

PSALM 74

AN APPEAL TO GOD FOR ACTION AGAINST HIS ENEMIES

INTRODUCTORY NOTE: The Cambridge Bible concludes that this Psalm was written "...some fifteen or twenty years after the destruction of Jerusalem, about the same time as the Lamentations."

In these verses we have--

I. QUESTION

1

The Psalmist poses a question to God:

1. Why dost thou cast ^{us} off for ever?
2. Why are you angry with your sheep?

II. PLEA

2,3

The Psalmist makes an appeal to God:

1. Remember--

(1) Thy congregation

A. Which thou hast gotten of old;

B. Which thou has redeemed;

(2) Mount Zion;

2. Direct thy steps to the ruins produced by the enemies.

III. FOES

4-8

The Psalmist describes the foes:

1. They have roared in the temple;
2. They have set up their own banners;
3. They have chopped up the wood work with axes, with hatchets, and with hammers;
4. They have set the sanctuary on fire;
5. They have desecrated the temple;
6. They seek to subdue God's people;
7. They have burned the meeting places of God.

IV. QUESTION

9-11

The Psalmist asks God a question:

1. We do not see our signs;
2. There is no prophet;
3. No one knows how long this will continue;

4. How long--

(1) Is the foe to be allowed to scoff?

(2) Is the enemy to revile thy name?

5. Why--

(1) Dost thou hold back thy hand?

(2) Dost thou keep thy right hand in thy bosom?

V. REMEMBRANCE
12-17

The Psalmist recalls previous actions of God:

1. He is my King from of old;
2. He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth;
3. He divided the Red Sea;
4. He destroyed Pharaoh and his army;
5. He gave water from the rock;
6. He dried up the Jordan;
7. He owns day and night;
8. He established the sun, the moon, and the stars,
9. He fixed the bounds of the earth;
10. He made summer and winter.

VI. PLEA
18-23

The Psalmist pleads fervently that God will again act in behalf of His people:

1. Remember--

(1) How the enemy scoffs;

(2) How the impious people revile thy name;

2. Do not--

(1) Deliver thy people to the wild beasts;

(2) Forget thy power;

3. Have regard for thy covenant (the land is full of opposition);

4. Let not the downtrodden be put to shame;
5. Let the poor and needy praise thy name;
6. Remember the scoffers;
7. Don't forget the continual opposition.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: Let us learn to wait on God--being fully assured that God, in His own time and in His own way, will work out His will.

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. A MATTER OF WHEN.

It should be observed that the Psalmist never questioned God's power to act, or that He would act. His repeated question was: When? How long must we wait? Human beings often get in a hurry when God is not in a hurry. We need to learn patience--to wait on God. We need to recognize the fact ^{that} God's patience is intended to give men time and opportunity to repent (Rom. 2:4). The persecuted saints "underneath the alter" cried with a great voice, saying, "How Long O Master, the holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" (Rev. 6:9,10). God, in His own time and in His own way, took them from under the altar and placed them upon thrones (Rev. 20:4).

II. GOD:

1. May seem to have cast off His people when He has not done so;
2. Sometimes shows His anger;
3. Dwells in Zion (which in New Testament times is the church of our Lord);
4. Allows enemies to scoff;
5. Holds back the exercise of His power;
6. Is "my King";
7. Is eternal;

II. Continued.

- 8. Works salvation in the earth;
- 9. Often demonstrates His power;
- 10. Provides for His own;
- 11. Is the creator and sustainer of the universe;
- 12. Is the author of the seasons;
- 13. Remembers His covenant (and all His promises);
- 14. Is mindful of the poor and needy.

III. ENEMIES OF GOD:

- 1. Oppose the places of worship;
- 2. Seek to destroy the holy place;
- 3. Remove God's signs and set up their own;
- 4. Scoff at God and revile His name.

II. ROARING IN THE HOLY PLACE:

- 1. The Psalmist stresses that--
 - (1) The enemies have roared in the Holy Place;
 - (2) They have removed God's signs (v.9) and have set up their own (v.4);
 - (3) They have sought to destroy the sanctuary;
 - (4) They do not like the situation as God established it;
 - (5) There was no prophet (to oppose the enemies, and to set forth God's truth);
 - (6) The uproar of the adversaries went up continually.
- 2. Likewise, in our day there is tremendous roaring in the Holy Place;
 - (1) The enemies are many and the roaring is loud;
 - (2) They are determined to "restructure" the church;
 - (3) They don't like things as God gave them;
 - (4) They have sought to remove God's signs and (in many cases) have set up their own;

IV. 2. (Continued).

(5) There are too few men of God who are speaking out against those who roar in the Holy Place, but there are some--and we will continue the battle in the Master's Name.

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. Remember Mount Zion--the preparation for it, its origin, its nature, its identity, its blessings, its responsibilities, its mission.
2. It is right to pray for God's vengeance upon His enemies.
3. There are many hatchets and hammers (worldliness, anti-ism, liberalism, false doctrines, false philosophies) with wich men are seeking to destroy the church.
4. The forces of evil can hurt the church, and may even succeed in temporarily defeating the church (Cf. Daniel 7:21), but they can never destroy the church (Cf. Mt. 16:18; Heb. 12:28).
5. Let us be careful to keep "God's Signs" in good condition and properly posted. God has given the "signs" to direct us as we travel the narrow way.
6. The fact that God may "hold back His hand" does not mean that He will not deal with the situation.
7. There were problems throughout the history of Old Testament Israel. There were problems in the early church, and there are problems in the church now. Paul says, "For there must be also factions among you, that they that are approved may be made manifest among you" (I Cor. 11:19).

THE JOY OF CONFIDENT FAITH

INTRODUCTORY NOTE: Second Kings 19 discusses God's defeat of Sennacherib, king of Assyria. From earliest times this Psalm has been connected with that defeat of Sennacherib.

In these verses we have--

I. PRAISE: The Psalmist expresses praise to God:
1

1. We give thanks to thee;
2. We call on thy name;
3. We recount thy wondrous deeds.

II. RESPONSE God Himself responds, promising righteous judgment:
2,3

1. At the set time I will judge;
2. I will judge with equity;
3. It is I who keep steady the pillars of the earth.

III. ADMONITION The Psalmist admonishes the wicked:
4-8

1. Do not--
 (1) Boast;
 (2) Lift up your horn;
 (3) Be haughty in speech;
2. For--
 (1) Support comes not from human alliances;
 (2) But from God, who lifts up and puts down;
3. God is ready to pour out upon the wicked the wine
 of His wrath.

IV. JOY The Psalmist speaks of the joy of his confident faith:
9,10

1. I will rejoice for ever;
2. I will sing praises to God;
3. The power of the wicked will be cut off;
4. The power of the righteous will be exalted.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: Even in times of exceeding great wickedness in the world we recognize that God will judge with equity, and that only the righteous will be victorious in judgment.

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD:--the one--

1. To whom we give thanks;
2. Whose name we call upon;
3. Whose wondrous deeds we recount;
4. Who judges the world--
 - (1) He judges at the right time;
 - (2) He judges with equity;
5. Who keeps steady the pillars of the earth;
6. Who appoints and removes kings;
7. Who punishes when punishment is deserved or required;
8. Who is to be praised;
9. In whom we are to have confidence;
10. Who gives victory to the righteous.

II. WHEN GOD POURS OUT HIS WRATH:

1. It is done at the right time;
 2. It is done with equity;
 3. It is upon the wicked (because of their wickedness);
 4. It is done in behalf of the righteous;
 5. The power of the wicked is destroyed;
 6. The righteous are made strong;
 7. The righteous rejoice.
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GENERAL LESSONS:

1. At all times, in all places, and in all circumstances we must be thankful, and we must remember to express our thanks to God. Cf. Phil. 4:6.
2. We call on the name of God by doing what He says for us to do.
3. When we take time to recount God's wondrous deeds our hearts are filled with gratitude.
4. Whatever ^{God} Gd does He does at the right time (Cf. Gal. 4:4).
5. God warns the wicked (persons and nations): Do not boast of your power; do not speak with insolence.
6. Real protection is not found in human alliances, but in God. Cf. Ps. 127:1.
7. Paul says: "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men" (2 Cor. 5:11).
8. The book of REVELATION is a tremendous commentary on how God poured out His wrath upon the proud, powerful, persecuting Roman Empire. All the powers of Rome, agent of Satan, could not destroy the church of our Lord!
9. Likewise, Matthew 24:1-35 is a tremendous description of God's wrath ^{which} with he was to pour out (and which He did pour out) upon the wicked Jewish nation, in 70 a.d., using Titus and the Roman army.
10. Regardless of the nature of the problem or the magnitude of it, the Christian says: I will rejoice; I will sing praises to God.
11. In careful remembrance of what God has done, and in confident joy with regard to what He is doing and will do--Let us Sing!

PSALM 76

LET ALL MEN PRAISE GOD
(The God of Victory)

In these verses we have--

I. HIS FAME
1-3

The Psalmist discusses the fame of God:

1. He is known in Judah;
2. His name is great in Israel;
3. He has established His abode in Jerusalem;
4. His dwelling place is in Zion;
5. There--in Zion--He broke the flashing arrows, the shield, the sword, and the weapons of war.

II. HIS GLORY
4-6

The Psalmist speaks of the glory of God:

1. Glorious art thou!
2. More majestic than the everlasting mountains;
3. The stouthearted were stripped of their spoil;
4. The stouthearted sank into sleep and were paralyzed;
5. The horse and the rider were stunned.

III. HIS TERROR
7-9

The Psalmist speaks of the terror of God:

1. Thou, terrible art thou!
2. No one can stand before thine anger;
3. From the heavens thou didst utter judgment; the earth feared and was still;
4. Thou didst arise to establish judgment: to save all the oppressed of the earth.

IV. HIS PRAISE
10

The Psalmist speaks of praise to God:

1. Surely the wrath of men shall praise thee;
2. The residue of wrath thou wilt gird upon thee.

V. HIS RIGHT
11,12

The Psalmist stresses the right which belongs to God:

1. Make your vows to the Lord your God;
2. Perform your vows to the Lord;
3. Let all around him bring gifts;
4. Bring gifts to Him--
 - (1) Who is to be feared;
 - (2) Who cuts off the spirit of princes;
 - (3) Who is terrible to the kings of the earth.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: Let all men praise, honor, respect, and worship God.

If God is for us, who can be against us?

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD:

1. Is known in Judah;
2. His name is great in Israel;
3. He established His abode in Jerusalem;
4. He set up His dwelling place on Zion;
5. He defeated His enemies;
6. He is glorious and majestic;
7. He is terrible (awesome);
8. When His anger is roused, no man can stand before Him;
9. His justice is to be respected;
10. Demands the faithfulness of men;
11. Rules in the affairs of nations.

II. GOD DEMONSTRATED HIS POWER:

1. When He drove out the Canaanites and established His dwelling in Zion;
2. When He destroyed horse and rider (Pharaoh and his army) at the Red Sea;
3. In the thousands of instances in which He poured out His wrath (demanded by His justice) upon the wicked;
4. In dealing with the kings of the earth.

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. Like Old Testament Israel, we have the obligation and the sacred privilege of respecting the name of God, and all for which the name stands.
2. God now dwells in His church (the New Testament church) which is the anti-type of Old Testament Zion. Paul says: ". . . but ye are come unto Mount Zion" (Heb. 12:22).
3. A keynote in Psalm 75 is "faith." A keynote in Psalm 76 is "victory." Faith is the victory that overcomes the world (I Jno. 5:4).
4. God is mightily concerned about judgment in the earth, and often renders His judgment when men do not practice justice.
5. There is a sense in which even the wrath of men praises God. When men hate God, and fight against Him, they are emphasizing that for which God stands.
6. In every way, let us be careful to manifest our faithfulness to God and to His will.
7. Paul says (the King James reading): "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men . . . " (2 Cor. 5:11).

PSALM 77

GOD'S PROVIDENTIAL GUIDANCE OF HIS PEOPLE

In these verses we have--

I. DISTRESS

1-6

The Psalmist explains that under distress he could find no comfort--not even in prayer:

1. I cry aloud to God;
2. In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord;
3. In the night I stretch out my hand without wearying;
4. My soul refuses to be comforted;
5. I think about God, and I moan;
6. I meditate, but my spirit faints and I cannot sleep;
7. I am so troubled that I cannot speak;
8. I consider the past--I remember the years long ago;
9. I commune with my heart in the night;
10. I meditate and search my spirit--but I find no comfort.

II. QUESTION

7-10

The Psalmist asks whether or not God would cast off His people:

1. Will the Lord spurn for ever?
2. Will He never be favorable again?
3. Has His steadfast love ceased for ever?
4. Are His promises at an end for all time?
5. Has God forgotten to be gracious?
6. Has His anger destroyed His compassion?
7. I say: "It is my grief that the right hand of the Most High has changed."

III. REMEMBRANCES 11-15

The Psalmist calls to remembrance the former deeds and actions of God in behalf of His people:

1. I will call to mind, meditate upon, remember, and muse upon--the mighty deeds of God;
2. Thy way is holy;
3. There is none like thee;
4. Thou dost work wonders;
5. Thou hast manifested thy might among thy peoples;
6. Thou didst with thy arm redeem thy people (the sons of Jacob and Joseph).

IV. POWER 16-19

The Psalmist stresses God's power, shown in behalf of His people:

1. When the waters saw thee, they were afraid; the deep trembled;
2. There was rain, thunder, and lightnings;
3. The crash of thy thunder was in the whirlwind;
4. Thy lightnings lighted up the world;
5. The earth trembled and shook;
6. Thy way was through the sea--through the great waters--yet, thy footprints were not seen.

V. CONCLUSION 20

The Psalmist emphasizes that God, by the hand of Moses and Aaron, did lead His people:

1. Thou didst lead thy people like a flock;
2. Thou didst lead by the hand of Moses and Aaron.
3. Lesson to be learned: Thou wilt continue to lead thy people!

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: Even in times of distress and in times when we cannot understand, we must keep in mind the fact that it is God who, in His power and providence, leads us. He has led us in the past; He leads us in the present; He will keep on leading us. "Lead me gently home, Father."

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD:

1. To Him we cry;
2. We seek Him;
3. He is the one who hears;
4. We think about Him;
5. He can keep us from sleep (and He can give us wonderful sleep);
6. He may seem to have forsaken us;
7. He performs wonderful deeds;
8. The one whose mighty deeds ought to be considered;
9. He is holy;
10. He is great;
11. He redeemed the sons of Jacob and of Joseph;
12. He is all-powerful;
13. The lack of physical footprints does not prove that He is not present!
14. He works through men.

II. HE LEADS ME:

1. We are traveling a journey;
2. We have not traveled this journey before; and, so
3. We need an infallible guide;

II. Continued.

4. Without that guide--

- (1) We are weary;
- (2) We are comfortless;
- (3) We cannot sleep;
- (4) We cannot properly speak;
- (5) We are grief-stricken;

5. But, God will lead us if we will let Him do so--through His word--
and will bring us safely home.

6. When God lead us, there is--

- (1) Strength;
- (2) Comfort;
- (3) Blessed sleep;
- (4) Proper speaking;
- (5) Divine favor;
- (6) His steadfast love upon us;
- (7) Fulfillment of His promises to us;
- (8) Wonderful peace and joy.

GENERAL LESSONS:

- 1. When sincere men are conscious of the fact that God has departed from them their souls refuse to be comforted.
- 2. When God changes His attitude toward men (because of their sins) it brings deep grief, deep sorrow.
- 3. Especially in times of trouble, let us seek Him both day and night.
- 4. Only God can bring peace and joy and comfort to the soul. This He does
IN Jesus Christ, in the church of the Christ, and upon the terms of the

gospel of the Christ. The Christ is the Prince of Peace. The gospel is the Message of Peace.

5. God's way is holy. God's way is right. God's way is the only way.

6. God sent Moses to redeem Old Testament Israel from bondage. He sent Jesus to make it possible for there to be a Spiritual Israel--the New Testament church. The church consists of those whom the Lord has redeemed from bondage to sin.

7. God's power is clearly seen in thunder, in lightning, in rains, in earthquakes, in the rolling waves of the sea--and in HIS GOSPEL. Cf. Rom. 1:16.

8. A beautiful little poem holds--

God moves in mysterious ways;
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps on the Sea;
And rides upon the storm.

9. God, through Moses and Aaron, led Old Testament Israel to the Promised Land. In our day, the Christ, (the anti-type of Moses and of Aaron) is our "Chief Shepherd" who leads us gently home.

PSALM 78:1-31

WARNINGS FROM THE PAST

By consideration of the past, the Psalmist draws warnings for the present and for the future.

In these verses we have--

I. APPEAL

1-4

The Psalmist asks for a hearing:

1. He appeals to his people to listen;
2. He explains that he will speak of things--
 - (1) We have heard;
 - (2) We have known;
 - (3) Our fathers have told us;
 - (4) The glorious deeds of the Lord, His might, and His wonders;
3. He stresses that he will teach these things to the children--and to the coming generations.

II. PLAN

5-8

The Psalmist sets forth God's plan for making known His will:

1. God established a testimony in Jacob;
2. He appointed a law in Israel;
3. He commanded our fathers to teach their children this law, that--
 - (1) The next generation might know;
 - (2) They might teach them to their children;
 - (3) They might set their hope in God;
 - (4) They might not forget His works;
 - (5) They might keep His commandments;
 - (6) They might not be like their fathers--stubborn, rebellious, unfaithful.

III. EPHRAIMITES

9-20

The Psalmist considers the Ephraimites:

1. They turn back in the day of battle;
2. They refused to keep God's covenant;

3. They forgot what God had done for them--
 - (1) The marvels in the land of Egypt;
 - (2) The marvels at the Red Sea;
 - (3) The leading by the cloud and by the fire;
 - (4) The waters from the rocks;
4. They sinned more against God--
 - (1) They rebelled against Him in the desert
 - (2) They tested God in their hearts
 - (3) They demanded the food which they craved;
 - (4) They questioned God's ability to provide what they demanded.

IV. RESPONSE
21-31

The Psalmist speaks of God's response to the people:

1. He was full of wrath;
 2. A fire was kindled against Jacob;
 3. His anger grew against Israel;
 4. He was angry with the people because--
 - (1) They had no faith in God;
 - (2) They did not trust His power;
 5. Yet, He blessed them in spite of their sins--
 - (1) He opened the doors of heaven;
 - (2) He gave them manna;
 - (3) He gave them abundance of food;
 - (4) He gave them the grain of heaven;
 - (5) He gave them an abundance of flesh to eat;
 6. But, He punished them because of their sins.
-

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: The Psalmist is working upon the basic notion that God's people need to be careful to learn the lessons involved in God's dealings with Israel. We need to know these lessons, and we need to teach them to our children. We need to know that with which God was pleased, and we need to know that with which God was displeased. This is the same point which Paul makes in I Cor. 10. These things were written for our learning (Rom. 15:4).

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. KNOW AND TELL:

1. The things--

- (1) Which we have heard;
- (2) Which we have known;
- (3) Which our fathers have told us;

2. Specifically--

- (1) The glorious deeds of the Lord;
- (2) The might (or power) of the Lord;
- (3) The wonders which He has wrought;

3. We must--

- (1) Not hide these from our children;
- (2) Tell them to the coming generation;

4. In order that they--

- (1) Should set their hope on God;
- (2) Should not forget His works;
- (3) Might keep His commandments;
- (4) Might not be (stubborn and rebellious) like their fathers were.

II. GOD:

- 1. Is the doer of wondrous deeds;
- 2. Is powerful;
- 3. Established His testimony in Israel.

II. GOD (continued):

4. Appointed a law in Israel;
5. Commanded Old Testament Israel to teach their children (and He commands New Testament Israel--the Church--to teach their children);
6. Is the one in whom we have hope;
7. Is the one whose works we must not forget;
8. Is the one whose commandments we must keep;
9. Is the one to whom we must be faithful;
10. Is the one whose law we must respect and obey;
11. Is the one whose wondrous deeds we must remember;
12. Is the one who will provide for His people;
13. Is the one who can furnish a table in the wilderness;
14. Is the one who will often allow men to have their wrong and stubborn way, but will then punish them because of their rebellion.

III. WHEN MEN REBEL AGAINST THE MOST HIGH:

1. They are guilty of terrible sin;
2. He may become full of wrath;
3. He can kindle a fire against the rebels;
4. The anger of God will rise against them;
5. He will punish them because of their attitude and actions--unless they genuinely repent of their sins.

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. Like the Psalmist, we must be anxious to teach others the will of God.
2. Especially in relationship to knowledge of the will of God, the present generation has a tremendous responsibility to the next generation. We must be anxious to help them to know God's word. And, the coming generation has a tremendous responsibility to the present generation--to be anxious to listen and to learn from them.

3. God established a testimony in Jacob, and God has established a testimony in New Testament Israel--the church of our Lord. Christians have the obligation (and the sacred privilege) to declare the gospel message to all men everywhere.
4. Pitiable indeed are those (1) who do not set their hope in God; (2) who forget the wonderful works of God; and (3) who do not keep His commandments.
5. The Psalmist wanted the coming generation to be better than their fathers. Every generation ought to be better than the preceding one.
6. Old Testament Israel was often (1) stubborn, (2) rebellious, (3) critical, (4) unbelieving, and (5) disobedient. Let us profit by their mistakes.
7. If we put Him first in our lives, God has promised to supply our needs. Not what we WANT, but what we NEED.
8. "He smote the rock so that water gushed out and streams overflowed." That Rock was Christ (I Cor. 10:4). He is the fountain from which we drink--the perennial spring which quenches our spiritual thirst. "Jesus cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink" (Jno. 7:37).
9. God gave them manna to eat. This, too, was a type of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the true bread come down from heaven. See Jno. 6:31ff.
10. Let us learn that it is a terrible sin for us to complain about the blessings which God has given us. Often, like Israel, we might prefer something else--flesh instead of manna. God knows what we need, and we ought to be grateful.

PSALM 78:32-55

GOD AND HIS PEOPLE--FROM EGYPT TO CANAAN

In these verses we have--

I. SINS
32-43

The Psalmist gives a survey of the sins of the people:

1. Unbelief, verse 32;
2. Terror, verse 33;
3. Then, repentance, verse 34;
4. Hypocrisy, verses 35-37;
5. Then there was God's compassion and forgiveness,
verses 38, 39;
6. The people repeated their sins, verses 40-43--
 1. They rebelled against God;
 2. They grieved Him;
 3. They tested Him;
 4. They provoked Him;
 5. They forgot Him;
 6. They forgot His power;
 7. They forgot their day of redemption.

II. SIGNS
44-51

The Psalmist discusses the forgotten signs:

1. God turned their waters to blood;
2. He sent swarms of flies;
3. He sent frogs to destroy them;
4. He gave their crops to the caterpillar;
5. He gave the fruit of their labor to the locust;
6. He destroyed their vines with hail;
7. He destroyed their sycamores with frost;
8. He gave their cattle to the hail;
9. He gave their flocks to the thunderbolts;
10. He let loose on them His fierce anger, wrath,

indignation and distress.

11. He sent a company of destroying angels;
12. He smote all the first-born in Egypt.

III. SETTLEMENT
52-55

The Psalmist discusses God's settling His people in the land:

1. He led His people forth like sheep;
2. He guided them in the wilderness;
3. He protected them;
4. He destroyed their enemies;
5. He brought them to His holy land;
6. He drove out the nations before them;
7. He settled His people in the land.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: In the great prayer of the Levites, recorded in Neh. 9, they said: "But they and our fathers dealt proudly, and hardened their necks, and hearkened not to thy commandments, and refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, full of compassion, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not" (Neh. 9: 16,17). God is a God of patience, compassion, and forgiveness.

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. IN SPITE OF ALL THIS . . .

1. They still sinned;
2. They did not believe;
3. When He slew them they sought for Him;
4. When it was too late, they remembered;
5. They flattered Him with their mouths;

I. Continued.

7. They were unsteadfast in heart;
8. They were not true to His covenant;
9. They rebelled against Him;
10. They forgot His power and His works;
11. They forgot what He did in the land of Egypt;
12. They forgot what He did at the Red Sea;
13. They forgot what He did in Canaan.

II. GOD:

1. Punishes the disobedient;
2. Desires that the wicked repent;
3. Is compassionate;
4. Is forgiving to the penitent;
5. Often restrains His anger;
6. Is grieved by man's disobedience;
7. Can be provoked;
8. Expects His works to be remembered;
9. Demonstrated His power in Egypt, at the Red Sea, and in Canaan.

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. God, in absolute justice, punishes the wicked.
2. When the heart is not right the speech will not be right. ". . . for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Mt. 12:34).
3. God desires men of steadfast heart; men who will be true to His covenant.
4. When a man sins it brings grief to God.
5. The Psalm emphasizes the power of God. The word of God is quick and powerful (Heb. 4:12), and the gospel of Christ is God's only saving power (Rom. 1:16).

6. God provides safety and security for His sheep who follow Him.
7. God is faithful to keep His promises: " . . . let us hold fast the confession of our hope that it waver not; for He is faithful that promised" (Heb. 10: 23).

