

**PSALMS**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Psalm 135 as we continue our study through the Word of God. As you will see as we go through this Psalm, it opens up with **“Praise the LORD!”** and it ends with **“Praise the LORD!”** That means that the focus of this Psalm is praising the Lord or hallelujah! And we will see that this Psalm extols the greatness and faithfulness of God towards His people. With that said, let’s begin reading in Psalm 135, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word this evening.

**PSALM 135****VERSES 1-3**

1. This first call is for the priest to praise the Lord. They were the representatives of God before the people. Thus, as the people saw the reverence they had for God, it encouraged them to do the same. How true this should be in our own lives as we praise the Lord, not only in the words that we sing, but the lives that we live! There is a fragrance that should flow from our lives that is beautiful, something others should desire. And if you can’t think of anything else to praise the Lord for, then praise Him for His goodness!

2. What about when we are going through difficult times, how can we praise the Lord then? I know it is difficult and I am not saying we are to be like the stoics, emotionless. But we have a hope that the world does not have and that is the promise of God that He will see us through, He will work out all things for good. And people should see our faith walking as we go through difficult times, not that we don't hurt or feel pain over situations, but we know where our help comes from in these times and we rest in Him! Also, as you go through tough times put on a worship CD and focus back on the Lord, singing praises unto Him, and He will take that downcast soul of yours and lift it up, for God inhabits the praises of His people.

3. Whenever I start feeling sorry for myself and start sharing with people the troubles I am in, I think about Paul and Silas who were thrown into prison for their faith. You see they cast this demon out of a girl who was a slave and working for her master by telling people's fortunes. And she made a good profit for them but now that ability was gone and her masters were not happy with Paul and Silas, so they had them thrown into prison!

And they whipped Paul and Silas, put their feet in stocks, securely locked them in this dungeon, this cold and dark place and you would think that Paul and Silas would be complaining about all that has happened to them. It was unfair to say the least. What would you do if you were treated like this for sharing your faith, for delivering a person from the bondage they were in?

Listen carefully to what Paul and Silas did as we read in Acts 16:25. **“But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.”** They were praising the Lord and in the midst of all this, God delivered them from this bondage they were in. He not only delivered them, but the jailer, his household, and I believe the other prisoners that were in jail with Paul also got saved. Never forget that worship not only helps us get re-focused on the Lord, it is a witness also to others of God’s goodness, and it is a sweet smelling sacrifice unto the Lord.

#### VERSE 4

1. Notice that God has chosen Israel to be His special treasure and not because they were such a good deal, not because they were worth it. He chose them because that is what He desired to do. In Deuteronomy 7:6-8a we are told, **“For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the Lord loves you . . .”**

There was nothing special about the Jewish people except that God has chosen them to be His representatives in this world. Now please understand this because sometimes we miss what the Lord has done in our lives. Peter tells us in I Peter 2:9-10, **“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”**

Don't make the mistake that God has chosen us because we are so special, that we are some kind of valuable treasure. To save us, to redeem us back to God Jesus went to the cross for us and it shows how depraved we were, how stiff-necked we were as we rebelled against God. But God's love was so strong, His grace and mercy so rich that a people that did not deserve it, you and me, have been given everlasting life through Jesus Christ!

That should cause us to praise Him for His unconditional love that He extends towards us, His sacrificial love that was given for us! We are God's treasure because He has chosen us to be His treasure and that is something that is open to anyone who will come to Jesus and receive Him as Lord and Savior of their lives!

#### VERSES 5-6

1. The world is filled with gods, little "g". India alone has some 330 million gods, plus or minus a few. And just listen to what this one devote to Hinduism has to say about his faith and the gods he worships.

Specifically, I want to explain that at it deepest level Hinduism is not so different from Christianity, Islam, or Judaism in its realization of the inexplicable Oneness of the Universe. In many ways I consider Hinduism to be the superior religion because it[s] breadth is so vast, it can accommodate all other religions inside it.

Sri Ramakrishna has said that there can be as many spiritual paths as there are spiritual aspirants, and that, similarly, there can be as many gods as there devotees to suit the said devotees' various moods, feelings and social backgrounds. I think this explains the bewildering variety of gods in the Hindu pantheon. All of the millions of Hindu gods are manifestations of the Supreme Being which can never manifest directly.

