

Psalms Overview

The Book of Psalms

- In the very center of the Bible
- Perhaps the most used book in the Bible – a source of comfort in times of distress and suffering
- Perhaps the scroll Paul desired most in 2 Tim 4:13
- Israel’s “song book”
 “Psalms” means “a song sung to the accompaniment of a plucked instrument”
 written to be sung...so the Word of God gets into our heart in a way only a
 worship and praise song can accomplish
 capture the pleas and the praises of a daily walk with the Lord
- Hebrew poetry
 English poetry is an expression of the beauty of language thru rhyme and meter
 Hebrew poetry is an expression of the beauty of the thought thru repetition
 (different words and approaches) and contrast
 e.g. Ps 103:10
- every Psalm speaks of God at least twice
- there are 116 direct quotations from Psalms in NT

Over 1000 years, Israel’s “Songs of Worship” were inspired by

- David (Israel’s songwriter, 73 + 2 Anonymous)
- Asaph (12)
- Sons of Korah (12)
- Solomon (2)
- Moses (1)
- Anonymous (50 – 2 ascribed to David)
 Ps 2 in Acts 4:25
 Ps 95 in Heb 4:7

and compiled by

- David
- Hezekiah
- Ezra
- Nehemiah

So Psalms is primarily a work of David...

Types of Psalms

Major categories

1. Prayer during adversity (ex Ps 42)
2. Thanksgiving (ex. Ps 27)
3. Praise (ex. Ps 150)

Minor categories

4. Kingdom (ex. Ps 95)
5. Woe (e. Ps 49)
6. Acrostic (form of Hebrew poetry, ex. Ps 119)
7. Pilgrimage (ex. Ps 122)
8. Messianic
 - King (ex. Ps 110)
 - Servant (ex. Ps 22)
 - Son of God (ex. Ps 118)

The Psalms can also be organized into 5 books, which bear the thematic likeness to the 5 Books of Moses

<u>Book of Psalms</u>	<u>Book of Moses</u>	<u>Theme</u>
1 (Ps 1-41)	Genesis	mankind – fallen depraved redeemed
2 (Ps 42-72)	Exodus	redemption
3 (Ps 73-89)	Leviticus	worship God's sovereignty faithfulness holiness
4 (Ps 90-106)	Numbers	wandering
5 (Ps 107-150)	Deuteronomy	Word of God

each book ends with a praise to God

<u>Book</u>	<u>Verse</u>	<u>Praise</u>
1	41:13	from everlasting to everlasting
2	72:18-20	forever
3	89:52	forever
4	106:48	from everlasting to everlasting
5	150:6	everything that has breath the perfect ending!

David's Beatitudes: Blessed is...

1. he that fears the Lord (112:1)
2. he that considers the poor (41:1)
3. the nation whose God is the Lord (33:12)
4. the man whose transgression is forgiven (32:1)
5. they that dwell in the house of the Lord (84:4)
6. the man whom the Lord chastens (94:12)
7. he that puts trust in God (2:12)
8. he that takes refuge in the Lord (34:8)
9. he whose strength is the Lord (84:5)
10. they that keeps His testimonies, that seeks Him with
their whole heart (119:2)
11. the man whose delight is the Law of the Lord (1:1-2)

Psalms
Book 1
Ps 1 - 41

Ps 1

Author: Anonymous...but believed by most to be Solomon

A Portrait of Two Lives

- I. The Righteous (v1-3)
- II. The Ungodly/Wicked (v4-6)

The Book of Psalms opens with a direct and bold proclamation

“There are only two kinds of men, the point of division being the Word of God.”

Prov 1:7...and the wise man considers the end of a matter

In Ps 1, God gives us “the end of the matter”

v1-3 oh how happy is the man that

<u>does not</u>	<u>in the</u>	<u>of</u>
1. walk	counsel	wicked
2. stand	path	sinners
3. sit	seat	scoffers

BUT

<u>does</u>	<u>what/when/who</u>
1. delight	in God’s Word
2. meditate	continuously
3. firmly planted	by the Holy Spirit
4. yield fruit	in God’s appointed time
5. prosper	in whatever he does

v1 The order is significant

- 1. walk: actions/deeds, desires of the heart expressed by the feet, hands, tongue
- 2. stand: a position taken
- 3. sit: a place of rest

contrast is characteristic of Hebrew poetry...
here the blessedness is described negatively..."not"s

A blessed man is

- Happy
- Joyful
- Content
- At peace

Because he keeps God's Word in his heart and mind...all day, every day
Because he chooses to live within the safe boundaries established by his loving
Creator
Ps 119:1-8

the contrast here in individual lives was also captured nationally at Mount Ebal and
Mount Gerizim
Deut 11:18-29

Prov 1:18-20

v2 given to Joshua in Joshua 1:6...
quoted by Paul in Rom 7:22

warning: fellowship with the Lord is to be constant

delight in God's Word will deliver us from the delight in the counsel of the wicked
"This Book will keep you from sin...and sin will keep you from this Book."
Gal 5:16

v3 planted: grounded...anchored...able to withstand the fierce ("contrary") winds

to be planted, need good soil and good seed
Parable of the Sower

such a life

- is fed and refreshed by God's Living Water
- is productive...fruitful (love)...because it abides in the Lord (John 15:4)
- is useful in the hands of the sovereign God
- will be prosperous...spiritually rewarding
(NOT "Health and Wealth" heresy)

v4-6 The Dark Side

“not so” reverses all the preceding...chaff is:

- fruitless
- lifeless
- rootless
- impoverished

v4 wicked: all those who do not delight in a relationship with God and in a life governed by Him

chaff: threshing floor waste, blown by the wind to be separated from the fruit... is gathered and thrown into the fire

v5 God's eternal house will be pure, devoid of any corruption

v6 the Lord separates and divides (Matt 10:34-39) on the day of judgment

Psalm 1...

- the way of the righteous is light (God's will and way)
wicked is darkness (my will and way)

- There are 2 kinds of trees in the world...
 1. bear fruit
 2. do not bear fruitpeople in the world...
 1. lost (lose everything)
 2. saved (eternal life)...and God knows "Who's who"

- the Hebrew poetry of contrast
 1. righteous vs ungodly/wicked

 2. first and last words
first word of Ps 1 = "happy"
last word = "perish"

 3. positive described in the negative

- a good psalm to read when facing persecution...
need guidance and wisdom (James 1:2-5)

Ps 2

Author: David (per Acts 4:23-26)

Type of Psalm: Coronation of the King Messiah

Topic: the human condition and God's justice in His kingdom

This psalm is both poetry and prophesy

The hearts of men in the Millennial Reign of Christ will NOT be any more pure than they are now

- Justice by the Sovereign on High is needed
- Correction from the Lord with Zero Tolerance will be given (Rev 19:15)
- God's advise (wisdom) will flow

v1-3 the heart of natural man hates Jesus Christ
true of rulers

- past (Acts 4)
- present (just look around the world)
- future

anti-Christ gathering the nations at Armageddon before Jesus returns

the "final rebellion" led by Satan in
Rev 20:7-9

even in a perfect environment...a reign by the Prince of Peace (Is 9:6-7)...
man's heart is desperately wicked

man has no excuse –

- not the environment of our past
- not the circumstances of our present
- not the environment of the future

our heart is Jer 17:9 where ever and whenever

Regardless of when, all rebellion against God is folly

v4-6 man will be hiding in hide-away places...perhaps even whispering...
but God hears every word and thought and He will:

1. laugh at the foolishness of wicked men
2. make them stammer and speak unintelligibly
(does this sound like Tower of Babel Revisited?)
3. sow confusion in the camp of the enemy
4. not withhold His wrath...His hot displeasure
laughter turns to wrath when God's longsuffering ends
5. re-orient the lost hearts back to the King of kings and Lord of lords reigning in
Jerusalem

v7-9 then King Jesus will speak.

“It seems you have forgotten a few key facts so let Me review.
God in heaven has issued a decree declaring in no uncertain terms that

- I AM His Son, His only Son
- All of you and the entire earth (this kingdom) are My inheritance
- He has given Me all authority
- I AM King and Judge (My government is an absolute monarchy,
it is not a democracy”

Jesus will rule firmly during the 1000 year kingdom!
And unwilling clay will be broken

v10-12 God's advise to the inhabitants of the Lord's kingdom:

1. be wise (apply the knowledge of God's Word to your life)
2. be coachable (humble, not exalted)
3. revere My Son (Matt 17:5-6)
4. rejoice in My Son...worship Him
5. kiss My Son (a gesture of love and honor)
6. do not oppose My Son
contrariness will not be tolerated...He rules with a rod of iron,
you clay pots!
7. trust My Son...take refuge in Him

a good psalm to read when you need wisdom...the application of knowledge...
which is best exercised now, before the Lord's longsuffering ends

Ps 3

Author: David, at the time of 2 Sam 15
Type of Psalm: Lament at a very dark time
Topic: God's protection and peace

- I. A multitude of enemies (v1-2)
- II. The sufficiency of God's protection (v3-8)

v1-2 late in his life and in his reign, trouble still pursues David
this time...it is his son Absalom stealing the hearts of the people and attempting a
coup....

the next installment of fulfillment of God's promise in 2 Sam 12:7-12 when busted for
murder and adultery

David was forgiven (see Ps 32 and Ps 51) but the consequences remain

a lament of David...a cry of pain and distress to the Lord during one of the darkest times
of his life, when he was intensely feeling

- the heartbreak of a father
- the humiliation of a deposed king
- the "unthinkable" flight of a mighty warrior

the Lord wants us to pour out our hearts to Him...He knows our pain, He wants to
comfort us

His enemies taunt David that God is angry with him still and has forsaken him...
nothing could be further from the truth...

Selah: a pause (musical) or interlude

The next word is key...a huge word in the Bible – But...

v3-4 ...and David proclaims his well-founded faith in his Lord:

- a shield of protection about him
(before, behind, above, beneath, around, within)
- his glory...prized possession...identity...honor...hope
- his comforter and encourager
- his I AM Who always hears his cry

notice how David shifts his focus from his problems to his Problem Solver

v5-6 sleep

- a blessing from the Lord...a time of very personal ministry to us from the Lord:
 - physical refreshing
 - emotional recharging
 - spiritual soothing
- Jesus is with me when I go to sleep, He is there when I wake up.
He never sleeps nor slumbers.
He controls the involuntary muscles of my heart and lungs to sustain my life
- he Lord thinks of me even when I am not thinking of Him...regardless of my level of consciousness.

when we 1 Peter 5:6-7, He adjust our perspective...lifting it to Him and His strength, power, and love...away from our problems and limitations

Lam 3:22-26

v7-8 having been touched by the Lord, David is now equipped to deal with his problems –
“Lord, You deal with them.
You always have before and You will be faithful again.”

Resting in the Lord, David knows the victory of the Lord...
what a different tone than v1!

trust in the Lord gives courage and a peace that goes beyond human understanding
(Phil 4:7)

He has heard...and has experienced firsthand...that both salvation and vengeance belong
to the Lord

And that is where he leaves them...

a good psalm to read when

- facing persecution and you need God’s protection
- feeling afraid and/or insecure...and you need peace and assurance
- when feeling threatened by enemies and vengeful

Ps 4

Author: David

Type of Psalm: Prayer during adversity

Topic: The Lord is my peace (Jehovah-shalom)
(a continuation of Ps 3)

- I. Cry out to the Lord (v1)
- II. Plea to unsaved man (v2-3)
- III. Rest in the Lord (v4-8)

v1 in times of great stress, what/who is your relief valve?

- The bottle?
- The chemicals?
- Withdrawal into yourself?
- The arms of someone to whom you are not married?
- An unsaved friend?
- A saved friend?
- The Word of God?
- The Lord of the universe?

By grace thru faith, I am acceptable to God the Father only due to the perfect sacrifice, completed work, of God the Son.

He alone is righteous. Therefore, He is my righteousness.

Because of Jesus, God:

1. hears my prayer (Is 59:1-2)
2. has mercy on me
3. gives me relief in times of distress...to receive His peace and comfort

Heb 4:16

the verse opens and closes with a calling out to the Lord

v2 the natural man, ungodly man

1. prefers shame to glory
Rom 1:18-32
2. loves pointless, useless things
2 Thes 2
3. seeks falsehoods, lies, deception
Is 41:21-29
who cry out to gods with
 - ears but cannot hear
 - mouths but cannot speak
 - eyes but cannot see
 - hands but cannot hold

Warning: Ps 5:6

v3 man makes a decision, then God makes a division

poetry in contrast: But

- the Lord – the One, True, and Living God
- is directly involved in the lives of His people
- hears their cry
- answers their pleas

v4-5 God's advise to man:

1. control your anger (Ps 37:8)
quoted by Paul in Eph 4:26
2. search/judge/examine your hearts
(Ps 139:23)
3. be still (Ps 46)
4. Offer acceptable sacrifices (Ps 51:16-17)
5. trust in Me (Ps 37:1-1-7, Ps 48:14)

v6-8 God's gifts to man:

1. power to live His teaching (Acts 1:8)
2. light (John 8:12)
3. joy (James 1:2) and assurance
4. peace (John 14:27, Phil 4:7), which enables
5. sleep (Ps 127:2)
6. safety (He is my ONLY Rock, my ONLY Refuge)

this is a good psalm to read when

- feeling stressed
- are looking for answers and peace

Ps 5

Author: David

Type of Psalm: A prayer for God's help in a time of adversity

Topic: Contrasting the hearts of men...the difference is a relationship with the Lord...
and a cry for God's help and guidance

Construction: stanzas of (2 x 3) + (3 x 2)

- I. the Lord hears the righteous (v1-3)
- II. the Lord hates the wicked (v4-6)
- III. the Lord heads the righteous (v7-8)
- IV. the Lord heaves the wicked (v9-10)
- V. the Lord harbors the righteous (v11-12)

v1-3 a cry to our

- 1. Lord
- 2. King
- 3. God

God hears the prayer of a man after his own heart...the author has an intense personal relationship with the Lord

the Godly man asks, knowing God will hear and answer...
because a Godly man first hears the heart of God, then lifts it up

our attitude is so important! When the alarm goes off, it's
"Oh Lord, it's morning..."

or

"Good morning, Lord!"

Which way would you prefer to start your day?

Our words and behavior will follow our attitude, so commit every day to the Lord with a heart-felt, "Good morning, Lord!"

v4-6 God is holy, just, pure...cannot be in the presence of

- the wicked/evil
- the foolish/boastful
- the disobedient
- a liar
- deceitful/scheming/hidden agendas...
- Jer 17:9

the Lord's attitude toward what the man of the world does
(Hebrew poetry in repetition):

- displeasure
- hate/despise
- wrath of destruction
- abhors
- Prov 6:16-19
- James 1:13-17

the Lord's attitude toward the man of the world:

- John 3:16-18
- 2 Peter 3:9
- Matt 5:44

v7-8 the heart of a man of God follows an "ascending" cycle:

1. draws near to God
2. poor in spirit/humble
3. awe/reverence
4. worship
5. submission
6. desire to walk with God

"I bring nothing of value to You.

I can approach You only because of Your mercy and grace.

So all I can do...all I want to do...is worship You.

I gladly submit to Your will, ways, and Word.

You are my life...my life is Yours."

Ps 119:105

v9-10 Paul quotes this in his legal brief declaring all men sinners in Rom 3

David writes with the same passion in Ps 139:20-24

David is speaking of his enemies...dead men with live tongues
James 3:5-8

It seems as if David is speaking specifically of a “back stabber”, a “Judas.”
We can hear is pain, anguish...and anger

Perhaps this was written of Ahithophel (2 Sam 15:12, 31)

God’s kingdom promise to David was thru Solomon and by peace, not thru Absalom and
violence

Therefore, Ahithophel is rebelling against the Word of God

v11-12 those who

- trust the Wonderful Counselor
- love His authority over their lives

shall rejoice and will know joy

we should enjoy our walk with Christ in this strange land...
we should enjoy our relationship with Jesus

God surrounds us with His love and kindness and goodness...and protection
“tortoise formation” (Eph 6:16)
Rom 8:31

A good psalm to read when feel betrayed

Ps 6

Author: David

Type of Psalm: "Help!" A prayer in times of adversity

Construction: stanzas of 3 + 2 + 2 + 3

Sheminith: an octave (musical instruction)

I. Come back! (Lord) (v1-7)

II. Go away! (enemies) (v8-10)

v1-3 written in tears, the cry of a broken man, a troubled spirit pleading for mercy and
Divine intervention

before the point of brokenness, we deceive ourselves about "being in control of
everything"

so...when we realize we are not...we are quite surprised and upset

however, God is never deceived by us...nor is He ever surprised by anything we
do...for He knows all

when finite man comes to the end of himself...

his creativity
strength
stubbornness
abilities
intelligence and education
resources

he comes to the beginning of the Infinite God

by this time, body and soul are affected...a miserable condition to be in
in that misery, David cries out

Lord (4X; the central subject), please do not:

- rebuke me...in anger
- chasten/discipline me...with displeasure

Q: Had David's sin been a contributing factor of his misery?

Does he have a guilty conscience?

Is he pleading for Abba Father to cool down before chastising him?

but (in my pain):

- be merciful to me
- heal me
- deliver me
- save me

Why would God do that? Because

- of His unfailing love. (1 Cor 13)
- He knows us (Ps 103:8-14)
- He never chastises us in anger, never overreacts...like I do...

Note: it is very important to remember that God is a holy God and wrath is a righteous response to rebellion

v4-5 the deception of our emotions – “God has left me!”
not true, no matter how intensely I feel to the contrary
the Lord promised to never leave me nor forsake me, even till the end of the age...when He physically returns to earth

Appealing to God’s nature...