GOD AND HIS PEOPLE--FROM THE JUDGES TO DAVID

In this portion of the seventy-eighth Psalm we have--

I. WICKEDNESS
56-58

The Psalmist speaks of the wickedness of the people:

1. They tested God;
2. They rebelled against God;
3. They did not observe His testimonies;
4. They turned away;
5. They acted treacherously, like their fathers;
6. They twisted and turned like a deceitful bow;
7. They became involved in idolatry.

II. WRATH
59-64

The Psalmist speaks of the consequent wrath of God:

1. He rejected Israel;
2. He forsook His dwelling in Shiloh;
3. He allowed His ark of the Covenant to be captured;
4. He gave His people to the sword.

III. WAKEFULNESS
65,66

The Psalmist explains that God awoke from His sleep:

1. Like a strong man shouting because of wine;
2. He gave deliverance to His people.

IV. CHOICES
67-72

The Psalmist speaks of certain choices made by God:

1. He rejected--
 - (1) The tent of Joseph;
 - (2) The tribe of Ephraim;
2. He chose--
 - (1) The tribe of Judah;
 - (2) Mount Zion which He loves;
3. He chose David--
 - (1) He took him from the sheepfold;
 - (2) He made him the shepherd of Jacob and of Israel;
 - (3) He (David) tended God's people with skillful hand.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: When God's people turn to wickedness God will turn away from them. When they genuinely repent and return to Him, He will provide for them.

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. STUBBORN ISRAEL:

1. A stubborn and rebellious generation, v.8;
2. They did not keep God's covenant, v. 10;
3. They forgot what God had done, v. 11;
4. Yet they sinned still more against Him, v. 17;
5. They tested God in their heart, v. 18;
6. They spoke against God, verse 19;
7. The anger of God rose against them, v. 31
8. They still sinned, v. 32;
9. They lied to Him with their tongues, v. 36;
10. They rebelled against Him in the wilderness, v. 40;
11. They tested God and rebelled against Him, v. 56;
12. They turned to idolatry, v. 58;
13. God utterly rejected Israel, and forsook His dwelling at Shiloh, 59,60;
14. God vented His wrath upon them, v. 62.

II. GOD'S CHOICES:

1. He rejected the tent of Jacob;
2. He rejected the tribe of Ephraim;
3. He chose the tribe of Judah;
4. He chose Mount Zion (which He loves);
5. He built His sanctuary;
6. He chose David His servant to be shepherd of His people.

III. DAVID:

1. Was chosen by God Himself;
2. Was a servant of God;
3. Had a rich background of experience as a shepherd;
4. Was set as shepherd over God's people;
5. Was of upright heart;
6. Tended and guided the sheep with skillful hand.

IV. DESCRIPTIVES OF A SINFUL PEOPLE:

1. Tested;
2. Rebelled;
3. Did not observe;
4. Turned away;
5. Acted treacherously;
6. Twisted;
7. Provoked;
8. Moved Him to jealousy.

V. GOD:

1. Can be provoked to anger;
 2. Can be moved to jealousy;
 3. Can be "full of wrath";
 4. Can forsake His dwelling place;
 5. Can deliver His people to captivity;
 6. Can vent His wrath upon His heritage;
 7. Can put His adversaries to rout;
 8. Loves Mt. Zion (the New Testament church);
 9. Uses men (trained, experienced men) in accomplishing His purpose;
 10. Wants Shepherds who are (1) experienced, (2) of upright heart, and
(3) skillful.
-

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. Likely nothing could be more frustrating to be a skilled archer than to have in his hand a twisting, deceitful bow. God's people are intended by God to be a true bow in His hand for the tearing down of that which is wrong. When these people rebel against God and fail to keep His testimonies, they become a deceitful bow.
2. When men turn away from the true religion of God they generally involve themselves in false religions. Cf. Rom. 10:3.
3. God, in matchless love and justice, can and does pour out His wrath upon His own people.
4. In His own time, in His own way, and in His own power and providence--God can and does put His adversaries to flight.
5. The tribe of Judah has been wonderfully blessed of God. God, through Jacob, prophesied that the Messiah would come of the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10). In Ruth 4:18-22 the Lord's genealogy is traced from Judah, through his son Perez, down to Jesse, and his son David. Our Lord is "of the seed of David" (Rom. 1:3), and Paul states it plainly that ". . .it is evident that our Lord hath sprung out of Judah" (Heb. 7:14).
6. David is a wonderful illustration of the fact that God uses men-human trained abilities--in the accomplishing of His will. While working as a musician in the court of King Saul, David learned the affairs of the kingdom. While outlawed from the court of King Saul, David learned men, and leadership of men. While King Saul sought David's life, and while David was hiding in a cave, God was getting David ready to become King over God's people. We are obligated and privileged to develop our abilities and to use them to the glory of God.

PSALM 79

A PRAYER FOR DELIVERANCE

In these verses we have--

I. PERSECUTION

1-4

The Psalmist describes the persecution of God's people:

1. The heathen have come into thy inheritance;
2. They have defiled thy holy temple;
3. They have destroyed Jerusalem;
4. They have given the bodies of thy servants to the birds;
5. They have given the flesh of thy saints to the beasts;
6. The dead have remained without burial;
7. We have become a taunt to our neighbors.

II. PLEA

5-7

The Psalmist pleads with God to pour out His wrath upon the wicked persecutors:

1. He asks: How long--
 - (1) Wilt thou be angry with us?
 - (2) Wilt thy jealous wrath burn like fire?
2. He pleads: Pour out thy anger on the nations and kingdoms that do not know thee;
3. He states the reason for this plea--for
 - (1) They have devoured Jacob;
 - (2) They have laid waste his habitation

III. PRAYER

8-10

The Psalmist prays to God for help and deliverance:

1. Do not hold against us the iniquities of our forefathers;
2. Grant us compassion;
3. Help us--for the glory of thy name;

III. Continued.

4. Deliver us;
5. Forgive our sins--for thy name's sake;
6. Let the avenging of the outpoured blood of thy servants be known among the nations before our eyes!

IV. POWER
11,12

The Psalmist asks God to manifest His great power to the persecutors:

1. Let the groans of the prisoners come before thee;
2. According to thy great power preserve those doomed to die;
3. Take vengeance upon the persecutors.

V. PRAISE
13

The Psalmist promises continual praise to God for help received. He says: We, thy people--

1. Will give thanks to thee for ever;
2. Will recount thy praise from generation to generation.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: Note that the Psalmist does not blame God for the terrible desolation. He recognizes that it was their own sins which brought about the condition. In spite of the desolation and the consequent despair, there is great confidence that God can and will forgive the people and restore them to His favor. Cf. Heb. 12:5,6--"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth." When we find ourselves in difficult circumstances--perhaps circumstances brought about by our own sins and our own unfaithfulness--may we have the courage and the confidence to know that God can and will help us, deliver us, forgive us, restore us to His favor--upon the condition that we genuinely repent of our sins.

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD:

1. Sometimes allows His enemies to overrun His people;
2. Can unleash His wrath upon His enemies;
3. Is fully mindful of those who persecute His own people;
4. Can and does provide deliverance for His people;
5. Can make Himself known among the nations;
6. Deserves praise and thanksgiving.

II. SCENE OF DEFEAT:

1. The heathen have entered thy inheritance;
2. They have defiled thy holy temple;
3. They have destroyed Jerusalem;
4. They have killed thy servants;
5. There are no burying places;
6. We are a taunt to our neighbors;
7. We are subject to God's wrath;
8. We suffer the consequences of the sins of others.

III. FERVENT PRAYER:

1. Pour out thy anger upon the nations;
 2. Deliver us from the consequences of the sins of others;
 3. Give us compassion--thy compassion;
 4. Help us;
 5. Deliver us;
 6. Forgive us;
 7. Avenge our blood;
 8. Remember our suffering;
 9. Deal with the persecutors.
-

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. Through the ages God's people have been subject to criticism. Sometimes the criticism is deserved; sometimes it is not justified. Cf. Acts 28:22.
2. ". . . but if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God in this name," (I Pet. 4:16).
3. The Psalm teaches (as does the Revelation) that God knows what is going on among His people. He knows their situation--He knows their needs.
4. In all places, at all times, and in all circumstances--let us be careful to bring honor and glory to God's name.
5. "Vengeance belongeth unto me; I will recompense, saith the Lord" (Rom. 12:19).
6. As the recipients of divine blessings, let us be careful to praise God and to thank Him for blessings received.

PSALM 80

PRAYER FOR THE DISTRESSED FLOCK AND BROKEN VINE

(A PRAYER FOR RESTORATION)

I. PRAYER FOR THE DISTRESSED FLOCK (1-7)

Address

1

The Psalmist addresses God as:

1. O Shepherd of Israel;
2. Thou who leadest Joseph like a flock;
3. Thou who art enthroned upon the cherubim.

Prayer

2,3

The Psalmist prays:

1. Shine forth;
2. Stir up thy might;
3. Come and save us;
4. Restore us;
5. Let thy face shine that we may be saved.

Question

4

The Psalmist asks:

O Lord God of hosts, how long wilt thou be angry
with thy people's prayers?

Condition

5,6

The Psalmist describes the condition of the flock;

1. Thou hast fed them with the bread of tears;
2. Thou hast given them tears to drink in full
measure;
3. Thou dost make us the scorn of our neighbors;
4. Our enemies laugh among themselves.

Prayer

7

The Psalmist continues to pray:

1. Restore us, O God of Hosts;
2. Let thy face shine;
3. Save us!

II. PRAYER FOR THE BROKEN VINE (8-19)

Vine
8-11

The Psalmist discusses the people as God's vine:

1. Thou didst bring a vine out of Egypt;
2. Thou didst drive out the nations and plant it;
3. Thou didst clear the ground for it;
4. It took deep root and filled the land;
5. The mountains were filled with its shade;
6. The mighty cedars were covered with its branches;
7. It sent out its branches to the sea, and its
shoots to the River.

Question
12-13

The Psalmist asks: Why then hast thou broken down its
walls, so that--

1. All who pass along the way pluck its fruits?
2. The boar from the forest ravages it?
3. All that move in the field feed on it?

Prayer
14-15

The Psalmist prays:

1. Turn again, O God of hosts!
2. Look down from heaven and see;
3. Have regard for this vine--the stock which thy
right hand planted.

Condition
16

The Psalmist continues to describe the condition of
the vine:

1. They have burned it with fire;
2. They have cut it down.

Prayer
17-19

The Psalmist continues his prayer:

1. May they perish at thy rebuke;
2. Bless the leaders of thy people;

3. Keep us faithful;
4. Give us life;
5. Restore us, O Lord God of Hosts!
6. Let thy face shine;
7. Save us!

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: The key verses are: 3, 7, 14, and 19. This Psalm stresses the unbearable agony that comes in the realization of loss of divine favor. The sin-conscious soul (or nation) will sincerely seek to be restored to God's favor. It is God Who Restores!

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD:

1. Is Israel's Shepherd;
2. The leader of Israel;
3. The one enthroned upon the cherubim;
4. The one who can save;
5. The one whose favor is essential;
6. The one who can be displeased with the prayers of His people;
7. The one who can severely punish His people;
8. Is Israel's husbandman;
9. The one who took Israel from Egypt, through the wilderness, and to Canaan;
10. The one who blessed Israel in Canaan, and helped her to grow;
11. The one who allowed Israel to be broken down and ravaged;
12. The one who could bring Israel back to His favor (conditioned upon their genuine repentance).

II. PRAYER:

1. Listen to us;
2. Shine forth;
3. Stir up thy might;
4. Save us;
5. Restore us;
6. Don't be angry with us;
7. Take away our afflictions;
8. Turn again;
9. Have regard for the vine;
10. Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand;
11. Give us life.

III. THE VINE OUT OF EGYPT:

1. God took a vine out of Egypt;
2. He took it across the Red Sea, through the wilderness, across the Jordan, and into Canaan;
3. He cleared the ground for the vine;
4. He planted the vine in Canaan;
5. He wonderfully blessed and watched it grow;
6. He extended its shade from the Mediterranean to the Euphrates;
7. He allowed it be ravaged (because of Israel's unfaithfulness).

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE:

1. The wall was broken down;
2. Passers-by plucked its fruits;
3. The boar from the forest ravaged it;
4. All creatures of the field fed upon it;

IV. Continued.

5. The vine was burned with fire;

6. The vine was cut down!

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. God is the Shepherd of His people. He deals with His people according to their needs. His leading always involves respect for personal accountability and personal responsibility. God has placed upon man the frightening responsibilities inherent in the power of choice.
2. One of the great (and constant) lessons which flows throughout the Old Testament history is the fact that God abundantly blesses the obedient, but punishes the disobedient.
3. Israel was accountable to God for the KIND of vine that she was. We are accountable to God for the KIND of vine that we are. God can work wonders with a good vine. He refuses to bless a bad vine.
4. With the Psalmist let us promise: We will never turn back from thee; we will call on thy name!
5. God's amazing providence, beyond human ability to comprehend, shines forth in this Psalm. God works all things together for good, to those who love Him, and who are called according to His purpose (Rom. 8:28-30). Those who love Him keep His commandments (Jno. 14:15). May God help us always to be numbered among those who love Him.
6. This Psalm emphasizes that God is mightily displeased when His people become unfaithful. To the church in Ephesus the Lord said: "Remember therefore whence thou art fallen, and repent and do the first works; or else I come to thee, and will move thy candlestick out of its place, except thou repent" (Rev. 2:5).

7. The time can come when God refuses to hear the prayers of His people.

"And the children of Israel cried unto the Lord . . . And the Lord said unto the children of Israel . . . Ye have forsaken me, and served other gods; wherefore I will deliver you no more" (Judges 10:10,11,13). "For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, And his ears unto their supplication: But the face of the Lord is upon them that do evil" (I Pet. 3:12).

PSALM 81

GOD PLEADS WITH ISRAEL TO BE OBEDIENT

(Faithful God--Unfaithful People)

In these verses we have--

I. THE PSALMIST
1-5

The Psalmist:

1. Speaks--of God as
 - (1) God our strength;
 - (2) The God of Jacob!
2. Exhorts--
 - (1) Sing aloud;
 - (2) Shout for joy;
 - (3) Raise a song;
 - (4) Sound the timbrel;
 - (5) Blow the trumpet--on our feast day;
3. Explains--
 - (1) It is a statute for Israel;
 - (2) It is an ordinance of the God of Jacob;
 - (3) It is a decree of the God of Joseph.

II. GOD
6-16

The Psalmist listens to the voice of God as God:

1. Reminds--
 - (1) I relieved your burdens;
 - (2) I freed your hands from the basket;
 - (3) You called, and I delivered you;
 - (4) I answered when you called;
 - (5) I tested you at the waters of Meribah;
2. Pleads--
 - (1) Listen to me, while I admonish you;
 - (2) There shall be no strange god among you;
 - (3) You shall not bow down to a foreign god;

2. Continued.

(4) I am the Lord your God who brought you out of
Egypt;

(5) Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.

3. Charges--

(1) My people did not listen to me;

(2) Israel would have none of me;

(3) I gave them over--

A. To their stubborn hearts;

B. To follow their own counsels;

4. Pleads--

(1) O that my people would listen to me;

(2) O that Israel would walk in my ways!

5. Promises--

(1) I would soon subdue their enemies;

(2) I would destroy their foes;

(3) I would be with them;

(4) I would abundantly bless them--

A. With the finest of wheat;

B. With honey from the rock.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: God said, "O that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways!" Man's greatest privilege is that of listening as God speaks to him. Let us learn the importance of listening to the voice of God. Obedience brings divine favor and wonderful blessings. With regard to Jerusalem, the Lord said: "I would . . . but ye would not" (Mt. 23:37).

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD:

1. Is our strength;
2. Deserves to be praised;
3. His laws are to be kept;
4. The one who heard the cries of the Israelites, and who delivered them from the bondage;
5. Tests His people;
6. Makes known His word, and expects men to listen;
7. Is the ONE TRUE AND LIVING GOD:
8. Meets the needs of His people (of all who will listen);
9. Allows men to follow their stubborn wills, but then punishes them for their disobedience.

II. STUBBORN ISRAEL:

1. God heard their cries (in bondage);
 2. God delivered them from Egypt;
 3. Tested them (so they would better know themselves);
 4. Instructed (admonished) them;
 5. Gave to Israel His laws;
 6. Was willing and able and anxious to provide their needs;
 7. Wanted to subdue their enemies, and feed them well;
 8. But Israel--
 - (1) Would not listen;
 - (2) Followed their stubborn hearts;
 - (3) Would not walk in God's ways.
-

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. The prodigal son--as a consequence of his deliberate choice--came to be far away from home, lonely, friendless, without money, without proper clothing, exceedingly hungry. Back at the father's house, even the servants had "bread enough and to spare." How often we live beneath our privileges! God is able, and God wants to bless us, but we often block the supply lines.
2. God expected Old Testament Israel to keep the appointed feasts, and in New Testament times God expects us to keep the specified appointments (Cf. Heb. 10:25).
3. Some people are so far away from God (or, perhaps are so indifferent) that they do not recognize His voice when He speaks (through His word).
4. Let us be mindful of and grateful for the wonderful blessings from God. Let us not be guilty of the sin of ingratitude.
5. If we put first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, He will supply our needs--not our wants, and not what we think we need, but what we need.
6. When men refuse to listen to God they turn to listen to "their own counsels."
7. There is no way for men to listen to "their own counsels" and walk in God's way.
8. As Old Testament Israel was obligated to listen to and to obey the Law of God which He had given to them, so it is that men today must listen to the law of God which He has revealed to us, through Jesus Christ, recorded in the New Testament. They lived under the Law of Moses; we live under the Law of Christ, the gospel.
9. The Psalmist seems to express astonishment at hearing a voice which he had not known. Many are astonished when they come to understand what the word of God actually says.

PSALM 82

A PRAYER FOR GOD TO JUDGE ALL THE NATIONS

In these verses we have--

I. ASSEMBLY

1-4

The Psalmist pictures God in a solemn assembly with earthly judges:

1. His position--He has taken His place
 - (1) In the divine council;
 - (2) In the midst of the gods;
2. His questions--How long
 - (1) Will you judge unjustly;
 - (2) Will you show partiality to the wicked?
3. His admonitions--
 - (1) Give justice to the weak and the fatherless;
 - (2) Maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute;
 - (3) Rescue the weak and the needy;
 - (4) Deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

II. CHARGES

5

The Psalmist makes certain charges against the judges:

1. They have no knowledge;
2. They have no understanding;
3. They walk about in darkness;
4. Consequently, all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

III. MEN

6,7

God again speaks to the earthly judges, stressing that they are exalted, but still they are men:

1. "I say, 'You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you'." Cf. Jno. 10:34.
2. Yet, "You are men"--
 - (1) You shall die like men;
 - (2) You shall fall like any prince.

IV. PRAYER

8

The Psalmist prays:

1. Arise, O God;
2. Judge the earth;
3. For, to thee belong all the nations!

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: It is the obligation of any and every earthly ruler to recognize that he is but a subordinate ruler under the rulership of God Himself; that he is but a tool in the hand of God. When the rulers are right, God can and will bless the world. When the rulers are wrong, "the foundations of the earth are shaken."

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD:

1. Is the one to whom earthly rulers are accountable;
2. Demands that earthly rulers deal justly;
3. Is concerned about the "rights" of the righteous;
4. Is concerned about the weak and the needy;
5. Desires (demands) just leadership throughout the world;
6. Holds all nations accountable to Himself.

II. GOD INSTRUCTS THE JUDGES:

1. Questions--

- (1) How long will you judge unjustly?
- (2) How long will you show partiality to the wicked?

2. Admonitions--

- (1) Give justice to the weak and the fatherless;
- (2) Maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute;
- (3) Rescue the weak and the needy;
- (4) Deliver the needy from the hand of the wicked;
- (5) Know that the earthly rulers are accountable to God.

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. It is comforting and assuring to know that God rules in the affairs of nations. I do not have to understand all that is going on in order to understand that He is in control.
2. God Himself is just, and He demands justice in the affairs of men. He stands opposed to any and all judgment that is not just. He stands opposed to any and all judgment that is based upon partiality.
3. God Himself is concerned about the weak, the fatherless, the afflicted, the destitute, and the needy in general. He wants (He demands) His earthly rulers likewise to be concerned about these.
4. When rulers have neither knowledge nor understanding, and --consequently-- walk about in darkness, the "foundations of the earth are shaken."
5. Men of great power and influence are still "men." They shall die as other men die, and they shall stand in judgment before God.
6. God is "judge of all the earth." He wants His gospel message preached to "all the nations" (Cf Mt. 28:19; Mk. 16:15). All the nations "belong" to Him and are accountable to Him.

PSALM 83

A PRAYER FOR GOD TO ACT AGAINST HIS ENEMIES

(The Most High Over All the Earth)

The CAMBRIDGE BIBLE points out that this Psalm is " . . . a prayer for the judgment of the nations which threaten to destroy God's people as a nation from without."

In spite of the somewhat definite indicators, it is impossible to determine the exact time or circumstance to which the Psalm relates. The CAMBRIDGE BIBLE suggests that "On the whole, the invasion recorded in 2 Chron. 20 offers the closest parallel and the best illustration, and the Psalm may been written with reference to it."

In these verses we have--

I. CALL

1

The Psalmist calls upon God to act:

1. Do not keep silence;
2. Do not hold thy peace;
3. Do not be still.

II. CONSPIRACY

2-8

The Psalmist discusses the conspiracy formed:

1. The enemies make tumult;
2. They have lifted up the head;
3. They have taken counsel against thy people;
4. They have made plans to destroy thy people as a nation;
5. They have formed a confederacy: Edom, Ishmael, Moab, the Hagrites, Gebal, Ammon, Amalek, the Philistines, Tyre, Assyria.

III. CONDEMNATION

9-12

The Psalmist urges God's condemnation upon His enemies;

1. Do to them as thou didst to Midian;
2. Deal with them as thou didst deal with Sisera and Jabin;

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3. Make them to become as fertilizer for the ground;
4. Destroy them as thou didst destroy Oreb and Zeeb;
5. Destroy them as thou didst destroy Zebah and Zalmunna.

IV. CONSUMPTION
13-17

The Psalmist urges that the enemies be consumed:

1. Make them like a whirling dust;
2. Make them like chaff before the wind;
3. Make them like the forest consumed by fire, and like the mountains ablaze;
4. Pursue them with thy tempest;
5. Terrify them with thy hurricane!
6. Fill their faces with shame;
7. Cause them to seek thy name;
8. Let them be put to shame and be dismayed for ever;
9. Let them perish in disgrace.

V. CONSEQUENCE
18

The Psalmist speaks of the desired consequence: Let them know--

1. That thou art the Lord;
2. That thou art the Most High over all the earth.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: When enemies of God's people abound, it is often the case that we do not know how to pray nor for what to pray. It is always right for us to pray: "And now, Lord, look upon their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants to speak thy word with all boldness, . . ."(Acts 4:29).

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD:

1. Is able to keep silence (even when men think He should not keep silence);
2. Is able to hold His peace and be still;
3. In mercy, allows His enemies to exist;
4. Is abundantly able to deal properly with His enemies;
5. Can use the wind and the hurricane to accomplish His purposes;
6. His name is the Lord;
7. He alone is the Most High over all the earth.

II. ENEMIES OF GOD:

1. Are enemies of God's people;
2. They hate God (and they hate God's people);
3. They lay crafty plans against God's people;
4. They unite to do evil;
5. They stand against God, against His people, against His covenant;
6. They are subject to God's wrath and destruction;
7. They are completely foolish when they say: "Let us take possession for ourselves of the pastures of God";
8. Some of them can be brought to seek after God.

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. The fact that God keeps silence at present does not mean that he will never break that silence.
2. Unity can be something completely bad. There is marvelous beauty and value and goodness in unity when that unity is according to God's will--when it is related to the right cause, and when it is based upon

right principles. Not all unity is good, and not all division is bad.

One thing that is worse than division is unity in error.

3. Enemies of God's people often teach contradictory doctrines and announce different conditions of salvation. They may have great difficulty in getting along among themselves. But, somehow, they can unite to oppose the church, the Lord, and the gospel.
4. Every New Testament principle is clearly illustrated in the Old Testament records. Let us be careful to learn the "lessons for life" which are recorded there. These things were written for our learning (Rom. 15:4).
5. It is interesting (and important) for us to know that some of the enemies of God can be brought to change their minds. Some can be brought to seek the name of the Lord. Consider Saul of Tarsus.

PSALM 84

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO LOVE THE FATHER'S HOUSE

In these verses we have--

I. LONGING
1,2

The Psalmist speaks of his longing for the temple:

1. How lovely is thy dwelling place;
2. My soul longs for the courts of the Lord.
3. I sing for joy to the living God.

II. BLESSED
3,4

The Psalmist speaks of the blessedness of those who dwell in God's house:

1. Even the sparrow finds a home there;
2. The swallow makes her nest there;
3. Blessed are those who dwell in thy house, ever singing thy praise.

III. BLESSED
5-7

The Psalmist speaks of the blessedness of those who are concerned about Zion:

1. Blessed are the men whose strength is in thee;
2. Blessed are the men who love the highways to Zion;
3. They make the ways through which they pass places of delight and refreshing strength;
4. They go from strength to strength;
5. They know that in Zion they will find God.

