

PSALMS

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Psalm 33 as we continue our study through the Word of God. Let me give you just a little introduction into this Psalm before we begin studying it. The Septuagint ascribes this Psalm to David, and its focus is praise and honor that is given to God by those who trust in Him. It is all about worship and we can break down this Psalm like this. Verses 1-3 are a call to worship and as we conclude this Psalm, verses 20-22 we see the worshipers of God declaring that they will wait upon the Lord, they will trust in Him. And verses 4-19 focus on our praise to God for His Word and His works. With that said, let's begin reading in Psalm 33 starting in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

PSALM 33

VERSES 1-3

1. This seems so obvious but many times, because we are distracted, we don't worship the Lord. The thing we need to remember is that God deserves our praise. Remember what Paul said in Hebrews 13:15, "**Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.**" You see, what flows from our lips should bring praise to God, not only as we sing to Him, but also how we talk to others, by what we say.

2. Again, this seems so obvious but worship is to be God-centered, not self-centered.

And yet, what happens many times is we take something that is good, and use it to satisfy self, rather than God. When we worship the Lord - He is the focus!

3. Here we see mentioned instruments being used in the worship of God. There is nothing wrong with that unless the person playing is getting all the attention, all the worship you might say! Which instruments are good and which are bad? Which instruments are of God and which are of the Devil? Folk's, any instrument that is used to draw attention away from God is bad. So what are you using the musical instrument for will speak if it is good or bad. Sorry, you can play the organ and do it to draw attention to yourself and for those that think the organ is the only godly instrument, that would not be the case here. I think you get the point!

Not only do we see musical instruments being used but as God's Spirit moves through the hearts of His people, He gives them new songs to sing. There is nothing wrong with hymns, but if that is the last time the Spirit of God has moved, the last time He gave us new songs then we are really in trouble. God gives us new songs to sing so that there is a freshness to our life and our worship. He does not want it to be mechanical.

Not only that, but our praise and worship should be done skillfully, to the best of our ability. I don't lead worship because I have no musical talent. But God has blessed others with that gift and they use it to assist us in the worship of God.

And thus, what we see here are three important qualities of worship: freshness, skill (because of the instruments and the voices), and fervor. We need to make use of all three with our focus always being upon God. It may not be perfect but if you do it unto the Lord, to the best of your ability, with Him getting the glory and the worship, that is pleasing to God!

VERSES 4-5

1. Why are we to praise God? The Psalms gives us the reason. He tells us that it is because of His Truth (the Word of God), His righteousness (God is perfect, He is pure, He is holy) and His judgment (God's judgments are perfect, they are fair, they are right as He deals with sinners who refuse to have their sin covered by the blood of Jesus). Think about this as we live in this fallen world today. We have become so accustomed to half-truths, mixed motives, and poor judgment that we can forget to praise God for the sheer beauty of His truth, His righteousness, and His perfect judgment. Don't let this world cloud your picture of who God is. His Word and His Works are perfect and they go together! Remember what David said in Psalm 19:8, "**The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.**" God has set His standards that we are to follow; they are not mine, nor any other man's. Thus, I make no apology for speaking His truth no matter what man might say.

VERSES 6-9

1. Remember the first reasons given to praise God; they were for His truth, His righteousness, and His judgment. Here in these verses we see the second reason to praise God and that is for His awesome creative power, that He spoke the world into existence! In Genesis 1:1 we are told, **“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”** That is God created something out of nothing. The power of God is seen in His creation. And even today, He is creating something out of each of us, for His glory, just as a master artist is painting a beautiful picture. That should cause us to worship and praise the creator of heaven and earth!

VERSES 10-19

1. We have seen that we are to praise God for His truth, His righteousness, His judgment; we are to praise God for His awesome creative power and, third, for the perfection of His policies in dealing with individuals, governments, and kingdoms. That is what David is speaking of here in these verses. And what we need to remember is that God is not only the creator of heaven and earth, but He is actively involved with us today!

2. David illustrates this for us by saying that any nation that looks to the Lord for direction, any nation in whom God is in control, they will be blessed. Now as we look at this nation and we see how far from God we have come, it can be discouraging. And we can point fingers and blame this person or that person, we can blame this organization or that organization, but before we point the finger, is God on the throne of our homes? That is really an important issue before we start coming against the leaders of this country. I am not saying they are godly men, not at all. And the thing is, all we can do is pray for them. But what about our own lives, our own homes, bring this down to that level where the rubber meets the road you might say for us. You see, any person, any family that has God in the center will be blessed. I did not say you will never have any trials in your life, that you would never have any problems in your life, but God will bless your life and use it for His glory!

