

PSALMS

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Psalm 6 as we continue our study through the Word of God. As we saw last time, in the Psalms we see highs and we see lows and we see that the focus is upon God and not the situation we are facing. Yes, many times the Psalmist starts out in despair as he is looking at the situations he is facing, as he is looking at his life but by the time we get to the end of the Psalm he is refocused on the Lord and his trust is in the Lord and not the outward circumstances of life.

Psalm 6 is the first of several penitential Psalms as David is repenting and crying out for God's mercy to come upon his life because of the situations he was facing. Besides this Psalm, other Psalms of repentance are Psalms 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, and 143. We will deal with them as we get to those Psalms.

Now what we will see here in this Psalm is that David is going through both physical and emotional sufferings, and his enemies still want him dead. But as you read this it seems that David is perplexed because he doesn't understand why God is doing this to him.

Even though we know that David wrote this Psalm we are not sure of what the circumstances were, when this happened in David's life. Some feel that it took place out of the adulterous relationship that he had with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband Uriah! The Jewish rabbis feel that this was penned by David when he was in the Philistine country of Gath as he was hiding out from King Saul who wanted him dead. (I Samuel 26:20).

You see, during this time of hiding out in Gath David befriended Achish, the king of Gath. And each day when David would leave the city to do battle against the enemies of the Philistines, Achish thought he was attacking the Israelites, but instead he waged war against the enemies of Israel. And this could be the situation because as you read this you see that something big is troubling David. But whatever the case, whatever the situation, David is hurting, he is broken and he is crying out to the Lord and what a lesson for us to learn. With that as our background, let's begin reading in Psalm 6, starting in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word!

PSALM 6

VERSES 1-3

1. This is important for us to understand. David is unsure why these things are happening to him and notice what he does. He goes to his local therapist to have his fragile self-esteem built up! No, he doesn't do that but what he does do is he seeks God's mercy to come upon his life. It is good to go before the Lord to make sure your heart is right instead of trying to make excuses for your sin. We live in a society that has perfected the art of making excuses why they broke the law. God is not looking for excuses, but repentance, a change in heart and a change in direction. That is what we see David doing here. And David was not just going through the physical pain but also spiritual pain, he seemed to have lost the presence of God in his life and that hurt! And so he cries out to God because he wants that restored. David loved the Lord and anytime fellowship with God seemed absent, it troubled him!

2. Now is God angry with David or as David said that God was chastening him in His hot displeasure? No, that is not how God deals with His children. In Hebrews 12:5-8 we are told, **“And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: ‘My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives.’ If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.”**

When Paul is speaking of **“chastening”** or discipline he uses the Greek word PAIDEIA, (pahee-di’-ah) and it speaks of the training of a child so that they may grow and mature. Now, please understand that God’s chastening is not punitive or retaliatory but it is corrective to His children, to believers. Yes, outside of Christ there is judgment, it is punitive, but not in Christ! Paul said in Romans 8:1, **“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”** Thus, Paul, in quoting out of Proverbs 3:11-12 is showing us that God’s chastening is not a sign of rejection but of love towards us, and folks, none of us are above this kind training!

I like the way Arthur Pink comments on this. He said, “Remind yourself of how much dross there is yet among the gold and view the corruption of your own heart and marvel that God has not smitten you more severely. Form the habit of heeding His taps, and you will be less likely to receive His raps.” I like that, and it is true. May we be sensitive to what He is showing us as we are going through situations, learn those lessons so we can move on! Learn to feel His taps so you don’t have to receive His raps!

Now why doesn’t God chasten us as punishment? Because our sins have already been paid in full by Jesus, we can’t be punished for what He has already paid for. Thus, God chastens us for correction because we are His children. You don’t discipline your neighbor’s children, even though you may want to, but you do discipline your own children because they are yours! That is the idea here. Now, if you can sin, do as you please without any consequences from God, without chastening, then you are not a child of God! And if you are not a child of God, well, then it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God!

VERSES 4-5

1. Look at all this pain and agony that David was going through and notice what his plea for deliverance is based upon. It is not based upon his righteousness, the good that he has done but it is upon the mercy of God! David got it right because he understood that God is rich in mercy.