IV. PRAYER
8,9

The Psalmist prays for divine favor:

1. Hear my prayer;
2. Listen to me;
3. Be our shield;
4. Look upon the King!

V. BLESSED
10,11

The Psalmist again speaks of the blessedness of Jehovah's house:

1. A day in thy courts is better than a thousand elsewhere;
2. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness;
3. The Lord God--
 - (1) Is a sun and shield;
 - (2) Bestows favor and honor;
 - (3) Abundantly blesses those who walk uprightly.

VI. CONCLUSION
12

The Psalmist issues the concluding pronouncement:

1. Address: O Lord of hosts;
2. Message: Blessed is the man who trusts in thee!

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE; In Luke 2:49, according to the King James reading, the Lord--at age 12--said to his parents: "...I must be about my Father's business." The American Standard reading is: "...I must be in my Father's house." We accomplish the Father's business by being properly concerned about the Father's house. In New Testament times the Father's house is not a physical structure, but is the church of our Lord. Those are blessed of God who are properly concerned about His house.

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. THOSE ARE BLESSED:

1. Who dwell in the house of God;
2. Whose strength is in God;

3. Who love the highways to Zion;

4. Who trust in God.

II. G. CAMPBELL MORGAN'S OUTLINE;

Morgan suggests that this Psalm sets before us the Pilgrim's--

1. JOY in going up to the house of God (verses 1-4);

2. EXPERIENCE--faith has an anchorage, an activity, an assurance (verses 5-8);

3. PRAYER--filled with praise and confidence (verses 9-12).

III. GOD:

1. Dwells in His appointed place;

2. Is the Living God;

3. Deserves to be praised;

4. Is the one to whom we sing;

5. Blesses those who dwell in His house;

6. Is present in Zion;

7. Is the source of strength;

8. Is a sun and shield;

9. Is the bestower of favor and honor;

10. Deserves to be trusted!

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. God now dwells in His spiritual temple, which is the New Testament church. Let us do our part to see to it that it is a "lovely" place.
2. As the Psalmist, let us constantly long for and seek for the close fellowship with God.

3. Realization of close fellowship with God compels us to "sing for joy."
 4. There are incidental blessings which flow from the house of God even to those who are not really concerned about worship and service to Him. Even the atheist in the community receives blessings that come through people who love and respect the Bible as being the word of God.
 5. Let us be careful to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might (Eph. 6:10). Paul said: "I can do all things in him that strengtheneth me" (Phil. 4:13).
 6. People who receive their strength from God can make the valley of sorrow become a spring of joy.
 7. The God of gods will be seen in Zion. Let Him be clearly seen in the songs, in the prayers, in the sermons, in the Lord's Supper, in the giving, in the fellowship, in the living.
 8. Quality of life is more important than the number of days.
 9. The most humble position, with God's favor, is far more important than high position without God's favor.
 10. God will supply the needs of those who put Him first in their lives (Mt. 6:33).
-

PSALM 85
A FERVENT PRAYER FOR RESTORATION

In these verses we have --

I. REMEMBRANCE The Psalmist recalls God's blessings. Thou didst--
1-3

1. Favor the land;
2. Restore the fortunes of Jacob;
3. Forgive the iniquity of thy people;
4. Pardon all their sins;
5. Withdraw thy wrath;
6. Turn from thy hot anger.

II. RESTORATION The Psalmist pleads for restoration again. He says--
4-7

1. Restore us again;
2. Put away thy indignation;
3. Wilt thou be angry with us forever?
4. Wilt thou not revive us again?
5. Wilt thou not give us joy?
6. Show us thy steadfast love;
7. Grant us thy salvation.

III. REASSURANCE The Psalmist reassures of better days:
8,9

1. Let me hear what God will speak;
2. He will speak peace--
 - (1) To His people;
 - (2) To His saints;
 - (3) To those who turn to Him;
3. Surely His salvation is at hand--
 - (1) For those who fear Him;
 - (2) That glory may dwell in our land.

IV. RIGHTEOUSNESS
10-13

The Psalmist shows righteousness as the harbinger of
God's blessings:

1. Love and faithfulness will meet;
2. Righteousness and peace will kiss each other;
3. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground;
4. Righteousness will look down from the sky;
5. The Lord will give what is good;
6. Our land will yield its increase;
7. There shall be righteousness in the land.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: When we find ourselves having departed from divine favor, we must--in all honesty, sincerity, and genuine repentance--seek to be restored. We ought to seek this restoration in the full assurance that God is willing and anxious to hear us and to grant us better days. Better days come when we are willing (and determined) to " . . . hear what God the Lord will speak, for He will speak peace to His people"

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. ISRAEL--PAST, PRESENT, AND (THEN) FUTURE.

1. The Past--Former Happiness.

- (1) There was divine favor upon the land;
- (2) There was forgiveness;
- (3) There was no divine wrath upon us.

2. The Present--distress.

- (1) Away from divine favor;
- (2) Divine indignation upon us;

2. Continued.

- (3) The need for revival;
- (4) An absence of joy;
- (5) In a lost condition.

3. The Prayer--for restoration.

- (1) Restore us;
- (2) Revive us;
- (3) Save us;
- (4) Love us;

4. The Requirements--conditions to be met.

- (1) Turn to Him sincerely (genuinely repent);
- (2) Fear Him.

5. The Future--Blessings to be realized.

- (1) Peace;
- (2) Salvation;
- (3) Glory in the land;
- (4) Steadfast love;
- (5) Faithfulness;
- (6) The Lord will give what is good.

II. GOD:

- 1. Can extend His favor to the land;
- 2. Is the one who can grant forgiveness;
- 3. Can extend His wrath and can withdraw His wrath;
- 4. Is able to restore His people;
- 5. Is able to grant revival to His people;
- 6. Is the one who grants wonderful blessings: love, salvation, peace, joy, what is good, produce of the land.

7. Grants forgiveness and restoration when conditions have been met:
genuine repentance (turn to Him, fear Him).

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. It is God who is able to bless even the land, so that the land will be a blessing to all men. We need to appreciate our land, to respect it, and to use it as a sacred trust granted to us.
2. As Old Testament Israel could look forward to (and have wonderful hope with regard to) the better days (including the days of the Messiah), just so we can look forward to better things--even to heaven itself.
3. The Psalmist recalls the wonderful blessings of the past, and contemplates wonderful blessings for the future. However, he recognizes and respects the fact that the human beings involved must meet divinely specified conditions. Based upon meaningful consideration of the "mercies of God" we must be careful to present ourselves as living sacrifices unto God (Rom. 12:1). God will grant the blessings.
4. If and when we find ourselves having departed from God, may we have the courage and concern to fervently pray: Forgive us; Restore us; Turn thy indignation from us; Revive us; Love us; Give us joy and peace.

PSALM 86

A PRAYER FOR DELIVERANCE

In these verses we have--

I. PRAYER
1-7

The Psalmist prays, stressing the grounds upon which he prays:

1. Incline thine ear, save me--for I am poor and needy;
2. Preserve my life--for I am godly;
3. Save thy servant who trusts in thee;
4. Thou art my God;
5. Be gracious to me--for to thee I cry all the day;
6. Gladden my soul--for to thee I lift up my soul;
7. For thou, O Lord, art good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on thee;
8. Listen to my prayer; hearken to my supplication;
9. In the day of my trouble I call on thee--for thou dost answer me.

II. PRAISE
8-13

The Psalmist praises God:

1. There is none like thee;
2. There are no works like thine;
3. All nations which thou hast made--
 - (1) Shall bow down before thee;
 - (2) Shall glorify thy name;
4. Thou--
 - (1) Art Great!
 - (2) Doest wondrous things;

II. Continued.

5. Teach me thy way--that I may walk in thy truth;
6. Unite my heart to fear thy name;
7. I give thanks to thee with my whole heart;
8. I will glorify thy name forever;
9. For--

(1) Great is thy steadfast love toward me;

(2) Thou hast delivered my soul from sheol.

III. PROBLEM
14,15

The Psalmist speaks of the problem before him:

1. Insolent men have risen against me;
2. A band of ruthless men seek my life;
3. They are not properly concerned about Thee;
4. But thou, O Lord, art a God--

(1) Merciful;

(2) Gracious;

(3) Slow to anger;

(4) Abounding in steadfast love;

(5) Abounding in faithfulness.

IV. PLEA
16,17

The Psalmist continues his plea for deliverance:

1. Turn on me;
2. Give pity on me;
3. Give me strength;
4. Save me;
5. Show me a sign of thy favor--that those who hate
me may see and may be put to shame because thou
hast helped me and comforted me.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: In this Psalm we learn (1) many things about God; (2) many things about that for which we should pray; and (3) many things about the grounds of prayer. Especially, we learn that because He is the God of steadfast love He will deliver those who call upon Him.

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. THE PLEA OF PRAYER:

1. Listen to me;
2. Answer me;
3. Preserve my life;
4. Save me;
5. Be gracious to me;
6. Gladden my soul;
7. Hearken to my cry;
8. Teach me thy ways;
9. Unite my heart to fear thy name.

II. THE GROUNDS OF PRAYER:

1. I am poor and needy;
2. I am godly;
3. I trust in thee;
4. Thou art good and forgiving;
5. God's steadfast love;
6. God answers prayers;
7. The greatness of God;
8. The nature of God.

III. GOD:

1. Answers prayer;

III. Continued.

2. Deserves our trust;
3. Is gracious;
4. Is good;
5. Is forgiving;
6. Abounds in steadfast love;
7. There is no other like Him;
8. Performs great works;
9. Is the maker of all nations;
10. All nations are obligated to glorify Him;
11. Is the source of truth;
12. Expects and deserves our thanks and our praise;
13. Is merciful;
14. Is slow to anger;
15. Is faithful;
16. Can take pity upon us;
17. Can give us strength;
18. Can extend help and comfort.

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. "Blessed is the man who trusts in thee" (84:12). " . . . thy servant . . . trusts in thee" (86:2). Let us be faithful, trusting servants.
2. God does not always respond exactly when we think He ought to respond. Sometimes, we have to "cry all the day."
3. Let us be careful (1) to recognize our dependence upon God, (2) to live as faithful servants of God, (3) to trust in God, (4) to carry our burdens to God in prayer, (5) to strive to be godly, (6) to learn God's

ways and walk in His truth, and (7) to seek constantly God's favor upon our lives.

4. The Psalmist prayed, " . . . give strength to thy servant." Let us constantly seek the strength that can only come from God. Cf. Eph. 6:10; Phil. 4:13.

PSALM 87

THE CITY OF GOD

INTRODUCTORY NOTE: In Psalm 86:9 the Psalmist declares that "All the nations thou hast made shall come and bow down before thee, O Lord, and shall glorify thy name." The present Psalm expands the thought expressed there.

In these verses we have--

I. THE CITY
1-3

The Psalmist speaks of Zion--the city of God:

1. It stands upon the holy mount;
2. It was founded by God Himself;
3. It is the object of God's love--
 - (1) He loves the gates of Zion;
 - (2) He loves Zion more than He loves all the dwelling places of Jacob;
4. Glorious things are spoken of the city of God--its influence is great.

II. THE PEOPLES
4-6

The Psalmist speaks of the citizenry of Zion:

1. The citizenry of the city will include Gentiles as well as Jews;
2. The Psalmist speaks of ancient enemies of Israel as being numbered among the citizens: Rahab (Egypt), Babylon, Philistia, Tyre, Ethiopia;
3. Of Zion it will be said--
 - (1) Jehovah keeps a careful record of her citizenry;
 - (2) God Himself establishes her and keeps her records.

III. JOY
7

The Psalmist speaks of the great joy which shall
characterize the citizens of Zion:

1. Songs of happiness and joy will be found there;
2. All the sources of life and joy are located there.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: This beautiful, short Psalm is Messianic in import. It has a definite relationship to the church of our Lord (Cf. Heb. 12:22,23), and to the fact that the "city of God" would be (and is) for all people, both Jew and Gentile. Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians are " . . . fellow-citizens . . ." in "the household of God" (Eph. 2:19). God loves Zion, and keeps an accurate record of her citizenry. The New Testament teaches that no one can become a citizen of Zion without being born again (Jno. 3:3-5). This Psalm declares prophetically: "Blessed are those who are born there."

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. ZION:

1. Stands on the holy mount;
2. Was founded by God Himself;
3. Is "the city";
4. Is loved by God;
5. Is of great influence;
6. Even former enemies can become her citizens;
7. Citizenship is possible to all men;
8. Those are blessed who are citizens there;
9. Citizenship is valuable and is important;
10. Its citizenry record is accurate;

I. Continued.

- 11. Is a place of joy;
- 12. Is the source of life.

II. GOD:

- 1. Loves Zion;
- 2. Founded Zion;
- 3. Extends to all men the opportunity and blessings of citizenship in Zion;
- 4. Gives strength to Zion;
- 5. Keeps the records of Zion's citizenry.

GENERAL LESSONS:

- 1. Old Testament Zion was a prophetic type of the New Testament church.
God loved Old Testament Zion, and the New Testament church is likewise the object of divine affection. God loves Zion. Christ loves Zion. Paul loved Zion. Do YOU love Zion?
- 2. The New Testament church--like a city set on a hill--exerts great influence. Great things are spoken about her.
- 3. Many people--like Saul of Tarsus--who have at one time in their lives hated the church, have lived to learn the gospel, to become obedient to it, to have the marvelous blessings of citizenship in it, and to love it more than life itself.
- 4. The Lord made it plain (Jno. 3:3-5) that there is one way and only one way for one to enter the New Testament church: one must be born again (of water and of Spirit). The New Birth (of Jno. 3:5) is baptism into the Christ (as considered in Rom. 6:3 and Gal. 3:27).

5. Spiritual Zion (Spiritual Israel) is made of all those who have been baptized into Christ, whether Jew or Gentile (Gal. 3:9,26-29).
6. The church of our Lord is a place of joy and happiness. Our joy is especially expressed and experienced in our Christian worship and fellowship. God, through Isaiah, said: "And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (Isa. 35:10).
7. Zion is the place where is to be found spiritual life and spiritual strength. What a tragic sin it is for one to be careless, negligent, and indifferent.

PSALM 88

A CRY FOR HELP--OUT OF THE DARKNESS OF DESPAIR

According to the CAMBRIDGE BIBLE "This is the saddest Psalm in the whole Psalter." It is a " . . . noble example of faith which trusts God utterly in spite of all discouragement, and cleaves to God most passionately when God seems to have withdrawn Himself most completely."

In these verses we have--

I. CRY
1,2 The Psalmist stresses his cry to God for help:

1. I call for help by day;
2. I cry out in the night before thee;
3. Let my prayer come before thee;
4. Listen to my cry.

II. CONDITION
3-5 The Psalmist describes his terrible condition:

1. My soul is full of troubles;
2. My life draws near to the grave;
3. I am reckoned among those who are about to die;
4. My strength is gone;
5. I am like--
 - (1) One forsaken among the dead;
 - (2) The slain that lie in the grave;
 - (3) Those whom thou dost remember no more.

III. CAUSE
6-9 The Psalmist emphasizes that God Himself has placed

him in this condition:

1. Thou hast put me in the regions of the dark and deep;
2. Thy wrath lies heavy upon me;
3. Thou dost overwhelm me with all thy waves;

III. Continued.

4. Thou hast caused my companions to shun me;
5. Thou hast made me a thing of horror to them;
6. I am shut up so that I cannot sleep;
7. My eye grows dim through sorrow;
8. Every day I call upon thee; I spread my hands to thee.

IV. QUESTIONS
10-12

The Psalmist asks a series of questions--questions designed to indicate the necessity of immediate help:

1. Dost thou work wonders for the dead?
2. Do the shades rise up to praise thee?
3. Is thy steadfast love declared in the grave?
4. Is thy faithfulness made known in Abaddon?
5. Are thy wonders known in darkness?
6. Is thy saving help known in the land of forgetfulness?

V. CONCLUSION
13-18

The Psalmist combines the thoughts which have been expressed, and re-emphasizes these thoughts:

1. CRY--But I, O Lord, cry to thee;

In the morning my prayer comes before thee.

2. QUESTION--Why dost thou cast me off?

Why dost thou hide thy face from me?

3. CONDITION--Afflicted and close to death from my youth up;

I suffer thy terrors;

I am helpless.

4. CAUSE-- Thy wrath has swept over me;
Thy dread assaults destroy me;
They surround me like a flood all day
long;
They close in upon me together;
Thou hast caused lover and friend to shun
me;
My companions are in darkness.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: In 2 Cor. 1:8,9 Paul says: "For we would not have you ignorant brethren, concerning our affliction which befell us in Asia, that we were weighed down exceedingly, beyond our power, insomuch that we despaired even of life; yea, we ourselves have had the sentence of death within ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God who raiseth the dead " Then, in verse 10, Paul says about God: " . . . who delivered us out of so great a death, and will deliver: on whom we have set our hope that he will also still deliver us " Regardless of our condition in life, let us not despair. Rather, let us rejoice in the assurance that God can and will "still deliver us." Especially, let us be comforted in the assurance that there is a better life beyond this life.

Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal

Longfellow

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. LANGUAGE OF DESPAIR:

1. Full of troubles;
2. Near to death;
3. Without strength;
4. Cut off from God's hand;
5. Shunned by companions;
6. A thing of horror;
7. Eyes are dimmed through sorrow;
8. Cast off;
9. Afflicted and close to death;
10. I suffer thy terrors;
11. I am helpless;
12. Dread assaults destroy me.

II. LANGUAGE OF HOPE:

1. I call for help by day;
2. I cry out in the night before thee;
3. Let my prayer come before thee;
4. Every day I call upon thee, O Lord;
5. I spread out my hands to thee.

III. GOD:

1. Is the one to whom we go for help;
2. Is the one to whom we pray;
3. Chastens those whom He loves;
4. Works wonders;
5. Is to be praised;
6. Is characterized by steadfast love;

III. Continued.

7. Is faithful;

8. Is able to take us out of the valley of despair and to set us upon
the mountains of joy!

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. Even in the midst of despair and/or discouragement the Christian will have the faith and strength to call out to God for help and for deliverance. Paul said: "But the Lord stood by me, and strengthened me; that through me the message might be fully proclaimed, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. The Lord will deliver me from every evil word, and will save me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen." (2 Tim. 4:17,18). God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us (Eph. 3:20).
2. We should pray to God "by day," and "in the night." "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17).
3. The man away from God or away from God's favor is "like a man who has no strength."
4. In describing himself the Psalmist sounds much like Job. In all his sufferings Job did not lose his faith, and neither did the Psalmist. Even when we can not understand--as is so often the case--we can still rest in the sublime assurance that " . . . all things work together for good, to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8:28). We also know that " . . . tribulation worketh steadfastness; and steadfastness, approvedness; and approvedness, hope . . . " (Rom. 5:3,4).

PSALM 89:1-18

PRAISE TO JEHOVAH

In this portion of the Psalm we have--

I. PRAISE
1,2

The Psalmist declares that he will praise Jehovah for His steadfast love and faithfulness:

1. I will sing of thy steadfast love;
2. I will proclaim thy faithfulness to all generations;
3. Thy steadfast love was established forever;
4. Thy faithfulness is firm as the heavens.

II. PROMISE
3,4

The Psalmist speaks of God's covenant with David:

1. Thou hast said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one";
2. Thou hast said, "I have sworn to David my servant";
3. Thou hast said, "I will establish your descendants for ever";
4. Thou hast said, "I will build your throne for all generations."

III. EXHORTATIONS
5

The Psalmist exhorts:

1. Let the heavens praise thy wonders, O Lord;
2. Let thy faithfulness be praised in the assembly of the saints.

IV. REASONS
6-14

The Psalmist sets forth the reasons for the exhortation to praise. He says: Let God be praised because of--

1. His greatness--

(1) Who in the skies can be compared to the Lord?

1. continued.

(2) Who among the heavenly beings is like Him?

(3) He is a God feared in the council of the holy
ones;

(4) He is great and terrible, above all that are
round about Him.

2. His faithfulness--

Who is mighty as thou art, O Lord, with thy faith-
fulness round about thee?

3. His power--

(1) Thou dost rule the raging sea;

(2) Thou dost still the rising waves;

(3) Thou didst crush Egypt;

(4) Thou didst scatter thy enemies with a mighty
arm.

4. His creation--

(1) The heavens are thine;

(2) The earth is thine;

(3) Thou hast founded the world and all that is in
it;

(4) Thou didst create the north and the south;

(5) Tabor and Hermon joyously praise thy name;

(6) Thou hast a mighty arm;

(7) Strong is thy hand, high thy right hand.

5. His character--

(1) Righteousness and justice are the foundation
of thy throne;

5. continued.

(2) Steadfast love and faithfulness go before
thee.

V. PRONOUNCEMENT
15,16

The Psalmist pronounces a blessing upon the people:

1. Who know the festal shout;
2. Who walk in the light of God's countenance;
3. Who exult in His name all the day;
4. Who extol God's righteousness.

VI. REASONS
17,18

The Psalmist states the reasons for the blessedness:

1. Thou art the glory of their strength;
2. Thou art the giver of strength;
3. Thou art the one who owns our king.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: We should praise God always--because of WHO He is and WHAT He is. Especially, we should praise Him for the great David promise, fulfilled in Jesus the Christ, the Son of David, who now sits and reigns upon David's throne.

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. THE DAVIDIC COVENANT:

1. Is rooted in God's steadfast love and faithfulness;
2. "I have made a covenant with my chosen one";
3. "I have sworn to David my servant";
4. "I will establish your descendants for ever";
5. I will " . . . build your throne for all generations."

II. GOD:

1. Deserves to be praised;

II. Continued.

2. Is faithful;
3. Is characterized by steadfast love;
4. Keeps His covenants;
5. Made a special covenant with David;
6. The heavens praise His wonders;
7. Is incomparable;
8. Is great and terrible (awesome);
9. Rules the raging sea;
10. Crushed Egypt;
11. Is able to scatter His enemies (as, the Canaanites);
12. Owns the heavens and the earth--the world and all that is in it;
13. Founded the heavens and the earth;
14. Created the north and the south;
15. Is praised by the great mountains;
16. His government is founded upon righteousness and justice;
17. Blesses the people who walk in His way;
18. Is the source of strength for the righteous;
19. Is the protector of the righteous;
20. Our King belongs to Him.

III. BLESSED ARE THE PEOPLE:

1. Who--
 - (1) Know the festal shout;
 - (2) Walk in the light of God's countenance;
 - (3) Glory in His name;
 - (4) Praise God's righteousness.

III. Continued.

2. For--

- (1) God is their strength;
- (2) God's favor is their power;
- (3) God is their protection;
- (4) God rules through their king.

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. God's people sing about and talk about His steadfast love and His faithfulness.
2. God loves us, and God is faithful to us. Let us love Him, and let us be faithful to Him.
3. Jesus Christ, the son of David, is now ruling on the throne of David (Cf. Acts 2).
4. The world (and all that is in it) belongs to God. We speak accomodatively when we talk about "giving" to the Lord. "Not how much of my money shall I give to the Lord, but how much of the Lord's money shall I use for myself?"
5. God has a mighty arm and a strong hand. He is able to do whatever He wants to do.
6. God is righteous, just, loving, and faithful. What noble characteristics to be developed in our lives. " . . . but like as he who called you is holy, be ye yourselves also holy in all manner of living; because it is written, Ye shall be holy; for I am holy" (I Pet. 1:15,16).

PSALM 89:19-37

GOD'S COVENANT WITH DAVID

In this portion of the Psalm we have--

I. RECITATION
19-29

The Psalmist recites God's promise to David:

1. Of old, thou didst speak--

(1) In a vision;

(2) To thy faithful one.

2. Thou didst say--

(1) I have set the crown upon one who is mighty;

(2) I have exalted one chosen from the people;

(3) I have found David, my servant;

(4) I have anointed him with my holy oil;

(5) My hand shall ever abide with him;

(6) My arm shall strengthen him;

(7) The enemy shall not outwit him;

(8) The wicked shall not humble him;

(9) The foes, I will crush before him;

(10) Those who hate him, I will strike down;

(11) My faithfulness and my steadfast love shall be
with him;

(12) In my name shall his horn be exalted;

(13) I will set his hand on the sea and his right
hand on the rivers;

(14) He will say about me, Thou art--

A. My Father;

B. My God;

C. The Rock of my salvation;

2. continued.

(15) And I will make him--

A. The first-born;

B. The highest of the kings of the earth;

(16) My steadfast love I will keep for him for
ever;

(17) My covenant will stand firm for him;

(18) I will establish--

A. His line for ever;

B. His throne as the days of the heavens.

II. UNFAITHFULNESS
30-32

The Psalmist speaks of what God said He would do with regard to the descendants of David, in the event of their unfaithfulness:

1. IF--his children

(1) Forsake my law;

(2) Do not walk according to my ordinances;

(3) Do not keep my commandments.

2. THEN--I will punish

(1) Their transgressions with the rod;

(2) Their iniquity with scourges.

