

## PSALMS

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Psalm 65 as we continue our study through the Word of God. This Psalm of David has a different flavor to it in that it is not written out of any trial, but is just a Psalm of praise unto God. Now as you read it you will see that it is praise in how God provides for His people and brings forth a bountiful harvest. That is the physical aspect to this Psalm. But I think there is more to it than that. I think there is a spiritual application in that it is looking ahead to the harvest of God's people, not only the Jews but also Gentiles and it is pointing to His Second Coming! And thus, in all God has done for us, physically and spiritually speaking, He deserves our praise! So let's begin reading in Psalm 65, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word and see several reasons why we are to praise God.

### PSALM 65

#### VERSES 1-3

1. Let me start out with this. One day praise will flow from Zion as the King of king's and Lord of lord's rules and reigns from Jerusalem. That is not happening today but it is coming, the Lord is coming back. And for all those who receive the atonement that He has provided for us in His shed blood, they will praise Him. And please understand this is the Lord's atonement, it is what He has given to us as David tells us, "**You will provide atonement for them.**" It is not what we have done but what He has done, the finished work on the cross of Calvary as He paid in full the penalty for our sins, all of them!

And thus, we should praise God because He has *provided atonement for our sins*. As David said in Psalm 32:1-2, “**Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit.**” That should cause us to shout with praise unto God for what He has done for us, something we could never do on our own, bring salvation into our lives!

2. We also see here that we should praise God because *He hears our prayers*. Our God cares for us so much, He knows us so well that He knows the hairs on our head, He knows everything about us! Now, there are those so-called gods out there that are so far removed, so busy, so uncaring, that they don't hear the prayers of the simple man. The god of the Muslims is such a god, but our God hears our prayers, He is never too busy or uncaring to listen to our hearts cry.

Remember what Peter said in I Peter 5:7, “**casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.**” Now you may be thinking, “How does that show that God hears our prayers?” Think about it. If Peter is telling us to cast our cares upon closed ears, what good would that do for us? It would be worthless. Thus, Peter is telling us to bring all that is upon our hearts to God because He hears our hearts cry!

VERSE 4

1. Here is another reason that we should praise God. We are told that ***He has chosen us***, not because we deserve it or are worthy of it, but out of His sovereignty. Now does that mean that He has not chosen others or as some Calvinist's like to say, He has created some for Hell and there is no way they could ever be saved? Not at all! It is a free gift that is extended to all; God loved the world so much that He sent His Son, not just for a select few!

Now if you have rejected Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, then you are not chosen. You may think that is unfair and thinking maybe I am contradicting what I have just said, but I am not. You see, if you are in that condition right now you have a choice to make, to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, ask Him to forgive you of your sins and guess what, you are one of the chosen. But if you reject Him, then you are not and that is not God's fault, it is yours!

VERSES 5-8

1. Another reason we should praise God is because He is not only a God that hears our prayers but ***He also answers our prayers***. His power is awesome in our lives! And I think many times we are not paying attention to what God is doing, how He is answering our prayers. We need to look and we need to praise God for what He has done, is doing and will do in our lives!

Remember what David wrote in Psalm 57 as he cried out to the Lord, as he lifted up his prayers to the Lord and then how God responded. We are told, **“Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, Until these calamities have passed by. I will cry out to God Most High, To God who performs all things for me. He shall send from heaven and save me; He reproaches the one who would swallow me up. Selah God shall send forth His mercy and His truth.”** Psalm 57:1-3. God not only hears our prayers but He answers them. Sometimes He says, “Yes!” Sometimes He says, “No!” And sometimes He says, “Not yet!” But He always answers our prayers! There is one exception and we will talk about that in a few minutes when we get into Psalm 66.

#### VERSES 9-10

1. Once again we see another reason that we should praise the Lord. There is that physical aspect as God brings forth abundant life on this earth and then the spiritual aspect for us to praise God, and that is for *the abundant life He has given us in Christ* - the fruit that He produces in our life.

