

Abounding Grace Christian Church

A Study of Psalm 91 – Part 5

I. Exposition – Note: In these last three verses, the Psalm switches from speaking in the second and third person to the first person. It's as though God Himself, presumably through the Psalmist, is confirming all the Psalmist has written.

A. Verse 14 - "Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name."

1. "Because he has set his love upon Me..." – Here we have another expression showing the conditional aspect of the promises. The words, "...has set his love upon Me..." are one Hebrew word and means; "to set one's affection, desire, love, be attached to"¹ An additional thought concerning this is; "This is the love that will not let go. If a man has such an attachment toward God he will be delivered (Ps 91:14)."²

"The LORD says, 'Because he is devoted to me, I will deliver him; I will protect him because he is loyal to me.'" – Psalm 91:14 – New English Translation

2. Other Scriptures pertaining to devotion to God or, setting our love upon Him. Deuteronomy 6:5 – "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength." (Deuteronomy 30:1-3; Psalm 119:2; John 14:23-24; Philippians 3:7-8).

3. "...therefore I will deliver him;..."

The word "deliver" here is not the same Hebrew word as the other instances in this Psalm (cf. verses 3 and 15), but has a similar meaning. The word means; "to escape; to rescue, deliver; to bring to safety"³

4. "...I will set him on high, because he has known My name..." – To be "set...on high" is to "be (inaccessibly) high... be (too) high for capture."⁴ Regarding this verse, Johnson and Yoder write:

*"On high is a haven, as in verse nine, which is a place that God puts the one who loves Him. It is a place where God dwells and is out of the reach of the 'evils' pursuing him. Known my name: The Hebrew word *yada* means 'to know'—an intimacy, a closeness to God, having a longing for, or devotion to God. In Exodus 3:13–15, Moses asked God, 'What is your name?' God stated, 'Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh—I am who I am—I am the being... The Lord (YHVH)... this is My name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.' God names himself as the God who is, who was, and will be. In disclosing His name, God is revealing His mercy to His people."*⁵

B. Verse 15 – "He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him."

1. "He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him..." – Concerning the words "call upon Me", William Mounce writes; "to call on the name of the LORD' means to proclaim or praise the excellence of Yahweh, to worship Yahweh, or to summon Yahweh by name for help."⁶

a. Prayer is conversation and communion with God. Even though He is the Creator of the universe, God wants to have a personal relationship with you. He knows everything about you ("Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered." – Luke 12:7), and He loves you unconditionally. He wants you to spend time with Him. Prayer is a way that you can talk directly to God.

¹ William D. Mounce, *Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006), 942.

² Leonard J. Coppes, "773 יָדַעַת," in *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, ed. R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke (Chicago: Moody Press, 1999), 332.

³ Mounce, 1020.

⁴ Richard Whitaker et al., *The Abridged Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew-English Lexicon of the Old Testament: From A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament by Francis Brown, S.R. Driver and Charles Briggs, Based on the Lexicon of Wilhelm Gesenius* (Boston; New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1906).

⁵ Jeffrey D. Johnson and Nicole Y. Yoder, *Behold, His Yeshua! Psalm 91* (Eugene, Oregon: Resource Publications, 2020).

⁶ Mounce, 1035.

- b. When we pray prayers of petition (asking God for something), it always needs to be in line with the Word of God -**John 15:7; I John 5:14-15.**
- c. When we pray prayers of petition we pray to the Father in the Name of Jesus – **John 16:23-24.**
- d. **Why we need to Pray.**

1) Prayer reminds us that we need God in our lives and in our Nation. **II Chronicles**

7:14. (cf. I Peter 5:5-6).

- 2) Prayer helps us hear from God and receive guidance from the Holy Spirit. **Luke 6:12-13; Acts 10:9; James 1:5**
- 3) Prayer strengthens us for service to the Lord. **Matthew 26:41; Jude 20-21.**
- 4) Prayer helps us stay joyful in the midst of contrary circumstances. **John 16:24.**
- 5) Prayer keeps us in the peace of God and gives us power over worry and fear. **Philippians 4:5-7.**
- 6) Prayer gives us victory over our troubles. **Psalm 34:6.**
- 7) Prayer guards the church from weapons formed against it. **Ephesians 6:18.**
- 8) Prayer helps maintain love and unity among church members. **John 17:20-26; I Thessalonians 3:11, 12.**
- 9) Prayer, coupled with the Word, helps deepen our relationship with God. **I Corinthians 14:2; Philippians 3:7-10.**
- 10) Prayer helps the Church stay full of His Presence and Power. **II Chronicles 5-7; Jeremiah 33:3 – “Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.”**

- 2. “**I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him.**” – In addition to the promise of answered prayer, the Lord gives three more promises. First, He promises to “**...be with him in trouble...**”. Under the New Covenant, the Lord is not only with us but He is within us. **I Corinthians 6:19-20; Galatians 4:6; II Timothy 4:17-18.** Secondly, the promise of deliverance is reiterated and thirdly, He promises to “**...honor him...**”. (cf. **Proverbs 22:4**).

“When he calls out to me, I will answer him. I will be with him when he is in trouble; I will rescue him and bring him honor.” – Psalm 91:15 – New English Translation

C. Verse 16 - “With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation.”

- 1. “**With long life I will satisfy him...**” – This is a difficult passage because we all know believers who have died and not lived a long life. Then, of course, there are those who died as martyrs because they would not renounce Christ. One view is that we must consider that life beyond the grave is certainly a long life for us. But, nevertheless in the context, it seems that the psalmist, and the original recipients of this psalm, would have understood this as long physical life. In studying the New Testament, it seems most of the apostles, though they were martyred, lived until their ministry was completed. The meaning of the word, “**satisfy**” is; “**have enough, be satiated; the filling and even overfilling of appetites and desires**”⁷ Dr. Thomas Constable states:

“God usually blesses people who follow His will by allowing them to live longer. This was a special blessing under the Mosaic Law (cf. Exod. 20:12).”⁸

- 2. “**...And show him My salvation.**” – The word “**salvation**” means; “**deliverance, help, rescue from a dangerous circumstance or harmful state by a savior; divine salvation usually has its focus on rescue from earthly enemies, occasionally referring to salvation from guilt, sin,**

⁷ Mounce, 1046.

⁸ Thomas L. Constable, *Notes on Psalms* (<http://www.soniclight.com>: Sonic Light Publication, 2025), 350.

and punishment”⁹

⁹ Mounce, 953.