



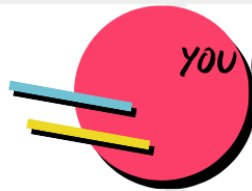
What were people afraid of in the 1990s?

- WAR
- NUCLEAR CONFLICT
- ECONOMIC INSTABILITY
- CRIME
- JOB SECURITY
- UNCERTAINTY AFTER COLD WAR

What are people afraid of now?

The details change. Fear remains.

Psalm 91 addresses one of the most universal human experiences:
“How do we live when we are afraid?”



YOU WILL NOT FEAR THE TERROR OF THE NIGHT,
NOR THE ARROW THAT FLIES BY DAY,
- PSALM 91:5

Operation Desert Storm launched on January 17, 1991, and for the first time in world history, anyone with a television had a front row seat to an international warzone. New night-vision and satellite technology meant people around the world could watch live as fighter jets launched from aircraft carriers and missiles hit their targets.

Some remarked that being so close to the action, while remaining comfortably at home gave the war a “video game” feel. But not for soldiers, civilians, and journalists.

Psalm 91 is not written for comfortable people. It is written for those keenly aware of the danger around them. Psalm 91 is a battlefield psalm.

1991

- IDENTIFY THE DANGERS PRESENT IN THE PSALM
- NOTE THE LANGUAGE USED TO DESCRIBE THE LORD

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

For He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with His pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and buckler. You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.

A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked.

Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place—the Most High, who is my refuge—no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent.

For He will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

"Because he holds fast to Me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows My name. When he calls to Me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him and show him My salvation."

DISCUSS

- WHY DO PEOPLE SEEK SHELTER IN DANGER, RATHER THAN DWELL THERE?
- WHAT FALSE SHELTERS DO PEOPLE TRUST?
- WHY DO PEOPLE RUN TO OTHER REFUGES RATHER THAN THE LORD?

Footage of fighter jets and missile attacks makes danger abundantly clear, but our most pressing threats are rarely physical. The rise of grunge music in the 1990s revealed beneath the prosperity and optimism of our culture was a deep reservoir of anxiety, alienation, and dissatisfaction.

Nirvana's Nevermind crystalized these ideas, painting a disillusioned culture that seeks the superficial band-aids of money, sex, drugs, entertainment, and performative religion.

Many listeners found comfort in hearing someone articulate their frustration: human beings need more than comfort. But grunge did not solve their problems.

Millions who heard Nevermind in 1991 thought, "finally someone understands how broken things feel." Psalm 91 goes one step further. It says the God who understands our fears has also become our refuge.

Grunge says:

- **THE WORLD FEELS BROKEN**
- **YOU'RE NOT ALONE IN YOUR PAIN**
- **AUTHENTICITY MATTERS**
- **NAME THE DARKNESS**

Psalm 91 says:

- **THE WORLD IS BROKEN**
- **GOD IS WITH YOU IN YOUR PAIN**
- **TRUST MATTERS**
- **DWELL IN THE SHELTER**

The psalm does not deny danger. Yet it begins, not with the threat, but with the Lord. The foundation of courage is confidence - not in ourselves - but in God.

Faith doesn't pretend dangers don't exist. Faith is knowing God remains faithful because they do. The safest place in the universe is not in the absence of danger but in the presence of the Lord.

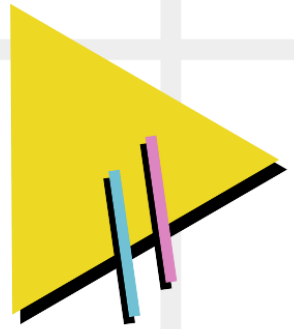


What we fear:

- DANGER
- CHAOS
- ISOLATION
- DEATH
- UNCERTAINTY

What the Lord provides:

- REFUGE
- SHELTER
- PRESENCE
- SALVATION
- FAITHFULNESS



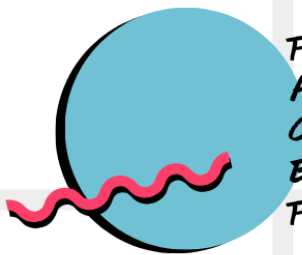
Satan even tries to lure Jesus in with this worldly bait-and-switch.

Then the devil took Him to the holy city and set Him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" – Matthew 4:5-7

Faith is not the same as forcing God to prove Himself. Jesus refuses to manipulate God's promises. Psalm 91 is not a magical shield. Many faithful believers suffer illness, under hardship, experience loss, and face persecution. Yet none of those things remove them from God's care.

Most people read Psalm 91 and ask, "How does this apply to me?" The New Testament first asks, "How does this apply to Christ?" Jesus faced temptation, danger, betrayal, and death, yet trusted His Father completely. At the cross, Jesus entered humanity's greatest fear - death itself - and through His resurrection, the ultimate promises of Psalm 91 becomes certain. Even death cannot destroy God's people.

Psalm 91 does not promise believers they will never die, but that in Christ, death will never have the final word. The deepest promises of Psalm 91 sound just like Romans 8:35-38.



FOR I AM SURE THAT NEITHER DEATH NOR LIFE, NOR ANGELS NOR RULERS, NOR THINGS PRESENT NOR THINGS TO COME, NOR POWERS, NOR HEIGHT NOR DEPTH, NOR ANYTHING ELSE IN ALL CREATION, WILL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.



- Read Psalm 91 daily
- Write down one fear

- Write down one promise of God
- Wake up and pray every morning: "Lord, help me dwell in Your shelter today."