III. CERTAINTY
33-37

The Psalmist speaks of the certainty of the Covenant.
God says:

1. BUT--I will KEEP MY COVENANT WITH DAVID;

2. I will not remove my steadfast love from him;

3. I will not be unfaithful to my promise;

4. I will not violate my covenant;

III. Continued.

5. I will not alter the word that went forth from my lips.
6. Once for all I have sworn by my holiness-I will not lie to David;
7. His line shall endure for ever;
8. His throne shall endure as long as the sun before me--like the moon, it shall be established for ever; it shall stand firm while the skies endure.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: God Himself placed tremendous importance upon His covenant with David, and His covenant with David would be kept. Human unfaithfulness would not cause God to be unfaithful to His covenant with David.

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD'S ATTITUDE TOWARD DAVID:

1. A faithful one;
2. One who is mighty;
3. One chosen from the people;
4. "My servant";
5. I have anointed him;
6. He shall cry, "Thou art my Father";
7. I will make him the first-born.

II. GOD'S PROMISES TO DAVID:

1. My hand shall abide with him;
2. My arm shall strengthen him;

II. Continued.

3. The enemy shall not outwit him;
4. The wicked shall not humble him;
5. I will crush his foes;
6. "My faithfulness and my love shall be with him";
7. "In my name shall his power be exalted";
8. I will make him the highest of the kings of the earth;
9. My covenant with him shall stand;
10. I will not violate my covenant with David;
11. I will not lie to David.

III. DAVID'S ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD:

1. My Father;
2. My God;
3. The Rock of my salvation.

IV. ENDURANCE OF THE DAVIDIC THRONE:

1. My covenant will stand firm for him;
2. I will establish his line for ever;
3. His throne . . . as the days of the heavens;
4. His throne . . . as the sun before me;
5. Like the moon, it shall be established for ever;
6. It shall stand firm while the skies endure.

V. GOD:

1. Loved David;
2. Made David to be King;
3. Abundantly blessed David's kingdom;
4. Made a tremendously significant covenant with David--a promise
fulfilled in Jesus Christ, now reigning on David's spiritual throne!

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. God, through the prophet Nathan, very carefully and minutely explained His plans and purposes with regard to David's house and David's kingdom. " . . . thy throne shall be established forever" (2 Sam.7). "According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David" (2 Sam. 7:17). In Jesus Christ, the Son of David, now on David's throne, God fulfilled this sacred promise.
2. God fondly spoke of David as being "my servant." God will be pleased with us if we labor in His cause as faithful servants. Note carefully: "Paul, a servant (bondservant) of Jesus Christ . . . " (Rom. 1:1); "Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ . . . " (2 Pet. 1:1). True greatness, in the sight of God, is reckoned according to service rendered (Mt. 20:26,27).
3. God involves His hand, His arm, and His mind in caring for those who love Him. Note verses 21 and 22.
4. God is the Father of those who have been born into His family--the church of our Lord. Let us walk becomingly as beloved children (Eph. 5:1).
5. Some of the promises of God are conditional; some are not conditional. Regardless of any wickedness that might occur upon the part of the descendants of David, God would keep His promise to David. God would set the Son of David (the Son of God) upon David's throne. Cf. Acts 2:29-36.
6. God could not lie to David--or anyone else (Cf. Heb. 6:18). It is impossible for God to act in any way that is out of harmony with or contradictory to His very nature.

PSALM 89:38-52

COMPLAINT OF THE KING

In this portion of the Psalm we have--

I. CONDITION
38-45

The Psalmist, in view of God's covenant with David, describes the perilous condition of the king. He says, but NOW--

1. Thou hast cast off and rejected;
2. Thou art full of wrath against thy anointed;
3. Thou hast renounced the covenant with thy servant;
4. Thou hast defiled his crown in the dust;
5. Thou hast breached all his walls;
6. Thou hast laid his strongholds in ruins;
7. All that pass by despoil him;
8. He has become the scorn of his neighbors;
9. Thou hast exalted the right hand of his foes;
10. Thou hast made all his enemies to rejoice;
11. Thou hast turned back the edge of his sword;
12. Thou hast not made him stand in battle;
13. Thou hast removed the scepter from his hand;
14. Thou hast cast his throne to the ground;
15. Thou hast cut short the days of his youth;
16. Thou hast covered him with shame.

II. QUESTION
46-48

The Psalmist, in faith based upon the covenant, asks how long God will allow this condition to continue:

1. How long wilt thou hide thyself?
2. How long will thy wrath burn like fire?
3. Remember--

3. continued.

(1) What the measure of life is;

(2) For what vanity thou hast created all the
sons of men!

4. What man can live and never see death?

5. Who can deliver his soul from the power of sheol?

III. CALL
49-51

The Psalmist calls upon God to be mindful of his
condition:

1. Where is thy steadfast love of old, which by thy
faithfulness thou didst swear to David?

2. Remember--

(1) How thy servant is scorned;

(2) How I bear the insults of the peoples--insults

A. With which enemies taunt;

B. With which they mock the footsteps of thy
anointed.

IV. DOXOLOGY
52

The Psalmist sets forth the doxology of the third
section of the Psalter:

1. Blessed be the Lord for ever!

2. Amen and Amen.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: Regardless of present conditions and current
circumstances, let us be certain that He that promised is faithful.

" . . . let us hold fast the confession of our hope that it waver not; for
he is faithful that promised" (Heb. 10:23). "By faith even Sarah herself
received power to conceive seed when she was past age, since she counted
him faithful who had promised" (Heb. 11:11). Abraham was fully assured

that what God had promised He was able also to perform (Rom. 4:21). Peter declares that "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, . . ."
(2 Pet. 3:9).

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. UNJUSTIFIED CONCLUSION:

1. The Psalmist speaks from the viewpoint of what things seem to be.
He fails to recognize that things are not always what they seem to be. The condition could indicate (1) that there was no longer God's steadfast love and faithfulness, and (2) that God had broken His covenant with David.
2. God had specifically stated (1) that He would punish the descendants of David in the event of their unfaithfulness to God, but (2) that He WOULD KEEP HIS COVENANT WITH DAVID.
3. No one would be justified in concluding that the terrible condition (of the king and of Israel) proved that God had broken His covenant with David, or that God no longer loved Israel.
4. One of the devil's favorite tactics is to try to get a human being to question God's love for him (for the human being). This, it is recorded, took place in the garden of Eden. When one begins to question God's love for him, he is listening to the "voice of the serpent."

II. ON LIFE.

1. At best, life is exceedingly short. Even 80 years is a mighty short time when compared with the vastness of eternity.
2. "Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full trouble" (Job. 14:1).

II. Continued.

3. "Come now, ye that say, Today or to-morrow we will go into this city, and spend a year there, and trade, and get gain: whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. What is your life? For ye are a vapor that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (Jas. 4:13,14).
4. All men--excepting those who happen to be alive when the Lord comes finally--must experience death (Heb. 9:27).

III. GOD--

1. Blesses the obedient and punishes the disobedient;
2. Can exalt a king, and can strike him down;
3. Can destroy the enemies, or He can give strength to the enemies;
4. Sometimes uses trials and tribulations (like those described in this portion of the Psalm) to bring men to their senses.
5. Is characterized by steadfast love and faithfulness.

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. Even when I can not understand the situation, I must be careful to recognize the fact that God is faithful.
2. We are grateful to God that there is a better life than this. "If we have only hoped in Christ in this life, we are of all men most pitiable" (I Cor. 15:19).
3. The "Law of Rationality" holds that "We ought to justify our conclusions by adequate evidence." Let us be careful to respect this law. "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (I Thess. 5:21).
4. The Psalmist, based upon consideration of the shortness of life, pleads for better days. Being fully mindful of the shortness of life, let us

work constantly in accomplishing the Master's will.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

Robert Frost

5. Blessed be the Lord for ever! Amen and Amen.

PSALM 90

A PRAYER FOR RESTORATION

In these verses we have--

I. GOD
1-6

The Psalmist speaks of God:

1. Israel's dwelling place in all generations;
2. His eternality--
 - (1) Before the mountains were brought forth;
 - (2) Before He formed the earth and the world;
 - (3) From everlasting to everlasting.
3. The one who turns man back to dust;
4. The one who is timeless--a thousand years in thy sight:
 - (1) Are but as yesterday when it is past;
 - (2) Are as a watch in the night.
5. The Sovereign Disposer of human life:
 - (1) Thou dost sweep men away;
 - (2) Men are like a dream;
 - (3) Men are like grass which flourishes and fades.

II. ISRAEL
7-12

The Psalmist speaks of Israel:

1. As the subject of God's wrath--
 - (1) We are consumed by thy anger;
 - (2) We are overwhelmed by thy wrath;
 - (3) Thou hast set our iniquities before thee;
 - (4) Our secret sins are in the light of thy countenance.
2. Stressing the shortness of life span of the individual:

2. Continued.

- (1) Our days pass away under thy wrath;
- (2) Our years come to an end like a sigh;
- (3) Our years are threescore and ten--or, at best,
fourscore;
- (4) They are filled with toil and trouble;
- (5) They are soon gone, and we fly away;

3. They failed to learn the meaning of God's wrath--

- (1) Who properly considers the meaning of thy
anger?
- (2) Teach us to number our days that we may get a
heart of wisdom.

III. PRAYER
13-17

The Psalmist prays--

- 1. Have pity on thy servants;
- 2. Satisfy us with thy steadfast love;
- 3. Help us to rejoice and be glad;
- 4. Give us gladness in proportion as thy hast given
us affliction;
- 5. Let us see thy works and thy power;
- 6. Let thy favor be upon us;
- 7. Establish thou the work of our hands.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: When there is in the life of the individual or in the life of the nation the evidence of God's wrath, the individual or the nation needs to seek to understand the cause of it, and must anxiously seek restoration to divine favor.

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD.

1. Is the dwelling place of His people. (Cf. Eph. 2:22).
2. Is eternal;
3. Formed the earth and the world;
4. Turns man (his body) back to dust;
5. Is not related to time as is man;
6. Is displeased by the sins of men;
7. Is constantly mindful of our sins;
8. Can have pity upon His servants;
9. Is characterized by steadfast love;
10. Can give us joy and gladness;
11. Is characterized by glorious power;
12. Can extend His favor;
13. Can establish our works.

II. MAN.

1. His body will return to dust;
2. Is uniquely related to time;
3. Is like grass that flourishes and soon fades away;
4. Often brings upon himself God's disfavor;
5. Can not hide his sins from God;
6. Is characterized by shortness of life (as he faces eternity);
7. Experiences toils and troubles in this life;
8. In contemplation of the shortness of life, and its toils and troubles, should seek to have a heart of wisdom;
9. Must seek always to have God's favor.

III. SIN.

1. Is clearly known to God;
2. Even the sins of which we are specifically cognizant are known to God;
3. Our sins occasion the wrath of God upon us;
4. Is dealt with upon the basis of God's pity (God's mercy) and steadfast love;
5. Is dealt with by the gospel of Christ--God's only saving power (Rom. 1:16).

IV. TIME.

1. The Psalm emphasizes the importance of time--
 - (1) Thou dost sweep men away;
 - (2) Men are like grass which flourishes and fades.
 - (3) Life at best is exceedingly short;
 - (4) Our years are soon gone and we fly away.
2. Therefore, we should--
 - (1) Learn to number our days;
 - (2) Seek a heart of wisdom;
 - (3) Use our time wisely (Cf. Eph. 5:15,16; Col. 4:5).

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. There is wonderful peace, and joy, and happiness, and security in God--our dwelling place.
2. Let it be emphasized that God existed before the earth and before the world.
3. "Dust thou art, to dust returnest was not spoken of the soul" (Longfellow).

4. Life is like a vapor that is here for a short time, and then vanishes away (Jas. 4:13,14).
5. "Man that is born of woman is of a few days and full of trouble" (Job. 14:1).
6. "For all flesh is as grass, and the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: but the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you" (I Pet. 1:24,25).
7. Eighty years--a reasonable life span--is such a short time when compared to the vastness of eternity.
8. The Lord can enable us to "get a heart of wisdom."
9. The Lord can give us (1) pity, (2) steadfast love, (3) joy and gladness, (4) evidence of His power, and (5) His favor.

PSALM 91

BLESSED ASSURANCE

In these verses we have--

I. FACT

1,2

The Psalmist sets forth a significant fact:

1. The person--

(1) Who dwells in the shelter of the Most High;

(2) Who abides in the shadow of the Almighty;

2. Will say to the Lord--

(1) My refuge and my fortress;

(2) My God in whom I trust.

II. EXPLANATION

3-8

The Psalmist explains why this is so: for--

1. He will deliver you;

2. He will protect you;

3. He will enable you to be free from fear;

4. He will exercise special providence in your behalf;

5. He will give you victory.

III. FACT

9,10

The Psalmist re-emphasizes the significant fact:

1. The person--

(1) Who makes God his refuge;

(2) Who makes God his habitation;

2. Will receive from God--

(1) Protection from evil;

(2) Marvelous providence.

IV. EXPLANATION

11-13

The Psalmist again explains why this is so: for--

1. God will give His angels charge over you;

IV. Continued.

2. These--

- (1) Shall guard you;
- (2) Shall support you;
- (3) Shall strengthen you.

V. CONFIRMATION
14-16

The Psalmist records that God speaks:

1. The condition: Because--

- (1) He has anchored his love in me;
- (2) He knows my name--

2. The blessings: I will--

- (1) Deliver him;
- (2) Protect him;
- (3) Answer him;
- (4) Be with him in trouble;
- (5) Rescue him;
- (6) Honor him;
- (7) Give him long life;
- (8) Show him my salvation.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: God has wonderful blessings which He is anxious to bestow. He has marvelous promises which He wants to fulfill in our lives. These blessings and these promises are based upon conditions. Let us be careful to meet the conditions in order that we might be the glad recipients of His blessings and promises.

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. BLESSED OF GOD.

1. All persons--

- (1) Who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, and
- (2) Who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,

2. Are persons who will receive--

- (1) Deliverance;
- (2) Protection;
- (3) Freedom from fear;
- (4) Special divine providence;
- (5) Victory;

3. Because--

- (1) They have made the Lord their refuge;
- (2) They have made the Most High their habitation;
- (3) They have placed their trust in Him.

II. GOD.

- 1. Is the Most High;
- 2. Is the Almighty;
- 3. Provides comfort and protection;
- 4. Enables freedom from fear;
- 5. Exercises special providence for His people;
- 6. Delivers those who love Him;
- 7. Answers those who call upon Him in love;
- 8. Will be with those who love Him;
- 9. Is the giver of long life;
- 10. Makes possible our salvation.

III. ANGELIC CARE.

1. God uses the angels in behalf of His people;
2. "For He will give His angels charge of you";
3. "On their hands they will bear you up . . . ";
4. They will provide protection.

IV. MARVELOUS BLESSINGS:

1. Shelter;
2. Comfort and protection;
3. Deliverance;
4. Freedom from fear;
5. Divine providence;
6. The care of angels;
7. God's providence;
8. The fact that God will hear;
9. Long life;
10. Salvation.

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. Those who truly know the blessings which God provides are anxious to tell others about these blessings.
2. "Under His Wings" are to be found every blessing needed by human beings. And, all human beings are invited (and are urged) to come under His wings and to share these blessings.
3. The Psalmist refers to the "recompense of the wicked." Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap (Gal. 6:7).
4. The Bible teaches that God does employ the angels in the accomplishing of His will. With regard to angelic labors there are so many things

4. Continued.

that we do not know. But we do know that they are ministering spirits sent forth to do service for the sake of them that shall inherit salvation (Heb. 1:14). Further, the Lord said: "See that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven" (Mt. 18:10).

5. God demands and respects the kind of love which compels one to "cleave" to Him.

6. If we KNOW His name and CALL upon Him, He will ANSWER.

PSALM 92

PRAISE YE THE LORD

In these verses we have--

I. FACT
1-3

The Psalmist proclaims that:

1. To--

(1) The music of the lute and the harp,

(2) The melody of the lyre.

2. It is good--

(1) To give thanks to the Lord;

(2) To sing praises to His name;

(3) To declare His steadfast love in the morning;

(4) To declare His faithfulness by night.

II. EXPLANATION
4-8

The Psalmist explains that this is the case because:

1. Of God's works--

(1) Thou, O Lord, hast made me glad by thy works;

(2) At thy works I sing for joy;

(3) How great are thy works, O Lord!

2. Of God's thoughts--

(1) Thy thoughts are very deep;

(2) The dull man cannot know them;

(3) The stupid person cannot understand.

3. Of God's eternality--

(1) The wicked may sprout like grass, and all
evildoers may flourish, but

(2) They are doomed to destruction for ever;

(3) The Lord is on high--for ever.

III. WICKED
9-11

The Psalmist speaks of the end of the wicked:

1. God's enemies shall perish;

III. Continued.

2. All evildoers shall be scattered;
3. "But thou hast exalted my power, and hast wonderfully blessed me";
4. My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies;
5. My ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants.

IV. RIGHTEOUS
12-14

The Psalmist speaks of the righteous:

1. They shall flourish like a Palm tree;
2. They shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon;
3. They are planted in the house of the Lord;
4. They flourish in the courts of our God;
5. They still bring forth fruit in old age;
6. They are ever full of sap and green;
7. They show that the Lord is upright.

V. CONSEQUENCE
15

The Psalmist declares that, therefore,

1. He is my Rock;
2. There is no unrighteousness in Him.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: Because of God's works, thoughts, and nature, and in consideration of the wretchedness of the wicked and the blessedness of the righteous--we must be determined always to praise Jehovah.

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. IT IS GOOD:

1. To give thanks to God;
2. To sing praises to His name;
3. To declare His steadfast love;

I. Continued.

4. To proclaim His faithfulness.

II. GOD'S WORKS:

1. Cause gladness in our hearts;
2. Cause men to sing for joy;
3. Are great and wonderful.

III. GOD:

1. Is the one to whom we express our thanks;
2. Is to be praised:
3. Is characterized by steadfast love and faithfulness;
4. Is the doer of great works;
5. Is the one whose thoughts are very deep;
6. Will destroy the wicked;
7. Is eternal;
8. Exalts the righteous;
9. Delivers the righteous from the wicked enemies;
10. Abundantly blesses the righteous;
11. Is upright;
12. Is our comfort, strength, and protection;
13. There is no unrighteousness in Him.

IV. THE WICKED:

1. The wicked sprout like grass;
2. The evildoers flourish;
3. They are doomed to destruction for ever;
4. They are enemies of God;
5. They shall perish;
6. They shall experience downfall and doom.

V. THE RIGHTEOUS:

1. Give thanks to God and sing praises to His name;
 2. They rejoice in His great and wonderful works;
 3. They are concerned about God's thoughts, and seek to know and to understand;
 4. They receive their strength from God;
 5. They flourish like the Palm tree;
 6. They grow like a cedar in Lebanon;
 7. They are planted in the house of the Lord;
 8. They flourish in the courts of our God;
 9. They still bring forth fruit in old age;
 10. They are ever full of sap and green (they are not dead wood);
 11. They show that the Lord is upright.
-

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. Let us be careful always to give thanks to God and to praise His name.
2. Let us constantly declare God's steadfast love and faithfulness.
3. In consideration of God's wonderful works, let us sing for joy.
4. The greatness of God is clearly seen in His works, in His thoughts, in His position, in His power, and in His eternity.
5. The wicked "sprout like grass"; the righteous are "planted in the house of the Lord."
6. The wicked may "flourish" in this life, but they are doomed to destruction.
7. The very first Psalm declares that the righteous shall be like a tree, planted by the rivers of water.
8. There is no "retirement" from our service to God.

9. Many faithful, devoted saints of God have done their greatest work in their old age.
10. In word and in deed let us do our part to show that God is upright, and that there is no unrighteousness in Him.

PSALM 93

THE PSALMIST SPEAKS OF GOD

INTRODUCTORY NOTE: In some new and marvelous way--perhaps in the great deliverance from the Babylonian Captivity--Jehovah resumes and re-asserts His authority and power. The CAMBRIDGE BIBLE says: "It can hardly be doubted that this event was the Return from Babylon . . . "

The Psalmist speaks of God:

- I. HIS FUNCTION: The Lord reigns;
- II. HIS MAJESTY: He is robed in majesty;
- III. HIS STRENGTH: He is girded with strength;
- IV. HIS WORLD: Thy world is established; it shall never be moved;
- V. HIS THRONE: Thy throne is established from of old;
- VI. HIS ETERNALITY: Thou art from everlasting;
- VII. HIS OPPOSITION: The floods have lifted up their voice;
The floods lift up their roaring.
- VIII. HIS MIGHT: He is mightier than the thunders of many waters;
He is mightier than the waves of the sea;
The Lord on high is mighty!
- IX. HIS WORD: Thy decrees are very sure;
- X. HIS CHARACTER: Holiness befits thy house, O Lord, for evermore.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: Regardless of the nature of and/or the magnitude of the forces of opposition to God and His will, these forces will not be successful. All such opposition is symbolized by the "floods," but Jehovah is mightier than the floods. The forces of opposition will not succeed against GOD and they will not succeed against His WORD.

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD: The Psalmist emphasizes God--His

1. Position,
2. Authority,
3. Power,
4. Eternality,
5. Indestructibleness,
6. Holiness,
7. Decrees.

II. THE ATTIRE OF JEHOVAH:

1. He is robed in majesty;
2. He is girded with strength.

III. THINGS ESTABLISHED:

1. The world is established;
2. Thy throne is established from of old.

IV. THE MIGHT OF JEHOVAH:

1. Mightier than the floods;
2. Mightier than the thunders of many waters;
3. Mightier than the waves of the sea.

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. Though the Psalm emphasizes a new relationship of God with His people (as upon their return from Captivity) it likely contains a Messianic message, and looks prophetically to the time when the Son of God would take up His reign over His kingdom, the New Testament church. This "King of Kings" began His glorious reign upon Pentecost of Acts 2.

2. It is comforting to know that the church of our Lord--the kingdom of the Christ--shall never be destroyed. Daniel said: It "shall never be destroyed . . . shall not be left to another people . . . and it shall stand for ever" (Dan. 2:44). Paul calls it the "kingdom that cannot be shaken" (Heb. 12:28).
3. God's word shall not be destroyed. The "word of the Lord abides for ever" (I Pet. 1:25).
4. God Himself is holy, His people are required to be holy, and "holiness befits His house."

PSALM 94

THE GOD OF VENGEANCE WILL DEAL JUSTLY WITH THE WICKED

In this Psalm we have--

I. PRAYER
1-3

The Psalmist prays to God for vengeance upon the wicked:

1. Address: O Lord, thou God of vengeance;
2. Prayer:
 - (1) Rise up;
 - (2) Shine forth;
 - (3) Judge the earth;
 - (4) Render unto the proud their deserts.
3. Question: How long shall the wicked exult?

II. DESCRIPTION
4-7

The Psalmist describes the wicked:

1. They pour out arrogant words;
2. They boast;
3. They crush God's people;
4. They afflict God's people;
5. They slay the widow and the stranger;
6. They murder the fatherless;
7. They think the Lord does not "see" their evil deeds.

III. KNOWLEDGE
8-11

The Psalmist stresses that God knows the affairs of the wicked:

1. The one who thinks God does not "see" is a fool;
2. The one who made the eye can see;
3. The one who made the ear can hear;
4. The one who chastens nations chastens individuals;

III. Continued

5. The Lord knows even the thoughts of men.

IV. BLESSEDNESS
12-15

The Psalmist proclaims that certain ones are blessed:

1. The fact--Blessed is the man--

(1) Whom the Lord dost chasten;

(2) Whom the Lord does teach.

2. The blessing--thou wilt give him--

(1) Rest from trouble;

(2) Deliverance from the wicked.

3. Explanatory proof--for,

(1) The Lord will not forsake His people;

(2) He will not abandon His heritage;

(3) Justice will return to the righteous;

(4) All the upright in heart will follow justice.

V. HELP
16-19

The Psalmist stresses that God is his helper:

1. He rises up for me against the wicked;

2. He stands up for me against evildoers;

3. His steadfast love holds me up;

4. His consolations cheer my soul.

VI. WICKED RULERS
20-21

The Psalmist describes the wicked rulers:

1. They are not allied with God;

2. They frame mischief by statute;

3. They band together against the righteous;

4. They condemn the innocent to death.

VII. REFUGE
22,23

The Psalmist emphasizes that God is his refuge:

1. The Lord has become my stronghold;

2. God is the rock of my refuge;

VII. Continued.

3. He will make the wicked pay for their sins;
4. He will destroy the wicked for their wickedness.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: God is a God of Justice. He is a God of vengeance. He blesses the righteous, and He condemns the wicked. He will take vengeance upon the evildoers. Cf. Rom. 12:19--"Avenge not yourselves, beloved, but give place unto the wrath of God: for it is written, Vengeance belongeth unto me; I will recompense, saith the Lord."

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD.

1. Is a God of vengeance (retribution);
2. Is the judge of all the earth;
3. Will render to the wicked "their due reward";
4. In indescribable patience, He sometimes tolerates the haughtiness of the wicked;
5. Sees and hears the wicked (as well as all other men);
6. Is not blind, or deaf, or unconcerned;
7. Disciplines nations (as well as individuals);
8. Teaches men;
9. Knows the very thought of men;
10. Is the "high retreat" and the "impregnable rock" of the righteous;
11. Is the destroyer of the wicked.

