

Psalms
Book 2
Ps 42 - 72

| <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 |

Ps 42

Author: written for the sons of Korah...by David (according to most scholars)

Type of Psalm: An encouragement

Theme: a sound mind...right thinking...in the midst of affliction

v1-2 as the deer pants for the water:

a deer will pant for water

- naturally...because water is life (John 7:37-39)
- parched by “hot weather”...enveloping heat of a trial
- in the distress of being hunted...affliction, persecution

for the same reasons, we pant for God...the living God

(vs the false idols we worshipped as brute beasts)

when shall I come and appear before God:

“How much longer, God?

Help me, Lord, for you are as refreshing to my spirit as a cold glass of water on
an August afternoon is to my body.

Just take me home!”

Do you thirst for God...His Word...His touch?

Do you LONG to see the Lord?

v3 “Life is sooooo hard...sooooo unfair...soooo cruel

anguish like Hannah’s (1 Sam 1:1-10)

taunted by an adversary...who insolently mocks with

“Where is your mighty God, your Help?”

v4 overwhelmed with grief...maybe even doubting God, listening to the taunt of the

adversary...

v5-6 Time out! Stop right there!

Why am I bummed out?
Why am I so stressed?
What am I moaning and groaning about?
Are my problems bigger than my God?
I have forgotten all the times the Lord was my Help in overwhelming circumstances...
do I no longer trust the trustworthy God?

No...God is awesome...in control...faithful
I will wait patiently for Him...I will put my faith in His will
He will give me victory!
I am bummed out...stressed out...depressed...for no good reason.
I will act on what I know...not on what I feel

1 Peter 5:6-7

v7-8 “I was drowning in fear...worry...life’s pressures...persecution.
I was going under for the last time in the waves of despair.

Until I remembered the Lord’s lovingkindness toward me.
Lifting my eyes toward Him and my song up to Him, He lifted me up above the raging
storm...where He walks.
He is my peace...He calms the wind and the sea of despair.
He is my life.”

v9-10 but, like Peter, we too easily have our attention drawn back to the storm...
and our emotions take over
slipping from the peace of the Rock, back into the raging sea

“Why are You not paying attention to me?
Can You not see I am going to drown?
Can you not hear my enemies reviling me and mocking You?
Oh, Lord, this pain is too much to bear...”

v11 Time out! Stop right there! Again...

What am I thinking?

Why do I listen to my emotions?

God sees...God hears...God knows...God is not mocked

God is bigger than every enemy and fear and circumstance

I know this...and will act accordingly.

Right thinking can be seen on a person's face...as can wrong thinking

Look into the eyes...

And you can tell where the eyes are looking – around at the circumstance...

or up at the Lord

2 Tim 1:7

a good psalm to read when

- feeling depressed
- overwhelmed by life
- need courage

Ps 43

Author: unknown...most scholars think David

Type of Psalm:

v1 Judge me...plead my cause...deliver me:

“Vindicate me and plead my righteous cause against an evil foreign nation.
Give me a way of escape from a deceitful and evil man.”

At the beginning of the psalm, David feels nothing but anxiety, focused on his problems

- Philistines?
- Saul?
- Absalom?
- Ahithophel?

v2 For thou the God:

“For You are my God...so why am I suffering?”

this is a cry of a frustrated, impatient, untrusting man focused on himself...
not the quiet longsuffering of a servant who is not greater than his Master

the “Whys” of God are none of our business.

Q: Do I trust Him? Rom 8:28

Because his perspective is warped, his words are too

Deut 31:1-6

Heb 13:5

v3 send out thy light and thy truth:

...to chase away the darkness (evil men)

now David’s focus is on the Word of God...the promised Messiah

John 1:1-4, 14

John 8:12 with Ps 119:105

John 14:6

v4 I go unto the altar of God:
...with a broken spirit and a contrite heart
(Ps 51:16-17)...acceptable offerings

his focus is on God and pleasing God...the proper perspective

joy: "This moment, I have Jesus!"

v5 Why art thou cast down, O my soul:
Ps 42:5, 11

Time out! Stop right there! Again...

What am I thinking?
Why do I listen to my emotions?
What am I all stressed out and depressed about?
Why am I moaning and groaning?

God sees...God hears...God knows
God is bigger than every enemy and fear and circumstance

I know this...and will act accordingly...
I will wait patiently on Him to act in the perfect way...in the perfect time

At the end, David is at perfect peace (Is 26:3)

The mystery of prayer:

- not our will done in heaven, God's will done on earth
- not initiated in my heart, initiated in the heart of God, received by mine, and offered back to Him
- we often cry out in desperation...
and end up asleep...in perfect peace and joy...
"This moment, I have Jesus!"

2 Tim 1:7

a good psalm to read when feeling alone and depressed and feel like
quitting

Ps 44

Author: unknown

Perspective: **1 Cor 10:6, 11**

v1-3 We have heard with our ears...our fathers have told us:

- the Word of God (Deut 6:6-9)...
- including His works on their behalf

Do you share the victories of God in your life with your children?

drive out...planted them...cast them out:

God planted His vineyard in His land

Is 5:1-7, 8, 18, 20-22

But thy right hand...arm...light...favor:

they did not do anything, God did everything...because He loved them

Deut 7:6-9

v4-5 my King, O God, command deliverance:

just by the power of His Word, the sword of the Spirit

His children can gore and trample their enemies...by trusting in Him

In context of v1-3,

- God was God then and God is still God today.
- He was on the Throne then and is still is
- He gave His children victories then and still does
- And all those things...in the future

v6-8 I will not trust in my...But thou:
lean not on your own understanding...
do not trust in your own strength...
do not depend on your intellect or shrewdness...

