

PSALMS

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Psalm 1 as we continue our study through the Word of God and we begin our journey through this powerful book of praises. In fact, the Hebrew title of this book was Sepher Tehillim, which simply means Praises or Book of Praises and it was the main prayer and worship book of the Jews. The Septuagint or the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures calls this book Psalmoi or a poem sung to music and it is from this word we get our English title, Psalms from!

As you know, this is the longest book of the Bible, 150 chapters or 150 Psalms. Some of them are long and some are very short but they are all powerful and important for us. Not only that but the Psalms are probably the most read book in the Bible because they cover our highs and our lows, it covers the full spectrum of human emotions and we can learn and find comfort in them. It helps us through those tough times and it also helps us rejoice in those times of tremendous blessings!

As we will see as we go through this book, the subject matter is tremendous! Like I have said, this book covers not only the highs or the times of jubilation, but also of war, of peace, of worship, of judgment, of prophecy and specifically Messianic prophecy, there is praise and there are lamentations and out of all this, the writer keeps pointing us back to the only one who can help, ***GOD!***

Martin Luther put it this way regarding the Psalms. He said,

In the Psalms, we look into the heart of all the saints, and, we seem to gaze into fair pleasure-gardens; into heaven itself, indeed; where bloom the sweet, refreshing, gladdening flowers of holy and happy thoughts about God and all His benefits. On the other hand, where will you find deeper, sadder, more piteous words of mourning than in the Psalms? In these again, we look into the heart of the saints, and we seem to be looking into death, yea, into hell itself. How gloomy, how dark it is there, because of the many sad visions of the wrath of God!

- Martin Luther

And John Calvin said this regarding the Psalms,

I may truly call this book an anatomy of all parts of the soul, for no one can feel a movement of the spirit which is not reflected in this mirror. All the sorrows, troubles, fears, doubts, hopes, pains, perplexities and stormy outbreaks by which the hearts of men are tossed have been depicted here to the very life.

- John Calvin

I think that is why God has placed this prayer and worship book of the Jews in the Bible for us, so we can learn from it. Paul, in Romans 15:4 makes this very point. He wrote, **“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”**

Make no mistake about it. These Psalms were written through the experiences of several different people and we can learn from them, we can glean insights in what they did so we can apply those things to our lives and we can focus back on the Lord instead of the situations we are facing.

I find that thought interesting, focusing back on the Lord, trusting in Him no matter what you are going through because that is a recurring theme throughout the Bible. We saw that as we went through the book of Job and we will see it once again as we go through the book of Psalms!

Now in saying that the theme is focusing back on God, it just makes sense that we see over and over again the various names of God presented to us in the Psalms. There is Yahweh or YHVH or YHWH, the Tetragrammaton that is used a little less than 700 times of which Yah is seen 43 times. And just a little footnote here, the Tetragrammaton is the four characters or the four Hebrew letters that correspond to YHWH.

Then we see God or Elohim used 365 times, El used 77 times, Eloah is used only in Psalm 50:23. Lord or Adonai is used 54 times. Elyon or Most High is used 22 times and Shaddai, also meaning Most High is used 2 times. And there are many other names and titles that are used for God so obviously God is the focus of the Psalms and rightly so. If the focus was man or something other than God, it would not help us with the kind of help we need. We do not need earthly help; we need heavenly help and that can only come from God!

And again, keep in mind that the Psalms were not written by one person but by several different people. The most notable, of course, is David, who was called the sweet Psalmist of Israel. David wrote at least 75 of the Psalms, (Psalms 2 and 95 are attributed to David in the New Testament). Asaph wrote 12. The sons of Korah wrote 10. Solomon wrote 2. Moses, Ethan and Heman each wrote 1. And the other 48 are anonymous, and may be from David, we are not sure. Some feel that Ezra may have been the author of some of the anonymous Psalms.

