

PSALMS

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Psalm 107 as we continue our study through the Word of God and we begin the fifth and last division of the book of Psalms. Now some scholars and Jewish rabbis feel that Psalms 107 through 119 were songs that were sung when the Jews were laying the foundation of the second Temple. Remember that Solomon's Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 B. C. and now, under the leadership of Zerubbabel and Joshua the high priest, the foundation for this second Temple was laid.

As you will see as we go through this Psalm that the focus is on the goodness of God to all people. And the way that the Psalmist illustrates that for us is by looking at four groups of people and what God does in their lives. So let's begin reading in Psalm 107, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

PSALM 107**VERSES 1-3**

1. Please take note that it does not say, “Let the redeemed of the LORD complain and criticize!” Now you may be thinking, “Hey Pastor Joe, you don’t know what I am going through. It is not easy, things are mess!” Is God good? Absolutely and it is not based upon what He does for us or what we are going through! That is part of His nature, His goodness. And yes God does bless us exceedingly abundantly above all that we can ask or think, but that is not why He is good. Like I have said, it is part of His nature; there is no darkness in Him at all!

Now if you really think about it, no matter what you are going through now, God has saved you from the pit of hell, restored your fellowship with Him, and thus, you should not keep silent of His goodness that is extended to all. The world is not ashamed to speak their foolishness and we should not be ashamed to speak the truth! **“Let the redeemed of the LORD say so!”**

VERSES 4-9

1. Here we see the first group of people that God brings deliverance to. This is the group who are barren, walking aimlessly through life. And as they cry out to God, He will satisfy their hungry souls, they will be filled. And when you are satisfied, you won’t be wandering any longer.

You see, God wants to guide us and all we must learn to do is walk by faith and see the salvation that He will bring to the situations that we face in life. If God has done this for you, give thanks and speak of these wonderful works that God has done in your life. And if you are a Christian He has done this for you, you only need to look and walk by faith. Fill yourself up with the things of God and you will be satisfied in what the Lord is doing in your life!

VERSES 10-16

1. Here we see the second group of people that God is bringing deliverance to. With this group of people we see that they have turned away from God's Word, they have rebelled against His commands, and because of that they find themselves in bondage. They are prisoners in darkness; they are in bondage because they have rejected God's Word.

Now is this speaking of the lost or the saved? I think it can speak of both. You see, the lost are in bondage apart from Christ and God will allow them to sink so low that they look up so that they may receive His salvation. For the saved, they can turn from God, do their own thing and God will let them go and He will let them also sink so low that they will look up and repent of their sins and return to Him. God does not condemn His children but He will chasten them so that they will return to Him, walk in His paths!

God's love is so rich and so deep that as they cried out to Him to set them free from those chains that have them in bondage, God steps in and breaks those chains and sets them free. No longer are they walking in darkness, but the light of God's Word will guide them. And thus, we should give thanks to God for setting us free from those chains, that bondage that we were in and share that truth, that goodness of God with others.

VERSES 17-22

1. Here we see the third group of people that the Lord brings deliverance to. With this group of people we see that they are sick in sin, both physically and spiritually. What do I mean by that? What I believe the Lord is saying here is that sin does bring about physical consequences in our life. For instance, if we have sex outside of the marriage relationship there are the consequences of AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy, and all kinds of relational problems. And on the spiritual side, we become dry; we become barren in our walk. And for the unsaved, there are those physical aspects to sin as I have said.

Now let me make this point also, because God does not do this, it is the result of sin in our lives. Sin is forbidden by God, He warns us because it brings destruction to our lives. He is not saying these things for nothing or that He is some kind of cosmic killjoy. Sin is wrong because sin is destructive!

And here is the wonderful thing about our God! As they cried out to God, God healed them through His Word. First and foremost, God heals us, delivers us from the sickness of sin. And many times God will heal us from our physical sickness that our sin has brought upon us, but that is not always the case. Praise God, thank Him for what He has done and make His works known to others. Praise the Lord for the healing that He has brought into your life and don't become sick in sin!

