

Psalm 11 ESV

**To the choirmaster. Of David.**

**11** In the LORD I take refuge;  
how can you say to my soul,  
“Flee like a bird to your mountain,  
**2** for behold, the wicked bend the bow;  
they have fitted their arrow to the string  
to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart;  
**3** if the foundations are destroyed,  
what can the righteous do?”  
**4** The LORD is in his holy temple;  
the LORD's throne is in heaven;  
his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man.  
**5** The LORD tests the righteous,  
but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence.  
**6** Let him rain coals on the wicked;  
fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup.  
**7** For the LORD is righteous;  
he loves righteous deeds;  
the upright shall behold his face.

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- Do you have confidence in the \_\_\_\_\_  
?  
- hear this story about a fire \_\_\_\_\_  
who experienced the great providence of God

*This story was printed in the Devotional  
called “Today in the Word”!*

*Last July the nation’s deadliest forest fire  
blazed up all at once, like the roar of a  
tornado. Unable to escape, 14 firefighters  
were killed.*

*But Brad Haugh managed to survive. At  
about 2 p.m., Haugh and his partner broke  
for lunch. As he opened a can of Beanie  
Weenies, the pull-off ring on the lid broke.  
Haugh pulled out his knife and cut the lid off,  
a procedure that delayed by about five  
minutes his return to work. Later, he would*

*conclude that those five minutes might have  
saved his life by slowing his descent down a  
ridge.*

*At about 3:30 p.m. the out-of-control fire  
raced toward Haugh. Scrambling through  
the brush, he reached the ridge top. He  
started to turn around to look back at the  
fire, but remembered how Lot’s wife had  
turned to look at Sodom and Gomorrah.  
Twenty minutes later he reached safety.*

- here we see God’s \_\_\_\_\_ over a  
situation and the refuge that the Lord is to His  
people, but as well we are reminded of  
\_\_\_\_\_ and Gomorrah, which this Psalm  
\_\_\_\_\_ us of!

- Psalm 11 is a Psalm of lamentation and of  
confidence

- this means that David is \_\_\_\_\_ or upset about a certain situation that is going on, but he goes further and \_\_\_\_\_ on and has confidence in the Lord and in His sovereignty!

- this Psalm is written by King \_\_\_\_\_ during David's time when he was avoiding his father-in-law \_\_\_\_\_

- Saul became angry with David because he was \_\_\_\_\_ of his military victories

- Saul wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ David because Saul thought that David threatened his reign

- here is a brief outline of what went on between David and Saul

a) \_\_\_\_\_ wants David killed  
**1 Samuel 19:1** And Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David. But Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted much in David.

b) \_\_\_\_\_ warns David that Saul wants to kill him and David then flees to Gath  
**1 Samuel 21:10** And David rose and fled that day from Saul and went to Achish the king of Gath.

c) the people at \_\_\_\_\_ are very uneasy about having David in their midst because of the military strength of David

d) David sees that they are uneasy and acts like a complete maniac and then leaves for the \_\_\_\_\_ of Adullam (1 Samuel 22:1-4)

e) 1 Samuel 23:15-29 Saul seeks to put David to death, but David is \_\_\_\_\_ by the Lord

- this is the history of Psalm 11 -- we need to consider the context of this Psalm as we ponder it

- David's father-in-law is going to great lengths to put him to death, so if there was a time for \_\_\_\_\_ in God, it would be in this kind of event!

- this Psalm is important because much like Psalm 33, the topic of the sermon on Aug 1, it teaches us about the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord

- here in this Psalm we get another Theology 101 course!

### 1) (11:1-3) Refuge in the Lord

### 2) (11:4-6) Reigning Lord

### 3) (11:7) Righteous Lord

### 1) (11:1-3) Refuge in the Lord

**(11:1)** In the LORD I take refuge; how can you say to my soul, "Flee like a bird to your mountain,

- notice where David finds refuge!

- David is not trusting in his \_\_\_\_\_ or military ability and you have to remember this guy did take down Goliath

- David is not trusting in his \_\_\_\_\_

- David's trust is in the shelter of the Lord, the Lord is David's \_\_\_\_\_

- David says this many times with regards to the Lord

**2 Samuel 22:3** my God, my \_\_\_\_\_, in whom I take refuge, my \_\_\_\_\_, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior; you save me from violence.

- also the book of Proverbs says the same things and connects the protection of the Lord with the reliability of the Word of the Lord  
**Proverbs 30:5** Every word of God proves true; he is a \_\_\_\_\_ to those who take refuge in him.