The timeframe of the writing of these Psalms covered a period of time of about 1,000 years, from the time of Moses who lived around 1450 B. C. and ending with Ezra around 450 B. C. And again, this is a long period of history that will deal with the full gamut of emotions that one may go through in a lifetime.

The book of Psalms is divided up into 5 books or sections and each division or section ends with a doxology or praises unto God. The dictionary defines a doxology as “an expression of praise to God, especially a short hymn sung as part of a Christian worship service.” The word doxology comes from the Greek *doxa*, glory, splendor, grandeur, and *logos*, word or speaking. I will show you how this book is divided up and then the doxology that is given at the end of these divisions or sections.

The first division covers Psalms 1-41. The doxology is found in Psalm 41:13 which says, “**Blessed be the Lord God of Israel From everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.**”

The second division covers Psalms 42-72. The doxology is found in Psalm 72:18-19 which says, **“Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things! And blessed be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen.”**

The third division covers Psalms 73-89. The doxology is found in Psalm 89:52 which says, **“Blessed be the Lord forevermore! Amen and Amen.”**

The fourth division covers Psalms 90-106. The doxology is found in Psalm 106:48 which says, **“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel From everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say, ‘Amen!’ Praise the Lord!”**

And lastly, the fifth division of the book is found in Psalms 107-150. The doxology is found in Psalm 150:1-6, it is the whole chapter, which says, **“Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty firmament! Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness! Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp! Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes! Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!”**

Obviously these Psalms were written to the Jews, to the nation of Israel. And if that is true and it is, if this is for Israel, can it apply to the church? Absolutely, we can gain insight and help from these Psalms. I like the way that William MacDonald puts it. He wrote,

While not all of the Bible is written directly to the church, all Scripture is profitable *for* the church. We can find comfort, teaching, rebuke and exhortation in the Psalms as we see our own experiences mirrored in those of the psalmist.

We in the church can learn important lessons from teachings which are primarily Jewish. The Jewish temple can be considered a prefiguration of the body of Christ, made up of all believers and indwelt by the Holy Spirit. The battles in the Psalms speak to us of our spiritual warfare against principalities and powers, against the forces of darkness in the heavenly places. The material blessings of Israel on earth point us to our spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ – and so forth.

If we use these keys, the Psalms become richly meaningful to us, and many of the problems in interpretation disappear.

- William MacDonald, *Believer's Bible Commentary*, p. 548

One more point before we begin our journey through the Psalms and that is the number of New Testament quotes or allusions to the Psalms, there are over four hundred of them and thus, if they are repeated for us in the New Testament, God wants us to know and understand them, they are for us today. With that in mind, let's get into this prayer and praise book of the Temple beginning in Psalm 1 starting in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word!

PSALM 1

As we read through this Psalm I want you to note that there are only 2 ways of life that are contrasted, not 3 or 4 or more. You only have the righteous and the unrighteous, as you will see. Keep that in mind as we read through this Psalm, the way of the righteous and the way of the ungodly and how they are contrasted!

VERSE 1

1. Notice who this blessed man is. He is the one who does not follow down this destructive path. And it is a destructive path that takes you down farther and farther, away from God, away from the blessedness that God has for you!

And as you look at this you see a gradual progression of this person who is sinking deeper into this pattern of sin. Notice that at first they are walking with the ungodly. He is just kind of being with them, starting out as a casual relationship. But then he is not only walking with them, he is standing with them, they are hanging out together. No longer is it a casual influence upon his life. And finally he is sitting with them, in fellowship with them, agreeing in their sin and mocking the things of God! How many people travel down this road that leads to destruction as Solomon reminds us in Proverbs 14:12, **“There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.”** It is a wake up call for people to not go down that path that leads to death!

2. How many Christians are looking for the blessings of God and yet they are unwilling to follow the path that God has for them? It is as Psalm 16:11 tells us, **“You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”** So if you want that blessedness that God has for you, then don’t walk with the ungodly, don’t stand with them and don’t sit down with them!