VERSES 23-32

1. Here we see God bring deliverance to this fourth group of people. We see that these people are being tossed in the sea by the storms of life. These storms are devastating, just as devastating as a ship being tossed up and down by the roaring sea. I think there are different storms that God uses in our life to help us to grow. There are those *storms of perfection* where God is trying to draw us closer to Him, get us to trust in Him. We see Peter speak of this in I Peter 1:6-7, **“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”** This is a storm of perfection!

There are those *storms of correction* where God is using this to get us back on track. God wants us to go down His path and not continue down that path of sin and destruction. And He will use different storms in our life to do just that! It is as the Lord said to the Southern Kingdom of Judah as they were going to be taken into captivity for their idolatry in Jeremiah 30:11, **“For I am with you,’ says the LORD, ‘to save you; Though I make a full end of all nations where I have scattered you, Yet I will not make a complete end of you. But I will correct you in justice, And will not let you go altogether unpunished.”** This is a storm of correction.

Then there are those *storms of protection* where God is protecting you from something. Maybe you are late and you lost your keys and you are ready to jump ship you are so angry. But did you ever think that maybe God was protecting you from some danger as He brought this storm into your life? I believe God does do that but we want to jump ship and get back on the road when God is slowing us down.

It is as Paul said in Romans chapter 8, “**And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. . . What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?**” Romans 8:28, 31-32. This is a storm of protection.

And lastly there are those *storms of direction* and I think with these storms the Lord is trying to get us to go where we would not go on our own. But you know where He is directing you and you take those steps of faith. In Acts 20:22-24 Paul tells us, “**And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.**”

God has warned Paul what is awaiting Him in Jerusalem, He has guided Him down this path and Paul is going to walk by faith because it is the Lord who is leading Him to Jerusalem! This is a storm of direction.

Now as we are going through these storms of life God wants to calm those storms or really help us through them. That is where we will grow, mature in the faith and thus, He will guide us to the place He wants us to be. He will use these storms to perfect us, correct us, protect us and direct us. And as we call out to Him and He delivers us, may we let others know how God brought us through those storms and give thanks to Him.

VERSES 33-38

1. I think we often think of God along the lines of what we can do or just a little bit more than what we can do in terms of His power, His strength. We may not admit that, but our actions speak of the power we believe God has, the things we believe He can do! That is a poor perspective of God. He is the creator of the heavens and earth, He holds everything together, there is nothing that He is not aware of, He is Almighty God! And thus, God is in control over nature and can bless a land or curse a land.

If you remember in Ezekiel 22:30 God is looking for someone to stand in the gap so that the land will not be destroyed. Tragically there was no one. Now why in the world would God destroy a land, why would He bring turmoil through nature? Many times it is to awaken us out of our spiritual sleep, our spiritual complacency! It is a wake-up call you might say!

VERSES 39-43

1. In the previous verses we saw how God is in control over nature and here, in these verses we see that God is in control of people. He raises them up, and He can bring them down. Remember when Daniel rebuked the King of Babylon, Belshazzar. He said to the King, “**And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. They have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know; and the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified.**” Daniel 5:23.

Make no mistake about it; God loves us so much that He gave His only begotten Son to pay for our sins on the cross of Calvary. His lovingkindness is great but if you rebel against Him, He is a Righteous Judge and He will deal with your rebellion. As a child of God He will bring conviction about your life as He chastens you. As an unbeliever, He will condemn you for your sins but He will also call to you to come to Him!

God raises Kings or Presidents up and He will bring them down. His will is going to be accomplished according to His plan and His time. Don't lose sight of that or you will become anxious, worried, hopeless as you look at this world and this nation! Follow after the Lord and see the lovingkindness He has for you. And like the Psalms said, “**Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men!**” Psalm 107:8. May we give thanks to the Lord for His goodness!

PSALM 108

This Psalm of David is a call for God to triumph over the enemies of David. Also, this Psalm is part of two Psalms that have been put together. The first 5 verses of this Psalm come out of Psalm 57:7-11. Then, verses 6-13 come out of Psalm 60:5-12. Why would God do this? Think about it, what did we learn last Thursday in Bible study? You forgot that already? That is the reason God repeats Himself so much, we forget and God wants us to hear these things, and not forget them.

