



NightLight

A NEWSLETTER OF McLEAN MINISTRIES

"take heed....as to a light that shines in a dark place." II Peter 1:19

Volume 343 • December 2021

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Dear Friends,



He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High will abide under the shadow of the Almighty. (Psalm 91:1)

For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. (2 Chronicles 16:9)

But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. (John 4:23)

Take a few minutes to read through all 16 verses of **Psalm 91**...

This psalm has actually been referred to as a *talisman psalm*. A talisman is a good luck charm. We like to think the ancient Hebrews were not subject to reducing God down to the level of carrying a rabbit's foot. When they refer to a talisman, there is a greater meaning for them than a mere pagan charm. Yet still, it conjures thoughts of magic and luck. The Holy Spirit does not allow us to be charmed by such shallow superstition when we come to **Psalm 91**. He is after so much more!

We have heard many wonderful testimonies of supernatural protection regarding this psalm. Some I know personally to be real. Others, I wonder about. Sadly, over the years, I have encountered hyped stories which have been repeated until they are devoid of any confirming elements. Many of these have become known as Christian urban legends.

The psalm was obviously written in the grip of two great but common dangers of the time: plague (pandemic) and invasion (political and military conflict). In the face of possible impending death, **Psalm 91** promises supernatural protection. The devil even quotes it to Jesus in the wilderness temptation. He is trying to coax Jesus to cast Himself down from the pinnacle of the temple in order to test the Father's promise.

Jesus counters this misuse of scripture by quoting another scripture: **Deuteronomy 6:16**, which says we are not to put God to a foolish test. Yet, the presence of this psalm in the midst of this particular conflict gives **Psalm 91** a special level of significance. It IS a declaration of great promise in the face of great difficulty. But it is NOT magic. It is NOT a rabbit's foot. It is NOT a lucky charm. God may have mercy on one who is not walking with Him by confirming the psalm's promise in some protecting intervention. But to invoke it as some kind of spiritual incantation in a dire time of need falls far short of the true meaning.

So what is the Holy Spirit saying to us here? The one who dwells - the one who takes shelter - in the secret place of the Most High, does so **by abiding**. Abiding means to live with, not just come and go. It is about the Lord desiring an ongoing continuous relationship with each one of us. Not just in times of trouble, but day in and day out, in our everyday lives. We cannot understand fully the meaning of these words unless we have some basic understanding of the tabernacle in the wilderness. The very idea of the tabernacle in the wilderness brings to the imagination of anyone who lived in that time and place, a shelter - a refuge - right in the middle of surrounding enemies and all kinds of danger. This is the picture that would pop into the mind of any ancient Judean hearing the opening words of **Psalm 91**. The one who is in the desert realm of plague and battle finds refuge by abiding - living - remaining - in the shelter of the Almighty. They would immediately recognize this as a reference to the *map of reality* which was the tabernacle.

Without going deeply into the varied precious imagery of a tabernacle study (which you would do well to do sometime), I want to emphasize a few basic points. The tabernacle had three divisions: the outer court, the inner court, and the Holiest of All. Those in the outer court know the forgiveness of sins and repeated cleansings (the altar of sacrifice and the laver of washing). Those in the inner court know a bit more of God's ways, and see into God's revelation of His purposes (the table of showbread and the lampstand). These are great and precious. But for those who want to go further up and further in, the way has been opened to the very heart of God beyond the veil into the Holy of Holies. The only light there is His Presence, with no need for a lampstand. This is the secret place. But thank God! It is no longer secret and hidden from us! When Jesus gave up His spirit to the Father at the Cross, the veil covering the entrance to the Holiest of All was forever torn down. And the way into the secret place is accessible to whoever wants to come. This is the place **Psalm 91** reveals. For those who dwell there, all the promises of the psalm are theirs. Even if we die, we are perfectly safe. That is true for all who come to the outer court also. But those who dwell in the secret place are at peace and do not fear evil and suffering. They are not their own. They have abandoned all. They live in His love, knowing God is good, no matter what may come. They trust in His faithfulness not only in times of danger, but at all times.

Jesus is describing this place in **John 14:21,23: He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him...If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him.** You are not merely invited. You are looked for and longed for. Go in now.