- “Though I do not deserve it, save me, Lord!”
- “What glory does my death bring to You?”

an intense cry to a loving, compassionate, merciful God

Grace – the glory of God (Phil 2:10-11)

Justice – the holiness of God (Ps 119:75, 128)...the Light exposing the darkness

v6-7 David is drowning in his tears because of ungodly men seeking his life

at this point, we hear evidence of a “transformation by the renewing” of David’s mind as he overcomes...by faith

1 John 5:4-5

<u>the cry for help</u>	<u>God</u>
1. do not rebuke me in anger	never does
2. do not chasten me in displeasure	never does
3. have mercy on me	always does
4. heal me	can
5. return to me	never left
6. deliver me	has already
7. save me	has already
8. what glory does my death bring You?	none
9. Comfort me	of all comfort
10. Strengthen me	always does

v8-10 David has the assurance that accompanies the peace of God...
a God Who sees and hears and acts

Keywords/phrases:

- Depart from me (Matt 7:23, Matt 25:41)
- enemy (Eph 6:10)
- ashamed (Gal 6:7-8)
- suddenly (Rev 1:1, Rev 22:7, 12)

A good psalm to read when

- in distress or grief and need a “faith booster”
- “burned out”...tired...weak (2 Cor 12:9-10)
- facing overwhelming circumstances or people and need deliverance or healing

we must remember who the enemy is and who has all the leverage (Heb 2:14-18)

Ex. My “Merle Haggard” week:

- Came home with a bad cold, feeling sick, tired
- Felt under-prepared for Sunday service
- 3 sons came home Sunday night
- at work
 - flying solo
 - new month, no hand-off
 - problems from the first moment
 - wheels came off all day long
 - continuous problems in the face of unforgiving deadlines
- visiting the boys at night
- birthday shopping
- back-to-school shopping
- D-Backs game with the family
- Feeling intense pressure about the “Thoughts”
- No time to study for Thursday night study...
- miss Men’s Study
- Bottom line: felt like I was going to explode, felt like screaming

So the challenge with “a good psalm to read when” is

- letting go of our emotion...because many times we like to hang onto our emotions

to revel in them...
to wallow in them...

anger becomes bitterness
pleasure becomes lust
misery becomes self-pity

- clinging to the Word of God...to what we know and must obey to have the peace we desire

the Psalm starts in defeat but...by focusing on the Lord rather than on circumstances...
ends with the hope of victory

Luke 22:31-32

Never forget the Lord’s track record

He has delivered,	He will deliver again
heard	hear
helped	help

Ps 7

Author: David

Type of Psalm: a Shiggaion: “rambling, wandering poem”
a loud cry of a highly emotional man
rather than
a structured poem of a thoughtful man

a cry for justice to God the Judge
and
protection to God our Defense

written about some unrecorded event and man in David’s life

I. Appeal to God the Judge (v1-16)

II. Praise God for His righteousness (v17)

v1a “Yahweh is my Elohim...

...in Whom I put my trust.”
the most rational statement a man could ever make

v1b-2 David is in trouble...he prays for deliverance

Eph 6:10 with 1 Peter 5:8

while there is none to deliver: “Before it’s too late!”
God is NEVER late...

NEVER early...

ALWAYS right on time

v3-5 David is quite surprised by this seemingly unprovoked attack of Cush...
a false charge that somebody was good to David but he rewarded him with evil

yet he is quite willing to “be a man about it” and accept responsibility for his actions.

“If I wronged him, if I did him harm when he did me good, let him kill me.
Let justice be done!”

David, a man of integrity, knows that to return

- evil for evil is beastly
- good for good is manly
- good for evil is Godly

Thus, a good example of accepting

- responsibility
- consequences

for your actions and words

v6-8 But David knows he is innocent so he cries out for God’s justice...even punitive justice!
Be careful...that is a very sharp, two-edged sword...
Matt 26:52

my righteousness: a very high-sounding, brave, courageous...
and foolish...prayer

consider David’s other view of this issue in Ps 14:3
(quoted by Paul in Rom 3:10)

Where are his grace and mercy?

This event must be pre-Bathsheba...

Is that how God dealt with him?

David is not heard saying these things in Ps 51...

Matt 10:8

David is very much “fleshing out” here it seems...in a self-righteous way
isn’t it amazing how self-righteous we get when someone makes a false charge against us!

ALWAYS pray for mercy...not justice

Lord, don’t judge me according to my righteousness and integrity!

Rather, judge me upon Jesus’ righteousness and integrity, which He gives to unworthy me!

v9 wicked vs just: unbelief vs belief
Heb 3:12
Hab 2:4

The righteous God ties the hearts and reins:
1 Cor 13 if motive is not love, no profit
Heb 4:12-13
Ps 139:23-24
Rev 2:23

some day soon, all wrongs will be made right

v10 “I stand with God! I stand on The Rock that cannot be moved!”
the best strategy for every situation!
If I commit my ways to Him, He will defend me
If I want to defend myself, He will let me

God’s justice WILL be executed; where depends on every individual’s belief or unbelief
The faith-full will be upright

v11 God judges the righteous: right on time

is angry with the wicked every day:

God hates pride
haughtiness
lying tongues
slandorous tongues
rebellion
unbelief

all of which say to Him,

- “You are not trustworthy.”
- “You do not speak the truth.”

God’s judgment upon the wicked is always falling...

- circumstances allowed for the purpose of gaining the attention of the rebellious and correcting their hearts...
- accepting their choice of spiritual death by hardening their hearts

God never

- compromises with sin...
- lets it slide...
- approves of it...
- forgets it (until confessed and repented of)

God's anger is part of His holy and just nature...

Heb 10:31

be thankful for His self-control, a manifestation of His loving nature!

v12-13 David the warrior is praying

turn not: if no confession and repentance

God is love...He is also a just warrior.

Your choice.

v14-16 the wicked digs his own grave...paves his own way to hell and destruction...deceived

God allows the wicked to get trapped in their own snares...laid for the righteous

e.g. Haman

sin blinds...binds...and grinds...

2 Cor 4:3-4

...and brings forth death

but...God is not deceived!

Gal 6:7-8

And what goes around, comes around

...but David the warrior seems to remember...after his diatribe

...about that sharp, two-edged sword of God's justice...

- God's justice is perfect and impartial
- there but by the grace of God go I.

Apart from God's grace, we all stand with the wicked before a holy and just God

Humbled, David closes quickly...and keeps still

v17 “Upon further thought...”

His righteousness: that’s right...Ps 14:3

the Lord puts up with us by His grace...He saves us from our sin by grace thru faith

David concludes with a praise for God’s grace...and then is silent

a good psalm to read when feeling

- (self-) righteous
- holier-than-thou

Ps 8

Author: David

Type of Psalm: a proclamation of awe and wonder

- I. the insignificance of man (v1-4)
- II. the dominion of man (v5-9)

Construction: development of an awesome, inspiring thought, not by repetition but by expansion...it gets more awesome and more inspiring as it goes

v1 the exclamation begins and ends the psalm...like prongs holding a jewel...
the name of the Lord

LORD = covenant name of God
Lord = title of one's master

there is no other name like Jesus'!
Acts 4:12

God is "above" the heavens...greater than the heavens
God's glory, in Heaven, is higher than the universe!!!

The "explosion" of the proclamation makes me think it not the beginning...
but the result of...a "Ps 1-like" meditation by David

v2 from the glory of the heavens...to the gurgling babble of babies...the beginning of man
How great is God's glory, Maker of both!

Jesus quoted this verse when He cleansed the Temple at the end of His ministry
Matt 21:12-16

Jesus always called the little children unto Him and told us to have the faith of a little
child...for we are like that gurgling, babbling child

He doesn't want or need the strength of the mightiest warrior, He wants the availability of
a child

Rom 8:31

v3-4 the stark contrast of the darkness of the night sky reveals a far more expansive and glorious Light than does the brilliant sunny sky of the day

at night we get a hint at the overwhelming expanse of God's creation...
and man's relative insignificance and frailty...
so..."What is man that You consider him?"

the work of His fingers:

the universe is a "finger painting" of the Lord's
Is 40:12

recently, astronomers, [read] using existing telescope technologies, have estimated the number of stars to be

- 70 sextillion
- 70 million million million
- 10,000 million for every man, woman, and child on earth

ponder...

- the earth...not even the largest planet...and the moon in its orbit could fit in the inside of the sun, which is just a medium sized star...
- the earth is on the edge of the Milky Way galaxy...which is on the edge (how do they know) of a solar system comprising of billions of galaxies
- all those objects in an assigned, complimentary orbit...
- everything in order...and kept there...
- light traveling at 186,000 miles per second...
- the universe 12 billion light years big...held in the span of His hand!

David is pondering the mind-bending truth that the God who made such an incredible universe...desires a personal relationship with insignificant man!

So...what is man that He is mindful of us?

Phil 2:5-11?

Heb 2:6-9

What a wonder! How thankful we should be!

On top of all that...I am one of about 6 billion people...

And God is mindful of ME...my problems!

Is God big enough for our biggest problem?

He has already solved my biggest problem when He visited – death

v5-8 man's place in creation:

- top of all His creatures...the crown of creation...king!
- a more glorious revelation of God than all the stars in the heavens
advances in astronomy magnify the insignificance of man...
and the glory of God
- dominion over all of creation

but man lost his crown to Satan in Gen 3...and died

man now is appointed 70 years...how old are the stars?!

Jesus came to restore us to the position He intended us to have our rightful dominion is
the land, air, and sea...of which we know so little

in God's estimation, the gulf between man and beast is greater than the gulf between God
and man...man is spirit (like God) but beast is not
(the animal rights people are worshipping a false god)

never forget:

- how insignificant I am in God's creation
confined to flesh...and subject to death
- how significant I am in God's creation
made in His image - spirit
loved..."worth dying for"
Rom 5:8
John 3:16
Created for God's glory
Is 43:7
Given dominion over creation

- how great is the revelation of God to so small a creature as man...
we are fearfully and wonderfully made by the God who spoke the universe into existence
- the destruction caused by pride
- the Truth will produce humility

v9 a sentiment like Ps 139:1-6
“God just blows my mind!”

the finite mind of man “explodes” when we consider the scope of the Infinite God

all of this is fulfilled...in one Man...Jesus Christ
the psalm ends giving praise to Him

a good psalm to read when feeling

- worthless...
- unimportant...
- insignificant...
- unloved

this psalm challenges us to live

- like the kings God intended us to be...
- lives that glorify our Awesome God

Ps 9

Author: David

Type of Psalm: Praise

an imperfect Acrostic; less 2 letters

Muth-labben: "death of a son"

Thought to be a reference to Goliath

Theme: The Lord reigns

v1-2 a burst of praise from a heart of worship...

4 "I will"s of David

1. praise...the Lord with all my heart
(it is what He wants)
2. tell...others of His wonders
(share Him, be His witness)
3. glad and rejoice...in the Lord
(in the spirit...Phil 3:3)
4. sing praise...to His name
(He is jealous for it...Ezk 39:25)

Do we love God with our whole heart?

Is that even humanly possible?

Half-hearted praise is not very inspiring...is it?

I want to love God with my whole heart but

- sometimes I'm selfish
- my love is not God's love

Yet...God first loved us...PTL!

He is our inspiration

v3-5 the burst of praise is because God's enemies...
my enemies...by His righteousness will

- fall
- perish
- be rebuked
- be destroyed...routed on a battlefield
- have their names forever blotted out of the Lamb's Book of Life

my enemies shall not triumph over me...
they may win tactical skirmishes...
but they will lose the war

John 18:1-6...a sneak preview of a future event...
every tongue confessing and every knee bowing
a loving, gracious encounter will give way to a wrathful, righteous encounter

Rev 20

The destiny of those, called wicked, who reject Jesus as
Lord and Savior:

1. rebuked
2. destroyed...ended
3. names blotted out (of Lamb's Book of Life)
4. endless ruin (hell, lake of fire)
5. works undone and leveled
6. forgotten

v6-8 the enemy...in spite of the chaos...is NOT winning

God remains on the throne in complete and absolute control

These things must be to get the attention of some unbelievers and to tell the Bride to
make herself ready

There are 2 thrones of judgment

1. The throne of King Jesus – in Jerusalem where He rules with a rod of iron for 1000 years
2. The Great White Throne – the place of confession, bowing, and sentencing...
on route to the Lake of Fire

God's judgment is not a knee-jerk reaction...it is not an after-thought.
It is measured and controlled...and absolutely fair
(no "OJ verdicts" at the throne of God)

v9-10 remember this when the world beats up on me...God is:

1. my refuge
2. my stronghold
3. faithful to those who seek Him (Matt 7:7-8)

my refuge in Jacob's Trouble

Jer 30:6-7

Is 26:20-21

John 14:1-3

Acts 17:23-31

Matt 28:20b

v11-12 from praise...to prayer

the soft weak cry of the meek is heard...and will be answered

Matt 5:5...quoting Ps 37:11

Rev 3:7-13

v13-14 none of us deserve God's help...we all deserve a "swim in the Lake"

but God is not like man

- He loves His enemies
- He has compassion on the helpless
- He seeks and saves the lost
- He is bigger than anything and everything

v15-16 the judgment of God is...man's choice

God had lovingly, sacrificially provided a way out of the horrific mess man has made

But most men want nothing to do with the loving, merciful, gracious God... and choose to remain in death and darkness

Ultimately, God gives man that which he chooses

Higgaion = a murmuring sound, a musical note to indicate solemnity

v17-18 God knows, sees, hears
v17 answers v7-8
v18 answers v9-10

for every man: Pay day someday
some to eternal joy...most to eternal torment
man chooses, God establishes the choice

ALSO...for every nation: Pay day someday
USA...founded on Gospel of Jesus Christ
fervently trying to forget God...
to forget God is a sure way to be forgotten...a sobering promise in our nation's
future!

Soon, all nations will forget God...and...

v19-20 since Gen 3, corrupted by the pride of Satan, man has wanted

- to be God
- to be master, not servant

and he has deceived himself with religions and philosophies toward that end

But in the end, the Truth is known by all men...and to the Truth goes all praise and glory
and honor

In the end, no man prevails against God...and God upholds all who seek Him

2 Chron 14:9-12
2 Chron 20:1-3, 12, 22-24

a good psalm to read when

- feeling alone
- feeling "picked on" by the world
- facing "draught" and are looking for joy

Ps 10

Author: Anonymous...but so similar to Ps 9 that David is suspected

Type of Psalm: Cry for help
another imperfect Acrostic

- I. Where is God in times of trouble (v1)
- II. The ways of the wicked...the mistakes they make (v2-11)
- III. The Holy God protects the humble, the helpless, and the oppressed (v12-18)

v1 Are these things true? No.

- God is always near
- God sees, hears, comes to deliver
- God is longsuffering...not hidden
- Slow to anger and plenteous in mercy

But the wicked think these things are true...and make tragic mistakes concerning
God

v2 the wicked: corrupted by Satan and sin...

- are puffed up with pride
- scheme to take advantage of and oppress the poor
- prey upon the less fortunate

David's desire: they are trapped by the snares they set
e.g. Haman

v3 the wicked:

- boast of the corruption, wickedness, and lust in their hearts
- admire and cheer for the covetous with a new scheme

v4 the wicked:

- do not seek the goodness and mercy of God
- give no thought whatsoever to what the Lord thinks about the things they do and say
- are oblivious to the fact that some day is Judgment Day

v5 the wicked:

- grieve God in their self-centered, selfish, reprobate ways
- mock and scoff their enemies

v6-7 the wicked:

- wag their tongue
 1. contending against God
 2. obstinately boast of prevailing against God and His ways
 3. cursing
 4. deceiving..."I won't get caught."
 5. lying
 6. "con"-ing the righteous

Quoted by Paul in Rom 3:14

for example...a "not so blushing bride" that is an honest portrayal of "satan's bride"...
the antithesis of the Bride of Christ

v8-9 the wicked:

- lurk around in the darkness, lying in wait to
 1. murder the innocent
 2. imprison the poor

v10 the wicked:

- are actors..."hypocrites"...(one way in public, another way in private...
but God sees both)
that prey upon the less fortunate and muscle the meek to their advantage
- run in gangs

v11 the wicked:

- deceives himself into thinking God
 1. is oblivious to the doings of mere man
 2. has "bigger fish to fry" than me! I'm no where near the sinner so-and-so is...so I'm OK with God
 3. does not see what I'm doing and with whom I am doing it

v12 “Dear God Almighty, please act on behalf of those who love You and serve You!
I know You have not forgotten us!”

v13 contemn = “to scorn, abhor, to provoke, to despise, to give occasion to blaspheme”

the wicked:

- deceived himself into thinking he will get off scot-free and that he is not accountable
- blasphemous
- provoke and despise God
- think he is not accountable for his actions
- think God will not judge him
- spiteful

v14-15 “You do see all the wicked do. Nothing is hidden from You. All men are naked before You and You will make all men accountable for all they do.
We poor in spirit need You. You are our help in time of trouble.”

Gal 6:7-8

David, in various places, prays that God will

- break the teeth of the wicked in their mouth
- break the arm of the wicked

v16-18 “You are the King Eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God.
You shall reign in righteousness.
You hear the cries of humble hearts and come to our defense.
You break the shackles of oppression...including religion.
You set us free.”

a good psalm to read when facing evil, God-less people and feel you are alone

Ps 11

Author: David
when he is fleeing Jerusalem before Absalom

Type of Psalm: Trusting in the Lord

Theme: The Lord loves the righteous and hates the wicked

1. The worry of the righteous (v1-3)
2. The Lord hates the wicked (v4-6)
3. The Lord loves the righteous (v7)

v1-3 put my trust in:

- to confide, expecting security
- to invest, expecting a return

reliance on the Lord is the only place of rest...yet we so easily forget that reliance on ourselves only results in panic...because quickly things get bigger than us

flee as a bird to your mountain: David is in flight

foundations be destroyed:

What happens when those who are in authority are destroyed?
What are the righteous to do?

The foundations of our society are being systematically destroyed

- Prayer in school
- 10 Commandments...Alabama most recent
- In God We Trust...

Evil swells when righteous men...in fear or complacency...
do nothing...worry rather than fight, slip rather than stand
the reason for the worry is misdirected eyes...
the enemy is always shooting fiery darts at us...

the importance of having a solid foundation when building a house

but, given our foundation is Jesus Christ (1 Cor 3:9-11), this is a senseless worry or fear...i.e. it is impossible

how often are we immobilized by worry about impossibilities instead of using the mighty weapons of God available to us for the pulling down the strongholds of the enemy?

2 Cor 10:4

what can a righteous man do?
Pray...Love...Fear not

v4-6 ever feel like God doesn't see or hear or care ? Acts 7:34

1. He is on the throne
2. He is watching and examining man
3. He will judge the wicked
4. He is righteous and just

his eyelids try:

- God sees everything...Pay day someday
- God investigates His kids, keeping His all-seeing, watchful eyes on us

we are not left unattended to

- play on the interstate freeway
- wander off to an unsecured pool
- stumble upon a loaded gun

God hates sin but loves the sinner
(look to the cross if you doubt that)

Ezk 33:11 I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from his way and live

Mal 1:3 "hated Esau = "loves less"
vs

Prov 6:16-19 these attitudes and behaviors He hates

Yet upon the wicked...those who stubbornly, genuinely hate the Loving God...
will rain destruction

Rev 8:6-7
11:15-19
14:9-10
16:17-21

back to the foundation...Ps 127:1...else, a wasted life

v7 at the end of the day...PTL!
A foundation of Solid Rock!

Key: the Lord is on the Throne...and always has been
Whom should I flee?
Rom 8:31

Don't be a "wild hair", don't be a dangling participle
Heb 6:4-6

a good psalm to read when

- worried about "what in the world is going on"
- facing danger and you need God's perspective

Ps 12

Author: David

Seemingly written about the same time as Ps 11

Type of Psalm: God's protection against wickedness

Theme:

- I. The words of fallen man (v1-4)
- II. The words of the Lord (v5-7)
- III. Man does not listen to the Word of the Lord (v8)

v1-2 Sheminith: lyre, guitar

the godly man fails, the faithful man disappears

Luke 18:8

Indeed, the light is dimming in this world...

Sounds like Elijah...unaware of 7000 with unbended knee

Ever feel alone? You are NOT!

