



Perfect Protection

Devotion

*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"
(Psalm 91:1–2).*

Shelter? How do you define shelter? Webster gives several definitions for shelter, all of which refer to some form of protection. Living on the prairie of North Dakota, people learn the importance of shelter. Flat land and lack of trees do not provide a lot of shelter from the 40 mile per hour winds and stinging snow. Early settlers were given free land in exchange for planting "tree shelter belts" around their farmsteads and fields to protect their homes and crops from the wind and the snow. So, what is the meaning of shelter? It is protection.

Why do we need protection? We live in a world of many hazards. We have natural disasters such as hurricanes, tornados, floods, blizzards, and many storms. On streets and highways, we need protection from reckless, speedy, drunk, careless drivers who do not follow the laws. In our homes we need protection from fires, thieves, and accidents. Terrorists, wars, murderers, kidnappers, and all sorts of criminals threaten our safety every day. Wherever we look in our world we are in need of protection. The "tree shelter belts" on the prairies, the air bags in our cars, the fire alarms, the sprinkler systems, the security systems, the military, and the many police and fire workers cannot fully protect us from these things.

There is an even greater need for shelter and protection than physical shelter. It is the protection of our faith in our redeeming Lord and Savior. Our world is full of evil and sin, which is attacking us every day on every side seeking to lure us away from God. As St. Peter writes in 1 Peter 5:8, *Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.* What is our protection from this "roaring lion"? Look again at the psalmist's words, *He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.* It is here, *in the shelter of the Most High*, that we find the abiding security, the safety, the assurance, the shelter, the perfect protection of our perfect God.

The devil, the world, and our sinful nature tell us to come out of the shelter and face the elements. When we leave the shelter, we are subject to the trials, tribulations, destruction, and death of the world. However, we need not fear the devil and all his evil ways. By faith we take shelter in the Almighty who loves us and protects us from hostile and hurtful forces that would destroy our relationship with Him. God's shelter is impregnable and shields us against the counsels and attacks of all enemies who seek to take us away from our Father. We are safe in the shadow of the Almighty, with a permanent angel guard surrounding us. We can trust in God, and rest in His shelter. We can be assured of His protection and in the sure knowledge that *The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold* (Psalm 18:2).

We read Psalm 91 as our closing prayer.

Whoever goes to the Lord for safety, whoever remains under the protection of the Almighty, can say to him, "You are my defender and protector. You are my God; in you I trust." He will keep you safe from all hidden dangers and from all deadly diseases. He will cover you with his wings; you will be safe in his care; his faithfulness will protect and defend you. You need not fear any dangers at night or sudden attacks during the day or the plagues that strike in the dark or the evils that kill in daylight. A thousand may fall dead beside you, ten thousand all around you, but you will not be harmed. You will look and see how the wicked are punished. You have made the Lord your defender, the Most High your protector, and so no disaster will strike you, no violence will come near your home. God will put His angels in charge of you to protect you wherever you go. They will hold you up with their hands to keep you from hurting your feet on the stones. You will trample down lions and snakes, fierce lions, and poisonous snakes. God says, "I will save those who love me and protect those who know me as Lord. When they call to me, I will answer them; when they are in trouble, I will be with them. I will rescue them and honor them. I will reward them with long life; I will save them" (Psalm 91 GNT).

Leader: Dear heavenly Father, we go now secure in Your love and in the peace of the Lord, assured that we rest in the shelter of You, the Most High, and in Your perfect protection. In the holy Name of Jesus. Amen.

Scripture is from NIV, unless otherwise indicated.

Scripture quotations were taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. All rights reserved worldwide.

Scripture quotations marked (GNT) are from the Good News Translation in Today's English Version- Second Edition Copyright © 1992 by American Bible Society. Used by Permission.