

PSALM 91

for Spiritual Warfare

God's Protection

'Umbrella' Prayer

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A thousand
may fall at your side,
and ten thousand

This psalm has no title, and therefore the author remains unknown

A Short Prayer from Psalm 91

“Dear God, Thank you for your presence with us, thank you for your Almighty Shadow. Thank you that you go before us, and cover us from behind. Thank you that you are in our midst, and that our future is secure in the place you're preparing for us. Your words bring such hope and comfort. Remind us of your strength today, may we see glimpses of your glory and blessing along the way as we seek after you. For victory and salvation are found in you alone. In the Mighty Name of Jesus, Amen.”



Some call Psalm 91 as “*The Wings of God*”, “*The Umbrella Prayer*”, “*The Only Safe Place*”, “*God’s Protection*”...(just to name a few). In Jewish thought, Psalm 91 conveys the themes of God's protection and rescue from danger. The Talmud (Shevu'ot 15b) calls this psalm the "song of plagues" (shir shel pega'im or shir shel nega'im), for "one who recites it with faith in God will be helped by Him in time of danger". This Psalm is recited every Sunday during the night prayer (Compline) and most monks and nuns can recite it by heart. It is also a Spiritual Warfare Psalm, and it is a Covenant of Divine Protection.

Psalm 91 has supplied both Jews and Christians with a refuge in times of trouble of all kinds, including supernatural assault, deadly plague, and worldly violence. It imagines the believer surrounded by threats but nevertheless passing through unharmed, defended by angels. Thus girded, the faithful may tread on supernatural enemies - lions and serpents - yet remain secure.

Throughout much of Christian history, Psalm 91 retained the element of exorcism, and its words commonly appear on writings and inscribed on buildings. Right up to the Christians today who used the prayer and survived epidemics that killed thousands.

As the psalm promises, **“A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand fall at your right: you it will never approach. Your eyes have only to look to see how the wicked are repaid. For you, O LORD, are my refuge. You have made the Most High your dwelling.”** (Psalm 91:7-9)

“Because he loves me,” says the LORD, “I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.”

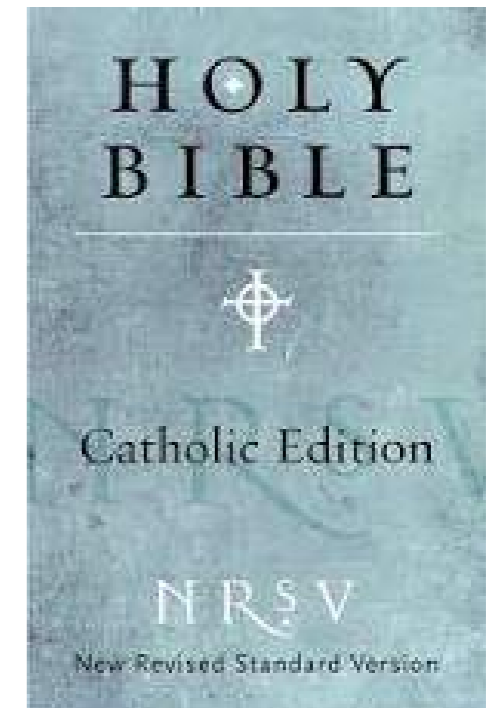
[Psalm 91] A prayer of someone who has taken refuge in the Lord, possibly within the Temple.