New Agers are fond of saying that every living creature is a Spirit-Spark of the Great Central God. Hindu's realized this a long time ago. Perhaps once, a long time ago, the many gods of India were humans who became enlightened and evolved to a higher level of being. This was in fact a spiritual realization I had one afternoon in the year 2001 in the Himalaya Mountains - that we are all gods in the making, and that once we climb high enough we will move on to the god plane and become the object of worship for other sentient beings. It could take millions of lifetimes to reach that spiritual height. But it is the destiny of all of us, to become gods and let our wisdom shine upon the world!

- <http://www.crowdedworld.com/india/hindugods.html>

How wrong this man is in what he is saying and how wrong are the millions of people that worship a god who comes from the imaginations of their own heart! There is only one true and living God, capital “G”. It is as Isaiah 44:6-8 says, **“Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God. And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, Since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, Let them show these to them. Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.’”**

There is only One God and He does as He pleases because He is God, He is good and we do not have to fear what He is going to do if we are a child of His. What the Psalmist is speaking of here is the sovereignty of God. And that just makes sense then, He does whatever He pleases.

Now can you imagine the fear we would have if God was some unjust dictator? It would be horrible. But, of course, He is not. He is a holy and righteous God that loves us more than we will ever know. We also must understand that we might not be able to figure out why things are happening in our life, but we can fall upon what we do know, His love for us.

Job spent some 35 chapters trying to figure out why all this was happening to him, and in the end he still did not know. What God told him was to trust in Him, that He was all that Job needed. You see, He has created everything, He knows everything and we were not there when He created all these things nor do we know everything. We can save ourselves much pain, much anxiety if we rest in the character of God, knowing who He is and how much He loves us. And no matter what we may think, it is as Psalm 115:3 says, what the Psalmist is saying here, “**But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.**” And we can rest in that if we know Him and trust Him!

#### VERSES 7-14

1. Notice what the Psalmist is doing here. He is showing us God’s power over nature, God’s power in battle or warfare, and God’s power in His judgment and it shows that He is God; nothing can stop His will from being carried out! God, who controls everything, also controls nature, the wind and rain and-so-on.
  
2. To illustrate this we see the Psalmist share what God has done with His special treasure, the Jewish people. He tells us how God delivered them from their bondage in Egypt and brought them into the Promise Land. He did signs and wonders in Egypt, He defeated Kings and nations and the promise that He made to Abraham in Genesis chapter 12 came to pass just as He said it would. Why is that? Because “**. . . our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.**” Thus, we need to trust in Him and walk by faith because our God cares for us and loves us more than we will ever know.

3. And think about it, who else are you going to trust? Who else will deliver you? Well, the Psalmist is going to expand on that in the next few verses.

### VERSES 15-18

1. Now this should just make sense to us. Man makes, he creates the idols that he worships. And, in contrast to the true and living God, these idols can't hear, they can't speak, they can't move, they can't see! Thus, if you reject the true and living God, then what you worship will be a reflection of what is in your heart! And that is not a good thing! And we tend to become like the idols we worship!

What do I mean by that? Simply this, if you have rejected the true and living God, then you can't see the things of God because you are spiritually blind. If you have rejected the true and living God, then you can't hear the things of God because you are spiritually deaf. And because they don't have the Spirit of God living in their lives they are spiritually dead!

You see, those who love the Lord will reflect His character. Those who reject God, and serve idols, whatever they may be, will reflect that which they worship. If you don't understand what I mean, just go and watch the people that go to a rock concert or follow movie stars or sports teams and how they dress and act like them. It is scary but they look like the people they are going to worship and many times their behavior is a mirror image of these people!

2. Now let's put this into perspective for us. Because you will become like the god you worship, it is a good idea to worship the true and living God. And that should cause us to bless His name, to praise Him and we will see that in the closing verses of this Psalm!

### VERSES 19-21

1. The Psalmist is calling for all of Israel, the priestly line of Aaron, the Levites, and all those who truly love and fear the Lord to praise Him for His goodness that He extends to us. And one day, the Messiah, Jesus Christ will rule and reign from Jerusalem and we will make our pilgrimage to the holy city singing praises to the King of kings and Lord of lords.

2. Why do we worship the Lord? Yes, He is worthy of our praises. But make no mistake about it, if you worship Him you begin to take on His characteristics, His nature! **“Praise the LORD!”** What or who do you look like? May it be the Lord!