Now I am not saying we avoid them, but we don’t follow them, that is the key. We are to be a light to them of Christ and yet how many times do we let their darkness affect our lives! Be careful and walk as God has called you to walk. It is as Clarke reminds us, “The great lesson to be learned from the whole is, sin is *progressive*; one evil propensity or act leads to another. He who acts by *bad counsel* may soon do *evil deeds*; and he who abandons himself to *evil doings* may end his life in *total apostasy* from God.”

VERSES 2-3

1. If the blessed man doesn’t do those things, then what does he do? David tells us. And please notice that the focus is not in a program, some Christian book, some teaching, some this or that, but the blessed man delights in the Word of God and is obedient to what God has said!

And it is not just reading the Word of God, but it is meditating upon the Word of God! Remember what the Lord said to Joshua in Joshua 1:8, **“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”**

The idea with this word “**mediate**” is like a cow who chews the cud and he is extracting all the nutrients he can from the grass that he is eating. That is what we are to do with the Word of God, extract all the spiritual nourishment we can as we read it and throughout the day bring those words back into our minds. Ponder a portion of Scripture and extract what you can from it and you will never be able to exhaust all the nutrients from it, it just keeps on giving if we are willing to take the time and meditate upon it!

2. And a life that avoids the dangers of the path of the ungodly and focuses on God’s Word and not only reads it and meditates upon it, but applies it to their life, their life will be fruitful. David uses the idea of a tree planted by the water and you will prosper, you will bear fruit! And the key is, what are you filling your life with? It is as Spurgeon wrote, “Man must have some delight, some supreme pleasure. His heart was never meant to be a vacuum. If not filled with the best things, it will be filled with the unworthy and disappointing.” Fill your life with the things of God and you will be blessed as you walk with Him and not the ungodly!

VERSES 4-6

1. What does that mean that “**The ungodly are not so**”? It means that they are not blessed; their lives are not fruitful for God. They may think they are doing great but nothing they do apart from Christ will be accepted by God! We will deal more with that in a minute and you will see what I mean. But here David says that the ungodly are like chaff. What does that mean? Chaff is just the worthless husk of grain that is blown away during the process of winnowing. The only thing that is left is the grain, or fruit you might say. And folks, you can't fool God, He knows who are His, those who love Him, from those that don't. And He will separate the wheat from the tares or the true from the false.

2. Now let's look at these verses here in Psalm 1, and especially verse 1 because if you take this in the literal Hebrew, the implication is that the blessed man is the one who has never sinned! How are you guys doing? Not so good, none of us are. In fact, the only one who has lived his life like that is Jesus and I think that this is pointing to Him and the life He lived.

In John 15:5-6 Jesus said, “**I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.**”

Thus, Jesus is the vine that we are attached to, and as He flows through our lives there is fruit that is born in our life. But those that are not attached to the vine, Jesus Christ, will not bear fruit and will be cut down and burned in the fire. It speaks of judgment. They cannot stand before God in their own righteousness, which are like filthy rags and nothing they do apart from Christ will be accepted!

3. As we close this Psalm out, notice the first word, “**blessed**” and the last word in this Psalm, “**perish**” and see the contrast of the two! Make no mistake about it, the godly man; the one who walks in the counsel of God and meditates upon the Word of God, applying the Word of God to his life is blessed while the one who rejects these things will ultimately perish! Which path will you follow?

PSALM 2

This Psalm deals with the rebellion of man and the judgment of God with the exaltation of Jesus. It is a Messianic Psalm and it brings us to the end of the Tribulation Period and the setting up of the Kingdom of God with Jesus ruling and reigning! The author is David, not because we are told here but Acts 4:25-26 clearly tells us that David wrote this Psalm! And you will see that in this Psalm there is a conversation between the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.

VERSES 1-3

1. Now this Psalm opens up and it is like listening to the news or reading a newspaper from today. What do I mean by that? I mean that man has set himself up against God. He is very arrogant and does as he pleases, or so they think! And as you read this it is just plain foolishness and rebellious man is foolish because he is rebelling against his creator who loves him!