Jeremiah cried out, **“Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. ‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘Therefore I hope in Him!’”**

Lamentations 3:22-24. What a comfort that is to know and He is not just faithful but His faithfulness is ***GREAT!***

2. Now keep in mind that David is in physical and spiritual agony here and he cries out that if he dies then who is going to speak for God. He can't speak from the grave; there is no praise for God in the grave. It almost seems that David is speaking of soul sleep here but please understand that David is speaking out of frustration and not revelation here. You see, the Scriptures are clear on this. There is life beyond this life and not in the future some time, but to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord Paul reminds us. (II Corinthians 5:8).

Let me give you an example to show you what I mean. In Philippians 1:21-24 Paul tells us, **“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.”**

Paul knew that to be absent from the body he would be present with the Lord as I have said. Thus, here was the dilemma for Paul. To remain on this earth and minister to the brethren, minister to the lost or be with the Lord. Paul desired to be with Jesus but also realized the work that was still needed and so while martyrdom is a possibility here, he also tells the Philippians that he expects to be spared and minister to them, which did occur. Paul was released for a time and then imprisoned again and martyred for his faith by Nero at God's appointed time, not Nero's. But if there was such a thing as soul sleep, then Paul would have wanted to remain and minister if he was not going to be with the Lord but just sleeping!

So the believer who dies, whose body goes back to the dust of the earth does not go into some kind of limbo or soul sleep, but is with the Lord immediately and guess what he will be doing there? He will be praising and worshiping the Lord, something that David said would not happen.

VERSES 6-7

1. As you read this you can see how difficult this was for David. Inwardly David was devastated. His life was in turmoil. And now, what was taking place inwardly is manifesting itself outwardly with groanings and weeping, with many tears. David is depressed and discouraged! He is completely broken at this point. David may have put down his pen at this time, and as God answered his prayer, the following came flowing forth as we read in the following verses.

VERSES 8-10

1. What I want you to see here is that nothing has changed outwardly. His situation was the same. Then what changed in David's life? His focus has changed from the situation he was in to the Lord. God will answer his prayer and will fight for him. And David spoke as if this happened already because his confidence was in the Lord whose faithfulness is ***GREAT!*** Like David, that is what we must do, fall into the arms of the Lord, for His mercies are new every morning. Remember what David said in Psalm 3:4, **"I cried to the LORD with my voice, And He heard me from His holy hill."** It was out of that trust in God that he could rest without fear, he could get a good nights rest!

There is a story regarding Martin Luther and how he wrestled hard with God in prayer and came jumping out of his prayer closet crying out, "Vicimus, vicimus" - that is, "Victory, victory!" David has the same sense of prevailing with God at the end of this prayer. He is resting in the Lord and not distracted by the situations and many times that will bring healing to our physical body and it restores our relationship with the Lord because we are looking to Him to be the strength of our life!

2. When we pray we truly need to believe that our prayers mean trouble for our enemies! We should pray with that kind of confidence because if God is for us, and He is, then there is no one who can be against us! And the temporary agony, the temporary trouble we have in this life is just that, temporary. But for the enemies of God, their agony and trouble will be permanent!

PSALM 7

Psalm 7 is called “A shiggion of David.” That word, “shiggion” some translate as “mediation” but it also speaks of “crying out loud.” And so these are the cries of David and thus, this Psalm is born out of the dealings with Cush, who was a Benjamite. That is all we know of this man, and some feel that this man held a grudge against David. If you remember King Saul was from the tribe of Benjamin and when David took the throne, being from the tribe of Judah, many of the Benjamites disliked him. And Cush may have tried to make David’s life miserable for him, and thus, David is responding out of this difficult situation. I tend to see this more as one of King Saul’s military leaders and was attacking David’s character and life, speaking of David slandering others. But again, we don’t know for sure, but we do know that David was crying out to the Lord in this Psalm because of what he was going through! And, as you will see, this Psalm contains both David’s cry of anguish and confidence in God’s deliverance.

VERSES 1-2

1. Notice that David’s support is the Lord. That is good because when everyone else has failed you or let you down, the Lord is on your side and He will support you. And we see here that David sees his enemies like a lion ready to devour him and he is crying out to God for protection. As we will see, David was being accused of bringing harm, bringing evil upon someone who was good and did not deserve it. And David is denying this accusation, going as far as saying if it were true then let his enemies destroy him. He is being accused of slander and he will defend himself regarding this accusation.