3. Also, you can't hide anything from God, He sees everything. As much as man tries to get away with things, God knows. As much as man tries to make his plans, do what he pleases, God's plans and purposes are being fulfilled. Do you really think that the leaders from all the nations of the world have come up with this plan for a one world government without the foreknowledge of God? Do you really think that the religious leaders of the world came up with this plan for a one world religion without the foreknowledge of God? Of course they did not! God's desire is that they would draw close to Him, that they would have a relationship with Him through Jesus, but if they refuse, they will still be fulfilling the plans and purposes of God and in the end, they do not win, God does just like His Word has told us!

4. Now we truly think that the more military might we have the stronger we are and yet, just the opposite is true. Let me explain. You don't need a massive army to win the battles, you just need to walk with God who is the creator of heaven and earth and thus, these battles are not difficult for Him at all. The question is, as a nation are we walking with Him? No we are not and thus, with our massive army, although the government is dwindling that down, we are trying to win a battle against Islamic terrorists and the few have put the many on the run.

Now you may not agree with that but look at what they have done. You can't go to the airport without being screened by metal detectors, x-ray machines, even hand pat-downs because of Islamic terrorists trying to smuggle bombs on the plane. We see in the Scriptures that God told His people not to multiply horses because He knew they would trust in them for their victory in battle instead of the Lord. It is as Zechariah 4:6 says, **“... ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ Says the LORD of hosts.”** Make no mistake about it, our trust needs to be in the Lord, He will see us through those difficult times, He will give us the victory no matter if we are many or we are few. The battle belongs to the Lord, may we learn to trust in Him and His Word!

And I know, there are those who say that God's Word is not enough today, that we have to do this or have to do that. Garbage! God's Word stands forever. We hear today that God's Word needs to be updated, changed for our generation, but that is not so. God's Word is eternal. His Word will guide us as it did to past generations and extend into future generations. By telling people the Word of God is not enough, we are leading them away from the only truth. And I am sorry to say that there are savage wolves in many churches today who are preaching from the pulpit destructive heresies leading people away from the true and living God! God's Word is truth and we need to not only believe it but apply it to our lives!

VERSES 20-22

1. Now we have seen that we are to praise God for His truth, His righteousness, His judgment; we are to praise God for His awesome creative power; we are to praise God for the perfection of His policies in dealing with individuals, governments, and kingdoms and lastly, we are to praise God for His providence, for He alone is what we need. You see, because the Psalmist understood who God is he was able to walk as God has called him to walk. The Psalmist was willing to wait upon the Lord and trust in what the Lord was doing.

Now some say they don't have that kind of faith. How much faith do you need? Jesus said just the faith of a mustard seed could move mountains in your life. And if you struggle in this area, read this Psalm over and over again. He created the universe, He created you, and thus, He shall be able to meet your needs. As Paul said in Philippians 4:19, "**And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**" Rest in His promises and let your faith grow as you trust more and more in Him.

2. In Charles Haddon Spurgeon's *Treasury of David* there is a story credited to Edward Calamy about a young boy who was at sea during a dangerous storm. The passengers were frightened and at their wits' end, but he was not disturbed at all. In fact, he was even cheerful. The others asked how he could be cheerful when they seemed in danger of losing their lives. He replied that the pilot of the ship was his father, and he knew his father would take care of him. May we be able to trust in our heavenly Father like that! It doesn't matter how big the storms of life may be, our heavenly Father will take care of us!

PSALM 34

If we were to paint a picture of ourselves or someone we loved, chances are we would leave out all the blemishes that are in us or the person we love. But when God paints a picture of His servant, it is done honestly, with all the good and bad mixed in. David loved the Lord, and yet he was not perfect, as the events leading up to this Psalm tell us. The introduction of this Psalm reads, “*A Psalm of David when he pretended madness before Abimelech, who drove him away, and he departed.*”

As you may remember from our study of I Samuel, David was on the run from King Saul for maybe some 10 years or so because Saul was jealous of David. Things got bad for David, who was serving Saul, when David killed the Philistine giant, Goliath. After this victory the top 10 song in the Kingdom went like this, “. . . ‘**Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands.**’” I Samuel 18:7. This made King Saul furious, thinking that David was trying to usurp the throne from him, but David had no intention in doing that. And the Bible tells us, “**So Saul eyed David from that day forward.**” Everything that David did, Saul was watching, suspicious of his every move, and wanting David dead, out of his life.

