm 25,” John Piper

carefree sense of peace, always assuming things would turn out well in the end. But now I see it was a **stupid, rather fragile peace**. So many things in life don’t turn out like we’ve hoped: No relationship is immune from stress, dysfunction or fracture; no body immune from disease or death; no organization immune from corruption. All that I **love seems to live under the** constant threat of death.

- **Life is full of uncertainty**, and tragedy.
 - It reminds me of this 300 year old **bridge in Germany I walked across once** that had been constructed in the days of the bubonic plague (pictures of skeletons **like Where’s Waldo** in different scenes)
- To quote **Shakespeare**: *Each new morn new widows howl, new orphans cry, new sorrows strike heaven on the face.*¹
- Or in the words of that other great poet of Western civilization, **Kendrick Lamar**, no matter what I do, the evils of Lucy are always around me (Lucy being a nickname for death and Satan)

Which is **why I’ve always loved this psalm**, even memorized it, because it is **all about God’s promises** of protection— **Martin Luther** called this psalm “the sparkling jewel of the whole psalter.”

(We **don’t know the author of this psalm**, or the occasion of its writing; only that its promises have been loved by believers for nearly 3K years)

Psalm 91

[1] He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. [2] I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”

- Notice **the images of closeness** in this psalm.
- “Shelter” and “shadow” imply that you are right next to God.
- *Shadow* doesn’t appeal to us today as much as it would have in a hot, arid culture with no air conditioning, but in those days, getting into a shadow could make the difference between life and death! You bald-headed people understand that, right? Or I thought about it the other day when I was going to one of my son’s swim-meets. **I don’t complain about much... but for the love, can we not think of a better way to do swim meets? My son swam in 5 events, for a total of 4 minutes, and we sat out there in the sweltering sun for 5 HOURS. PIC**
 - **When I was a kid**, we didn’t have swim meets, we just swam and tried to drown each other for 5 hours. I am confident **Marco Polo taught me** to swim faster and avoid drowning better than any swim meet ever could. **Survival of the fittest.**
- But **the point is**, I sit out there now for **5 hours in the sun**. And so, I’ve learned to get there early because there are only 3 places of shade in the whole pool complex and I want one of those.
- So, **to be in the shadow of God** (to bring it back to the Bible) means standing inside the protection of God, safe from everything that threatens us.
 - I get the **image of a frightened child standing behind** their parent, feeling safe from whatever threatens them.
- And notice the **personal** pronouns in vs. 2: **my** refuge, **my** fortress. You ever **think about how audacious it is to refer to God** in a possessive sense? **I don’t refer to many people in the possessive.**
 - David Thompson works for me here at the church—we have worked together for 14 years and he is a very close friend. But if I started to refer to him as “My David,” that would seem

weird. Now, I do say it about my kids: My Kharis, my Allie—and they say it about me, “My dad.” That’s the level of **intimacy implied in vs. 1**. Amazing.

[3] For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler (from those who are trying to hurt you) and from the deadly pestilence. (this is protection random disease or disaster—from both intentional harm by my enemies and random accidents.) [4] He will cover you with his (feathers), and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

- **I love this image**—God will put us under his wings like a mother hen covering her young.²
 - **I was reminded of that movie *March of the Penguins*** where they talk about how after a mom and dad penguin have their young, they have to **trade off holding the newborn penguin** under a flap of skin on top of their feet while the other walks some **70 miles** to get food. The journey takes **3-4 months**, during which time whoever is on baby-duty has to stand, huddled up with 2-300 other penguins, day and night, in temperatures **80 degrees below zero** with winds 100 mph.
 - This is **similar to what God is promising here**. I’ll hide you in me so that nothing really threatens you.
- BTW, this image of God holding us under his wings is a **feminine analogy** for God. I point that out because the majority of metaphors for God in the Bible are masculine, but there is a tenderness about God that can be **best reflected in a mother’s love—remember, God created both male and female, differently**, in his image—and parts of his character are reflected more fully in the woman just like parts are reflected more fully in the male. That’s why God made us different.

