

4. Psalm 7-10

August 30, 2007

Psalm 7 - A prayer for deliverance

The seventh Psalm is a loud cry of David. When you read the context of the Psalm, it sounds like its more of a loud cry than a praise.

Who is Cush the Benjamite? We don't know. Saul was the son of Kish and so there could be a thing of Saul's words against David when he was determined to destroy David. It could be Shimei a Benjamite, who when David was driven from Jerusalem by Absalom, ran along David on the hillside throwing rocks at him and cursing him. The word 'Cush' in Hebrew is black. It means that it could be a black Benjamite whom we don't know.

A. I AM INNOCENT

Psalm 7:1-5 A Meditation of David, which he sang to the Lord concerning the words of Cush, a Benjamite. O Lord my God, in You I put my trust; Save me from all those who persecute me; And deliver me, 2 Lest they tear me like a lion, Rending me in pieces, while there is none to deliver. 3 O Lord my God, if I have done this: If there is iniquity in my hands, 4 If I have repaid evil to him who was at peace with me, Or have plundered my enemy without cause, 5 Let the enemy pursue me and overtake me; Yes, let him trample my life to the earth, And lay my honor in the dust. Selah

V1 is very important to many of us. It is a deliberate act of our part to God. We must be willing to put our trust in Him rather than other people, circumstances or our own capabilities.

When we don't put our trust in Him, it is natural for us to worry and be anxious for any possible disaster to happen. But our trust and rest must be upon Him while we seek Him through the Word of God.

The more we trust in Him, the more we will have confidence in Him because He is faithful. We get to learn to trust in Him more and He assures us through the Holy Spirit.

They say that to reward evil for good is devilish. To reward evil for evil is beastly. To reward good for good is manly. And to reward evil with good is godly. But these people who are against David are doing everything they can to hurt, to ruin and to kill David.

David confidently prayed for deliverance from his enemies who were about to tear him to pieces like a lion. He knew that if God did not rescue him, no one could.

B. GOD THE JUDGE

Psalm 7:6-9 Arise, O Lord, in Your anger; Lift Yourself up because of the rage of my enemies; Rise up for me to the judgment You have commanded! 7 So the congregation of the peoples shall surround You; For their sakes, therefore, return on high. 8 The Lord shall judge the peoples; Judge me, O Lord, according to my righteousness, And according to my integrity within me. 9 Oh, let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, But establish the just; For the righteous God tests the hearts and minds.

David knows he's not guilty, and so he goes on and declares. In v8, he declares, "O Lord, according to my righteousness, And according to my integrity within me." If I were him, I would be careful. Because no one is righteous, no not one.

Later on in David's career, after he committed an adultery with Bathsheba, he tried to cover his guilt and was found out.

*Psalm 51:1 Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness;
According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions.*

Even if we are right and the other people are wrong, we are not completely righteous in God's sight.

C. GOD MY DEFENSE

Psalm 7:10-17 My defense is of God, Who saves the upright in heart. 11 God is a just judge, And God is angry with the wicked every day. 12 If he does not turn back, He will sharpen His sword; He bends His bow and makes it ready. 13 He also prepares for Himself instruments of death; He makes His arrows into fiery shafts. 14 Behold, the wicked brings forth iniquity; Yes, he conceives trouble and brings forth falsehood. 15 He made a pit and dug it out, And has fallen into the ditch which he made. 16 His trouble shall return upon his own head, And his violent dealing shall come down on his own crown. 17 I will praise the Lord according to His righteousness, And will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High.

I am trusting in God. He is my Defense. It is a glorious thing to have God as our Defense. The Lord will defend His people. I have learned that if I commit my ways unto the Lord, if I commit the situation to the Lord, the Lord will defend me. If I seek to defend myself, He'll let me. However, I have a weak defense when that happens. But the Lord will defend us, no weapon formed against us will prosper. This is the heritage of the children of the Lord and it is so glorious to have the Lord as our Defense.

The psalm ends with David's vowing to thank and praise God for His righteousness, a righteousness yet to be manifested in the psalmist's experience. So even though he was slandered and attacked, David wholeheartedly trusted in his righteous Lord.

D. APPLICATIONS

1) Our trust and rest must be upon Him while we seek Him through the Word of God.