But make no mistake about it; he wants to fight against Yahweh God and His Anointed or Messiah. In Hebrew it is the word MASHIYACH, (maw-shee'-akh) which is translated CHRISTOS or Christ in the Greek. When does this battle take place? This battle takes place at the end of the Tribulation Period and just prior to the start of the Kingdom Age. In Revelation 19:19 we read, **“And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.”** Yes man is in rebellion against God today but the ultimate battle, if you can call it that, is coming!

2. Spurgeon puts it into perspective for us as he wrote, “To a graceless neck the yoke of Christ is intolerable, but to the saved sinner it is easy and light . . . We may judge ourselves by this, do we love that yoke, or do we wish to cast it from us?” His yoke is easy unless you fight against Him and then it will be your downfall!

3. Now this has been the foolish plan of man, to break away from God, under no ones authority except their own. And in reality they are in bondage to this world! And because they refuse the truth, God will give them a lie in which they will believe, and they truly believe they can win this battle against God. I also want you to note that it says, “**Let us break Their bonds in pieces. . .**” Who is the ungodly speaking of? I believe that they are speaking of the Holy Trinity; God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. This rebellion is against the Godhead!

VERSES 4-6

1. Notice what God does here. God looks at the way man plots against Him and He laughs. Why does God laugh? It is very simple, God laughs because God isn't afraid, confused, worried or even depressed about the opposition of man. God does not lose any sleep over this. In fact, God laughs at it. Boice puts it like this, “God does not tremble. He does not hide behind a vast celestial rampart, counting the enemy and calculating whether or not he has sufficient force to counter this new challenge to his kingdom. He does not even rise from where he is sitting. He simply ‘laughs’ at these great imbeciles.”

That gives me great comfort that God is not worried about sinful, rebellious man. And yes, as hard as it is to believe, man will try to make war against God and there truly is no real battle even though it is called the Battle of Armageddon. We are told in Revelation 19:21, “**And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.**” The Word of God will destroy them!

2. Not only that but we are told that the Lord “**will hold them in derision.**” In other words, the Lord will make a mockery of them, He will put them down. Let me show you what I mean with this story about a man who tried to destroy God and you will see what happened to him. We are told of this man named Voltaire, the noted 18th century French philosopher. And Voltaire said that it took centuries to build up Christianity, but “I’ll show how just one Frenchman can destroy it within 50 years.” Taking his pen, he dipped it into the ink of unbelief and wrote against God. In other words, he thought he could fight against God and win.

Well, twenty years after his death, the Geneva Bible Society purchased his house for printing the Bible. And it later became the Paris headquarters for the British and Foreign Bible society. The Bible is still a best-seller; an entire 6-volume set of Voltaire’s works was once sold for 90 cents. Just before his death, the noted atheist swore: “I wish I had never been BORN!” In other words, if people want to fight against God, He “**will hold them in derision.**”

3. Now here in verse 6 we see that God the Father is speaking and He is telling us that He will set His Son on the throne in Zion. This is the Kingdom Age being spoken of. God wants defiant man to know that He has established a King and it is not them, that King is Jesus!

VERSES 7-9

1. Here when it says, “**I will declare the decree**” it is Jesus, God the Son who is speaking and sharing what God the Father has spoken to Him. This is the inheritance of the Son and thus, Jesus Christ is speaking of the Kingdom Age. You see, when He returns with His saints to establish His earthly kingdom He will put down mans rebellion and separate the sheep from the goats. The sheep will enter into the Kingdom Age and the goats will enter Hell, awaiting the Great White Throne Judgment. But even in the Kingdom Age man will rebel, but they won’t get away with it. Any rebellion will be dealt with immediately.