II. THE WICKED.

1. Will receive their due reward;
2. Are haughty and proud;

II. Continued.

3. Speak arrogantly;
4. Brag about themselves;
5. Trample upon God's people;
6. Kill the widow, the immigrant, and the orphans;
7. Think that the Lord does not see or hear;
8. Are "stupid";
9. Will be destroyed in their sin.

III. BLESSED IS THE MAN . . .

1. Whom God does discipline;
2. Whom God does instruct from His Law;
3. God gives to him--
 - (1) Security;
 - (2) His providence (protection and presence);
 - (3) Deliverance from the wicked;
 - (4) His justice;
 - (5) The divine standard to follow;
 - (6) His help and steadfast love;
 - (7) His consolation.

IV. CORRUPT GOVERNMENTS.

1. Have wicked leaders (rulers);
 2. Cannot be allied with God;
 3. Organize oppression under the pretense of law;
 4. Oppose the righteous;
 5. Convict the innocent people (and fail to convict the wicked people).
-

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. The fact of sin demands ultimate retribution. Retribution demands administration of absolute justice. Absolute justice demands a Being who is perfect in all His attributes. The Being perfect in all His attributes is God. Thus, the fact of sin implies the existence of God.
2. We must live our lives in the knowledge of the fact that God blesses the righteous, and punishes the wicked.
3. Wrongdoers are arrogant and haughty. The Christian is characterized by gratitude and humility.
4. God has a special concern about the widows, the orphans, and the immigrants. God's people must manifest this concern also.
5. Men may fool themselves and others, but they cannot fool God.
Cf. Gal. 6:7.
6. God makes the ear and forms the eye. The magnificent DESIGN characteristic of each declares the existence and omnipotence of God.
7. Whom the Lord loveth, He chasteneth (Heb. 12:6).
8. We must be careful to see to it that God instructs us from His law.
9. What marvelous comfort in knowing that God will not forsake His people.
10. All whose "hearts are right" "subscribe to justice." All persons who do not "subscribe to justice" are persons whose hearts ARE NOT RIGHT!
11. God's people must stand WITH GOD against the workers of iniquity.
12. God is our HELP and our SUPPORT.
13. "Days of distress" may come, and "perplexing cares" may crowd our lives--but God will deliver us and cheer our souls.
14. The governments (and rulers) of the world are accountable to God.

PSALM 95

A CALL TO WORSHIP

In this Psalm we have--

I. INVITATION
1,2

The Psalmist extends the call for men to worship God:

1. O Come;
2. Let us sing unto the Lord;
3. Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our
salvation;
4. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving.
5. Let us make a joyful noise unto Him with Psalms.

II. GROUNDS
3-5

The Psalmist sets forth the grounds upon which the
call to worship is extended:

1. The Lord is a great God;
2. He is a great King, above all gods;
3. In His hands are the deep places of the earth;
4. The heights of the hills are His also;
5. The sea is His, and He made it;
6. His hands formed the dry land.

III. REFRAIN
6

The Psalmist repeats the call to worship:

1. O Come;
2. Let us worship and bow down;
3. Let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

IV. GROUNDS
7

The Psalmist continues to set forth the grounds for
this call to worship:

1. He is our God;
2. We are the people of His pasture;
3. We are the sheep of His hand.

V. EXHORTATION
8,9

The Psalmist exhorts the people to make the proper response to God:

1. Today, if you will hear His voice, harden not your hearts, as
 - (1) In the provocation;
 - (2) In the day of temptation in the wilderness.
2. Don't be like your fathers were--
 - (1) They tempted Me;
 - (2) They proved Me;
 - (3) They saw My works.

VI. DESCRIPTION
10,11

God describes the rebellious Israelites:

1. I was grieved with this generation forty years;
2. I said, It is a people that do err in their hearts;
3. I said, They have not known my ways;
4. I swore to them in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE:

Because of who He is, and what He is, let us rejoice that we can worship God, understanding that worship involves not only praises to Him, but complete submission and obedience to His will.

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD.

1. Is the one to whom we sing;
2. Is the Rock of our Salvation;

I. Continued.

3. In worship, we come into His presence in a special way;
4. Is the one to whom we pour out our thanksgiving;
5. Is worshipped in songs;
6. Is the great God;
7. Is King above all gods;
8. Is the creator and sustainer of all nature;
9. Is our maker, before whom we kneel;
10. We are the--
 - (1) People of His pasture;
 - (2) Sheep of His hand.
11. We must hearken to His voice;
12. We must be characterized by grateful hearts before Him.

II. ON WORSHIP.

1. Our worship must be directed to God (Cf. Jno. 4:24);
2. Involves songs of praise to God;
3. Is accomplished in His presence;
4. Relates to--
 - (1) Who God is;
 - (2) What God is;
 - (3) What He has done, is doing, and shall do.
5. Involves an attitude of humility;
6. Involves understanding our relationship to God;
7. Involves having our hearts right;
8. Enhances faithful, devoted, obedient service to God;
9. Helps us on our way to the eternal rest.

III. A LOATHED GENERATION.

1. Would not hearken to God's voice;
2. Hardened their hearts;
3. Tested God;
4. Disregarded what they had seen;
5. Had no proper regard for God's ways;
6. Angered God;
7. Were not able to enter into God's rest (Cf. Heb. 3 and 4).

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. Let us be truly grateful for the place and power of singing in our worship to God.
2. We should give " . . . thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father . . . " (Eph. 5:20).
3. The deep places of the earth, the mountains, the sea, the dry land--all are His, and "He holds the world in His hands."
4. Since He is the creator, and since we are a part of His creation, we must be gratefully anxious to worship Him as He has instructed.
5. Let us be careful to learn from the tragic mistakes of Old Testament Israel.
6. When people fail to hearken to the voice of God they become characterized by hardened hearts. They test God. They forget what God has done for them. They disregard God's ways and become disobedient. They will not enter into His rest.

PSALM 96

AN EXHORTATION TO PRAISE GOD

In these verses we have--

I. EXHORTATION
1-3

The Psalmist exhorts: "Sing unto the Lord!"

1. A new song;
2. All the earth;
3. Bless His name;
4. Show forth His salvation;
5. Declare His glory among the nations;
6. Declare His wonders among all people.

II. EXPLANATION
4-6

The Psalmist sets forth the grounds for the exhortation:

1. The Lord is great;
2. He is greatly to be praised;
3. He is to be feared above all gods--for
 - (1) All the gods of the nations are idols;
 - (2) The Lord made the heavens.
4. Honor and majesty are before Him;
5. Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

III. EXHORTATION
7-12

The Psalmist exhorts further:

1. Give unto the Lord--
 - (1) O ye kindreds of the people;
 - (2) Glory and strength;
 - (3) The glory due His name;
 - (4) An offering.
2. Worship the Lord--in the beauty of holiness;
3. Fear before Him all the earth;
4. Tell the nations that--

4. continued.

- (1) The Lord reigns;
- (2) The world is established (Berkeley);
- (3) The world cannot be moved (Berkeley);
- (4) God shall judge righteously;

IV. EXPLANATION
13

The Psalmist gives the grounds for the exhortation:

- 1. He comes to judge;
- 2. He shall judge the world with righteousness;
- 3. He shall judge the people with His truth.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: God's people are to praise Jehovah because of:

(1) His greatness; (2) His reign; and (3) His judgment.

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD.

- 1. Is the one to whom we sing in worship.
- 2. All men are obligated to sing to Him;
- 3. All men are obligated to "bless His name";
- 4. We must continuously tell of His saving plan;
- 5. We must declare His glory and tell of His marvelous works among all peoples;
- 6. He is great, and is greatly to be praised;
- 7. He is to be feared (revered, respected);
- 8. He made the heavens;
- 9. He is characterized by honor and majesty, strength, and beauty;
- 10. Is the one to whom we made our offerings;
- 11. Is to be worshipped in the "beauty of holiness";

I. Continued.

12. He reigns over all the world;
13. He will judge the peoples with justice;
14. He will judge the world with righteousness;
15. He will judge the world with His truth.

II. OUR SINGING.

1. Must be directed to God;
2. Must praise God;
3. Must tell of His plan of salvation;
4. Must declare His glory among all men;
5. Must tell of His marvelous works.

III. ADMONITIONS.

1. Sing to the Lord;
2. Bless His name;
3. Tell of His salvation;
4. Publish (declare) His glory and His marvelous works;
5. Ascribe to Him glory and strength;
6. Bring an offering and enter His courts;
7. Worship Him in the beauty of holiness;
8. Stand in His presence with awe;
9. Proclaim among the nations that the Lord is reigning;
10. Know that He is coming to judge the world.

IV. LET GOD BE PRAISED--

1. By all men;
2. By the heavens;
3. By the earth;
4. By the sea (and all that fills it);

IV. Continued.

5. By the field (and everything in it);
6. By all the trees of the forest.

V. THE JUDGMENT.

1. God will judge the peoples;
2. He will judge with equity;
3. He will judge the world with righteousness;
4. He will judge the peoples with His truth.

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. While it is good to sing over and over the old songs, it is imperative that we "sing to the Lord a new song."
2. What an amazing blessing it is that God has enabled man to be able to sing praises to His glory.
3. Our songs should be filled with praise to God and with instruction regarding His glory and His marvelous works.
4. The Great God of the Universe is great in glory, great in marvelous works, great in power, great in honor, great in majesty, great in strength, great in beauty, great in justice, and great in righteousness.
5. All accountable human beings will one day stand in judgment before God. It is our obligation to prepare to face God in judgment.

PSALM 97

BLESSINGS AND JOY IN JEHOVAH'S REIGN

In these verses we have--

I. REIGN The Psalmist discusses God's reign:

1-5

1. The fact of it;
2. The desired reaction to it;
3. The mystery of it;
4. The foundation of it;
5. The irresistible power of it;
6. The extent of it;
7. The influence of it;

II. RECOGNITION

6-9

The Psalmist stresses recognition of the Lord:

1. By--

- (1) The heavens;
- (2) All people;
- (3) Worshipers;
- (4) Idolaters;
- (5) gods;
- (6) Zion;
- (7) Daughters of Judah.

2. For--

- (1) The Lord is most high over all the earth;
- (2) He is exalted above all gods.

III. RIGHTEOUS

10,11

The Psalmist stresses that the Lord blesses the righteous:

1. He loves them;
2. He preserves them;

III. Continued.

3. He delivers them;
4. He gives them light;
5. He send them joy.

IV. RESPONSE
12

The Psalmist speaks of the proper response to the facts set forth:

1. Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous;
2. Give thanks to His holy name!

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: God's reign over all the world is for the benefit of the righteous. Let the righteous rejoice in the reign of Jehovah.

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD.

1. Reigns;
2. Reigns over all the earth;
3. Shrouds Himself in clouds and thick darkness;
4. Righteousness and Justice are the foundation of His throne;
5. He destroys His adversaries;
6. He manifests Himself to the world;
7. He can cause the earth to tremble and the mountains to melt;
8. His righteousness is proclaimed by the heavens;
9. His glory is proclaimed by the nations;
10. He confounds the idolaters;
11. He judges righteous judgments;
12. He loves those who hate evil;
13. He preserves the lives of His saints;

I. Continued.

- 14. He delivers the righteous from the hand of the wicked;
- 15. His name is holy;
- 16. We must give thanks to Him.

II. THE REIGN OF JEHOVAH. We have--

- 1. The FACT of it;
- 2. The desired ATTITUDE toward it;
- 3. The MYSTERY of it;
- 4. The FOUNDATION of it;
- 5. The METHOD of it;
- 6. The POWER of it;
- 7. The EFFECTS of it--
 - (1) Among all the peoples;
 - (2) Among false worshippers;
 - (3) Among God's people.
- 8. The EXTENT of it;
- 9. The BENEFITS of it--the Lord
 - (1) Loves those who hate evil;
 - (2) Preserves the lives of the saints;
 - (3) Delivers the righteous from the hand of the wicked;
 - (4) Provides light for the righteous;
 - (5) Gives joy for the upright in heart;
 - (6) Elicits thanksgiving.

III. WORDS OF JOY.

- 1. Let the earth rejoice;
- 2. Let the coastlands (islands) be glad;
- 3. Zion hears and is glad;

III. Continued.

4. The daughters of Judah rejoice;
5. There is joy for the upright in heart;
6. Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous;
7. Give thanks to His holy name!

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. There is joy and comfort, consolation and hope in realization of the fact that God is on His throne, and is in control of the affairs of the world.
2. In the year the King Uzziah died Isaiah saw the Lord sitting upon His throne (Isa. 6:1). The fact that there was an empty throne upon the earth did not mean that the heavenly throne was vacant!
3. How wonderful it is that we can experience the marvelous benefits and blessings in the present reign of the Christ, as citizens in His Kingdom. Let us labor constantly to extend these blessings to all men everywhere.
4. God wants men to be happy, and has provided the sacred plan by which there can be genuine joy in human hearts. The messages which produce this joy in human hearts is called "the gospel." Upon his obedience to the gospel of Christ, the nobleman of Ethiopia " . . . went on his way rejoicing" (Acts 8:39).

PSALM 98

A PSALM OF PRAISE

In this beautiful Psalm we have--

I. ISRAEL
1-3

The Psalmist exhorts Israel to praise God.

1. The exhortation--Sing to the Lord a new song;
2. The explanation--for He has done marvelous things!
 - (1) His right hand and His holy arm have gotten victory;
 - (2) He has made known his victory;
 - (3) He has revealed His vindication to the nations;
 - (4) He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
 - (5) All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

II. EARTH
4-6

The Psalmist exhorts all the earth to praise God.

1. The exhortation--
 - (1) Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
 - (2) Break forth into joyous song and sing praises;
 - (3) Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre;
 - (4) Sing praises with the lyre and the sound of melody;
 - (5) Sing praises with trumpets and the sound of the horn.

2. The explanation--He is King, the Lord.

III. NATURE
7-9

The Psalmist exhorts all nature to praise God.

1. The exhortation--
 - (1) Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
 - (2) Let the world praise, and those who dwell in it;

1. Continued.

(3) Let the floods clap their hands;

(4) Let the hills sing for joy together.

2. The explanation--

(1) The Lord comes to judge the earth;

(2) He will judge the world with righteousness;

(3) He will judge the peoples with equity.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: Let God's people, the earth, and all nature praise Jehovah--for His Plan of Redemption, because He is King and Lord, and because He will judge the world in righteousness.

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD.

1. He is the one to whom we sing;
2. He is the doer of marvelous things;
3. He is the God of victory;
4. He makes known His plan for man's salvation;
5. He remembers;
6. He is characterized by steadfast love and faithfulness;
7. He is the King; He is the Lord;
8. The realm of nature declares His glory, beauty, majesty, and power.
9. He will judge the world with righteousness.

II. PRAISE JEHOVAH. We must praise God--

1. Because of what He has done;
2. Because of what He continues to do;
3. Because of What He is;

II. Continued.

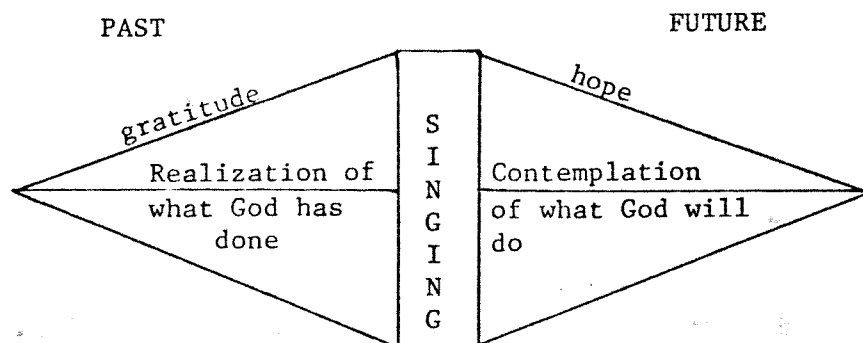
4. Because of Who He is;
5. Because He is the Judge of all the world.

III. A SACRED OBLIGATION (and privilege).

1. What is the obligation? Praise Jehovah!
2. Who is to do the praising?
 - (1) Israel;
 - (2) Earth;
 - (3) Nature.
3. Why praise Him? Because of--
 - (1) What He has done;
 - (2) What He is;
 - (3) Who He is;
 - (4) His coming to judge the world.

IV. WHERE SINGING STANDS.

1. Two important questions about singing:
 - (1) Where does it stand?
 - (2) What are its causes?
2. This beautiful Psalm calls attention to the fact that real singing stands between--
 - (1) Gratitude, and
 - (2) Hope.



II. Continued.

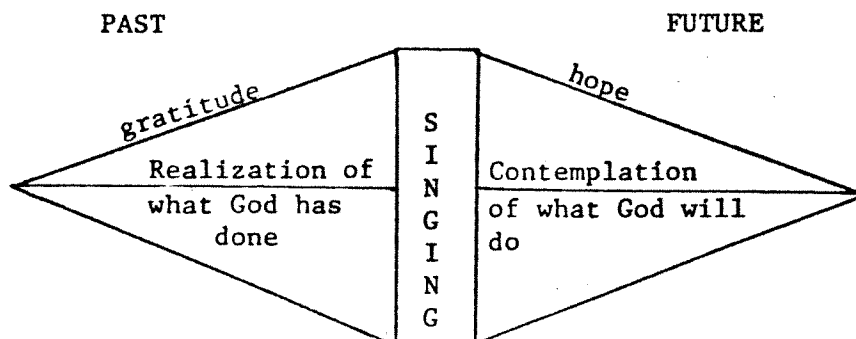
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GENERAL LESSONS:

1. God is omnipotent. He is able to accomplish whatever He wants to accomplish. He is able to do " . . . exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, . . . " (Eph. 3:20).
2. God is concerned that His "salvation" be made known unto all men.
3. God remembers His blessings upon men (and upon nations), and is mindful of the response made to these blessings.
4. As Old Testament Israel sang praises "with the lyre," New Testament Israel--the church of the Lord--is commanded to "sing and make melody" with the heart (Eph. 5:19).
5. There is a judgment to come. God will judge all men, but He will do so through Jesus Christ (Jno. 5:27; Acts 17:31).
6. G. Campbell Morgan says: "In proportion as the vision is filled with the glory of the Lord, the heart is filled with gladness, and the lips with song." He further comments: "He hath done marvelous things," and "He cometh to judge . . . This vision of God in the past and the future creates the song of the present."

PSALM 99

JEHOVAH REIGNS IN HOLINESS

IN this Psalm we have--

I. KING
1-3

The Psalmist stresses that the Lord reigns as King.

1. His position and nature:

(1) He sits enthroned upon the cherubim;

(2) He is great in Zion;

(3) He is exalted over all the peoples;

(4) Holy is He!

2. Therefore--

(1) Let the people tremble;

(2) Let the earth quake;

(3) Let them praise His great and terrible name!

II. JUDGE
4,5

The Psalmist stresses that the Lord reigns as Judge.

1. His position and nature;

(1) He is the mighty King;

(2) He is a lover of justice;

(3) He has established equity;

(4) He has executed justice and righteousness in
Jacob;

(5) Holy is He!

2. Therefore--

(1) Extol the Lord our God;

(2) Worship at His footstool!

III. GUIDE
6-9

The Psalmist stresses that the Lord reigns as Guide.

1. His position and nature:

(1) Moses and Aaron were among His priests;

(2) Samuel was among those who called on His name;

1. Continued.

(3) These--

- A. Cried to the Lord, kept His testimonies,
kept the statutes that He gave them;
- B. Were blessed by Him. He answered them,
spoke to them in the pillar of cloud,
forgave them, was an avenger of their
wrongdoings.

(4) The Lord our God is holy!

2. Therefore--

- (1) Extol the Lord our God;
- (2) Worship at His holy mountain.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: Jehovah reigns in holiness. He reigns as King, as Judge, and as Guide. Let us worship and praise Jehovah for His righteous reign.

SPECIAL LESSONS:

1. GOD.

- 1. He reigns;
- 2. He sits enthroned upon the cherubim;
- 3. He is great in Zion;
- 4. He is exalted over all the peoples;
- 5. He is a Mighty King;
- 6. He is a lover of justice;
- 7. He has established equity;
- 8. He executes justice and righteousness;

I. Continued.

9. He is holy;
10. He has been served by such Old Testament worthies as Moses, Aaron,
and Samuel;
11. He is the one to whom we pray;
12. He reveals Himself to man (through His testimonies);
13. He is a God who forgives;
14. He is the one whom we worship.

II. THE LORD OUR KING.

VERSES	THE LORD	AS	AND IS TO BE	FOR
1-3	Reigns	King	Praised	He is holy
4,5	Reigns	Judge	Worshipped	He is holy
6-9	Reigns	Guide	Praised/Worshipped	He is holy

III. PRAISE YE JEHOVAH!

1. Let the peoples tremble;
2. Let the earth quake!
3. Let men praise His great and terrible name;
4. Worship at His footstool!
5. Call upon Him;
6. Obey His teachings;
7. Extol the Lord our God;
8. Worship at his holy mountain.

IV. MOSES, AARON, AND SAMUEL.

1. They called on His name;
2. They petitioned God;

I. Continued.

9. He is holy;
10. He has been served by such Old Testament worthies as Moses, Aaron,
and Samuel;
11. He is the one to whom we pray;
12. He reveals Himself to man (through His testimonies);
13. He is a God who forgives;
14. He is the one whom we worship.

II. THE LORD OUR KING.

VERSES	THE LORD	AS	AND IS TO BE	FOR
1-3	Reigns	King	Praised	He is holy
4,5	Reigns	Judge	Worshipped	He is holy
6-9	Reigns	Guide	Praised/Worshipped	He is holy

III. PRAISE YE JEHOVAH!

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6. Obey His teachings;
7. Extol the Lord our God;
8. Worship at his holy mountain.

IV. MOSES, AARON, AND SAMUEL.

1. They called on His name;
2. They petitioned God;

IV. Continued.

3. They were answered by God;
4. They listened to His instructions and observed His statutes;
5. They experienced forgiveness;
6. They suffered the consequences of "evil practices."

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. Isaiah saw the seraphim standing above Him. "The one called to the other and said: 'Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory'" (Isa. 6:2,3).
2. God in majesty and power reigns supreme. He is mightily concerned about justice, truth, and equity. We must be careful to respect and to reflect His concern.
3. God hears the petitions of His people and grants their requests if they are in harmony with His will.
4. Moses, Aaron, and Samuel--what wonderful examples of obedience. "They kept His testimonies and statutes that He gave them."
5. Forgiveness does not always eliminate the consequences of sin in this life. God forgave, but He made them pay for their evil practices (Berkeley).

PSALM 100

WORSHIP THE LORD--ADMONITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

In this Psalm we have--

I. ADMONITIONS
1-3a

The Psalmist admonishes--

1. Make a joyful noise to the Lord;
2. Serve Him with gladness;
3. Come into His presence with singing;
4. Know that He is God!

II. EXPLANATIONS
3b

The Psalmist explains--

1. He made us;
2. We belong to Him;
3. We are His people;
4. We are the sheep of His pasture.

III. ADMONITIONS
4

The Psalmist admonishes--

1. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving;
2. Enter into His courts with praise;
3. Give thanks to Him;
4. Bless His name.

IV. EXPLANATIONS
5

The Psalmist explains--

1. The Lord is good;
2. He is steadfast in love;
3. He is faithful.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: Let us worship and praise Jehovah--because of who He is, and because of our relationship to Him.

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD.

1. He is to be praised with joy;
2. He is to be served with gladness;
3. It is in His presence (in a very special sense) that we worship;
4. We are to acknowledge and know that He is God;
5. He made us;
6. We belong to Him;
7. We are His people;
8. We are the sheep of His pasture;
9. To Him we are to express our thanks;
10. He is good;
11. His love endures for ever;
12. His faithfulness endures to all generations.

II. WORDS OF HAPPINESS.

1. Make a joyful noise to the Lord;
2. Serve the Lord with gladness;
3. Come into His presence with singing;
4. Know that He is God;
5. Know that we are His people and His sheep;
6. Give thanks;
7. Give praise;
8. God is Good, Loving, and Faithful.

NOTE: Real happiness is the consequence of one's being in proper relationship with God.

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. God intends that His saving message be proclaimed to all lands--to all people. May God help us to do our part to get the whole gospel to the whole world.
2. Out of our love and devotion and loyalty we serve Him with gladness.
3. What is our relationship to God? (1) He made us; (2) We are His; (3) We are His people; (4) We are the sheep of His pasture.
4. Let us continuously give thanks to God, for--(1) He is good; (2) His steadfast love endures for ever; and (3) His faithfulness endures to all generations.

PSALM 101

THE RIGHT ATTITUDE OF THE EARTHLY RULER

INTRODUCTORY NOTE: The 99th Psalm stresses that "Jehovah Reigns in Holiness," and the present Psalm emphasizes that the earthly ruler must reign in righteousness.

In this Psalm we have--

I. PERSONAL PURITY 1-4

The Psalmist pledges a life of personal purity.

1. I will sing to the Lord of loyalty and justice;
2. I will give heed to thy way that is blameless;
3. Within my house I will walk with integrity of heart;
4. I will not look upon anything that is base;
5. I hate the work of the wicked, and will have nothing to do with such work;
6. I will keep my heart right before God.