2) If I commit the situation to the Lord, the Lord will defend me. If I seek to defend myself, He'll let me. However, I have a weak defense when that happens.

Psalm 8 - The glory of the Lord in Creation

Chapter 8 is a messianic psalm emphasizing the humanity of Christ and His ultimate victory as Man. Messianic psalms are so called because they are quoted in the New Testament in direct reference to the Lord Jesus Christ.

A. GOD'S GLORY ABOVE THE HEAVENS

Psalm 8:1-2 To the Chief Musician. On the instrument of Gath. A Psalm of David. O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens! 2 Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.

You'll notice that the first 'LORD' is all capital letters, which signifies that it is a translation of the Hebrew word for the name for 'God, Jehovah or Yahweh'. The pronunciation is not exactly known, but they figured that it is probably 'Yahweh'. Capital 'L' and then the small 'ord' in the Old Testament signifies that it is the word or title Lord which in the Hebrew is 'Adoni'. It is the title of 'your Master'.

In Matthew 21 we have recorded what is called the triumphal entry of Christ into Jerusalem.

Matthew 21:9 Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' Hosanna in the highest!"

Our Lord was quoting Psalm 8:2. He was telling the chief priests and the scribes that it would be a good idea if they read this Scripture so that they would understand why the children were saying this.

B. GETTING A RIGHT PERSPECTIVE

Psalm 8:3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,

It is impossible for our finite minds to conceive the infinite God. He is beyond the capacity of our minds to imagine. The circuits blow fuses when we try to bring God into the grasp of our intellect. Total impossibility. The Bible says that He measured out the heavens with His span. The span is the distance between our thumb and our little finger. We talk about the universe being twelve billion light years in diameter.

Do we really think that God cannot handle our puny problems we have in our lives? When we worry about those problems that we think it might happen is the same thing as we challenge our God that He is not capable to handle our problems even though He had created and has been sustaining the universe with His power. It is no wonder why worry is a sin, because it is a great insult to His power and holy name.

C. THE MAN GOD JESUS CHRIST

Psalm 8:4-6 What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? 5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. 6 You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,

This portion was quoted by the writers of the Book of Hebrews in chapter 2 and 1 Corinthians in chapter 15. When we read Gen. 1:26-28 carefully, we will note that God gave the first man dominion over the fish, the fowl and the cattle. Actually, man was made "a little lower than God" and was appointed God's deputy to rule over the

earth. But when Adam sinned, he lost that dominion. Romans 5 points out that there was a change of "kings": death reigned and sin reigned, but Adam no longer reigned. Instead of a king, Adam had become a slave to satan.

When Christ came to earth, He exercised the dominion that Adam lost. No one on earth today could control nature the way He did. When Jesus came to earth, it was God "visiting" men.

Man is certainly the greatest of God's creations, because man is made "in the image of God." However modern secular teaching has lowered man to an animal and rejected the image of God, the world is in chaos. No wonder we have so much civil unrest, so much brutality. We have dethroned God and deified humanity. In other words, their idea of human is almost like a god, but he acts like an unruly animal. It is a typical storyline of the Greek Mythology.

Let us never forget our obligation as creatures made in God's image, and our greater obligation as followers of Jesus being renewed in this image through Christ.

D. THE MAJESTY OF GOD

Psalm 8:7-9 All sheep and oxen-- Even the beasts of the field, 8 The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas. 9 O Lord, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth!

Christ will one day deliver creation from the bondage of sin. We can reign in life through Christ, getting victory over sin and temptation. Finally, we shall reign with Him forever and ever.

E. APPLICATION

Let us never forget our obligation as creatures made in God's image, and our greater obligation as followers of Jesus being renewed in this image through Christ.

Psalm 9 & 10 - VICTORIES IN GOD

Psalm 9 and 10 are very closely connected. The Septuagint and the Vulgate put these two psalms together and consider them as one. For some reason, many of the scholars believe that "the death of a son" is connected to the death of Goliath. David is rejoicing a victory what God has wrought over his enemy.

A. PRAISING THE LORD WITH ALL OF OUR HEARTS

Psalm 9:1-2 To the Chief Musician. To the tune of 'Death of the Son.' A Psalm of David. I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. 2 I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.

In chapter 5 and 6, we have learned that when we pray, we should direct our prayers to the Lord and somewhere in heaven. It goes the same for our worship and praise to the Lord. We should not just go through the motions of singing songs of praise and worship. Rather, our worship and our lifestyle should bring glory to Him.