Because of this, the psalmist tells us, [5] You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, [6] nor the pestilence that

² We see this in a number of places in the Bible: Boaz says it to Ruth in Ruth 2, it’s Psalm 36, Psalm 57, and Psalm 61.

stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday. [7] A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, (highest number they recorded, which for us is like saying ‘bazillions’) but it will not come near you. (What is that experience like? If a disease swept through your neighborhood, and 1000 people died and you were only one left; or through your college and 10,000 people died and you alone were left healthy, they would want to **study your genetics** and find out what was special about you. **The psalmist says that when they study your life**, they will find out your secret is the God whose shadow you stood within.

[9] Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—the Most High, who is my refuge—[10] no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent. (*How much evil? How many plagues?*)

[11] For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. [12] On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. (It’s **almost comical!** You’ll have an angel that will keep you from so much as stubbing your toe!) [13] You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot. You can walk on **broken glass like that** great scene in **Diehard** because you’ll be tougher than Bruce Willis!

Then, vs. 14, the Lord starts speaking. (Up until now it’s been the psalmist speaking, now the Lord starts talking) [14] “Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; (This is **not the typical Hebrew word for love**, btw. It’s a word that means zeal, passion, or deep longing. One commentator said it is the **difference between loving someone and being in love** with someone. The Lord says, “because I am his refuge; because he is totally in love with me; I’m his source, his refuge, his hope, I will deliver him.”) I will protect him, because he knows my name. [15] When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. [16] With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.” (ESV)

So, you can **probably see** why I love this psalm.

But some of you had some doubts spring up **even while** I was reading it. **Don’t try to deny** it—I know what you were thinking.

- **It seems to be saying** this “If you trust God nothing bad will happen to you and your life will go smoothly.” (Even to the point, I noted, of comedy. If you love God his **angels will so closely guard you** that you won’t even stub your toe!)
- **And, the opposite** seems to be implied as well: If things aren’t going well you must not be trusting God.

But...

- **Most of us can talk about a time where bad things happened to us** even when we were trusting in God.
 - (I’ve **stubbed my toe** A BUNCH at night. **Where was my angel?** Was he using the bathroom, or looking down at his phone—texting while protecting?)
 - And as far as I know, **I wasn’t sinning at that moment** that I stubbed my toe. (I may have sinned right after I stubbed my toe, in the words I muttered, but not before).
- **And then you have the whole book of Job:** All of these things the psalmist here promises won’t happen all happen to Job. And Job’s friends counsel him with basically the reasoning of Psalm 91—i.e. if you are **really trusting God**, **bad things** won’t happen to you—and at the end of book of Job God accuses them all of speaking stupidly—basically for saying the same thing this psalm says.
- **And while we’re at it, didn’t Jesus promise that we’d experience suffering and persecution?** **John 16:33**, “In this world you will **have tribulation!**” You’re going to stub your toe; and sometimes you are going to get sick. And sometimes the lions bite you.
- **And here’s the real kicker: Satan quotes this Psalm, Psalm 91, during the temptation to try and derail Jesus!** He says, “Jesus, if you trust God he will protect you—doesn’t the Psalms say he will not even allow you to stub your toe. So, surely you can yourself off

of this cliff!" And, if God doesn't do that, he's not keeping his word!

- See, Satan knows that if you take this psalm at face value, you are going to become confused and deeply disappointed and will probably pull back from God—which is what many people have done.

So, what do we do with this? *I don't know*—discuss it in your small groups. Let's pray. Just kidding.

That is our question...

How do we experience the fulfillment of this psalm in our lives?