### PSALM 136

Psalm 136 is another Psalm of praise unto God and this Psalm was sung in alternation. That is, for example, the High Priest would start out singing, **“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!”** And the people would respond back, **“For His mercy endures forever.”** This Psalm was a regular part of the observance of Passover and the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah. And it was also used in their daily worship.

We will see this word “**mercy**” repeated over and over again and the Hebrew word for “**mercy**” used here is CHECED, (kheh’-sed) and it can also be translated “**lovingkindness.**”

And this really is a difficult concept to define in a single word. In a sense, it speaks of not getting something that we deserve. You see, we deserve death, and God has given us life through His Son, Jesus Christ. And this mercy or lovingkindness is central to God’s character. You see, God’s mercy is everlasting, His lovingkindness never ends. As the Lord said in Isaiah 54:7-8 “**For a mere moment I have forsaken you, But with great mercies I will gather you. With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; But with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you,’ Says the LORD, your Redeemer.**” So let’s read through this Psalm and see what the Lord has for us as we focus on the steadfast love of the Lord that needs to be constantly before us because it is something that will never fail!

### VERSES 1-3

1. Here we see the Psalmist thanking God for who He is. He is great, He is good, there is no one or nothing that can compare with Him.

VERSES 4-9

1. Here the Psalmist is thanking God for His creative works. Why is there mercy in that? Because He created the heavens and the earth, and all that is in it, including man, knowing that man would rebel against Him and that rebellion would cause the fellowship between God and man to be broken. The sin of man brought the entire creation into sin! And yet, knowing that He would have to make Himself a sacrifice for our sins so that fellowship could be restored, He still created us. In Revelation 13:8 we are told that Jesus is “**... the lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**”

And did you ever think about how much we can observe in regards to all that God has created? Only a small fraction! Look at the universe, how far does it extend? How many stars are out there? How many planets are out there? How many galaxies are out there? Look at the depths of the oceans, what life lives down there? There is so much that God has created and He created it with beauty and color for Him to enjoy! And we get to enjoy what He has created even though sin has distorted it; we still get a glimpse of what it was like!

VERSES 10-26

1. We see here the Psalmist looking back over their history and thanking God for the blessings He has poured out on His people, the children of Israel. He brought them out of their bondage in Egypt, through the Red Sea, destroyed Pharaoh's army, saw them through the wilderness, destroyed nations and Kings, and brought them into the Promised Land. And even when they did not deserve it, He still poured out His mercy upon them.

2. You may read this and think this is very repetitious and it may be but don't lose sight of what the Psalmist is trying to get across to you about God, that "**His mercy endures forever!**"

May we not forget that truth, especially during difficult times in our lives! Times when we feel we don't deserve God's mercy. You see, that is the whole point, we don't deserve it and yet God extends His mercy to us because He loves us that much. Let me share a few verses with you to show you how much God loves you.

First of all, Paul tells us in Ephesians 2:4-10 that God extends His mercy to us in our salvation. He wrote, "**But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**"

Also, Peter tells us this same thing in I Peter 1:3-9, **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 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, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith - the salvation of your souls.”**

I think it is important for us to remember, to focus upon what God has done for us, the great mercy He has extended to us because that will cause us to give thanks to Him more and more!

### **PSALM 137**

Remember as we were going through Psalm 126, we saw the joy the children of Israel as they were freed from their captivity and made the 900 mile pilgrimage back to Jerusalem. And as they saw the mountains surrounding Jerusalem it was like a dream to them. They just could not believe that they were home once again in the land that God had given them.

They sang out, **“Then our mouth was filled with laughter, And our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, ‘The LORD has done great things for them.’ The LORD has done great things for us, And we are glad.”** Psalm 126:2-3.

You can imagine the joy that was in their hearts and then flowed out through their lips with songs of praise and thanksgiving unto God for bringing them home!

And now, as we come to Psalm 137, it gives us the perspective of what the Jews felt as they were being carried away into captivity in Babylon because of their sin. Keep in mind that in 606 B. C. King Nebuchadnezzar and his army took some captives in the Southern Kingdom of Judah with him back to Babylon. Then, by 586 B. C., after years of rebellion by the various puppet Kings he placed in office in Jerusalem, he finally had enough and came and leveled the city and the Temple, taking the remaining Jews captive to Babylon with him. The only Jews he left were those that were sick and old, that were of no use to him and could cause no further trouble. And so this Psalm was written out of a broken heart, a heart that was devastated by the circumstances the nation found themselves in because of their sin. And it is a cry that they will not forget Jerusalem!