- finding shelter in the Lord offers us more than protection from our enemies  
- you are blessed, \_\_\_\_\_ and happy when you make the Lord your refuge!  
**Psalm 2:12** Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

**Psalm 5:11** But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you.

- as David faces this \_\_\_\_\_, which we will hear more about in the next two verses, he clings to the greatness of the Lord and His promises!

- are you are \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord Jesus Christ today?  
- are you facing a \_\_\_\_\_ or something that is difficult?  
- find refuge, \_\_\_\_\_ and joy in the Lord and in the gracious work of the Lord Jesus on the Cross!  
- often our problems relate to our \_\_\_\_\_, but we can find \_\_\_\_\_ in of the Lord Jesus Christ  
- this is why Jesus came to the earth, to be a \_\_\_\_\_ for sinners, for our joy!  
  
- because David finds refuge in the Lord, how can anyone say flee like a \_\_\_\_\_?

- like I have said many times, observing nature or being a bird watcher, helps us understand the Bible  
- many birds when they sense danger will not come toward you  
- for instance, if you are out hunting birds, how many times have you seen a partridge just come right into the open, walk right toward you and give you a clean shot?  
- or for those of you that try and get bird pictures, the birds never seem to want to be close to you  
- the birds often see us humans as \_\_\_\_\_ and they flee

- this “fleeing” like a bird is actually used several times in the book of the Psalms

- David as he deals with a close companion says this  
**Psalm 55:6** And I say, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest;

- when David recalls the deliverance of the Lord he uses similar \_\_\_\_\_ imagery  
**Psalm 124:7** We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped!

- when the Lord is our \_\_\_\_\_ there is no danger, so let us continually \_\_\_\_\_ to God and His promises!  
- don't flee but \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord who is great!

**(11:2-3)** for behold, the wicked bend the bow; they have fitted their arrow to the string to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart; <sup>3</sup> if the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

- here we see what is going on with David and the \_\_\_\_\_ he is facing!

- we see two things that are going on here with David

- a) the wicked are doing wickedness
- b) the foundations are destroyed

a) the \_\_\_\_\_ are doing wickedness

- here we see that \_\_\_\_\_ types of people are in conflict

- the wicked bend their bow, set the arrow and shoot at the upright in \_\_\_\_\_

- the wicked are those who \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord

- they are \_\_\_\_\_ for sin and refuse to \_\_\_\_\_ in the grace of the Lord for forgiveness for their rebellion against God

- the upright are described as those who recognize that they are not upright and \_\_\_\_\_ the grace of Christ to make them upright

- but the \_\_\_\_\_ also live lives that are in accordance to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord

- here we see what genuine persecution looks like; it is \_\_\_\_\_ people are out to get you because you are not like them

- they are out to get you because you \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord and you are connected to the Lord

- we saw this with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

- Saul was wicked and acted out wickedness

- imagine trying to \_\_\_\_\_ the future anointed one of the Lord because you are jealous and to top it off he is your son-in-law

- David was \_\_\_\_\_ because he feared and found \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord

- we see that the focus of the wicked is to destroy the upright or the \_\_\_\_\_

b) the foundations are destroyed

- what are these \_\_\_\_\_ that may be destroyed?

- the NLT helps us out here! and tells us what the foundations are

- they translate Psalm 11:3 as "The foundations of law and order have collapsed."

- David is speaking about the \_\_\_\_\_ of law and \_\_\_\_\_ in his time

- he says that the foundations of \_\_\_\_\_ has come to ruin

- although in our society there is some \_\_\_\_\_ and order, it could be argued that we are not far from such a devastating collapse of law and \_\_\_\_\_

- our culture encourages us to celebrate sin, and if you do not celebrate sin then you are considered a "hater" and then people want to sue you for your convictions

- even this week news broke that a pastor is suing the his former church for wrongful dismissal although his dismissal was completely legitimate because he violated the church's pastoral covenant

- even pastors are contributing to this collapse of law and order by approving of sin

- as we have seen in many parts of North America many people are stealing and not even being charged for it

- we see security guards watching people steal and do not even stop them

- there have been at least 45 churches in Canada that have been vandalized or burnt down but we have not seen hardly any criminal charges in these acts of violence

- this is just to mention a few examples of how our society's foundations are crumbling and being destroyed

- but think about \_\_\_\_\_, the king in the land actually sought to \_\_\_\_\_

him (the future king of Israel) without cause

- David then asks the question....."What can the \_\_\_\_\_ do?"

