

PSALMS

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Psalm 16 as we continue our study through the Word of God. And as we are going through these Psalms understand that the writer, many times, is speaking from his heart the things he was going through and the despair that he was in but it does not end there. He then goes on to speak of how he was refocused, not on the situation but on the One who could deliver him from the situation, the **LORD!**

A couple more things before we get started regarding Psalm 16 that are important for us to understand. We are told of this Psalm that it is “A Michtam of David” and this word can mean “golden” or “hidden” and probably both do apply as you will see. For David, this was a Psalm that spoke of the joy that David found in trusting in the Lord but there is more, much more. You see, this looked to the future, to the time of Jesus as we will see. In fact, we see Peter quote verses 8 through 11 on the Day of Pentecost when he gave his sermon, Acts 2:25-28. Paul also applied a verse of this passage, verse 10, in Acts 13:35 and applied it to Jesus and His Resurrection.

And it is very possible that this is a scene from the Garden of Gethsemane, the night before Jesus was crucified, and what He was thinking. Now you may reject that, but as we get to Psalm 22 you will see the scene of Jesus hanging on the cross of Calvary and the perspective He had as He hung there! So, yes this is a Michtam or something that is hidden in this Psalm and there is a goldmine for us to dig out as we will see. With that said, let’s begin reading in Psalm 16 starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word this evening.

PSALM 16**VERSES 1-3**

1. In many of the Psalms David talk's to himself, which may seem a little strange. But in doing this David is encouraging himself as he focuses on the Lord. Sometimes just hearing these words helps give you a different perspective on the situation. And here, he places his trust in the Lord. The situations we face can seem overwhelming to us and the reason they are is because we can't do anything about them and we have focused on that which we can do nothing about instead of the Lord who can! David said that Yahweh was his Lord or master and that needs to be our focus, that should be our relationship!

Spurgeon sees it like this. He wrote, "Specially present the prayer in a spiritual sense. Preserve me from the world; let me not be carried away with its excitements; suffer me not to be before its blandishments, nor to fear its frowns. Preserve me, from the devil; let him not tempt me above what I am able to bear. Preserve me from myself; keep me from growing envious, selfish, high-minded, proud, slothful. Preserve me from those evils into which I see others run, and preserve me, from those evils into which I am myself most apt to run; keep me, from evils, known and from evils unknown." If He is Lord of your life, trust in Him; give it all over to Him as David was doing here!

2. Now we see a New Testament thought here in that David said that "**My goodness is nothing apart from You.**" In other words, for those who think you have just a little good in you, I have some bad news for you; there is no good in you or any of us. The only good we have comes from the Lord.

3. Here is something that we need to be careful in our own walk with the Lord. That we see every Christian as wrong, as evil, as bad and what ends up happening is we start to think, “Lord, it is a good thing you still have me!” We need to be able to delight in what God is doing through His people as David said, **“As for the saints who are on the earth, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.”**

Boice sums this up for us by saying, “This is a practical matter, for it is a way by which we can measure our relationship to the Lord. Do you love other Christians? Do you find it good and rewarding to be with them? Do you seek their company? This is a simple test. Those who love the Lord will love the company of those who also love him.” Be careful, it is easy to become a negative Nellie!

4. One more point and that is how this relates to the Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane. David is passionate in his prayer and so was Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, so much so that his sweat become like drops of blood as the tiny blood vessels broke, Luke 22:44.

VERSE 4

1. We have seen those who love the Lord and now David is contrasting with those who seek after other god's, ones they believe are God! Keep in mind that David lived in a society that was polytheistic, a society that served many gods; some even drank the blood of animals in the worship of their gods and even the blood of humans! And God is forbidding that kind of activity for His people, they were to be separate. And for the wicked, for those that reject Yahweh, they will not find rest. Now please understand that David is not saying that the righteous will never have problems, but in those times they can bring them to the Lord who can help while those who worship other gods can bring them to these gods but they can do nothing about the sorrows they are facing. They have no hope and no rest!

