

Psalm 11

This Psalm written by David may have been written when he was being hunted by Saul, [1 Samuel chapters 18-31] or during the days of Absalom's rebellion, [2 Samuel chapters 15-18].

In both instances David fled but was **not** lost because he knew that God was in control of the situation.

While David wisely avoided trouble, he did **not** fearfully run away from his troubles.

Psalms 11:1-4 [NIV] *“In the LORD I take refuge. How then can you say to me: ‘Flee like a bird to your mountain. For look, the wicked bend their bows; they set their arrows against the strings to shoot from the shadows at the upright in heart. When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?’ The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD is on his heavenly throne. He observes the sons of men; his eyes examine them.”*

In this Psalm David seems to be speaking to those who were advising him to run from his enemies.

David's faith in God contrasted dramatically with the fear of his advisers.

Faith in our Creator God keeps us from losing hope and helps us to resist fear.

David knew that God was greater than anything his enemies could bring against him, and was well aware of what was happening.

Psalms 11:5-6 [NIV] *“The LORD examines the righteous, but the wicked and those who love violence his soul hates. On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning sulphur; a scorching wind will be their lot.”*

The “fiery coals and burning sulphur” are an allusion to **Genesis 19:24** where they were the means of God destroying the wicked people of Sodom.

The phrase is significantly pointed because Sodom stands in the Christian Bible as a perpetual reminder of sudden and final judgement of our Creator God.

Luke 17:28-33 [NIV] *“It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulphur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed. On that day no-one who is on the roof of his house, with his goods inside, should go down to get them. Likewise, no-one in the field should go back for anything. Remember Lot's wife! Whoever tries to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.”*

When God's justice comes it comes suddenly to a world that is ignorant of the Creator God and His way of life.

The major sin of Sodom that brought on its inhabitants the fiery wrath of God was sodomy, the unnatural vile practice of sex between males, or between women and bestiality, the unnatural intercourse between a human and an animal.

[Please download and study our article ‘Does God Hate Homosexuals?’ listed under sub-title ‘Homosexuals’]

2 Peter 2:5-10 [NIV] *“if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard), if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue*

godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment. This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority. Bold and arrogant, these men are not afraid to slander celestial beings;”

Some people would have us believe that God will save all people because He is so loving. But it is foolish to think God will cancel the final judgement of both good and evil humans.

These two examples should warn us clearly that God judges sin and that unrepentant sinners **cannot** escape His final punishment.

Psalms 11:7 [NIV] *“For the LORD is righteous, he loves justice; upright men will see his face.”*

Faced with two differing aspects of life the psalmist has no hesitation to committing himself to the ever-watchful God who loves those who seek His righteousness.

To “*see God’s face*” is to see His perfect righteousness and holiness as yet in the “*inner eye*” of worship and the meditation of God’s Word, the Christian Bible.

But there is little doubt that David in these verses was led to look beyond this sight of God’s glory to an un-meditated vision when he would be ransomed and awakened from physical death to behold the Creator God for real, [**Psalms 17:15; Psalms 23:6; Psalms 49:15**].

1 Peter 5:10-11 [NIV] *“And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.”*

God does **not** preserve Christians from difficult circumstances and personal suffering, but uses them as opportunities for us to grow in our faith and trust in Him. Peter encourages us to look at the wider perspective. Compared with eternity our suffering will only last “*a little while.*”

Revelation 7:9, 13-17 [NIV] *“After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no-one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.” ... “Then one of the elders asked me, ‘These in white robes, who are they, and where did they come from?’ I answered, ‘Sir, you know.’ And he said, ‘These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’”*

This is a wonderful vision of the future that can help us in any present trial or pain.