- what can we, who are in the Lord Jesus Christ, \_\_\_\_\_?

- what can we who are being persecuted because of our connection to the Lord Jesus \_\_\_\_\_?

- what can we do when society crumbles before us?

- This is a great \_\_\_\_\_ for us and Psalm 11:4-7 gives us perspective on how we can live out our lives with people who are out to get us and when society's foundations \_\_\_\_\_!

## 2) (11:4-6) Reigning Lord

- Psalm 11:4-7 speak to us about God in the midst of people seeking to \_\_\_\_\_ us and the foundations of \_\_\_\_\_ crumbling around us

- we could \_\_\_\_\_ in a better politician to do a better job, but likely they would not do a better job

- better yet, let us \_\_\_\_\_ to our awesome Lord!

- this passage \_\_\_\_\_ us several amazing things about the Lord!

**(11:4) The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD's throne is in heaven;**

a) God is a sovereign God

- here we see where the Lord \_\_\_\_\_, from His \_\_\_\_\_ habitation in heaven

- we sometimes forget this wonderful and amazing truth about the Lord, that He is \_\_\_\_\_ like us

- the Lord is "other than" human, meaning that He is \_\_\_\_\_ different than us

- but we also see that the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ upon a throne thus symbolizing that the Lord reigns over the earth like a \_\_\_\_\_

- the Lord reigns and \_\_\_\_\_ over the earth

- remember this is what Isaiah sees when he experiences God in this \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven

**Isaiah 6:1** In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple.

- the Lord being upon a throne means that He is in \_\_\_\_\_ over all things that happen on the earth

- RC Sproul speaks about the \_\_\_\_\_ of God when he writes, "'If there is one single molecule in this universe running around loose, totally \_\_\_\_\_ of God's sovereignty, then we have no guarantee that a single promise of God will ever be fulfilled.'" Here's the good news: **there are no rogue molecules.** Nothing can touch us that hasn't first come through His hands."

**his eyes see, his eyelids test the children of man.**

b) The Lord is All- \_\_\_\_\_

- we have already talked about this extensively when we looked at Psalm 33

- since the Lord has made \_\_\_\_\_ of creation, therefore the Lord observes all of creation

- Psalm 139 explains the greatness of the knowledge of God for each one of us

**Psalm 139:1-4.** O LORD, you have searched me and \_\_\_\_\_ me! <sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. <sup>3</sup> You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. <sup>4</sup> Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether

(11:5-6) The LORD tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence. <sup>6</sup> Let him rain coals on the wicked; fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup.

c) The Lord is a Holy God who \_\_\_\_\_ sin

- passages like this one are \_\_\_\_\_ popular
- many people want to shy away from the Lord hating anybody
- but since this is found in the Word of God (and the teaching here is quite clear) therefore the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ wickedness
- we see here that the Lord abhors, \_\_\_\_\_, despises and of course hates sin
- the Lord is pure and \_\_\_\_\_ and is the complete opposite of our society which celebrates and indulges in sins like lust, pride, greed, etc.

- Psalm 5 teaches us the same thing about the Lord

**Psalm 5:4-5** For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; \_\_\_\_\_ may not dwell with you. <sup>5</sup> The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers.

- but David mentions a historic \_\_\_\_\_ that proves that the Lord hates wickedness
- David uses the words "fire" and "sulfur"
- the use of these words point back to the story in Genesis 19 of Sodom and Gomorrah, where

the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ several cities not only because of their sexual immorality but also for a number of other sins

**Genesis 19:24** Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and \_\_\_\_\_ from the LORD out of heaven.

- although many who attend church do not like to hear about the holy \_\_\_\_\_ of God, this topic is talked about extensively not only in the \_\_\_\_\_ Testament but also in the \_\_\_\_\_ Testament

- from Genesis to Revelation you see the Holiness of God and the Holy \_\_\_\_\_ of God at sin

### 3) (11:7) Righteous Lord

(11:7) For the LORD is righteous; he loves righteous deeds;

a) The Lord is Righteous

- here David makes the \_\_\_\_\_ declaration that the Lord is righteous
- this means that \_\_\_\_\_ that the Lord does is right, there is no sin or wickedness found in the Lord
- the Lord is \_\_\_\_\_ pure and without sin
- but the Lord in contrast to hating sin, \_\_\_\_\_ righteous deeds
- the Lord hates sin and punishes sin, but the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ the righteousness that His people carry out!