2. Now here's the thing. Slander, the words we speak can cause great harm to people. Spurgeon put it like this, "It will be well for us here to remember that this is a description of the danger to which the Psalmist was exposed from slanderous tongues. Verily this is not an overdrawn picture, for the wounds of a sword will heal, but the wounds of the tongue cut deeper than the flesh, and are not soon cured."

I don't think we realize the harm the words we speak can cause in peoples lives. Listen to what James says about the tongue, the words we say. He wrote, "**Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn their whole body. Look also at ships: although they are so large and are driven by fierce winds, they are turned by a very small rudder wherever the pilot desires. Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.**"

James 3:3-10.

James is saying that even though the tongue may be small, it can do great damage to people. And James says that there is no man that can tame the tongue. Does that mean we are not responsible for what we say? Absolutely not! No man can tame the tongue, but if we surrender our lives to the Spirit of God He will take care of that. If we walk in the Spirit we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. It is when we don't walk in the Spirit that the works of the flesh are evident and we say things we should not say! And as James said, **“My brethren, these things ought not to be so.”**

3. Now some of you may be thinking that there are not many lions running around Manitowoc and that is true but I think there is a spiritual application here. You see, Peter reminds us in I Peter 5:8, **“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”** Then what are we to do? Peter goes on to say, **“Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”** I Peter 5:9.

You see, what we are to do is not focus on the Devil but to resist the Devil by being steadfast or solid in the faith. Lions don't go after the healthy, strong, wise animals, but those that are not as healthy, those that are not as strong, those that are not as wise as the other animals because it is easier for them to catch their meal. The same is true with us as Christians and thus, the secret to spiritual warfare is standing strong in the faith and the Devil will flee!

VERSES 3-5

1. David is saying that he is innocent of slander; he did not do such a thing. In fact, David is so sure that he puts his life on the line. David is not saying that he was perfect or did not sin, but he did not slander anyone, not even the King as they were accusing him. Boice makes these remarks regarding these verses, “Although David expressing himself as perhaps we would not, his words do not mean that he is perfect, only that he is innocent of the crime of which he was charged. . . The question is not whether David was morally perfect but whether he was innocent of this particular slander.”

2. Now let’s look at things this way for a minute, it will help put things into perspective for us. It has been said that repaying evil for good is satanic. That repaying good for good or evil for evil is human. But repaying good for evil is godly. As Christians that should be our heart, reaching out to those who do not deserve it. If you only do good to those that are good to you, then you are no different than anyone else, Christ has made no difference in your life. Remember what Jesus said in John 13:34-35, “**A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.**” It is that agape love, that unconditional love that we show people. That love tells them we are different, it shows them what Christ has done in our lives because it is now reflected in our outward action. And this will only come as we surrender our lives to the Spirit of God!

VERSES 6-8

1. David is crying out to God to not only vindicate him or prove him correct, but also to avenge his enemies who are coming against him! Now I tend to believe that David wrote this Psalm prior to his sin with Bathsheba, for he is asking God to judge him according to his righteousness, according to his integrity. But after his sin with Bathsheba he is not crying out for God's justice, but His mercy, for he knew he was guilty before God. In Psalm 51, after his sin with Bathsheba, he said, "**Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.**" Psalm 51:1-2. When we are doing well we tend to look down upon others and it is easy to become self-righteous. David was like that at times until his sin with Bathsheba and then he saw his frailty, his sin and just cried out for the mercy of God upon his life!

VERSES 9-13

1. As much as you can fool people by your actions, guess what? You can't fool God, for He examines the heart, the motivation behind your actions. And as many take the patience and long-suffering of God as He doesn't care or can't do anything about our sin, make no mistake about this. God will judge this world, He will deal with sinful man and He will do so in a righteous manner! Horne put it like this, "The wrath of God may be slow, but it is always sure. In thoughtless security man wantons and whiles away the precious hours; he knows not that every transgression sets a fresh edge on the sword, which is thus continually whetting [sharpening] for his destruction."

2. Now this is a hard concept for many because as they look at the justice of God they don't see it as fair. They think God is very harsh in sending people to Hell. Well, He really doesn't send anyone to Hell; you go there because you have rejected the solution to your sin, Jesus Christ!

But let's play this out with earthly judges. How would you feel if a criminal, someone who has murdered your spouse stands before the judge and the judge, who is being very compassionate, says, "You have been good for a number of years now and because of that, I am going to let you go free. It seems that your good deeds outweigh your bad deeds!" Would that judge be right in his actions? Absolutely not, he would be an unjust judge and you would be angry with him for letting the killer of your spouse go free because prior to this murder he was a good person!