God detests

- empty words of man – lies, slander, flattery, idle words
(for which we must make an account; Matt 12:36)
Opposite: John 1:47
- double hearts – a divided heart (Him and world)
James 1:8, Joshua 24:15, 1 K 18:21

v3-4 the Lord will punish/cut off the offender...

...in His perfect timing, once His longsuffering and grace have “expired” when “the sins of the Amorites are full”

“Who is the lord over us?”

sounds like Pharoah

v5 the Protector of the weak and needy will not remain silent

I will arise says the Lord

- if God said He will, He will.
- The Lord protects the poor (in spirit) and the needy
(the afflicted and disadvantaged)

v6-7 contrasted to the empty words of man are the Words of God...completely

- Pure (2 Tim 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:19-21, Heb 4:12)
- Perfect
- Preserving
- Protecting

the refining process applies fire to bring waste to the surface so it can be scraped off and thrown away

v8 But man does not want to hear the Words of God

this is the last verse...but it is not the last Word.

The last word always belongs to God –

- “It is finished!” (John 19:30)
- “It is done!” (Rev 16:17)

a good psalm to read when feeling alone and confused

Ps 13

Author: David

Type of Psalm: A cry of desperation

We don't understand God's perfect timing and we are impatient.

Theme: Viewpoints

- I. When I look at my circumstances (v1-4)
- II. When I look at Jesus (v5-6)

v1-2 ala Ps 10:1

hear his despair and his cry for justice

the horizontal viewpoint of life...a distinct absence of the peace of God

- "God has forgotten me" whining
- "Why me?" self-centered pouting
- "I deserve better than this" pity parties
- "I can't take any more of this" despair

David, with his 4 emotional "how long"s has lost perspective and needs a waaa-imbalance

A: Never! Ps 40:5

Can you relate with David?

- joy seems to last but a moment
- sorrow seems to last forever...

Oh...if it were only the other way around!

v3-4 David is pleading for the attention of Abba Father

he wants the Lord to

- illuminate his eyes...to save him from death...renew his strength
- intervene so the enemy cannot revel in triumph over a child of God
rejoice when he backslides...wavers...slips

v5-6 a radical transformation takes place when my view changes

the vertical viewpoint of life

- peace – in spite of and in the midst of my circumstances
- joy – in the Lord
- praise – the Lord for what He has already done in my life...
He IS my strength
- rejoice – glee, happiness
- trust – in my God and what He can do, not in my self and what I can do
- grace
- mercy – I deserve to rot in hell, something far worse than the circumstances I am currently facing

“Wait a minute...what is wrong with me?
I need to get my head screwed on right!
The Lord is all-knowing and all-powerful.
He always wins.
It's 'no contest'!
Relax, man.”

And we can sense the peace of God washing over David...

Prayer changes things...it changes our attitude

a good psalm to read when

- feeling alone and sad
- feeling tired and weak in the faith
- feeling distressed and pressured

Don't wail, lament, whine, murmur (a sign of apostasy according to Jude) or complain.
Sing!

Rom 8:28-31

Ps 14

Author: Anonymous

Type of Psalm: The state of wickedness...a poem of contrast

Theme: The Lord alone is righteous

1. None are righteous (v1-3)
2. The Lord's people are persecuted by the wicked (v4-6)
3. The Lord will return in glory and in victory over the wicked (v7)

v1 the definition of a fool (atheist)

- “stupid”...ignorant
- one who is dishonest enough to ignore the mountains of evidence to say there is no God
- a hard, cold, deceived, self-willed dirt clod with legs
- wants to determine for himself what is right and wrong
- does not want to submit to the authority of God

the expression of the fool – Rom 1:18-32

“There is no God”...what our nation is trying to say...

v2-3 looked down:

- past tense
- “To lean out a window”

what did God see?

Gen 6:5

Gen 11:5-7

2 Chron 16:9

Is 53:6

Rom 3:9-20

v4 “Have they no knowledge?”

A: Yes (Prov 1:7, 2 Cor 11:14-15, Matt 4)

No man knows Scripture like Satan...evil men will quote you Scripture...

But...they have no humility and no faith (Heb 11:1, 6)

v5-6 God is in the righteous: He dwells in them
John 14:20
John 15:5
John 17:21-23

there is no shame for those who hope in the Lord
none who call on the name of the Lord will be ashamed

v7 crying out for the Redeemer...Rev 22:20
Jesus is the only hope for man

a good psalm to read when surrounded by fools

Ps 15

Author: David

Type of Psalm: the Godly man...a man after God's heart

Theme: The righteous

v1 abide...dwell (John 15:1-5)...who can?

Rom 1-3

we are not righteous, we are declared righteous

v2-5 definition of a godly man

1. his behavior...lifestyle...is pleasing to God
 - not offensive when he speaks (words or tone)
 - goes only where he would take Jesus
 - is fruitful (Gal 5:22-23, especially self-control)
2. he does what Jesus would do
 - compassionate
 - holy
 - pure
 - servant
3. he has God's Word in his heart and allows it to flow off his tongue
 - honest and open
 - integrity
4. his tongue is not used for evil...
 - does not gossip or slander or lie or boast
5. ...nor are his hands or his feet
 - physical, emotional, or spiritual
 - obeys the higher law, the Law of Love vs the Law of Moses
6. he does not disgrace or hate his neighbor
 - does not tear down others or make them look bad so he looks better
 - not a character assassin

7. he hates sin

- gives no glory to the things of a reprobate mind

Rom 1:28-32

1 Cor 6:8-10

Gal 5:19-21

8. he loves the brethren

he loves his family in the household of the faith (Gal 6:10)

9. his word is his bond...even if it costs him money or honor or prestige or the applause of men...

Yes is yes, No is no

10. he is “steady as the Rock” consistent, steady, predictable

11. he does not loan money to “extort” money

uses God’s money for God’s glory...not for personal profit

12. he neither takes bribes nor takes advantage of the misfortune of others...

not an opportunistic

and as a result...he is firmly planted...immovable...

will not fall...“slide, slip, fall, be carried away, be cast out”

Ps 1:1-3

1 Cor 16:14, 22

Without Jesus I cannot; with Jesus’ righteousness I can dwell with God

a good psalm to read for a “heart check”

Ps 16

Author: David
Type of Psalm: Messianic

v1 michtam = “poem”

David is under attack, perhaps about to “go under”

his trust in all circumstances...especially in dire circumstances...is in the Lord...
not in himself or his mighty men

he is pleading with the Lord to snatch him from the jaws of defeat...

or

he is speaking of things which he knows not...the Messiah’s victory over death...
foretelling Jesus’ suffering as the Lamb of God

v2-3 there is no goodness in us apart from Jesus

Rom 7:18

none are righteous, no not one. He is our righteousness

the saints are excellent...the “holy and sacred ones”...
are “powerful, glorious, worthy”

obviously, only by Jesus giving us His Excellence

...and the Lord delights...takes great pleasure...in us
make these words yours...the Lord, Maker of heaven and earth...
delights in you!

v4 God gives the increase – blessings to those who believe and sorrows to those who do not

contrasted with the wicked...whose

- gods are false (pleasure, money, intellect)
- sacrifices are meaningless and empty
- sorrows are multiplied (2 Cor 7:10)
- names are forgotten because they rejected the sacrifice of the Lamb of God on their behalf

“I never knew you. Depart from Me, you workers of iniquity.”

God is a jealous God...a consuming fire.

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God.

v5-6 Hebrew poetry is an expression of the beauty of the thought thru repetition (different words and approaches) and contrast

“allotment”

1. portion
2. inheritance
3. cup
4. lot
5. lines
6. heritage

the Lord's allotment is delightful

Heb 12:2

Eph 1:4

2 Tim 4:6-8

Titus 2:11-13

1 Cor 2:9-10

Until then...there is security in boundaries.

That is why the Lord sets boundaries for His kids.

v7-8 I will bless the Lord: I will kneel before the Lord...for the Lord has given me His Word...certain truth

my reins...the interior self, including the mind...instructs me in the night seasons:

- in adversity...the dark times of life
- in the season of death
(Jesus owns the deathbed)

“My eyes are up, focused on the Lord...not down or around on my circumstances.”

At my right hand: He is my authority and strength

“Father, if there be any other way, let this cup (allotment) pass from Me.
But not My will be done but Yours.”

There was no other way...and Jesus was obedient, humbling Himself even unto death

Then, He who laid down His life had the power to raise it up again

John 10:18

Rom 6:4 and Gal 1:1

Rom 8:11

Therefore...Jesus is my Wonderful Counselor.
And my ONLY Counselor
I will take all my problems to Him.
He counsels me thru His Word and His people

one must receive the counsel in order to be blessed by it.
receiving requires humility and submission.

v9-10 suffer thine Holy One to see corruption: The Resurrection
The Messiah will rise from the dead...on the 3rd day
Luke 24:5-7

the flesh starts to decay after 3 days...why Jesus was in the grave for 3 days but
no more
John 11:39
Jonah 2:6

fruits of submission and receiving the counsel of God

- Gladness of heart
- Rejoicing
- Rest: “abide in security”

my heart is glad:

because my eyes are on the Lord, I have joy and peace in the midst of my
circumstances and my afflictions...not after they pass

in every situation, we have the hope of the Lord
in our afflictions...

[Phil 4:5-8](#)

[2 Cor 4:6-11](#)

v11 David, benefactor of the Lamb of God's sacrifice, rejoices!

For he knows

- to follow the Lord is the path of life
I cannot by myself find the path of my life.
My works are empty, dark, dead.
Jesus' work is full, bright, life.
- there is joy in the Lord's presence, regardless of circumstances
- by His strength there are eternal delights for those of faith in Him
Jer 29:11

Keep an eternal perspective at all times...

John 10:10b

a good psalm to read when

- want God's protection
- need wisdom

Ps 17

Author: David

Probably early in his life when he was being pursued by Saul

Earlier Psalms: Bless me for my righteousness.

Later Psalms: Deal with me according to Your mercy.

Type of Psalm: A cry for deliverance in an overwhelming situation...
and a prophesy of the Lord's passion in Gethsemane

1. Prove me (v1-3)
2. Save me from the wicked (v4-14)
3. Satisfied in the Lord (v15)

v1-2 hear...attend to...give ear

...for my cause is just and my lips are without deceit
(guile ala Nathaniel in John 1:47)
can you say that to the Lord tonight?

May my verdict come from the holiness of God and not the wickedness of man
toward the end of his life...[2 Sam 24:10-14](#)

v3-5 proved...visited...tried.

- my heart (Ps 139:23-24)
- emptied me of myself in my adversities
- refined me in the fire

“I am innocent...I have purposed with my mouth to not harm the Lord's
anointed...as Daniel purposed in his heart to not compromise
the holiness of God with the corruption and the carnal pleasures of the
world (Dan 1:8).”

“I have heard and heeded the warning in Your Word to not Ps 1:1 but to Ps 1:2.”

obedience is a choice, not a feeling...Jesus was obedient
sin is a choice...the natural choice...the path of least resistance.
Life is the supernatural choice (Prov 19:23)
Jesus is sinless...Jesus is Life

I could not, would not dare to, make this claim.
I am a helpless and hopeless sinner saved by grace...

The enemy is subtle and alluring but Your Word is the Light unto my path,
exposing the deceit that would destroy me.
So, Lord, keep my step firm upon the Rock that cannot be moved and keep me
away from the slippery slope of sin

This Book will keep you from sin...and sin will keep you from this Book
God's Word is our power against temptation and sin
It is our INWARD fortification
Heb 4:12
Eph 6:17
For the INWARD battle
Eph 6:12

v6-9 God's children KNOW He will hear them and show Himself mighty on their behalf...
blessed assurance

apple of the eye: "Your favorite thing to look at"!
Meditate on that one!
You are something very special in God's eyes!

Shadow of thy wings: protected from wickedness...hidden by the Lord's skirt

Num 15:37-40

Matt 9:20-22

Mal 4:1-2

this is not so much a prayer of hope as it is a praise of truth
like Rom 8:31-39

v10-12 enclosed in their fat:

given over to their material riches...while the righteous are given over to spiritual
riches in high places with the Lord Jesus Christ

they have

- surrounded us on our journey in this strange land
- rejected the love of the Creator
- embraced the emptiness of worshipping the creature
- set their sights on God's children

...all of which the Lord takes very personally (Acts 9)

v13-14 Lord,

- thwart the plans of the wicked (1 Cor 2:7-8)
- smite/humble the wicked
- lift me up from the brute beasts of the world...
for whom this world is as good as it gets

worldly people get their reward in this world - how tragic!
a vapor of pleasure instead of eternal joy and glory

v15 the hope of eternal life...a far better portion than the riches of the world

1 John 3:2

Rom 8:18

2 Cor 3:18

A cry for deliverance...ending with praise for the Lord's righteousness...
basking in the joy of His Presence

the hunted is kept safe and secure for all eternity

Keep your eyes lifted up...and beyond the sojourn of this life to the citizenship in
heaven

a good psalm to read when feel trapped...when need hope and protection

Ps 18

Author: David

Type of Psalm: Praise song (2 Sam 22)

1. the Lord (v1-3)
2. the Situation (v4-6)
3. The Lord delivers (v7-26)
4. Blessings to the Lord (v27-45)
5. Praises to the Lord (v46-50)

v1-3 the “who”...”when”...”why”...”Who” of this song

who: a servant of the Lord (sounds like a NT letter writer!)

when: the day of deliverance from his enemies
(Saul and sons of Goliath in this case)

why: **overwhelming love** for the awesome God we serve
“knit together by love”

Who: the LORD...my God, my...

1. strength: help
2. rock: fortress, high safe ground
3. fortress: strong defense, stronghold
4. deliverer: “way of escape” (1 Cor 10:13)
5. strength: refuge, high cliff
6. buckler: shield, covering protection
7. horn of my salvation: power of salvation (Rom 1:16-17)
8. high tower: high cliff, advantage of elevation in time of danger...
high and lifted up!

the Lord has shown Himself to me as all that...so “I will”

1. love Him (Rom 5:8)
2. trust Him (Prov 3:5-6)...not my wisdom or abilities
3. call upon Him (Acts 2:21, Rom 10:13, Joel 2:32)

Because

- There is no security in the walls I build around me
- I cannot save myself
- He won’t save me unless I call...when I humble myself
James 4:7-10
Hosea 5:15 - 6:2 (a pre-req to Jesus’ return)

in conclusion...

- because He is Who He is...to me personally...
by faith...I will be rescued from my enemy
1 Peter 5:8
true safety is in communion with God
- He is to be praised
(the song is properly addressed!)
- and I am honored to be His bondservant

v4-6 with the focus of the song established, David gives us the background leading up to this glorious proclamation

he is surrounded by...

- sorrow of death: “rope”...“noose”...
of death and hell...ambushes with no way out
- a mighty torrent of worthless men
- fear and distress

...and the noose of death has anticipated him...is waiting for him

in my distress I called upon the Lord:

why wait until in distress to call on Him? Pride

His temple: heaven (Heb 8)

His ears: don't ever think God does not hear your cries

v7-19 God the Father responds to His child in distress

1. a very intense response (v7-9)

- earth shook and hills moved...
”violent agitation”
“violent emotion”
earthquakes
volcanic eruptions
flash floods
- anthropomorphisms
poetic language attributing characteristics of man to God
giving a picture of an angry, fire-breathing God
- moving heaven and earth in His awesome power

2. a very rapid response (v10-14)
 - poetic language to describe the speed of His Word
 - bringing judgment to crush and destroy His enemies
3. an all-powerful response (v15)
4. a certain response (v16-19)
 - took me...”seize”...and not about to drop!
 - pulled me...out of the waste water, effluent
 - delivered me...”plucked” me from the strong man (Mark 3:27)
fulfilled on the Cross
 - my stay...”protector”...”support”...”had my back!”
 - brought me forth to a large place...”set me free”
John 8:32, 36
1 Tim 1:7
 - delighted in me
Ps 16:3

Mid-psalm Warning:

- Yesterday’s victory often leads to...today’s complacency...
which gives way to tomorrow’s trial
- The wise man
 1. considers the end of the matter
 2. remains vigilant every day
 3. keeps reminders of God’s victories
e.g. photographic history of CCA

“Give me one reason why we cannot trust the Lord!”
- always give proper credit and glory to God for the help He faithfully gives us

v20-24 clearly, this was written pre-Bathsheba
he’ll change his tune later!

this passage is a “self-righteous sandwich” prepared by David

v20 my righteousness and my clean hands

v21-23 I

- obey the Law
- am faithful to my God
- delight in the Word of God
- am holy
- sincere
- a man of the highest integrity
- have nature-denying strength

v24 my righteousness and my clean hands

What?! An astounding statement by David...

unless it is about the Son of David and this IS His nature!

v25-27 a philosophical question: Which came first...the chicken or the egg?

The answer, according to God's Word...the chicken

So, in this passage, God is not responding to David or any other man...

David/man is responding to God

God is this way because this is God's unchanging nature...and then man responds to God
Man CANNOT be first...be this way...and God cannot change

Because God is

Merciful (kind)

Upright (perfect, complete)

Pure (thought, speech, action)

man can be

merciful (kind; Matt 5:7)

upright (truthful, honest)

pure (Ps 14:3, Matt 5:8)

But...how do you like your eggs prepared?

Because man is

Froward...devious, stubborn,
stiff-necked, crooked

Proud...self-exalted

Humble

Afflicted

God is

froward...shrewd,

struggles with,

wrestles with,

contends with

the One Who humbles

the One Who exalts

salvation

v28-29 humbled and saved... "You will" vs "I have/am/did"

- be my lamp (John 8:12, Ps 119:105)
- illuminate my misery, ignorance, wickedness
(Num 23:32, Heb 4:13, 1 Sam 2:3)
- defeated the army facing me
- helped me with a Great Escape
(Acts 12 for Peter, Acts 16 for Paul)
(Steve McQueen image came to mind)

v30-34 as a stark contrast to fallen man, God is perfect...

- "without spot" (1 Peter 1:18-19)
- entirely true
- flawless
- cannot be improved

the Word of God is proven...

- over and over and over and over again
- by millions and millions of people

the Lord is my shield, my Protector, because I

- have put my faith in him
- desire to humbly obey Him

Nothing comes into my life but that which He allows

For who is God except the LORD?

Deut 4:35, Is 45:1-6 (176 years before Cyrus was shown this by Daniel)

Who is immovable and strong like the LORD?

1 Sam 2:2

Idols have ears that cannot hear...

eyes that cannot see...

mouths that cannot speak...

arms that cannot hold

They are lifeless...worthless

They cannot hold me up above the flood of trouble...but

The God Who tells us history before it happens

- Is more than strong enough to hold me up and to hold back the torrent of trouble
- Is the Good Shepherd that leads me out of trouble over the rocky terrain, keeping me safe and prosperous
- Equips me with overwhelming power
(prayer, sword of the Spirit) to fight in the battle that belongs to Him
(Eph 6, 2 K 6:16)

We are in an unending battle...a war is raging around us

If you do not realize that continually, you are at an extreme disadvantage our enemy (Eph 6:12) never stops trying to draw us “into the flesh”

so he can destroy us...God is continually calling us after His Spirit to conform us into the image of our Lord Jesus Christ

That same enemy is after our children...marriages...Fellowship

Be prepared...and fight (2 Cor 10:3-4, Eph 6:10-18))

v35-36 the shield (v30)

- is given
- is salvation
Eph 2:8-9

And as we sojourn in this strange land before going to our heavenly home, He makes our feet bigger!