Peter put it like this in II Peter 1:12, **“For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.”** And Paul said in Philippians 3:1, **“Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe.”** In other words, we need to be reminded often of the things that we think we know!

VERSES 1-4

1. David is speaking of an undivided heart, totally sold out to God. It is out of a steadfast heart that we praise God. You see, God does not want us to have a divided heart, being pulled in all directions. He wants us to be totally sold out to Him, to have a singleness of heart that is seen in our praise. Start your day with praise unto God. And as we go out into this world this praise unto God is not just for ourselves, we are to let others see who our God is and our great love for Him!

2. What do we share with people? We share with them Jesus, His great mercy that is so rich towards us. We do not get what we deserve! And that His Word is truth and we can trust what God says from Genesis through Revelation. We should not be ashamed of what we believe because the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God unto salvation to all who believe! That is not something that we have to be ashamed of or fear but we should praise Him for all that He has given to us!

VERSES 5-13

1. One of the things I see here is that the enemy was always around Israel just as the enemy is always around us. And yes, they may have a bigger army, more money, more resources, but they are missing one thing that is vastly more important and that is the Lord. You see, we need to be able to apply these things in our life. David said, “**Vain is the help of man.**” And that is our problem, we look to man for our deliverance instead of the Lord and when it doesn’t work we tend to blame God for our problems!

God is the one we need to look to for our help, He is our Rock. Today we have counselors that point people to everyone and everything except what they really need, the ***LORD!*** David reminds us that, “**Through God we will do valiantly.**” Not in my strength, not in my might, nor in the strength or might of any other created being, only in the Lord will we truly succeed!

And that is a big problem for us and for the church today. We many times are doing things through our own power and might, and we will not be fruitful in our endeavors. A. W. Tozer rightly said, and I'll paraphrase, "If the Holy Spirit was removed from the first century church, 90% of their work would come to a halt. If the Holy Spirit was removed from the church today, only 10% of the work would come to a halt."

A few weeks back I went to a luncheon of a Christian organization to hear what they were doing in the community. I was invited as a guest. And I was amazed all that they had started, the work they were doing but there was one thing that I did not hear and that was God. It was all about what men have done are doing and will do in this community instead of God, by the power of His Spirit accomplishing great things. You see, there were the awards for what man was doing but not glory for what God had done, is doing and will do!

We need to bring everything before the Lord, ask Him to work through us, allow Him to work and see the salvation that He will bring, the fruit that will be born through Him. It is not by our might, our power, our strength, but it is by His Spirit working in us and through us that the work of God will be accomplished! God loves us so much, He cares for us, and He wants to use us for His glory. God will take care of our enemies; we need to praise the Lord for who He is, *Almighty God!*

PSALM 109

This Psalm of David speaks of those coming against him unfairly. It speaks of slandering another person or defaming them, smearing their name in front of others. And we will see here David call for judgment to come upon those who are coming against him. And this may reflect the betrayal of Ahithophel against David. (II Samuel 15). But I also think this looks ahead to another person who betrayed his master, and that is Judas who betrayed the Lord. Peter tells us in Acts 1:20 as he alludes to this Psalm, **“For it is written in the Book of Psalms: ‘Let his dwelling place be desolate, And let no one live in it’; and, ‘Let another take his office.’”** So let’s dig into this Psalm and see what the Lord has for us.

VERSES 1-5

1. Keep in mind that the background of this Psalm was Absalom’s rebellion against David as he usurped the throne from his father. And it was David’s closest friend, Ahithophel, who turned against David and sided with Absalom. David loved them both, and yet they turned against him and repaid the good he extended to them with evil.

I have said before that repaying evil for good is satanic. Repaying good for good or evil for evil is human. But extending good to someone who is evil to you is godly. That is what God wants us to do, good! Yes it is hard, you may want to retaliate, get back at them, but Jesus said that we are to love our enemies, pray for them. He will take care of the wicked; our responsibility is to bring the Gospel message to the wicked. "I can't do that!" Hey, someone brought you the Gospel message and you were just as wicked in your heart and maybe in your actions!