David, on one occasion, ran down to the Philistine city of Gath to hide himself in the city of the enemy. In fact, Gath was one of the 5 main Philistine cities. Now the king of Gath is not Abimelech, that is his title and it means “of the king.” His name is Achish. And as David presented himself before them, the king’s servants recognized him as the one who slew the Philistines, including their warrior Goliath! And again, that top 10 song being sung in Israel was also sung in the land of the Philistines, and was about David killing the Philistines.

As you can imagine, David becomes terrified, he knows he is in trouble. What he was doing down in the camp of the enemy is another story, but again, that was totally wrong. You don’t hide with the enemy. Because David is so scared he pretends that he is mad. He starts scratching himself on the walls, letting saliva drip down his beard, and just looking like a mad man. And the king says to his servants “**. . . ‘Look, you see the man is insane. Why have you brought him to me? Have I need of madmen, that you have brought this fellow to play the madman in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?’**” I Samuel 21:14-15.

So they let David go and as he is freed he runs to the wilderness of Judea, to the cave of Adullam. It is as Proverbs 29:25 says, “**The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.**” And as David ponders all that has transpired, as he is sitting down in this cave, he wrote Psalms 34 and 57. David is relieved that he got away, but he also realizes that his actions were not honoring to God. His trust was in himself and not the Lord.

Thus, in Psalm 57:7 David says, “**My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise.**” You see, it was out of this situation that David could praise the Lord. Now you may think that this is not right, but David is praising God for who He is not what David had done. It was the lessons he learned through this that helped him get refocused and have a steadfast heart. What a lesson this is for all of us!

VERSES 1-3

1. Yes David went through this and yet, these are lessons for us to learn from. David was in trouble, he felt discouraged and defeated and it caused him to run, and run, and run. It seemed hopeless, it seemed like it would never end. He felt the only solution to this was to die at the hands of Saul. Have you ever felt that way, not that you would die by the hands of Saul but that you just want to die. The world is spinning too fast and you just want to get off!

David felt that way and yet, his solution was “**I will bless the LORD at all times.**” In other words, David was learning that our praise of the Lord should not be just when it is sunny outside or when things are going well. Our praise of the Lord needs to be when it is dark outside, when things are not going well, when they are falling apart around us! David said, “His praise shall continually be in my mouth.”

It is as Spurgeon said, “He who praises God for blessings will always have blessings for which to praise God.” You see, if you can learn to praise God all the time your focus will be upon Him and not the situation and instead of running away you will walk where He is leading! And out of all that, you will be an example to others of the God you love and serve!

VERSES 4-7

1. As David meditates on the Lord he gets a proper perspective of the various situations he finds himself in. Notice that it says that the Lord delivered David from “**all of his fears**” not all of his problems! Situations caused David to be fearful and yet the Lord was there to take those fears away and to shine the love of God to others. You see, the more you walk with the Lord the more you will reflect His nature.

Have you seen how some dog owners look like their dogs! It is scary and yet, the more time they seem to spend with them, the more they look like them and the same is true with the Lord. Whoever you are spending time with will be manifest in the way you live out your faith!

2. And take a look again at verse 7; this should be comforting to us. This word, “**angel**” means “messenger.” In the Old Testament it can also speak of the pre-incarnate Christ. An example of this is seen in Joshua chapter 5, before their victory over Jericho. And the reason we know it was not just an angel, but the Lord, is because the Lord tells Joshua to “**. . . ‘Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy.’ . . .**”

Joshua 5:15.

This can’t be just an angel because in Revelation 19:10, as an angel is speaking to John, we read, “**And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, ‘See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.’**”

Also, here in Psalm 34 it does not say angels, but angel. And think about this, angels are not omnipresent so one angel could not encamp around all of God's people, only the Lord can. Thus, as Christians, we are in Christ, in His protection, under His wings, and nothing happens without His knowledge and without His okay. With that perspective may we learn to praise the Lord at all times, may praise continually come from our mouths unto the Lord!