Paul picks up on this in Galatians chapter 5:22-26 as he contrasts the works of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit. The works of the flesh are ugly, self-centered and Paul then speaks of the beautiful fruit of the Spirit as he tells us, **“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”**

Galatians 5:22-26. A life surrendered to the Holy Spirit, walking in the Spirit will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh but will produce this fruit of the Spirit! We should praise God for what He is doing in our lives, making us more like Jesus!

#### VERSES 11-13

1. Too often in life we don’t “Stop and smell the roses!” We don’t thank God for the little things He does in our life and are always focusing on what we don’t have. If nothing else, praise Him for being God, for He deserves our praise! That is what this Psalm is all about and it may start out with silent praise, a praise that is waiting for the redemption of this world, but it ends with shouts of praise, shouts of joy for the King has come and the land is filled with beauty once again! As I have said, this may be pointing to the Millennium as the deserts bloom and the land is restored, including the wild animals. But even today there should be no reason not to praise God for what He has done in our lives, He alone deserves our worship!

**PSALM 66**

In Psalm 65 we saw the focus being praise unto the Lord and some don't see the Kingdom Age in that Psalm. I think it does look to the Kingdom Age but now, in Psalms 66, 67 and 68, the focus here is the Kingdom Age and they make up a trilogy of Psalms that deal with this subject as we will see.

Keep in mind that the hope of every Jew was for God to establish His Kingdom, and many today are looking for, awaiting that day to come. For the Christian, Christ reigns on the thrones of our hearts, and one day He will return and set up his Kingdom here on earth. We long for that day when righteousness fills this land!

Now Psalm 66 also had a present application, and many feel that it was written by King Hezekiah, after the Lord sent one angel down and he wiped out 185,000 Assyrian soldiers, giving Israel the victory without even fighting. And thus, this Psalm is a celebration of what God had done, giving the Southern Kingdom of Judah this victory and not one arrow of the enemy was fired against them, just as Isaiah the prophet had said!

**VERSES 1-4**

1. There is coming a day when not only the saved, but also the unsaved, will bow down before God. For the saved, we bow down before Him and will enter eternity with Him. For the unsaved, they will bow before Him because He is King, He is God, but they will enter eternity separated from Him.

Paul put it this way in Philippians 2:9-11, **“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”**

And thus, the focus here are all knees will bow before the Lord but only those who have received Him will enter into the Kingdom Age. And for those that enter in with the Lord, they will live in a world that will be filled with worship and praise of God.

2. We might paraphrase these verses like this, “Lord, Your accomplishments are tremendous. Your power is so devastating that Your enemies cringe before You. At last the whole earth bows before You in worship. Everywhere people praise Your name in song.” That is the Kingdom Age!

#### VERSES 5-7

1. Notice what the Psalmist is doing here. He is looking back on the awesome things that God had done and he looks to the parting of the Red Sea so the children of Israel could pass through on dry ground. He looks at the drying up of the Jordan River so the children of Israel could pass through and enter the Promise Land. Why is he doing that?

Because the Assyrians are threatening them and there is no way that they could defeat the Assyrian army in the power of their own strength. Nations were falling with ease, even surrendering without a battle and now the Southern Kingdom was in jeopardy. So he looks back to see what God has done in the past to give him the confidence in this present situation they were in. You see, those who, like the Assyrians, have the audacity to oppose God's people will see how powerful the God of Israel is. Learn the lesson!

2. Now this is a tough one for me but even in the Kingdom Age God will deal with unrighteousness. Only then He will not be long-suffering but will punish evil immediately. Isaiah 11:3-5 says this in regards to the Kingdom Age, **“His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist.”** Righteousness will fill this land because unrighteousness will be dealt with very quickly and it will be put away!



VERSES 8-12

1. I am always amazed at people who say, “I don’t need God!” What a fool. God is the one who sustains our very being and apart from Him we would be nothing! Paul, in Acts 17:28, makes this very point as he tells us, “**for in Him we live and move and have our being . . .**” And Daniel said of Belshazzar in Daniel 5:23, “**. . . the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified.**” God controls our very breath!

2. Now here is something none of us like, the testing of our faith, the trials that God brings into our lives. And the Psalmist here is looking at the Jewish people and all the affliction that they suffered down in Egypt and yet, God brought them through it all. God brought them into a land flowing with milk and honey, gave them homes that they did not build. Make no mistake about this, God was refining them in His fire so that He can bring them forth as gold, pure gold!

Keep in mind that both gold and silver are placed in the refiner’s pot and heated up to remove all the impurities from these metals. As they heat up, all the garbage, the dross, rises to the surface and is scraped off. And this process is repeated until you can see your reflection in the pot. The fire in our life are the trials that come upon us, and as they are turned up, the garbage rises to the surface, and it is ugly, it exposes what is really in our hearts. And as these impurities are removed from our life, as others look at us, they should see more of Christ flowing from our lives and less of us. John the Baptist said of Jesus in John 3:30, “**He must increase, but I must decrease.**” How true that is and it is what we desire, more of Him and less of us!

Now I can honestly say that I don't like the process but I do like the results. And think about it. The purest ore is produced in the hottest furnace. The brightest thunderbolts come from the darkest clouds. And for God's people, they have been through some very difficult times and they have one more that they will go through during the Tribulation Period. Millions of Jews will lose their lives at the hands of the Antichrist, two-thirds of them, but millions will come through this testing, one-third, and they will be a testimony of how God preserves His people! (See Zechariah 13:8-9).

3. David said in Psalm 25:5, "**Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day.**" and these are the insights that Charles Spurgeon gives to us as he wrote,

When the believer has begun with trembling feet to walk in the way of the Lord, he asks to be still led onward like a little child upheld by its parent's helping hand, and he craves to be further instructed in the alphabet of truth. Experimental teaching is the burden of this prayer. David knew much, but he felt his ignorance, and desired to be still in the Lord's school: four times over in two verses he applies for a scholarship in the college of grace.

It were well for many professors if instead of following their own devices, and cutting out new paths of thought for themselves, they would enquire for the good old ways of God's own truth, and beseech the Holy Ghost to give them sanctified understandings and teachable spirits. "For thou art the God of my salvation."

The Three-One Jehovah is the Author and Perfecter of salvation to his people. Reader, is he the God of your salvation? Do you find in the Father's election, in the Son's atonement, and in the Spirit's quickening, all the grounds of your eternal hopes? If so, you may use this as an argument for obtaining further blessings; if the Lord has ordained to save you, surely he will not refuse to instruct you in his ways. It is a happy thing when we can address the Lord with the confidence which David here manifests, it gives us great power in prayer, and comfort in trial. "On thee do I wait all the day."

Patience is the fair handmaid and daughter of faith; we cheerfully wait when we are certain that we shall not wait in vain. It is our duty and our privilege to wait upon the Lord in service, in worship, in expectancy, in trust all the days of our life. Our faith will be tried faith, and if it be of the true kind, it will bear continued trial without yielding. We shall not grow weary of waiting upon God if we remember how long and how graciously he once waited for us.

- Charles Spurgeon

May we grow in His grace and knowledge as we apply the things we learn to our lives as we go through the trials of life!

VERSES 13-15

1. If indeed Hezekiah is the author, he no doubt felt pressured, troubled, concerned by the Assyrians. Here, he says he will carry through with what he had promised. Don't miss the point. Hezekiah was not going to let the Assyrian army keep him from his worship of the Lord. That is a good lesson for us. Do people, situations, activities cause us to not worship the Lord, to avoid going to church to worship God? You see, if they do then they are the enemy!

Notice what Hezekiah was doing here. Remember that the burnt offering was the offering of consecration to God. In this offering God got the whole animal, you did not get anything back, like in the peace offering. And it spoke of our life being given totally to God and I believe it was what Paul had in mind when he wrote in Romans 12:1, “**I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.**” Paul is speaking of giving our lives totally over to God by placing our life, symbolically speaking, on the altar of sacrifice. If we trust God, then we will be able to lay our lives down so that He may use our lives as He pleases!

2. Now here's the thing regarding vows. Many times, when we are in trouble, when our backs are up against the wall, we make God all kinds of promises, all kinds of vows. The problem is that many times as we come out of those difficulties, we forget about those promises we made. Jesus tells us to let our yes be yes and no be no. If you make a vow, then keep it. But don't make a foolish vow, God knows our frame, that we are weak. Just give your life to Him, and you won't need to make any promises that you won't be able to keep.

#### VERSES 16-19

1. Notice what the Psalmist is saying here. He is telling us that his heart is overflowing with praise and thanksgiving unto the Lord in the midst of this trial and he is encouraging others to see that faith in his life to encourage them. Folk's, if our hearts overflow with thanksgiving and praise for what the Lord has done for us in rescuing us from destruction and from the attack of the enemy, may we not hide it but let others see that they may be encouraged or for those that don't know the Lord, they would be drawn to Him!

2. This Psalmist speaks of God not hearing our prayers because of there being some iniquity in our hearts. Maybe you have been praying and it seems that your prayers are not going past the roof of your house or the roof of your mouth. And maybe you think that God is mad at you for some reason. No, maybe it is some unconfessed sin in your life that is hindering your prayers.

And please don't come to the conclusion that God is mad at you. He is not answering your prayers because He loves you. I know, that does not sound right, but hear me out on this. If you are walking contrary to God's Word, contrary to God's Spirit, He loves you too much to leave you in that condition. Thus, in His silence you need to search your heart, ask God to show you what is hindering your prayers. And chances are, you already know! But if you don't, just ask as the Psalmist said in Psalm 139:23-24, **“Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.”**

One area for men is that they do not love their wife as God has called them too! “Hey, wait a minute; you don't know how she is treating me!” That is not an issue in this, but how are you treating her is the issue. Now you may not think that is fair, but in the marriage relationship you are to represent Christ and look at the compassion, the longsuffering that He has extended to you and you need to do the same in spite of what she is doing to you!

If you doubt that then listen to what Peter tells us in I Peter 3:7, **“Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.”** The Amplified Bible puts it like this, **“In the same way you married men should live considerately with [your wives], with an intelligent recognition [of the marriage relation], honoring the woman as [physically] the weaker, but [realizing that you] are joint heirs of the grace (God's unmerited favor) of life, in order that your prayers may not be hindered and cut off. [Otherwise you cannot pray effectively.]”** Thus, if your prayers don’t seem to get through, it may be due to unconfessed sin.

Listen to what we are told in Proverbs 28:9 and how God will not hear our prayers because of sin in our life that we are not dealing with. It is not a salvation issue, but a fellowship issue. We are told, **“One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.”** Also in Isaiah 59:1-2 we read, **“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.”** Like I have said, if your prayers don’t seem to get through, it may be due to unconfessed sin.

VERSE 20

1. The Psalmist knows the goodness of God and he is praising the Lord for the abundant blessings that He has brought forth and God's great mercy towards them. That is something we should understand, that God is very gracious and merciful to us. We blow it but He is there with His arms opened wide with forgiveness if we come to Him!

**PSALM 67**

This is the second Psalm of the trilogy of Psalms that deal with the Kingdom Age. And it is praise sung unto God for His righteous judgments. God is a righteous judge and He will deal with the unrighteous, those who have rejected Him.

VERSES 1-2

1. When God called the nation of Israel He did so with the intention that they would be a witness to the surrounding nations of the true and living God. They were to show them that there is only One God and a people or nation that lives under His authority would be blessed. The blessings of God were not to start and stop with the Jews; they were to be witnesses to the Gentiles also! But they failed in doing that and as they went into idolatry their witness died out!



2. We are not Israel, never have been and never will be, but there are some principles we can learn from this and apply to our lives. You see, we too are to be a witness to the world of the true and living God. Our lives should manifest the qualities of that relationship. We need to show people the way they need to go and the way they need to go is through Jesus as Jesus reminds us by saying, “**. . . ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’**” John 14:6. You see, it is only through Christ that people can be saved and nations blessed and we are to be that witness, pointing people to Jesus! May we not fail in what God has called us to do.

#### VERSES 3-4

1. There is coming a day when both Jews and Gentiles will gather together in the Millennial Kingdom and praise the Lord. Yes there are Jews today who have come to saving faith but the nation as a whole has rejected Jesus. But, at the end of the Tribulation Period they will call upon the One they have pierced and they will receive Him as their Lord and Savior. And the nations will be glad and He will rule and reign from Jerusalem, fulfilling the promises made to the Jewish people!

#### VERSES 5-7

1. When the Lord returns He will restore the earth back to the condition it was in before the fall of man. The effects of sin will be dealt with. And understand that this is not speaking of the New Heavens and the New Earth that God creates after the Kingdom Age. That will even be more glorious!

Listen to what we are told in Isaiah 35:1-10 regarding this period of time. Isaiah wrote, **“The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, Even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, The excellency of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, The excellency of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, And make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are fearful-hearted, ‘Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, With the recompense of God; He will come and save you.’ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert. The parched ground shall become a pool, And the thirsty land springs of water; In the habitation of jackals, where each lay, There shall be grass with reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and a road, And it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, But it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, Shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, Nor shall any ravenous beast go up on it; It shall not be found there. But the redeemed shall walk there, And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, And sorrow and sighing shall flee away.”**

Satan wanted to be worshiped and take away the worship of God. But here we see God turn that around and Satan is bound and the Lord is being worshiped throughout the earth. I love this and I can't wait for that day! But I also don't want to lose sight of what I am to do now; worship the Lord, let others see the love I have for God, share the Gospel message and see the salvation that the Lord can bring to people's lives!

### **PSALM 68**

Here is a psalm of deliverance and victory. Back in Psalm 67 we saw the kingdom and here in Psalm 68 we see the King in His glory and strength. God reigns on the thrones of our hearts now, but one day He will reign over all the earth. He is coming back in glory to rule and reign! And keep in mind that this is a Psalm of David.

#### **VERSES 1-4**

1. Verse 1 is taken from Numbers 10:35 and it was sung as the children of Israel were breaking camp, during their wilderness wanderings. Also, as they broke camp the Ark of the Covenant was also moved. If you remember the Ark was kept in the Holy of Holies within the Tabernacle. And the basic idea of what Moses said and what the Psalmist is saying, is that wherever God moves His people, let the enemies of God flee so his people could live in peace in the land that God had given them.

We, as Christians, should not flee from the enemy, but stand strong in the Lord! You see, the key to overcoming the enemy is to bring God into the situation. After all, if you walk into a dark room, you don't curse the darkness or command the darkness to flee. You just turn on the light. The light of the Lord will naturally dispel the darkness of wickedness. What a great lesson for us to learn and apply to our lives, especially in the days we are living in!

2. You can read of the Lord crushing His enemies when He returns in Psalm 2, as well as many other places in the Bible. You see, when Jesus Christ comes back to establish His Kingdom here on the earth, He will drive the wicked away and cast them into Hell till the Day of Judgment. Thus, the righteous will inherit the earth, and that will cause us to rejoice and it should cause us to rejoice right now because what God has promised, He will bring to pass! It is as Proverbs 29:2 says, **“When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; But when a wicked man rules, the people groan.”**

3. Now in verse 4 we see this word **“YAH”** all in capitals. What does that mean? ***YAH*** is the abbreviated form of ***YAHWEH*** or the name of God. And David, who wrote this Psalm, is contrasting the all-sufficiency of the God of Israel, to the god the Canaanites worshipped, Baal, who was called “the rider of the clouds.” The reason they called him that is because they attributed to him rain, fertility, prosperity. But God brings with Him blessings, cursing, vindication and vengeance. There is no comparison between ***YAHWEH*** and the god's whom the people have created in their minds! There is only One true and living God!

4. Now here is something that we miss in the English translation. In the Hebrew we see the seven names of God woven into this Psalm, the fullness of God, the completeness of God with the number seven! We see Elohim in verse 1. We see Yah in verse 4. We see Yahweh in verse 10. We see El Shaddai in verse 14. Yah Elohim is found in verse 18. Adonai we find in verse 19. And Yahweh Adonai in verse 20!

#### VERSES 5-6

1. Make no mistake about it; God is a defender of the underdog. He will be a Father to the orphan, a Husband to the widow, a Friend to the stranger. As His representatives, we should do no less! And think about this for a minute. When we are placed into the family of God, through Christ, no longer are we dry and barren, but our lives become overflowing with the living water and we bear much fruit. But for the unsaved, they are spiritually dry. That is why they are always searching for more because they are dry even though they don't admit it. They just can't get no satisfaction apart from Christ. On the other hand, we should be content in Christ because we are very blessed.

#### VERSES 7-10

1. Remember as the children of Israel traveled through the wilderness, as they came upon Mount Sinai to receive the Law, there was thundering, lightning and the people were terrified. And as they moved from Mount Sinai they also took up the Ark of the Covenant, the place where God dwelt above the Mercy Seat between the Cherubim.

2. And even though the children of Israel were traveling in the desert, God brought the rain, which refreshed them, because He was concerned about them. God will also bring us times of refreshing because He loves us and is concerned about us. I can just tell you from personal experience. There are times that I am physical, emotionally drained. It feels like I just can't go on, I don't have the strength. And as I go forward and do what God has called me to do, all of a sudden I am refreshed, I am blessed. I should be even more tired, but God takes care of that and pours His refreshing rain upon my life. If you are in that condition right now, understand that God will take care of you. He knows where you are at and how you feel and He will refresh you!

3. We see that God has brought them into the Promise Land and in verses 11 through 14 we move into the conquest of the land during the days of Joshua and Judges.

#### VERSES 11-14

1. Keep in mind that as they moved from the wilderness wanderings into the Promise Land they had to drive out the enemy but not all went into battle. Some stayed at home and guarded the stuff. David, in I Samuel chapter 30, was going after the Amalekites for burning the city he and his men were living in, Ziklag, and took their people captive. And during their chase of the enemy, some remained home, some were tired and had to drop out, and because of that, some of the “**wicked and worthless men**” told David that they should not share in the spoil of the victory.

And David said, “... ‘My brethren, you shall not do so with what the LORD has given us, who has preserved us and delivered into our hand the troop that came against us. For who will heed you in this matter? But as his part is who goes down to the battle, so shall his part be who stays by the supplies; they shall share alike.’ So it was, from that day forward; he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel to this day.” I Samuel 30:23-25.

That is the awesome thing about our Lord. We all have roles to play in the work that He gives to us and if we are faithful in what we do, we are blessed and we will be rewarded!

2. Now here in verse 12 this woman could be referring to Jael. You remember that this was the woman who pounded a spike through the head of Sisera, the leader of the Canaanite army in Judges Chapters 4 and 5.

3. Now verse 13 is a little hard to translate, but I believe it is a condemnation against those who were just sitting back and doing nothing, when they were able to assist. The Amplified Bible puts it this way; **“Though you [the slackers] may lie among the sheepfolds [in slothful ease, yet for Israel] the wings of a dove are covered with silver, its pinions excessively green with gold [are trophies taken from the enemy].”**

In other words, even when you do nothing, God will use others to bring about the victory, but don't expect to share in those blessings. You see, there should be no spectators in the body of Christ; we are all players, either at home guarding the stuff or on the front line!

4. Here in verse 14 Zalmon was a mountain near Shechem and David is saying that God covered the enemy, they were defeated completely. It was like the snow covering the mountain of Zalmon, their defeat! They were wiped out.



VERSES 15-18

1. Bashan is located in northern Israel, and David is speaking of the jealousy that others had of God choosing Jerusalem, Mount Zion, over all these other mountains to set up His Kingdom. Look at it like this. The hills of Bashan are the biggest mountains in the region, peaking at Mount Hermon. But Mount Zion is just a little slope. It's not high or topographically impressive. But, because God chose to dwell there, it was blessed indeed. God's choice of Mount Zion should not be surprising, for He has a habit of choosing the small things, the foolish things of the world to confound the wise (1 Corinthians 1:27). I am very glad that He does and because He does that, He gets the glory for what we do because we could never do it on our own!

2. Now here in verse 18 we see that Paul has this verse in mind and does not quote it verbatim, but summarizes it in Ephesians 4:8. We all were taken captive by sin, we were sinners, but through Christ we now have been taken captive by Christ in a sense and set free. Remember after Christ's death, that before He ascended, He descended to the lower parts of the earth. And during those 3 days and 3 nights He brought the good news to those who died before the Messiah came and were being comforted in Abraham's bosom or Paradise. And as He ascended, He took with Him those who died by faith. And now, Christ, the victor, gave gifts to men to build His church. He gave apostles and prophets and now those offices have passed off the scene as they have laid the foundation for the church to be built upon. The gifted men He uses today are evangelists, pastor/teachers and teachers!

VERSES 19-20

1. Some feel that God is too narrow-minded, saying that He is the only way. They feel that He is being very unfair and what gives Him the right to say those things? It is simple; He is God, the Creator of Heaven and Earth! You see, this issue is not open for debate, it is the truth, He is the only way! He is the God of our salvation!

2. Now do you look at life as being filled with the blessings of God, overflowing with God's blessings? Is that the way you look at life? We tend to not see all those things that God has given to us, and major on the minor. We should appreciate life and not waste it, for one day it will be too late. God loads us down with blessings but many times we never look for them. Paul put it like this in Ephesians 3:20-21, "**Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.**" May we not forget that fact!

VERSES 21-23

1. David may be speaking of Absalom, for if you remember from II Samuel chapter 14, Absalom's hair grew to about 5 pounds per year. And it was his hair that got caught in the tree as he was riding, trying to escape from David's men. And as he hung in this tree by his hair, Joab came by and killed him. Absalom tried to usurp the throne from his father David and thus, was not only an enemy of David but of God and he did not escape!

2. Now Bashan was to the north and the Dead Sea was to the south. And the Lord is saying that He will find His enemies and judge them no matter where they are. And what we have seen now in the last several verses is this simple invitation: Be delivered or be destroyed. You can either have salvation and deliverance in Christ or destruction apart from Him. God will rescue you if you let Him. And thus, we must tell people that Hell is real because this invitation is truly a matter of life and death.

#### VERSES 24-27

1. David is speaking of the procession of worship people that goes forth as the Ark is brought into Jerusalem and I believe he is also looking forward to the day when the earth will gather together to worship God, He will be physically with us!

#### VERSES 28-31

1. There is coming a day when the enemies of God will be destroyed and those that are left will love Him and serve Him.

#### VERSES 32-35

1. As David concludes this Psalm he issues an open invitation to any and all who would praise the majesty and mercy, the glory and grace of the God of Israel. The invitation is for all, but tragically not all will receive that invitation into their lives, they will reject it and be judged accordingly. And looking back on all of this, David just concludes by saying, "**Blessed be God!**" Amen to that!