VERSES 5-6

1. David just finished up saying that there was nothing to gain in these pagan gods but there truly is good that is found in Yahweh! You see, David was satisfied in the Lord. The Lord was his portion. If everything else was taken away, he still had the Lord and that is all he needed. God had, in a sense, roped off the boundaries of his life, and David was comfortable, he was satisfied with that. It speaks of being content in what the Lord has given him.

2. Tragically many today are not satisfied in the Lord, they want more. I guess it is the mark of our generation - discontentment, boredom, restlessness, no attention span, the need for excitement, the need to be entertained! And because of that it has lead many into the bondage of all kinds of sin and they still are not satisfied, they still are not content. May we learn from what Paul went through as he said in Philippians 4:11-12, **“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.”**

Make no mistake about it; contentment for the world is an unattainable goal. Why is that? Because they seek contentment where it can't be found; like money, possessions, jobs, power, freedom from difficulties and-so-on. In this fallen world that is impossible to attain. And think about this. Back in the 1930's we did not have these storage units to store our stuff that we have obtained and have no room to keep them in our homes. This is a recent development, stuff to store, not to use. In other words, no contentment in possessions! Then how in the world can we find contentment as Paul did? Not by looking to the world to find it but Paul found contentment that was based on the person of Jesus Christ and not things. Thus, when he had much it was great, when he had nothing, praise the Lord, it didn't matter to Paul because he knew God was in control and thus, he learned how to be content in all things! This was not just some theoretical idea, Paul lived it out in his life and thus, he could speak with certainty regarding these things.

Puritan Jeremiah Burroughs put it this way in regards to contentment. He said, “Christian contentment is that sweet, inward, quiet, gracious frame of spirit, which freely submits to and delights in God’s wise and fatherly disposal in every condition.” May we learn to be content in the Lord!

VERSES 7-8

1. God, our mighty counselor, spoke to David during the day and night time, just as He speaks to us today through His Word. The key here is that David said that he has “**set the LORD always before me.**” That is important because it was a decision that David made on his part to do this! God must be a priority in our life and we must allow Him to lead the way and if we do, things will fall into place for us. Not that it is easy but God will give you the strength you need to go through those times as you seek Him, as you look to Him to be the strength of your life!

You see, as David did that, as he understood that he goes on to say, “**I shall not be moved.**” Not because of David’s strength but because the Lord is leading the way and will uphold David with His righteous right hand! This was the plain result of David’s decision to put God first. There was a standing and security in David’s life that would not have otherwise existed. May we apply that to our lives, may we make that decision to put the LORD before us always and if we do we will not be moved from the course that God has for us!

VERSES 9-11

1. At this point we can clearly see that David is not speaking of himself but of the Messiah. And the reason I say that is very simple. David's body did see corruption, for the Jews believed that after 3 days the dead bodies become corrupt, besides smelling a lot. You can go to Israel today and see the tomb of David, but Jesus rose on the third day, before His body saw corruption.

As I said before, Peter, on the day of Pentecost, quoted verses 8-11 and said that David was not speaking of himself, but of Christ. And Paul, in Acts chapter 13, said to the people of Antioch, **“Therefore He also says in another Psalm: ‘You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption.’ For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption; but He whom God raised up saw no corruption. Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.”** Acts 13:35-39.

Paul is saying that David's body saw corruption and thus, this is speaking of Jesus, the Messiah for His body was raised on the third day before it saw corruption!

2. People today want to be happy and the problem with that is that happiness is based upon an outward situation and that situation can change from good to bad in a matter of seconds. On the other hand, joy is an inward reality that is based in Christ and that can never change. Thus, our fullness of joy is found in the Lord.

Now in saying that let me ask you this, "What is the path of life?" It is not works that we walk in but a person we trust in - Jesus is the path to eternal life where true joy is found in. Spend time in His presence and you will be full of joy in your heart that will overflow in your life.