VERSES 8-10

1. Let me explain this verse in this manner. I can tell you the beauty of Banff, in Canada, but unless you go and experience it for yourself, you will not get the full impact. It is one of those amazing places in the world. The same with Yellowstone National Park, unless you see the beauty for yourself, you will never know how beautiful it is. Years ago when I heard people talk about the Grand Canyon I thought it was just a big hole in the ground. It is but there is such beauty to it that unless you see it for yourself, you will never know what it is like.

The same is true of the Lord. I can tell you what God is doing in my life, but unless you experience the Lord yourself, you will not get the full impact of how good He is, you must taste and see! Notice the order. The tendency is to say, "If I can see it, then I'll taste it." But the Lord's way is to taste it first - then you'll see it. And this is only accomplished by faith, you must walk by faith and as you do you will see that the Lord is good, you will see His goodness in your life!

How is that done? David says by trusting Him, allowing Him to guide and direct our life as we move out of our comfort zones. As I said, it is a walk of faith. You see, as we do, we will grow in our relationship with Him. If we don't, we end up living off the experiences of others and in that you will not grow as you should.

2. David also speaks of the idea that we are to “**fear the LORD.**” What David is speaking of is respecting the Lord, honoring the Lord. It is not a fear that God is going to smite me, but that He is Almighty God and deserves our praise! And God will provide for you what you will need, not what you want, but what you will need. May we not forget that!

VERSES 11-14

1. For David, it was not that the Lord was just his, that he kept God to himself, his desire was to teach the children about God, to pass this on to them. This is so important, that children are taught about God so they may see His goodness, so they will respect and honor Him.

2. Now think about this for a minute. How many of you want a good life? If you said “No!” you are a liar. We all want the good life you might say. The question is “How do we obtain this good life?” Well, we don't have to guess because David tells us in verses 13 and 14.

David started out with the fear of the Lord and apart from that you are lost. Thus, if you fear the Lord it is manifested in obedience to Him. And David tells us that what flows from your life, what is manifested in your actions, should be pure and not evil. If your life is bent on evil, you will not enjoy life. If you do what God has for you, you will be blessed because you are focused upon Him, because you have tasted and seen that the Lord is good! In other words, the good you enjoy goes hand-in-hand with the good that you do and David says that what we say should not be evil, we should seek peace, in fact we should pursue it. That is what God desires and to disobey what He has said means you truly do not fear the Lord, you do not respect Him, you do not honor Him!

VERSES 15-18

1. We now see some contrasting thoughts between the righteous and the unrighteous. The Lord will hear the cry of the righteous, but will cut off the unrighteous. Isaiah 59:1-2 says, **“Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.”**

2. Now please understand that our life is not going to be a bed of roses or maybe it does because roses are thorny and thus, you would not want to lay down on them! It does not mean that there will be no difficulty that we are facing. We do have trials that come into our life. We may face persecution. But remember what Paul said in II Corinthians 4:16-18, **“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”** Keep your focus on the Lord, praise Him through these times and you will always be able to praise Him no matter what you are going through.

3. Now here is the problem many times for us. We are too proud to humble ourselves before God, to admit our sin and God will wait for you to come to the end of yourself until you look up to Him and repent of your sin! David said in Psalm 51:16-17, **“For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart; These, O God, You will not despise.”** Many times, before we will cry out to God, we must be broken, hopeless and have no where else to turn. God does not want us to wait till we reach that point, but He will wait.

4. Now in regards to our salvation, that really is not any different. We have to recognize that we can do nothing to save us from our sinful condition, that we are bankrupt and there is nothing else we can do but turn to God, cry out to Him for forgiveness and He will hear and deliver us. Brokenness just speaks of us realizing we can't do it and yet, there is someone who can, the Lord and we need to look to Him to be the strength of our lives!

VERSES 19-20

1. First of all David is speaking of himself and saying that the Lord helped him to escape from his enemies without a bone being broken!

2. But we also see David, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, speaking of Jesus, for He alone is righteous. And in His death, none of His bones were broken. Now that may seem a little trivial to you, and a little out of place, for a person who died on the cross would not have their bones broken, or would they?

