

2026.9.9 A Strong Defense (9-11 Anniversary)



🗨️ *Christian Science Hymnal #80, 77, 389*

🗨️ *King James Bible*

1. Ps. 91:0–16

PSALM 91

- 1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2 I will say of the LORD, *He is* my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.
- 3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, *and* from the noisome pestilence.
- 4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth *shall be thy* shield and buckler.
- 5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; *nor* for the arrow *that* flieth by day;
- 6 *Nor* for the pestilence *that* walketh in darkness; *nor* for the destruction *that* wasteth at noonday.
- 7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; *but* it shall not come nigh thee.
- 8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.
- 9 Because thou hast made the LORD, *which is* my refuge, *even* the most High, thy habitation;
- 10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.
- 11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy

ways.

- 12 They shall bear thee up in *their* hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.
- 13 Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.
- 14 Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.
- 15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I *will be* with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.
- 16 With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

2. Deut. 20:1 (to 5th), 3 Hear, 4

- 1 When thou goest out to battle against thine enemies, and seest horses, and chariots, *and* a people more than thou, be not afraid of them: for the LORD thy God *is* with thee, ...
- 3 ... Hear, O Israel, ye approach this day unto battle against your enemies: let not your hearts faint, fear not, and do not tremble, neither be ye terrified because of them;
- 4 For the LORD your God *is* he that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.

3. Luke 12:4 Be, 6, 7

- 4 ... Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.
- 6 Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?
- 7 But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.

4. II Tim. 1:7 God

- 7 ... God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

5. Neh. 1:1–5, 8, 9, 11

- 1 The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace,
- 2 That Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and *certain* men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.
- 3 And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province *are* in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also *is* broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.
- 4 ¶ And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned *certain* days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,
- 5 And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments:
- 8 Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, *If* ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations:
- 9 But *if* ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, *yet* will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there.
- 11 O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name: and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer.

6. Neh. 2:1–6 (to ;), 11, 12 (to :), 16–20

- 1 And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, *that* wine *was* before him: and I took up the wine,

and gave *it* unto the king. Now I had not been *beforetime* sad in his presence.

2 Wherefore the king said unto me, Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou *art* not sick? this is nothing *else* but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid,

3 And said unto the king, Let the king live for ever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres, *lieth* waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?

4 Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven.

5 And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it.

6 And the king said unto me, (the queen also sitting by him,) For how long shall thy journey be? and when wilt thou return? So it pleased the king to send me; ...

11 So I came to Jerusalem, and was there three days.

12 ¶ And I arose in the night, I and some few men with me; neither told I *any* man what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem: ...

16 And the rulers knew not whither I went, or what I did; neither had I as yet told *it* to the Jews, nor to the priests, nor to the nobles, nor to the rulers, nor to the rest that did the work.

17 ¶ Then said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we *are* in, how Jerusalem *lieth* waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach.

18 Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for *this* good *work*.

19 But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard *it*, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, What is this thing that ye do? will ye rebel

against the king?

- 20 Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build: but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.

7. Neh. 4:7–9, 11, 13–15, 17–20

- 7 ¶ But it came to pass, *that* when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and the Arabians, and the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites, heard that the walls of Jerusalem were made up, *and* that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth,
- 8 And conspired all of them together to come *and* to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it.
- 9 Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.
- 11 And our adversaries said, They shall not know, neither see, till we come in the midst among them, and slay them, and cause the work to cease.
- 13 ¶ Therefore set I in the lower places behind the wall, *and* on the higher places, I even set the people after their families with their swords, their spears, and their bows.
- 14 And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, *which* is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons, and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.
- 15 And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was known unto us, and God had brought their counsel to nought, that we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work.
- 17 They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, *every one* with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other *hand* held a weapon.
- 18 For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and so builded. And he that sounded the trumpet *was* by me.
- 19 ¶ And I said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the

people, The work is great and large, and we are separated upon the wall, one far from another.

- 20 In what place *therefore* ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us.