1. In how God uses pain to grow us in our knowledge of God (which is life itself!) (John 17:3)

- In John 17, Jesus declared this: Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. John 17:3 The essence of eternal life is knowing God. That means that any harm that comes to you that increases your knowledge of and trust in God is not really harm but help, in the bigger picture.
- The psalmist alludes to this: Notice vs 15 says, "I will be with him in trouble." (It does not say "You will never be in trouble.") This is a clue in the psalm that godly people are sometimes going to experience trouble, and he's anticipating that the fulfillment of this psalm for many of us may not always be literal, at least initially.
- Sometimes when we stub our toe or get smitten by the pestilence we come to know God more, and that is better than simply avoiding pain.
 - Rather than keeping us from the flame, Jesus walks with us in the flame, and the knowledge of him we develop in the flame is better (and more life-giving) than mere avoidance of it.

- In Luke 21 Jesus alludes to the ideas in Psalm 91, and says, ¹⁶ You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all for my name's sake. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. How...? ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your lives. Luke 21:16–18
 - See what he's getting at? There is a kind of life that is deeper and better than merely avoiding pain.
- CARDBOARD TESTIMONIES: Best I've seen: Hers: Diagnosed with advanced breast cancer/his: Doctor who treated her—agnostic/HIS: through her hope in the midst of trial came to faith in Christ/hers: worth it
 - That is Psalm 91—and the testimony of every person with whom God has used pain to deepen their knowledge of God.

You see, in vs. vs. 16, when God says, [16] "With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation," he's not talking about simply adding pain-free years to our lives; he's talking about adding despair-free life to our years.

There's a great NT verse that says all this that many Christians know: ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. They know that verse, but they often overlook the 2nd verse, which tells us what that good purpose is: ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son. (Romans 8:28–29) Growth in Christ-likeness is God's greatest goal for you and that is, as Jesus explained, eternal life itself.

Which leads me to #2. We experience this fulfillment of this psalm...

2. In God's promise to use all things for good in our lives (Romans 8:28)

- Let me teach you an important Bible interpretation principle: Bible passages should never be interpreted in isolation; you interpret certain Bible passages in light of the rest of what the

Bible says. In fact, this is **where a lot of false doctrine** gets started—holding one passage in isolation from the others.

- **That's what Satan tried to do with this passage.** He interpreted it without knowledge of the rest of the Scriptures.
- So, you have to **read this passage through the lens** of the rest of the Old and New Testaments, like I have showed you.
- **Nevertheless, this passage is still true.** Verses like **Romans 8:28** show you how these promises in Psalm 91 are true.
- **Romans 8:28** promises that God is working *all things* together for good. *"Work together for good"* does not mean that bad things are really good things in disguise—it means that God takes **genuinely bad things** and brings his power to bear in them so that they will better off for them having happened.
 - It means that **from the vantage point of eternity** we will be able to see how God exercised his power in such a perfect way that all the evil that happened will, in the end, only lead to greater glory for God and greater joy for us.
 - That's the **ultimate defeat of evil.** All evil deeds ultimately accomplish the reverse of what their authors intended.³
- **We see glimpses of this all throughout the Bible. In Acts**—all of Satan's attacks on the church lead instead to the spread of the gospel.
- **We see it most clearly, of course, in the cross**—that was where Satan and evil people did their worst, and God turned even that for our salvation!
- And believer you can **rest assured, God is doing** the same thing with your pain.

I've told you before that my guess is that already you can probably see some of the good things behind some of what God is doing:

³ Tim Keller, "Satanic Exposition," Psalm 91 (preached at 2015 Alistair Begg's Basics for Life Conference) See also Tim Keller, "Prayer of Rest," sermon on Psalm 91. Both given at Redeemer Presbyterian Church.