3. Let me also make this comment so you don't misunderstand what I am saying. I am not saying our lives will be problem free, not at all. Go back to the first verse and see that this life of gladness and rejoicing and fullness of joy *is not* a problem-free life. It is a life that may be challenged, and face attack on many levels. Yet in that a life commitment to God has been made and is enjoyed, it is a secure, happy, blessed life. As David, said, **"You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore."** May we not lose sight of that!

PSALM 17

Like Job, David finds himself in a very difficult situation and he feels that it is undeserving. He did not do anything that should have brought this upon him and thus, he cries out to God for help from his enemies. And as we will see, David places his trust in the Lord and not self because we can't do anything apart from Him. Our hope is in Him!

VERSES 1-2

1. David is crying out to God, saying that he is speaking forth in truth that is coming from his heart. And David calls upon God to vindicate him from this present situation and that is important. How often we try to vindicate ourselves and we mess things up. God can handle it; we just need to cry out to Him. Also, we need to understand that God knows everything; He knows what is in us better than we do, so don't think you can fool God. I think David was just being honest here, that he feels he is just in this case and he is calling for God to step in and do something about it!

VERSES 3-4

1. As you read what David was going through it may give us a clue to when this took place in his life. It could be when King Saul was after him and David knew that he did nothing wrong to Saul and he is crying out for God to vindicate him from this situation!

In fact, David says that God has tested him and there was nothing that was in his heart that should have brought this upon him. That is good; it is good to do a heart check as we go through difficult times to make sure there is nothing there that has brought this upon us.

2. Now here is a good question, "How did David keep himself from going down the wrong path?" And we can even take that further and ask, "How can we stay on the right path?" The reason David stayed on the right path is that he brought everything into the light of God's Word. That is what kept him on the right path.

It is as David said in Psalm 119:9-11, **“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!”** Also, in Psalm 23 David said, **“... He leads me in the paths of righteousness . . .”** Psalm 23:3. You see, this is all done through His Word, that is the key for us, **“It is written!”**

Paul even picked up on this in II Timothy 3:16-17, **“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”** You see, Scripture is profitable for us if we apply it to our lives. God’s Word will tell us what is right – Doctrine. God’s Word will tell us what is wrong – Reproof. God’s Word will tell us how to get back on track – Correction. And God’s Word will tell us how to stay on the right track – Instruction in Righteousness. Thus, God’s Word is profitable, it will keep us in line, walking where God desires and equip us for the work that God has for us to do!

VERSE 5

1. Far too often we seek God after we have gone off His path. We need seek God as we walk because the flesh is wicked and it will try to lead us astray. Thus, I see David here praying not only for the Word of God to keep him on the right path, but also that by God’s grace God will help him to walk accordingly!

VERSES 6-9

1. God is our protector and David uses two illustrations to make this point. First he wants God to keep him as the apple of His eye or the pupil of His eye. He wants God to keep him as His focus, not to take His eyes off of him. Let me show you something that as you read this you might not be thinking about. The reflex to close your eyelid is one of the quickest reflexes in the body. If something is coming towards your eye your eyelid will close in 1/10,000th of a second. You may be thinking, “Big deal!” It is a big deal because David recognized that the Lord responds that quickly to protect His children! Just as the pupil of the eye is valuable and fragile, so too are we to God!

And secondly, that we are protected under His wings just as a bird protects her young under her wings. Once again it is a picture of protection for God’s children. The hen protects her chicks from danger, they are safe under the shadow of her wings and David recognizes that fact for his own life!

VERSES 10-14

1. As people gorge themselves on the things of this world, they become self-sufficient and proud. There is no room for God in their life. Look at this world today, they have no need for God, or so they think! And they boast in what they have done!

But look at the picture that David is painting here. His enemies are ready to pounce upon him just like a lion that is ready to tear into its prey. That is why he is crying out to God for help, that God would keep His eyes on David and protect him. He calls out to God to deliver Him!