8. Neh. 6:1–3, 10–12, 15, 16

- 1 Now it came to pass, when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies, heard that I had builded the wall, and *that* there was no breach left therein; (though at that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates;)
- 2 That Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in *some one of* the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief.
- 3 And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I *am* doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?
- 10 Afterward I came unto the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah the son of Mehetabeel, who *was* shut up; and he said, Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us shut the doors of the temple: for they will come to slay thee; yea, in the night will they come to slay thee.
- 11 And I said, Should such a man as I flee? and who *is there*, that, *being* as I *am*, would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in.
- 12 And, lo, I perceived that God had not sent him; but that he pronounced this prophecy against me: for Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.
- 15 ¶ So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth *day of the month* Elul, in fifty and two days.
- 16 And it came to pass, that when all our enemies heard *thereof*, and all the heathen that *were* about us saw *these things*, they were much cast down in their own eyes: for they perceived that this work was wrought of our God.

9. Eph. 6:10–18 (to ,)

- 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.
- 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
- 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.
- 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
- 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;
- 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
- 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.
- 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:
- 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, ...

 *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy

1. SH 571:16–19

- Know thyself, and God will supply
the wisdom and the occasion for a victory
18 over evil. Clad in the panoply of Love,
human hatred cannot reach you.

The armor
of divinity

2. SH 464:23–24

- The weapons of bigotry,
24 ignorance, envy, fall before an honest heart.

The right
motive and
its reward

3. SH 28:32

There is too much animal courage in society and not
1 sufficient moral courage. Christians must take up arms
against error at home and abroad. They must grapple
3 with sin in themselves and in others, and
continue this warfare until they have finished
their course. If they keep the faith, they will have the
6 crown of rejoicing.

Christian
warfare

4. SH 387:27

27 The history of Christianity furnishes sublime proofs
of the supporting influence and protecting power bestowed
on man by his heavenly Father, omnipotent
30 Mind, who gives man faith and understanding
whereby to defend himself, not only from temptation, but
from bodily suffering.

Christian
history

5. SH 94:1–16

1 Jesus taught but one God, one Spirit, who makes man
in the image and likeness of Himself, — of Spirit, not of
3 matter. Man reflects infinite Truth, Life, and
Love. The nature of man, thus understood,
includes all that is implied by the terms “image” and
6 “likeness” as used in Scripture. The truly Christian
and scientific statement of personality and of the relation
of man to God, with the demonstration which accompa-
9 nied it, incensed the rabbis, and they said: “Crucify him,
crucify him . . . by our law he ought to die, because he
made himself the Son of God.”
12 The eastern empires and nations owe their false gov-
ernment to the misconceptions of Deity there prevalent.
Tyranny, intolerance, and bloodshed, wherever found,

Scientific
man

15 arise from the belief that the infinite is formed after the pattern of mortal personality, passion, and impulse.

6. SH 234:31–3

Evil thoughts and aims reach no farther and do no more harm than one's belief permits. Evil thoughts, lusts, and
1 malicious purposes cannot go forth, like wandering pollen, from one human mind to another, finding unsuspected
3 lodgment, if virtue and truth build a strong defence.

7. SH 377:26–29

The cause of all so-called disease is mental, a mortal
27 fear, a mistaken belief or conviction of the necessity and power of ill-health; also a fear that Mind is helpless to defend the life of man and incompetent to control it.

8. SH 358:2–4

Can a leaden bullet de-
3 prive a man of Life, — that is, of God, who is man's Life?

Matter
impotent

9. SH 348:14–18

Are we irreverent towards sin, or imputing too much
15 power to God, when we ascribe to Him almighty Life and Love? I deny His cooperation with evil, because I desire to have no faith in evil or in
18 any power but God, good.

Elimination
of sickness

10. SH 324:13

Be watchful, sober, and vigilant. The way is straight and narrow, which leads to the understanding that God
15 is the only Life. It is a warfare with the flesh, in which we must conquer sin, sickness, and death, either here or hereafter, — certainly before we can reach the goal

18 of Spirit, or life in God.

11. SH 102:16–23

The mild forms of animal magnetism are disappearing, and its aggressive features are coming to the front.

18 The looms of crime, hidden in the dark recesses of mortal thought, are every hour weaving webs more complicated and subtle. So secret are the
21 present methods of animal magnetism that they ensnare the age into indolence, and produce the very apathy on the subject which the criminal desires.