⁴ "As soon as God's word becomes known through you, the Devil will afflict you and make a real doctor of you and will teach you by his temptations to seek and to love

- A couple of months ago I used this quote from the **British journalist Malcolm Muggeridge**: *"Contrary to what I would have expected, I look back now on experiences that at the time seemed especially devastating and painful with particular satisfaction. Indeed, I can say with complete truthfulness that everything of value that I have learned in my 75 years in this world, everything that has truly enhanced and enlightened my existence has been through affliction, not through comfort and ease."*
 - **Some of you can see that in your life, can't you?** You can see how God was doing something good in the pain.
 - **So, here's the thing:** *If already we can look back and see a good purpose for some of the suffering in our lives, don't we think given infinite time and perspective we'll see a reason for all of it?*
- **The testimony of countless believers throughout history has been that stubbed toes and serpents and pestilences** can be where God does some of his best, life-giving work in you and others!
 - **I've always loved this quote by Martin Luther**, whom you know is one of my favorite theologians. He said that **as soon as God chooses you**, he lets the devil afflict you to turn you into a "real doctor" of the word. Luther said, *"I credit the devil, the pope and all my other persecutors with my deep knowledge of the word. Through the devil's raging they have turned me into a fairly good preacher, driving me into the gospel to depths I never would have reached without their afflictions."* **Martin Luther**⁴
 - **It reminds me of the story I love to tell about the little bird flying south** for the winter. But he got a **late start**, so he got caught in a snowstorm. The storm was so bad that ice formed

Gods word...for I myself owe my papists many things for oppressing and frightening me, so that through the devil's raging that they have turned me into a fairly good theologian, driving me to a goal I would have never reached."

on his wings and he couldn't even fly. He went down for a crash landing, and couldn't get back up. He thought, "Great. Now I'm going to freeze to death." But then suddenly a cow came and pooped on him. At first, the little bird this had gone from bad to worse, but then he realizes that the manure has warmed his wings and is thawing them. He got so excited that he started to **chirp and sing**. But **this attracts a cat**; who comes along and eats him. **You can learn 3 lessons about your life from this story: Lesson 1: Not everyone who drops manure on you is your enemy. Lesson 2: Not everyone who digs you out is your friend. Lesson 3: When you're in manure, sometimes it's helpful to keep your little chirper shut... and just wait it out because God may be up to something awesome.**⁵

OK, so we experience the fulfillment of this psalm in

- how God uses our pain to grow us in our knowledge of God,
- in his promise to use all things for good in our lives;

3^{rdly}, we experience the fulfillment of this psalm:

3. In the resurrection (Rev. 21:4)

- As Christians, we recognize that **this life is really just a prelude** to the eternal one; a life in which **"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."** (Rev. 21:4)
- We're going to place where the **worst pain we go through will seem like brief** birth pangs swallowed up in the joy of new birth.
- This psalm is **ultimately, literally fulfilled** in that resurrection we look forward to. That's where there are no stubbed toes and no 'death by pestilences.'
- Which is what **makes one feature of this psalm absolutely amazing**: The analogy of **God protecting us under his wings** like

some kind of mother hen **shows us how committed God was to** protecting us from all harm.

- **On the cross** he literally covered us and shielded us so that the harmful elements would not ultimately destroy us.
 - I once heard about a **major fire that hit Yellowstone park.** **After the fire, two firemen were walking through the destruction** and noticed, on a tree stump, a macabre sight: there was a **charred bird, sitting completely upright, as if nothing had happened.** One of the men knocked the bird over, and underneath it was 3 little chicks. The **mother bird had protected her babies** from the fire by taking the fire in her place.
- **This is what Jesus did on the cross.** He shielded us. And that guarantees us that he is working all things together for good and that ultimately this whole story is going to end for us in glorious resurrection, just like his did.
- **Jesus's resurrection is the promise of what** is to come for us, a resurrection in which every phrase of Psalm 91 will be literally true, and that **promise is supposed to redefine** how we see everything on earth!
- **Remember the movie, Sixth Sense?** (Yes, this is the 2nd reference to Bruce Willis, who, behind Nicolas Cage, is the most under-appreciated actor of our generation.) The thing about that movie is you can never watch it the same way twice. (**BTW, spoiler alert: if you have never seen the movie** and want to watch it I am about to ruin it, so close your ears). You find out at the end that he's been dead the whole time. **Now go back and watch the movie a 2nd time** with that knowledge and it redefines everything.
- **You can't see the beginning the same when you know the ending.**
 - **That's how we are to go through life**—we see from the beginning that Satan and all his powers are dead and **Jesus is alive.**

