

Psalm 90

TO THE CHOIRMASTER: ACCORDING TO SHUSHAN EDUTH. A MIKTAM OF DAVID; FOR INSTRUCTION; WHEN HE STROVE WITH ARAM-NAHARAIM AND WITH ARAM-ZOBAB, AND WHEN JOAB ON HIS RETURN STRUCK DOWN TWELVE THOUSAND OF EDMON IN THE VALLEY OF SALT.

- 1 O God, you have rejected us, broken our defences;
you have been angry; oh, restore us.
- 2 You have made the land to quake; you have torn it open;
repair its breaches, for it totters.
- 3 You have made your people see hard things;
you have given us wine to drink that made us stagger.
- 4 You have set up a banner for those who fear you,
that they may flee to it from the bow. *Selah*
- 5 That your beloved ones may be delivered,
give salvation by your right hand and answer us!
- 6 God has spoken in his holiness:
“With exultation I will divide up Shechem
and portion out the Vale of Succoth.
- 7 Gilead is mine; Manasseh is mine;
Ephraim is my helmet;
Judah is my sceptre.
- 8 Moab is my washbasin;
upon Edom I cast my shoe;
over Philistia I shout in triumph.”
- 9 Who will bring me to the fortified city?
Who will lead me to Edom?
- 10 Have you not rejected us, O God?
You do not go forth, O God, with our armies.
- 11 Oh, grant us help against the foe,
for vain is the salvation of man!
- 12 With God we shall do valiantly;
it is he who will tread down our foes.

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Whose side is God on?

An intervening God

Judgement

Salvation

International relations

Is God on our side?

The problem with this world

A kingdom not of this world

The victorious king

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1. What are the main objections of God choosing sides in human conflict? How can this affect people's faith in God?
 2. How does this Psalm claim that God intervenes in this world? Where does this Psalm fit in with salvation history?
 3. How does God show that he is on Jesus' side?
 4. How can we know God is on our side?
 5. How should we think about our experiences of suffering, discipline and judgement? How should we respond to God? What hope can we have?