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Psalm 11

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Psalm 11.

Topics.

- Flee like a bird to your mountain.
- The wicked bend the bow their arrow is ready.
- If the foundations are destroyed what can the righteous do?
- The LORD is in His Holy Temple; the LORD'S throne is in heaven.
- God tests the righteous, but hates the wicked and violence.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION

Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they consist of five books covering the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

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BOOK ONE (PSALM 1-41)

PSALM 11:1-3:

To the Choirmaster of David.

- **Psalm 11:1-3:** In the LORD I take refuge; how can you say to my soul, "Flee like a bird to your mountain, 2for behold, the wicked bend the bow; they have fitted their arrow to the string to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart; 3if the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

Flee like a bird to your mountain: carries the idea, of forsaking faith, forsaking the love of God that dwells within and forsake any form of trust in God. David is saying the following two things that:

1. The LORD is the refuge of his heart and his mind and his enemies are telling him to forsake his faith in God and let it go like a bird that flies to its mountain.
2. The LORD is the refuge of his heart and mind in that He has confidence that the LORD will give him the victory over his enemies, but his enemies are saying, "Flee from us like a bird flees to its mountain, before we destroy you.

The wicked bend the bow: (v2) carries the idea that the enemy is about to attack.

The wicked have fitted their arrow to the string to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart: shows that this Psalm is about an ungodly nation attacking David, or David's kingdom, or Jerusalem or the temple of God, or the nation of Israel.

If the foundations are destroyed what can the righteous do: means is David's Kingdom, or Jerusalem, or the temple or the nation of Israel is destroyed how and where can the righteous worship? David enemies are telling him to flee, because their mighty armies are ready to destroy him, but he says, "If the foundation of righteousness flees, meaning if the leaders and rulers of Israel flee what hope will the righteous that remain have.

PSALM 11:11-4

The LORD is in his Holy Temple; the LORD'S Throne is in Heaven.

- **Psalm 11:4:** The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD'S throne is in heaven; his eyes see, his eyelids test, the children of man.

David's faith is so strong that regardless of what people are saying about him, how much the mock or scoff him or how mighty his enemy is or what his outward circumstances appear to be he is always fully mindful that the LORD sits in his holy and heavenly temple and sees all that the righteous and the wicked do.

PSALM 11:5-7

God tests the Righteous, but Hates the Wicked and Violence.

- **Psalm 11:5-7:** The LORD tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence. ⁶Let him rain coals on the wicked; fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup. ⁷For the LORD is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face.

In this context the righteous are those who love the LORD and who treat others with decency and respect and endeavour to live a lifestyle that brings honour to God and a good testimony to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is these men and woman who will see the Lord's face (v7).

The LORD loves and tests the righteous (v5) this should be of great encouragement to all those who experience a crisis in their life and to those whose life seems to be out of their control and going astray. All of these things can be seen as tests to see if we forsake our faith and flee from God as a bird that flees to its mountain or if we endure in faith as David always did and remain faithful. It is clear that David not only understood the principle of the following New Testament verses, but also applied it to his life of faith.

- In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that *the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold* that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory. (1 Peter 1:6-8).

David had confidence the LORD was in control of his life and when it seemed as though God had forgotten him his faith was such that he accepted it as a test of his faith all the while knowing the tested genuineness of his faith was more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire because it would result in praise and glory when he is resurrected to eternal life and sees the Messiah the Christ face to face who he so dearly loves.

The LORD hates the wicked: (v5) it is interesting to notice that one of the main reasons for the flood that is mentioned in Scripture is because of all the violence in the land. Those who the LORD hates are those who think violent thoughts against the guiltless and harmless and are full of malice and those who oppress the poor and the helpless and violently

inflict hurt and harm physically, verbally, emotionally, mentally and spiritually upon others. The reason the LORD hates men and woman like this is because the LORD not only hates seeing the innocent and helpless being hurt and treated with violence He is also deeply grieved by such acts of violence.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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