2. Now this may be hard for us to swallow, we may not like to do this, but David did! How in the world could David handle this horrible situation that he was in? I think verse 4 shows us as he said, "**But I give myself to prayer.**"

Remember these words from this song, I don't remember the name of the song but the words go like this, "Oh what peace we often forfeit. Oh what needless pain we bare. All because we do not carry, *EVERYTHING* to God in prayer!" There is such wisdom in bringing everything to God in prayer. Too often we fight our battles in the physical realm, the flesh, and we don't see the victories. Our battle is spiritual and it does manifest itself in the lives of people. Thus, we must do as David did, bring our concerns before the Lord; pray that God would give us the victory over our enemies. Bring it all to Him and see the salvation He will bring in a given situation! That seems to be a recurring theme in our studies this evening, resting in the Lord and seeing the salvation that He will bring in our lives!

VERSES 6-19

1. Now is David calling for the wicked to be judged by God here? It is possible; we have seen this in other Psalms of David. But let me throw this out to you. Could these be the slanderous words of David's enemies, like Ahithophel who turned against him? I think they could be. David was not a perfect man, but he did love the Lord and he did show mercy towards others. He did not persecute the poor and needy or come against those who were brokenhearted. David truly did not love cursing and he did love to bless others as God had blessed him. Here's the thing, these are slanderous words spoken by David's enemies, men who were once his friends as I have said. They were not true but if you say something long enough and loud enough people will begin to believe it. We need to be careful of what we say about others. If we can't say something to their face, then we should not share it with others. Don't post it on FaceBook! We are not to be in the destruction or demolition service, but in the restoration service, so if there is a problem we deal with the person directly with the hope of restoration!

VERSES 20-25

1. David is not speaking of being poor and needy with material things, but he is speaking of being poor and needy in spirit, he is poor in spirit. He sees himself as he is and the slanderous words of those who were once his friends have broken him. Thus, we see that David is on his knees in prayer before God. The situation was tough, but there is comfort in coming before the Lord. We can cast all our cares at His feet because He cares for us. What a great place of rest that is, we don't have to worry, we don't have to fret, we have given it to the Lord and we are resting in that!

VERSES 26-31

1. David continues to ask God to put down his enemies, those who are coming against him, and to raise him up according to the mercy of God. And as much as they were cursing David, he saw the hand of God upon his life blessing him. The righteous Judge will deal with them and it is best to give those situations into His hand instead of trying to deal with it in the power of our flesh! God will deliver us!

2. The enemy may say things against us, they may accuse us, they may condemn us, and why are you listening to the enemy, those who are coming against you when our Lord is saying, “**There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.**” Romans 8:1. Let them accuse and let the Lord defend you. You live your life in a way that is pleasing to God and as David said, the Lord will “**... save him from those who condemn him.**” Amen to that!

I like the way that F. B. Meyer put it. He wrote, “How brave is the accused if he enters court leaning on the arm of the noblest in the land. How futile is it to condemn when the Judge of all stands beside to justify?” A nice perspective to have and a correct perspective to have!

PSALM 110

Here in Psalm 110 we see David speak of the coming Priest-King-Judge of the whole earth. And what is interesting is that we, in a sense, are eavesdropping on a conversation between God the Father and God the Son. Now keep in mind that we see this Psalm mentioned several times in the New Testament and it is referring to Jesus Christ. (We see it in Matthew 22:24, Acts 2:34-35, Hebrews 1:13, Hebrews 5:6, Hebrews 6:20, Hebrews 10:12-13). So let's listen in and hear what the Holy Spirit has to say to us.

VERSES 1-2

1. We are going to take a few minutes to look at what David said here, because, like I have said, it is quoted often in the New Testament. One of the places we see this quoted is by Jesus in Matthew chapter 22. In this portion of Scripture we see Jesus trying to be tripped up by the Pharisees and the Sadducees. The Pharisees were the legalists, they were happy living in the past, following the traditions that were handed down. And they asked Jesus if it was lawful to pay taxes to Caesar. And Jesus said to them, “**... ‘Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’**” Matthew 22:21. They tried to trip Jesus up and they got tied up instead. They were not looking for the truth because if they were, as you will see, they would have accepted Jesus as their Messiah. But now they could not believe the wisdom in His answer and they left or became silent without succeeding in their plan to stumble Him.

