

Pushing Back the Darkness

The Invisible Fight

Psalms 11

Part 1 and 2

May 17, 2020

Background

A confession of confident trust in the Lord's righteous room, at a time when the wicked adversaries seem to have the upper hand.

David testifies of his unshakeable trust in the Lord and takes refuge in God. Even though the people around him are very insecure and shaking; David relies on God's steadfastness. The scene of this Psalm is rather alarming, as the adversaries are shooting arrows from the shadows and from secret places. In other words, David did not even know where he was being fired upon and from whom. Can you imagine the fear and insecurity that this would cause?

To make matters worse, the very foundations were being eroded and were being moved. That is, everything that had been steadfast, reliable, and that which he depended upon, had now shifted. The word foundations here mean social order and law. It is what keeps people safe and secure and allows them to go about their daily lives in peace. But all this was in jeopardy and the question that now arises is, "What can the righteous people do in the face of such an attack?"

David's counselors communicate to him that he should flee and run for the hills. But David rejects this advice and centers himself in God's unmovable and unshakable nature. David seems disinterested in looking at his adversaries or his environment and everything that was shakeable. Instead, David looks to heaven; he fixes his gaze upon God and upon the Lord's Holy Temple.

David centres himself on the knowledge that God is not moveable and that the circumstances that he was facing did not come from God nor did it impact God. David put his trust in God and recognized that his call, destiny, and his leadership came from a greater authority and from a place that was still solid, eternal, and awesome.

A Song of Trust

"The conflicts of this age are tests of character. The righteous will find rest and see the face of God (11:7), whereas the unrighteous will be judged in terms descriptive of the great tribulation and the lake of fire (11:6). The Psalmist's friends advised him to "fly" while there was a chance (11:1). Like a building, society rests on "foundations" (11:3). If the foundation is undermined, the building will soon collapse. "Watches" (11:4) implies the image of eyes and is a powerful anthropomorphism (i.e. attributing human features to God) referring to God's careful scrutiny of mankind."¹

¹ Hughes, R. B., & Laney, J. C. (2001). [*Tyndale concise Bible commentary*](#) (p. 209). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

Main Text – Psalms 11:1-6

Faith in the LORD's Righteousness

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

- ¹ In ^athe LORD I put my trust; How can you say to my soul,
“Flee as a bird to your mountain”?
- ² For look! ^bThe wicked bend *their* bow,
They make ready their arrow on the string,
That they may shoot ¹secretly at the upright in heart.
- ³ ^cIf the foundations are destroyed,
What can the righteous do?
- ⁴ The LORD *is* in His holy temple,
The LORD's ^dthrone *is* in heaven;
^eHis eyes behold,
His eyelids test the sons of men.
- ⁵ The LORD ^ftests the righteous,
But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates.
- ⁶ Upon the wicked He will rain coals;
Fire and brimstone and a burning wind
^g*Shall be* ²the portion of their cup.²

Main Points

“Alluding to some event in his history, as in 1 Samuel 23:13, the Psalmist avows his confidence in God, when admonished to flee from his raging persecutors, whose destruction of the usual foundations of safety rendered all his efforts useless. The grounds of his confidence are God's supreme dominion, His watchful care of His people, His hatred to the wicked and judgments on them, and His love for righteousness and the righteous.”³

David asks a critical question, “If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous people do?” This is an incredible question because it implies a state of stagnation and resignation. In other words, is there even a solution or a possibility that would turn out well or has everything been lost?

Vs 3 – Foundations are destroyed:

- 1) Means society and social order
- 2) Law and rule
- 3) Chaos and hopelessness.