VERSES 10-12

1. In these verses here I believe it is now the Spirit who begins to speak to us. Why do I say that? Think of it like this. What is one of the functions of the Holy Spirit in the world today? The Holy Spirit is here to draw men to Christ, to point them in the right direction. And thus, when you read these verses that is exactly what He is doing here. He is telling those in rebellion to “**kiss the son**” or pay homage, worship the son.

To put that into a New Testament thought, it would be “**... ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved ...’**” Acts 16:31. And just like this Psalm is saying, it still applies today, if they would continue to refuse to turn to Christ, then they will be judged for their rebellion. They are not going to win in this battle against God.

And for those who come to Christ, those who put their trust in Him, they are blessed, they are happy, for they will enter into the Kingdom Age and eternity with their Lord and Savior. And that is truly God's desire. He wants all to come to the saving knowledge of Him, but tragically many will not, and many will gather together in battle against Him, but they will not win!

2. And as we close this Psalm we can sum it up like this. For those that want to defy God, they will be broken. But, for those that want to receive Him, who depend upon Him, who Kiss the Son you might say, they will be blessed. The choice is open for every one of us and the choice is this – ***BROKEN*** or ***BLESSED?***

PSALM 3

This Psalm was written during the time that Absalom rebelled against his father David, trying to usurp the throne from him. Absalom was coming from Hebron to Jerusalem to take over the kingdom as he revolted against his father King David. And David was fleeing Jerusalem because he did not want any blood to be shed in God's Holy city, Jerusalem. And keep in mind that Absalom wanted David dead and it is out of this turmoil that David wrote the Psalm. (You can find this in II Samuel chapters 15 through chapter 18).

VERSES 1-2

1. I can't imagine the pain that David was going through as his son wanted him dead and was taking the kingdom from him. Obviously David is troubled by what is happening to him and is crying out to God for help. His enemies have increased, they saw David down and they were going to take advantage of that situation. And not only were their numbers intimidating, but their words were disheartening. They were telling David he is only getting what he deserved and because of that God was not going to help him. And David did feel he was getting what he deserved. His sin with Bathsheba and the killing of her husband Uriah has brought this upon his life, he thought.

And as he was leaving the city of Jerusalem, Shimei began cursing David and throwing rocks down upon him. And when Abishai saw this he couldn't take it any longer and asked permission from David to go and cut this guys head off. We read in II Samuel 16:10-12 of what transpired. We are told, **“But the king said, ‘What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? So let him curse, because the Lord has said to him, ‘Curse David.’ Who then shall say, ‘Why have you done so?’” And David said to Abishai and all his servants, ‘See how my son who came from my own body seeks my life. How much more now may this Benjamite? Let him alone, and let him curse; for so the Lord has ordered him. It may be that the Lord will look on my affliction, and that the Lord will repay me with good for his cursing this day.’”**

How difficult that must have been for David, not only seeing what Absalom was doing but he also felt that God was against Him, that God was not going to help him! Spurgeon put it like this regarding the devastation of that kind of thinking, “If all the trials which come from heaven, all the temptations which ascend from hell, and all the crosses which arise from the earth, could be mixed and pressed together, they would not make a trial so terrible as that which is contained in this verse. It is the most bitter of all afflictions to be led to fear that there is no help for us in God.”

2. At the close of verse 2 we see this phrase “Selah” and some feel the idea here is to bring the thought and the music to a crescendo, to play it louder. And there are some other thoughts regarding this word, but I believe that it is a pause to allow the person to stop and think about what has been said. In a sense it is a musical pause, a reflection on what was spoken or sung!

VERSES 3-4

1. Now we previously saw that David was feeling that God was against him and the reason being is he focused on the situation instead of the reality that God was with him and would never leave him. And that is why David see’s God as his help, he knew that God was his shield! And this is where David found his comfort, in the Lord. The shield would protect a person from danger and David saw the Lord as his shield! Not only that, but God is the one who raised David up and brought him the glory due his position as king. And God is the one who lifts David up, raises his head so that he can look into the eyes of God - where there is comfort.