2. Now in verse 13 as David cries out to God, notice how the Lord delivers him! David says, “**with Your sword.**” I think that is important for us to understand, it is the sword of the Spirit or the Word of God that gets us to focus back on the Lord, it helps us to be directed by the Lord, trust in Him and ultimately the victory will be by the Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. If you doubt that, listen to what we are told in Revelation 19:15 at the Battle of Armageddon as Jesus comes back to destroy the wicked and set up His kingdom on this earth. We are told, “**Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.**” God has spoken and it is the Word of God and man’s rejection of it that will destroy the enemies of God!

3. And in regards to verse 14, Spurgeon wrote, “Their sensual appetite gets the gain which it craved for. God gives to these swine the husks which they hunger for. A generous man does not deny dogs their bones; and our generous God gives even his enemies enough to fill them, if they were not so unreasonable as never to be content.”

You see, many eat, drink and are merry; trying to gain all they can from this life, for this is their portion. And people who are not focused on the Lord are consumed with this life, trying to get all they can from it. But in the end they will find out they sold their soul for nothing. It is as Jesus said in Matthew 16:26, **“For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”** Don’t sell your soul for that which is perishing, for nothing, give your life to Jesus and you will never regret what you have done! The satisfactions of this world will in no way compare to what the Lord has for you!

VERSE 15

1. David is contrasting himself with the wicked who sought after material possessions, and David sought the Lord. He was looking forward to the day when he would awake in His likeness, as John said in I John 3:2-3, where we read, **“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”**

2. Listen to what Jon Courson wrote, regarding this verse,

A little boy struggled to uproot a huge weed. Finally, with a mighty tug, he was victorious.

“That was a mighty big tug,” said a man, observing the scene.

“Yeah,” said the little boy. “It’s pretty tough when the whole world is pulling against you.”

That's what happens with us. There's a whole world pulling against us. The world system pulls against us. The enemy goes about like a roaring lion, seeking to devour us. Our sin nature continually plagues us. When will we be free of this? When will we be truly satisfied? Not until we awake in the likeness of the Lord. . . .

“When I see You, I'll be satisfied,” David says. “In the meantime, Lord, protect me. Keep me as the apple of Your eye. Hide me under the shadow of Your wings. See me through.”

- Jon Courson, Application Commentary, Volume 2, p. 19

3. What are you satisfied in? That is an important question because depending on how you answer it you will either find yourself at peace in the Lord or anxious in this world. I like the way that Meyer put it as he wrote, “The mind will be satisfied with his truth, the heart with his love, the will with his authority. We shall need nothing else.” May that be our hearts desire, to be satisfied in the Lord knowing one day, after these bodies of flesh go back to the dust of the earth we will awake in His presence and see Him face to face!

PSALM 18

This Psalm is very similar to David's song in II Samuel chapter 22 that he sang towards the end of his life, with a few variations. Some feel that this Psalm was written early on in his life when Saul was defeated and David was made king and then, at the end of his life he looked back and just thanked the Lord for His faithfulness in all that He has done for him, what we find in II Samuel chapter 22! The introduction of this Psalm goes like this,

A Psalm of David the servant of the LORD, who spoke to the LORD the words of this song on the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. And he said:

VERSES 1-3

1. David is telling us that placing his life in the hands of the Lord is far better than hiding behind a man-made fortress or some rock. Are you going to trust in the protection of man or the protection of God? David rested in the strength of the Lord and he uses nine titles when he speaks of the Lord, and these titles all related to what God was for David!

- ***HIS STRENGTH:*** The Lord was the one that helped him to survive and defeat his enemies!
- ***HIS ROCK:*** This was a place of secure standing for David, in the Lord!
- ***HIS FORTRESS:*** That was a place of safety, a place to run to for protection!
- ***HIS DELIVERER:*** The Lord was the one who provided a way of escape for David from his enemies!
- ***HIS GOD:*** David knew the Lord and had a relationship with the Lord!