And yet, when it comes to going to heaven that is how people feel and if it does not work for an earthly judge it will not work for Almighty God who is a righteous and just Judge over the whole earth! Now many say God is a God of love and thus, He would never send anyone to Hell!

And again, think about this. If God was just a God of love, accepting everyone, then He would not be righteous. He can't ignore sin or look the other way. You can't just pick your favorite attributes of God and neglect the others. They all flow from Him and we need to understand that.

God said in Ezekiel 18:20, **“The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.”** Sin will be dealt with, and yet God has done everything possible to save you from the path that is leading to judgment. He gave His Son to die in place of you, paying the penalty for your sins. Yes He is a God of love, but He is also a Righteous Judge and must deal with sin. The Lord again says in Ezekiel chapter 18, **“Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die?” says the Lord GOD, "and not that he should turn from his ways and live?”** Ezekiel 18:23. That is the heart of God but He will never force you to come to Jesus, it is your choice!

VERSES 14-17

1. This seemingly obvious statement is important. It shows that a wicked heart will show itself in wicked deeds. That just makes sense. The wicked develop their plans to destroy the godly and in the end God turns the tables and they are caught in their own traps. Remember from the book of Esther how Haman made gallows to hang or impale Mordecai upon, and in the end those gallows were used for Haman himself. The Lord said in Deuteronomy 32:35, **“Vengeance is Mine, and recompense; Their foot shall slip in due time; For the day of their calamity is at hand, And the things to come hasten upon them.”** The thing we need to remember as Christians is that we are God’s children, and you don’t mess around with His children and get away with it! Their day of reckoning is coming!

2. Like many of the Psalms the Psalmist starts out in doom and gloom you might say and ends with praise unto the Lord who will deliver him from all his troubles! How come? What changed? Not the situation but the focus. You see, no longer is the focus his enemies but the Lord, which gives him a brighter outlook and joy breaks forth in his heart and is heard from his lips. He could praise because he took his cause to God and in faith left it there. What a lesson for us. Give it to God and then leave it with Him, He can handle it! And I guess the solution to slander, which David was facing, is to sing a song of praise. How does that help? It gets your focus back on the Lord, like I have been saying!

PSALM 8

This is the second Messianic Psalm which speaks of the glory of God in His creation and looking towards God becoming flesh and dwelling among us, the establishment of the Kingdom here on earth!

Now the reason I say that this is a Messianic Psalm is because it is quoted three times in the New Testament and they are all related to Jesus. Matthew 21:16 Jesus quotes out of verse 2. The second New Testament quote from this Psalm is found in I Corinthians 15:27 as Paul quotes out of verse 6. And the most quoted verse or I should say verses are from Hebrews 2:5-8 that is quoting verses 4-6. As we will see, God's Man, Jesus, speaking of His humanity, the incarnation will rule and reign and righteousness will fill this land.

VERSE 1

1. What I want you to see here is that David uses the word “Lord” twice. One is all capitol letters the other has a capitol “L” and the rest are lower case letters. So what is the big deal about that? What’s the difference? The word “LORD,” in all capitols is the Hebrew word YAHWEH or JEHOVAH, and we are not sure of the correct pronunciation. Keep in mind that there were no vowels, only consonants because the name of God was too holy to say.

You see, when the Jews came to this word, which is the name of God, they would not say it, but they would bow their head and say “the name.” This word Yahweh means “I am what I am” or “the becoming one.” You see, God will become to you whatever you need. He will be your righteousness, your peace, your provider, your shield, your healer, and-so-on. Now that is God’s relationship to us.

What is our relationship to Him? That is the second word that David uses for God, it is “Lord,” capitol “L” and the rest lower case letters. It is the Hebrew word Adonai, which means master. It is a title and it speaks of our relationship with Him. He is our Master. God is everything we need to us and He is our Master!

2. Let me ask you this question. “Is the name of God excellent in all the earth today?” And what I mean by His name is all that God is, the totality of God. Today the name of God is not even spoken highly in many churches. But one day, we are told, during the Kingdom Age, that “**. . . the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.**” Isaiah 11:9. One day as He rules and reigns on this earth, His name will be exalted by all, but we truly don’t see that today.

