

The Promises of God (5) Psalm 91

Background

The traditional (Jewish) view of this psalm is that it was written by Moses while climbing into the cloud over Mount Sinai. He was said to have spoken these words as a protection from 'the angels of destruction'. There are apparently many similarities to phrases used by Moses in Deuteronomy.

The Septuagint (Greek) version of the Old testament attributes the psalm to David, but this is uncertain.



Questions to reflect on and bring to our discussion

What impact does this psalm have on you when you read it?

What do you understand as the 'shadow of the almighty' for your life? Is it a place, or a state of mind, or something else?

This psalm uses lots of images about God, for example 'fortress'. Make a note of the images used in this passage to describe God, and consider which are most helpful to you, and which least helpful.

What other images help you to understand God's relationship with you?

The psalm uses a lot of imagery to describe things that may harm us. The psalm was written at least about 3 000 years ago, possibly long before then, in a very different culture. Take some of the images in this psalm and suggest what 21st Century images (or characters or situations) could replace the images in this psalm.

How helpful do you find the imagery in the Bible? Does it improve your understanding, or does it confuse you?