

Psalms 91:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even
the most High, thy habitation;

Analysis

This verse serves as the psalm's pivot point, responding to the confidence expressed in verses 1-2. "Because" (כי/ki) introduces cause and effect: security flows from making God your refuge. "The LORD" (יהוה/YHWH) uses God's covenant name, while "the most High" (עליון/'Elyon) emphasizes His sovereignty above all powers. The double designation affirms both intimate relationship (YHWH) and transcendent power ('Elyon). "My refuge" (מָחֲסִי/machsi) and "thy habitation" (מְעוֹנָךְ/me'onekha) create parallel: God is our shelter, and we make Him our dwelling place. This mutual indwelling—we abide in God, God dwells with us—becomes the foundation for the remarkable promises that follow (no plague, angelic protection, divine deliverance).

Historical Context

Psalms 91 is traditionally called "The Soldiers' Psalm" for its promises of protection in danger. Jewish tradition attributes it to Moses, though authorship is uncertain. It was likely used as a prayer for protection during war or plague. Satan quoted verses 11-12 when tempting Jesus (Matthew 4:6), demonstrating that even Scripture can be misapplied when divorced from relationship with God. Jesus's response showed that confidence in God's protection isn't presumption but trust within obedience.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does it mean practically to make the LORD your "habitation"—your dwelling place where you live?
2. How does this verse's "because" structure challenge you to examine whether God truly functions as your refuge, or if you're trusting other security sources?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	אַתָּה	יְהוָה	מַחֲסִי	עַל לִי וְ
H3588	H859	the LORD	which is my refuge	even the most High
		H3068	H4268	H5945
שְׁמָךְ		מְעוֹנָךְ:		
Because thou hast made		thy habitation		
H7760		H4583		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 71:3 (Parallel theme): Be thou my strong habitation, whereunto I may continually resort: thou hast given commandment to save me; for thou art my rock and my fortress.

Psalms 90:1 (References Lord): Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.