But it is not over because here we see the Sadducees speak up and they were the liberals of the day, happy living in the present. They too tried to trip Jesus by denying there is a resurrection. And Jesus answers their foolishness by saying, **“But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.”** Matthew 22:31-32. They too were not looking for the truth, they were only looking to trip Jesus up and that did not work. In fact, Jesus tells these liberals that they did not know God’s Word, they did not understand what it said and when the Sadducees were put down by Jesus they became silent. And of course, because they did not believe in the resurrection, they were *SAD-U-SEE!*

They tried to trip Jesus up, they failed and now Jesus is going to ask them a question. Not to trip them up, but to show them how David spoke of the Messiah, of Jesus and that He is not just a man, but God Incarnate! He wanted them to come to Him and not let traditions or the words of men keep them away. He wanted the Word of God to set them free! In Matthew 22:41-46 we are told, **“While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, ‘What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?’ They said to Him, ‘The Son of David.’ He said to them, ‘How then does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying: ‘The LORD said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool’”? ‘If David then calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his Son?’ And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.”**

We may miss what is going on here because of the society we live in. But please understand that they lived in a patriarchal society and the father would **NEVER** call his son lord! Jesus was showing them and they were seeing that the Messiah could not be just an earthly son of David, for he could never be called lord by David. David was ascribing deity to the Messiah, calling Him Lord-Adonai, and not just an earthly or human son. And this was just far too complex for these religious leaders to handle and they were in no way ready to ascribe deity to the son of David, and so they were silenced!

It wasn't that they did not understand what Jesus was saying but they refused to accept what Jesus was saying, that He is Almighty God.

2. Now who is this rod of Yahweh that He gives strength to? Look at what we are told in Isaiah 11:1-5, **“There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. 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.”** David is speaking of Jesus Christ, the rod of Yahweh's strength! And when He sets up His Kingdom on this earth He will rule and reign in righteousness and any wrong will be dealt with immediately!

VERSES 3-4

1. I believe that David is speaking of serving the Lord with joy in our hearts, willingly, not out of compulsion and in the Kingdom Age God's people will serve Him willingly with joy in their hearts. Does that mean we should just wait until then before we serve the Lord willingly and with joy in our hearts? Obviously we are not to wait until then because if you are a Christian then the Lord is ruling and reigning in your heart. And if He is then you should serve the Lord willingly with joy in your heart now!

Peter put it like this in II Peter 3:10-11, 14, **“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness . . .Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless.”** Live your life in such a way that it brings glory and honor to God as you serve Him willingly and joyfully!

2. Now here in verse 4 David speaks of someone called Melchizedek, who is this? In Genesis chapter 14 we read the story of 4 kings defeating the 5 kings in battle. In doing so they took much spoil, and Lot, the nephew of Abraham was captured. When Abraham found out he gathered together 318 trained servants to go to battle and rescue Lot, which they did. And the King of Salem, Melchizedek, comes out to meet them.

Now, here in Psalm 110 it says that the Messiah is a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. Understand that the Levitical priesthood was not even established yet, it is still some 600 years or so down the road. Melchizedek was not a Jew, we don't know where he came from and yet he is called the **“Priest of the most High God”** in Hebrews 7:1. And Abraham pays him tithes from the victory, showing that even father Abraham gave honor to the greater, Melchizedek. Now to a Jew, only those from the Levitical line and specifically from the lineage of Aaron could be priests, and Jesus was from the line of Judah. But here is a higher priesthood, a greater order than Levi. Thus, just as Melchizedek was a King and priest, so is Jesus.

Now who is this Melchizedek? Is this an Old Testament appearance of Jesus Christ? First of all listen to what Paul tells us in Hebrews 7:1-3, **“For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated ‘king of righteousness,’ and then also king of Salem, meaning ‘king of peace,’ without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.”**

Because there were no genealogies of this man, no report of his birth or death, many believe this is none other than Jesus Christ, an Old Testament appearance of Jesus or a Christophany. I don't believe that is what the text is saying here. I believe this is a picture or type of Christ, but not an Old Testament appearance of Him. Let me explain why I believe this.