- **HIS STRENGTH:** Now this is a different Hebrew word than we find in verse 1 of this Psalm. This word speaks of the Lord being the fountain, the source, the origin of David's strength!
- **HIS SHIELD:** The shield protected the vital organs of the soldier and David is saying that God is protecting his very life!
- **HIS HORN:** The horn spoke of strength, power and it is the Lord who was the horn for David!
- **HIS STRONGHOLD:** The stronghold was a high tower where you can see the enemy approaching from a great distance and thus, God saw the enemies of David and would warn him of the coming danger. God would protect him from his adversaries!

Clark sums this up for us like this, "When he was conscious that the object of his worship was such as he has pointed out in the above *nine* particulars, it is no wonder that he resolves to *call upon him*; and no wonder that he expects, in consequence, to be saved from his enemies; for who can destroy him whom such a God undertakes to save?"

Having a correct perspective of who God is causes us to be able to rest in Him and not to fear the enemies!

2. Let me ask you a question here. Why do we worship God? Is it fun? Is it to get something in return? Is it because we just feel like it? All those reasons are obviously wrong. We are to worship God because He is worthy to be praised, He deserves our praise. The word "**worship**" comes from an old Anglo Saxon word, "worth," and thus, worship is extended to one who is worthy - **THE LORD!**

VERSES 4-6

1. As you read through these verses you will see that David is describing two threats that have caused him to fear. The first threat is that of death and the second is the overwhelming presence of ungodliness that was before him. You see, David is sharing some of the experiences he went through in his life and I think here specifically with King Saul and how God protected him, delivered him from hopeless situations. God does hear our cry and He answers our prayers.

VERSES 7-15

1. David paints for us a picture of how God delivered him from the hands of his enemies. When this happened we are not exactly sure, but it seems that God used nature to bring about the victory and save David. And keep in mind that we see David writing this on the other side of this trial; he saw how God had delivered him from his enemies!

VERSES 16-19

1. David recognized that he was in situations that were not possible to escape, from a human perspective. It is like a man going underwater, drowning and unless someone reaches down and rescues him, he is going under, he is going to die! David saw the hand of God upon his life, that it was the Lord who rescued him! We need to look at life like that. Spurgeon put it like this and I think he gives to us the correct perspective. He wrote, “Deliverance from sin, deliverance from evil propensities [tendencies], deliverance from spiritual enemies – each deliverance bears evidence of God’s love to us. . . . How much he delights in you it is not possible to say. The Father delights in you, and looks upon you with doting love; like as a father takes pleasure in his child, so does he rejoice over you.” What a wonderful perspective to have!

VERSES 20-24

1. Obviously David wrote this Psalm before his sin with Bathsheba. Here he is speaking of God judging David according to his own righteousness. David knew that he was not perfect, that there was sin in his life. But he also understood that there was not some big sin that should cause him to be judged by God with his enemies coming and destroying him. But, after his sin with Bathsheba he is not asking for justice, but God’s grace and mercy. He truly saw himself as he needed to and thus, Psalm 51:2-4 we see David say, **“Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight; That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.”**

VERSES 25-27

1. David understood a basic principle of God's dealing with men; that God often treats a man in the same way that man treats others. How often we want God to treat us kindly, to be patient with us, to be merciful, and-so-on. And yet, when it comes to others, we don't treat them as we would have God treat us and the Scriptures speak on that. You see, God will deal with you according to how you treat others. What playing field do you want to approach God on? Jesus said in Matthew 7:2, "**For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.**" By the measure you treat others God says He will treat you!

2. Now verse 26 is difficult for us. The section I am speaking of goes like this, "**... And with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd.**" We have no problem with the first part of this verse when David says that if a man is pure towards God then God will be pure towards him. The problem comes when man is wicked towards God that God is wicked towards him! God can't be wicked, so what is up with this? Is David wrong in what he is saying?