Think about your kids when they were small or where they are at now. And when they are down what do we do? We lift up their chin so they can look into our eyes, they can look upon our face and see our love for them no matter what they did or what they were going through. That is how David saw the Lord and it is how we should see the Lord, allowing Him to lift us up so that we can see His face, His love for us but you must look up!

VERSES 5-6

1. What causes sleepless nights? There are many things like anxiety, fear, uncertainty and-so-on. But David was able to get a good nights rest because David cast his cares and anxieties to the Lord, he trusted in God. David speaks of the enemies that were around him and yet, even with those numbers he could sleep because David knew that if God is for us, then who can be against us! (Romans 8:31). And yes that is a New Testament idea but David understood that and thus, he was able to rest, he was able to sleep.

You know how it is, the tossing and turning and how difficult it is to sleep when you are anxious and troubled, that is why we are to give it to God, He can handle it. Remember what Isaiah 26:3 says, **“You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.”** Did you notice that, not just peace but **“perfect peace”** if we focus on Him, on the Lord. Why is that? Because we are not focusing on the situation but we are focusing on the One who will see us through the situation that is before us.

2. And it was not only his sleep but when he awoke; David saw this as another gift of God. That God has sustained him in the midst of his enemies. Every day with the Lord is another gift, may we never forget that!

VERSES 7-8

1. David started out in despair and now he is secure in the Lord. He is not going to fear even if he is surrounded by 10,000 of his enemies because God is in control. And David saw how God had delivered him in the past, how He struck his enemies and broke their teeth and that gave confidence in the present situation that he faced, he knew that God would see him through!

2. Now think about all that David had on his mind and yet, David was not only concerned about himself but also about God's people. His prayer is not just for him but the people who would be affected by what Absalom was doing! And David finishes up with a shout of victory – ***“SALVATION BELONGS TO THE LORD!”***

3. And then there is that word, **“Selah”** as they were to pause and think about the words that were spoken here, mediate upon them!

PSALM 4

Many feel that this Psalm is also born out of this rebellion of Absalom and David fleeing for his life from the city of Jerusalem. It is also played on the Neginoth and this word means “to strike.” Therefore, it is believed that the Neginoth was a stringed instrument.

VERSE 1

1. Notice what the cry of David to the Lord for help was based upon. David’s cry for help unto God was based on how the Lord has cared for David in the past. He wrote, **“You have relieved me . . .”** You see, as we look to the past and how God has sustained us, it gives us confidence in the present situations that we find ourselves in and the prayers that we lift up. Spurgeon made these comments on what David was doing. He wrote, “This is another instance of David’s common habit of pleading past mercies as a ground for present favour.”

Folks, don’t get the idea that God is too busy for you or He doesn’t care about you. God wants us to call upon Him. Psalm 50:15 says, **“Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.”** So instead of bearing the weight of the burden, call upon the Lord and give it to Him! And in the end, as God brings you through those times, He is the one that will then get the glory and not you!

2. One other point here that I believe is important for us to see. Let me ask you this.

When was this weight lifted from David? That weight was lifted from David when he called upon the Lord. Do you know where our faith grows? It is the same place the faith of David grew, when we are in distress, when things are tough because then we can't do it on our own but we have to give it to the Lord. Think about weightlifters, they lift weights and in doing so they are breaking down muscle and then it rebuilds those muscles stronger than they were before. Faith is like a muscle, it must be used, it must be exercised for it to grow! So if things are tough right now, if they are not looking too good, don't lose hope. Call out to the Lord and fall back on what God has done in the past to give you hope for the present situation you are in and in the end, your faith will grow and the Lord will be glorified!

Once again Spurgeon wrote, "I am afraid that all the grace I have got out of my comfortable and easy times and happy hours might almost lie on a penny. The good that I have received from my sorrows and pains and grief's is altogether incalculable. What do I not owe to the hammer and the anvil, the fire and the file! Affliction is the best bit of furniture in my house." We might not like that but it is very true!