B. GOD, OUR REFUGE IN TIMES OF TROUBLE

Psalm 9:3-12 When my enemies turn back, They shall fall and perish at Your presence. 4 For You have maintained my right and my cause; You sat on the

throne judging in righteousness. 5 You have rebuked the nations, You have destroyed the wicked; You have blotted out their name forever and ever. 6 O enemy, destructions are finished forever! And you have destroyed cities; Even their memory has perished. 7 But the Lord shall endure forever; He has prepared His throne for judgment. 8 He shall judge the world in righteousness, And He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness. 9 The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, A refuge in times of trouble. 10 And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; For You, Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You. 11 Sing praises to the Lord, who dwells in Zion! Declare His deeds among the people. 12 When He avenges blood, He remembers them; He does not forget the cry of the humble.

This is a fact upon which I rest. There are a lot of things from the Bible that I don't know. Things that God has not told us. Questions are often times asked concerning people who have never heard of Jesus Christ, never heard the Gospel message. People who have died without ever hearing. Questions asked about children who have died, never knowing. Having not accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior, is there any salvation for them? I don't know. I don't know what will be God's judgment in their cases. But this I do know, He shall judge the world in righteousness, and whatever God does will be righteous, it will be absolutely fair. We can be sure of that.

C. A PRAYER FOR THE AFFLICTED

Psalm 9:13-20 Have mercy on me, O Lord! Consider my trouble from those who hate me, You who lift me up from the gates of death, 14 That I may tell of all Your praise In the gates of the daughter of Zion. I will rejoice in Your salvation. 15 The nations have sunk down in the pit which they made; In the net which they hid, their own foot is caught. 16 The Lord is known by the judgment He executes; The wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Meditation. Selah 17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, And all the nations that forget God. 18 For the needy shall not always be forgotten; The expectation of the poor shall not perish forever. 19 Arise, O Lord, Do not let man prevail; Let the nations be judged in Your sight. 20 Put them in fear, O Lord, That the nations may know themselves to be but men. Selah

David's prayer was supported by his confident trust in the Lord. The psalmist makes it clear that all the enemies of Israel are to be conquered all the way to the end. This is God's victory for the remnant that will be on His side.

D. A SONG OF CONFIDENCE IN THE LORD

Psalm 10:1-18 Why do You stand afar off, O Lord? Why do You hide in times of trouble? 2 The wicked in his pride persecutes the poor; Let them be caught in the plots which they have devised. 3 For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire; He blesses the greedy and renounces the Lord. 4 The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts. 5 His ways are always prospering; Your judgments are far above, out of his sight; As for all his enemies, he sneers at them. 6 He has said in his heart, "I shall not be moved; I shall never be in adversity." 7 His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and oppression; Under his tongue is trouble and iniquity. 8 He sits in the lurking places of the villages; In the secret places he murders the innocent; His eyes are secretly fixed on the helpless. 9 He lies in wait secretly, as a lion in his den; He lies in wait to catch the poor; He catches the poor when he draws him into his net. 10 So he crouches, he lies low, That the helpless may fall by his strength. 11 He has said in his heart, "God has forgotten; He hides

His face; He will never see."

12 Arise, O Lord! O God, lift up Your hand! Do not forget the humble. 13 Why do the wicked renounce God? He has said in his heart, "You will not require an account." 14 But You have seen, for You observe trouble and grief, To repay it by Your hand. The helpless commits himself to You; You are the helper of the fatherless. 15 Break the arm of the wicked and the evil man; Seek out his wickedness until You find none. 16 The Lord is King forever and ever; The nations have perished out of His land. 17 Lord, You have heard the desire of the humble; You will prepare their heart; You will cause Your ear to hear, 18 To do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, That the man of the earth may oppress no more.

V11 & 13 are the exact description of the unbelievers and mockers of Christianity. Just because they don't know God, they think that God doesn't know what is going on the earth and their lives. They will have a very rude awakening waiting for them.

E. APPLICATIONS

1) We should not just go through a motion of singing songs of praise and worship. Rather our worship and our lifestyle should bring glory to Him.

2) Whatever God judges, we can be sure that it is absolutely fair and righteous.