David is not wrong in what he is saying, we are just missing the point, it is how we are viewing this verse. You see, not the same words are used in this verse for what man does and what God does. Let me explain it like this. If you are devious, if you are wicked God will deal with you along those lines. It does not mean that God is wicked or devious but He will be “**shrewd**” to you. It is a word that speaks of wrestling with you! The way God deals with us is determined on our hearts. I like the way that Boice put it as he wrote, “David expresses the second half of the parallel by a somewhat ambiguous word, the root meaning of which is ‘twisted.’ The verse actually says, ‘To the twisted (or crooked) you will show yourself twisted (or crooked)’ . . . The idea seems to be that if a person insists in going devious ways in his dealings with God, God will outwit him, as that man deserves.”

VERSES 28-30

1. David spoke of God’s past victories that gave him confidence through the present difficulties he was going through and now he moves from the past to the present and confidence in the future. You see, it was God who brought David to the throne and it is that same God who would give him the light he needed to rule the nation and his own life!

You see, David was empowered by God to go up against many enemies, in seemingly impossible situations. Remember in I Samuel that as Saul had come upon David in the wilderness, that at night, David went right down into the camp of Saul, and took from him his spear and jug of water while Saul was asleep, surrounded by his army. He trusted in the Lord to save him, and the Lord did! Thus, if God has done that in the past He can surely help me in the present and guide me all the days of me life because He is my light! What a great perspective to have as we walk each day!

2. In verse 30 David speaks of the Word of God, that it is perfect, it is proven! The idea here is that the Word of God has been tried in the fire and it has stood all these tests, all these assaults against it and it has never failed! How did David know this? Through personal experience! He had proven that it is true!

3. When I hear people come up with all kinds of strange theology, not only of Christianity, but all the bizarre stuff that people are placing their trust in today, it just shows me they are foolish in believing that. God's Word is proven, it is tried, it is perfect, and if we use it in our life it will be a shield of protection for us. As Proverbs 30:5-6 says **“Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.”**

Let me give you an example to show you what I mean from the Book of Mormon and how historically accurate it is. This is a letter from the Smithsonian Institution refuting that they support the archeological evidence of the book of Mormon. The letter reads,

Smithsonian Institution Statement Regarding the Book of Mormon Some Latter-day Saints, in their zeal to give tangible authenticity to the Book of Mormon, have told prospective converts that the Smithsonian Institution has used the Book of Mormon to verify sites in the New World. In response to numerous requests on this subject, the Smithsonian has issued the following paper detailing their position on the matter.

Information from the National Museum of Natural History Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560

Statement Regarding the Book of Mormon

1. The Smithsonian Institution has never used the Book of Mormon in any way as a scientific guide. Smithsonian archaeologists see no direct connection between the archaeology of the New World and the subject matter of the book.
2. The physical type of the American Indian is basically Mongoloid, being most closely related to that of the peoples of eastern, central, and northeastern Asia. Archaeological evidence indicates that the ancestors of the present Indians came into the New World - probably over a land bridge known to have existed in the Bering Strait region during the last Ice Age - in a continuing series of small migrations beginning from about 25,000 to 30,000 years ago.
3. Present evidence indicates that the first people to reach this continent from the East were the Norsemen who briefly visited the northeastern part of North America around A.D. 1000 and then settled in Greenland. There is nothing to show that they reached Mexico or Central America.
4. One of the main lines of evidence supporting the scientific finding that contacts with Old World civilizations, if indeed they occurred at all, were of very little significance for the development of American Indian civilizations, is the fact that none of the principal Old World domesticated food plants or animals (except the dog) occurred in the New World in pre-Columbian times. American Indians had no wheat, barley, oats, millet, rice, cattle, pigs, chickens, horses, donkeys, camels before 1492. (Camels and horses were in the Americas, along with the bison, mammoth, and mastodon, but all these animals became extinct around 10,000 B.C. at the time the early big game (sic) hunters spread across the Americas.)