Remember back in John chapter 19, the Jews wanted the bodies off the cross before sundown, before the High Holy Day began. Now when you died on the cross you died of asphyxia because you could no longer raise or lower your diaphragm to breath. But that could take hours to several days. So in John chapter 19 the Roman soldiers came around with a big club and broke the legs of those crucified on either side of Jesus to hasten their death, but when they came to Jesus, He was already dead, for He had given up His spirit. And thus, none of His bones were broken.

VERSES 21-22

1. As much as people want to deny it, sin destroys people's lives. For instance AIDS, I don't believe it is a judgment from God, but it is the result of a sexually promiscuous lifestyle that God warned us against. And many times it even affects those who are not involved in this kind of lifestyle. Sin touches the lives of many people, and not in a good way. Let me say this, if God warns you to avoid a certain action, and you do it anyway, it is not God's judgment that has affected you, but the consequences of your sinful action. Sin does have built into it certain consequences.

2. Thus, we have seen in this Psalm how the righteous are delivered and the wicked are left desolate and the choice is ours. We can't blame anyone for rejecting Jesus and receiving the judgment of God.

Let me show you how this points to Jesus. Look at the first part of verse 22, "**The LORD redeems the soul of His servants.**" How is that done? It is done by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I think we can all agree on that. There is salvation in no other name, no other way than Jesus. Then, the second half of verse 22 says "**And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.**" Then why are we not condemned? Because Jesus has taken our condemnation, He bore it for us and thus, as Paul said, there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus, it is been paid for by Jesus! What an awesome God we have!

PSALM 35

Here in Psalm 35 we see of the so-called imprecatory Psalms. What does that mean? Imprecatory Psalms are those Psalms that contain curses or prayers for the punishment of the Psalmist's enemies. To imprecate means to invoke evil upon, or curse. We see this in Psalms 7, 35, 55, 58, 59, 69, 79, 109 and 137. We find these prayers for God's judgment on the psalmist's enemies especially in Psalms 7, 35, 69, and 109, though imprecations like these are also found elsewhere as I have said. They also seem to grow in forcefulness as we read through the Psalms. Psalm 7 is the mildest and Psalm 109 is the worst. In fact, commentators have counted at least thirty anathemas in that one Psalm, Psalm 109 alone. And in all those prayers you will find the cry to judge the Psalmist's enemies, God's judgment upon them!

Now some have a problem with this Psalm because David is calling for a curse to be placed on the wicked, and that is not Christian. Of course it is not Christian because David was not a Christian, but an Old Testament saint or that is how some see this. In other words, God calls for us to love our enemies, to pray for them and let God deal with them. Now as much as that is true, when you look at the life of David, he did pray for his enemies, especially King Saul. So as much as that may be true, I don't think that is the reason David made this prayer, that he was an Old Testament saint.

And think about it. Are we not to fight passionately against our enemies? Are we not to come against evil? Yes, and we should be praying against wickedness. Make no mistake about it, we should be praying for their conversion, but if they are not going to be converted, then we can certainly pray for their overthrow and destruction.

And maybe David is writing this Psalm as the King of Israel, the judge of Israel. And thus, the judgment he is calling for is a righteous judgment upon those who, by opposing him are opposing God, they are opposing godliness. The King must do what is right in his kingdom and maybe that is what David is doing here by this imprecatory Psalm. Something to think about as we go through this Psalm!

VERSES 1-3

1. David is asking God to take care of the wicked, those enemies who are coming against him, to deliver him. Isn't that the best thing to do, seek the Lord to deliver you instead of trying to do it on your own!

VERSES 4-8

1. David is asking God to blow away the wicked like the chaff is blown away. And we see that David is not just speaking of his enemies, but his friends that have turned against him as we shall see. Now here's the thing. Is God going to pour forth His judgment against the wicked? Absolutely He is and He does. Yes, God is gracious and merciful desiring all to come to Him, but make no mistake about it, God's judgment is coming and it will be right and it will be fair!

VERSES 9-10

1. You may see these first 10 verses as a court room where David is bringing the charges against his enemies before the judge. Now the situation has not changed but David is ready to jump for joy, why? Because as David has given this to the Lord, presented his case before the Lord, he is resting in that because he knows that God is a righteous judge and thus, his enemies are blown away.