Because He is walking before us as the Good Shepherd and, by faith, we follow His footsteps

God and His Word are

1. a shelter in the storm
2. a path to life in an evil and perverse world
3. firm footing in treacherous places
4. a foundation in heavenly places
5. strength in battle...the difference between victory and defeat

v37-42 humble and saved (v27)...
enlightened and escaped (v29)...
strengthened and secured (v30-34)...
saved, supported, and slip-proofed (v35-36)...

David puts feet to his faith and jumps into action

- Chased, overtaken, and destroyed his enemies – who is on the run and defeated?
- Persisted, persevered in an unwavering attack
- “Smashed” them to smithereens with crushing power...a TKO
- sends the enemy to utter ruin

and he gives God all the glory...He is strength
(Neh 6:20b)

we have total victory, so why do we act defeated?
Why do we ever retreat?

We must be “holy” in battle and unrelenting in our attack

When we experience the thrill of victory, do we give God all the glory?

v43-45 the Lord goes before me

David was given victory over the Philistines, Syrians, Moabites, and Edomites.
The kingdom of Israel was its biggest under David...because God reigned thru
David

Israel’s enemies had great fear of David and wilted like autumn leaves and fled
when he moved against them...in the power of God

Same could be said of our lives...if we 2 Cor 5:7

v46-49 PTL! The Lord lives...unlike any idol.

Vengeance belongs to Him.

He is our

- power
- authority
- way of escape...snatching us away from evil men

so give thanks!

A very important part of our relationship with our Savior and Deliverer and Protector is
gratitude and thanksgiving.
May we never take Him for granted...

v50 how valuable are God's deliverance and mercy?

The blood of the Lamb of God was need to pay the price...
He is King of kings and Lord of lords!

a good psalm to read when you

- need to remember God is faithful...and to be thankful
- feel tired and weak
- need protection and hope

Ps 19

Author: David

Type of Psalm: Praise

- I. Revelation I – The Work of God (v1-6)
- II. Revelation II – the Word of God (v7-13)
- III. Result of Revelation – the Woo of man (v14)

v1 heavens...firmament:

- sun and moon (lights to govern)
- stars (lights to declare)

David, a shepherd boy, was observant and discerning as he watched over his flock he grew up in awe of the majesty and power of his God

sit atop a hill on a cool, clear night and be awed just like David...

Innumerable lights...all

- named
- assigned a place
- in motion
- kept in place in perfect harmony

Creation has God's signature all over it - no man has an excuse

Rom 1:19-20

Ps 14:1

v2-6 our home is also in constant motion...

- rotating on its axis
- revolving around the sun

the bridegroom always comes out of his chamber...the sun

- always rises in the east...every morning
- and it sets in the west...every evening
- is also in an orbit within the Milky Way galaxy
- its light covers the entire earth...as we orbit around it

the wonder of it all...the earth, sun, moon, and stars...is unavoidable

BUT as awesome as the universe is, the heavenly bodies are not be worshipped...

The Creator of the universe is!

how did David know of the sun's movement in the solar system and of the solar system in the universe?

By the revelation of God...

v7-9 Hebrew poetry is an expression of the beauty of thought thru repetition

v10-11 whereby we are to:

- desire the Word of God more than anything the world has to offer
- get a sweet tooth!
- be warned (taught, admonished, exhorted, enlightened)

great reward: joy, contentment, and peace come only by obedience to the Word of God

v12-13 How? With the Word of God

Ps 119:9-11 {Men's Study stand, speak }

Heb 4:12

the Revelation of God – the Word –

- reveals my shortcomings...and
- the path to holiness and righteousness

John 14:6

my shortcomings: motives, words, actions, thoughts

- hidden...unknown...ignorance: clueless so
Ps 139:23-24
- secret: no such thing...Rom 2:16...so a deception compounded
- presumptuous...proud...that takes over your life
- great transgression...willful rebellion and disobedience

v14 words of my mouth: spoken, the "fruit" of the tongue"

meditation of my heart: thoughts, ponderings

be acceptable: righteous, delightful

O Lord: I love you, I need you, I want to please you more than anything/anyone

a good psalm to read when

- feel worshipful
- need wisdom, guidance...a reminder where they are

Ps 20

Author: David

Type of Psalm: Cry for help

- I. a cry for help (v1-2)
- II. a surrender of the will (v3-4)
- III. a praise of salvation (v5-8)
- IV. calling out (v9)

v1-2 a statement of confidence in a Known Person

the Lord in heaven will

- hear of our affliction/distress/anxiety
- defend us
- help us
- hold us up when we feel like falling apart

v3-4 the Lord desires mercy, not sacrifice...
to obey is better than sacrifice...
sacrifices are not pleasing to Him

what is pleasing?

- A loving relationship based on faith/trust
- Surrender and denying of self...
 "Not my will be done but Yours."
 All I am...have...ever hope to be...is Yours
- Is 53:10

Therein lies THE help we need most...victory over

- Sin
- The flesh
- The world
- Satan
- Death

v5-9 rejoice...and never forget...your salvation

- deliverance
- “Red Sea crossing”
- grace experience

I know...experientially...that when I cry out in surrender...

- The Lord hears me
- He will respond
- The Lord will deliver me...and I am safe when I abide in Him
2 Chron 20:12, 15
2 Cor 12:9-10
2 Tim 1:12
Jude 24-25
- Victory is mine...I need not walk around defeated

However, not all men know that

Some still depend upon their own sufficiency to save themselves from the tribulations and distresses of life

They are deceived...because they have no strength...nor is there strength in anything the world has to offer

Note: the harvest is white in Mexico, Central America, South America, etc because most people there know they are insufficient

Most people in Ahwatukee are hardened by self-sufficiency... who needs God?

a good psalm to read when the world is pressing in...

Ps 21

Author: David

Type of Psalm: a Profession of faith

v1 David rejoices in the Lord's strength and salvation

v2-3 David desired the Lord (Ps 37:4)
the Lord gave him

- blessings of His goodness
- a crown (of a king...Rev 1:5)

v4-6 David asked for life
God gave him

- eternal life (is but for the asking for every man!)
- joint-heirship with Jesus Christ
- great glory
- honor
- majesty
- blessed in the heavenly places
- exceeding joy (John 15:11, John 16:24, 1 John 1:4)

v7 How did David ask such that God gave exceedingly abundantly more than he asked?

- By faith...he trusted the Lord...not in his own abilities/intelligence/resources
Eph 2:8-9
Rom 10:17
- The Lord's mercies are beyond measure
John 10:27-30

v8-12 for those from whom David needed rescuing...the fate of the king's enemies

1. shall be found out (Gal 6:7-8, Num 32:23)...
the Light will reveal every darkness
there is no escape from the wrath of God for those who do not trust Him
but instead in a false god
(every man worships a god)
2. cast to a fiery furnace (Dan 3)
but, because of unbelief in the son of Man, they shall not be preserved or
delivered
3. their works/legacy/memory will be destroyed
because of unbelief, they will be forgotten by God
4. their plots and schemes are in vain
no man can war against the Lord and win
the only plan in the universe that succeeds is the Lord's...
put your plan down and be a part of His
5. their evil will be turned back upon themselves...
the evil dig a pit...and are thrown into it

v13 all the Lord needs to do to defeat His enemies is to...speak
Rev 19:15-21
Rev 20:7-15

a good psalm to read when need a reminder of God's

- glory
- splendor
- majesty
- unfailing love

Ps 22

Author: David

Type of Psalm: Messianic song of mourning...holy ground

22-24 a Trilogy

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Ps 22 | the Good Shepherd | John 10:11 |
| 2. Ps 23 | the Great Shepherd | Heb 13:20 |
| 3. Ps 24 | the Chief Shepherd | 1 Peter 5:4 |

the subject is the foretelling of Jesus Christ

the Jews could not reconcile Messianic passages of Scripture

1. Conquering King
2. Suffering Servant

This is a song about both

1. the Suffering Servant...written by David 1000 years before the crucifixion and 800 years before this form of punishment was known...it is not the Jewish form of capital punishment
2. the Conquering King...His Resurrection and Reign

the psalm was written in faith, in the absence of any knowledge...but not heard by faith

it presented difficulties in faith for the Jews

v1 Aijeleth Shahar...”deer of the morning”...was a musical instrument of mourning, being played by a gifted musician

roaring: “moaning” or “an intense cry”

this song starts with the crescendo: “*Eloi, eloi, lama sabachthani!*”

the height of Jesus Christ’s suffering was not

- the scourging
- the beatings
- the mocking
- getting His beard ripped out
- hanging on the Cross

it was the utter spiritual darkness of being separated from the Father

- the loss of His presence
- the torment of His wrath

you and I will NEVER know this suffering...because He did

v2 I cry...”call out”

- in the daytime...starting at 9 AM (Mark 15:25)
- in the night time...starting the night before in the Garden of Gethsemane when He
sweat drops of blood
was betrayed by His friends
arrested
...continuing on the Cross from noon until 3 PM

the Father turned a deaf ear on His Son...that He could hear our cries of faith in His Son

v3 But the Father is holy...because the incorruptible God cannot fellowship eternally with corrupted sinners

Gal 3:13

2 Cor 5:21

...and makes us holy when we cry out in faith

we praise Him for His holiness...and He abides in our praises

v4-5 the fathers

- AI&J
- Those led out of Egypt by Moses
- David

trusted the Lord and in His deliverance and were not ashamed
Heb 11:6

Faith in the Lord is well-placed for He is consummately trustworthy...and gracious!

v6 I am a worm:

- “maggot” – the expression of humility/low estate...and...being loathsome and contemptible in the eyes of others
- scarlet worm in the berry tree that bore fruit used to produce scarlet dye

When the female of the scarlet worm species was ready to give birth to her young, she would attach her body to the trunk of a tree, fixing herself so firmly and permanently that she would never leave again. The eggs deposited beneath her body were thus protected until the larvae were hatched. As the mother died, the crimson fluid stained her body and the surrounding wood. From the dead bodies of such female scarlet worms, the commercial scarlet dyes were extracted

A reproach of men...despised of the people:

reproach: as if He were the worst and most foul of men

despised: a contemptible nobody from nowhere going nowhere

[Is 53:1-3](#)

[Matt 27:13-23](#)

v7-8 [Matt 27:36-43](#)

Israel's long-awaited Messiah was NOT delivered...
He bore God's justice and holy wrath so those
who believed in Him would not

v9-10 took me out of the womb:

The Lord delivered Jesus out of Mary's womb

God was always there...

- from the lowest of entry points into the world He created...
- when He led Joseph, Mary, and the infant Jesus into Egypt to protect them from Herod's vengeance
- every step along the way, even in the Garden of Gethsemane

v11 But now...on the tree....God withdraws His presence.

He is not near...the appointed day of wrath had come

this is unimaginable!

v12-13 many bulls surrounded Him:

- priests
- scribes
- Pharisees
- Sadducees
- the High Priest

who were "fatted" bulls on the things of the flesh and the world

Bashan is a land of beautiful pastures on the Golan Heights northwest of the Sea of Galilee...

the land Manasseh desired over lands on the other side of Jordan

the livestock flourished there...and got big and fat

the bulls gaped as a lion

- a hungry lion on a fresh kill
- John 8:44a

v14-15 images of crucifixion...totally unknown to David or Israel

- contorted body...stretched out
- the muscles give out and the hip and knee joints slip under the weight of one's own body when having to push up to breathe
- intense, parching thirst ("I thirst.") due to dehydration by perspiration because of the intense pain
- suffocation...a tortuous, slow death
(Pilate was astounded He only lasted 6 hours)
- heart like wax...in the inferno of the consuming fire of God's wrath

v16 dogs:

- Gentiles...Romans
- "male prostitutes"...the priests

assembly of the wicked: the Jews...led by the priests

pierced my hands and my feet:

obvious to us with 20/20 hindsight...

a mystery to David...

a stumbling block to the Jews

someday...Zech 12:10-11

v17 tell all my bones: stretched out on the Cross, Jesus was a gazingstock for all to see.

Why? John 3:14-15

v18 to the bulls, dogs, and the wicked, the suffering of Jesus Christ was absolutely delightful

Matt 27:35

v19-21 my darling: a term of intimate endearment

alone on the tree...forsaken by man and God...Jesus cried for

- fellowship
- strength – spiritual, physical, emotional
- help
- deliverance from His beloved creatures with sharp tongues and hard hearts

yet God loved those wicked creatures

John 3:16

Heb 10:1-7

“I am forgiven, You were forsaken.
I am accepted, You were condemned.”

Now...we move on to His Resurrection and Reign

v22 declare thy name unto my brethren:

Matt 28:10

Heb 2:12

v23-24 those that revere/worship the Lord praise Him.
Why we gather together.

He hath not despised:

- He never forgot you
- He never stopped loving you, even when He sent affliction to turn you back to Himself
Is 54:5-10
- He always heard you when you cried out
- His love for you is unconditional and sacrificial

v25 in the great congregation:

- Jew and Gentile
- Free and bond
- Male and female

v26 the meek...saints

- those whose strength is the Lord by faith
- sanctified with the righteousness of Jesus Christ
- cleansed by the blood of the “toledoth”, the Lamb of God
- inherit the earth

v27-28 fast forward to the Kingdom

Phil 2:5-11

Is 9:6

Ps 2

v29 fat upon the earth:

worldly wealth and complacency

vs

wealthy in the spirit, the things of God

Eph 1:4

no man can save himself; dead man cannot self-generate life

the Source of Life died and rose again to defeat death

His Life is sufficient for all men...greater than the sum total of all life

He freely gives eternal life to those who come to Him by faith

2 Cor 5:17

v30-31 the seed shall serve Him:

those who by faith receive power to become the sons of God

generation:

He came to separate out of the world a people
unto himself

- a peculiar people
- ambassadors
- friends
- servants
- joint heirs

who come like waves in the ocean, from generation to generation

the Gospel is for...THIS generation

we are fulfilling this verse!

He has done it, there is nothing I can do

Is 53:10-12, 4-5

Is 1:18

Heb 10:12-14

John 10:14-15

1 Cor 2:7-8

PTL!

Ps 23

Author: David...the shepherd boy King that loved his flock...

Subject: ...about his Shepherd that loves His flock

Type of Psalm: Worship...pure worship

22-24 a Trilogy

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Ps 22 | the Good Shepherd | John 10:14 |
| 2. Ps 23 | the Great Shepherd | Heb 13:20 |
| 3. Ps 24 | the Chief Shepherd | 1 Peter 5:4 |

The Lord is my Shepherd

That's a Relationship!

How so? What kind of a relationship?

I shall not want

He is my Supply...Provider...in a cursed land

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures

He is my Peace and Rest in a crazy world!

He leadeth me beside the still waters

He is my Refreshment in a dry and thirsty land

He restoreth my soul

He is my Healer...body, soul, and spirit!

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness

He is my Guiding Light in a dark place!

For His name sake

He is my Purpose...the reason I exist!

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death

He is my Testing...my refining fire!

I will fear no evil

He is my Protection...my Refuge and High Tower!

For Thou art with me

He is my Faithful Shepherd...that will never leave me nor forsake me!

Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me
He is my Chastisement and Comfort...Safe Boundaries in a dangerous world!

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies
He is my Hope in a hopeless world!

Thou annointest my head with oil
He is my Holiness and Righteousness!

My cup runneth over
He is my Hyper-Abundance!
(to abundance as hyper-activity is to activity)

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life
He is my Blessing !

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord
He is my Security and my Promise!

Forever
He is mine...Forever...for all He is my Eternity!

all the names of Jehovah can be “found” in this Psalm

1. Jehovah-jireh (the Lord is my Provider)
2. Jehovah-shalom (the Lord is my Peace)
3. Jehovah-nissi (the Lord is my Banner)
4. Jehovah-tsidkenu (the Lord is my Righteousness)
5. Jehovah-shammah (the Lord is always there)

In this psalm there are 2 metaphors

1. The Shepherd (v1-4)
2. The Host (v5-6)

v1 He is aware of and cares about every sparrow that falls...
How much more for each of us, the sheep of His Pasture (Ps 100:3)....

Sheep: a description of us...not a complimentary one
As a sheep is in the world, so are we in the spiritual world

Sheep:

- Very dumb...ignorant
Ever seen a trained sheep at the circus?
- Defenseless
Ever seen an attack sheep?
- Poor eyesight...poor hearing...weak muscles
- Cannot find own food or water
- No sense of direction
Easily gets lost...does so gradually
Is 53:6
Frequently just wanders off intentionally
- Cannot find its way home
Must be brought back by the shepherd
- If persistently wanders off...legs broken...carried
- Can get "cast"
On back, legs up...
Then, vulnerable to wolves...
needs a shepherd to right it, get it back on its feet
Ps 37:23-24
- Will eat until...starve to death
Must be lead to green pasture
- Very fearful
Will not drink from moving waters
- Cannot clean themselves

Without a shepherd, sheep are helpless and hopeless

v2 sheep arise early (4 AM) to begin grazing...
in the cool of the day...in the quiet of the morning

mid- to late morning, the shepherd looks for green grass and shade where the sheep can
lie down and be still

Note: sheep will not lay down and rest if

- afraid/fearful
- there is friction in the flock
- harassed by fleas or parasites
- hungry

sheep will not lie down until they are content

during this time, the sheep chews its cud...meditating...and this is when the sheep grows
the fastest

every day...especially now in this stressful, crazy world...we need to

- graze on the Word in the cool, quiet of the day
- meditate...think deeply about, not just read...

Ps 1

- be still and know that He is God

Ps 46:10

v4 2 things about shadows

- A shadow lacks substance
the shadow of a lion cannot bite you...
the shadow of a sword cannot cut you...
a shadow may frighten you...but it cannot harm you
- there can be no shadow without a light
John 8:12
If you look to the light...the shadow will be behind you
He is greater than the greatest evil

Rod: the shepherd's instrument to protect the sheep
from evil, sheep who are so apt to wander

Staff: the shepherd's instrument to draw the sheep close to him

It is a comfort to know that God is watching over me

v5 the 2nd metaphor: the Lord is my host

how wonderful the LORD is to us!

- He prepares a table
He set the table...to honor His guest
- He anoints my head
the face, to moisturize/relieve from the dry arid conditions
another act of honor
- He pours out His blessings until our cup
runs over...an extra portion of hospitality...to encourage us to stay

consider what our Shepherd gives us!

1. not only life, but life abundantly
(John 10:10)...overflowing life
2. not just peace, but peace that surpasses human understanding
(Phil 4:8, John 14:27)
3. not just joy, but joy indescribable and full of glory

v6 God has numbered our days...