5. Iron, steel, glass, and silk were not used in the New World before 1492 (except for occasional use of unsmelted meteoric iron). Native copper was worked used (sic) in various locations in pre-Columbian times, but true metallurgy was limited to southern Mexico and the Andean region, where its occurrence in late prehistoric times involved gold, silver, copper, and their alloys, but not iron.
6. There is a possibility that the spread of cultural traits across the Pacific to Mesoamerica and the northwestern coast of South America began several hundred years before the Christian era. However, any such inter-hemispheric contacts appear to have been the results of accidental voyages originating in eastern and southern Asia. It is by means certain that even such contacts occurred; certainly there were no contacts with the ancient Egyptians, Hebrews, or other peoples of Western Asia and the Near East.
7. No reputable Egyptologist or other specialist on Old World archaeology, and no expert on New World prehistory, has discovered or confirmed any relationship between archaeological remains in Mexico and archaeological remains in Egypt.
8. Reports of findings of ancient Egyptian, Hebrew, and other Old World writings in the New World in pre-Columbian contexts have frequently appeared in newspapers, magazines, and sensational books. None of these claims has stood up to examination by reputable scholars. No inscriptions using Old World forms of writing have been shown to have occurred in any part of the Americas before 1492 except for a few Norse rune stones which have been found in Greenland.
9. There are copies of the Book of Mormon in the library of the National Museum, of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution.

- SIL - 76 Rev. May 1980

And yet, when it comes to the Bible it is accurate in archeological statements, science, medical information, historical information, its accuracy in transmission. It has been the most studied and analyzed book and yet it still remains strong because it has been ***PROVEN!***

VERSES 31-36

1. David recognized that if he wanted his walk to be stable, he needed to rest in the Lord.

That means if we want stability in our walk we need to rest in the Lord. But, if we want to walk on shaky ground then all we have to do is take our eyes off the Lord.

2. And David recognized the “**gentleness**” of God towards him and we need to recognize that also. You see, God could wipe us out if He had a hot headed personality. But of course that is not the character of God. The word “**gentleness**” speaks of power under control, and that is our God. He is not like us, flying off at the handle in various situations, but his power is under control! That should bring us great comfort!

VERSES 37-42

1. David speaks of the victory God gave him over his enemies. Those who were against him did not stand a chance. Why? It is as Paul said, “**. . . If God is for us, who can be against us?**” Romans 8:31. And God is for us and the reality is, are we willing to surrender our lives to Him? Are will willing to be obedient to Him? It is one thing to say you love the Lord but is there enough evidence to convict you in a court of law showing you do love the Lord? Does the world see a difference in the way you live out your life? They should, it is the evidence for our faith. Not that we are perfect, but if you are not obeying the Lord, then there is something seriously wrong in your walk!

Jesus said in John 14:15, **“If you love Me, keep My commandments.”** Truly love is seen in our obedience to the Lord! Spurgeon put it like this, “If any of you have thought that trusting Christ does not involve obeying him, you have made a great mistake. They do very wrong who cry up believing in Christ, and yet depreciate obedience to him, for obeying is believing in another form, and springs out of believing.”

VERSES 43-50

1. David ends with this doxology or praises unto God for His deliverance from his enemies. God was David’s place of safety and protection, and He wants to be your place of safety and protection. Draw near to Him and He will draw near to you, He loves you. That is where we should focus our lives upon, the Lord, the sustainer of our life.
2. This Psalm ends with the King on the throne and the enemies defeated. Does that sound familiar? It should, because one day our Lord will come back and destroy the enemies of God and He will rule and reign from Jerusalem and righteousness will fill this land!

Let me close this evening with these words of the Kingdom Age from Isaiah as he wrote, **“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord As the waters cover the sea.”** Isaiah 11:6-9. What a glorious day as our King is on the throne, not only in our hearts, but on the throne in Israel!