

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH-Red Bud, Illinois

Adult Bible Class: "Fear or Faith; Terror or Trust? Worldly Worry or Christian Living"

Hymn: 764 "When Aimless Violence Takes Those We Love" (what is the recurring promise?)

Joshua 1:9 (The Lord to Joshua) "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." **Why not be frightened or dismayed?** _____

1st Chronicles 22:13 (David to Solomon) "Then you will prosper if you are careful to observe the statutes and the rules that the Lord commanded Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Fear not; do not be dismayed." **What will keep us from fear here?** _____

1st Chronicles 28:10 and 20 ¹⁰ Be careful now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; be strong and do it."... ²⁰ Then David said to Solomon his son, "Be strong and courageous and do it. Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed, for the LORD God, even my God, is with you. He will not leave you or forsake you, until all the work for the service of the house of the LORD is finished." **Why not be afraid or dismayed?** _____

Psalm 91: "This strong confession of faith and example of a life entrusted to God's protective safety urges all readers to seek the Lord's refuge when fearful times arise." (*Lutheran Study Bible, page 936*) "Believers rest in the shade of God's protection...The psalmist first states the general principle that all who seek shelter in the Most High will find peace and safety in His protection. In verse 2 he confesses his own faith in this principle. Then in the main body of the psalm he exhorts each of his readers to place their trust in God's protection." (*John Brug, People's Bible Commentary, CPH, pages 85-86*)

Verses 1 and 2: **What four names are used?** _____

What are the benefits of a "shelter"? _____

Of a "shadow"? _____

Of a "refuge"? _____

Of a "fortress"? _____

Verse 3: **What are the two things from which the Most High will "save/deliver you?"**

Who might be the "fowler"? _____ **What is his snare?** _____

Verse 4: **What two images are used to describe God's protection of us?**

Matthew 23:37 and Luke 13:34 (Jesus said) "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!"

Psalm 35:1-2 Contend, O Lord, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me. Take up shield and buckler; arise, and come to my aid.

Zechariah 12:8 On that day the Lord will shield those who live in Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them will be like David, and the house of David will be like God, like the Angel of the Lord going before them.

Verses 5-6: **What four things would there be to fear here?** _____

Why do we need not fear such things? _____

Verses 7-8: **Is the danger real?** _____ **How is that reality described?** _____

What is the comfort of these two verses? _____

How is this danger described? _____ **Who receives it?** _____

Verses 9-10: The NIV translates the Hebrew ki as a condition with “if” for verse 9 and then verse 10 is the following future benefit. The ESV translates it as a causal with “because” where the benefit already is being experienced.

What won’t befall us with the Lord as our “dwelling (place)”? _____

Verses 11-13: **What will God use to guard us?** _____

What describes how complete their protection of us is? _____

Even from what wild dangers are we protected? _____

“Dangerous animals are often used to symbolize adversaries who attack unexpectedly. In addition to protection, God gives strength to stomp these enemies in victory.” (*Lutheran Study Bible, page 937*) “Lions and poisonous snakes may represent mortal dangers, but it is striking that elsewhere in Scripture both of these animals are representatives of Satan.” *PBC, page 88*
Matthew 4:5-7 Then the devil took Him to the holy city and set Him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶ and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down, for it is written, “‘He will command His angels concerning you,’ and “‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’” ⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Are there limitations to God’s promise of protection? _____

In what ways might we put ourselves into harm’s way? _____

Verses 14-16: Here both the NIV and ESV translate the Hebrew particle ki with “because.” We pray, “Deliver us from evil.” These words promise us fulfillment of this petition.

What three conditions are listed which are necessary to enjoy God’s protection?

What eight promises does God make to such a person who does those three things?

What extra gifts does God add to His promise in verse 16? _____

“How quickly life can go from smooth and routine to troubled and fearful! How encouraging it is to know of God’s protection. Our security comes from His promises kept. Jesus trampled Satan once and for all when He gloriously rose the dead. We walk in victory even during dangerous times because He is with us and will not let us be separated from His love. Thank You, Lord, for Your security and strength in this perilous world.” (*Lutheran Study Bible, p. 937*)

We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.