Now I want to share with you one more point and it has to do with this idea of not forgetting Jerusalem, something that we will see when we get to verse 5. We are told that,

In April, 1948, the Jewish sector of Jerusalem was practically in a state of siege. Food supplies were almost exhausted. The people were existing on a weekly ration of two ounces of margarine, a quarter of a pound of potatoes and a quarter of a pound of dried meat.

Then the news spread that a convoy of trucks was arriving from Tel Aviv with supplies. Hundreds of people ran out to welcome the dozens of trucks. They will never forget the first sight they had of the convoy. On the front bumper of the blue Ford leading the procession, someone had painted the words:

If I forget you, O Jerusalem. . .

And so these words of Psalm 137:5 have become a rallying cry for the Jewish people down through their tumultuous history of captivity and dispersion.

- William MacDonald, Believer's Bible Commentary, p. 765

So with that in mind, let's begin reading in verse 1 of Psalm 137 and see what the Lord has for us.

### VERSES 1-3

1. I doubt if any of us can even imagine what the Jewish people were going through at this time. Here they are, some 900 miles from home, in captivity. And some feel that the Jews were digging the canals off the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers and it was these canals that threaded through Babylon to irrigate the land. And they are weeping by these rivers or canals as they remembered Jerusalem, their homeland! And the reason they were weeping was because they realized the only reason they were in captivity was because of their sin, their turning from God. And they were broken over this.

Jeremiah, writing of this time, said in Lamentations 1:8-9, **“Jerusalem has sinned gravely, Therefore she has become vile. All who honored her despise her Because they have seen her nakedness; Yes, she sighs and turns away. Her uncleanness is in her skirts; She did not consider her destiny; Therefore her collapse was awesome; She had no comforter. ‘O LORD, behold my affliction, For the enemy is exalted!’”**

2. The Jews were known for singing and the Babylonians wanted to be entertained, they wanted them to sing. In fact, as their captors carried them away, they **“required”** or literally **“demanded”** that the Jews sing them a song. But they could not sing. That joy was gone as they found themselves in captivity for their sin!

3. Today we have rules of war that you are to follow in battle, back then; no rules, everything and anything went. And I think sometimes we miss the brutality that went on when the Jews were taken into captivity! Listen to what we are told in Psalm 79:1-4 of this time. We read, **“O God, the nations have come into Your inheritance; Your holy temple they have defiled; They have laid Jerusalem in heaps. The dead bodies of Your servants They have given as food for the birds of the heavens, The flesh of Your saints to the beasts of the earth. Their blood they have shed like water all around Jerusalem, And there was no one to bury them. We have become a reproach to our neighbors, A scorn and derision to those who are around us.”** Thus, as you see what they went through, where they are at, how can you expect them to sing? And they were not going to sing in this land of captivity that they were in!

VERSES 4-6

1. They could not sing a song of joy, of rejoicing as they were in captivity in Babylon. They did not want to become comfortable living in a foreign land. And thus, the Psalmist is vowing never to forget Jerusalem and if he ever did, that God would bring judgment upon him. Even today there is something special about this city that God has placed His name upon. The Orthodox Jews believe if you are living anywhere in Israel besides Jerusalem, then you are like a Gentile.

VERSE 7

1. Now this might seem a little strange that we are talking about the Edomites here but they were part of all of this. Keep in mind that Edom was their perennial enemy you might say. And thus, as the Babylonians attacked from the north and the east, and while they were plundering Jerusalem, the Edomites came up from the south to join in the fun. And when they saw the destruction, the brutality against the Jews by the Babylonians, they cried out “**... ‘Raze it, raze it, To its very foundation!’**”

In other words they were calling for the city and its people to be destroyed, make it bare, wipe them out. And as the Psalmist remembers all this, he remembers what the Edomites had done to them, he is crying out to God to give the Edomites their just reward for their actions. It is a cry for justice to be done.

2. Now think about how hard this was. The Edomites were not strangers, they were family! Esau, who was the father of the Edomites, was also the brother of Jacob. It is always sad when families fight and refuse to come to the aid of another. In fact they look for the other to fall and when they do they rejoice. That should not be!