3. We are also told that God sets His “**glory above the heavens.**” His glory speaks of His attributes, perfection’s, His holiness that can not compare with anything else, not even the vast universe which is said to be some 12 billion light years in diameter or more. Now I can’t even comprehend how big that is, knowing that light travels at 186,000 miles per second. The universe also contains more than 100 million galaxies with billions of stars within those galaxies. His glory exceeds the heavens!

VERSE 2

1. Isn’t it amazing how a little child can easily love and believe in God, but over the many years of hardening and the influence of atheistic doctrine many just can’t believe!
2. Now in Matthew chapter 21, after his triumphal entry into Jerusalem as the Messiah the King, after they shouted, “**Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD! Hosanna in the highest**” we see Jesus drive out the money changers, the crooks from the Temple, and restored it to a house of prayer where people could be ministered to by God.

It is then that Jesus quotes this portion of Scripture, specifically Psalm 8:2. Let's read Matthew 21:14-16 and then I will expound on it. We are told, **“Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David!’ they were indignant and said to Him, ‘Do You hear what these are saying?’ And Jesus said to them, ‘Yes. Have you never read, ‘Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise’?””**

Hosanna is a title for the Messiah and the religious leaders were telling Jesus to have these kids keep silent, they were furious at what these children were saying. But Jesus, instead of silencing the children, He quotes Psalm 8:2, which is a Messianic Psalm, and is saying that these children are fulfilling prophecy, they were speaking the truth. I love how God uses the young, the frail, the weak to do mighty things for Him! To often the older Christians, those who have the degrees or education think too highly of themselves as well as the unsaved. And yet, those who are open to Him, those society does not think is worthy, God will use mightily as He did with these children. They got it the religious ones did not!

VERSES 3-5

1. David is saying that when we look at the vastness of creation, as we look into the heavens that are some 12 billion light years in diameter, that for God it was just finger work. He didn't even break out in a sweat! And think about this because I believe many times we just look at the sky and take it for granted. With the naked eye, one can see about 5,000 stars. With a four-inch telescope one can see about 2 million stars. With a 200-inch mirror of a great observatory, one can see more than a billion stars. And that is nothing compared to the billions upon billions of stars that God has created and He knows them all by name, He has named them!

What does that have to do with anything? David is saying that in comparison to man, as insignificant as he is compared to the universe, God cared more for him. Yes the creation of the universe was with the snap of His fingers, but for man, he rolled up His sleeves and bore his hands so that we may live! Creation was easy, redemption cost Him His life!

2. Now for those who believe in evolution and that we came from nothing and kept gaining more and more information until here we are today, David speaks against that, especially in verse 5. You see, David is saying that God made us a little lower than the angels. In other words, He created us and we are not the by-product of some random chance happenings. Now we may not have stamped on our bottoms, "Made by God" but all you have to do is look at the design, the complexity of life and do you need to see that kind of s stamp to know that God made you? Only if you refuse to believe!

3. This we also see quoted in Hebrews 2:6-9 and attributed to Jesus. We read, **“But one testified in a certain place, saying: ‘What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him? You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands. You have put all things in subjection under his feet.’ For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.”** Not that Jesus ceased being God, but that He became flesh and dwelt among us so that He could pay the penalty for our sin with His life.

VERSES 6-9

1. Did you know that there are paths in the sea? There are, not because I said so but God did. In Psalm 8:8b we are told, **“... And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas.”** Did you know that this was discovered by a man who had this verse read to him! Matthew Fontaine Maury, a United States Navy officer was one of the people who charted the oceans currents. Not the first but one of the ones that used the Bible to prove what he believed.

Some say as he was recovering from an illness and his son read to him from Psalm 8 and he saw that the Scriptures spoke of the seas having a path. The only problem with that, from what I gather, is that his son would have been around 2 years old at the time! Others say it was his nurse that read to him from the Bible.

Whatever the case, it was the Word of God that showed him that there were paths in the sea and he sought to find them. Listen to what Trevor Major wrote of this man who lived from 1806 to 1873, Matthew Fontaine Maury, who has been called the father of oceanography. We are told,

. . . Throughout all this success, Maury never forgot his belief in Scripture.