VERSES 2-3

1. Some feel that this Psalm is not related to the uprising of Absalom to usurp the throne from David because they see this as an attack on David's reputation. But as you look at what took place during this rebellion I think you will see that it does fit. You see, as David speaks to his enemies he is rebuking them for taking away his glory or his authority as being King. It started with Absalom who was undermining David, his father. We are told II Samuel 15:6, "**. . . So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.**" It started with Absalom and now others were picking up on this rebellious attitude and their words were worthless, their words were false and David is coming against what they were saying about him.

2. Now don't think that David is being self-righteous here in what he is saying. He is a child of God and he is speaking of that relationship and that what they are doing to him is wicked. In fact, David is telling them that they don't know who they are messing with; he is a child of God. And if they continue down this path, he is going to go and tell his heavenly Father, and He will not only hear his cry, but He will defend David. We too are children of God, adopted into His family through Jesus Christ. Thus, God will hear our cry and respond to our need. It may not be the way we want Him to respond but I will guarantee you this, it will be what is best for our lives and the situation that we are in!

You see, if God is for us, and He is, then who can be against us and the answer is,

NOBODY!

VERSES 4-5

1. Here in verse 4, these words, “**Be angry**” comes from the Hebrew word “RAGAZ, (rau-gaz’) and it means to stand in awe or to tremble. In other words, don’t let sin take control of your life. We have a right to be angry in God’s cause but not our own anger for our own cause. That kind of anger is dangerous. And David is calling for them to search their own hearts, to meditate and seek the Lord in this matter or this anger will consume their lives and destroy them! David understood that if they did seek the Lord, if they did call upon Him then their wicked words of slander against David would end and so too would their wicked plans. But if they refused, this anger would lead them down a dangerous path!

VERSES 6-8

1. David closes with his focus on the Lord because that is where his hope is found! Now, for the unsaved, there is no hope, no goodness that they can look forward to. But for the saved, the light of God shines down upon us and puts gladness into our heart. No matter what happens, in prosperity and in poverty, in good times and in bad, God still puts that joy in our hearts. It is as Paul said in Philippians 4:11-13, “**Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**” May we learn to live like that, to trust and rest in the Lord!

2. Now we see the end result of all this. It is peace and rest because David is not focusing on the circumstances but upon the Lord. Paul reminds us in Romans 14:17, “**for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.**” And yet, how many people waste time and sleep because of the endless thoughts, conversations, ideas about this possibility and that potential problem that most of the time never comes to pass and yet it is so real we can’t rest, we can’t sleep! How much better it is to just cast your cares upon the Lord because He cares for you and pour your heart out to Him because He can handle it and we can’t. If we can do that we will find peace, we will find rest because we trust in Him. You see, when you lie down in peace it leads to restful sleep because of our trust in the Lord. So we should all get a good nights rest tonight.

PSALM 5

We saw in Psalm 4 that it was an evening Psalm you might say and now here in Psalm 5 it is a morning Psalm as David comes to the Lord in the morning to receive strength for the day that is before him. What a great Psalm this is to start your day with!

VERSES 1-3

1. How important it is to start out your day with the right focus - the Lord! A prayer of looking up to God and asking Him to direct our steps, to commit each day to Him, asking the Holy Spirit to direct our day and that we would be sensitive to His leading.

Now here in verse 3 when David speaks of directing his prayers to God he is not saying that he is aiming them at God but that he is arranging them or putting them in order. Spurgeon sums it up like this, “It is the word that is used for the laying in order of the wood and pieces of the victim upon the altar, and it is used also for the putting of the shewbread upon the table. It means just this: ‘I will arrange my prayer before thee;’ I will lay it out upon the altar in the morning, just as the priest lays out the morning sacrifice.” That is how our prayers should be directed!