Ancient Semitic/Hebrew							Modern Hebrew			Greek		Latin
Early	Middle	Late	Name	Picture	Meaning	Sound	Letter	Name	Sound	Ancient	Modern	
𐤀	𐤁	𐤂	El	Ox head	Strong, Power, Leader	ah, eh	א	Aleph	silent	Α	Α	A
𐤃	𐤄	𐤅	Bet	Tent floorplan	Family, House, In	b, bh(v)	ב	Beyt	b, bh(v)	Β	Β	B
𐤆	𐤇	𐤈	Gam	Foot	Gather, Walk	g	ג	Gimal	g	Γ	Γ	C G
𐤉	𐤊	𐤋	Dal	Door	Move, Hang, Entrance	d	ד	Dalet	d	Δ	Δ	D
𐤌	𐤍	𐤎	Hey	Man with arms raised	Look, Reveal, Breath	h, ah	ה	Hey	h	Ε	Ε	E
𐤏	𐤐	𐤑	Waw	Tent peg	Add, Secure, Hook	w, o, u	ו	Vav	v	Ϝ		F
𐤒	𐤓	𐤔	Zan	Mattock	Food, Cut, Nourish	z	ז	Zayin	z	Ζ	Ζ	Z
𐤕	𐤖	𐤗	Hhet	Tent wall	Outside, Divide, Half	hh	ח	Chet	hh	Η	Η	H
𐤘	𐤙	𐤚	Tet	Basket	Surround, Contain, Mud	t	ט	Tet	t	Θ	Θ	
𐤛	𐤜	𐤝	Yad	Arm and closed hand	Work, Throw, Worship	y, ee	י	Yud	y	Ι	Ι	I J
𐤞	𐤟	𐤠	Kaph	Open palm	Bend, Open, Allow, Tame	k, kh	כ	Kaph	k, kh	Κ	Κ	K
𐤡	𐤢	𐤣	Lam	Shepherd Staff	Teach, Yoke, To, Bind	l	ל	Lamed	l	Λ	Λ	L
𐤤	𐤥	𐤦	Mem	Water	Chaos, Mighty, Blood	m	מ	Mem	m	Μ	Μ	M
𐤧	𐤨	𐤩	Nun	Seed	Continue, Heir, Son	n	נ	Nun	n	Ν	Ν	N
𐤫	𐤬	𐤭	Sin	Thorn	Grab, Hate, Protect	s	ס	Samech	s	Ξ	Ξ	X
𐤮	𐤯	𐤰	Ghah	Eye	Watch, Know, Shade	gh(ng)	ע	Ayin	silent	Ο	Ο	O
𐤳	𐤴	𐤵	Pey	Mouth	Blow, Scatter, Edge	p, ph(f)	פ	Pey	p, ph(f)	Π	Π	P
𐤸	𐤹	𐤺	Tsad	Trail	Journey, chase, hunt	ts	צ	Tsade	ts	Ϟ		Q
𐤼	𐤽	𐤾	Quph	Sun on the horizon	Condense, Circle, Time	q	ק	Quph	q	Ϙ		Q
𐤿	𐥀	𐥁	Resh	Head of a man	First, Top, Beginning	r	ר	Resh	r	Ρ	Ρ	R
𐥂	𐥃	𐥄	Shin	Two front teeth	Sharp, Press, Eat, Two	sh	ש	Shin Sin	sh, s	Σ	Σ	S
𐥅	𐥆	𐥇	Taw	Crossed sticks	Mark, Sign, Signal, Monument	t	ת	Tav	t	Τ	Τ	T
𐥈			Ghah	Rope	Twist, Dark, Wicked	gh						

The Hebrew alphabet, the Holy Language of the Bible, is used for biblical Hebrew, Modern Hebrew, Jewish Aramaic, Yiddish, and Ladino. It consists of 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet consisting only of consonant written from right to left (commonly referred to as the aleph-bet) after the first two letters, aleph and bet). Each letter has its own sound and numerical value.

The Sacred Letters

The 22 letters and the words they form are Holy, with layers of meaning from the literal to the mystical. It was pronounced by God when the Jews received the Torah at Sinai, and it is read from the Torah by Jews all over the world. In traditional Jewish thought, each letter – its name, pictorial form, and respective position in the alphabet – is ordained by God. Therefore, every letter of a Torah scroll must be perfect, or else the entire scroll is forbidden to be used. Not a fragment of a single letter may be omitted or distorted; nor may its individual character be compromised by contact with any other letters. Each letter is a symbol, full of many inner meanings, from literal straightforward meaning, to deeper spiritual meaning. Understanding the letters provide essential insight into the deeper meaning of the Torah or the Bible.

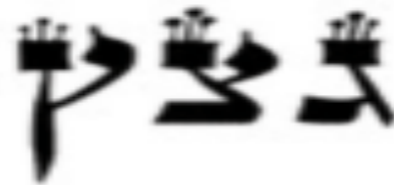


Aleph-Bet

The Aleph-Bet is the brick and mortar and soul of the universe, as it is of individuals with their personal capacities. The 22 letters that brought the world into existence remain with us every instant, for God's utterances are eternal. A careful examination of their teachings reveal an entire philosophy of life. The Aleph-Bet speaks directly to man, telling him the purpose of his life, directing his striving, directing his activities, refining his urges. It makes him not only servant of God but of man. Indeed it makes him a fitting vehicle to justify the very creation of the universe. Looking into the deeper meanings of the letters can transform and deepen our learning and can lead us to deeper levels of spiritual experience.



