**"THE BOOK OF PSALMS"**

**Book IV (90-106)**

**Psalm 91**

**Introduction:** Psalm 91 contains both a *wisdom psalm* (vv. 1-13) and a *divine oracle* (vv.14-16). This is a glowing testimony to the security of those who trust in God. Probably written by on of the temple priest as a word of assurance to godly worshippers.

**OUTLINE:**

1. Invitation to the protection of God (vv.1-2)
2. Forms of protection (vv.3-8)
3. Invitation to the Protection of God (vv.9-10)
4. Forms of Protection (vv.11-13)
5. The Oracle of Salvation (vv.14-16)

[**Psalm 91**](https://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/91.html)**'s Promises from God**

* "I will rescue him..." (deliver, cause to escape)
* "I will protect him..." (set him on a high place)
* "I will answer him..." (respond to, speak)
* "I will be with him in trouble..." (in afflictions, in distress)
* "I will deliver him..." (rescue, to bring into safety)
* "and honor him..." (to make rich, strong, heavy with honor)
* "With long life will I satisfy him..." (to have abundance in the journey)
* "and show him my salvation." (let him see my deliverance & victory)

**Life Application**: How does knowing nothing will befall you that God does not allow, comfort you? How can this knowledge help you live without fear?

No doubt this passage is focused on God’s power and protection. Still, we have a responsibility. We are to dwell with Him (verse 1).We are to trust in Him (verse 2). We are to be bold and not fear (verse 5). We are to observe what God is doing (verse 8). We to hold fast to Him in love (verse 14). And we are to call on Him (verse 15).

**Life Application**: Think of a crisis or difficult that you face. Which one of the above, do you need to do? How will you do it?

**A**[**Prayer**](https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer/)**from**[**Psalm 91**](https://www.biblestudytools.com/psalms/91.html)**:** *"Dear God, Thank you for your presence with us, thank you for your Almighty Shadow. Thank you that you go before us and cover us from behind.  Thank you that you are in our midst, and that our future is secure in the place you are preparing for us. Your words bring such hope and comfort. Remind us of your strength today, may we see glimpses of your glory and blessing along the way as we seek after you. For victory and salvation are found in you alone. In the Mighty Name of Jesus, Amen."* **(Next week study Psalm 92)**

**Psalm 91 (NKJV): Safety of Abiding in the Presence of God**

91 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High, Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. 2I will say of the Lord, “*He is* my refuge and my fortress;
My God, in Him I will trust.”

3Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler *And* from the perilous pestilence. 4He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth *shall be your* shield and buckler. 5You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, *Nor* of the arrow *that* flies by day, 6*Nor* of the pestilence *that* walks in darkness, *Nor* of the destruction *that* lays waste at noonday. 7A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand; *But* it shall not come near you. 8Only with your eyes shall you look, And see the reward of the wicked.

9Because you have made the Lord, *who is* my refuge, *Even* the Most High, your dwelling place, 10No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;

11For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. 12In *their* hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.
13You shall tread upon the lion and the cobra, The young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

14“Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. 15He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him;
I *will be* with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. 16With long life I will satisfy him, And show him My salvation.”

**The Inductive Method of Bible Study: The Basics**

**By Kay Arthur** | Precept Ministries International

Inductive [Bible](https://www.biblestudytools.com/) study consists of three component parts, which we will look at separately, but which frequently overlap in practice. These three parts are observation, interpretation, and application.

**Observation answers the question: What does the passage say?**  It is the foundation which must be laid if you want to accurately interpret and properly apply God's Word. Have you ever read a book, chapter, or verse of the Bible and five minutes later been unable to remember anything you have read? So often we read the Bible with our eyes but not with our mind. There are several reasons for this. Either

* we think God's Word will magically make an impression on us without any effort on our part, or
* we don't really believe we can understand what we've read, or
* we are waiting for the pastor to teach on this section of Scripture so we'll know what to believe.

Often, however, we forget what we have read simply because we don't know what to look for in the text. Therefore, in the first part of this book you are going to learn what to look for when you read your Bible.

Because observation is discovering what the passage is saying, it requires time and practice. You'll discover that the more you read and get to know a book of the Bible, the more its truths will become obvious to you. You'll be awed at the wealth of spiritual riches contained in even the shortest books of the Bible—and you will have discovered it yourself! You will know that you know!