He is in control...

He knows the number of hairs on our head...

He holds our breath in His hand

in that I find great comfort

a good psalm to read when

- looking for comfort...
- feel lost
- facing overwhelming sorrow
- need hope
- you want to worship the Lord your God

Compared to all the books in Barnes & Nobles and the public libraries, how valuable is this song?

These 118 words in 6 verses say more than all of those books combined

Ps 24

Author: David

Type of Psalm:

22-24 a Trilogy

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Ps 22 | the Good Shepherd | John 10:14 |
| 2. Ps 23 | the Great Shepherd | Heb 13:20 |
| 3. Ps 24 | the Chief Shepherd | 1 Peter 5:4 |

Outline

1. The earth is the Lord's (v1-2)
2. Who is acceptable (v3-6)
3. The King of glory (v7-10)

v1-2 poetry of repetition:

- earth = world
settled on the turbulent seas
established by the rivers
- fullness thereof = they that dwell therein
(all life that lives on earth)
1 Cor 6:19-20

quoting **Deut 10:14**

that means God is the Owner of "my"

- house
- money
- car
- clothes
- pantry
- children...
- time
- talents...

He is the Owner of EVERYTHING and EVERYBODY

Jer 23:23-24

I am but a steward...I own nothing.

I am to faithfully use my Master's possessions for His will and purpose...not my own.

And with stewardship comes liberty and freedom...the relief of heavy burdens

an ungodly, unfaithful, deceived steward is owned by the possessions

The faithfulness of our stewardship will be examined by the Owner....
who expects an ROI

Matt 25:14-30 (esp. v21, 23, 29)

Now that we have “our place” established...

v3 THE hill (among all hills) of the LORD is

1. City of David
2. Mount Zion
3. Temple Mount (Solomon)
4. Mount Moriah
5. Golgatha

There is no holier ground than Golgatha
Gen 22
Calvary

Q: Who can walk on that holy ground?
Who can go stand before God?

v4-6 A: only the one who

- has clean hands
- a pure heart
- not worshipped idols
either self (Ps 14:1)
or
creation (Rom 1:21-23)

why Israel was led away captive, because they defiled the LORD’s land...
and the LORD is a jealous God

- not spoken subtilly, with guile...as the father of lies speaks

who can, therefore, walk there?

None.

Ps 14:3

Rom 3:10, 23

But...the one with dirty hands, impure heart, foul tongue can walk by faith
(H + B +O) to the foot of the Cross...
to surrender in brokenness...and be transformed by The Only One Who could
ascend the hill of the LORD

and when the impure is transformed into the pure, he is rewarded with:

- the blessing of the LORD
 forgiveness
 grace
 eternal life
 salvation
 adoption...
- the righteousness that belongs to the LORD

v7-10 Who can ascend the hill of the LORD and walk on the holiest of ground?

Who has clean hands and a pure heart?

Who is absolutely faithful and truthful?

- The King of glory
- The LORD
 Strong and mighty
 Mighty in battle (Zeph 3:17)
 of hosts

this is the climax of the Trilogy

Who fulfilled Ps 22 “A”...the Good Shepherd (John 10:11)?

The Cross was a spiritual battle

Who fulfilled Ps 22 “B”?

The Resurrection is the spiritual victory (1 Cor 2:7-8)

The Reign is real “peace and safety”

Who fulfills Ps 23...the Great Shepherd (Hen 13:20)?

He leads us into victory

Who fulfills Ps 24...the Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4)?

Jesus is

- The King of glory
- The LORD
- The God of our salvation

The earth is His (v1)...
we are His (v1)...
He ascended The Hill to the holiest ground (v3-4)...
the blessings and righteousness are His (v5)...
And those that seek Him (v6)...are His sheep.

PTL!

a good psalm to read when feeling
self-confident and prideful...or dejected

Ps 25

Author: David

Type of Psalm: an acrostic psalm...a teaching aid to help the memorization of essential, fundamental truth like praying and praising “A to Z”

prominent features

- I trust in thee (v2, v20)
- Wait on thee (v3, v5, v21)
- Ashamed (v2, v3, v3, v20)
- Teach me (v4, v5, v8, v9, v12)
- LORD/God (13 of the 22 verses)
- The character of God
 1. Tender
 2. Merciful
 3. Loving
 4. Kind
 5. Good
 6. Upright
 7. Integrity/trustworthiness
 8. Teacher

v1 “I am yours...all that I am, all that I have, all that I ever hope to be.”

Ps 24:1 spoken with personal eagerness and delight

v2-3 facts:

- none that wait on the Lord will be ashamed...
none will be forgotten or misplaced
no “layoffs”
- unrepentant sinners will be ashamed...
will be forgotten...
- therefore, shame is a self-inflicted agony

Jesus is the point of division between unashamed and ashamed

Jesus is the choice every man must make

- “Who do you say that I am?”
- Do you believe?
- Do you trust Me?
- Will you wait on Me?

- v4-5 to walk unashamed with God, we must be
- shown the Way
 - taught how to walk that Way
 - led along the Way
 - saved...so we can see, know, follow

which is precisely why Jesus came...

He is The Way

He is Salvation (His very name!)

- v6-7 for those who choose Him...by grace thru faith...He

- remembers His nature
- forgets our nature...but not us!

truly, He is good and merciful, loving and kind!

Lam 3:21-22

Character is what you do more than what you say

- v8-10 the Lord is the Good Shepherd, leading the meek lambs in His ways

He is the Teacher of His Word

1 John 2:27

John 14:26

God is active in the lives of men

Our role: faith (H + B + O...and W)

the humble are not judged, they are guided to the Cross.

The Lord takes the humble by the hand and teaches them His Way,

v11 my sins are great and they are against God...
but my God is greater than the greatness of my sin
Rom 5:20

the Lord forgives me, not because I deserve it, but because:

- He is love (1 John 4:7-8)
- He loves me (Rom 5:8)
- Jesus paid my debt (Col 2:13-14)
- for His name's sake (Ezk 38-39)

David is praying for himself like Moses did for the murmuring Jews that provoked the Lord

v12-13 the proud man is uncoachable

there is no peace for the wicked, but those who choose
to believe (faith) have rest

difference:

- humility
- submission
- surrender
- waiting

v14 you cannot understand the Bible until you believe it...
nor can you receive instruction unless you are humble and coachable

learning involves the mind, the heart, and the feet

- v15 Life is
- hard
 - turbulent
 - dangerous

- the Lord is our
- Deliverer
 - Peace
 - Safety

- Rest is as close as Jesus...it never comes from
- myself
 - others
 - money
 - things

Look up at Jesus, don't look around at your circumstances

- v16-18 David can see his nature
- poor in spirit
 - mourning his spiritual condition
 - meek
 - broken
 - at the end of himself, unable to cleanse himself
 - in pain – physical, emotional, spiritual

...and God's nature...and how much he needs the Lord
forgiveness of sin is man's greatest need

Is 59:1-2

Ps 32:1

- v19 "Lord, please deal with my enemies.
My enemies are Your enemies.
The battle belongs to You."

Neither the number nor the ferocity of our enemies matter, victory is ours!

v20-22 that victory...

- salvation of our soul
- deliverance from death and hell
- is a function of the character of God, not man
- is by grace thru faith placed in Jesus Christ

an integral part of that faith is waiting

Life is very troublesome...

But the Lord is much, much more awesome

Life is a victory march for all who choose to be “governed by God”

a good psalm to read when feeling distressed and overwhelmed

Ps 26

Author: David

Type of Psalm: a cry against injustice...and
a warning against self-righteousness

probably written by David when he was fleeing the murderous persecution of Saul...
he is crying out against that injustice

when I read this psalm, I

- hear a bold cry for justice...for God to intervene where David has been wronged...

but also I

- hear foolish vows and proclamations of innocence
- see a man puffed-up
- smell trouble brewing
- hear a warning against self-righteousness

v1 Who in their right mind would say this?

David must be having a good day!

Ever had one of those days when you can totally understand why God loves you!?

He is boldly proclaiming his

- innocence
- obedience
- faith
- faithfulness to the Lord

Careful...sounds like a backslider just waiting to happen...
blinded by pride and stumbling on self-righteousness

Don't ever cry out for judgment...cry out for mercy!

v2-3 David invites the Lord to

1. judge: “to pronounce sentence that vindicates or condemns”
2. examine: “to test, to investigate”
3. prove: “to test”
4. try: “to refine” his “interior self”...his soul and his spirit

“You agree with my self-assessment, don’t You, Lord?

Just look and see. Test me, refine me.

Examine my thoughts, motives, words, and actions and You will see that I am following You.”

We are tested by God...we are told in Heb 12 to not despise the chastisement of the Lord

But it is important to note that the testing

- Never reveals how strong and good we are...
- Always reveals how weak we are!
- Never shows God our heart and motives...
- Always shows us our heart and our motives!
- Teaches and corrects us...not God
- Opens our eyes...not God’s

We quite easily think more highly of ourselves than we ought (Rom 12:3)

Properly motivated...with a broken and contrite heart...

this should be a daily prayer so that God can work in His nature and work out my nature in my life

Ps 139:23-24

v4-5 David continues to promote his goodness...
he's been keeping score and is telling the Lord all about it

"I do not hang out with

- evil, idolatrous, empty people
- deceivers
- spoilers
- morally bad people

I love to go to church and worship You.

I only hang out with on-fire Christians...

Therefore, I am holy."

It is vitally important that

- we choose our friends very carefully...because bad company corrupts good character (1 Cor 15:33)...
we don't purify evil, evil defiles us)
- we are not to be unequally yoked in our relationships
(2 Cor 6:14, Ps 1:1-3)
- our lifestyle reflect our faith and profess our Lord

But that does not make you holy...only Jesus (in an intimate, personal relationship based on a broken humility and submission) makes us holy.

David is asking to be tested...and very soon he will be...

When he sees Bathsheba taking a bath

v6a innocence based on David's personal performance...
obviously written before Ps 14:3 and Ps 51 and Ps 32

v6b-7 "I am all over the altar with a righteous sacrifice, and I will declare how awesome You are!"

v8 "I love Your presence. I love Your will, ways, and Word."

A wonderful confession

v9-10 “Lord, don’t count me with

- the guilty
- the vile men who lie in wait to cause bloodshed
- those who make criminal plans
- those who pervert justice”

now...who is not among those? (1 Cor 6:9-11)

woe to those who persist in unbelief (Rev 21:8)

v11 reaffirming his self-assessment of v1, David proclaims that he will be faithful to the Lord as he cries out to be delivered from wicked men.

Notice...no matter how righteous a man sees himself...he cannot save himself

That truth should be quite humbling...and give cause for pause on his self-assessment

as I said, David will in fact be tested...and he will fail miserably... just like all of us have

1 Cor 10:12

Standing alone before the all-powerful God, every man

- is a helpless and hopeless sinner...and
- is “Guilty!” until given innocence by the holy and just God to Whom we must answer
- is a cripple in desperate need of a crutch that will never let Him down... and will make him stronger the more He leans on Him

v12 Matt 7:24-27

our only firm foundation is Jesus Christ, the Rock that cannot be moved

all other ground is “sinking sand” and a “slippery slope”

David challenges the Lord to test him...and he will learn

- the truth about himself...his heart and his motives
- of the mercies of the Lord
- about the grace of God that restores sinners

a good psalm to read when, facing injustice, you cry out for salvation and a reminder to be humble, crying out for mercy, never judgment

Ps 27

Author: David...

When fleeing Absalom's rebellion

Type of Psalm: "Eye test"

When I am focused on the Lord: strong and upbeat

When I am focused on my problems: weak and downcast

v1 David, in a shout of victory, is
"all God"
and
"none of self"

Because the Lord is my:

1. Light (1st reference as such)
2. salvation
3. strength...

I need not fear any man or any situation.

Rom 8:31-39

Oh such glorious peace!

How does the world survive without it?

v2-3 v2 is past tense...v3 is future tense

the past performance of the Lord is a firm foundation of confidence upon which to stand
when looking into the future

teetering under the weight of sin and tripped up by the stumbling block of Jesus Christ
and Him crucified, the faithless waver and fall

buoyed by faith in the Lord, the believer stands firm in the face of all opposition

If
evil men seek to harm me
a whole army advances against me
war (spiritual) breaks out

Then
God will cause them to stumble
my heart shall not fear but shall be at peace
I will be confident against me

v4 in flight, David is separated from the tabernacle

What was David's passion...his delight?
his relationship with God
to be in the presence of the Lord (Ps 37:4)

Why was David a man after God's own heart?
Because he sought God's heart...more than anything

What did David seek with his whole heart?
1. to dwell in the house of the Lord (Ps 23:5-6)
2. to gaze upon the beauty and splendor of the Lord
3. to admire the Lord in His Temple
shadow: the gold interior of the Holy of Holies in the Temple/Tabernacle

What was his great fear?
Ps 51:11

v5 hint of the Rapture
Is 26:20-21
John 14:1-3

the secret of his tabernacle: "covering"

in the time of evil. The faithful will be

- hidden
- covered
- lifted up
- established

v6 sacrifices of joy: Ps 51:16-17

v7 in the Holy of Holies...in the very presence of God...the man of faith will be greatly
humbled...keenly aware of

- his unworthiness
- God's absolute worthiness and glory

David is speaking with the same awe and breathlessness as the publican in
Luke 18:9-13

v8 a loving heart responds with obedience

 this is the Lord's desire – we obey His Word out of love

 vs

 obligation or duty or with a “hidden” agenda

v9 hide not thy face from me: David's great fear...
 the great fear of every man in his right mind

 “Do not hide, leave, nor forsake, Lord...even though you would be just in doing so.

 Although I am unfaithful, You are faithful.

 So have mercy on me!

 You are my salvation...without You I cannot be saved!”

Jesus said Matt 28:19-20

 [Heb 13:5-8], written of Him, quotes [Deut 31:6-8]

Therefore, Jesus is

- The One Who was with Moses...Joshua...David
- The One Who is with me and you
- The God of salvation (“Jehovah is salvation”)

v10 the Lord will take me up: “gather, take away”
 the Good Shepherd will lead us out of “wrath's way”

v11 plain = “straight, upright”...unobstructed

 [Matt 7:13-14]

 Heb 12:12-14

v12 one of my foes is my flesh - it seeks to rule over me (Jer 17:9)

v13 unless I had believed: Heb 11:6

 the land of the living: the just shall live by faith

 [Heb 12:1-4]

v14 operative word = wait.
His timing, not mine...His will, not mine
This is the key to victorious Christian living

Is 40:28-31

Heb 11-12

faith involves

- waiting...
- running with patience and perseverance...
- getting stronger by dropping weights

fear is swallowed up by faith (2 Tim 1:7)

a good psalm to read when

- feeling afraid and alone
- are impatient and need fellowship with God
- need protection and hope

Ps 28

Author: David

Type of Psalm: a cry for salvation...that turns into a praise of answered prayer

Another example of:

- When I am focused on the Lord: strong and upbeat
- When I am focused on myself: weak and downcast

v1-4 David is speaking **to** the Lord

v5-8 David is speaking **of** the Lord

v9 David is again speaking **to** the Lord

v1 O LORD, my rock, be not silent:

My “refuge”, do not be “deaf” to my cry!

Hear my prayer, Lord!

What makes David think God has gone deaf?

Silence is an answer....”Wait!”

But it is very difficult to hear clearly...especially a still small voice...when you are doing all the talking

so...be still...and know that He is God

The frightening thought to David is that he would be counted among the wicked, whom God does not hear

Like the unpardonable sin, if it bothers you, you need not fear

v2 lifting up the hands is a gesture of worship...to receive the blessings of God

David is seeking the Lord, lifting his hands up...not counting on himself to lift himself “up by the bootstraps”

v3 “Don’t march me away...drag me away...from Your presence with the criminals!”

the wicked speak of “Peace and safety” in a dangerous world

...while planning evil in their hearts

smooth talking friends that stab you in the back when an opportunity presents itself...

speaking words to cause you to let your defenses down...so they can attack

evil...sin, deceit, guile, selfish motives...is a matter of the heart, not the hands (SoM)

someday...[1 Thes 5:2-3](#)

- v4 the wicked will be judged according to their deeds...
because they refuse to be judged according to His deed
- their deeds are evil inventions...
 - His deed is the ultimate “I love you!”

by their own choice, they will get their “just desert”

- “just what they deserve”
- “what they had coming”
- justice

- v5 David shifts, and is now talking **of** the Lord...to whom?

- to another...
- to himself

“Now that I think about it...”the wicked are

- oblivious
- apathetic
- annoyed
- antagonistic

by

- the work of the Lord
an evolutionist toward His work of creation
a humanist toward His work of redemption
an atheist toward His work of resurrection
- talk of His “fingerprints on the lives of His people

But, even though God is longsuffering and merciful and gracious, He will not
always put up with being

- ignored
- mocked
- trashed
- opposed

Gal 6:7-8 is a universal truth

Last night, Christian came within 12 inches of death
My question to him: “Are you ready to die?”

What about you? Are you ready?

v6 “Adore” the Lord

How can David say this? When has the Lord heard him?

1. in countless times past
2. sometimes while we were still praying (e.g. Daniel)
3. because He always has and has shown Himself trustworthy...

David is confident God will hear again

what a comforting blessing – an answered prayer...

to experience the truth that the God of the universe is personally interested in my little tiny life!

v7 the LORD is my

- strength:

to endure affliction, suffering, persecution
to resist the enemy
in overwhelming situations
in destructive relationships
while in the terrible bondage of sin

- shield:
protection

every man has been given a measure of faith (Rom 12:3)

Trust can be placed no where better than in Jesus because

- everything/everyone else fails.
- Jesus never fails...He alone is worthy of our trust.

my heart trusted in Him and I am helped:

faith and “being surrounded” are definitely linked

my heart greatly rejoices and I will praise Him:

triumph and worship are also definitely linked...
regardless of His timing for the victory

Praising Him is so sweet via singing, lifting our voices

v8 their strength:

- His anointed
 1. Messiah
 2. us (2 Cor 1:21)
- His people (v9)
- His inheritance (v9)

Saving strength: “defense to deliver”

v9 David, at the end, is again talking **to** the Lord

Feed them also/Shepherd : “tend the flock”

Feed them the Bread of Life

A well-fed sheep is healthy and multiplies...and is blessed

Lift them up forever: above the evil into His presence

a good psalm to read when

- You don't think God is listening...maybe you are the one not listening
- feel tired of waiting for God's answer

Ps 29

Author: David

Type of Psalm: a Praise song to the LORD...
the self-existent, eternal God (18 times)

v1-2 “Give unto the LORD: 3 times

- glory: splendor
- strength: majesty
- worship: fall down before

for He is

- The All-mighty
- THE authority in the universe
- beautiful
- holy...pure

we easily lose perspective in the midst of our problems...

it is good to remember the majesty and power of God to help us

v3-9 the voice of the LORD: 7 times
ala the 7 thunders in Rev 10:3-4

the voice of the Lord:

1. thunders (“violently agitated”) over the waters
mankind = stormy seas
Is 57:20-21
2. is powerful
3. is majestic
full of honor and excellence...is awesome
4. breaks the cedars...makes them break dance!
5. moves mountains...earth shaking
Sirion is Sidonian for Mt Hermon
Is 2:12-14
6. divides the fire (Heb 4:12)

7. shakes (“To writhe in pain, like labor pains”) the desert
8. “shaketh” forth the baby deer
9. “strips naked” the forests
Rev 8:7

how does our voice compare to the LORD’s ?

be thankful...Rom 8:31

v10 The deluges of His wrath
1st = water
2nd = fire

He loves us too much to just wipe us away...
He hates rebellion too much to just blow it off

the LORD is the eternal King (1 Tim 1:17)

all of our ministries are temporary...all are for only a season

me: husband, father, pastor

you: spouse, parent, Finance, Children’s, Men’s, Women’s, Publishing,
Chairs...