In verse 3 of Hebrews chapter 7 the Greek word for “**make like**” is APHOMOIOO, (af-om-oy-o’o) and it speaks of a model or a copy. Also, in verse 15 of Hebrews chapter 7 we are told, “**And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest.**” The word “**likeness**” or “similitude” is the Greek word HOMOIOTES, (hom-oy-ot’-ace), which speaks of being similar, a resemblance to but not the person. It is a copy of that person, a picture you might say.

I personally believe that Melchizedek is a type of Christ or a picture of Christ, that this man was real, not an angelic being as some think. Now, what about his eternal existence? I believe the Holy Spirit edited it out to fit the type. So I don’t believe this is an Old Testament appearance of Christ. But, like Melchizedek, Jesus is not only a King but also a Priest according to the order of Melchizedek! He can be both Priest and King!

VERSES 5-7

1. Now verse 7 is interesting. Some feel that this water is the refreshing water of the Holy Spirit that Jesus drank and it lifted Him up. Maybe, but I don’t think that is the idea here. Dr. Gaebelein put it like this and I think he may be right. He wrote,

“The passage places before us once more the humiliation and exaltation of our Lord. The humiliation is that He drank of the brook in the way. We are reminded of the three hundred warriors of Gideon, who went down on their knees and lapped water like dogs and who were later used and exalted through victory. But He went deeper than that. He drank of the deep waters of suffering and death. And therefore God has highly exalted Him. What a wonderful Psalm it is!”

- Dr. Gaebelein, The Book of Psalms, p. 415

2. Now let's sum this Psalm up because in these verses here we see David conclude this wonderful picture of our Lord Jesus Christ. You see, not only is the Messiah a King who will rule the nations. Not only is the Messiah a Priest forever, who is the mediator between God and man, a bridge builder. But He is also a Righteous Judge who will execute His judgment upon the earth prior to the setting up of His Kingdom. Thus, the Messiah is ***KING-PRIEST-JUDGE!***

PSALM 111

Here in Psalm 111 we see the Psalmist speak of the tender care that God gives to His people and how we should praise Him for that tenderness that He extends to us!

VERSE 1

1. Notice that the Psalmist speaks of his worship being wholehearted and not half-hearted or lackadaisical! That is so important, to praise God with our whole heart and not just praise Him half-heartedly. Jesus said to the Scribes and the Pharisees in Matthew 15:7-9 **“Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’”** It was an empty relationship, lots of motion but no real emotion. They may have been professors of God but not possessors of God! You see, God wants our hearts and not just empty lip service. If He has our heart, then what flows from our lips will please Him.

2. And notice that all this praise was going forth as they gathered together to worship the Lord! I wonder how many people miss out in what God is doing because they don't gather together as a body of believers, they let things get in the way and thus, it is half-hearted in their relationship with Him!

Listen to what took place at the dedication of Solomon's Temple in II Chronicles 5:2-14, **"Now Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the chief fathers of the children of Israel, in Jerusalem, that they might bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord up from the City of David, which is Zion. Therefore all the men of Israel assembled with the king at the feast, which was in the seventh month. So all the elders of Israel came, and the Levites took up the ark. Then they brought up the ark, the tabernacle of meeting, and all the holy furnishings that were in the tabernacle. The priests and the Levites brought them up. Also King Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel who were assembled with him before the ark, were sacrificing sheep and oxen that could not be counted or numbered for multitude. Then the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place, into the inner sanctuary of the temple, to the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim. For the cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles. The poles extended so that the ends of the poles of the ark could be seen from the holy place, in front of the inner sanctuary; but they could not be seen from outside. And they are there to this day. Nothing was in the ark except the two tablets which Moses put there at Horeb, when the Lord made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they had come out of Egypt. And it came to pass when the priests came out of the Most Holy Place (for all**

the priests who were present had sanctified themselves, without keeping to their divisions), and the Levites who were the singers, all those of Asaph and Heman and Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, stood at the east end of the altar, clothed in white linen, having cymbals, stringed instruments and harps, and with them one hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets - indeed it came to pass, when the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord, and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the Lord, saying: ‘For He is good, For His mercy endures forever,’ that the house, the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud, so that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.”

