

WALKING BY FAITH IN CHAOTIC TIMES

Grace Chapel

March 25, 2009

Dr. John Niemelä

Introduction

The Heading: To the Chief Musician. A psalm of David

Does the punctuation of verses 1–3 make sense?

¹In the LORD I put my trust; How can you say to my soul, “Flee *as* a bird to your mountain”?

²For look! The wicked bend *their* bow, They make ready their arrow on the string, That they may shoot secretly at the upright in heart. ³If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?

Corrected punctuation:

¹In the LORD I put my trust; How can you say to my soul,
→ “Flee *as* a bird to your mountain? ²For look! The wicked bend *their* bow, They make ready their arrow on the string, That they may shoot secretly at the upright in heart. ³If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?” ←

The Relationship between verses 1–3 and 4–7

Verses 1–3 restate David’s advisors’ reasons for

Verses 4–7 state David’s reason for

Psalm 11:1–3**Psalm 11:1a:** In the LORD I have taken refuge (cf. the NASB)**11:1b–c:** How can you_{pl} say to my soul_f, “[Soul_f], you_f fly as a bird to your_{pl} mountain?...”

Who does David quote in verses 1c–3?

Why does the first verb in the quote (*you_f fly*) depict the subject as feminine?Why (since the verse addresses David) is *your* in (*your mountain*) plural?**11:2:** For look, the wicked tread the bow. They make ready their arrow on the string. That they may shoot in darkness (e.g., secretly) at the upright-in-heart ones.**11:3:** If the foundations are destroyed, what _____ the _____ righteous _____? (corrected)**The righteous*, to whom does this refer (the form is _____ _____)?

The verb is a _____ tense:

^{Darby} For they have destroyed the things which thou hast made: but what has the just man done?^{GNV} For the foundations are cast down: what hath the righteous done?^{JPS} When the foundations are destroyed, what hath the righteous wrought?^{Brenton} For they have pulled down what thou didst frame, but what has the righteous done?^{YLT} When the foundations are destroyed, The righteous—what hath he done?

11:4-7

11:4: The LORD *is* in His holy temple, The LORD's throne *is* in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.

11:5: The LORD tests the righteous, But the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates.

The first of the following is the New American Standard. New King James follows:

The LORD <i>tests</i> the righteous <u>and the wicked</u> ,	And the one who loves violence His soul hates.
-------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------

The LORD <i>tests</i> the righteous,	<u>But the wicked</u> and the one who loves violence His soul hates.
--------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------

The meaning of the word *tests* tells us which is correct: It means:

11:6: Upon the wicked He will rain coals; Fire and brimstone and a burning wind *shall be* the portion of their cup.

11:7: For the LORD *is* righteous, He loves righteousness; His countenance beholds the upright.

Conclusion and Application: