

PSALMS

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Psalm 89 as we continue our study through the Word of God. This Psalm has as its main focus the Davidic covenant given in II Samuel chapter 7. And the basic idea is that God told David, through Nathan the prophet, that he will have a descendant of his on the throne forever. This promise to David was ultimately looking ahead to the Messiah, to Jesus.

We are told that this is “*A contemplation of Ethan the Ezrahite*” and he was one of the worship leaders that David appointed in the Temple, along with Asaph and Heman, (See I Kings 4:31, I Chronicles 15:17). Ethan, whose name means “Steady,” changed his name to Jeduthun, or “the Lord is steady” (1 Chronicles 15:19; 25:1). I like that because the stability in our life only comes from the Lord because He is steady!

Obviously this must be speaking of his descendants or one of his descendants was named Ethan. This can't be the Ethan from the time period of David because the timeframe of this Psalm is after the 70 year Babylonian captivity, when they have returned back into the land. And the problem for the Psalmist is what he sees. The city of Jerusalem is in ruins, the gates are broken down, the Temple is destroyed, and there is no descendant of David on the throne. In fact there is no King on the throne at all! And the Psalmist is wrestling with these issues, thinking that God broke His promise that He made to David.

This Psalm opens up with praise, with much joy, but then it does end with lamentations you might say. The joy of the covenant that God made with David was brought down to sorrow as they did not remain faithful to the provisions of that covenant, (II Samuel 7:14). But, as you will see, there is the hope but that hope is not found in the faithfulness of man but in the faithfulness of God. Yes the Jews were unfaithful to God but God's promise to David will not be forsaken, God will fulfill the covenant He made and that fulfillment will be found in David's greater Son, Jesus the Messiah. (Psalm 89:33-37). With that said, let's begin reading in Psalm 89, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

PSALM 89

VERSES 1-2

1. The Psalmist starts out by singing and speaking of God's faithfulness. Telling others that what God has promised He will fulfill. It is important to understand God's mercy and His faithfulness because if God was not merciful, we would be in trouble. And, if God was not faithful, we could not be assured of anything! But God is merciful and faithful and what He has promised us He is more than able to bring to pass! He has promised us eternal life in Jesus and because He is merciful and faithful, we can rest in that!

2. Now as we move into verses 3 and 4 we see God speak and listen to what He has to say! And keep in mind that Ethan is quoting what God said back in II Samuel chapter 7 to Nathan the prophet, who then shared those words with King David!

VERSES 3-4

1. God promised David that one of His descendants would remain on the throne forever. And what we see here is God is reminding the Psalmist and us that the covenant that He made with David is an everlasting covenant. In other words, God is faithful to all generations. Ethan is quoting what God said to David through Nathan the prophet and in doing so I think he is reminding God of this covenant that He made with David. Why would he do that? Because they had just come out of captivity, the city of Jerusalem was a mess and there was no King on the throne. Ethan was standing on the promise that God made and is, in a sense, holding him to that!

In other words, "I know that you are faithful God. I know that your mercy is great, but I am not seeing it. I know what you have promised to David but again, I am not seeing it!" It is easy to lose perspective and think somehow that God has done wrong or God is unfaithful. We would be better off if we trusted in what God's Word has to say and examine our own heart, our own lives and see where we have been unfaithful to Him and the consequences of those actions!

VERSES 5-10

1. Here we see that the Psalmist is speaking of God's might and faithfulness to His people. The word "**Rahab**" in verse 10 is another name for Egypt and what Ethan is doing is showing how God delivered them from Egypt. It was not their might but His. It was not their faithfulness but His!

I do find it interesting how often the writers go back to what God did in Egypt and the reason is simple. All praise and glory go to God for what He did and it is an encouragement to the people of God as they remember back on what God has done to help them in the present situation they are in. It is not going to be their might or their power or their wealth or their anything. It will be the Lord who will do a mighty work in the lives of His people; all we must do is walk accordingly!

VERSES 11-23

1. Ethan reminds us that God is all-powerful. He created everything and thus, they are all His. He speaks of two mountains in Israel. Tabor was a mountain south of the Sea of Galilee some 1800 feet high. Hermon was another mountain, to the north, in the area of Caesarea Philippi, on the boarder of Lebanon, and is some 9,000 feet high. He has done all this and thus, who else are you going to look to so that you can be delivered? There is no one who can save us like the Lord!

2. He also speaks of God's strength, His righteousness, His justice, His mercy, His truth, and how blessed those people are that follow after God. Notice that he links righteousness and justice together and I think the idea here is that he is speaking of God's "utter righteousness." Also, he links mercy and truth together and again, I think the idea is that of "unbreakable loyalty." And all this is found in Christ and His finished work on the cross of Calvary!

3. Then he speaks of David and all that God did for this King. And God did bless David mightily when he was King. Listen to David's response to all that God had done and promised him in II Samuel 7:18-22 where we read **“Then King David went in and sat before the LORD; and he said: ‘Who am I, O Lord GOD? And what is my house, that You have brought me this far? And yet this was a small thing in Your sight, O Lord GOD; and You have also spoken of Your servant’s house for a great while to come. Is this the manner of man, O Lord GOD? Now what more can David say to You? For You, Lord GOD, know Your servant. For Your word’s sake, and according to Your own heart, You have done all these great things, to make Your servant know them. Therefore You are great, O Lord GOD. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.’”** God blessed David exceedingly abundantly above all that he could ask or think and He wants to do the same with us!

4. Now why did Ethan speak of David and all that God did for David? I think that Ethan was reminding God, who is faithful, about the promises He made to David, the one He anointed with oil. And I am sure in his mind he is thinking that all the power God has, He is surely able to keep His promise! He wants to see God work and he wants to see God work now! That is not always the case, God has a plan and His timeframe is always perfect. He is not in a rush and thus, may we learn to rest in Him and trust what He is doing in our lives!

VERSES 24-29

1. Ethan continues to speak of all the things that God had promised David and his descendants. And as he speaks of the seed of David, the Psalmist is thinking of Solomon and his descendants who would be on the throne forever, and now that promise seemed to fail or not be fulfilled.

Understand this, whenever you think that God broke His promise, think again. Either you have misinterpreted what God has said or God has not fulfilled His promise yet, and you must wait upon Him to act. Here, the Psalmist was misinterpreting what God had said. He was not speaking of Solomon when He said in II Samuel chapter 7 that David's seed would sit on the throne and his kingdom would last forever.

He is speaking of another son of David, he is speaking of Jesus. God said that one day when the Messiah comes, a Son of David, He will set up His kingdom and it will be established forever. It is as Daniel said as he interpreted the dream for King Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon.

As Daniel explained that this multi metallic image represented world empires, he concluded by saying, **“And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”** Daniel 2:44-45. He is speaking of Jesus, and that His kingdom will fill the earth and it will be an everlasting kingdom, never destroyed.

2. Also, in verse 27, when it speaks of being the firstborn, it is not speaking of chronological order, but superior in position. We see this in Jeremiah 31:9, where it says **“... For I am a Father to Israel, And Ephraim is My firstborn.”** Actually Manasseh was Joseph’s firstborn, but God put Ephraim in a superior position over his older brother. You can also check this out in Genesis 48:13-14, where Jacob is giving Ephraim the blessing of the firstborn.

And in Colossians 1:15-18 we see this also played out. We are told, **“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.”**

Now I think this is important for us to understand because the cults use this to deny the deity of Jesus Christ. And please understand that denying the deity of Jesus was one of the heresy's that was spreading through Colosse and it is at the forefront of every cult today. The Jehovah Witnesses in their New World Translation of the Scriptures tell us “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn *of* all creation; because by means of Him all [*other*] things were created . . .” First of all the word “other” is not there in the Greek nor is it implied. Let's look at these verses because the Jehovah Witnesses try to use them to prove that Jesus is not God when in reality they prove that He is God!

First of all Paul tells us that Jesus is **“the image of the invisible God”** and the word **“image”** in the Greek is EIKON, (i-kone') and it speaks of a statue or representation. In other words, it is as we are told in John 14:8-9, **“Philip said to Him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, “Show us the Father”?”**

Thus, the invisible God became visible to us in Jesus Christ when He became flesh and blood, when He dwelt among us, “**. . . the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.**” John 1:14. Clearly Paul’s point is that Jesus is God!

Next we hear the Jehovah Witnesses tell us that Jesus was a created being for the Scriptures tell us that. They will show you that Paul said that He is “**the firstborn over all creation**” and they would change “**over all**” to “of” to fit their theology, but that is not what the Greek is saying. Because it says that Jesus was the “**firstborn**” it must mean that He was a created being is their thinking. The word for “**firstborn**” is the Greek word PROTOTOKOS, (pro-tot-ok’-os) and it has a few different meanings to it. In fact, the Rabbis called YAWHEW the “Firstborn of the world.” (Rabbi Bechai). He is not saying that God has been created for the Scriptures tell us that He has always existed. It must mean superior to all. But let’s look at what this word can mean and see where it leads us.

A. FIRSTBORN – CHRONOLOGICALLY: In Luke 2:7 we are told, “**And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.**” Jesus was the firstborn of Mary.

B. FIRSTBORN – FIGURATIVELY: In Exodus 4:22 we are told, “**Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: 'Israel is My son, My firstborn.'**”

C. FIRSTBORN – POSITIONAL: In speaking of the Messiah, God the Father says in Psalm 89:27, “**Also I will make him My firstborn, The highest of the kings of the earth.**” In other words, Jesus is the highest of all the kings of the earth; He is supreme to all, He rules supremely. And if you look at verse 18 as Paul says that He is the firstborn of the dead, it has to mean ranking because others have been raised from the dead in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. He was the first to arise from the dead with an immortal body! He is the highest rank of all who have been raised from the dead and all that will be raised from the dead! Thus, He is the image of God, He rules over all creation because He is God!

I hope that clears that up for you and it will help you when these cults come around and try to get you to believe that Jesus is not God!

VERSES 30-37

1. I hope these verses bring you great comfort and confidence in your salvation. Notice what God is saying through Ethan here. He is telling us that if or really when they break God’s covenant God will chasten them but He will not cast them away. He will not break His covenant with them because God is faithful even though man is not!
2. As Christians we can never lose our salvation, we are God’s children now. He does not tear up or throw out the adoption papers! But God will chasten us to correct us and get us back on track when we are in sin. Why does He do that? Because we are His children! The thing we need to remember is that He will not forsake us or break His eternal covenant which He made with us.

We read in Hebrews 13:20-21, **“Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”**

You see, the eternal covenant is not based upon our faithfulness, for if it was, it would not be eternal because we would blow it, we would fail to keep it. If our salvation was based upon my faithfulness or your faithfulness we would never know if we were saved, and it would not be eternal. The eternal covenant, our salvation, is based upon God’s faithfulness, on what He has done, and thus, that will never change, it is eternal, and we can rest in that, knowing as Jesus said in John 5:24, **“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”**

3. Ethan has been speaking for God, quoting what He has already promised He would do. And now the Psalmist is going to speak about what he sees happening around him trying to reconcile the two!

VERSES 38-45

1. Notice how these complaints start out, “**But...**” Obviously that is not a good place to start. And notice the conclusion that Ethan comes to, it is God’s fault, He has failed, He has broken the Covenant that He promised to keep! And it was true, there was no King in Israel, a descendant of David was not on the throne. The city was a mess. The walls and gates of the city were broken down so that the enemy could come in and take whatever they wanted from those Jews that had returned from the captivity. They had no way to protect themselves. And thus, the conclusion the Psalmist comes to is that God broke His promise. God did not break His promise and it is fulfilled in Christ and the culmination of all the promises that God made is coming to pass very soon it seems! God is faithful; don’t lose sight of that fact!

VERSES 46-48

1. Look at how distraught Ethan is at this point. “I am almost dead and there seems to be no hope. Hurry up Lord and do something before I die!” Again, it was not God’s unfaithfulness, it was theirs and even in their unfaithfulness, God is faithful and He will place a Man on the throne in Jerusalem, Jesus Christ!

VERSES 49-51

1. Do you see why he is struggling? He knows what God has said, and yet, when he looks around at what he sees, it seems to contradict what God has said. In a sense, he is saying that God let him down and the children of Israel down. He did not come through with what He had promised to do. Obviously the Psalmist misunderstood what God had said. Today we have teachers that pull things out of the Bible to make them fit what they believe, instead of reading what God is really saying. Context is everything and when you take out the context all you have is a pretext! In other words, they remove the true meaning of what the Lord is saying; they conceal what is true to promote what they want.

CONTEXT IS EVERYTHING!

2. Let me give you one example and there are many from the Emergent Church to the health wealth and prosperity teachers and others that are out there today. They take things out of context to prove their point. The one I will focus on deals with the Rapture of the church and one of the newest views that was ushered in by Marvin Rosenthal with his 1990 book entitled “The Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church.” This is a good example of what I am talking about. He tells us or should I say its thesis is as follows:

“The Rapture of the church of Jesus Christ will occur, not at the beginning of the seventieth week of Daniel, but sometime after its midpoint, just prior to the Day of the Lord. The Day of the Lord will be a time of wrath from God upon the inhabitants of the earth. Church-age believers will go through the first half of the seventieth week - three and one-half years and more but will be spared the time of wrath.”

So after the sixth seal, after the cosmic disturbances, the church will be raptured, before the Day of the Lord and then His divine wrath is poured out. That is the basic premise of this view. I will share with you two important facts regarding this issue of divine wrath which is said to occur after the sixth seal.

First, in Revelation chapter 5, John begins to weep convulsively because no one was able to loose the seals of the scroll. We read in verse 5, “... ‘Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.’” The wrath that is about to be poured out upon the earth dwellers comes by Christ Himself as He opens the seals and thus begins the seventieth week of Daniel and the day of the Lord, not at just past the midway period of the Tribulation Period.

If that is not enough, during the sixth seal being poured out upon the earth dwellers, notice what the people are doing and who they are hiding from. We read, “And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?’” Revelation 6:15-17.

The question we must ask ourselves is that if God's wrath is not present until the first trumpet or the last trumpet as some feel, after the sixth seal, why are these people hiding themselves during the sixth seal and understanding that the wrath that has come upon them is coming from God?

And in Isaiah chapter 2 we see a very similar passage. We read, "**For the day of the LORD of hosts shall come upon everything proud and lofty, upon everything lifted up - and it shall be brought low. . . . They shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, from the terror of the LORD and the glory of His majesty, when He arises to shake the earth mightily.**" Isaiah 2:12, 19.

He also believes that Michael the Archangel is the restraining force that Paul speaks of in II Thessalonians chapter 2. Michael the Archangel is a created being and he can in no way be in more than one place at a time, so it can't be Michael. It has to be the Holy Spirit working through the church and once the church is caught up to be with the Lord, that restraining force, the salt and the light will be removed. That is the Holy Spirit working through the lives of the believers!

Then how does he come to this conclusion? Because he takes things out of context to fit what he believes and that is wrong. It is not about what we believe; it is about what the Word of God has to say! ***CONTEXT IS EVERYTHING!***

VERSE 52

1. Ethan concludes with this doxology of praise unto the Lord. He is basically saying, “Lord, blessed be Your Name forever. I don’t see it now but I know what you have said in Your Word. I know that You are faithful. You will bring these things to pass. You will see me through these times. I am going to trust in You! Blessed be the LORD forevermore! Amen and Amen.”

2. This concludes the third section of the Psalms and we will begin the fourth section in Psalm 90 and it goes through Psalm 106.

PSALM 90

The next 17 Psalms that make up book four of the Psalms are anonymous, except for 3 of them. Psalm 90 was written by Moses and Psalms 101 and 103 were written by David. Psalm 90 was written by Moses and is probably the oldest of the Psalms. It is the story of not only creation but also of man’s history as we will see.

This Psalm was most likely written during the wilderness wanderings of the children of Israel. Of this Psalm, Martin Luther wrote, “Just as Moses acts in teaching the Law, so does he in this Psalm. For he preaches death, sin and condemnation, in order that he may alarm the proud who are secure in their sins, and that he may set before their eyes their sin and evil.” That is the thrust of this Psalm of Moses.

VERSES 1-2

1. It is always good to start with a good foundation and this is a great place to start. That God is our dwelling place, that God sustains our life. Paul said in Acts 17:28, “**for in Him we live and move and have our being. . .**” And not only does God sustain us, but He gives us the ability to have fellowship with Him, through His Son, Jesus Christ.

2. We also see here a concept that I just don’t understand and thus, I believe it by faith because that is what the Scriptures teach. Moses speaks of the eternal existence of God. In the Hebrew it speaks of God being in existence “From the vanishing point to the vanishing point.” So before man ever existed, before the heavens and earth was created, the eternal God existed. He has always existed and He will always exist, He is eternal!

Again, this is a difficult concept to understand, and yet God is saying that as far back as you go, He has existed. On the other side, as far forward you go, He exists. He is eternal; He is not in the time/space domain, for God is spirit. And to be in the time/space domain, you must have a physical property.

Now for those that like to deny the deity of Jesus, that He is Almighty God, the second person of the Holy Trinity, we are told in Micah 5:2, “**But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.**” In other words, God the Son has always existed for the word “**everlasting**” means from beyond the vanishing point! Jesus, the eternal God, stepped into the time/space domain, became flesh, so that He could die for our sins. But He is still the eternal God. That has not changed nor will it ever change!

VERSES 3-6

1. We see here a contrast between God's eternal existence, and man's mortal existence, that these bodies of flesh will return to the dust of the earth. And we can see how true that is, the death rate for man is still 100%. All will die; they will go back to the dust of the earth, only God is eternal!

Now please don't misunderstand me. In these bodies of flesh, they will not be eternal. I have no problem with that. And for those that are in Christ, they will go to be with Him for eternity. For those outside of Christ, they will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth!

2. Now here's the thing. Because God is outside of time, time is nothing to Him. A thousand years to God is just like a watch in the night, which was about 4 hours, (Judges 7:19). In II Peter 3:8 we read, **“But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”**

3. And the picture that Moses is painting for us here is that life is short. It springs up like the grass and then, by evening it is cut down. And yet, when you compare this life with eternity, it is nothing. And what many do is that they spend so much time planning for this life, which can be over in a moment, and they spend very little time preparing for eternity, preparing to meet their Maker! As I have said, life is short when compared with eternity, and yet how many people will sell their soul for the pleasures of this world? They trade eternity for what amounts to nothing!

VERSES 7-12

1. God created the heavens and the earth and it was good. Then man sinned, rebelled against God and things were not good anymore. Now God has come to rectify the destruction that sin has brought to this world by paying in full the penalty for our sins. And one day He will return and rule and reign in righteousness.

But sin is still here and it always amazes me that people think they can get away with doing evil. Nothing is hidden from God, everything is open and naked before Him, and one day we will give an account of our actions. (Hebrews 4:13). Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer used to say that secret sin on earth is open scandal in heaven. God is watching and He knows what you will do before you do it. And the angels are watching you; they see what you do down here.

2. Here in verse 9 Moses is saying that our years pass by with moaning. Why? Understand that Moses wrote this during their wilderness wanderings. They had no purpose, that generation that refused to walk by faith was going to die in the wilderness, and all they could do is walk around waiting to die. Let's face it, outside of Christ there is a world of people walking around, groaning through life, without a purpose, and they are just waiting to die!

But that should not be seen in the life of a Christian. We should have the joy of the Lord. We should not be going around moaning and groaning through this life. We are to be a witness of what God has done in our life and if you are moaning and groaning all the time, that is a horrible witness! Let your light shine that they may see God!

3. Now here again is the reality and many people like to ignore it but it is true. We live to be 70 years, and maybe even 80, and in our life we will spend it working, it is hard, it is difficult, and then it is over! That is the frailty and brevity and difficulties of life! That is the result of sin! But again, as Christians there should be joy seen in us as we live out our faith!

4. Now if you don't know God, if you have rejected Him, Moses is saying in verse 11 that when they die they will face Him and they will stand in His presence alone, in their own righteousness, which is like filthy rags. In Ezekiel 18:20, 30 we read, "**The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself. . . . 'Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways,' says the Lord GOD. 'Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin.'**"

Also, in Matthew 12:36 we read, "**But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.**" There is coming a day when you will have to stand before God. You can stand cleansed by the shed blood of Christ having His righteousness imputed into your life by faith. Or you can stand rejecting Christ and be judged according to your righteousness, which is like filthy rags!

5. Oh that we would learn to number our days, to be aware of the days that God has given us and live them to the fullest serving Him. There was a commercial several year's back that said, "Life is tough, so play hard!" That is what the world says we should do, but not God. That is not what Moses is saying here. Yes life is tough, it is short, and because of that we need God to give us His wisdom so we can maximize our time here on the earth. God has equipped us with abilities to do things in the body of Christ. Use those gifts, ask God to help you make better use of your time, and not to waste it.

Paul said in I Corinthians 1:30-31, "**But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God - and righteousness and sanctification and redemption - that, as it is written, 'He who glories, let him glory in the Lord.'**" Thus, through the work of Jesus in our lives He is imparting to us the Wisdom of God! May we listen and obey!

VERSES 13-17

1. Moses is asking God to allow His beauty to be seen in us and to work through us. How beautiful that truly is. That our walk or our life, all that we would do would be fruitful and bring glory to God!

I like the way that Paul puts it in II Corinthians 2:14-17. He says, **“Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things? For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.”**

Now here’s the thing. For the fragrance of Jesus to flow through us we must be broken of self. As we are, His fragrance is released, to some, as they see the beauty of Jesus they will fall to their knees and repent of their sins, entering into eternal life with Him. For others, they will reject Jesus and they will perish. And notice that the fragrance of Jesus flows from a life that is sincere in his walk, not looking for monetary gain by peddling the Gospel, using it to line their pockets.

As Moses said, **“And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, And establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands.”** In other words, “Lord, do something in my life that will touch the lives of people on earth and have value in eternity!” May that be our hearts desire!

PSALM 91

This Psalm deals with our security in the Lord as we are “*Abiding in ‘the Shadow of the Almighty.’*” I think this is a Psalm that we truly need today because so many Christians are running to and fro to find help and it seems to escape their grasps. And the Lord is saying that if you abide in Me you will find rest. Let’s read on and see what the Psalmist has to say about taking shelter in the Lord!

VERSES 1-2

1. Who is this protection for? Who can attain this peace, this safety? Those who abide in Christ these promises are for. God is referred to as the “**Most High**” which speaks of His power, His majesty. He is spoken of as being the “**Almighty**” the EL SHADDAI or the “All Sufficient One.” In other words, what we find in the Lord is all we need for comfort, protection, peace, safety, and-so-on.

2. On vacation my wife and I were watching the first Jurassic Park movie. And in one of the scenes the Tyrannosaurus Rex gets loose and this lawyer runs into this outhouse and sits down, hiding in there! Well, I think you know what happens. The T-Rex knocks this outhouse down and picks the guy up and eats him. Okay, so a shark or lawyer was eaten by a dinosaur! What is the point? The point is that this lawyer ran to a fortress that was not able to protect him and many do that today!

What the Psalmist is saying here is that we can run to God and He will wrap His arms around us and protect us. I see this with my grandkids. When they are scared they run into my arms because they know I will protect them from any danger, real or perceived. The same is true of our heavenly Father; He wants to do no less! And here's the thing. If you trust Him you will run into His arms. But if you don't trust Him, you will not! So the question is, "Do you trust the Lord enough to run and take shelter under the shadow of His wings?" He wants you to!

VERSES 3-6

1. Here in verse 3 God is saying here that He wants to protect us from two things that will come against us and try to destroy us. The first is that He wants to deliver us from the snare of the fowler, which is a trapper of birds. And think of it this way, Satan is the trapper, and we are the birds he is trying to trap, destroy. Secondly, He wants to deliver us from the perilous pestilence, which could be speaking of false doctrine that can kill you. How can we protect ourselves? Draw close to God, He wants to protect us.
2. Now not only is the Lord our protection, but notice what the Psalmist says is our protection from false doctrine? He tells us it is the truth that is found in God's Word. It is His truth that will set us free from all the deception that is out there. We can rest in the promises of God!

3. And it really all boils down to this. If you truly believe that God loves you, if you are resting in Him, trusting in Him, then you will not fear any time of day or night. I truly believe that I will not go home to be with the Lord one minute too soon or too late. That allows me freedom from fear. Today, many fear death; they fear all kinds of things, so much so that they are afraid to even leave their homes. Even Christians can fall into this. God does not want us to have this spirit of fear, but of peace that is found in Him. He wants us to draw close to Him!

4. The Psalmist also speaks of God as being a mother hen and that we are the little chicks. F. B. Meyer said that there are basically four kinds of calls a mother hen makes to her brood or her little chicks. One is when night is falling. Another is when there is danger. Then there is one when food is found. And then there is one that simply calls them because she desires to have her chicks close to her!

What a picture of Jesus that is for us. He wants to gather us under His wings when there is darkness that is coming. He wants to gather us to protect us from the danger that is out there. He wants to gather us to feed us. And He loves us so much that He just wants us to be close to Him! May we come under the covering of His wings because we trust Him!

VERSES 7-8

1. Notice what the Psalmist is saying here. Remember how God protected His people in Egypt and delivered them while the enemy fell. That is what the Lord does for us. He is watching over us, He is protecting us. The wicked will be punished just as sure as the righteous will be delivered!

VERSES 9-13

1. The Psalmist here is speaking of God's protection, and how He has set angels to watch over us and protect us. It is as the writer of Hebrews says in Hebrews 1:14, "**Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?**" Yes we have what you might call guardian angels that watch over us, but they are not like the angels we see on pins and pictures today. In the Old Testament we see one angel wipe out 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in one night! I am glad they are on our side!

2. Verses 11 and 12 were quoted by Satan as he was tempting Jesus in the wilderness. In Matthew chapter 4 we see this temptation of Jesus by Satan and in this temptation He took Him to the pinnacle of the Temple and he challenged Jesus to throw Himself down from the top. What was the point of that? Satan was tempting Jesus and saying since you are the Son of God, His angels would protect Him. And Jesus answered by saying, **“... ‘It is written again, ‘You shall not tempt the LORD your God.’”** (See Matthew 4:5-7). Satan knows Scripture, but he will twist it, take it out of context, misinterpret it, using only what will suite his cause to make us stumble. The point being, don’t be foolish and tempt God.

And we see that played out then in verse 13 how God will protect us but also we are not to tempt Him! Down in the south there are groups of so-called Christians that quote Mark 16:18 which say’s basically what we are reading here in Psalm 91, **“they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”**

And so they will handle poisonous snakes and drink poison in their services from time to time and some die. That verse in Mark, I believe, is speaking of Missionary work if you look at the context. Remember, context, context, context! That is as you encounter these things, God will protect you, but if you are foolish enough to tempt Him, you will find out you were ***DEAD WRONG!***

VERSES 14-16

1. For those who are dwelling in God, abiding in Him, He will protect us, He will watch over us. That does not mean we will never die, or get sick, for God is Sovereign and He allows things to happen in our lives for a purpose. But to see God's hand upon a person and protect them from deadly diseases is awesome.

In 1854, Spurgeon was a young pastor, only in the ministry some 12 months or so. And in the area he was working in Cholera broke out and he said that every day he was called to the bedside of one of his parishioners who was dying from this disease. And by the end of the week he was doing their funeral. And Spurgeon was depressed, discouraged and he felt it was only a matter of time before he contracted this deadly disease and died. He even felt he had some of the symptoms already.

And on his way home from a funeral one day he passed by this store that had a piece of paper taped on the window. And on this paper were these verses from Psalm 91, **“Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place, No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling.”** And as he read this the Lord spoke to him and told him that this was for him. And Spurgeon was a new man, revitalized for the work of God. God did this back then and He still does these things today, according to His Sovereignty. Those who abide, who dwell in the secret place with the Lord will not only be provided for and protected presently, but have a glorious destiny eternally. Amen to that!