



Sunday, May 31, 2020
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to Psalm 11

We are living in tumultuous times. It seems like something from a Hollywood script: a global pandemic, an economic catastrophe, persistent racial injustice among law enforcement, protest and uprising in almost every major city in the country. If someone had pitched that movie just a year ago, it would have seemed like too much. How implausible that all of those things could be happening simultaneously!

Perhaps some of you remember (or, like me, studied in a history class) similarly disruptive times in the 1960s. The combination of the Civil Rights Movement and the anti-war sentiment in the country led to widespread protests across the country. And yet, the Lord was gracious to see us through. While there is no guarantee what the future holds for the United States, what is guaranteed is that all who seek refuge in Him will not be put to shame. Indeed, the Lord is righteous, and He loves the people He has made righteous through the blood of His Son, Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit in making us new. May we always seek refuge in Him! And may He come quickly to renew all things so that we might dwell with Him forever!

Context

Psalm 11 was written by David and the language of the psalm indicates he is reflecting on a period in which he was on the run. Chapters 18-31 of 1 Samuel depict for us David as a young man on the run from King Saul who had threatened his life numerous times. In that scenario, David was the innocent sufferer, on the run through no fault of his own, but simply because of the jealousy and paranoia of a wicked king. In chapters 15-18 of 2 Samuel, we learn of another time David was on the run. This time, it was a result of his own sin. In both instances, though, the solution was the same—seek refuge in the LORD who dwells in His holy temple.

Discuss

- 1) What are some ways that people apart from Christ respond to crisis situations?
- 2) How does this psalm encourage us as believers to respond to crisis situations?
- 3) What does it mean to “take refuge in the LORD”? What does that look like in your own life?
- 4) How does this psalm confront the idea that Christians are somehow exempt from suffering?
- 5) How can we, as Christians, persevere in faith while we wait for the Lord to come and judge the wickedness on the earth?