#### VERSES 8-9

1. Make no mistake about it, warfare is horrible and to think you can have a war without the innocent being affected just shows that you are a fool. Not only were the pregnant Jewish women killed, but their baby's were cut out of their wombs and smashed against the rocks. And the Psalmist is calling for Babylon to have done upon them what they did to the Jews. It is called the law of retribution. Paul puts it this way in Galatians 6:7 when he said, "**Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.**"

Also, we see this played out for us in Isaiah 13:16 as God says this about what will happen to Babylon, "**Their children also will be dashed to pieces before their eyes; Their houses will be plundered And their wives ravished.**" And, as Cyrus the Great, leader of the Medo-Persian Empire came into power, he had his general do to the Babylonians what they did to the Jews. God is not mocked, the Babylonians were God's instrument of judgment upon the Jews but they went too far with their brutality, and God paid them back.

2. Think about this for a minute, the reason that the Jews were in captivity in the first place. It was because of their sin and sin had taken the joy out of the hearts of God's people and sin will take the joy out of our hearts also! Yes, they thought it would bring them great joy but it brought them into captivity! Jon Courson put it like this,

Like the Babylonians, there are those who would seek to make us captives and destroy the city of our soul. They are demonic entities and spirits who seek to keep us in bondage and to turn our singing into sighing (Ephesians 6:12). Once you understand this, like the psalmist, you'll develop a hatred for demonic spirits and the enemy that seeks to destroy people, relationships, health, and every area of life. And, like the psalmist, you'll wage war in prayer against these demons.

The glamorization of sin is absolutely appalling to me. Television and the movies make it seem so tantalizing, so exciting. But they don't show the flip side: the sorrow, tragedy, disease, and heartbreak. I hope the understanding of this will move you to wage war through prayer and to dash the heads of those demons against the Rock of ages, the living stone of Jesus Christ.

- Jon Courson, Jon Courson's Application Commentary, Volume 2, pp. 161-162

I think that is a good application to what we have read here. Don't let sin take you captive! Draw close to the Lord and He will draw close to you. Don't open the door to the enemy, but shut it tight or you will find yourself captive to sin!

**PSALM 138**

Here in Psalm 138 we see David sing praises unto the Lord for His goodness in answering prayer. Now some have a hard time believing that David wrote this Psalm because in verse 2 it speaks of the Temple. Keep in mind that David could have been speaking of the Tabernacle which was in existence during his day and the Temple was built in Solomon's day. And as we read through this may we learn to have a heart of praise unto God for all the prayers that He has answered in our lives!

**VERSE 1**

1. Here in verse 1 we see David make two very important points. First of all he is going to praise God with his whole heart. What does that really mean? I think David is saying that he is not going to allow anything to distract him from his worship of God. We all love the Lord but I think what happens many times is that we get caught up with the things of this world, this life, that causes us to worship God half-heartedly. We allow things to get in the way of our worship of God. We need to place God first in our life and get our priorities right. And when we do our life will tend to be smoother than just serving the Lord half-heartedly!

Think about how passionately we can worship a football team, or any sports team for that matter. We can quote the stats of these players and yet, when it comes to quoting a Bible verse we have, “Jesus wept!” Yes, maybe He is weeping because we are not passionate about our worship of Him, about praising Him. And the more you know Him the more you will praise Him and maybe that is the problem. Many today don’t know God because they have not read His Word!

2. The second point that David made is interesting and for some, confusing. Keep in mind that the pagan nations around him worshiped many gods but for David, He worshiped the true and living God! Now when it says “**Before the gods I will sing praises to You**” what does that mean? Some feel it is speaking of angelic beings, which is possible, but I don’t think so. The gods mentioned here could refer to judges, for in Psalm 82:6 and Exodus 21:6, judges are referred to as gods, having been given the power of life and death. I tend to lean in that direction. And David is saying that I will worship the true and living God before these judges, I am not going to hide my devotion, my worship of the living God. May we feel the same way! That we worship Him wholeheartedly and that we are not afraid to worship Him before others!

VERSE 2

1. I wish more pastors, Bible teachers; more people would read this and understand what is being said in this verse. This is a very important statement considering the days we are living in. Many today teach and believe that the Word of God is dry, that we need a “new thing” to bring back spiritual revival, that the Word of God is not enough for our complex lives.

And yet David is saying that God places His Word above His name. What that means is this. God’s name speaks of His character, the sum-total of all that He is. You see, you can tell a persons character by how faithful they are to their word. In other words, God’s Word is as good as He is. There is an old saying that a man is as good as his word. Well, God is as good as His Word. His character is behind what He has said.