Think about that for a minute. Those who did not come, those who had other things to do besides worship the Lord, missed out in seeing the glory of the Lord. “Hey, wait a minute Pastor Joe. That doesn’t happen anymore!” Really, you mean when we gather together to worship God and study His Word that He does not speak to you, you don’t see His glory as worship and praise is going forth, as the Word of God is being taught! If that is true then there is something wrong because I believe, I know that when we gather together as a fellowship of believers that God is in our presence and He is speaking to us! So those that are not here miss out and if He is not speaking to you, you need to find out why!

VERSES 2-6

1. Now let's think about this for a minute. When an atheist sees a beautiful flower or a beautiful sunrise, or a beautiful animal or whatever, who does he thank? Does he say, "I praise you evolution for randomly putting all these things together and by chance happenings how wonderful they are?" I guess that is the best they can do but we can praise and thank our God for the beauty that He has created! God is so good there is truly no excuse not to praise Him and thank Him!

2. And as I read these verses I see that the way we can know God, the way He reveals Himself to us is through His Word. You see, truly a sign of someone that is in love with the Lord will be a hunger for His Word. Why? Because you want to learn more about Him, you want to draw close to Him, you want to see the things that He wants to show you. That is done as you fill yourself with His Word, asking the Holy Spirit to open it up to your life.

And God wants us to remember the things He has done in our life. He wants us to read His Word and see His faithfulness to all generations - His Word is a testimony of His faithfulness! How do we know God is faithful? We see what He has already done, it shows His faithfulness. You see, God has shown His people His faithfulness by bringing them into the land of Canaan, a land He promised to them as an inheritance. God has shown us His faithfulness by bringing us into the new life that is found only in Christ, that new birth, the land of Canaan you might say, which is a Spirit-filled life!

3. Now in verse 5 we see that God feeds those who fear Him, which seems kind of strange. Let me try to clarify that. That word “**fear**” in verse 5 could be translated “reverend.” Understand this, only God is reverend, not man. It makes me uncomfortable to call someone reverend or when I get mail that has that title before my name. It just shows that they don’t know me.

You see, by doing that we make ourselves out to be more than we ought to be. And it just gets worse. Some are reverend, some are the most reverend, the honorable most reverend and-so-on. It just gets ridiculous as we bring honor to ourselves. We are servants of God and should be bringing glory to His name and not ours!

VERSES 7-9

1. God’s works are truth and justice. His Word is sure, it will stand forever. As Isaiah 40:8 says, “**The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.**” Think about the things of this world; life, material things, flowers, grass and-so-on are all transient, they don’t last. But we are told that God’s Word will last forever, we don’t have to worry that it needs to be updated or changed to fit our changing culture or ideas. God’s Word is sure, it is truth and it will last and we won’t!

When God created the heavens and the earth it was very good. But then, when Adam sinned, when he disobeyed God in the garden, God had warned him that in eating that forbidden fruit “**dying you will surely die.**” You see, there was no death, no destruction until sin entered the world and then the second law of thermodynamics or the entropy law was put into play. In that law we see things decay, wind down, move towards disorder and die. But God and His Word will remain.

That should be a comfort to all of us as we see nations and leaders come and go, realizing that God is in control and has told us many of the things that are coming to pass. William Kelly sums it up like this, “As the end draws nearer we do greatly need simplicity to rest upon God’s Word. There may be difficulties to such as we are in, and the Word seems a weak thing to confide in for eternity, but in truth it is more stable than heaven or earth.” May we not forget that!

VERSE 10

1. Yes, we should praise God for the works that He has done and His tender mercy that He gives to us, but we need to also praise Him for the wisdom He has given to us through His Spirit and His Word! And thus, to fear the Lord means that we are so in love with Him that we do not want to do anything that would grieve Him. And so, if you want to be wise then have a reverential fear of the Lord. You need to not only respect Him but you need to obey His Word. If you want to be foolish, then disobey what He has said; follow the ways of the world. But understand this, only the ways of God are wise! One writer put it like this, “Obedience is the organ of spiritual knowledge.” It is not just in knowing the correct information; it is then applying that to your life, walking accordingly!

Let me just close with these words from the Psalmist, “**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever.**” Psalm 111:10. Amen to that!