

Readings for the week of March 9/25:

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

Jesus was a Jew. In Jewish tradition, a person's name speaks of a part of their character. For example, In Hebrew, Michael means "who is like God," and Gabriel means "God is my strength."

There are many names for God, but each one reveals a part of His character/His nature. A couple of examples are, God is called Jehovah-Roi, which means "my protector," and He is called Jehovah-Jireh, which means "The Lord will provide."

Psalms 91:14 says, *"Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name."*

As we devote our lives to Him by spending time with Him in prayer, bible reading and surrendering to His will, we get to know his character better. Psalms 91:1-2 confirms this by saying, *"You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."*

Through these readings we get to know several aspects of God's protection and provision for His people.

Deuteronomy 26:8-9 speaks of physical protection and provision by saying, *"The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey."*

Psalms 91:9-16 speaks of physical, emotional/mental and spiritual protection by saying, *"Because you have made the LORD your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone. You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot. Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them. With long life I will satisfy them and show them my salvation."*

Romans 10:8b-9 speaks of spiritual protection. Being Saved means that we will have eternal life with Him. Those verses say, *"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."*

From the entire gospel reading from Luke 4:1-13, we learn that we have an enemy, Satan, who tries to take our eyes off Jesus and doubt His faithfulness to us.

Jesus was "full of the Spirit" according to Luke 4:1, and was able to withstand the temptations of the devil.

Matthew 11: 28-30 tells us how we can live that way, *"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

Jesus gives us an example to follow of what it means to be 'full of the Spirit' by being fully surrendered to God's will in all that we say and do. When temptations come our way to doubt God or His word, may we always be mindful of God's character and His faithfulness. When we do that, as Jesus did, we will be successful in withstanding anything that the enemy throws at us.

There is victory in name of Jesus Christ!