II. RIGHTEOUS REIGN 5-8

The Psalmist (the King) pledges a righteous reign:

1. I will destroy those who slander their neighbors;
2. I will not endure the man of haughty looks and arrogant heart;
3. I will look with favor upon the faithful in the land, that they will dwell with me;
4. He that walks in thy way that is blameless shall minister to me;
5. A deceitful person shall have no part in my reign;
6. Day by day I will destroy all the wicked in the land;

II. Continued.

7. Day by day I will cut off the evildoers from
the city of the Lord.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: Personal purity of the ruler is essential to his righteous reign. The ruler must be right "within his house" before he can be right within the city. With regard to elders of the church Paul says: " . . . one that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (but if a man knoweth not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)" (I Tim. 3:4,5). The earthly ruler--out of a life of personal purity--must rule righteously.

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD.

1. Is concerned about loyalty and justice;
2. Is the one to whom we sing;
3. It is His way that is blameless;
4. His presence is essential to our righteousness and our joy;
5. Is concerned about what we think and about what we see;
6. " . . . resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble"
(Jas. 4:6).
7. Is concerned about our associates;
8. Hates all wickedness.

II. THE RIGHTEOUS PERSON DELIGHTS IN--

1. All good works;
2. Purity of hearts;
3. Purity of speech;

II. Continued.

4. Humility;
5. The companionship of the faithful;
6. The way that is blameless;
7. Absolute honesty;
8. Truth.

III. THINGS IMPORTANT:

1. Loyalty;
2. Justice;
3. God Himself;
4. God's way;
5. God's presence;
6. Personal purity;
7. Integrity of heart
8. Seeing the right things;
9. Hatred of evil works;
10. Hatred of falsehoods;
11. Humility;
12. Faithfulness;
13. Right companionships;
14. Proper associates in work;
15. Concern for others.

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. What we think about is reflected in the songs that we sing, and our thoughts and our songs mightily affect our lives.

2. Lovingkindness and justice--attributes of God which must also be found in the lives of all who seek His favor.
3. God's way is "the way that is blameless," and it is the way to which we must "give heed."
4. Deep realization of the presence of God is an essential factor in our righteous living.
5. We must constantly guard our hearts, our ears, and our tongues.
6. Secrets of men cannot be concealed from the knowledge of God.
7. There is no room for haughtiness in the life of the Christian. There is room for gratitude and humility.
8. Who shall dwell with me? (1) the faithful, (2) those who walk in the way that is blameless, (3) those who are completely honest, (4) those who speak truth.

PSALM 102

THE CRY OF CONFIDENCE OUT OF THE MIDST OF DESPAIR

(Israel's Despair and Hope)

This is the Psalm of an individual, but as the individual represents the nation of Israel.

In this Psalm we have--

I. PLEA
1,2

The Psalmist pleads that God will hear him.

1. Hear my cry, O Lord;
2. Do not hide thy face from me in the day of my distress;
3. Listen to me;
4. Answer me speedily in the day when I call!

II. EXPLANATION
3-11

The Psalmist explains his destitute condition.

He says, Because of thy indignation and anger--

1. My days pass like a smoke;
2. My bones burn like a furnace;
3. My heart is smitten like grass, and withered;
4. I forget to eat;
5. My bones cleave to my flesh;
6. I am like a vulture and like an owl;
7. I can't sleep;
8. I am lonely;
9. My enemies taunt me and use my name for a curse;
10. I am despondent and sorrowful;
11. Thou hast forsaken me;
12. My days are like an evening shadow;
13. I wither away like grass.

III. ACTION
12-17

The Psalmist stresses that God will act in behalf of Zion.

He speaks of--

1. The NATURE of God:

- (1) He is enthroned forever;
- (2) His name endures to all generations;

2. The ACTION of God:

- (1) He will have pity on Zion;
- (2) He will have favor upon her;
- (3) He will build up Zion;
- (4) He will appear in His glory;
- (5) He will regard the prayers of the destitute;
- (6) He will listen to their supplications;

3. The REASON for His action:

- (1) Thy servants love Zion;
- (2) Thy servants have compassion upon Zion;

4. The CONSEQUENCES of God's action:

- (1) The nations will fear the name of the Lord;
- (2) All the kings of the earth will fear His glory.

IV. RECORD
18-22

The Psalmist says: Let it be recorded for a generation to come--

1. WHAT? That God--

- (1) Looked down from heaven;
- (2) Heard the groans of the prisoners;
- (3) Set free those who were doomed to die;

IV. Continued.

2. WHY? So that when peoples gather together to worship the Lord--
 - (1) A people yet unborn may praise the Lord;
 - (2) Men may declare in Zion the name of the Lord;
 - (3) Men may declare in Jerusalem His praise.

V. PRAYER
23-28

The Psalmist promises that things will be better for God's people:

1. God is eternal--time is no problem with Him;
2. He is powerful--He is the creator of heaven and earth;
3. He is not like His creation--
 - (1) It will perish, but He will endure;
 - (2) It will wear out, but He will not;
 - (3) It will change, but He will not change;
 - (4) It will pass away, but He will not;
 - (5) He is unchangeable and eternal;
4. Therefore--
 - (1) The children of thy servants shall dwell secure;
 - (2) Their posterity shall be established.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: Regardless of one's circumstances, because of the eternality and power of God there is basis for marvelous hope and confidence. God will work out His plan and He will keep His promises. He is not slack concerning His promise (2 Pet. 3:9). Abraham was "fully assured" that what God had promised He was able also to perform (Rom. 4:21).

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD.

1. Is the one to whom we pray;
2. He can hear and answer our prayers;
3. He is enthroned for ever;
4. His name endures to all generations;
5. He is concerned about the needs of Zion;
6. He is concerned about those who love His cause;
7. He regards the prayers of His people;
8. He wonderfully blesses His people;
9. He is concerned about coming generations;
10. He is not limited by matters of time;
11. He is creator of the heavens and the earth;
12. His creation perishes, but He changes not!
13. He is our security.

II. THE PSALMIST'S TROUBLES.

Note: The Psalmist speaks of himself, but as he represents Israel-- probably Israel in captivity.

1. The FACT of it, verse 2;
2. The DESCRIPTION of it, verses 3-11;
3. The CAUSE of it, verse 10;
4. The REMEDY for it, verses 1,2;
5. The ASSURANCE of it, verses 12-17.

III. LET US PRAY.

1. God wants us to pray;
2. He is able to answer our prayers;

III. Continued.

3. He is mindful of our distress;
4. He regards the prayers of the destitute;
5. He hears the groans of the prisoners;
6. He wants to bestow His blessings.

IV. WHEN DELIVERANCE COMES: Let us--

1. Know that it is from God;
2. Walk becomingly before Him;
3. Be truly grateful;
4. Praise God and worship Him;
5. Tell others about Him.

V. GOD LOVES ZION.

NOTE: In New Testament times Zion is the church of our Lord (Cf. Heb. 12:22,23).

1. He knows her circumstances;
2. He loves those who love the "stones" of Zion;
3. He will build up Zion;
4. He can set free those who are doomed to die;
5. He is the security of His people;
6. He will keep His promises.

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth" (Heb. 12:6).
2. Into each life troubles do come. Blessed are they who in the midst of and in spite of their troubles can maintain their confidence in God and their assurance of victory through Him.

3. A noble plea: (1) Hear my prayer, O Lord; (2) Let my cry come to thee!
(3) Do not hide thy face from me; (4) Incline thy ear to me; (5) Answer me speedily!
4. We must be mindful of the shortness of life. Life is like an "evening shadow" and is like the grass that withers. Cf. Job. 14:1; I Pet. 1:24.
5. In discussing the greatness and the authority and power of Jesus Christ, Inspiration quotes from Psalm 102. See Heb. 1:10ff.
6. The Psalmist prayed: " . . . answer me speedily in the day when I call." Then, he proceeds to discuss the fact that God is not limited to time, as is man. We need to learn patience. We must not be like the man who prayed as follows: "Father, give me patience! . . . but give it to me NOW!"
7. " . . . let us hold fast the confession of our hope that it waver not; for he is faithful that promised . . . " (Heb. 10:23).

PSALM 103

BLESS THE LORD O MY SOUL!

In this Psalm we have--

I. EXHORTATION The Psalmist gives a self-exhortation to bless the Lord.
 1-5

1. The degree (or extent) of it--

(1) O my soul;

(2) And all that is within me;

2. The reasons for it--

(1) Forgiveness;

(2) Healing;

(3) Deliverance;

(4) Love and mercy;

(5) Provisions;

(6) Strength.

II. EXPLANATION The Psalmist explains WHY the Lord is to be blessed:
 6-14

because of His--

1. Justice;

2. Revelation;

3. Mercy;

4. Love;

5. Compassion;

6. Forgiveness;

7. Pity;

8. Understanding.

III. LOVE The Psalmist emphasizes the Lord's great love.
 15-18

1. As for man--

(1) His days are like grass;

1. continued.

(2) He flourishes like a flower of the field;

(3) He is like the passing wind;

2. But, God's love--steadfast love--

(1) Is from everlasting to everlasting upon those
who fear Him;

(2) Extends to children's children--to those who
keep His covenant and remember to do His
commandments.

IV. RULE
19-22

The Psalmist stresses the Lord's rule.

1. He has established His throne in the heavens;

2. His kingdom rules over all;

3. Let Him be praised--

(1) By His angels--who do His word;

(2) By all His hosts--that do His will;

(3) By all His works--in all places;

(4) By ME!

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: Let all persons, all nations, and all things--in all
places--praise Jehovah!

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD.

1. He is to be praised with one's whole being;

2. We must be mindful of the benefits which He extends to us;

3. He forgives our iniquities;

4. He heals our diseases;

5. He delivers us from troubles;
6. He grants us His love and mercy;
7. He gives us good things throughout life;
8. He renews our strength;
9. He renders justice and fairness;
10. He is mindful of the oppressed;
11. He revealed Himself to Moses and to the people of Israel;
12. He is merciful and gracious;
13. He is slow to anger;
14. He abounds in steadfast love;
15. He will not for always show His hostility;
16. He does not deal with us according to what our sins actually deserve;
17. His steadfast love is great toward those who fear Him;
18. He removes our transgressions from us;
19. He pities those who fear Him;
20. He knows our lives--our circumstances and our weaknesses;
21. He blesses those who do His commandments;
22. He has established His throne in the heavens;
23. His kingdom rules over all;
24. He deserves to be praised--by all beings, by all things, at all times, in all places.

II. MAN.

1. Must be anxious to praise God;
2. Must remember the blessings that come from God;
3. Must look to God for--
 - (1) Forgiveness;
 - (2) Healing;

3. continued.

(3) Deliverance;

(4) Good things;

(5) Strength;

(6) Knowledge;

4. Must fear God;

5. Needs to recognize that God knows us--our needs and our
circumstances;

6. His days are short;

7. Must do God's commandments;

8. Must know that God rules over the world!

III. BLESS THE LORD!

1. The obligation (and privilege);

2. The who--self, God's people, all men, and all things (in heaven and
on earth);

3. The degree (or extent);

4. The reasons--because of

(1) Personal blessings (1-5);

(2) The nature of God (6-14);

(3) The enduring love of God (15-18);

(4) The beneficent rule of God (19-22).

IV. FORGET NOT ALL HIS BENEFITS.

1. He forgives our sins;

2. He heals our ills;

3. He delivers us from troubles;

4. He extends to us His love and mercy;

5. He gives us the "good things" necessary for life;

IV. Continued.

6. He renews our strength;
7. He reveals His will;
8. He remembers our circumstances.

V. MAN'S DAYS.

1. A man's days resemble grass;
2. He blossoms like a flower in the field:
 - (1) The wind blows over it;
 - (2) It is gone!
 - (3) There is not a sign that it has ever been there.

VI. GOD EXTENDS HIS LOVE--

1. To those who revere Him;
2. To those who are faithful to His covenant;
3. To those who carry out His instructions.

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom can be no variation, neither shadow that is cast by turning" (Jas. 1:17).
2. We should be careful to involve ourselves in self-exhortation.
3. Life is seen to be exceedingly short when compared to the vastness of eternity.
4. God does not deal with us according to what we actually deserve--and we ought to be thankful and grateful.
5. God demands obedience to His will, and He extends His steadfast love to those who do His commandments. Cf. Heb. 5:9; Jno. 14:15; Jno. 15:14.

PRAISE FOR SPIRITUAL AND TEMPORAL BLESSINGS, ISAAC WATTS S. M.

O bless the Lord, my soul!
 Let all within me join,
 And aid my tongue to bless his name,
 Whose favors are divine.

O bless the Lord, my soul!
 Nor let his mercies lie
 Forgotten in unthankfulness,
 And without praises die.

'Tis he forgives thy sins,
 'Tis he relieves thy pain,
 'Tis he who heals thy sicknesses,
 And makes thee young again.

He crowns thy life with love,
 When ransom'd from the grave;
 He who redeem'd my soul from hell
 Hath sov'reign pow'r to save.

He fills the poor with good;
 He gives the suff'ers rest;
 The Lord hath judgments for the proud,
 And justice for th' opprest.

His wond'rous works and ways
 He made by Moses known;
 But sent the world His truth and grace
 By his beloved Son.

ABOUNDING COMPASSION OF GOD or MERCY IN THE MIDST OF JUDGMENT

My soul, repeat his praise
 Whose mercies are so great;
 Whose anger is so slow to rise,
 So ready to abate.

God will not always chide;
 And when his strokes are felt;
 His strokes are fewer than our crimes;
 And lighter than our guilt.

High as the heav'ns are rais'd
 Above the ground we tread,
 So far the riches of his grace
 Our highest thoughts exceed.

His pow'r subdues our sins;
 And his forgiving love,
 Far as the East is from the West;
 Doth all our guilt remove.

The pity of the Lord
To those who fear his name,
Is such as tender parents feel,
He knows our feeble frame.

He knows we are but dust,
Scatter'd with ev'ry breath;
His anger like a rising wind,
Can send us swift to death.

Our days are as the grass,
Or like the morning flow'r;
If one sharp blast sweep o'er the field,
It withers in an hour.

But thy compassions, Lord.
To endless years endure;
And children's children ever find
Thy words of promise sure.

GOD'S UNIVERSAL DOMINION or ANGELS PRAISE THE LORD

The Lord, the sov'reign King;
Hath fix'd his throne on high;
O'er all the heav'nly world he rules,
And all beneath the sky.

Ye angels, great in might,
And swift to do his will,
Bless ye the Lord, whose voice you hear,
Whose pleasure ye fulfill.

Let the bright hosts who wait
The orders of their King,
And guard his churches when they pray,
Join in the praise they sing.

While all his wond'rous works
Thro' his vast kingdom shew
Their Maker's glory, thou, my soul,
Shalt sing his graces too.

(Watts, a Dissenter, Congregationalist, was born in 1674 and died in Southhampton, England, in 1748.)

PSALM 104

PRAISE JEHOVAH FOR HIS GREATNESS

In this Psalm we have--

- I. EXHORTATION
1 The Psalmist issues a self-exhortation:
 Bless the Lord, O my soul!
- II. AFFIRMATION The Psalmist affirms:
 O Lord my God, thou art very great!
- III. ELABORATION
1-30 The Psalmist elaborates upon the greatness of God.
 He is great--
1. Because of His clothing:
 - (1) He is clothed with honor and majesty;
 - (2) He is covered with light;
 2. Because of His works:
 - (1) He stretched out the heavens like a tent;
 - (2) He laid the beams of His chamber on the waters;
 3. Because of His transportation:
 - (1) He makes the clouds His chariots;
 - (2) He rides upon the wings of the wind;
 4. Because of His agents:
 - (1) He makes the winds His messengers;
 - (2) He makes the fire and flame His ministers;
 5. As is seen in the creation of the earth (5-9):
 - (1) He set the earth on unshakable foundations;
 - (2) He covered the earth with water as with a garment;
 - (3) The waters stood above the mountains;
 - (4) He rebuked the waters and they fled;

5. continued.

(5) The mountains rose, the valleys sank down to
their appointed place;

(6) He set a bound for the waters which they
should not pass--so that they might not again
cover the earth.

6. As is seen in His providing water (10-13):

(1) He made springs to gush forth in the valleys;

(2) Waters flow between the hills;

(3) The beasts of the field quench their thirst;

(4) By them the birds of the air have their
habitation;

(5) He waters the mountains and satisfies the earth.

7. As is seen in consideration of all nature (14-23):

(1) He gives grass for the cattle, and plants for
man;

(2) He provides the needs of man;

(3) He provides and sustains the trees which he
planted--these are of special benefit to the
birds;

(4) He gives the mountains for the wild goats, and
rocks for the badgers;

(5) He has given the moon and the sun, night and day;

(6) The beasts of the forest creep forth by night;
man does his work in the daytime.

8. As is seen in consideration of earth and sea (24-30):

8. continued.

- (1) His works are manifold--they were made in wisdom;
- (2) The earth is full of His creatures;
- (3) The sea--great and wide--teems with innumerable things: living things, both great and small;
- (4) There go the ships, and Leviathan lives there;
- (5) God provides for these; they are filled with good things;
- (6) At God's will they die, and return to dust;
- (7) He renews the face of the ground.

IV. EXHORTATION
31-35

The Psalmist exhorts: Therefore, let God be praised.

1. May His glory endure for ever;
2. May the Lord rejoice in His works;
3. He looks at the earth and it trembles;
4. He touches the mountains and they smoke;
5. I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
6. May my meditation be pleasing to Him, for I rejoice in the Lord;
7. Let the wicked be consumed from the earth;
8. Bless the Lord, O My Soul; Praise the Lord!

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: Let all men praise Jehovah because of His Greatness.

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD.

1. Is very Great!

I. Continued.

2. He is clothed with honor and majesty;
3. He covers Himself with light;
4. He stretched out the heavens like a tent;
5. He laid the beams of His chambers on the waters;
6. He uses clouds for His chariots;
7. He rides upon the wings of the wind;
8. He makes winds His messengers;
9. He uses fire and flame as His servants;
10. He set the earth upon its foundations;
11. He covered the earth with the deep;
12. He rebuked the waters and they fled;
13. He brought forth the mountains and the valleys;
14. He has set a boundary for the waters;
15. He makes the springs gush forth and flow between the hills;
16. He provides water for every beast;
17. He provides dwelling places for the birds;
18. He waters the mountains;
19. He provides grass for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate;
20. He meets the physical needs of men;
21. He makes abundant provisions for plants and trees and animals;
22. He created and controls the sun and the moon;
23. His works are manifold and wonderful;
24. We must sing praises to Him, and we must meditate upon His will.

II. GOD'S GREATNESS IS DECLARED--

1. In His creation (1-9);
2. In all nature (10-23);

II. Continued.

3. In His manifold works (24-30);
4. In responsive praise (31-35).

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. God made the earth for man's dwelling (Acts 17:26). He upholds all things by the word of His power (Heb. 1:3), and in the Christ are all things held together (Col. 1:17).
2. In Hebrews, chapter 1, Inspiration stresses that the Christ is greater than angels. On this point Inspiration quotes from the 104th Psalm: "Who maketh his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire" (Heb. 1:10).
3. To the people of Lystra, Paul declared: "And yet he left not himself without witness, in that he did good and gave you from heaven rains and fruitful seasons, filling your hearts with food and gladness" (Acts 14:17).
4. To the saints in Rome, Paul stressed: "For the invisible things of him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made, even his everlasting power and divinity; . . . " (Rom. 1:20).
5. The Psalm emphatically declares the amazing, marvelous power of God. When waters stood above the mountains, God rebuked and the water fled! Mountains rose, and valleys sank down. God "set a bound" which the waters should not pass. About the sea, God asked Job: "Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? . . . And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall the proud waves be stayed"? (Job 38:8,11).

6. If God is concerned about the wild beasts of the field and the fowls of the air--how much more is He concerned about those who Love Him and who Do His Will?
7. The very seasons of the year declare the existence and power of God.

PSALM 105:1-25

PRAISE JEHOVAH--FOR HIS FAITHFULNESS TO HIS PEOPLE

In this portion of the Psalm we have--

I. ADDRESS

6

The Psalmist specifies those addressed:

1. The offspring of Abraham;
2. The sons of Jacob;
3. His chosen ones!

II. EXHORTATION

1-5

The Psalmist exhorts:

1. Give thanks to the Lord;
2. Call on His name;
3. Make known His deeds among the peoples;
4. Sing praises to Him;
5. Tell of all His wonderful works;
6. Glory in His holy name;
7. Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice;
8. Seek the Lord--His strength and His presence;
9. Remember His wonderful works--
 - (1) His miracles;
 - (2) His judgments.

III. EXPLANATION

6-25

The Psalmist sets forth the grounds upon which He has issued the exhortation. He speaks of God's-

1. Covenant with Israel:

- (1) Which He made with Abraham;
- (2) Which He swore to Isaac;
- (3) Which he confirmed to Jacob;
- (4) An everlasting covenant to Israel saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance";

2. Protection of Israel:

- (1) Israel was few in number, of a little account,
and sojourners;
- (2) They wandered from nation to nation and from
kingdom to kingdom;
- (3) Yet, God allowed no one to oppress them--
 - A. He rebuked kings on their account;
 - B. He said, "Touch not my anointed ones, do
my prophets no harm!"

3. Preservation of Israel:

- (1) God summoned a famine in the land; He broke
every staff of bread;
- (2) But He had sent Joseph ahead of them;
- (3) Joseph--
 - A. Was sold as a slave;
 - B. His feet were hurt with fetters;
 - C. His neck was put in a collar of iron;
 - D. He was severly tested.
- (4) The king--
 - A. Set Joseph free;
 - B. Made him ruler of his house and possessions;
 - C. Made him instructor of his princes and
elders.

4. Dealings with Israel in Egypt:

- (1) Israel sojourned in the land of Egypt;
- (2) Israel multiplied and became stronger than
their foes.

4. continued.

(3) God caused the Egyptians to hate His people,
and to deal craftily with His servants.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: Let us praise Jehovah because of what He had done
and continues to do for His people. Let us praise Him for His faithfulness.

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD.

1. He is the one to whom we give thanks;
2. We must call upon His name;
3. We are to praise Him in song;
4. We are to tell others of His wonderful works;
5. We must seek Him--His strength and His presence;
6. We must remember His works and His judgments;
7. He is the Lord our God;
8. He is mindful of His covenant;
9. He is mindful of His covenant with Abraham;
10. He gives protection of His people;
11. He overrules even the sins of men to the accomplishing of His will.

II. REMEMBER--

1. His wonderful works;
2. His miracles;
3. His judgments.

III. ISRAEL.

1. With them, God made a covenant;
2. They were few in number;

III. Continued.

3. They were a wandering people;
4. They were protected by God;
5. God sent Joseph "ahead of them";
6. Was taken by God into the land of Egypt, where God made them
fruitful and strong.

IV. JOSEPH.

1. Was sent by God ahead of Israel;
2. Was sold as a slave;
3. His feet were hurt with fetters;
4. His neck was put in a collar of iron;
5. The king set him free, and made him lord of his house, ruler of the
king's possessions, and an instructor of others.

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. God works in the history of men and of nations.
2. Genuine joy is found in seeking the Lord.
3. In the realization of our weaknesses, let us strive to be strong in the
strength of the Lord, and in the power of His might (Eph. 6:10).
4. One of the most important factors in all of Bible study is the great
Abrahamic Covenant. From the time it was made, everything else in the
Bible has some relationship to that covenant.
5. Old Testament Israel was a type of the New Testament Church. As God
loved Old Testament Israel, so God loves the church.

PSALM 105:26-45

PRAISE JEHOVAH--FOR HIS FAITHFULNESS TO HIS PEOPLE

In verses 1-5 the Psalmist has exhorted that praises be given to Jehovah. In verses 6-25 he has set forth certain grounds upon which He has issued this exhortation. In verses 26-45 he continues to set forth grounds for the exhortation.

In this portion of the Psalm we have--

I. EXPLANATION (CONTINUED) The Psalmist has spoken of God's--
26-45

1. Covenant with Israel;
2. Protection of Israel;
3. Preservation of Israel;
4. Dealings with Israel in Egypt.

The Psalmist now speaks of God's--

1. Working for Israel, in Egypt:
 - (1) He sent Moses and Aaron;
 - (2) They wrought God's signs among the people:
 - A. He sent the plague of darkness;
 - B. He turned the waters into blood;
 - C. He sent the plague of frogs;
 - D. He sent the plague of flies and gnats;
 - E. He sent the plague of hail;
 - F. He smote their vines and fig trees,
and shattered their trees;
 - G. He smote all the first-born in their
land.
2. Delivering Israel from Egypt:
 - (1) He led forth Israel with silver and gold;
 - (2) Egypt was glad when they departed;

2. continued.

(3) God covered them with the cloud;

(4) He sent the pillar of fire to give
them light.

3. Provisions for Israel:

(1) God gave them quails as they asked;

(2) He gave them bread in abundance;

(3) He gave them water from the rock--it
flowed through the desert like a river;

(4) He remembered His holy promise and
Abraham His servant.

4. Giving Israel the land:

(1) He led His people forth with joy;

(2) He gave them the lands of the nations;

(3) Israel took possession of the fruit of
the peoples' toil;

(4) God intended for Israel to keep His
statutes, and to observe His laws.