2. As we have seen so often in our study of the Scriptures, perspective is everything. Yes, the enemy may be bigger, stronger, and smarter than we are. They may have more money, more resources than we do, but we have the Lord. The problem comes when we focus on the enemy instead of the Lord and we are overwhelmed. And we will be overwhelmed *UNTIL* we come to God and rest in Him because He will tip the scales in our favor and He will deliver the poor and the weak from the enemy!

VERSES 11-14

1. David is speaking of those who are coming against him and slandering him. Some feel that this happened before he was King, which is possible, he was slandered. But this can also speak of a time when he was King because it also happened then. Then which was it? It doesn't matter; all that we need to focus on is what transpired here. David did good and they were coming against him and saying he was doing evil against them. In a sense, now he is the defendant being accused!

Now this is interesting because David speaks of how much he loved them. David is saying that when they were sick he mourned, fasted and prayed for them just as he would do if his own mother was sick. He loved them. He felt their pain. He interceded for them before God to deliver them.

2. We have talked about this before and it truly is sad when you do good to someone and they repay you back with evil. We said that repaying evil for good is demonic. Repaying good for good or evil for evil is human. But repaying good for evil is godly. That is what we are to do. And understand this, even Christians can turn against you, but don't let that cause you to become bitter or hard. In all you do, do it unto the Lord and you will never be disappointed.

And like David, you may have shown great love for them and then they turned against you, don't let that stop you from loving them and praying for them. That is not natural as I have said; it is a supernatural response that can only come as we surrender our lives to the Lord and walk as He leads us and not as the flesh leads us!

3. Now as you hear of their slander you may be thinking, "Well, it least it can't get any worse!" That is not true as we will see!

VERSES 15-16

1. Notice what they were doing here. When David had trouble, when he stumbled you might say, they would rejoice. They probably go on the prayer chain just to let everyone know. They were enjoying his failure and instead of helping him to get up they were pushing him farther down. I find it interesting that our so-called friends love to gloat at our failure and guess what, there is no spiritual gift of doing that. Thus, it is not of God and that means it is of the Devil! We need to be careful because none of us are perfect, and none of us would like our failures broadcast for all to hear but we sure would like a helping hand to be lifted back up again! Obviously David was not finding that with these people. Then where will he find it? Let's read on and see!

VERSES 17-18

1. David is just crying out to God to deliver him. Is there anything wrong with that? Absolutely not! The Lord wants us to bring our requests to Him, to cry out to Him. And for David, he is going to praise the Lord for all that God has done so far and will do. I wonder how many times we pray to the Lord and ask for help in a situation and when He hears our hearts cry and answers our prayers, we forget to thank Him, we forget to praise Him!

VERSES 19-21

1. Isn't it interesting that these people who were slandering David were not looking for peace! That is very true because instead of peace they were bringing turmoil, destruction and devastation to David and those around him! In other words, the wicked go looking for trouble and they have no problem finding it!

2. Now in verse 21 we see that these enemies of David were crying out, "**Aha, aha!**" Now you may be thinking that this is not that bad but it is! You see, the Hebrew language does not have swear words, none! Thus, as they said this about David it was a derogatory statement and they were implying that they were glad that David was getting what he deserved!

3. Let me say this because it is important. David was a man after God's own heart, he loved the Lord and yet he suffered much persecution. Thus, we might think that was the Old Testament saints and not us, New Testament saints. What Bible are you reading? As Christians, as we follow in the footsteps of Jesus, we are going to suffer persecution, not maybe, we will. Paul put it like this in II Timothy 3:12, "**Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.**" That is just the way it is and the enemy will use people who are not close to you and even people that are close to you to bring about persecution in your life!

Jesus said in John 15:18-20, **“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.”** The cost of following Jesus – *PERSECUTION!*

And I am not here to scare you, but I truly believe we are going to see persecution against Christians increase in this country more and more. Listen to the dying words of William Borden as he gave his life for Jesus on the mission field, “No reserve; no retreat; no regrets.” Are you willing to pay the price for loving God?

4. Let me share this news article with you on this anti-bullying speaker and you tell me what is wrong with this. We are told,

As many as 100 high school students walked out of a national journalism conference after an anti-bullying speaker began cursing, attacked the Bible and reportedly called those who refused to listen to his rant “pansy assed.”

The speaker was Dan Savage, founder of the “It Gets Better” project, an anti-bullying campaign that has reached more than 40 million viewers with contributors ranging from President Obama to Hollywood stars. Savage also writes a sex advice column called “Savage Love.” . . .