Physical Geography is filled with references to the Bible. He could not help but be fascinated by passages that mention the sea, such as Psalm 8:8, Psalm 107:23-24, and Ecclesiastes 1:7. Whoever studies the sea, Maury contended, “must look upon it as a part of that exquisite machinery by which the harmonies of nature are preserved, and then will begin to perceive the developments of order and the evidences of design” (1859, p. 57). Maury knew full well that these views clashed with those of his colleagues. Before five thousand people at the founding of the University of the South in 1860, he proclaimed the following:

“I have been blamed by men of science, both in this country and in England, for quoting the Bible in confirmation of the doctrines of physical geography. The Bible, they say, was not written for scientific purposes, and is therefore no authority in matters of science. I beg pardon! The Bible **is** authority for everything it touches. What would you think of an historian who should refuse to consult historical records of the Bible, because the Bible was not written for the purposes of history? The Bible is true and science is true.” (As quoted in Lewis, 1927, p. 99, emp. in orig.). . . .

- Trevor Major, M.Sc., M.A., Matthew Fontaine Maury

Maury took God at His Word and found that the Word of God was fully accurate, completely accurate. He gave a defense for what he believed in, he did not compromise his faith but stood strong in what he believed, the Scriptures to be the authoritative, infallible, inerrant Word of God! May we do the same!

2. Agree with it or not, God said that we are to have dominion over the animals, over the earth. We see today those that argue for animal rights, they think monkeys should be able to drive cars and have the same rights as humans do. And you think we have problems on the road today, we don't need more monkeying around! Folk's, I don't care what these tree huggers have to say, I am not about destroying the earth but let's not go crazy here. We were given dominion over the things of this earth, the plants, animals and-so-on. We were not called to destroy it, but to care for it, tend to it.

3. The Apostle Paul quoted this passage in 1 Corinthians 15:27 and he was showing us that this promise of dominion is now only incompletely fulfilled among men. Yet it is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus, the ultimate Man; and will be one day also completely fulfilled in His resurrected followers. The Lord will rule and reign on this earth and we will be there with Him one day!

4. David begins and ends with these two book-ends of praise. The Lord became one of us; He became flesh and blood to redeem man from his sin and will return again to rule this earth, filling this world with His excellent name. **“O Lord, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth!”** Psalm 8:9.

PSALM 9

This Psalm is said to be “to the tune of ‘death of the son.’” Please don’t come to the conclusion that David is speaking of the death of his own son here, he is not. The ancient Chaldee version speaks of this Psalm like this, “Concerning the death of the Champion who went out between the camps” and it is referring to Goliath! It is a Psalm of victory over their enemy and Goliath was their enemy and the champion of the Philistines, a favorite son you might say! I tend to lean in that direction.

VERSES 1-2

1. Notice that David praises God with his “**whole heart**” and not just half-heartedly! And think about that. Half-heartedly is really saying your heart is not in it at all. Would you want a surgeon to do your surgery half-heartedly? Of course not and yet when it comes to the King of kings and Lord of lords, we just don’t have the time. You see, God desires our praise, not some formula to get something in return, but a praise that comes from deep down within and boils over in our life. I truly believe that a person whose whole heart is focused on the Lord, they will be filled with joy that overflows in their life and it is manifested with praise unto God and it will touch the lives of those around them.

VERSES 3-5

1. Notice where David sees his victory, it is in the Lord! It is always good to remember that God is still in control, and that will never change.

2. David now moves on into the future and He is speaking of God and how God has rebuked, destroyed and blotted the wicked out forever! I believe David, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, is speaking of the coming Kingdom Age and how God will deal with the wicked nations. In Revelation 3:5 Jesus said to the church in Sardis, **“He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.”** That means those who reject Christ, their names will be blotted out of the Book of Life and spend eternity separated from Him. The enemies of God, which means our enemies also, will be destroyed. Some will come to Christ and others will see the fire of His judgment!

VERSES 6-8

1. When we think of judges we look at our court system and how unrighteous many of the judgments are. But you don't have to fear God's judgment for they will be fair, they will be righteous, and they will be a blessing to those in Christ. But those outside of Christ, they still will be fair, they still will be righteous, only they will not look at this as a blessing as they are judged for their rejection of Christ. Morgan summed it up like this, “The psalm is a great pattern of praise on a far too much neglected level in our day. We praise God much for His mercy. That is right, but it is a good thing to recognize His righteous rule, and to praise Him for that.” He is coming to rule this world in righteousness and we long for that day!