IV. EXHORTATION (FINAL)

45

The Psalmist again exhorts:

Praise the Lord!

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: Let us praise Jehovah because of what He has done
and continues to do. Let us praise Him for His faithfulness.

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD.

I. GOD (Continued):

1. He sent Moses and Aaron;
2. He wrought the signs and miracles in the land of Ham;
3. It was He who fought against the many "gods" of Egypt;
4. It was He who led Israel out of the Egyptian bondage;
5. He provided divine guidance--a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night;
6. He met the physical needs of His people;
7. He remembered His covenant with Abraham, His servant;
8. He drove out the wicked nations, and gave Israel their lands;
9. He abundantly blessed His people;
10. He demanded that Israel be obedient to His laws.

II. GOD'S ACTIONS: He--

1. Sent;
 2. Wrought;
 3. Turned;
 4. Caused;
 5. Spoke;
 6. Gave;
 7. Smote;
 8. Shattered;
 9. Led forth;
 10. Spread;
 11. Brought;
 12. Opened;
 13. Remembered.
-

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. This Psalm refers to Moses and Abraham as being God's servants. Paul often referred to himself as being a servant of God. We have the blessed privilege and sacred obligation to be faithful "servants" of God.
2. The plagues were not involved in a battle between Moses and Pharaoh. Rather, they were involved in a battle between the "gods" of Egypt and the God whom Moses represented. Cf. Ex. 12:22; Num. 33:4.
3. God provided food, water, and clothing for Old Testament Israel. They "lacked nothing" (Deut. 2:7). And, upon the condition that we seek Him first, and His kingdom, He has promised that He will supply our needs.
4. There was joy and singing (verse 43) when God led Israel out of the land of bondage. Likewise, there is great joy when one leaves the bondage of sin and enters into the liberty which is in Christ Jesus. The Nobleman went on his way rejoicing (Acts 8:39).
5. There is the false doctrine that the land promise (which God made to Abraham) has not been fulfilled. But, the Psalmist declares: "And he gave them the lands of the nations." The Psalmist relates this statement to the fact that God remembered "Abraham His servant." Consider also: Josh. 23:12-16.

PSALM 106:1-23

PRAISE JEHOVAH FOR HIS ENDURING MERCY

Whereas the 105 Psalm stresses the faithfulness of Jehovah, the 106th Psalm stresses the unfaithfulness of His people. But, even though they were unfaithful, and their sins were many, God continued to love them and to extend His mercy to them.

In this Psalm we have--

I. EXHORTATION
1 The Psalmist exhorts--

1. Praise the Lord!
2. Give thanks to the Lord.

II. EXPLANATION
1,2 The Psalmist mentions the grounds for the exhortation:

1. He is good;
2. His steadfast love (mercy) endures forever;
3. He is mighty in works;
4. He is deserving of praise.

III. BEATTITUDE
3 The Psalmist declares that certain ones are blessed:

1. Those who observe justice;
2. Those who do righteousness at all times!

IV. PRAYER
4,5 The Psalmist prays. We have--

1. The prayer:
 - (1) Remember me, O Lord, when thou showest favor
to thy people;
 - (2) Help me when thou deliverest them;
2. The reasons:
 - (1) That I may see the prosperity of thy chosen
ones;
 - (2) That I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation;
 - (3) That I may glory with thy heritage.

V. CONFESSION
6

The Psalmist acknowledges the sins of Israel:

1. We have sinned;
2. Our fathers have sinned;
3. We have committed iniquity;
4. We have done foolishly.

VI. SPECIFICS
6-23

The Psalmist specifies certain sins of Israel, and points out God's continuing mercy.

1. Israel sinned in Egypt--
 - (1) They did not consider God's wonderful works;
 - (2) They did not remember the abundance of God's steadfast love;
2. They sinned at the Red Sea--they rebelled against the Most High;
3. Yet, He extended His mercy:
 - (1) He saved them for His name's sake, that He might make known His mighty power;
 - (2) He rebuked the Red Sea, and it became dry;
 - (3) He led them through the deep as through a desert;
 - (4) He saved them from the hand of the foe;
 - (5) He delivered them from the power of the enemy--waters covered their adversaries; not one of them was left!
 - (6) Then, they believed His words; they sang His praise!
4. They sinned in the wilderness--
 - (1) They soon forgot His works;
 - (2) They did not wait for His counsel;

4. continued.

(3) They had a wanton craving, and put God to the test;

(4) God gave them what they asked, but God sent a wasting disease among them.

5. They sinned in rebelling against Moses and Aaron--

(1) Men in the camp were jealous of Moses and Aaron;

(2) The earth opened and swallowed up Dathan, and the company of Abiram;

(3) Fire also broke out in their company;

(4) Flame burned up the wicked.

6. They sinned at Horeb--

(1) They made a calf;

(2) They worshipped a molten image;

(3) They exchanged the glory of God for the image of an ox that eats grass;

(4) They forgot God, their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt--wondrous works in the land of Ham, and terrible things by the Red Sea.

(5) God said that He would destroy them.

7. But, God extended mercy--

(1) Moses, His chosen one, stood in the breach before Him;

(2) God turned away His wrath from destroying them.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: God hates sin, but loves the sinner. Sinners must be punished for sin. But when there is evidence of genuine repentance, God,

in matchless love bestows His mercy. Let us praise Jehovah for His enduring mercy.

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD.

1. Is the one to whom we give thanks;
2. Is good;
3. His steadfast love endures for ever;
4. No one can adequately tell of His mighty works, or properly set forth His praise;
5. He shows favor to His people;
6. He wonderfully blesses His people;
7. Makes known His mighty power;
8. He took Israel across the Red Sea;
9. He delivered Israel from the power of their enemy;
10. He punishes because of sins;
11. He dealt forthrightly with those who rebelled against Moses and Aaron;
12. He listens to the pleas of human beings.

II. GOD'S ACTIONS. He--

1. Saved;
2. Rebuked;
3. Led;
4. Delivered;
5. Gave;
6. Sent;
7. Destroyed.

III. THE PSALMIST CONFESSES THE SINS OF ISRAEL:

1. We have sinned;
2. Our fathers have sinned;
3. We have committed iniquity;
4. We have done wickedly;
5. Our fathers sinned--
 - (1) In Egypt;
 - (2) At the Red Sea;
 - (3) In the wilderness;
 - (4) In the rebellion against Moses;
 - (5) At Horeb.

IV. DIVINE POWER DEMONSTRATED.

1. The Psalmist speaks of--
 - (1) The mighty doings of the Lord;
 - (2) His wonderful works;
 - (3) His mighty power;
 - (4) Great things done in Egypt;
 - (5) Wondrous works;
 - (6) Terrible things.
 2. He cites specific demonstrations--
 - (1) He rebuked the Red Sea;
 - (2) He dried out the land;
 - (3) He led them through;
 - (4) He saved these from their enemies;
 - (5) He punished the rebels.
-

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. At all times and in all places and under all circumstances--let us be careful to do righteousness.
2. Old Testament Israel was God's people, His chosen ones, His nation, His heritage. The New Testament church (Spiritual Israel) is God's people, His chosen ones, His holy nation, His heritage.
3. We must work and pray for the welfare of the church of the Lord.
4. Before there can be forgiveness and restoration, there has to be confession of sins.
5. The story of Israel is significantly recorded in three short statements:
(1) They believed, verse 12; (2) they forgot, verses 13 and 21; (3) they believed not (verse 24).
6. When men believe His words, they are inclined to sing His praise. When men forget His works, they are not properly concerned about His counsel.
7. God sometimes grants the requests of stubborn men, and then punishes them because of their sinful attitudes. "He gave them what they asked, but sent a wasting disease among them."
8. It is a terrible and tragic sin for one to rebel against God's divine arrangement. In rebelling against Moses and Aaron, Korah, Dathan, and Abiram were rebelling against God. Cf. Numbers 16.

PRAISE JEHOVAH BECAUSE OF HIS ENDURING MERCY

In this portion of the Psalm we have--

VI. SPECIFICS (CONTINUED)
24-46

The Psalmist continues to specify sins of Israel, and to point out God's continuing mercy.

8. They sinned at Kadesh--

- (1) They despised the pleasant land;
- (2) They had no faith in His promise;
- (3) They murmured in their tents;
- (4) They did not obey the voice of the Lord;
- (5) Therefore, God swore that--

A. He would make them fall in the wilderness;

B. He would disperse their descendants among the nations.

9. They sinned at Peor--

- (1) They attached themselves to Baal;
- (2) They ate sacrifices offered to the dead;
- (3) They provoked the Lord to anger;
- (4) God sent a plague among them;
- (5) Phinehas stood up and interposed, and the plague was stayed. God was pleased.

10. They sinned at Meribah--

- (1) They angered God at the waters of Meribah;
- (2) It went ill with Moses--the people made his spirit bitter, and he spoke rash words.

11. They sinned in Canaan--

- (1) They did not destroy the people;
- (2) They mingled with the nations;
- (3) They learned to do as the nations did;
- (4) They turned to idols--
 - A. They sacrificed their sons;
 - B. They sacrificed their daughters;
 - C. They poured out innocent blood.
- (5) They became unclean in their acts.

12. The anger of the Lord was kindled against
His people.

- (1) He abhorred His heritage;
- (2) He gave them into the hand of the
nations;
- (3) Their enemies ruled over them.

13. Yet, God extended His mercy.

- (1) Many times He delivered them;
- (2) He regarded their distresses;
- (3) He heard their cry;
- (4) He remembered for their sake His
covenant;
- (5) He relented according to the abundance
of His steadfast love;
- (6) He caused them to be pitied by those
who held them captive.

VII. PRAYER

47

The Psalmist fervently prays for divine mercy.

1. The prayer--

(1) Save us, O Lord our God;

(2) Gather us from among the nations;

2. The reasons--

(1) That we may give thanks to thy holy name;

(2) That we may glory in thy praise.

DOXOLOGY:

48

The Psalmist issues the doxology which closes the fourth book of the Psalter.

1. Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;

2. Let all the people say, "Amen!"

3. Praise the Lord!

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: God, in matchless love, bestows His mercy. Let us praise Jehovah for His enduring mercy.

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD.

1. Demands our respect, our faith, our obedience;
2. Punishes the disobedient;
3. Can be provoked to anger;
4. Is pleased for those who "stand up" for His Cause and do His will;
5. Is no respecter of persons;
6. Commands His people: "Be ye separate";
7. Hates idolatry and punishes idolaters;
8. Gave Israel into the hands of their enemies;

I. Continued.

9. He heard their cries and gave them deliverance;
10. He remembered His covenant;
11. Is characterized by steadfast love;
12. Is the one whom we praise, and to whom we give thanks.

II. ISRAEL'S SINS.

1. Where--

- (1) At Kadesh;
- (2) In the wilderness;
- (3) In Moab;
- (4) At Meribah;
- (5) In Canaan.

2. Specified--

- (1) Unbelief;
- (2) Murmuring;
- (3) Disobedience;
- (4) Idolatry;
- (5) Immorality;
- (6) Tried to work out a better plan;
- (7) Rebellious in purposes.

III. PHINEHAS (Cf. Num. 25:6-9).

1. Saw the sinful situation;
2. Knew the problem;
3. Knew something had to be done;
4. Knew that HE was the one to do it;
5. Did what had to be done;

6. Pleased God in his attitude and in his action;

7. " . . . and the plague was stayed."

IV. MOSES (Cf. Num. 20:10-13).

1. Was great and good, one of the greatest men who ever lived;

2. Was the one whom God used to deliver Israel from bondage, and to lead them in the wilderness;

3. Enjoyed the closest possible relationship with God;

4. Was ill-affected by the people;

5. Became of "bitter spirit";

6. Was haughty, Num. 20:10;

7. Disbelieved, Num. 20:12;

8. Was disobedient, Num. 20:10-13;

9. Was punished by God.

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. Like Israel, we often fail to lay hold upon blessings which God has in store for us, and which blessings He would like to bestow. So very often, and in so many ways, we live beneath our privileges.

2. One of the tragic sins of Israel was: they had no faith in His promise. Or, as the Berkeley Version says: they would not rely on His promise. This was at Kadesh, and in spite of all they had seen. We need to learn from their mistakes, and to understand that "the Lord is not slack concerning His promise" (2 Pet. 3:9).

3. Having a sufficiency of material blessings does not necessarily preclude murmuring. Israel lacked nothing (Deut. 2:7), but they murmured constantly.

4. Note the sins that led to Israel's "fall in the wilderness": (1) failure to appreciate the blessings before them; (2) lack of faith in God's promises; (3) murmuring in their tents; (4) disobedience to God. These sins will still keep one from reaching Canaan!
5. God's people can not become involved with (or in) false doctrines and false worship without suffering tragic consequences. This is one of the lessons God taught Israel at Baal-Peor.
6. Like Phinehas, let us be willing and anxious at all times to fight for the right against the wrong.
7. One of the saddest scenes one could possibly imagine is that of Moses in fervent prayer, pleading with God, "I pray thee, let me go over, and see the good land that is beyond Jordon, that goodly mountain, and Lebanon" (Deut. 3:25). Moses had sinned, and God "was wroth" with him, and would not hear him. God said to Moses, " . . . speak no more unto me of this matter" (Deut. 3:26). Sin demands punishment. God is no respecter of persons.
8. Israel " . . . mingled with the nations and learned to do as they did." We are easily influenced by those with whom we associate. "Be not deceived: evil companionships corrupt good morals" (1 Cor. 15:33).
9. The people made Moses' spirit bitter, and he spoke rash words. "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Prov. 4:23). " . . .for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Mt. 12:34). "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city" (Prov. 16:32).

10. They "were brought low through their iniquity." Sin "brings low" and destroys nations, communities, schools, families, churches, and individuals.
11. When Israel turned from God he would allow them to be taken by oppressors. When there was evidence of repentance, God would hear their cries. When men will hear His word and obey His will, and genuinely repent, God will forgive their sins.

PSALM 107:1-32

PRAISE JEHOVAH FOR DELIVERANCES GRANTED

In this portion of the Psalm we have--

I. EXHORTATIONS

1-3

The Psalmist exhorts:

1. Give thanks to the Lord, for--

(1) He is good;

(2) His steadfast love endures for ever!

2. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so--

(1) Those whom He has redeemed from trouble;

(2) Those whom He has gathered in from the lands.

II. ILLUSTRATIONS

4-32

The Psalmist sets forth specific illustrations of redemption (deliverance):

1. From desert wanderings to city dwelling (4-9).

(1) The circumstances--

A. Some wandered in desert wastes, finding
no way to a city to dwell in;

B. They were hungry and thirsty and their
soul fainted within them;

(2) The plea--They cried to the Lord in their
trouble.

(3) The deliverance--

A. He delivered them from their distress;

B. He led them by a straight way, till they
reached a city to dwell in.

(4) The exhortation--Let them thank the Lord,

A. For His steadfast love;

B. For His wonderful works to the sons of
men!

1. (Continued).

(5) The explanation--for

- A. He satisfied him who is thirsty;
- B. He fills the hungry with good things.

2. From bondage to freedom (10-16).

(1) The circumstances--

- A. Some sat in darkness and in gloom;
- B. They were prisoners in affliction and
in irons;
- C. They had rebelled against the words of
God;
- D. They had spurned the counsel of the
Most High;
- E. Their hearts were bowed down with hard
labor;
- F. They fell down and there was none to help.

(2) The plea--they cried to the Lord in their
trouble.

(3) The deliverance--

- A. He delivered them from their darkness;
- B. He brought them out of darkness and gloom;
- C. He broke their bonds asunder;

(4) The exhortation--Let them thank the Lord,

- A. For His steadfast love;
- B. For His wonderful works to the sons of
men!

2. (Continued).

(5) The explanation--for,

A. He shatters the doors of bronze;

B. He cuts in two the bars of iron.

3. From sickness to health (17-22).

(1) The circumstances--

A. Some were sick through their sinful
ways;

B. Some suffered affliction because of
their iniquities;

C. They loathed any kind of food;

D. They drew near to the gates of death.

(2) The plea--they cried to the Lord in their
trouble.

(3) The deliverance--

A. He delivered them from their distresses;

B. He sent forth His word and healed them;

C. He delivered them from destruction.

(4) The exhortation--

A. Let them thank the Lord for His stead-
fast love;

B. Let them thank the Lord for His wonder-
ful works to the sons of men!

C. Let them tell of His deeds in songs of
joy!

4. From storm to calm (23-32).

(1) The circumstances--

- A. Some went down to the sea in ships;
- B. They saw the deeds of the Lord, His
wondrous works in the deep;
- C. He commanded and raised the stormy wind;
- D. The waves of the sea mounted up to
heaven and went down to the depths;
- E. Their courage melted away in their evil
plight;
- F. They reeled and staggered like a drunken
man;
- G. They were at their wits' end.

(2) The plea--They cried to the Lord in their
trouble.

(3) The deliverance--

- A. He delivered them from their distress;
- B. He made the storm to be still;
- C. He hushed the waves of the sea;
- D. He brought them to their desired haven;
- E. They were glad because of the calm.

(4) The exhortation--

- A. Let them thank the Lord--for His steady
fast love and for His wonderful works
to the sons of men!

(4) Continued.

B. Let them extol Him in the congregation
of the people;

C. Let them praise Him in the assembly of
the elders.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: Jehovah is the God who delivers. When people who have experienced His displeasure cry out to Him in genuine repentance He is anxious and glad to hear and to grant deliverance from troubles. Let all those who have experienced such deliverances tell others about it. Let the redeemed of the Lord SAY SO!

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD.

1. He is the one to whom we must express our thanks;
2. He is good;
3. He is characterized by steadfast love;
4. He delivers from troubles;
5. He is concerned about human needs--the hungry, the thirsty, the homeless;
6. He listens to the cries of people in trouble;
7. He delivers from distresses;
8. He provides for the thirsty and the hungry;
9. He hears the cries even of those who have rebelled against Him;
10. He does wonderful works to the sons of men;
11. He provides healing to the sick;
12. He causes the waves of the sea to be calm.

I. Continued.

13. He can raise a storm upon the sea, and He can make the storm to cease;

14. He is to be praised.

II. PATTERN (of the segments):

Over and over we have the following pattern in the Psalm:

1. Plight;

2. Plea;

3. Provisions;

4. Praise.

III. GOD'S ACTIONS:

1. Redeemed;

2. Gathered;

3. Led;

4. Satisfies;

5. Fills;

6. Brought;

7. Broke;

8. Shatters;

9. Cuts;

10. Sent forth;

11. Commanded;

12. Made.

IV. GOD'S POWER:

1. He broke their bonds asunder;

2. He shattered doors of bronze;

3. He cuts in two bars of iron;

4. He raised the stormy wind;

IV. Continued.

5. He calmed the stormy sea.

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. All those persons blessed of the Lord should be anxious to tell others about Him.
2. God knows our needs--even before we ask (Mt. 6:8,32).
3. God hears the plaintive cry of the troubled soul.
4. When men rebel against the words of God and spurn the counsel of the Most High--they bring serious troubles upon themselves.
5. A great deal of sickness is the consequence of men's sinful ways.
6. At least in part, our songs should tell of God's wondrous deeds.
7. Storms do come in the lives of men. Only God can calm the storm, but we must "cry" to Him.

PSALM 107:33-43

PRINCIPLES OF DIVINE GOVERNMENT

In this portion of the Psalm we have--

I. METHOD
33-38

The Psalmist discusses God's method--the principles underlying His government:

1. Because of wickedness in men--

(1) He turns rivers into a desert;

(2) He turns springs of water into thirsty ground;

(3) He turns a fruitful land into a salty waste;

2. Because of righteousness in men--

(1) He turns a desert into pools of water;

(2) He turns a parched land into springs of water;

(3) He provides food for the hungry;

(4) He provides a dwelling for the homeless;

(5) He gives a fruitful yield to those who--

A. Sow fields;

B. Plant vineyards;

C. Raise cattle.

II. APPLICATION
39-42

The Psalmist applies the principles of divine government: God delivers His people from trouble.

1. Circumstances--When through oppression, trouble, and sorrow they are diminished and brought low--

2. Action--

(1) He pours contempt upon princes;

(2) He makes them wander in trackless wastes;

2. continued.

(3) He raises up the needy out of affliction;

(4) He makes the families of the needy like
flocks.

3. Reaction--

(1) The upright see it and are glad;

(2) The wicked stop their mouths.

III. EXHORTATION
43

The Psalmist counsels observations of principles
underlying divine government:

1. Let the wise give heed to these things;

2. Let men consider the steadfast love of the Lord.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: God's dealings with men are based upon His steadfast love. God is love, and all that He does grows out of His love. God blesses the righteous and punishes the wicked. God's love does not preclude God's justice. Whether we are blessed or punished depends upon our own attitude and conduct--at least as a general principle this is the case. However, as is stressed in the book of Job, we must not conclude that personal affliction is always the consequence of one's sin. Let us ponder well the principles of divine government.

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD.

1. Is all-powerful;
2. Is in control of all nature;
3. Is mindful of human wickedness;

I. Continued.

4. Is mindful of human righteousness;
5. Even in this life, He blesses the righteous and punishes the wicked;
6. God is especially concerned about the poor and the needy--the hungry and the homeless;
7. Pours out His contempt upon wicked rulers;
8. Pleads with men to observe His laws, His ways.

II. GOD'S POWER.

1. He can turn rivers into a desert;
2. He can turn a desert into pools of water;
3. He can turn springs of water into thirsty ground, and a parched land into springs of water;
4. He can turn a fruitful land into a salty waste, and a wasteland into fruitful fields and vineyards.

III. MAN.

1. Man is a free moral agent--he has the power of choice;
2. God respects man's free moral agency;
3. God loves man, is concerned about man, and provides for man;
4. God has set before man two possible courses of life, and has placed upon man the responsibility of choosing the right way;
5. Man, because of righteousness, can experience marvelous blessings from God;
6. Man, because of wickedness, will experience punishment from God;
7. Man is amenable to God, and is obligated (and privileged) to do His will;
8. Man, in wisdom, will "give heed to these things," and will " . . . consider the steadfast love of the Lord."

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. While we recognize, appreciate, and emphasize the Bible teaching regarding the all-powerfulness of God, let us keep in mind that God cannot do and that He does not do (1) anything that is unnecessary, (2) anything that is ridiculous or preposterous, or (3) anything that is out of harmony with or contradictory to His nature.
2. God is mindful of human needs--including things needful to the body (Cf. Jas. 2:16) and works through His people to provide these needs (Cf. Gal. 6:10; Jas. 1:27). Let us be careful to be a benevolent people.
3. In granting to men the marvelous blessings to be had in the Christ, in the church of the Christ, upon the terms of the gospel of the Christ, God delivers men from waste land to fruitful land--from desert land to springs of water. "There's a fountain free, 'tis for you and me; Let us haste, O, haste to its brink."
4. God prepared the earth for man's dwelling. Blessed are those who can and who will stay close to the land.
5. Earthly rulers are obligated before God to rule for the benefit of the people.

PSALM 108

WITH GOD WE SHALL DO VALIANTLY

This Psalm is made up of portions of two previous Psalms: verses 1-5 are identical with Psalm 57:7-12, and verses 6-13 are identical with Psalm 60: 5-12.

In this Psalm we have--

I. PROMISES
1-4

The Psalmist promises certain things to God.

1. The promises--

- (1) My heart is steadfast, O God;
- (2) I will sing and make melody!
- (3) I will awake the dawn!
- (4) I will give thanks to thee, O Lord, among
the peoples;
- (5) I will sing praises to thee among the
nations.

2. The reasons--

- (1) For thy steadfast love is great above the
heavens!
- (2) For thy faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

II. PRAISE
5

He issues statements of praise to God.

- 1. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
- 2. Let thy glory be over all the earth!

III. PRAYER
6

He prays to God.

1. The prayer--

- (1) Give help by thy right hand;
- (2) Answer me!

2. The reason--that thy beloved may be delivered.

IV. PROMISE
7-9

He mentions God's promises to give victory.

1. I will divide up Shechem;
2. I will portion out the Vale of Succoth;
3. Gilead is mine;
4. Manasseh is mine;
5. Ephraim is my helmet;
6. Judah is my scepter;
7. Moab is my washbasin;
8. Upon Edom I cast my shoe;
9. Over Philistia I shout in triumph.

V. ASSURANCE
10-13

The Psalmist speaks of assurance of victory.

1. The condition--
 - (1) Who will bring me to the fortified city?
 - (2) Who will lead me to Edom?
 - (3) Hast thou not rejected us, O God?
 - (4) Thou dost not go forth, O God, with our
armies.
2. Prayer--
 - (1) O grant us help against the foe, for
 - (2) Vain is the help of man!
3. Confidence--
 - (1) With God we shall do valiantly:
 - (2) It is God who will tread down our foes.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: The Psalmist recognizes God as being the source of victory. He prays to God for victory, and expresses confidence of victory.

When our hearts are right with God we can walk in confidence and be assured of victory. Blessed Assurance! " . . . and this the victory that hath overcome the world, even our faith" (I Jno. 5:4).

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD.

1. He is the one to whom we give thanks;
2. To Him we sing praises;
3. He is characterized by steadfast love;
4. He is faithful;
5. He deserves to be praised by all men, everywhere;
6. He gives help and deliverance;
7. He keeps His promises;
8. Israel's armies were powerless without Him;
9. With Him, human beings can do valiantly!
10. He is the one who gives the victory.