^a Psalms 56:11

^b Psalms 64:3, 4

¹ Lit. *in darkness*

^c Psalms 82:5; 87:1; 119:152

^d Psalms 2:4; [Isaiah 66:1]; Matthew 5:34; 23:22; [Acts 7:49]; Revelation 4:2

^e [Psalms 33:18; 34:15, 16]

^f Genesis 22:1; [James 1:12]

^g 1 Samuel 1:4; Psalms 75:8; Ezekiel 38:22

² Their allotted portion or serving

² [The New King James Version](#). (1982). (Psalms 11: title–6). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

³ Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., & Brown, D. (1997). [Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible](#) (Vol. 1, p. 350). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

A. The enemy of your soul will always attack you from shadows and dark places (vs 3):

- 1) Covid-19 is not just natural it is also a spiritual crisis
 - It is a demonic plan, or at the very least, the enemy is using it – he is an opportunist
- 2) The devil does not play fair, do not expect him to
 - He shoots arrows from secret places, from the shadows
 - Places that are unseen and unknown
 - Where would you even take cover if you do not know where it is coming from?
 - It is a tactic of the enemy to terrorize people and to strike fear in their heart
 - The enemy wants to scramble and shock you in any and every direction
 - It is the ultimate “blitz” attack.
 - **LOSS** - the enemy’s plan - people are suffering natural and spiritual losses
 - Loss of creativity, heaviness
 - People are behind masks, isolated, cut off, routines broken, lockdown
 - Personal identity has been lost
 - For Leaders – the enemy wants to:
 - Shut you down
 - Shut down your voice
 - Silence the church and leaders
 - Discredit your voice.

B. Well-meaning people do not always have the best advice:

- 1) David was counselled to flee and to run to the mountains
- 2) These people recognized that the enemy is underhanded and unscrupulous
- 3) However, David rejects this council because he has another plan
- 4) The people are in a state of defeat and fear.

C. DEFEAT – when people are in a state of being defeated and without hope:

- 1) The book of Daniel says that the enemy wearies the saints – because he cannot defeat them, he tries to wear them out
- 2) We become aggravated in our soul (on the inside) and internal aggravation takes a grip – we can become angry and frustrated or
- 3) A spirit of resignation grips us, and we begin to lose our resolve, faith, determination, and purpose:
 - We want to quit, we become passive, we accept what we have and where we are, BUT...
 - Faith is all about:
 - Reaching forward, risk, trusting, leaping into the future and into the unknown
 - Breaking boundaries, new possibilities, new horizons, and innovations — the just live by faith.

D. God has neither changed nor moved (vs 4):

- 1) David’s focus is on the Lord – he is not denying there is an enemy, but he decides where he chooses to put his attention and focus. David’s response:
 - The Lord is in His Holy Temple
 - The Lord is on His Heavenly Throne
 - God observes mankind and He examines mankind.
- 2) Everything around David had change but God has not changed
 - I am built on God
 - “In heaven” speaks of eternal authority – the place where God rules from
 - David centers himself on God and His immovable authority
 - Your calling and destiny come out of heaven.
 - In Psalms 23 the focus of David in the valley:
 - Who can I see?
 - God not my enemy who I cannot see

- My enemy sees me, but I cannot see him
- What God has prepared for me in the presence of my enemy.

E. God knows how to scrutinize mankind:

- 1) The righteous are always given a place in God's presence (vs 11)
- 2) By contrast, the wicked are going to be judged and they will perish
- 3) David has strong language for the wicked indicating that God actually hates them and their lifestyle
 - Perhaps David is referring to the judgement that Sodom and Gomorrah experienced.

F. God provides righteous people with an incredible promise:

- 1) David declares that the Lord is righteous and that He loves **justice**; therefore, anyone who is going to be in relationship with Him will also love these two attributes
 - The righteous will see him face-to-face, this speaks of **fellowship** and **right standing** with God:
 - It indicates friendship and intimacy
 - God's Throne is established on righteousness
 - God's sceptre is justice.

Actions:

- Build altars of resistance in your homes - push back against the darkness in your prayer closet
- Increase your praying in tongues – use your prayer language
- Consider God's prayer vs. your list
- Focus on the truth – fluff in the body has been exposed
- Release your faith - we believe that freedom comes from the cross and the empty tomb.

Group Questions

1. How have societal foundations been destroyed in your opinion?
2. How does God test humanity? How does He scrutinize them?
3. Are the righteous powerful or powerless to make a difference in society?
4. Why does David turn his attention to God in such trying circumstances? Can you point to other times in David's life where he trusted in God?
5. How should a Christian deal with poor spiritual advice?
6. What are some signs that people are operating in a spirit of defeat?
7. How does the enemy attack from the shadows?
8. List some of the promises that God has made over your life. How did they impact you?