And one more thing here and that is that David looked up to the Lord he did not look out at the mess that was before him. He did not focus on all he had to do or the situations he would face, but he looked upon the Lord who would see him through these times. I think that is important for us to understand as we begin our day!

VERSES 4-6

1. David is going to show the contrast between the wicked and the godly and he begins with the wicked. And to do this he shows us who God is. He tells us that God is pure, there is no darkness found in Him, no evil in His ways. I John 1:5 say’s, “**This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.**” Also, in Habakkuk 1:13 we are told, “**You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. . . .**” And in Revelation 21:8 we are told, “**But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.**” That is not being harsh or unloving, that is just the truth and you can’t ignore that fact!

Now it does seem frustrating at times when you turn on the news and see evil running rampant in our society. But God will deal with them; they will not get away with their evil. God's desire is they come to Him, but if they refuse the free gift of God that is found in Christ Jesus then they will be judged for their evil ways. God does not take pleasure in the wicked!

VERSES 7-8

1. Notice the contrast here. The wicked don't want to have anything to do with the Lord and yet we see that David's desire was to spend time with God, to dwell in His holy temple. And he realizes that it is God's mercy alone that has allowed him to come into a relationship like that. He was not arrogant as he approached God, but had a humble spirit. That is so true of us today. We don't approach God in our righteousness, which are like filthy rags. We approach God as sinners in need of a Savior and if you don't approach God in that way, you will never be saved because you will never see yourself as being that bad!

2. Now keep in mind that David's enemies were waiting for David to fail so David asks God to direct his steps and keep him on the right path. We all need that kind of prayer in our lives, for the Lord to direct our steps so that we don't fall, we don't stumble and give the enemies of God a chance to mock God!

We are told in Psalm 32:8-9, **“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. Do not be like the horse or like the mule, Which have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you.”** God wants to direct our paths; He wants to guide us through His Word as we look to Him. But if we refuse, He will direct us with a bit and bridle like a wild animal. I think our desire is to have a sensitive spirit so God may direct us down the path He has for us!

VERSES 9-10

1. Notice what David is doing here. He is focusing on what the wicked say to prove that they are wicked, just listen to them! Foul language is distasteful to us, but before we were saved, many of us joined right in with those words, not concerned at all how we sounded or what we were saying. And if they are distasteful to us imagine how they are to the Lord! Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 12:34, **“... For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”** In other words, our righteousness or wickedness will show up sooner or later in our speech because what is in our heart will flow from our lips!

VERSES 11-12

1. Here we see David say, “Lord, I want to be the one who rejoices in You because You have never failed to defend me. You have never failed to protect me!” As Christians there should be a joy in our hearts and a smile on our face, because God is on our side. He is defending us. He surrounds us with a shield, protecting us from our enemies, and in knowing that truth should we keep silent? Of course not! We have the Gospel, the good news, and we should shout for joy, letting the whole world know the wondrous things of God. What a great way to start your day, putting things in the proper perspective and asking God for direction! May we have that kind of joy to start the day, to fill our day and to end our day, that we are joyful in the Lord!

2. Let me close with these words from Spurgeon who puts this in perspective for us. He wrote, “A touch of enthusiasm would be the salvation of many a man’s religion. Some Christians are good enough people: they are like wax candles, but they are not lighted. Oh, for a touch of flame! Then would they scatter light, and thus become of service to their families. ‘Let them shout for joy.’ Why not? Let not orderly folks object. One said to me the other day, ‘When I hear you preach I feel as if I must have a shout!’ My friend, shout if you feel forced to do so. (Here a hearer cried, ‘Glory!’) Our brother cries, ‘Glory!’ and I say so too. ‘Glory!’ The shouting need not always be done in a public service, or it might hinder devout hearing; but there are times and places where a glorious outburst of enthusiastic joy would quicken life in all around. The ungodly are not half so restrained in their blasphemy as we are in our praise.” That truly is something for us to think about and act upon, our **JOY** in the **LORD!**