

Psalm 11 ¹

"An Affirmation of Trust in Yahweh as the Only Viable
Refuge for the Righteous and the Scourge of the Wicked"

For the choir director. *A Psalm* of David.

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A1 YAHWEH IS THE ONLY VIABLE REFUGE 11:1-3

B1 David's Affirmation of Yahweh as His Refuge: {1} In the LORD I take
refuge;² 11:1a

B2 The Counsel of the Faint-Hearted 11:1b-3

C1 The Questionable Action Advised -- Flee! How can you say to my soul,
"Flee *as* a bird to your mountain; 11:1b

C2 The Reason Offered 11:2

D1 {2} For, behold, the wicked bend the bow,

D2 They make ready their arrow upon the string

D3 To shoot in darkness at the upright in heart.

C3 The Disaster to Occur If the Advice is not Followed 11:3

D1 {3} If the foundations are destroyed,³

D2 What can the righteous do?"

¹ Psalm 11: A "song of trust." Charles Ryrie, *Ryrie Study Bible*.

² 11:1 - refuge: David here proclaims his decision not to take advice being given him to flee from the present danger. He will instead stay and make Yahweh his refuge.

³ 11:3 - foundations ... destroyed: Evidently David's pessimistic counselors were so convinced of the enormity of the present danger and the wisdom of fleeing that they believed staying would result in David's death and the crumbling of the fabric of their Israeli society! (See e.g. Thomas L. Constable, *Notes on Psalms* (2006 Edition), www.Soniclight.com, p. 29. See also Allen P. Ross, *Psalms, The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, OT Volume, p. 800.)

A2 YAHWEH IS THE EQUITABLE JUDGE 11:4-7

B1 The Vantage Point of Yahweh as Judge 11:4a

- C1 The Holiness of His Vantage Point: {4} The LORD is in His holy temple;
- C2 The Sovereignty of His Vantage Point: the LORD'S throne is in heaven;

B2 The Objects of His Evaluation 11:4b

- C1 The Omniscience of His Observation: His eyes behold,
- C2 The Subjects of His Observation: His eyelids test the sons of men.

B3 The Morality of His Judgment 11:5-7

- C1 His Scrutiny of Both the Righteous and the Wicked: {5} The LORD tests the righteous and the wicked, 11:5a
- C2 His Antipathy toward the Evil 11:5b-6
 - D1 His hatred of the violent: And the one who loves violence His soul hates. 11:5b
 - D2 His opposition to the wicked: {6} Upon the wicked He will rain snares; 11:6
 - D3 His ultimate destruction of both: Fire and brimstone and burning wind will be the portion of their cup.⁴

⁴ 11:6 - fire, brimstone: Examples include the fiery destruction of the homosexual-dominated civilizations of Sodom and Gomorrha in Genesis 19, the 250 rebels assembled by Korah, Dathan, and Abiram against Moses and Aaron in Numbers 16 (see v. 35), the Satan-inspired rebels who endeavor to destroy Christ, His administration, and His people at the end of the Millennium (Rev. 20:7-9), the eternal torment of the devil, the beast, and the false prophet in the lake of fire and brimstone (Rev. 20:10), and the identical destiny of those whose names will not be found written in the book of life at the judgment of the Great White Throne (Rev. 20:11-15).

C3 His Beneficence toward the Righteous 11:7

- D1 Corresponding to His own essential righteousness! {7} For the LORD is righteous,
- D2 Resulting in His own inevitable love of righteousness: He loves righteousness;
- D3 Crowned by His ultimate intimacy with the upright: The upright will behold His face.⁵

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 11

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⁵ 11:7 - The upright will behold His face: Since the wicked face eternal, fiery destruction, and only the upright will behold God's face, it is desperately important that all of us humans become upright. The tragic message of the entire Bible is that, left to their own efforts, all of mankind will spurn God and proceed to commit sin. As Jeremiah laments (17:9), "The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?" Paul echoes (Romans 3:10-11), quoting from the Old Testament, "There is none righteous, not even one; there is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God."

So how can a man be right with God? Jesus told Nicodemus (John 3:3) "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Speaking of Jesus, the Apostle John writes (John 1:10-13), "He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. {11} He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. {12} But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, {13} who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."

Jesus Himself said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me" (John 14:6). Here is the message of eternal life: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

The message is clear that man becomes upright by accepting the sacrificial death of the perfect, righteous God/Man on his own behalf. Have you been born again into God's family by trusting in Jesus, God's Son, who died and rose again for you?