Tagins



Surprisingly, the Hebrew aleph-bet Zayin (ז) does not appear anywhere in Psalm 91. A closer look at Psalm 91, you will see little tagins (tags) at the top of each of the letter of Psalm 91. These tagins are crowns. The form represents a crown and a sword.



The seventh letter of Hebrew aleph-bet “Zayin” (pronounced “ZAH-yeen”). Pictorially, it appears like a sword or weapon. Zayin is a letter related to animosity and fighting.



Spiritual Warfare Psalm and a Covenant of Divine Protection

“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, and abides in the shade of the Almighty, says to the LORD, “My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!” (Psalm 91:1-2)



I invite you to join our prayer endeavour collectively and pray with the Psalmist every Morning and every Night Psalm 91

9 Ways We Can Take Comfort in God Amidst The Coronavirus Fears

Knowing that God is our comfort, Psalm 91 describes Him as our shelter, shadow, refuge, fortress, shield, buckler, dwelling, rescuer, and protection.

1. **Shelter:** God is our hiding place, covering us with His good purposes.
2. **Shadow:** God is over and beyond us - seeing more than we see and knowing more than we know. We can rest in His shadow.
3. **Refuge:** He is a safe place of security for us; we stay close to Him.
4. **Fortress:** He is our defence whose promises cannot be inhibited.
5. **Shield:** Resting in our God deflects the enemies of fear and doubt in times of trial.
6. **Buckler** (or shield that completely engulfs): He is a defence on every side. He knows every part of us and our lives - no aspect is beyond His reach.
7. **Dwelling:** God's protection is not fleeting; His protection serves for our continual habitation.
8. **Rescuer:** He leads us to Himself, drawing us to Himself and rescuing us from being overcome by the world.
9. **Protection:** In His protection, He carries us to an elevated place - by trusting in Him, our minds and hearts become inaccessible to the terrifying fears.

As believers, we commit our lives to Christ and place everything in His hands. We give Him all the Glory. The reality of God's comfort and power to deliver us is what gives us the spiritual deliverance from being dominated by pandemic and fears. God's promises and His divine purpose is to shelter us in times of danger, when fears of the coronavirus and its impact surround us. How much stronger is the security we find in our Merciful God!

The Prophetic Significance of Psalm 91 in "This Hour"

Since the outbreak of Coronavirus, many Christians worldwide have recited Psalm 91 countless times. It has been a solace and comfort during the hours of prayers. The promise of protection is so clear and yet we as believers spend so much of our time filling our minds and hearts with fear. Our fascination with calamity and destruction aborts the power of faith and quenches the flow of exploits in our lives.

At any given time, there are two voices that are resounding in our minds: the **voice of faith** which releases and empowers the prayers and trust in God Almighty and the **voice of fear**, defeat, doom and gloom.

This is the time to be dedicated and committed Prayer Intercessors as members of Christ's Body with fervent continuous prayers. We need to be in the "Crown Room" of our King and Saviour Jesus Christ. Interestingly the word Corona entered the English world around 1555–1565. It was borrowed directly from the Latin *corōna*, meaning "garland, wreath, crown." This is our place of battleground against the invisible enemy, Coronavirus. This is the "Call of the Hour", to testify and value God's abiding presence. The presence of God is truly the "Shaker and Mover" in this battle. His Mighty Right Arm will deliver us.