**Interpretation answers the question:  What does the passage mean?** And the basis for accurate interpretation is always careful observation.  Interpretation is the process of discovering what the passage means. As you carefully observe Scripture, the meaning will become apparent. However, if you rush into interpretation without laying the vital foundation of accurate observation, your understanding will be colored  by  your  presuppositions—what you think, what you feel, or what other people have said, rather than what God's Word says.

Interpretation is not necessarily a separate step from observation, for often, as you carefully observe the text, at that very moment you begin to see what it means. Thus, interpretation flows out of observation.

However, interpretation can also involve separate actions or steps that go beyond merely observing the immediate text.  One of these exercises is investigating cross-references. First and foremost, let Scripture interpret Scripture. You may also use other helps, such as word studies or the evaluation of resources such as commentaries and Bible dictionaries to check your conclusions or to supplement your understanding of the historical or cultural setting of the text.

What we are going to do is to give you principles of interpretation and  offer  special  sections  to  guide  you  in  handling  different  types  of writing, including figures of speech, parables, and allegories. We'll also show you how to do word studies and how to use [Bible study](https://www.biblestudytools.com/) tools that will greatly enhance your learning.  It's going to be exciting—and so enlightening!

**Application answers the question:  How does the meaning of this passage apply to me?** Usually this is the first thing we want to know when we read the Bible, but proper application actually begins with belief which then results in being and doing. Once you know what a passage means, you are not only responsible for putting it into practice in your own life, but accountable if you don't!  Ultimately, then, the goal of personal Bible study is a transformed life and a deep and abiding relationship with Jesus Christ.

Application is not a third step in the inductive process. Rather, application  takes  place  as  you  are  confronted  with  truth  and  decide  to respond in obedience to that truth. The basis for application is [2 Timothy 3:16-17](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=2ti+3:16-17):

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

When you know what God says, what He means, and how to put His truths into practice, you will be equipped for every circumstance of life. To be equipped for every good work of life—totally prepared to handle every situation in a way that honors God—is not only possible, it is God's will. And that's what you will learn how to do if you will apply these study principles. Oh, the hundreds of stories we could tell you about what God has done because people disciplined themselves to know His Word in this way. It would thrill your heart! But right now stories aren't our  purpose; getting you into the Word  inductively is! Then, friend, you can tell your own story! We'd love to hear it!

When you know what God says, what He means, and how to put His truths into practice, you will be equipped for every circumstance of life.

 **How Observation, Interpretation, and Application Relate to Each Other**

Accurate interpretation and correct application rest on the accuracy of your observations. Therefore, it is vital that you develop observation skills, even if at first they seem time-consuming or you feel less than adequate and even awkward doing them. Studying inductively is a learning process that does not happen overnight.  It happens by doing—doing over and over again, until the doing becomes almost a habit, and a wonderful one at that.

As  you  go  through  the  inductive  process,  you'll  sometimes  find observation, interpretation, and application happening simultaneously. God can give you insight at any point in your study, so be sensitive to His leading. When words or passages make an impression on you, stop for a moment and meditate on what God has shown you. Bring the plumb line of truth against what you believe and how you are living.

When you know what God says, what He means, and how to put His truths into practice, you will be equipped for every circumstance of life.

Through a diligent study of God's Word, under the guidance of His Spirit, you'll drop a strong anchor that will hold in the storms of life. You will know your God. And when you know your God, not only will you be strong, but you will do great exploits for Him ([Daniel 11:32](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=da+11:32)).

*Kay Arthur and her husband, Jack, are the founders of Precept Ministries International. This ministry reaches hundreds of thousands of people internationally through "Precept Upon Precept" Bible studies and Kay's radio and television program Precepts for Life. Kay is the bestselling author of more than 100 books and Bible studies and is also the active spokeswoman for The New Inductive Study Bible.*

*Article adapted from*[*How to Study the Bible*](http://www.harvesthousepublishers.com/books_nonfictionbook.cfm?productID=6905448)*by Kay Arthur (*[*Harvest House Publishers*](http://www.harvesthousepublishers.com/)*© 2001.)*