MOVIE REVIEW



C. S. LEWIS: THE MOST RELUCTANT CONVERT

(Fellowship of Performing Arts)

It was to be shown for one night only on November 3rd in select theaters, but was held over for more than two weeks. It was not advertised at all. Thankfully I did find it.

Max McLean (probably a cousin fifty times removed ☺) is a powerfully effective communicator whose acting gifts have been impacting audiences for decades on stage. He has been a one man production in communicating Lewis's message. Touring the US and other countries with stage presentations of **THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS** and **THE GREAT DIVORCE**, he more recently has done the one man show from which the film gets its title. The script written by Max is crafted with expert precision, weaving portions of Lewis's writings into a biographical story of the first 30 years of his life, but narrated by the elder Lewis, so encompassing the later richer portions of his life and work. The end result was powerful on stage, but in film it is even more impacting. Max takes on the persona of Lewis not only in an amazing grasp of Lewis's personality and character, but he looks almost exactly like him in some scenes. This helps in making the film both absorbing to watch (you feel like you are talking with Lewis face to face in his rooms) and powerfully informative without at all being religious or preachy. Max McLean has, with the help of some great film production experts, given us an entertaining yet spiritually compelling film. This includes the unfolding of the questions of evil and suffering, the dilemma of unbelief, the war between science and scientism, and the struggle to face invisible realities. All this results in his final surrender of atheist turned theist, turned disciple of Jesus.

Seek out the location near you where it may still be showing, or go online and search it out.





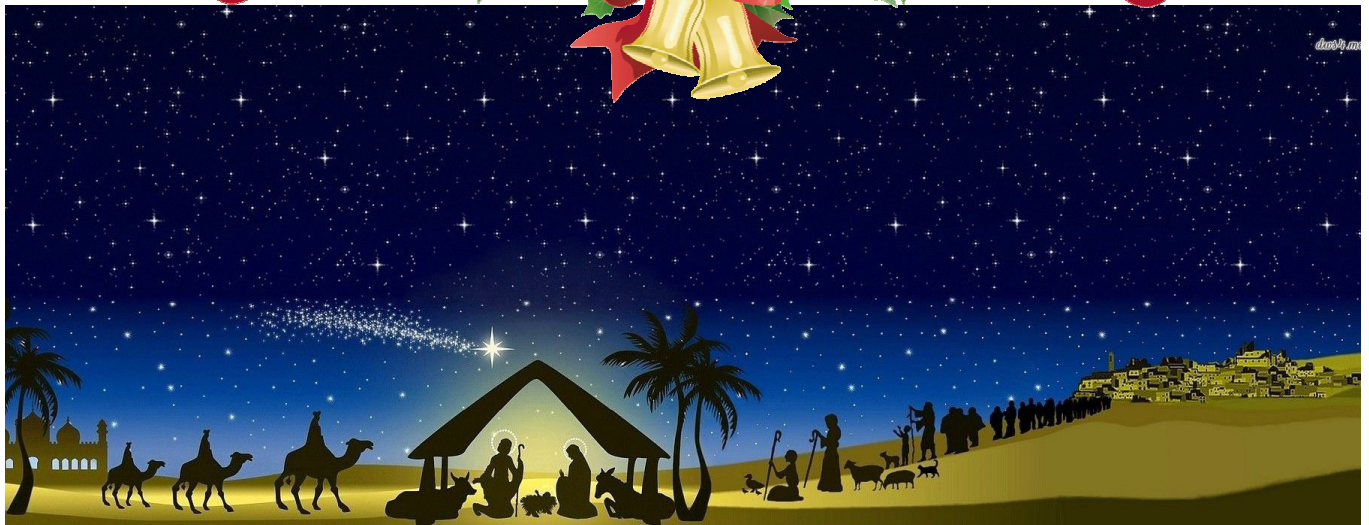
Closing Thoughts...



*Gather family and friends together some time during the Holy days, and watch the 20-minute short film entitled **The Shepherd: A Christmas Special**, included in Season One of **The Chosen**.*

May His Abiding Presence be especially known by you, and radiate through you this holiday season.

Merry Christmas, Clay & Mary



**LOVE INDESTRUCTIBLE IN FRAILTY APPEARS
BOW DOWN AND WORSHIP
FOR THIS IS YOUR GOD**

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