

Finding Your Refuge Amid Today's Turmoil

Editor's Note: This is part two of a two-part article. Find part one at [this link](#).

Psalm 91 invites us to take refuge in God alone, the ultimate place of safety. In part 1, we covered verses 1-4. In this article, we continue with the rest of the psalm. Enjoy! (Unless otherwise noted, the NIV is used below.)

Verses 5-6: “You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.”

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The Hebrew word *pakhad* can refer to a “fear” or to the thing feared (as in something fearful), which is translated here as “terror.” Dwelling in that holy hiding place, we fear nothing night or day, not nighttime terrors, which seem especially frightful, or the daytime arrows—yes, demons and people are out to get us! We don’t even fear the pestilence (Hebrew *dever*, which was used in 3) or plague (Hebrew *qetev*), which some even take as the name of a demon, as it comes stalking during the middle of the day. Still, we have no fear, despite flying arrows, menacing plagues and all kinds of terrors at night. No fear!

Verses 7-8: “A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.”



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This underscores the reality of the promises. People *are* dying—by the thousands all around us, as in a terrible time of war or epidemic—yet death does not touch us. Instead, we will only see God's judgment wipe out the wicked (which describes the people who are dying all around us).

To be clear, these verses are not saying if one person dies during a plague and the other does not, we should understand that the one who lived was righteous and the one who died was wicked. The book of Job urges us not to think that way. However, these verses are saying two things. First, if you love the Lord and walk with Him, when He pours out judgment on the wicked, it will not touch you. Second, even if others are dying in plagues and battles, in that hiding place, you will be secure.

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