His ministry is forever

v11 the Lord blesses His people (Ps 28:9):

- strength

Ps 28:7-8

2 Cor 12:9-10

- peace

but not as the world gives

“I still hate you, I just won’t shoot you”

John 14:27

Because has overcome the world

John 16:33

Goes beyond human understanding

Phil 4:6-7

Makes us complete

Heb 13:20-21

our peace is a result of His strength

a good psalm to read when the world is beating on you and you feel
like quitting

Ps 30

Author: Unknown

Type of Psalm: a song of dedication of

- David's palace?
 - the Temple
- 1 Cor 6:19

v1-3 messianic prophesy ala Ps 16:9

"I will raise You on high because You

- lifted me up (delivered me) from my enemies
- healed me (He can, He does...His will)
- raised me from the dead...revived my soul

v4-7 Sing and give thanks

- to remember His holiness
- because His anger is fleeting
- because He delights in life, not death
- so His mercies are new every morning
Lam 3:22-25
- because, in Him, I will never waver and fall...no TKO for me!

Take heart, all you who are afflicted!

- God's anger is momentary, His favor ("delight") is forever
- the night of every trial and tribulation will end.

The Son, the Morning Star, is coming!

v8-9 "Let's Make a Deal"?

the psalmist offers a prayer of personal intercession like Moses did for the nation

those in hell do not:

- praise the Lord
- proclaim the Gospel

thus...the Lord delights in life

v10 the verse prior can only be spoken in the same breath as this

one...in humility crying out for mercy from the holy and just God

v11 God is greater than the circumstances in my life

His mercy transforms

- mourning into dancing
- lamentation into glee

v12 Do not be silent in my appreciation to the Lord for what He has done for me – tell Him and tell the world!

may we **never**

- take Jesus Christ for granted
- let the awesome truths of God become meaningless religious chatter
- become dulled to His mercies to us
- think we “have arrived”
- stop leaning on Him
- forget that He is one our side!
- watching for Him...with urgency vs complacency
- doing His work
- fighting for the souls of the lost

may we **always** be

- awe-struck
- aware of His nearness
- fearful
- thankful
- falling in love

a good psalm to read to remember His greatness

Ps 31

Author: David

Type of Psalm: Messianic

another psalm written at the time of Absalom's rebellion... a time of
dark gloom for David
and in David we also hear the voice of Messiah, The Suffering Servant

trust and hope in the Lord in all circumstances, no matter how
good or bad they are

Theme: I will not be ashamed

- I. Let me not be ashamed (v1-8)
- II. The world hates me (v9-13)
- III. Let me not be ashamed (v14-20)
- IV. The Lord loves me (v21-24)

v1 first words: proclamation of trust in the Lord
trust is only as good as the object in which it is placed
the only trustworthy place is in Jesus Christ...
everything else and everyone else fails

let me never be ashamed:
never...now or to "the vanishing point" of time
i.e. eternity

deliver me in thy righteousness:
give me a "way of escape".
that way is the righteousness of the Lord
1 Cor 10:13
there is no originality in the pleas of the sorrowful

ever been in desperate straits like David?
did your first words echo his?

v2-3a Bow down thine ear to me:

“stretch” down to my level to hear me and give me an audience

deliver me speedily:

“Snatch me away” right now!

Be thou my:

- fortified defense
- castle
- stronghold
- fortress

v3b-4b for thy name’s sake: Ezk 20:1-22, 30-44

not for my sake but for Your name’s sake...grace

- lead me...thru the minefields
- guide me...on the right path
- pull me out of the net...used by the hunters to trap me

v4b-5 the reason for the “first words” in the midst of the danger:

God is

- my strength
- consummately trustworthy...all that I am and all that I have and all that I ever hope to be...
- my resting place (Phil 4:4-13)...a place of spirit over the flesh and dependence over independence
- my Redeemer...He paid the ransom for my life in full
- Truth...certainty, assurance, faithful

Trusting the Lord in current circumstance should not be difficult for those who remember

His past faithfulness

Therein lies the problem, eh?

Nestle in the Father’s arms every day and trust is easier

The voice of the suffering Servant is heard: Luke 23:46

v6a I hate evil...

lying vanities: Jer 7:4, Jonah 2:5-8

you can run...but not escape and not hide

v6b-8 ...but I love the merciful Lord that has saved me
notice the past tenses

a foretaste of the Suffering Servant: Phil 2:5-11

v9 David turns his eyes from the victories of the past to the unknowns of the present...
and loses perspective

David pours out his grieving heart to the Lord and pleads for mercy...not justice!

I am in trouble...I am “between a rock and a hard place”...in a very tight spot

the voice of the Suffering Servant is heard: Is 53:3

v10 “My life is nothing but sorrow and groaning.
I have no spiritual strength.
My body is failing under the weight of oppression.”

The physical and emotional effects of anxiety/fear

- Sunken eyes
- Weak body and spirit
- A gnawing conscience that sin is the cause

sin is spiritual death and weakens us physically and emotionally...
that is why the Suffering Servant came

2 Cor 5:21

2 Cor 12:10

v11 I am disgraced among both my enemies and my fellow-citizens...
and my closest friends have all fled in fear

his cup of sorrow is a very bitter one...a foretaste of the Suffering Servant
Mark 14:50-52, fulfilling Zech 13:7

A true friend

- Always gives you advice from the Word of God
...is God-centered
- Never leaves you in times of trouble
...is self-centered

How many true friends do you have?
Are you a true friend?

v12 I am like a broken pot...of no value whatsoever to anyone

the Body of the Suffering Servant was broken...no one had any use for Him

v13 surrounded by slander and terror
David felt isolated and alone - but we are never alone
Matt 28:20, John 14:16-18

they took counsel together to devise an evil plot: Absalom, Ahithophel, etc

a foretaste of the Suffering Servant: Caiaphas, Annas, Pilate, Herod

but they were "over their heads" (no pun intended) because no man could ever kill God.
Jesus gave His life (John 10:18)

v14 But...none of that matters.
God is with me! He is on my side!
Rom 8:31

This is why we can count it all joy...tribulations drive us into the arms of Abba
Father
our flesh hates the feeling of helplessness...but we grow spiritually and bear fruit
when we give it to the Lord

Because Ps 22:1 was cried by the Suffering Servant, we, by grace thru faith, need
not ever experience separation from God

- v15 our seasons are in the all-powerful hands of the Sovereign God.
He holds our breath in His hands (Dan 5:23) and
He has our days precisely numbered (Heb 9:27)
- a man of God in the will of God is immortal until his work is done
- “snatch me away” from my enemies...which the Suffering Servant did for us,
delivering us from Satan, death, and hell
- v16 “Illuminate me, Your bondservant.”
- God is light (1 John 1:5) and His bondservant is the Light of the World
- v17 death, hell, and the Lake of Fire is reserved for the wicked...Satan and his followers
(both demons and unbelievers)
- v18 let liars be tongue-tied...shut up their arrogance and disrespect of all things holy
- v19 opposite of the reservations for the wicked, the goodness of God is reserved for those
who
- revere Him
 - believe Him
 - trust Him
 - flee to Him for protection
- 1 Cor 2:9
- v20 God will hide His own, He will cover them and protect them in a secret place
Is 26:19-20
Rev 12:15-16
- v21-22 the Lord hears the cry of His own
- life is a series of trials and tribulations used by God to cultivate our faith in Him
what kind of soil is your heart?

v23 a promise from God: He preserves the faithful and “rewards” the proud.
This is for overcomers who look beyond the current circumstances

v23-24 how should we respond to that incredible comfort?

- Love the Lord... Who first loved us
- Stand fast courageously...the battle belongs to the Lord
- Hope in the Lord...wait on the Lord (love waits!)

We wait because the battle does belong to the Lord and He fights those that do not
love Him

Gal 6:7-8

hope in the Lord is never misplaced
we turn triumph into tragedy...He turns tragedy into triumph

see all things from His perspective and not your own, my fellow bondservant!

We indeed have...Blessed Assurance

a good psalm to read when feeling attacked and in need of
protection and a change of perspective

Ps 32

Author: David

Type of Psalm: Confession and Repentance

Theme: Blessed forgiveness of God

Ps 32 starts in 2 Sam 11:1 – 12:13

Sit back and listen...

Put yourself in David's shoes...

Examining your own secrets at the same time....

written by a man that has come to his senses and is again in his right mind

- I. confession and repentance (v1-7)
- II. instruction and advice (v8-10)
- III. joy of forgiveness received (v11)

v1-2 "Oh how happy" is the man

- whose rebellion is "lifted and cast away"...onto a scapegoat (the Lamb of God) by a loving, merciful God
- whose offense is hidden and made an end of... not by fig leaves...but by the blood of the Lamb of God
- to whom the Lord does not account his evil... "just-as-if-it-never-happened"...debt-free!
- in whose spirit is no treachery and deceit... i.e is pure, innocent, not guilty...liberated

God's love covers a multitude of sin (1 Peter 4:8)

Is 43:11, 25

Prov 16:6

David's joy of being forgiven can scarcely be contained!

v3-4 before confession of sin...that time when we are

- unconcerned about our sin
 - deceived into thinking “no one saw”
 - believing “I can cover this up”
- ...our body and soul are affected too

While he was in “cover up” mode,

- David’s body wasted away
- he moaned all day in his misery
- his vigor was sapped like our strength is in the burning heat of summer

the spiritual pain of unconfessed sin has emotional and physical manifestations
(I lost 25 lbs.)

...the misery can be seen on people’s faces and in their eyes

and that spiritual pain caused by a daily, unbearable burden of conviction by the Holy Spirit...

that never lets up because He loves us too much to look the other way

Selah: a musical notation meaning “a pause”

Also good spiritual advise...to pause and reflect upon where we come from...

v5 I acknowledged my sin to you:

feeling the heavy conviction of the Holy Spirit, David agrees with God.

“You are right. I am wrong.”

Mine iniquity have I not hid:

I will no longer try to hide my sins by

- Not confessing them ala Achan
- Denying them ala Gehazi, Ananias and Sapphira
- Blaming others ala Adam and Eve
- Covering them with my own self-righteousness

I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord:

“to throw away”, to speak, to admit

Foolishness is thinking we can hide/cover your sins from God

Gen 3:7-10

Only God can cover our sins

Gen 3:21

truths we need in the forefront of our minds:

- There is no such thing as secret sin...your sin will find you out
- We are all naked before God
- In God's eyes, we all live in glass houses

We are all naked before God - He already knows

- what we've done
- what we didn't do
- what we want to do
- what we have thought
- what we are thinking
- what we are going to say

The Lord already knows our hearts.

He wants us to

- acknowledge our sin/shortcomings of His glory
- agree with Him about it
- confess it to Him

When we do, He forgives our sin

“Oh how happy” is the man (v1)...when he comes clean!

1 John 1:9

Prov 28:13

Confession is to be commensurate with the sin

- All sins to God
- Sins to individual, to that individual and then to God (Matt 5:23-24)
- Sins to many, to many and then to God

Confession is to be as public as the sin

O how happy I am...because I

- agreed
 - laid open
 - confessed
- ...and God forgave...took my sins away.

This is grace...by which we are saved thru faith

Selah: another very good time to pause and meditate on
the goodness of God

v6 If we truly knew how eager God is to forgive us, we wouldn't wait.
We must seek Him while He may still be found...

every one that is godly will do that...
Because right now God can be found...

But that will not always be.

Is 55:6

Gen 7:16 after 120 years of warning

The Light will not always be on earth

2 Thes 2:1-12

The sovereign God has ordained limits to His longsuffering and grace...
leaving only wrath and justice

So David is saying, "Follow me while you still have breath and God still has patience
with you."

Seek Him while He can still be found!

v7 for those who take his advice and follow David, God is our covering and our guard in the
time of His wrath
Ps 31:20
Ps 27:5

v8-9 the Lord's admonishment

- Don't be a bucking bronco
- Don't be a stubborn, unteachable, stupid Missouri mule!
- Don't bite The Hand that feeds you.
- Repent!

Prov 1:7

Is 1:18

what is needed for godly advice to be effective is a broken and contrite spirit,
which David writes about in the parallel psalm...Ps 51

David is freely sharing that which he freely received –

The Lord's teaching and counseling

We can all benefit from David's personal experience with our gracious and
merciful God

why our testimony is so powerful and is to be diligently protected from the attacks
of our flesh, the world, and the devil

v10 the future of the insane, unteachable wicked holds eternal afflictions and tribulations

but those who agree, lay open, confess, and repent of their rebellion shall no
bottomless kindness!

Consider the choice...

v11 the fruit of a Godly choice...by faith (H + B+ O +W)...
is unspeakable relief and joy...and a right mind

comfort in the Lord

1. a safe hiding place in a hostile world
2. protection from the wrath of a holy and just God
3. surrounded by His righteousness and mercy
4. delivered from death
5. instruction in right living (Prov 22:6)
6. counsel/guide for every situation

PTL!...we have abundant reason to praise Him!

a good psalm to read when "busted" by the Holy Spirit and you need forgiveness

Ps 33

Author: unknown, most think it is David

Type of Psalm: Praise the Lord...by the hopeful

v1 Rejoice in the Lord...Shout to the Lord
only the righteous have reason to rejoice

praise is beautiful to those who enjoy the position of being pleasing to the Lord
this is a position before the Lord...not a goal to be attained

v2 Praise the Lord...only the righteous can praise the Lord...or even want to

v3 Sing unto Him a new song...only the righteous have anything to sing about

Rev 5:9-10

Loud noise: clamor

Praise and worship are not to be bashful or timid and half-hearted, but bold and
whole-hearted

v4-5 why v1-3?

- The Word of the Lord – is right
- The works of the Lord – are true
- The goodness of the Lord – the earth is full of His kindness and beauty

Can you see it?

God reveals His nature in creation

v6-7 there is no power in the universe greater than the spoken Word of God...
for the spoken Word of God created all power in the universe

and the Creator is in complete control of His creation

v8 may all living creatures on earth know the power and sovereignty of God...
and revere Him

let all men see He is awe-some...for God is calling the citizens of the kingdom of
darkness (the world) to “Come out of her” and to come into the kingdom of Light

v9 God spoke His Word...and it was so

v10 the counsel of the heathen:
man’s wisdom...the way that man thinks is right

the devices of the people:
man’s ways, schemes, plots, and plans

1 Cor 1:18-20

the wisdom and ways of man both fail...but

v11 the counsel of the Lord: the Word of God never fails
Matt 24:35
Ps 119:89

The plan of God’s will is established and is revealed to all generations
(peoples and times)

Heb 13:8

God has a plan for my and you life...and it will not be changed!

v12 Gen 12:1-3

Oh how happy is

- **the nation** who serves the One, True, and Living God, the God of AI&J

Israel was blessed...then cursed...and then restored by a faithful God

England was blessed because they took the Gospel to the world...
and the sun never set on the British Empire...but has faded

USA has been blessed...and in the absence of national repentance, will be
cursed

Why did USA prosper?

1. Only nation in history founded on the Gospel of Jesus Christ
2. Supported Israel

Mexico has never been blessed because they worship false gods
(first the Aztecs, then the conquest by religious conversion by the Roman Church behind the Cult of the Virgin)

- **the people** God chooses as His own
John 15:16

v13-15 the Lord is not apathetic...He is looking intensely
read Ps 2

He molded the hearts of all men...
He understands our frame and all our deeds (Gen 6:5)

v16-17 no army, no matter how big and humanly powerful, can save a king/president from his own heart and nature

no amount of military hardware can be directed at the real enemy...
no league of armies and kings can fight the spiritual battle either
military might gives man a false sense of security

man needs a new heart and God's nature to escape the spiritual dilemma facing him
what man needs only the Almighty Creator God can provide

v18-19 Behold...the acts of love of our God

- He rescues from death and provides during famine for those that hope (wait) on His goodness
Faith = H + B + O+ W
- He protects and provides both physically and spiritually

2 Chron 16:9

v20 real faith waits
Ps 46:1

v21-22 trusting in the Lord WILL result in rejoicing...because He is able and faithful to help

which means...Jesus is worth the wait!

Submission, surrender, faith in God...takes us right back to
v1-3

a good psalm to read when you are tired of waiting

Ps 34

Author: David

Setting: when David (1 Sam 21)

- was running from Saul...
- was hungry...
- took the showbread from Ahimelech the priest...

v1 “I will bow down before the Lord at all times...resisting the devil and standing alone in the face of persecution if need be.”

this is single-mindedness and whole-heartedness

v2 boast only in the Lord

1 Cor 1:31

Matt 5:5

v3 worship is

- all about Jesus Christ...a time to lift Him on high
- a corporate activity...not just an individual time of devotion

v4 Matt 7:7-8...ask, seek, knock

my fears are relieved and removed when I read the Word of God...
the promises of God

the Word

- corrects my perspective (away from self-centeredness)
- purifies my faith (fear is a corrupted faith)

v5 Behold the Light of the world and your darkness/burden will be lifted

1 Peter 5:7

v6 the poor in spirit (Matt 5:3)

we all have personal testimonies of times of trouble when the Lord helped us.
Remember!

Deem the Word of God and the works of God important enough to remember

v7 the Lord has set up a hedge of protection about us and no created being can break thru it

John 10:27-30

v8

Ps 119:103

1 Peter 2:2-3

every day, perceive and discern with eyes of faith that the Lord is good
Matt 19:16-17a

oh how happy is the man that trusts the Lord

v9-10 I AM is all I ever need...I AM alone satisfies

Ps 23:1

Ps 37:3-5

The walled villages...those that trust in themselves...lack and suffer...but
he who trusts in the Lord lacks and suffers nothing

The Lord took our depravity and unrighteousness in exchange for His holiness
and righteousness.

He took our sin and condemnation in exchange for forgiveness and reconciliation
and eternal life.

He transformed us from children of the devil into children of God.

