

Psalm 11 / Church of the Open Bible / 06.12.16

Introduction. There were no _____ marks in ancient Hebrew, so we have to decide who is speaking in each line. Most English Bibles show David doing all the speaking, while quoting from his advisors in 11.1-3. Pastor Will thinks this is a dialogue: David speaks in 11.1, including a somewhat sarcastic paraphrase of what his advisors said; then the advisors respond in 11.2-3; then David responds in 11.4-7.

11.1. David's advisors told him to flee to a _____, probably a fortress on high ground, offering a strong defense. David thought it ridiculous to give this advice, since he had chosen to take refuge in God. In the past, he had fled at times, but something about this situation made that not an option in his mind.

11.2-3. This might be a literal _____ attack, with the foundations of the defenses crumbling, suggesting the attackers will soon have victory. Or this might be a metaphor for a political attack, in which the foundations of society are crumbling, suggesting the attackers will soon have victory.

The advisors see that even the _____ king has not been able to do anything about this situation, and now the attackers are about to strike, so they advise David to flee.

11.4. David's perspective begins with the _____ of God. God is holy and righteous [temple], powerful and in authority [throne], and up in Heaven which is a much higher and better refuge than any mountain.

11.4-5. God _____ the hearts, motives, and actions of everyone! Nobody can escape his discernment, even those who do their evil in darkness.

God hates the wicked. Saying "God's soul hates" is like how we would say God in his _____ hates. God hates those who love wrongdoing, those who chose to be his enemies by opposing him and his ways, and opposing his chosen ultimate representative in King David.

11.6. A snare was a _____ used for catching birds. In the Bible, the snare represents the dominion of the one casting the net and the powerlessness of the one caught in it: David hoped God would render his enemies powerless and then destroy them. Can you see the irony in what David said about snares in light of his quotation of his advisors in 11.1?

11.7. Upright people _____ in God, _____ God's character, and _____ God in the Old Testament. Though they are attacked by the wicked, they are saved by God.

To see God's face implies God _____ what is happening with you, and showing you grace, peace, compassion, and blessing. David expected physical deliverance from God, so he would not have to flee.

Meaning and Application. Today we should expect to _____ many attacks of all types [for example, 2 Timothy 3.12].

Unlike David, we should _____ for our enemies, rather than call for God's judgment upon them [Matthew 5.44]. David was under the Mosaic Covenant, in which Israel was to represent God nationally and David as the anointed king was God's ultimate representative on Earth; thus his enemies were God's enemies, and he was authorized to judge. We are under the New Covenant, in which the church seeks, not to rule by authority, but to extend God's grace for salvation in Christ; and Christ is God's ultimate representative who is authorized to judge.

This psalm is not teaching that retreat is always in conflict with _____ and obedience, since David sometimes righteously fled and we do not have the same promises of physical protection as had David and Israel.

Using human _____, David's advisors concluded the situation was hopeless, so David should flee. They no doubt were experienced and intelligent, but they did not consider God's revelation.

David's perspective relied on what God had _____ about his promises, character, power, justice, and commands.

Based on God's promises, David anticipated deliverance out of the hardship, to have _____ in it. God does not promise this to *us* at all times. God does promise that he will deliver us through our time of hardship or deliver us to Heaven through physical death. So we might have victory, we might have struggle but endure it, or we might be killed but arrive in Heaven; all of these are forms of God's deliverance.

We should take refuge in God by _____ on him and turning to him in prayer. If we walk with God, he will sustain us, empower us, and grow us stronger through our hardships.

We should take refuge in God by _____ in his promises, character, power, and justice; that he is aware of what is happening to us and is working his plans for the universe without abandoning us.

We should take refuge in God by _____ his commands and continuing to serve him, even when we are suffering. Walking with God is the only path to maximum blessing; we need to stay in his light, close to him.

Even if we have to physically flee at times, we always should stand firm for our _____ and convictions, regardless of what it costs us.

Justice might be _____ until Christ returns, and even then might not be as we expect.

What we can count on is we will see God's _____. Having received grace and salvation through Christ, we know ultimately we will be with God in Heaven and then experience resurrected life on a renewed earth with Christ as our king. And even now, this is true for us in that we can know that his grace and love and blessing are upon us, always, regardless of our circumstances. He promises never to leave us and that we cannot be torn away from belonging to him. Let us take refuge in those truths!