VERSES 9-10

1. Some think by knowing the name “Jesus” that is your ticket into heaven. I hate to tell them this, but they are **WRONG!** Think about it like this. I know President Obama’s name but I don’t know him personally, and he wouldn’t know me. And thus, if I showed up at his house, the White House he would throw me out.

The same is true with Jesus. Just because you know His name is meaningless unless you have a relationship with Him. The demons know Him and they are not saved! And His name speaks of His character, and to know His character you have to have a personal relationship with Him. Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 7:21-23, **“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”** You see, they never had a personal relationship with the Lord, even though they knew His name, and even doing the work, but the Lord told them to depart! Those are harsh words that should get our attention and that is exactly what Jesus intended those words to do!

VERSES 11-12

1. David is calling for the people to sing out all that the Lord has done, to declare the works of the Lord before the people.

2. David also speaks of the poor, those who have been neglected, that God has not forgotten them, He hears their cry!

VERSES 13-14

1. If there is nothing else to be thankful for, and there are many things we should be thankful for, then we should be thankful that God has saved us from Hell! We have been saved from the penalty of sin, we are justified. We have been saved from the power of sin, we have been sanctified. And we are saved from the very presence of sin, which speaks of our glorification. Let us not forget what God has done for us and let us declare those marvelous works before the people! It is as Spurgeon wrote, "It is a good thing for the melancholy to become a Christian; it is an unfortunate thing for the Christian to become melancholy. If there is any man in the world that has a right to have a bright, clear face and a flashing eye, it is the man whose sins are forgiven him, and who is saved with God's salvation." May we never become lackadaisical in our relationship with God!

VERSES 15-16

1. As they set these traps to catch animals, there was always a chance that you might forget where you set these traps and get caught yourself. David is saying that God has a way of foiling the plans of the enemy and causing them to get caught in their own traps. We see this pattern demonstrated again and again in the Scriptures.

- Esau and Isaac plot against the purpose of God and end up serving it.
- Joseph's brothers fight against the plan of God only to further it.

- Haman built a gallows for Mordecai the Jew, only to be executed upon it himself.
- Judas betrayed Jesus and became himself a fulfillment of prophecy.

Remember what Joseph said to his brothers who threw Joseph into a pit, sold him into slavery and now, some 20 years later he is second in command over all of Egypt. He said to them, “... ‘Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.’” Genesis 50:19-20. May we never forget that! You see, the enemy may boast about what they are doing, the plans they have made, where they have placed us, but God’s plan will put an end to them. Remember that!

2. As these verses conclude we see a double pause, a time to think about what has been said, to meditate upon it. Clarke put it like this, “There is nothing that a wicked man does that is not against his own interest. He is continually doing himself harm, and takes more pains to destroy his soul than the righteous man does to get his saved unto eternal life. This is a weighty truth; and the psalmist adds: *Higgaion; Selah*. Meditate on this; mark it well.”

In other words, God will save all who come to Him and all those that are fighting against Him and His people will be judged and will not enter into the Kingdom Age! In other words, ***GOD WINS!*** Think about that before you try to fight against Him!

VERSES 17-18

1. What a warning to this nation or any nation that turns its back on God. We have fallen far in just over 200 years from a nation that loved God to a nation that says God is dead! Is it too late for America? I don't know, but I do know this, Nineveh was only 40 days away from destruction, God's judgment, and they repented and were spared. I think the same can happen here in America if people would turn back to God and repent of their sins.

2. Now as hard as it is for those that seem to be forgotten to go on, God has not forgotten them. Clarke wrote, "The needy, and the poor, whose expectation is from the Lord, are never forgotten, though sometimes their deliverance is delayed for the greater confusion of their enemies, the greater manifestation of God's mercy, and the greater benefit to themselves."

VERSES 19-20

1. How foolish for us as individuals or as a nation to think of ourselves more highly than we should. We were created a little lower than the angels, we have been created from the dust of the earth and yet we exalt ourselves high above God. We need to have the fear of the Lord back in our hearts, to respect Him and give Him the glory that is due His name, which will put us in our proper place.

2. Let me close with this thought from Morgan who wrote, “What prayer, then, can we pray which is of more vital importance than that the nations may know themselves to be but men? Such knowledge must drive them to dependence upon God, and such dependence is the secret of national strength, and of national prosperity and permanence.” That truly is what we should be praying for, that our leaders would humble themselves before the Living God!