We lack nothing!

v11 we hear the heart of a shepherd...one who desires to “goad” the children of God in the
Word of God

(“fear of the Lord” = Scripture)

Rom 10:14-15

v12 How do I have a good life?
How do I make my life count?
How can I please the Lord?

v13-14 by

- guarding your tongue (James 3)
- fleeing idols
- obedience to what you know...not to what you feel
- loving God and loving your neighbor
- having peace with God, live in the peace of God
Rom 12:18...Matt 5:9...Rom 14:17-19
James 3:18

v15-20 blessings for those who please God
(John 6:29 with Rom 4:3, Ps 51:17)

- under the watchful eye of God (v15a)
- heard by the open ears of God (v15b)
- friendship of God (v16, James 4:4)
- the power of God to rescue from troubles (v17)
- fellowship with God (v18a)
- salvation of God (v18b)...when a proud heart is broken and a proud spirit is crushed
- victories of God (v19)
- preservation of God (v20)

v21-22 the wicked will destroy themselves
sin is self-destructive...
Satan kills his own soldiers

but the Lord purchases the barren wasteland of the broken and crushed proud and
transforms them into a bountiful garden
and He loses none of those He has purchased

a good psalm to read when afraid and hungry

Ps 35

Author: David

Type of Psalm: a psalm of crying and cursing

- I. Cry of innocence (v1-10)
- II. Good returned with evil (v11-18)
- III. Appeal for vindication (v19-28)

starts with a circumstance like **1 Sam 24:1-15**

David, loyal to the Lord's anointed (Saul), is being chased and hunted by Saul

David feels betrayed, confused, angry, depressed, desperate

He desired Saul to be blessed...Saul desired David to be dead

David loves and respects the king...the king loathes and despises his loyal servant

So David cries out to the King of kings for help

He did not take matters into his own hands...

he never sought revenge

he knows vengeance belongs to the Lord

v1-3 David begins with a cry to the Lord (Hebrew poetic repetition) expressed in battlefield language

- defend me from my “friends”
- fight for me...fight instead of me (I know I AM will win!)
- rise up and protect me
- block those chasing me so I can run to safety...to You
- and...speak to me... Your Word comforts me

ever had “friends” like these?

People who might say kind things to you but you

- cannot trust them any further than you can throw them
- never turn your back on them

People who are just waiting for you to trip so they can step on you

As we are studying in 1 Peter, if you live a Christ-like life, you will have “friends” like David’s

2 Tim 3:12 all that will live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer prosecution

remember...[Eph 6:10-13](#)

v4-8 David then curses those “friends”, pleading with the Lord to

- shame them and thwart their evil plot on his life
- wound them that want to wound him
- drive away the wicked schemers as the wind blows away the chaff
- chase them away into a treacherous and miserable place
- spring a “Haman” upon those lying in wait for him with a net and a pit

rather than on his own wit and strength, David relies on God’s wisdom, strength, and ways.

God is much more able to deal with our enemies than we are!

the battle belongs to the Lord...and God is not mocked! (Gal 6:7-8)

v9-10 in anticipation of the Lord hearing his cry and acting on his behalf, David is ready to dance with joy at the reversal of fortunes.

he knows only the Lord can snatch the afflicted and destitute from the jaws of defeat and death

How sweet and rejuvenating are the

- times free of anxiety and worldly pressures
- moments of accomplished victory

Times you feel like dancing, huh?

v11-12 David cries against the injustice being served him that breaks his heart and grieves his spirit

- false accusations
- “loaded questions” like
“Have you stopped beating your wife yet?”
- evil for good

...deep sorrow just as Jesus faced

People will turn on you...let you down...fail you.

When you do good things for them, they will pay you back with evil things.

Don't be surprised...don't put your trust in man

Only God is faithful, in only Him will I trust.

v13-16 “After all, when they were sick and afflicted, I fasted and mourned for them!
I prayed for them when they were hurting!
I was a faithful friend in their time of need!
I grieved for them in their misfortune!”

“**But** when I am afflicted, I find out they are the ones behind it!
When I am in trouble, they are the trouble!
While I mourn, they rejoice!
They kick me when I am down, they show no mercy.
They lay traps for me and buzz around like vultures to finish me off!
They gang up on me, they don’t fight fairly or cleanly.
They are gluttons for my misery.
They secretly gather to scheme against me and mock me spitefully.”

David’s life...at this stage of his life...was filled with a bunch of unlovely people
Yet...he loved them
he did not return evil for evil

he waits on the Lord...
Can you relate?

Luke 6:27-38

Do you love the unlovely?
Do you love your enemies?
Do you return good for evil?

v17 “I’ve had enough. How ‘bout You, Lord?
When will You have enough?
I know You see everything they do and hear everything they plot.
I know You know their motives and their thoughts.
Reach in and pull me out of this mess!
I know you can, I know you will.”

David’s words are both heart-broken and desperate...and anxious for action
Can you relate?

v18 “When You act in Your perfect timing and in Your perfect way, I will lead worship in the
assembly!
I will sing Your praises to all who can hear me.”

v19-21 David's "friends" are even worse than Job's "friends"!

- they gloat over his troubles and dangers
- they wink with malice toward him
- they are not at all friendly toward him
- he's just minding his own business...and they devise evil plots against him
- he is the butt of their jokes

hopefully none of us are friends like that to anyone...

Jesus had a bunch of unreliable friends (scattered)
He also was hated without a cause

John 15:25

Matt 27:15-25, 39-44

hopefully, none of us are friends like that either...

v22-24a thinking about his "friends", David again cries out to his King

- Speak to me!
- Speak to them!
- Awake and arise to my defense
- Vindicate me...according to Your righteousness

v24b-27 "No more gloating over me!

Don't let them get the better of me...it means my death.

Lord, may You be magnified and not my enemies.

May the righteous rejoice and not the wicked.

May the wicked be disgraced and not the righteous.

v28 Deut 32:35-43

the end of the matter:

- The Lord has pleasure in His servant
- Vengeance belongs to the Lord
- The servant praises the Lord

Are you being unjustly attacked or accused, either personally or professionally?

Give it to the Lord.

He knows.

He finds pleasure in His servant and protects His children.

Wait for His perfect defense in His perfect timing.

Ps 36

Author: David

Type of Psalm: The Futility and Foolishness of Evil

- I. The nature of the wicked: (v1-4)
- II. The nature of God (v5-10)
- III. No hope for the wicked: (v11-12)

v1a David, a servant of God...not the king, a servant
not a servant against his will, a servant by choice (bondservant)

Moses, the prophets, Paul, Peter, James, Jude all declared themselves to be servants of
God

Humility is required to be useful to God...submissive clay is required to be used by the
Potter

David, the servant king, a shadow of the Substance to come

v1b at the beginning, the wicked is lifted up in the kingdom of the god of this world...
but lifted up by himself

the transgression of the wicked:
observing the wicked men around him, David is appalled, and amazed at their
attitudes and actions

problem: their heart

they have no fear...no awe...for the Almighty God that created the heavens and
the earth

Ps 8:3-4 does not ever cross their warped minds

David, always a shepherd, marvels at their

- lack of shame
- bold perversions
- uncaring self-centeredness

and seemingly is embarrassed and afraid for them

v2 he flattereth himself:

the wicked is so puffed up with pride that he is

- blind to his sin...clue-less
- indifferent to his sin...care-less

he steps on people and uses people to get his way on his “way to the top”
(a Corporate America game)

his motives and actions are

- self-serving
- contemptuous of that which is good

Rom 12:3

v3 the words of his mouth:

another problem: his tongue...which reveals the content of the heart

his tongue is uncontrolled and ungoverned.
he lies and offends

left off to be wise:

he turns from the ways of God (wisdom)...
and refuses to do that which is intelligent and right...

choosing instead to pursue the things of the world according to the ways of the
world

v4 deviseth mischief upon his bed:

a 3rd problem: his mind

a reprobate mind (Rom 1:28-31) whose imagination is only evil continuously

he lies on his bed, dreaming of evil schemes and untold troubles, plotting

- his ascension
- the demise of others

make no mistake...this is very hard work!

Look at the pains taken by “Catch Me If You Can” thief
Frank Abagnale

self-willed (Prov 12:15)...
with no concept of right and wrong (Is 5:20)...
he is completely insensitive to the repugnance of evil

Rom 12:9

1 Tim 4:1-2

v5 from the nature of the wicked to the nature of God...

Mercy: how can we measure the lovingkindness of God?

Lam 3:22-23

Ps 103:8-14

Faithfulness: God...and God alone...keeps His promises

v6 righteousness: true and right

His right-ness...compared to the pit of human depravity...is as

- majestic as the Himalayas
- immoveable as the Rockies
- strong as the Alps

Judgments: His Law is holy, defining the boundaries that preserve the well-being of man

They are like an endless supply of water...given to preserve our life

v7a lovingkindness: same words as “mercy”
the kindness of God is emphasized

v7b children of men put their trust:
in response to the nature of God, receptive man puts his confidence and hope in a
loving God...

under His wings

not a picture of God as some nurturing mother bird, poetic language for the
covering of the Messiah

Num 15:37-40

Mal 4:1-3

Matt 9:20-22

- v8 be abundantly satisfied:
the receptive man will
- be an overflowing cup of the abundant goodness of God
 - drink from the river of His pleasures

John 10:10
The fruit of the Spirit...is very sweet
Ps 23:1-3

- v9 the fountain of life:
God is the Source of Life...that is why the sacrifice of One was more than
sufficient to pay for the sins of ALL

John 14:6
John 7:37-38

in Thy light shall we see light:
James 1:17 with 1 John 1:5 with John 8:12 with John 14:8-9

The light we see is the Morning Star...Who chases away the darkness in the
world and in our hearts
Rev 2:28
Rev 22:16

- v10 continue thy lovingkindness...righteousness:
“Keep pouring it on, Lord!
I need more and more of you!”

exhortation to believers:

- focus on the Lord, not on the wicked
- be wise in the Word and simple in sin (Rom 16:19)

v11 Let not the foot of pride:
...squash me underfoot.
Let not my arrogant enemies put their foot upon my neck
(a picture of defeat and shame)

Ps 110:1

Let not...the wicked remove me:

John 10:27-30

Rom 8:31-39

Heb 13:5b forsake = “to let go”

v12 there are...fallen...cast down...not able to rise:
those who practice evil...who dig pits for others...will

- be overthrown from their perch “atop the world”
- pushed down in to ruin
- unable to rise again into life

Prov 14:12

Matt 13:24-30, 36-43

at the end, the wicked is thrown down to ruin, excluded from the kingdom of God
...and the righteous is lifted up...by God

a good psalm to read when facing evil people

Ps 37

Author: David

Type of Psalm: Trust in the Lord

David...an embattled target of the enemies of God

This Psalm fits our study on persecution and suffering...
and is a very good transition between Peter's letters

- I. Fret not...trust in the Lord (v1-8)
- II. The eternities of the wicked vs the righteous (v9-22)
- III. The advise of an old saint: Trust in the Lord (v24-40)

See the fingerprint of God all over this song

Consistent use of numbers in the Word of God (another study)

e.g.	1	unity
	3	Godhead
	5	grace
	6	natural man...incomplete
	7	complete
	8	new beginning
	40	judgment
	70	Israel

in this song, speaking of two very different eternities

- wicked
 - “cut off/down” 6
 - (nothing-ness)
- righteous
 - “inherit the land/earth” 5
 - “dwell forever” $\frac{3}{8}$

v1-2 Fret not...neither be envious:

Why do the bad guys seem to be winning?

Why are evil people so successful?

(sometimes the wicked call themselves Christians)

Why do wicked people have life so easy?

They aren't...they don't

So do not "glow with anger, grief or jealousy" toward those who are ungodly and
perverse...

Don't let them push our buttons...because...

They shall soon be cut down...and wither:

Quickly...suddenly...sooner than they realize

they are going to be clipped and left to wither in searing heat

We can hear the lawn mower coming...the wicked cannot

Their "good life" will last about as long as the grass clippings in my front yard in
summer

Wicked men are a temporary annoyance.

Rather than focusing on them...

v3-8 later...meditate on the verbs/commands/exhortations:

1. Trust in the Lord
2. Delight in the Lord
3. Commit your way to the Lord
4. Rest in the Lord
5. Wait patiently
6. Cease from anger
7. Forsake...let go...of natural responses

v3 Trust in the Lord:

How are we to live in the midst of evil people?
Place our confidence and hope in Him who alone is trustworthy

trusting is not just an intellectual assent...it is an active doing

do good:

do what is right...as defined by the Word of God

- love God with our entire being
- love our neighbor as ourselves
- love our enemies

pursue righteousness in all things...
act like Jesus is standing right there...because He is!

To know good and NOT do it...is sin
James 4:17

shall dwell in the land...be fed:
a promise of God!

We will live because the Lord will surely tend us and give a safe pasture to us,
His flock.
God will sustain us, nourish us, strengthen us

In a green pasture, which entity ultimately prevails – the grass or the sheep?

Using a botanical metaphor...in contrast to the grass clippings of wicked men, the
righteous are big, strong, healthy trees

Ps 1:1-6

v4 Delight thyself also in the Lord:

Love the Lord, have a Divine joy that is impervious to

- evil people
- unpleasant circumstances

this also means to be tender-hearted...

moist, soft, pliable...good clay in the Potter's hands...
hands that are firmly in control of all things

He shall give thee the desires of your heart:

this is not a formula for getting our will done in heaven...
but how God accomplishes His will on earth

Delight yourself in the Lord...and His Word...and He will plant His desires in
your heart

Is 26:8-9

The desire of my heart is an intimate relationship with my God and Creator
and to be in His presence always.

Ps 27:4

if that is so, He will overflow my heart's desires!

When you are soft and pliable in the Potter's hands...

when the desire of your heart is the Lord...

He gives you the desires of your heart, Himself

When the desires of your heart are the pleasures and possessions of the world...
you will never be satisfied...always desiring

v5 Commit they way unto the Lord:
purpose in our mind to walk with the Lord...and then hand over our will to Him

contrary to what the bumper sticker says,
God is not my co-pilot...
He's driving...I am in the back seat

Trust also...He shall bring it to pass:
actively, continually "Your will be done, not mine"...because it WILL!
God's will WILL be done

This calls for walking by faith and not by sight
How deceptive are our eyes!

- We see what we want to see
At Fry's...my jacket vs sweatshirt
- We believe something is real if we see it
if we cannot see it, it must not be real.
In truth, the real things we cannot see.

(v4-5 the Word given to me by the Lord thru Ted the day after Summerville laid me off
in Nashville)

v6 he shall bring forth thy righteousness...judgment:
When we surrender our will to His, He will bear fruit in our lives...
which is His desire (John 15)

then, in the eyes of wicked people, our righteousness...
which is His righteousness...
will illuminate the darkness like the morning sun chases the night

the Bright and Morning Star...the Sun of righteousness will rise and chase all the
shadows
and our vindication will be as clear as an object at noon...no shadows to obscure
vision

v7

Rest in the Lord:

As we abide in Jesus, be still...be quiet...be silent

restlessness...comes from abiding in the world and not in the Lord

a restless husband is unfaithful to his wife...

a restless wife is unfaithful to her husband...

a restless believer is unfaithful to the Lord...

wandering around in the wilderness looking for some undefined need...

not resting in Him

wait patiently for Him:

wait...hope...with longsuffering, "calmly enduring"

...do not wait impatiently! (demonstrate!)

Ecc1 7:8

patience requires humility and says "Your will be done"

impatience is pride that says, "My will be done!"

Is 30:15, 18b

Is 57:20-21

Fret not:

2nd of 3 exhortations to

- remain calm
- not let our emotions dictate our decisions

do not be angry toward...or envious of...those who

- prosper
- become mighty
- are so successful
- have life so easy
- are living large

by lying, cheating, and stealing...

seemingly unnoticed or unchecked by God

in reality, God is using all their schemes for good

Rom 8:28, Gen 50:20

v8 Cease from anger and forsake wrath:
Check, restrain our emotions and release (“let go of”) our violent rage

Ecc1 7:9 quick anger is of fools

James 1:19-20

Note: in Heb 13:5b, forsake = to let go

fret not...to do evil:

“Be cool!

Don’t be drawn into ‘their game’.

Don’t compromise the holiness of your calling by stooping to their level.”

“While in Rome, do as the Romans do” is NOT God’s way.

Ours is a higher, holy calling.

II. The eternities of the wicked vs the righteous (v9-22)

v9 evildoers shall be cut off:

destroyed...by the Creator!

The 2nd death...separation of spirit from God

But those that wait upon the Lord:

there is our favorite word again!

Being still...calmly enduring unpleasant people & circumstances...

waiting for the Lord’s timing...(suffering in the meantime...)

but “wait” also means “to bind together with” the Lord

waiting is a matter of perspective –

- not focused on the wicked and their success waiting impatiently
- but snuggling in the lap of you Father bonding with Him...patiently

shall inherit the earth:

those that snuggle in the lap of Father will receive as our possession the earth
after all, we are joint-heirs with Christ!

and those who are grabbing all they can right now...will end up with nothing

wait until the last chapter is written...It is glorious!

And it is coming very soon!

- v10 yet a little while and the wicked not:
with the life span of a vapor, with ungodly
- will no longer exist
 - will be gone forever
 - will become a non-entity
 - will be nothing...(not just have nothing)

diligently consider his place:
prayerfully and thoughtfully understand that those who

- reject the God who made Himself of no reputation
- strive and scheme to be a Somebody in this world

will be a Nobody forever

All the riches of the world without Jesus is abject misery – to have everything but still be empty and frustrated

understood by the wife of an unbeliever
“I don’t mind. This is as good as it gets for him.
My future...any inconvenience here is Insignificant.”

- v11 But the meek shall inherit...delight:
Matt 5:5

the lowly and humble

- of station in this world
- of heart

will be blessed (Eph 3:20)

- inherit the earth
- have a hyper-abundance of rest and safety and favor in the Lord

Know Jesus, know peace

- v12 the wicked plotteth...gnasheth:
the ungodly plot and plan to destroy the godly...
seeking to devour them like their master, that roaring lion

darkness schemes to overthrow the Light

v13 the Lord shall laugh at him:
and He is not amused!

“laugh” means “mock”

Ps 2:1-5

Gal 6:7-8

seeth that his day is coming:

God sees the end as clearly as the beginning and the right now
and He tells us in advance the end...because we are His friends

There is an appointed day when God will pour out His wrath on the
wicked...when His longsuffering comes to an end

v14 the wicked...to cast down...to slay:
until that perfect time, the ungodly are continually at war against God and the
godly.

They desire our demise, our down fall, our death because the darkness hates the
Light

v15 into their own heart:
their words and deeds are

- self-piercing
- self-condemning
- self-destructive...
- futile

the wicked shall be slain with their own works and words

we are not defenseless!
The Lord is our High Tower.
We have a Sword, too!

v16 a little...is better:
the pittance of the worldly wealth that the righteous has is immeasurably more
valuable than the vast material wealth of the wicked

Eph 1:3

Ted Turner, Rupert Murdoch, Bill Gates, etc...even combined...
are paupers compared to the poorest believer in Sudan

Ps 84:10

v17 the arms of the wicked shall be broken:
How badly can Mike Tyson beat us up with two broken arms?