Savage was supposed to be delivering a speech about anti-bullying at the National High School Journalism Conference sponsored by the Journalism Education Association and the National Scholastic Press Association. But it turned into an episode of Christian-bashing.

Rick Tuttle, the journalism advisor for Sutter Union High School in California, was among several thousand people in the audience. He said they thought the speech was one thing – but it turned into something else.

“I thought this would be about anti-bullying,” Tuttle told Fox news. “It turned into a pointed attack on Christian beliefs.”

Tuttle said a number of his students were offended by Savage’s remarks – and some decided to leave the auditorium.

“It became hostile,” he said. “It felt hostile as we were sitting in the audience – especially towards Christians who espouse beliefs that he was literally taking on.”

Tuttle said the speech was laced with vulgarities and “sexual innuendo not appropriate for this age group.” At one point, he said Savage told the teenagers about how good his partner looked in a speedo.

The conservative website CitizenLink was the first to report about the controversy. They interviewed a 17-year-old girl who was one of students who walked out of the auditorium.

“The first thing he told the audience was, ‘I hope you’re all using birth control,’” she told CitizenLink. “he said there are people using the Bible as an excuse for gay bullying, because it says in Leviticus and Romans that being gay is wrong. Right after that, he said we can ignore all the (expletive deleted) in the Bible.”

As the teenagers were walking out, Tuttle said that Savage heckled them and called them pansy-assed.

“You can tell the Bible guys in the hall they can come back now because I’m done beating up the Bible,” Savage said as other students hollered and cheered. “It’s funny as someone who is on the receiving end of beatings that are justified by the Bible how pansy-assed people react when you push back.”

The executive director of the National Scholastic Press Association provided Fox News with joint statement from the Journalism Education Association that was sent to members – after a number of people complained about Savage’s remarks.

“We appreciate the level of thoughtfulness and deliberation regarding Dan Savage’s keynote address,” the NSPA wrote. “some audience members who felt hurt by his words and tone decided to leave in the middle of his speech, and to this, we want to make our point very clear: While as a journalist it’s important to be able to listen to speech that offends you, these students and advisers had simply reached their tolerance level for what they were willing to hear.” . . .

As for Savage’s attack on people of faith?

“While some of his earlier comments were so strongly worded that they shook some of our audience members, it is never the intent of JEA or NSPA to let students get hurt during their time at our conventions,” they wrote.

However, not once did the NSPA or the JEA offer any apologies to the students or faculty advisors or anyone else in attendance.

Savage did offer a sarcastic apology “if I hurt anyone’s feelings.”

“But I have a right to defend myself and to point out the hypocrisy of people who justify anti-gay bigotry by pointing to the Bible and insisting we must live by the code of Leviticus on this one issue and no other.” . . .

Tuttle said that he “felt duped” by the event. “There were Christian schools who went to the conference. To have this happen was disappointing and shocking.”

The NSPA said they should have done a better job preparing schools for what to expect.

For his part, Tuttle said that he will definitely be more cautious about the speakers at future conventions. Tuttle related how Savage told students that for a number of years he was not allowed in schools. He told the students that because it’s gained national acceptance “he’s reveling in the fact that it’s basically a middle finger to all those teachers and administrators who wouldn’t let him have access to those students before.” But for some of Tuttle’s students – they felt like the anti-bullying activist was in fact – the bully.

- Todd Starnes, Anti-Bullying Speaker
Curses Christian Teens, Fox News Radio,
April 27, 2012

Are you willing to pay the price for loving God? Are you willing to prepare your family to stand up for the things of God in the midst of the persecution that will ensue! We need to be ready and look to God to be the strength of our lives because this is just the tip of the iceberg!

VERSES 22-25

1. They were rejoicing over David's situation, his misery and David is calling upon God to deal with them. For us, we need to give it to the Lord, those that are coming against us, those that are bringing condemnation upon us and let Him put them away, especially Satan but also his henchmen!

VERSES 26-28

1. David is asking God to destroy those who are coming against him and bless those who are standing with him. It is not wrong to pray against the enemies of God but we also need to be praying that the enemies of God would become our brothers and sisters in the Lord through Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross of Calvary! You can destroy your enemies by making them a friend in Christ!