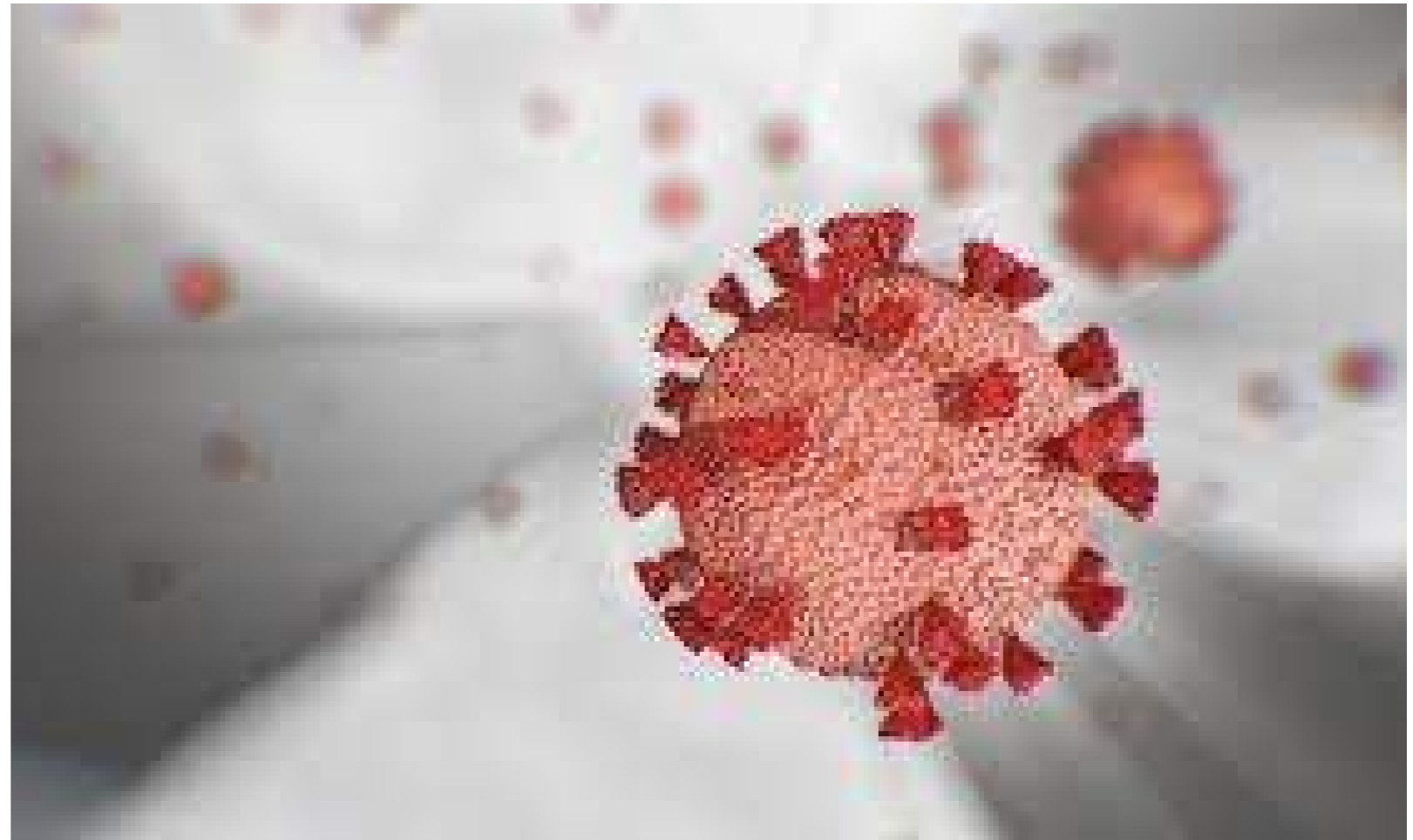
During this circuit breaker period – the "Crown Room" will become the prayer room, our inner and outer sacred space. We need to foster continuous intercession with true praise and worship of our Mighty God. It is a divine encounter with all believers and intercessors.

Let us embrace our identity as sons and daughters with absolute Blessed Assurance! Let us reject the devil's lies and the fear-based religious bondage that the enemy wants to enslave us with. We are called to lives of full surrender, glorious manifestation and be people of God's Kingdom, people, risen with the Lord. Alleluia!

Combating Coronavirus

Known as Covid-19 (first emerged in late 2019, when a mysterious illness was reported in Wuhan, China). Soon the disease was confirmed as a new kind of **coronavirus** and the infection has since spread to many countries around the world and became pandemic. They are called coronaviruses because under a microscope, the viruses have crown-like spikes protruding from their surfaces. The various strains can cause very different ailments, but they have one thing in common: an external structure that features little crown-like spikes. That's what gives the family of virus its name.

Psalm 91 is being used widely during this pandemic. Also known as *The Soldiers' Psalm*. Frequently recited in Christian scriptures especially in time of warfare. Very much quoted after the 9/11 attacks in USA. As Christians, we find a powerful resonance in the promise of protection from evil. The reference to deadly serpents has an additional power for us giving it a special relevance to the comparison with diabolical forces.



"You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the plague that prowls in the darkness, nor the scourge that lays waste at noon." (Psalm 91:5-6)

"On the lion and viper you will tread, and trample the young lion and the serpent." (Psalm 91:13) Psalm 91 bursts with assurances about the protection of God - replete with words like **shelter, refuge, fortress, shield, deliver, rescue, and satisfy.**

At this time of global pandemic with Covid-19, this Psalm speaks of God's power, presence, intentions, and protection against fear. Described as an 'umbrella' covering for His people, God's comfort is a wing of security amidst this world's uncertainties and suffering. *"The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."* (Exodus 14:14)