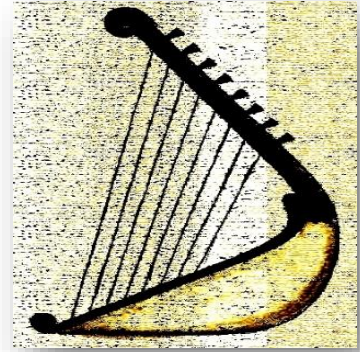


PSALM 11 vs 1

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Charles Simeon gives an excellent summary of this Psalm in the following: The Psalms are a rich repository of experimental knowledge. David, at different periods of his life, was placed in almost every situation in which a believer can be placed, whether rich or poor; and in these heavenly compositions he delineates all the workings of the heart. He introduces sentiments and conduct of those who were accessory either to his troubles or his joys; and thus sets before us a compendium of all that is passing in the hearts of men throughout the world.



When he penned this Psalm he was under persecution from Saul, who sought his life, and hunted him “as a partridge upon the mountains.” His timid friends were alarmed, and recommended him to flee to some hiding-place. But David, being strong in faith, rejected the idea of resorting to any cowardly measures, and determined to trust God. To assist us to remember this short Psalm, we will give it the name: **THE SONG OF THE STEADFAST.**

Divisions: David describes the temptation with which he was assailed (1-3); and the arguments by which his courage was sustained (4-7); – Charles Spurgeon.

To the Chief musician,

A Psalm of David

¹ To the LORD I run for refuge: how can anyone say to my soul, Flee to the mountains like a bird?

² Because, see how the wrongdoer bends their bow, they make ready their arrow on the string, to shoot in the darkness at the upright in heart.

³ If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?

Pause, and think about it: These verses contain an account of a temptation to distrust God, by which David was greatly exercised. It may be when he was in Saul's court, he was advised to flee by some no-good courtier, when his flight would have been charged against him as a breach of duty to the king, or proof of personal cowardice. David was not a birdbrain. When prayer engages God on our side, and when faith secures the promise, what cause can there be to run, however cruel and powerful our enemy? So who would suggest to lurk on a mountain; hopping from one place to another like a silly bird?

If they do not destroy the foundations, it is no thanks to them, seeing all the world will bear them witness they have done their best (which is their worst) what their might and malice could perform. In their own vain thoughts, they not only boast, but truly believe they destroyed the foundations. It's always been their agenda, as we read: in those days, there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed! **All the world!** Hyperbole is the common language of the prideful. The footings may appear to be destroyed, but they are not; our Savior is in heaven laughing, not in Rome crying.

⁴ The LORD is in His holy temple, the LORD's throne is in heaven: His eyes watch, His glance tests the children of men.

⁵ The LORD tests the righteous; but the wrongdoer and the one who loves violence, He hates.

⁶ He will rain upon the wrongdoer coals of fire and brimstone; a scorching wind will fill their cup.

⁷ For the LORD is righteous, He loves rightness; the upright will see His face.

Think about it: If the foundations are destroyed, the civil footing of a nation and its people is their constitution. The order and power that is among them, that is the basis of a people, and when once this foundation is destroyed, What can the righteous do? What can the best, the wisest in the world, do? What can anyone do, if there is no foundation left? There is no help nor answer in such a case but what follows in the next verse: "The Lord is in His holy temple; His throne is in heaven." If all the foundations of earth are out of course; yet God keeps to His course; He is where He was and as He was, unmoved, as He watches; perhaps even having the last laugh, before He comes to deal with the lawless.

What can the righteous do? Lots! They can do as their Lord does, and He loves to do what is right.

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