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The
Songs

11

PSALMS - The SONGS

Eleven

Trust in the Lord—His Foundation is Firm!

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Psalm 11** and mark every reference to the LORD, including pronouns and synonyms, with a red triangle.

Read through **Psalm 11** and mark every reference to the righteous, along with all pronouns and synonyms, using a blue capital “R+”

Read through **Psalm 11** and mark every reference to wicked, along with all pronouns and synonyms, using an orange capital “W”.

Read through **Psalm 11** and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal line.

Read through **Psalm 11** and mark every comparison with a pink equal sign.

Read through **Psalm 11** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Take Refuge in the LORD—Don't look at your circumstances!
2. The Righteous can trust in the LORD—His foundation is firm!

READ AND ANSWER

Verses 1-3

Who is speaking?

What does the psalmist (this Psalm is attributed to David) state in the first verse?

Next, he asks a rhetorical question of his would be advisor. What is it?

To whom is he speaking?

Whoever this person is, what has he advised David to do?

Why has he counseled David to flee?

Who is preparing to attack David?

What has he specifically said the wicked are doing in preparation for their attack?

1.

2.

Figuratively speaking, when will the assassins attack?

Who will they assail?

What conclusion had the “counselor” made?

What are the foundations?



The Hebrew word for “foundations” is *shatah* and means buttock, or foundation. It comes from a primitive root which means to place.

Though it seemed true that the earthly circumstances warranted fear and flight because of inescapable defeat, what decision had David firmly made? (**first line in verse 1**)

Is David going to take the advice of this messenger?

Does he believe there is something the righteous can do in the face of onslaught?

Verses 4-7

David begins a beautiful oration that renders praise and honor to the LORD. What does he state is true of the LORD?

Is the LORD in the temple on earth?

Where is He?

Where is the LORD at inside of His heavenly temple?

What is the significance of the LORD being seated on His throne in heaven?

Who is in control? The wicked, or the LORD?



Because of the placement in the Hebrew sentence, the word “LORD” is emphatic. This means the writer is placing emphasis on *Who* (and *what*) the LORD is.

The fact that none other than the LORD is seated on the throne of creation makes David’s declaration all the more relevant. To trust in the LORD’s decisions, rather than in earthly circumstances which are surrounding him, is a wise and faithful move.

What is the LORD doing from His throne in heaven?

Does the LORD see what the wicked are planning to do to David?

Does the LORD see what the wicked are planning to do to you?

What do the eyelids of the LORD do?



**The Hebrew word for “test” is *bachan*.
It is a primitive root which means to investigate,
or to test (especially metals) generally and figuratively.**

Who does the LORD test?

1.

2.

What is the LORD testing (or investigating)?

How does the LORD respond to the one who is shown to love violence?

How does the LORD react? What will He do?

What will be the portion of the cup of the wicked?

1.

2.

3.

Who will send these things on the wicked?

Why will the LORD rain snares upon the wicked? Why will the LORD send fire and brimstone and burning wind against the wicked? (Hint: The first word in **verse 7** begins with “for” so the the verse will give the explanation.)

The LORD will send these things on the wicked because the LORD is righteous and loves righteousness! Do you see why David chose to trust in the firm foundation of the LORD instead of the impending circumstantial doom around him?

Who is the one who will behold the face of the LORD?

Who is the one who is upright in this Psalm? The wicked, or the messenger, or David?

Why? What made him upright in this situation?

READ AND REASON

I don't want to over simplify things but sometimes an understated illustration is the best way to clear out all the intricacies and confusion of something too grand to actually comprehend.

Let's pretend you are building a house in which you are going to live (money is no problem so you can have everything exactly the way you desire). You will have many decisions to make. You will audition many things to see if they are worthy to be part of your home.

Let's say you have a specific picture in your mind of what you want your home to look like; let's say you have a love for a certain style of design and decorating—we'll call it “Art-_____” (you fill in the blank with your own name). My style will be called “Art-Sharon” for the purpose of example.

So... as you are designing your home you test things before you decide on any certain item—it either makes the cut or it doesn't.

You have a right to do this—it is your house, it doesn't belong to the items in the house, it belongs to you.

Your house will reflect who you are, your personal likes and pleasures, and it will be kept “holy” to you in the fact that you will not allow any design or decoration to be part of it that defiles your goal. My house will be done in all “*Art-Sharon*” style—your house will be done in your own style.

The LORD is building a house, too. And it is one that reflects Who He is in every way. There will be no unrighteousness in it because He is righteous; He loves righteousness.

When all is said and done, only the upright will behold His face in the house. No one else—no one—will be allowed to enter.

Does this seem harsh, somehow? It’s not.

He is so far above us and we are so far below Him. There is an incomprehensible chasm between God and man—far greater than the gap that exists between us and the design elements and decorations in our own houses. So much greater, in fact, that it is impossible to understand—the gap can not even be *compared* to the greatness we have over inanimate objects because His greatness over us is just that much more significant.

Even though this illustration fails in many ways (it is only intended to help the reader view one perspective about the LORD) we can continue the story in order to glimpse another awesome dearness of our God.

When we auditioned items for our houses, we found some that were acceptable, while most were not. We purchased the acceptable ones and used those. However, with God, no one that He auditioned could meet His requirements—because He is so great and He is holy. He could have thrown out the entire lot of us—but He didn’t.

Instead, He made a way for us to meet the holy standard of His righteousness.

He let us (those who believe in His way) be seen before Him as righteous (and therefore enter into His house) as we are identified with Christ, His perfect and beloved Son, in His death, burial, and resurrection.

Jesus Christ died instead of us—took our punishment for us—(because a righteous God has to punish unrighteousness). Jesus was buried—it showed His death, but it also “planted” Him so He could bring forth new life—just like a seed. God was satisfied with the payment for sin and gave Jesus new life—Jesus rose from the dead.

Those who are believers are identified with Jesus in that new life—a life lived unto God by the empowering of His Holy Spirit within us. A righteous God couldn’t live with us unless we were truly righteous—so He makes us righteous, not only in position before Him, but in our lives practically.

He conforms us into the image of His Beloved Son. He will cause us to stand before Him one day, blameless and with great joy. The upright will behold His face! Amen!

Segment by Segment

**Try titling these segments yourself.
Ask God to help you.**

Verses 1-3

Verses 4-7

Purpose of Psalm 11

**Try to identify the purpose of Psalm 11.
The purpose simply states “why the Psalmist wrote the Psalm”.**

Theme of Psalm 11

**Try giving Psalm 11 a title by identifying its theme.
The theme simply states “what the Psalm is about”.**