⁵ Craig Groeschel, "The Making of a Man of God," 1 Kings 17

- It shows me that in whatever I go through, nothing can separate me from God's plan for my life—and that means that **even in the worst moments of life I can walk on broken glass and “die hard.”**

*But **there is one more** way we experience the fulfillment of this psalm in our lives. We **experience it...***

4. In moments of deliverance (Ps. 27:13)

It is true that the **primary and ultimate fulfillment** is experienced in the previous 3 things that I have given you. But you **don't want to overlook the** fact that God sometimes gives us manifestations of this deliverance in our **day-to-day lives** now.

King David prayed in Psalm 27:13, “I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!”

- (IOW, it is not only in the sweet by and by that I expect to see acts of deliverance; but now, on earth, while I live!)
- In **Psalm 30** he asked, “**Can the dead praise you?** Can dead men proclaim your faithfulness?”
- **I want to praise you now**—I want to be a **testimony to my generation** of the strength of your right hand, so let me experience that deliverance *now*!

The Apostle Paul experienced moments this kind of deliverance, and he uses language reminiscent of Psalm 91 to describe it. He says, **2 Tim 4:17–18**, “But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that I might fully preach the word and all the Gentiles might hear it. So, I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil work and will bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom.”

Almost every person I know on the front lines of ministry has stories about **how God has supernaturally protected them**—in amazing ways, ways that sound like Psalm 91.

Let me share one from a **man very important** to our church, **Sam James**. (Sam James founded our church in 1962 and then left to be a missionary in Vietnam for 40 years... beginning in the early 60's.)

*While there, he **tried as much as possible to stay in Saigon** because most of the roads going out of the city were not secure; but **on several occasions a young lady from the city of My Tho in the Mekong Delta**, asked him to come and speak to the students of the secondary school there. It would be a **dangerous trip because the Communists** were terrorizing that area. But as he **prayed over the matter**, he felt God wanted him to go.*

*On Christmas Day of 1965, Sam called the Vietnamese security office, and they said they had not had any reports of Communist activity for several weeks. Their only advice was to travel during daylight hours. Before starting out for his trip, however, Sam got up and did what he always did in the morning—read his Bible, and the text for day was **Psalm 91**.*

He set out for his trip, leaving early in the morning, and at first all went well. He got pretty far into the countryside, going past rice patty after rice patty, and he felt no danger.

*He got to within **2 miles of the village** when rounding a curve, he was horrified to see a roadblock less than 300 yards away. **Dirt was piled as high as his Volkswagen** van and extended across the road.... This was the Viet Cong's method was to build a mountain of dirt across the road, stopping all the traffic, then they'd force everyone out of their cars at gunpoint, preach Communism to them, and then rob every one of their valuables. **Often the soldiers shot anyone they didn't like—especially Americans**.*

*A **wave of fear swept over Sam**, and his body began trembling almost uncontrollably. His **foot shook so bad** he couldn't keep it on the brake pedal. He finally stopped about five feet behind the lone car in front of him; but he had never felt as much fear as he faced at that moment. **He thought of his wife and his children...** He could make out a large number of camouflaged communist troops scattered in the brush. **Looking in his rearview mirror, he saw that about a dozen cars had stopped behind him; and he knew the soldiers would make their move at any moment**.*

*Suddenly **Psalm 91** came back to mind: “He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust. Surely he will save you from the fowler’s snare... You shall not fear....”*

