

My Dear Loved Ones of the First Baptist Church of Gallipolis, OH:

This week marks the second set of seven weeks (the fourteenth week) of us entering upon our separation from one another due to the Covid-19, and it marks a new series for us to embark upon in the Psalms. For this, we will begin looking at Psalm 91.

Psalm 91:1 - "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High / Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."

Perspective is the way we view something. It's the difference between lost in minutia to seeing the big picture, in incidental from the essential, the temporary from the eternal, the forest from the trees. It gives fresh air to the suffocating demands of life. The masks that we all have been wearing can be oppressive; not that the masks themselves are oppressive, but the fact that they don't let out our hot breath, and then we breath that hot breath back in again. It can be suffocating at times to meet the demands of the regulations around us.

In Psalm 91, God wants us not to be lost in the incidental temporary, but He wants us to see the big, essential picture. He desires us to raise our heads up and get a breath of fresh air so that we aren't suffocated.

God starts right out of the gate by stating His Names, and basically promising that He alone is your personal protection; His two Names promise that security.

The first name is "The Most High" (Elyon in Hebrew). The Most High is a Name of God that is first used with Abraham, a homeless person in Israel. How difficult it must have been for Abraham to wander around Israel only in a tent. In many ways, we have it better than Abraham: at least we have homes to live in. But homeless or not, we, like Abraham, have trials of life. God promises that since He helped Abraham, He will help us as well. Since God is the Most High, He cuts every threat down to size; nothing can overpower Him or get "one-up" on God. Loved Ones, claim that promise today.

The next name is "Almighty" (Shaddai in Hebrew). This Almighty One is not only a shelter, but is also a shadow. Israel's sun can be oppressive and dangerous, but being in a shadow meant refreshment and protection. God Himself when we spend time with Him can be that shelter and shadow. And that's the point. This verse basically says that we are to "dwell" and "abide" with God. This means I must meet with Him daily.

Loved Ones, you have a wonderful God. Spend time with Him and claim these promises found in His Names today.

Praying for you today, my loved ones.