II. WE SHOULD PROMISE:

1. I will be faithful;
2. I will sing;
3. I will make melody;
4. I will awake the dawn!
5. I will give thanks;
6. I will sing praises to thee among the nations;
7. I will trust in thee.

III. WE SHOULD PRAY:

1. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;
2. Let thy glory be over all the earth;

III. Continued.

3. Deliver us in times of trouble;
4. Give help by thy right hand;
5. Answer our prayers;
6. O grant us help against the foe.

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope that it waver not; for He is faithful that promised" (Heb. 10:23).
2. Let us be determined to do what we can--all that we can, when we can, where we can, to the extend that we can--to spread the message of God among all the nations.
3. O, the Marvelous height of the faithfulness of God! It " . . . reaches to the clouds." His steadfast love is higher than the heavens!
4. Without God, defeat is certain. With God, victory is assured. Wonderful blessings are promised to the one "that overcometh" (Revelation 2 and 3).
5. What God has promised, He is able also to perform (Rom. 4:21).
6. "Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain" (Psalm 127:1).
7. The strength of any nation lies ultimately in its righteousness--not in its military might. Nations that forget God do not stand! (Cf. Ps. 9:17).
8. "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31).

PSALM 109

A PRAYER FOR DELIVERANCE

In this Psalm we have--

I. DISTRESS
1-5

The Psalmist pleads to be heard, and describes his condition of distress (occasioned by his enemies).

1. Be not silent, O God of my praise!
2. Wicked and deceitful mouths are opened against me;
3. Men speak against me with lying tongues;
4. They beset me with words of hate;
5. They attack me without cause;
6. In return for my love, they accuse me--even as I pray for them;
7. They reward me evil for good, and hatred for love.

II. DESTRUCTION
6-20

The Psalmist, evidently speaking in particular of the leader of his enemies, prays that God will completely destroy the enemies.

1. Appoint a wicked man against him;
2. Let an accuser bring him to trial;
3. Let the enemy be found guilty;
4. Let his prayer be counted a sin!
5. May his days be few;
6. May someone seize his goods;
7. May his children be fatherless and his wife a widow;
8. May his children wander about, and beg, and be driven out of the ruins they inhabit;
9. May the creditor seize all that he has;
10. May strangers plunder the fruits of his toil;

II. Continued.

11. May there be no kindness extended to him, and no pity to his fatherless children;
12. May his name be blotted out in the second generation;
13. May his posterity be cut off;
14. May the iniquity of his fathers be remembered before the Lord;
15. Let not the sin of his mother be blotted out;
16. May these sins be before the Lord continually;
17. May his memory be cut off from the earth;
18. He showed no kindness--but pursued the poor and the needy and the brokenhearted;
19. He loved to curse--let curses come upon him;
20. He did not like blessing--may blessings be far from him;
21. May the curses which he vented upon others come upon himself;
22. May the Lord thus reward my accusers.

III. DELIVERANCE
21-31

The Psalmist pleads for complete deliverance from the distress occasioned by his enemies, and promises praise to Jehovah.

1. Deal on my behalf for my name's sake;
2. Because of thy steadfast love, deliver me!
3. I am poor and needy; my heart is stricken within me;
4. I am gone, like a shadow at evening;
5. I am shaken off like a locust;

III. Continued.

6. My knees are weak through fasting;
7. My body has become gaunt;
8. I am an object of scorn to my accusers--when they
see me they wag their heads;
9. Help me, O Lord my God!
10. Save me, according to thy steadfast love!
11. Let them know that this is thy hand;
12. Extend to me thy blessings;
13. Let my assailants be put to shame; may thy
servants be glad;
14. May my accusers be clothed with dishonor and shame;
15. I will give great thanks to the Lord;
16. I will praise Him in the midst of the throng;
17. God stands at the right hand of the needy--to save
him from those who condemn him to death.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: God, who--in spite of lies and false accusations--
knows the facts, will deliver the righteous from the hands of the accusers.
He stands at the right hand of the needy. "He is able to deliver thee."

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD.

1. Is the one whom we praise;
2. Can deal with the enemies of the righteous;
3. Is characterized by steadfast love;
4. Is able to deliver the righteous;

I. GOD (continued).

5. Is able to help in time of need;
6. Is the one to whom we must give thanks;
7. Stands at the right hand of the needy;
8. Is able to save the righteous from his enemies.

II. THE PSALMIST'S ENEMIES.

1. They are wicked;
2. They are deceitful;
3. They are liars;
4. They are filled with hate;
5. They attack without cause;
6. They accuse;
7. They reward evil for good;
8. They do not show kindness;
9. They pursue the poor and the needy;
10. They speak evil.

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. This Psalm must be read and must be studied in the light of the law under which the Psalmist lived. It certainly does not breathe forth the spirit of the Law of the Christ. The Lord teaches: " . . . but I say unto you, Love your enemies, and pray for them that persecute you" (Mt. 5:44). The Law under which the Psalmist lived taught: " . . . as he hath done, so shall it be done to him" (Lev. 24:19).
2. The Christian must be able and willing to accept persecution—including being hated, being lied about, being attacked without cause. "If ye are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are ye; because the Spirit

of glory and the Spirit of God resteth upon you. For let none of you suffer as a murderer, or a thief, or an evil-doer, or as a meddler in other men's matters: but if a man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God in this name" (I Pet. 4:14-16).

3. From Acts 1:20 I learn that this Psalm has a definite Messianic import.

Inspiration quotes from this Psalm (verse 8) and applies it to Judas Iscariot. Judas spake against the Lord, was filled with hatred, rewarded evil for good, returned hatred for love. And, now, I am better able to understand the Psalm! From this viewpoint, we suggest that this difficult Psalm emphasizes the justice of God in dealing with Judas.

4. This note from Spurgeon: "We would all pray for the conversion of our worst enemy, and David would have done the same; but viewing the adversaries of the Lord, and doers of iniquity, AS SUCH, AND INCORRIGIBLE, we cannot wish them well; on the contrary, we desire their overthrow and destruction."

PSALM 110

THE MESSIAH--THE PRIEST-KING

According to the Lord Himself, as is recorded in Mt. 22:41-45, (1) David wrote this Psalm, (2) wrote it by inspiration, and (3) it is Messianic in import. (Cf. Acts 2:34,35; Heb. 1:13; 1 Cor. 15:25,26.)

In this beautiful Psalm we have--

I. HIS APPOINTMENT

David speaks of the appointment of the Priest-King.

1,2

1. He would be appointed by God;
2. He would be appointed to a position of authority and power--appointed to reign as King;
3. He would be appointed to reign until the destruction of His enemies (Cf. 1 Cor. 15:25,26);
4. God would send forth from Zion (the church) the authority and the power of the King;
5. The King would rule in the midst of His foes!

II. HIS SUBJECTS

David speaks of the subjects of the King.

3

1. They will offer themselves freely;
2. They will place themselves under His leadership, in His army;
3. They will offer themselves in the beauty and strength of holiness;
4. They will offer themselves in the freshness and strength of youth (Cf. Phil. 4:13).

III. HIS NATURE

David speaks of the nature of the King.

4

1. He has been spoken of by God Himself, who will not change His mind about Him;
2. He will be a priest for ever;

III. Continued.

3. He will be a priest after the order of
Melchizedek.

IV. HIS REIGN

David speaks of the reign of the Priest-King.

5-7

1. He will reign from God's right hand;
2. He will shatter kings;
3. He will execute judgment among the nations;
4. He will scatter rulers;
5. He will not grow weary;
6. He will be victorious.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: The Psalmist David, by the Holy Spirit, speaks prophetically about Jesus the Christ as the Priest-King, after the order of Melchizedek. Jesus Christ is our High Priest. He is our King!

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD.

1. Speaks to the Lord, the King;
2. Invites the Lord to sit at His (God's) right hand;
3. Indicates the duration of the reign of the King;
4. Extends authority and power to the King;
5. Commands: Rule in the midst of your foes!
6. Promises: Your people will offer themselves freely;
Youth will come to you;
7. Explains: You are a priest (1) for ever, (2) after the order of
Melchizedek;
8. Promises to be with the King and to give him victory.

II. THE LORD, THE KING.

1. David called him "Lord";
2. He sits at God's right hand;
3. He will sit at God's right hand until His enemies are made His foot-stool;
4. All authority has been given to Him (verse 2. Cf. Mt. 28:18);
5. While (as) He sits He "rules" (Cf. Acts 2:30, King James Version);
6. Thousands humbly offer themselves to Him;
7. He is Priest and King, after the order of Melchizedek;
8. God will be with and will bless the King, and will assure Him victory.

III. CHRIST AND MELCHIZEDEK.

1. We are introduced to Melchizedek in Gen. 14:17-20.
2. The Melchizedek priesthood of the Christ is discussed in Heb. 5:5-10; 6:20; and Heb. 7.
3. Melchizedek was Priest and King AT THE SAME TIME! The Christ is Priest and King AT THE SAME TIME!
4. The Christ could not be a priest upon the earth (Heb. 8:4). Therefore, He could not possibly be a King upon the earth! Yet, there are many who are determined that He shall be a King upon the earth!
5. The Christ is Priest NOW! He is King NOW!

IV. THE APPOINTED KING.

1. His relationship to Jehovah (1-4)--
 - (1) He was appointed by Jehovah;
 - (2) He was appointed to rule;
 - (3) He will (He does) rule over subjects who are loyal and strong;
 - (4) He was appointed to be Priest and King at the same time.

IV. Continued.

2. His power in conquest (5-7)--

- (1) He will shatter kings;
- (2) He will execute judgement;
- (3) He will extend His influence and power far and wide;
- (4) He will be (He is) strong.

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. On Pentecost of Acts 2 the Lord was crowned "King of Kings and Lord of Lords." He reigns at God's right hand, over His kingdom--His church. His kingdom is not of this world (Jno. 18:36). His kingdom is made up of all those who humbly and lovingly submit themselves to Him and obey His will.
2. As Priest, the Lord made sacrifice for the sins of men--the sacrifice of Himself. The Christ Himself entered into the holy of holies (Cf. Heb. 9:7), that is, into heaven itself (Heb. 9:24) to present the all-sufficient sacrifice to the Father. Without the shedding of His blood there could be no forgiveness of sins (Heb. 9:22). There is no other sufficient sacrifice for sins (Heb. 9:23-28).
3. Psalm 110 points to Pentecost of Acts 2. On Pentecost, Peter (by inspiration) quotes from the 110th Psalm (See Acts 2:34,35). On this great day it was announced: "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36).
4. Verse 3 states that "Your people will offer themselves freely on the day you lead your host upon the holy mountains" ("in the day of thy power"). This may be a reference to Acts 2:41, "They then that gladly

received His word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

5. The church is the Lord's great army, and each Christian is a soldier of the Christ. Under the blood-stained banner of our Great King and General let us--attired in the whole armor of God--go forth with Him, conquering and to conquer!

PSALM 111

PRAISE JEHOVAH FOR HIS WONDERFUL WORKS

This Psalm consists of 22 lines, each beginning with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet, in proper sequence--an alphabetical acrostic.

In This Psalm we have--

I. EXHORTATION
1a

The Psalmist exhorts:

Praise the Lord.

II. PROMISE
1b

The Psalmist promises:

1. I will give thanks to the Lord;
2. I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;
3. I will give thanks--
 - (1) In the company of the upright;
 - (2) In the congregation.

III. GROUNDS
2-9

The Psalmist speaks of the grounds for praise:

His works.

1. His works are great;
2. They are studied by all who have pleasure in them;
3. They are full of honor and majesty;
4. They are characterized by righteousness;
5. They are to be remembered (He has caused His wonderful works to be remembered);
6. They are the product of His grace and mercy;
7. He provides food for those who fear Him;
8. He is ever mindful of His covenant;
9. He has shown His people the power of His works;

III. Continued.

10. The works of His hands are faithful and just;
11. All his precepts are trustworthy--
 - (1) They are established for ever;
 - (2) They are to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness;
12. He sent redemption to His people;
13. He has commanded His covenant for ever;
14. Holy and terrible is His name!

IV. OBSERVATION
10

The Psalmist stresses certain basic lessons:

1. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
2. Those who practice fear of the Lord have a good understanding;
3. His praise endures for ever.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: This Psalm stresses in a very special way certain things of God which endure: (1) His righteousness; (2) His works; (3) His precepts; (4) His covenant; and (5) His praise. Thoughtful consideration of the wondrous works of God compel deep appreciation and constant praise.

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD.

1. Is to be praised;
2. Is the one to whom we are to express our thanks;
3. Is the doer of great and wonderful works;

I. Continued.

4. Is characterized by righteousness which endures for ever;
5. Is gracious and merciful;
6. Provides for those who fear Him;
7. Is ever mindful of His covenant;
8. Reveals His will;
9. Is the author of redemption;
10. Holy and terrible (awe-inspiring) in His name;
11. Is to be loved and respected.

II. LET US GIVE THANKS:

1. For wonderful blessings received;
2. With our whole hearts;
3. In the company of the upright--in the congregation.

III. GOD'S WORKS:

1. Are great;
2. Are to be studied by all who have pleasure in them;
3. Are full of honor and majesty;
4. Are to be remembered;
5. Evidence the mighty power of God;
6. Are faithful and just;
7. Are related to His compassion and human needs.

IV. DIVINE PRECEPTS:

1. All His precepts are trustworthy;
2. They are established for ever and ever;
3. They are to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

V. THINGS WHICH ENDURE:

1. His righteousness endures for ever;
2. His wonderful works are to be remembered;
3. He is ever mindful of His covenant;
4. His precepts are established for ever and ever;
5. He has commanded His covenant for ever and ever;
6. His praise endures for ever!

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. We are grateful that we can give thanks " always for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father " (Eph. 5:20). Paul enjoins: "In nothing be anxious, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God" (Phil. 4:6).
2. God's people are anxious to be "in the company of the upright" and to assemble with the congregation. Cf. Heb. 10:25.
3. Let us be diligent in our studies of the mighty works of God.
4. God Himself is righteous, and the gospel of the risen Lord is God's plan for man's righteousness. Cf. Rom. 3:21ff.
5. In various ways God has caused His wonderful works to be remembered. We remember the greatest work of all--the gift of His Son upon the cross--in our observance of the Lord's Supper (I Cor. 11:24,25).
6. Upon the condition that we put Him and His kingdom first in our lives, God has promised to meet our needs (Mt. 6:33).
7. We live under the new Covenant--the New Testament of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is founded upon better promises, and is sealed with the blood of the Son of the Living God. It is the better covenant

(Heb. 7:6), and we must ever be mindful of it.

8. God's precepts for us are worthy of our confidence and trust. They have been given for our benefit. Let us live according to these precepts "with faithfulness and uprightness."
9. We must pray to God for wisdom (Jas. 1:5), but we must work as if everything depended upon us (Cf. 2 Tim. 2:15). "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

PSALM 112

THE BLESSEDNESS OF THE MAN WHO FEARS JEHOVAH

This Psalm is very similar to the first Psalm. This Psalm, like the preceding one, is an acrostic. This must be studied in the light of the preceding Psalm. That Psalm talks about the greatness of Jehovah. This one talks about the greatness and blessedness of the man who has the right attitude toward Jehovah. Psalm 111:10 says: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who practice it." Psalm 112:1 says: "Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in his commandments." Psalm 111 is about God; Psalm 112 is about the MAN OF GOD.

In this Psalm we have--

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| I. EXHORTATION | The Psalmist exhorts: |
| 1a | Praise the Lord. |
| II. PRONOUNCEMENT | The Psalmist pronounces: Blessed is the man-- |
| 1b | 1. Who fears the Lord; |
| | 2. Who greatly delights in His commandments. |
| III. EXPLANATION | The Psalmist explains wherein is the |
| 2-9 | blessedness: |
| | 1. His descendants shall be mighty; |
| | 2. The generation of the upright will feel |
| | his influence; |
| | 3. He will be blessed materially; |
| | 4. His righteousness will endure (Cf. 111:3); |
| | 5. Divine guidance will be his; |
| | 6. Divine favor abides upon the man who is |
| | generous and just; |

III. Continued.

7. He will be remembered;
8. He need not be afraid of evil reports;
9. He will not be afraid;
10. His generosity and righteousness endure;
11. He will be honored and respected.

IV. CONTRAST
10

The Psalmist contrasts the wicked with the righteous:

1. The wicked man sees it and is angry;
2. The wicked man gnashes his teeth and melts away;
3. The desire of the wicked man comes to nought.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: God is great, and the man of God is great in the true sense of the word "great." "A man becomes like His God."

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. PSALM 111 AND PSALM 112.

1. God is righteous (v. 3) and the man of God is righteous (v. 3);
2. God's word is trustworthy (v. 7b) and the man of God delights in that word (1b);
3. God is generous (v.5) and the man of God is generous (v.5);
4. God is just (v. 7) and the man of God is just (v. 5b);
5. God's word is established forever (v. 8) and His word is to be remembered forever (v. 6b);
6. God's word is trustworthy (v. 7b) and the man of God trusts in the Lord (v. 7b).

II. GOD.

1. Is to be praised;
2. Is to be feared;
3. Blesses the person who delights in His commandments;
4. Is the one in whom we are to trust;
5. Is able to bless the righteous person that he may abound unto every good work (2 Cor. 9:8,9);
6. Is righteous, and His righteousness endures for ever;
7. His power is exalted in honor;
8. He gives victory to the righteous.

III. THE MAN OF GOD.

1. Constantly strives to become like his God;
2. Fears the Lord;
3. Delights in God's commandments;
4. Is deeply concerned about his generation;
5. Will be blessed materially;
6. His righteousness endures for ever;
7. Walks in the light which God provides;
8. Is grateful for the grace, mercy, and righteousness of Jehovah;
9. Is generous, compassionate;
10. Conducts his affairs with justice;
11. He will be remembered for ever;
12. He is not afraid of evil reports;
13. His heart will remain firm;
14. He is assured of victory over his adversaries;
15. He is blessed of God that he may abound in every good work.

IV. THE WICKED MAN.

1. Is not like the man of God;
2. Sees the way and the work of God;
3. Is angered by what he sees;
4. Gnashes his teeth and melts away;
5. His desires come to nought.

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. Blessed are they who delight in God's word--who meditate therein day and night.
2. We delight in God's commandments because (1) they are from God; (2) they are given for our benefit, because God loves us; and (3) they will take us to God. Cf. Acts 20:32.
3. If we put God and His kingdom first in our lives, we will receive from God even the material blessings He has promised (Mt. 6:33).
4. God's word is the lamp unto our feet, and the light unto our path (Ps. 119:105). The man of God walks in the light of God's word.
5. The person who is striving to be like the Christ will be compassionate and generous.
6. The righteous is steadfast in heart and confident in trust. He will not be afraid. The Lord is the great remover of fear.
7. God's people must always be a benevolent people. God is concerned about the poor and the needy. We must be concerned about the poor and the needy. Cf. Gal. 6:10; Jas. 1:27.

PSALM 113

AN EXHORTATION TO PRAISE

Psalm 113-118 form the HALLEL--Hymn of Praise, which was probably sung by the Lord and His disciples before they left the upper chamber. It is thought that this Psalm was written to express Israel's gratitude for deliverance from the Babylonian captivity. The Psalm answers basic questions about praising Jehovah.

IF WE ASK--	THE PSALMIST ANSWERS--
I. WHAT is to be done? 1a	Praise!
II. WHOM are we to praise? 1a	The Lord; The name of the Lord.
III. WHO is to praise? 1b	Servants of the Lord.
IV. WHEN are we to praise? 2	From this time forth and for evermore!
V. WHERE are men to praise God? 3	From the rising sun to its setting!
VI. WHY are we to praise God? 4-9	Because of His-- 1. Position: He is high above all nations; 2. Glory: His glory is above the heavens! 3. Incomparable greatness: (1) There is none like Him; (2) He is seated on high; (3) He looks far down upon the heavens and the earth; 4. His condescending love, compassion, and power:

4. Continued.

- (1) He raises the poor from the
dust;
- (2) He lifts the needy from the ash
heap;
- (3) He gives the barren woman a home,
making her the joyous mother of
children.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: At all times, in all places, in all circumstances, and
for great and sufficient reasons--let us praise Jehovah!

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD.

- 1. Is to be praised;
- 2. Is to be praised always;
- 3. Is to be praised everywhere;
- 4. Is high above all nations;
- 5. His glory is above the heavens;
- 6. He is seated on high;
- 7. He looks far down upon the heavens and the earth;
- 8. He is mindful of the poor and the needy;
- 9. He is compassionate and helpful;
- 10. He sits enthroned, and He stoops to see.

II. HE STOOPS TO LIFT.

- 1. He is seated on high, but He looks down, far down.

II. Continued.

2. He lifts the poor and the needy, and makes them to sit with princes.
3. In sending His Son, God Almighty mightily reached down His hand to lift men up.
4. In the gospel of the risen Lord God reaches to men that He might lift men up.

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. As the people of God were so thankful for deliverance from the Captivity, so ought we to be grateful for deliverance from bondage to sin.
2. Blessed be the name; blessed be the name. Blessed be the name of the Lord.
3. " . . . but God, being rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace have ye been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us to sit with him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus . . . " (Eph. 2:4-6).
4. God Himself established the home, and it is God's plan for everyone to have a home.
5. It is God's plan for His name to be known and to be praised "from the rising sun to its setting." Therefore upon the background of the Great Commission of our Lord, let us work constantly to carry the gospel to every creature.

PSALM 114

A SONG OF THE EXODUS

Morgan says: "Notice that this song includes the whole deliverance, the going out under Moses through the sea, and going in under Joshua."

In this Psalm we have--

I. TIME

1

THE Psalmist writes of the time--

1. When Israel went forth from Egypt;
2. When the house of Jacob went forth from a
people of strange language;

II. PEOPLE

2

He speaks of the people's special relationship
to God--

1. Judah became His sanctuary;
2. Israel became His dominion;

III. MIRACLES

3,4

The Psalmist speaks of great miracles:

1. The sea looked and fled;
2. The Jordan turned back (flowed backwards);
3. The mountains skipped like rams;
4. The hills skipped like lambs.

IV. QUESTIONS

5,6

The Psalmist asks some pertinent questions:

1. What ails you, O sea, that you flee?
2. What ails you, O Jordan, that you turn back?
3. What ails you, O mountains, that you skip
like rams?
4. What ails you, O hills, that you skip like
lambs?

V. ANSWER
7,8

The Psalmist sets forth (by implication) the answer:

Respect for the power and presence of God.

1. Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord; at the presence of the God of Jacob.
2. The God of Jacob--
 - (1) Turns the rock into a pool of water;
 - (2) Turns the flint into a spring of water.

FUNDAMENTAL MESSAGE: With regard to the matter of proper respect for the power and presence of God we should consider carefully: Ex. 3:5; Josh. 5:13-15; Mt. 27:50-54. Let us be careful always to exemplify an attitude of respect and reverence and awe in the presence of Jehovah.

SPECIAL LESSONS:

I. GOD.

1. Dwells among His people (Cf. Eph. 2:22);
2. Has and exercises dominion (rule) over His people;
3. Has the power--
 - (1) To make rivers run backward;
 - (2) To make mountains skip about like rams;
4. Intends that His presence be respected by all men everywhere;
5. He is powerful and benevolent, supplying the needs of His people.

II. EXQUISITE LITERARY BEAUTY.

The CAMBRIDGE BIBLE--

1. Refers to "This exquisite little poem" that treats a familiar subject with "consummate artistic skill and singular freshness and force."
2. Says that "For perfection of form and dramatic vividness it is almost if not quite unrivalled in the Psalter. It consists of four stanzas of two verses each. In each stanza one dominant thought is presented in the fewest but most expressive words, and in each verse the law of parallelism is strictly observed."
3. Psalm 113 celebrates "Jehovah's condescending love in helping the afflicted; Psalm 114 recalls the most single instance of it in the deliverance of Israel from Egypt."
4. States that the deliverance of Israel from the bondage of Egypt
" . . . which it celebrates was typical of the greater deliverance from the bondage of sin, which was wrought through Christ's Resurrection."

III. GOD'S POWER.

1. He delivered Israel from the Egyptian bondage;
2. He parted the waters of the Red Sea;
3. He parted the waters of the Jordan;
4. He made the mountains shake;
5. He turned the rock into a pool of water.

GENERAL LESSONS:

1. Through Moses, God delivered the Israelites from the Egyptian Bondage, and through Christ God delivers men from their bondage to sin--a lesson often referred to in the New Testament.

2. In Old Testament times God made Judah His sanctuary, and in New Testament times He dwells in the church of our Lord (Cf. Eph. 2:22; 1 Cor. 3:16,17).
3. Nadab and Abihu, in offering "strange fire" (which the Lord commanded them not) showed inexcusable disrespect for God and His law. They were "in the presence of God" but they still had their shoes on! (Cf. Ex. 3:5).
4. From the Jordan and the Red Sea let us learn about God: (1) the power of God, (2) respect for God, (3) obedience to God, and (4) the love of God.
5. "Our Father who art in Heaven, Let be hallowed thy name"!