Thus, God shows us by doing what He says. Let us never place the Word of God second to anything, for it is the Word of God that leads us to the giver of life, Jesus Christ. It strengthens us, gives us hope, it corrects us, and-so-on. It is as Paul tells Timothy, **“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”** II Timothy 3:16-17.

2. I think we have lost the reverence of God, the holiness of God today. We tend to treat Him as one of the boys. In fact, a year or so back Christianity Today had a front page cover of “Hipster Jesus” with sunglasses and a cane.

To the Jews, the name of God was not even spoken by them, that is how much they held Him in reverence! When they wrote the name of God they would leave out the vowels and write YHWH. And when they would read the name of God they would not even pronounce it for they felt their lips were too unclean to even speak forth God’s name. Thus, they would say, “the name” when they came to God’s name. May we humble ourselves before Him, for He is holy, He is God and He needs to be worshiped accordingly!

### VERSE 3

1. Here we see the reason for David’s praise unto God. In a day of desperate need, great difficulty, he cried out to God and God answered his prayer immediately. And that strengthened David as answered prayer will strengthen our faith also. We also need to remember that God will strengthen us through His Word and give us boldness to proclaim His Words. Remember what Paul said in Romans 10:17, “**So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**”

Now some of you may be thinking, “Hey Pastor Joe, I thought you said that answered prayer strengthens our faith. Now you are saying it is God’s Word. Which is it?” The reality is, it is both. You see, as we read God’s Word, as we see the promises of God in His Word, as we rest in those promises and see the answer to our prayer through God’s Word, our faith is strengthened! Like David, it will make us bold in the faith because we are resting in Him!

#### VERSES 4-5

1. I find this interesting because David is saying that the Kings of the earth will praise the Lord when they hear the Words of His mouth! In other words, saving faith comes as God’s Word is spoken, as the Gospel message is presented. Paul said, “**For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.**” Romans 1:16.

And notice this passion that David had, that other Kings would know the Lord, would worship the Lord. Is that our prayer for our family? Is that our prayer for our neighbors? Is that our prayer for the people we work with? Is that our prayer for the leaders of our state and nation? May we have that kind of passion for people, to see them come and know the Lord and thus, we must share our faith, speak forth the Word of God, bring them the Gospel message for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes!

VERSE 6

1. Here is the correct perspective we are to have; it is the right picture that we need to see. It is the Lord alone who is lifted up. We are not to lift ourselves up, that is a very dangerous thing to do. We must humble ourselves before Him, and when we do He reaches down to you and me and pulls us out of the mire we are in. James 4:10 tells us, **“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”**

His arm is extended to all, but not all will reach out to Him to be rescued from death and destruction. But before we reach out we must realize that we can't get out on our own, and as we cry out to Him, He will rescue us. You see, greatness is not how tall a man stands, but how low he can stoop. God reached down the farthest to rescue us, and as He is our example we should reach out to others and share Christ with them.

2. The proud don't see a problem with their lives, they think they can do whatever they want and there are no consequences to their actions. They, in a sense, are their own god and that is totally wrong. Thus, the proud are in trouble because God will bring them down. Proverbs 16:18 says, **“Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.”**

VERSES 7-8

1. Do you see the confidence that David has, not in himself, but in the faithfulness of God! How did that happen? As he sought the Lord, as he prayed to the Lord, as he read God's Word and saw God answer those prayers according to His Word, it strengthened his faith. Nothing was going to stop him now because he was resting in the Lord. What a great lesson for us to learn and apply to our lives!

2. And I don't know about you, but for me, this gives to me great comfort. You see, I know that God won't give up on me. He will complete the work He started on me and on you. Remember what Paul said in Philippians 1:6, "**being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.**" He continues to mold and shape us into the men and women He wants us to be.

We are told in Jeremiah 1:10, "**See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, To root out and to pull down, To destroy and to throw down, To build and to plant.**" You see, before there can be building and planting there must be a tearing down and a breaking up of the hard ground. Yes, at times it is painful as God tears down that garbage in our life and breaks up the fallow ground of our hearts, but before He can build, before He can plant, these things must occur in our life. And don't fear, God is in control, and He knows what He is doing. Remember what we learned this evening, ***HIS MERCY ENDURES FOREVERMORE!*** May we never forget that and praise the Lord with our whole heart!