The strength of the rebellious will be broken...

but the godly are secured, protected, taken hold of by the unbreakable strength of
the Lord

v18 the Lord knoweth the days...inheritance:
The Lord sees everything, knows everything.
He is never surprised by the actions of the wicked.
He knows their end...

and the end of those who walk in His Truth.

We who are upright are because we believe...
who are saved by grace...
are adopted into His family
as adopted children, we get an inheritance

v19 shall not be ashamed:
these days are evil, requiring the Wisdom of God
Eph 5:15-16

In the days of famine, they shall be satisfied:

Amos 8:11-12

But we will always be satisfied because the Bread of Life dwells in us

v20 the wicked shall perish:

Luke 12:16-21

Matt 13:24-30, 36-43

The problem is not what they do...
it's the condition of their heart that dictates what they do
the problem with the enemies of God is unbelief.

because of their unbelief, their lives will be consumed like dry grass and blown
away like smoke
when smoke dissipates, it is gone forever, never to be re-gathered.
There is no coming back for the wicked!

The rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16...could not come back
Abraham's response to rich man's request:
They must believe Moses
John 5:39, 45-46

The Jews rejected Jesus...because they did not believe Moses

the wicked perish because of unbelief...Unbelief is the unpardonable sin

there is no life apart from faith in the Bread of Life...
the Way, the Truth, and the Life...
the Resurrection and the Life

v21 the wicked borroweth and payeth not again:
euphemism for stealing

their attitude is "What is mine is mine and what is yours is mine."

The righteous showeth mercy, and giveth:
The righteous are gracious, generous, compassionate

Mercy is for the giving...it cannot be borrowed or stolen

The Lord desires mercy, not sacrifice (Hosea 6:6)

The godly have the attitude of "What's mine is yours"...the heart of God

- v22 blessed of him...cursed of him:
the righteous
- praise the Lord
 - know the heart of God
 - will be given all things
 - are blessed

- the wicked
- curse the Lord
 - mock the Lord
 - have a heart contrary to the heart of God
 - will lose everything they have been given
 - will be destroyed

How will you live in this world? Consider the two eternities

eternity is a function of surrender
surrender to the desires of your flesh is death
surrender to the desires of God is life
the form of surrender is our choice...so Is 1:18

III. The advise of an old saint: Trust in the Lord (v24-40)

- v23 steps...are ordered...he delighteth:
the path of a “valiant warrior” who submits to the will of God are ordained by
God

The Lord is pleased with him...and he is most certainly pleased with the Lord!
Ps 37:4

- v24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down:
God knows we are not perfect, nor can we be.
He knows we will fail Him.
The issue is: Where is my heart?

though he die, he will not be destroyed, but preserved by the Lord
Ps 139:23-24
Jude 24

this is a key truth:

I do not hold God's hand...because I might lose my grip

- go to sleep
- get distracted
- get angry at Him (God forbid!)
- get hard-headed and stiff-necked

God holds onto my hand...and He cannot, will not lose His grip!

conversely, living a way displeasing to the Lord is like walking on quicksand

v25 Yet have I not seen...forsaken...begging:

David has never seen...nor have we nor will we...

- God let go of the godly
- their children begging for food

because God is faithful and trustworthy

v26 ever merciful and lenient:

God is wholly kind every day and abides with us

v27 Depart from evil and do good:

put great distance between you and evil...flee like Joseph

the reward is awesome!

But it means we have to be awake and aware because the wicked is continually seeking our destruction

v28 the Lord loveth judgment...forsaketh not his saints:

the Lord

- loves fairness and justice
for those who believe, justice was exacted on Calvary
- does not ever let go of us...just as He promised
- protects us...is a hedge about us

Rom 8:35-39

the Lord is ALWAYS there for me, usually waiting for me to reach out to Him

but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off:

however, the children of the god of this world face payday someday...

and the end of the line

Rom 6:23

v29 righteous...inherit...dwell:
for those who believe, the reward is eternal life and fellowship with our loving
God
Gen 15:6, John 6:29, John 1:12

v30 mouth of the righteous...speaketh...talketh:
God's children hear, meditate on, and talk about

- the Word of God
- God's justice

Amongst ourselves and to those in the world...is anybody listening?

v31 none of his steps shall slide:
we don't slip, slide, or waver.
We stand upon the Rock that cannot be moved, our Firm Foundation

We don't "tip toe" on muddy slopes with penny loafers, we stand firm on Jesus
Christ
firm footing in the slippery paths of life requires the tread offered only by God's
Word

v32 the wicked watcheth...seeketh:
the wicked

- spy on us...watch with malice
- set traps for us
- and lie in wait for the opportunity to kill us

we ARE being watched and hunted.

Is your light shining?
Or do you look like the world?

Is the Word a lamp unto your feet?
Can you see the traps?
Stay on the narrow path!

v33 the Lord will not leave him...nor condemn him:
Sometimes we stumble.
But the Lord does not leave us there in disgust.
He does not condemn us (Rom 8:1).
He rescues and cleanses us.

Condemnation comes from Satan, the Slanderer

v34 Wait on the Lord:
...music to our ears!

Waiting is not a passive state, it is an active walk of endurance and obedience

Is 40:28-31

Thou shalt see it:
A promise from our trustworthy God

All wrongs will be made right in the fullness of time...
at the perfect moment to yield the perfect results
Wait and see!

In the meantime, do not misunderstand the longsuffering of God.
He is not apathetic or unseeing.
In His justice and mercy and grace, He lets evil run its full course...why?

so that no creature will be able to say He is unfair or unloving.
Rather all will say He is right and fair and holy.

v35-36 I have seen the wicked in great power...spreading himself:
in tyranny, in oppression, having great influence and money...
flourishing like a tree in its native soil

yet he passed away...not:
But for what?

He died...crossed over the great divide...and ceased to exist.

I searched for him...but he was a non-entity

Evil men are like today's weather...gone tomorrow

v37 mark the perfect man:
guard and preserve the complete man...the born-again man

his future is peace with God forever

v38 the transgressors shall be destroyed together:
the apostates will be

- destroyed all at once...by the Word of God,
spoken by the King of kings and Lord of lords
- separated from God for all eternity

v39 the salvation of the righteous of the Lord:
the righteous are

- rescued
- restored
- reconciled

by the Lord, Who is our fortress

in the time of trouble:
in difficult times...which is every day (Matt 6:33-34)
in days of moral free-for-all like today

v40 the Lord shall help them...and deliver them:
surround us, the helpless and hopeless apart from Him and give us a way of
escape (1 Cor 10:13)

and save them because they trust in Him:
He rescues us from ruin and destruction...because we

- trust Him
- abide in Him
- take refuge in Him

Salvation is God's work...
Our role is to trust Him...to believe on Him

This is how to live life – trust the Lord (v3)
Flee to Jesus and be saved

Ps 31:23-24

Where is your Treasure?
Peace?
Joy?
Feet?
Heart?

a good psalm to read when fretting the prospering evil in the world

Ps 38

Author: David

Type of Psalm: Lament - the brokenness and the hope of a sinner

when a believer hangs out in the world and lives in sin, thinking,

“No one can see, no one knows.”

The conviction of the Holy Spirit weighs heavy...until the backslider reaches a breaking point

David is seeking deliverance from “weight of spirit”

v1 a plea for mercy

- rebuke not in Your indignation...for who could stand?
- Correct not with boiling rage...for who could survive?

v2-3 a cry of anguish

“I feel like a pin cushion!”

Your arrows (“that which pierces”...Heb 4:12)

“I feel like a pancake!”

The weight of God on his soul?

Or the weight of his sin on his soul

(Heb 12:1-2)?

God’s desire is to lift that terrible weight of self-destruction and to heal the pierced

“My whole being aches because You are mad at me.”

I believed that until I was 34 years old...religion fanning me with guilt

“I have not had a moment’s peace since I can’t remember when.”

God loves us too much to let us “get away with” sin...

but rather will discipline us to bring us back into fellowship

But He does not condemn us...He convicts us, making us spiritually miserable until we come to our senses

v4-8 spiritual, emotional, and physical reality of unrepented sin
“I’m drowning in filth...with a millstone tied around my neck.”

“My folly has hurt me...my life stinks!”
The flesh and the lusts of the flesh are a stench to God...
not a sweet smelling savor

“My spirit despairs. All I can do is groan.”

“My body is like a hot, stinking, throbbing sore.”

“I feel like I am going to faint under this pressure.

“I can’t sleep.”

sin is a thief, robbing me of my health

David is broken...right where God wants him to be
Ps 51:16-17

v9-10 thus, David cries out to the Lord.
he is lamenting his Holy Spirit-grieving choices.
he feels spiritually parched.
The light is fading to black...

maybe we have a “hidden” sin...from others but not from God.
We are all naked before God.
Only a fool thinks God cannot see...and a believer has no excuse for foolish thinking

v11-12 the isolation of sin
“None of my friends wants anything to do with me...
I am estranged from those who love me.”
“My enemies rush to kick me when I am down.”

v13-14 the crippling of sin
the self-willed, sin-hiding backslider cannot

- see God’s fingerprints on all the warning signs of circumstances
- hear the voice of loved ones yelling to get his attention before he falls off the cliff
- humble himself to admit he was wrong

v15 Light of Reason

“I need the help of One bigger than

- me
- my sin
- my enemies
- my “wage.” (Rom 6:23)

v16-18 the Breaking Point

“Enough! I am wrong, You are right, Lord!

I am guilty!

I am sorry...please forgive me!

Have mercy on me, a sinner!

I don't want to be on the outside looking in!”

v19-20 yet no end of conflict...just a change in the nature of the conflict

God forgives and forgets (1 John 1:9, Ps 103:8-12)...but our enemies never do
When we run to Righteousness to be cleansed, they hate us

v21-22 a continual appeal

“Don't leave me, Lord, to fight these relentless enemies by myself!”

He never does

“Don't go far away from me.”

He never is

“Come quickly, Lord.”

He comes quickly when we come to the end of ourselves and cry out to
Him

the condition of the backslider:

1. no soundness (= “wholesomeness”) of the flesh
2. no rest
3. burdened beyond his ability to carry it
4. aware of his foul smell to the Lord
5. aware of his own foolishness
6. troubled, depressed
7. feeble
8. broken
9. an unsettled, distraught heart
10. groaning
11. spiritually thirsty (Ps 42:1)
12. spiritually weak
13. in darkness
14. estranged from believers
15. “devil fodder”
16. by choice, deaf and mute
17. in continual sorrow

How do you spell relief? F-O-R-E-G-I-V-E-N-E-S-S

a good psalm to read when need forgiveness

Ps 39

Author: David

Type of Psalm: Cry for help...with my tongue

written when David feels like

- giving someone a piece of his mind...
- telling someone off big time...
- ripping someone's face off...
- exploding...and asking questions later

v1 the tongue

- Is subject to the will
- Is an instrument of sin
- Is set on fire from hell (James 3:3-8)...

...therefore it is essential that we control that wild beast of a muscle!

We need to guard our lips and put a muzzle on our mouth

All of our relationship have been damaged by NOT doing what must be done

v2 thinking first rather than reacting first, David bites his tongue.

Notice that doing so...knowing it is what must be done...
did not make him feel better – he felt rotten!

v3-4 but when he could no longer contain himself, he still had the presence of sound mind to properly direct his words – to the Lord in prayer

David brought “it” to the Lord...just like Andrew always did
(whether easy, difficult, or impossible)

v5 our lives are but a span of time...a mist in the morning.
And in that brief expanse of time, our very best is unsatisfactory, falling far short of the
glory of God
Is 64:6

Ps 8:4

v6 David vents

“Surely every man walks in a self-delusion of his

- importance
- influence
- abilities

he makes a great commotion...

makes a federal case out of minor issues...

and saves up wealth to give to a fool.”

Eccl 5:10-17

v7 “Lord, what am I waiting for?

Why don’t I just give this guy a piece of my mind?!”

v8 David knows why not...that would be sin

“Lord, hold my tongue and guard my lips that I not sin with my impetuous mouth.”

v9-13 PTL! God answers prayer that are in the center of His will!

Pray that the Lord leave you “tongue-tied” whenever He wants to.

A good psalm to read when you need a “10 second delay” between your thoughts and mind and your tongue and mouth

It is ESSENTIAL that we understand how much damage our tongue can cause...and control it!

Ps 40

Author: David

Type of Psalm: Messianic... Trial and Triumph
the suffering of Jesus Christ... and His victory...
as well as for those who trust in Him

v1-2 waited patiently:

the same word, repeated

“hope”

when we put our hope in the Lord, He hears and reaches out to us

out of a horrible pit:

the prison of destruction, the grave

Because He went there and did that, believers will not go there!

man does not climb out of the pit he has dug for himself...

the Lord reaches down and pulls him out.

Salvation is God's work, not man's

Jesus set the prisoners free

out of the miry clay and set my feet upon a rock:

pulled from a quicksand-laced swamp and set upon the Rock that cannot be
moved

fall on the Rock and be saved... lest the Rock fall on you and crush you

v3-4 put a new song in my mouth:

A new praise song will burst from my lips for out of the suffering comes
indescribable glory

Rom 8:18

many shall see... fear... trust:

Many will see with eyes of faith, fear their eternal destiny apart from Jesus, and
trust in Him... people like you and me

oh how happy is the man who

- makes Jesus Christ his refuge and security in this world
- is aware the leaven of the Pharisees and honors the humble and the meek
- loves the Truth

v5 wonderful works...thoughts toward us:

Ps 139:1-6, 17-18, 23-24

Jer 29:11-13

John 21:25

John 20:30

v6 sacrifice and offering...burnt offering and sin offering:
of bulls, lambs, and goats

Heb 10:4-6

the Lord wants my obedience, not my sacrifice...

Open ears can hear what God is saying in His Word

1 Sam 15:22 to obey is better than sacrifice

Ps 51:16-17 broken spirit, contrite heart

Hosea 6:6 mercy, not sacrifice (Jesus)

He is my sacrifice.

What can I possibly add to His sacrifice?

v7 Heb 10:7 direct quote
Matt 5:17 I come not to destroy but to fulfill
John 5:39 written of Me
John 19:30 It is finished
Luke 24:27 expounded all Scripture concerning Himself

v8 I delight to do thy will:

God's will was Is 53:10-12

Heb 10:8-17

v9 I have preached righteousness in the great congregation:

Jesus preached the Good News of

God's love

God's kingdom

Ps 22:22-23

v10 I have not hid thy righteousness:

Matt 16:24

Matt 22:36-40

John 7:37-39

SOM

Rom 3:24-25

I have declared...not concealed:

God's

1. faithfulness (Lam 3:22-23)
2. salvation (Hab 2:4)
3. lovingkindness (Ps 63:3)
4. truth (John 8:32, 36)

these things should make us shout for joy every day!

v11-12 "Therefore, do not withhold Your compassion." (Matt 5:7)
"Your love and truth protect me."

innumerable evils have compassed me:

Ps 22:6-17

I am not able to look up...my heart faileth me:

Gal 3:13

2 Cor 5:21

through "horizontal" comparisons it is easy to think that I am doing OK.

Only through "vertical" comparison, when I see my Creator the Light of the world, do I see myself as I really am.

Then I see myself as God sees me.

And what He did to solve my impossible problem.

My heart breaks and I fall on the Rock.

v13 Ps 22:19-20

so when I consider my true condition, I realize that only God can save me.
That is why Jesus came.

v14-15 Let them be ashamed and confounded...desolate:
May my enemies be wounded and be a reproach...and be eternally destitute

Matt 22:15

Matt 23:38

Matt 27:1, 25, 39-44

v16 love they salvation:

Rom 1:16-17

Matt 27:45-54...access to God provided by His suffering son

The Lord is high and lifted up...because He was lifted up like the bronze serpent
in the wilderness

v17 2 Cor 8:9 though rich, became poor...so we rich

Matt 11:28-30

Mark 2:15-17 Physician came to the sick, not righteous

a good psalm to read when feeling alone and distressed, tired and weak

Ps 41

Author: David

Type of Psalm: Messianic

Theme: God is faithful

v1-3 Blessed is he that considereth the poor:

he that is

- mindful of
- helps

those who are

- weak
- exhausted
- in need of help

How is he blessed? the Lord

- sees and remembers and will come to his aid in his time of need
- will strengthen and encourage him physically, emotionally, and spiritually when his strength is failing and when in the depths of sorrow
- the God of all comfort, will comfort him and restore his health

Every man is weak, though many are blind to that fact.

And every man is faced with circumstances where his weakness is made apparent. Those circumstances are designed by God to cause prideful man to seek Him.

If you oppress the weak, don't look to the Lord for help when you need it.

If you help others in their weaknesses, the Lord will help you in yours.

Matt 10:8, James 2:15-16

bear in mind these words were comforting to the Lord Jesus Christ as He looked toward the Cross

v4 I have sinned against thee:

Who sinned against Whom?

We sinned against God.

Who was suffering...and was judged...for those sins?

God the Son (Is 53:12)

v5-8 the enemies of Jesus spoke hatefully of Him...in spite of the wonderful things He did

they cursed Him...
lied about Him...
and conspired to kill Him...

they wanted to be rid of His name

- the very sound of it
- His authority

- Before the Cross
- On the Cross...mocking Him

- After His burial
Matt 27:62-66

- After the resurrection..."How do we get rid of this name?"
Acts 4:1-17
Acts 5:28-33

v9 familiar friend in whom I trusted:
foretelling of Judas' betrayal
Judas lived and breathed with Jesus for 3.5 years.
Saw everything...
heard everything...
was trusted with the money bag...
ate meals with Him (close form of communion)...
then betrayed Him

v10 raise me up:
from the dead
Heb 2:14-15

that I may repay them:
"them" not "him"
Judas destroyed himself

"them" is the Slanderer, Murderer, Father of lies, god of this world, usurper...
and his deceived followers

v11 mine enemy does not triumph over me:
...because Jesus won the victory

1 Cor 2:9

1 Cor 15:51-57

Heb 2:9

Rev 1:18

v12 upholdest mine integrity:
Satan accuses us (Rev 12:10)
Jesus Christ is our Defense Attorney (Rom 8:34)
God the Judge rules in our favor

much more than “Not Guilty”
“Innocent of all charges”
“Justified...just-as-if-it-never-happened”

v13 Amen and Amen:
greater confirmation

from our enemy we get

- slander
- condemnation
- false accusations
- lies
- destruction

from our God we get

- compassion
- mercy
- grace
- forgiveness
- reconciliation
- restoration
- life eternal
- glory

1. Deliver us in times of trouble (v1)
2. Preserve us (v2)
3. Revive us (v2)
4. Blesses us (v2)
5. Protects us from our enemies (v2)
6. Strengthens us (v3)
7. Comforts us (v3)
8. Is merciful to us (v4)
9. Heals us (v4)
10. Will raise us from physical death (v10)
11. Favors us (v11)
12. Holds us up (v12)
13. Establishes us forever (v12)

We are in better hands than Allstate!

a good psalm to read when facing enemies and/or when need healing