the upright shall behold his face.

b) The Lord is gracious

- we have seen the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and His \_\_\_\_\_ of sin, but now we see the \_\_\_\_\_ of God
- the Lord will shine his face upon the upright

- the Lord showing his \_\_\_\_\_ to people means that the Lord is showing His \_\_\_\_\_ to people
- the \_\_\_\_\_ are destroyed but the Lord shows his face or is gracious to the upright; they will \_\_\_\_\_ God!
- it is very important to talk about the Lord and His \_\_\_\_\_
- it is very important to store the Word of God in our hearts and learn more about the Lord each day
- but it is important to apply these \_\_\_\_\_ about the character of God (His holiness, sovereignty and glory) to our lives!

## Application

### 1) Trust the Sovereignty of God

- think again about David's \_\_\_\_\_ as he was writing this Psalm

a) people were out to get him, likely Saul

b) the foundations of law and \_\_\_\_\_ were crumbling

- if you truly follow Christ you will experience discrimination
- a Christian in Canada posted "pro-life" messages on His Facebook and was fired for it

- what are the righteous to do in such an environment?

- \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord who is seated upon His throne!

**Psalms 103:19** The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

- maybe you are not facing what David went through, but we have all faced difficult \_\_\_\_\_ and situations and during those times we can have \_\_\_\_\_ and trust in the Lord who reigns in heaven

- as a believer, during difficult times, we can \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord having \_\_\_\_\_ in Him who reigns in heaven and is \_\_\_\_\_ over all the earth

- we can rest and find joy in the Lord who \_\_\_\_\_ over all things
- there is no difficult situation where the Lord does not have His \_\_\_\_\_ over all things

### 2) Trust the Grace of God

- here at the end of this Psalm we hear about David beholding the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord

- this of course refers to God's favor and \_\_\_\_\_!

- we can see the fullness of the face of God in the \_\_\_\_\_ and work of the Lord Jesus \_\_\_\_\_

- we all, like Sodom and Gomorrah, have sinned and there is not one \_\_\_\_\_ who is perfect and without sin \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord Jesus Christ

**2 Chronicles 6:36** "If they sin against you-- for there is no one who does not sin--

- what we all \_\_\_\_\_ is punishment like Sodom and Gomorrah but thanks be to God through Jesus Christ we \_\_\_\_\_ experience God's favor and His \_\_\_\_\_ shining upon us

**John 1:17** For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

- the \_\_\_\_\_ of God that was delivered exposes that we are sinners and are in \_\_\_\_\_ need of the Lord Jesus Christ
- and look at Christ, He is full of grace and \_\_\_\_\_!
- Jesus is full of grace and takes our sin upon the Cross so that we can be \_\_\_\_\_ from our sin and have new life
- because of Christ we can be pure and blameless \_\_\_\_\_ God and have joy in the Lord!
- today if you do not \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord, get serious about God
- we have seen in this passage that we are not to take the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_ or demands lightly
- also we see the \_\_\_\_\_ of God in this passage
- but look to the Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ out to the Lord for mercy
- quit \_\_\_\_\_ in yourself and what you have done
- turn from looking to yourself and \_\_\_\_\_ in what Christ has done for you!
- \_\_\_\_\_ died taking upon the judgment of God, or the anger of God, which we all deserve to bear so that sin \_\_\_\_\_ which we all have could be wiped clean!

### 3) Ponder the Holiness of God

- when you survey the Bible, the Holiness of God is a very important topic but have we given it the attention it \_\_\_\_\_

- when you look at the top selling Christian books right now on Amazon, they are mainly glorified self-help books that have scripture injected into them
- but when you read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation you see just how \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord and His holiness is!
- When Isaiah entered into the \_\_\_\_\_ of God what did he see?
- he saw God who was seated upon the throne and what did the Angels cry out?  
**Isaiah 6:3** And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, \_\_\_\_\_ is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"
- the apostle John when he saw a \_\_\_\_\_ from the Lord what did he see?  
The Holiness of God!  
**Revelation 4:8** And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, \_\_\_\_\_, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"
- I would encourage you to get into God's \_\_\_\_\_ and see His glory and \_\_\_\_\_
- you are not going to see the holiness of God on Netflix, the Disney Channel, Cable TV or for the most part on social media!
- get into God's Word and allow the \_\_\_\_\_ to speak to \_\_\_\_\_ through His Word!