*Sam realized that his terrible panic was the result of **not trusting God’s perfect will**. He knew that God guides us down to the details of our lives and that absolute surrender and absolute faith brings absolute peace. And that marvelous peace settled over him. Sam looked to his right and saw no movement among the soldiers hidden in the bushes. He looked to his left and saw a little path the farmers used to drive their water buffalo to and from work in the fields. So he slowly turned his wheels in the direction of that path and slipped the car into its lowest gear.... He expected any moment to hear the sound of gunfire, but it never came. No other cars moved. Hitting the pathway, he hit the gas pedal and veered into a thick banana grove, well past the roadblock. And then he was **back on the road, going into the village**. He stopped the car and felt so weak he could only rest his face on the steering wheel and thank God for His deliverance.*

He made his way to where the believers were gathered, and at that moment a series of heavy explosions shook the ground—followed by gunfire and grenades. Heavy clouds of thick black smoke towered into the sky. He didn’t expect the school officials to go on with the program. But all the students there ready to listen, as if oblivious to the violence... he preached and numbers of students expressed an interest in following Christ.

When the service was over, the clouds of smoke had cleared, the gunfire had stopped, and the Communists were gone. Some of the older students offered to escort Sam past the roadblock... Arriving at the roadblock, they learned that a contingent of South Vietnamese soldiers had opened fire on the Vietcong. The two sides had engaged in a battle, and the cars and people were caught in the crossfire. Bodies were all over the road; and the first three cars (his had been 2nd) had been burned and destroyed, their occupants killed.

*Sam later testified that **Psalm 91** had given him the calmness to settle his nerves and to think about what he should do and to have the courage to do it.⁶*

Does that mean that every time, God will enable you to avoid the explosion and the Viet Cong? No. But it does mean that **you are**

⁶ Taken from *Servant on the Edge of History*.

indestructible until your work is done and sometimes you’ll see manifestations of God’s protection—

--but regardless, you can live the assurance that God is going to work all things out perfectly in your life **for his good plan just like** he said.

(MUSIC)

One of my favorite all-time books is called *Shadow of the Almighty*—it’s the journals of Jim Elliot, one of the 5 young missionaries slain on the beaches of Ecuador in the 1950’s, published by his wife, Elisabeth Elliot, many years later. **It’s named after Psalm 91.**

- The **title is ironic** when you think about the fact that Jim was literally pierced through the heart with a spear and killed, which is something Psalm 91 promises won’t happen. She called her book *Shadow of the Almighty* because she was utterly convinced that the refuge of the people of God is not a refuge from suffering and death, but a refuge through it and a refuge from final and ultimate defeat.⁷ Indestructible!
- In the book, she **quotes Jim Elliot in this book as saying**, “I am immortal until my work on earth is done!”
- **The same is true of you:** you are immortal until your work on earth is done. There may be some painful chapters along the way, but **if you hold on, you’ll see that God was working it all together for good**, just like he said.
 - **Some of the chapters may be painful!** A few months ago, I told you about a talk I heard last year by **Steve Saint... whose father Nate Saint** was one of the other ones murdered. **Later, Steve was part of a group** that went back to that same people and ended up making friends with them. He **led to Christ** the man that murdered his father. **In fact, in one of most remarkable grace stories** I’ve ever heard. He baptized the very

⁷ <https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/slain-in-the-shadow-of-the-almighty>

man who killed his father, Mincaye, and adopted him as his kids' grandfather.

- In this talk, **he said:** “Why is it that we insist every chapter to be good when God promises only that in the last chapter he will make all the other chapters make sense?” ***Don't we see God will do this with all our stories in eternity? Can you believe Psalm 91 and rest in that?***

Conclusion (Bow heads)

Let me close with one final thought: In Luke 13, *“How many times did I want to gather you (to shield you from the elements!) but you would not.”* You have to choose this protection. It's here for you. Will you choose it? If you have, will you rest in it?