Hidden
agents

12. SH 444:31–26

The teacher must make clear to students the Science of healing, especially its ethics, — that all is Mind, and

1 that the Scientist must conform to God’s requirements. Also the teacher must thoroughly fit his students to defend
3 themselves against sin, and to guard against the attacks of the would-be *mental assassin*, who attempts to kill morally and physically. No
6 hypothesis as to the existence of another power should interpose a doubt or fear to hinder the demonstration of Christian Science. Unfold the latent energies and capacities for good in your pupil. Teach the great possibilities of man endued with divine Science. Teach the dangerous possibility of dwarfing the spiritual understanding and
9 demonstration of Truth by sin, or by recourse to material means for healing. Teach the meekness and might of life “hid with Christ in God,” and there will be no desire for
12 other healing methods. You render the divine law of healing obscure and void, when you weigh the human in the scale with the divine, or limit in any direction of
15 thought the omnipresence and omnipotence of God.
18

Conforming
to explicit
rules

Christian Science silences human will, quiets fear with
Truth and Love, and illustrates the unlabored motion
21 of the divine energy in healing the sick. Self-
seeking, envy, passion, pride, hatred, and
revenge are cast out by the divine Mind which heals
24 disease. The human will which maketh and worketh a lie,
hiding the divine Principle of harmony, is destructive to
health, and is the cause of disease rather than its cure.

Divine
energy

13. SH 451:19–6

Every Christian Scientist, every conscientious teacher
of the Science of Mind-healing, knows that human will
21 is not Christian Science, and he must recog-
nize this in order to defend himself from the
influence of human will. He feels morally obligated to
24 open the eyes of his students that they may perceive the
nature and methods of error of every sort, especially any
subtle degree of evil, deceived and deceiving. All mental
27 malpractice arises from ignorance or malice aforethought.
It is the injurious action of one mortal mind controlling
another from wrong motives, and it is practised either
30 with a mistaken or a wicked purpose.

Obligations
of teachers

Show your student that mental malpractice tends to
blast moral sense, health, and the human life. Instruct
1 him how to bar the door of his thought against this
seeming power, — a task not difficult, when one under-
3 stands that evil has in reality no power.
Incorrect reasoning leads to practical error.
The wrong thought should be arrested before it has a
6 chance to manifest itself.

Indispensable
defence

14. SH 234:9–21, 26–27

9 We should become more familiar with good than with
evil, and guard against false beliefs as watchfully as we
bar our doors against the approach of thieves
12 and murderers. We should love our enemies
and help them on the basis of the Golden
Rule; but avoid casting pearls before those who trample
15 them under foot, thereby robbing both themselves and
others.

Hospitality
to health
and good

If mortals would keep proper ward over mortal mind,
18 the brood of evils which infest it would be cleared out.
We must begin with this so-called mind and
empty it of sin and sickness, or sin and sick-
21 ness will never cease.

Cleansing
the mind

You must control evil thoughts in the first
27 instance, or they will control you in the second.

15. SH 288:3

3 The suppositional warfare between truth and error is
only the mental conflict between the evidence of the spir-
itual senses and the testimony of the material
6 senses, and this warfare between the Spirit and
flesh will settle all questions through faith in and the un-
derstanding of divine Love.

The great
conflict

16. SH 276:1

1 Having one God, one Mind, unfolds the power that
heals the sick, and fulfils these sayings of Scripture, “I
3 am the Lord that healeth thee,” and “I have
found a ransom.” When the divine precepts
are understood, they unfold the foundation of fellowship,

Universal
brotherhood

- 6 in which one mind is not at war with another, but all have
one Spirit, God, one intelligent source, in accordance with
the Scriptural command: “Let this Mind be in you,
9 which was also in Christ Jesus.” Man and his Maker
are correlated in divine Science, and real consciousness
is cognizant only of the things of God.

17. SH 340:23

- One infinite God, good, unifies men and nations; con-
24 stitutes the brotherhood of man; ends wars; fulfils the
Scripture, “Love thy neighbor as thyself;” annihilates
pagan and Christian idolatry, — whatever is wrong in
27 social, civil, criminal, political, and religious codes;
equalizes the sexes; annuls the curse on man, and leaves
nothing that can sin, suffer, be punished or destroyed.