Deut 7:17-23

Zech 4:6b

Eph 6:10-18

2 Cor 10:3-5

the battle is spiritual...the battle belongs to the Lord

2 Chron 20:1-29

2 Cor 10:17

whatever you are battling, Jesus Christ is the key to victory

v9-16 thou hast cast off...sellest...make us a reproach:
What?

Suddenly, the author slips into the blindness of self-centeredness and self-pity
call the WAAA-mbulance!

Who cast off Who?

Why was Israel in a full-fledged retreat before her enemies?

Why were they scattered to the nations and sold into slavery?

Why did those nations see Israel as either a pariah...or a laughing stock?

Why do the nations say, "Tsk, tsk, tsk"

Because they

- Disobeyed God
- Rejected God as their King
- Became worse than the nations around them in their idol worship

2 Chron 7:12-22

Why did God let them wander...and these consequences to befall them?

Because He

- Loved them
- Desired that they love Him...humbling them so they would come back
from whoring after false gods
- Is holy and just

Deut 4:24-31

v17-22 we have not forgotten...heart not turned...thou hast sore broken us:

“We have been faithful. We are not apostate.
We are innocent. You are harsh and uncaring.”

the victim mentality spews forth from self-centeredness and self-righteousness
sin blinds...binds...grinds

v23-26 Who is asleep (“slack”) and Who is alertly on watch?
Who needs to come back to Who?
Who is unfaithful and Who is faithful?

Ps 121

2 Peter 3:9

Joshua 24:14-20

The man that sounds like v9-26 needs to go back to v1-8

Ps 94:11-15

Is 55:6-7

a good psalm to read when you feel alone

- if you follow the flesh...you go alone
- if you follow the Spirit...you are never alone

Ps 45

Author: David

Type of Psalm: A Wedding song to The King and His Bride

upon Shoshannim:
trumpets

a Song of loves:
a Marriage Song...to all the beloved ones

v1 my heart is inditing of a good matter:
gushing, bubbling, overflowing with glee and joy about a good thing...The King

my tongue is the pen of a ready writer:
moved by the Holy Spirit...as was Paul's pen

v2 Thou art fairer than the children of men:
spoken to the King
Ps 27:4

The Lord our King is beyond human beauty...
more beautiful than words can describe...a supernatural beauty

Grace is poured into thy lips:
Luke 4:14-22
Such kindness!

v3 Gird thy sword upon thy thigh, O mighty:
Put on the Word of God upon your thigh, Almighty

A plea that brings to mind
Is 9:6-7
Rev 19:11-16

v4 ride prosperously:
Ps 68:17...every eye will see You!

because of truth and meekness and righteousness:
because of

1. Truth (John 14:6)
2. meekness (Matt 11:28-30)
3. righteousness

This is My Son in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"

Heb 2:8-11

Heb 9:24-26

thy right hand shall teach terrible things:

In power and strength, You will reign with a rod of iron

this week, we remember The Suffering Servant...entering humbly on a colt
(Zech 9:9)

this psalm is about The Conquering King,...

bursting on the scene with great power and strength

v5 the people fall under thee:
His enemies become footstools

v6-7 Thy throne...is forever and ever...the scepter...a right scepter:
quoted in Heb 1:8-9

The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ, is immovable from His throne

and His reign is rightful and just...contrary to the current god of this world

Thou lovest righteousness and hatest wickedness:

The holy and just King clearly delineates between right and wrong

v8-9 King's daughters among thy honorable women:
daughters = "apple of the eye"

precious daughters...we have some here tonight!

Queen in gold of Ophir:

The Church, which rules and reigns with the King, is adorned with clothes
embroidered with the finest gold

v10 Hearken...consider:
Hear...see...meditate upon
Matt 25:1-13

forget also thine own people and thy father's house:
in the presence of The King, all else (of this world) will be forgotten

memories will be wiped clean...for new memories
PTL!

Matt 10:34-37
Matt 12:46-50

The Blood of the Lamb is thicker than blood

v11 so shall the king greatly desire thy beauty:
The Lord will long for, covet His Bride
John 17:24
Is 62:5

Our beauty...the beauty of holiness and purity...is HIS beauty...
supernaturally given to us by HIM

2 Cor 11:2

Ps 29:2

Ps 90:17

Ps 96:9

1 Chron 16:29

Therefore, we will worship Him

v12 daughter of Tyre with a gift, the rich...entreat thy favor:
Phil 2:9-11

all will come to the King bearing tribute...seeking His fellowship

v13 the king's daughter is all glorious within:
beauty is inward...of the heart...supernatural...spiritual
Eph 5:25-28

the Bride of Christ, the Church, and the Marriage Feast of the Lamb
Rev 19:1-9

v14-15 she shall be brought unto the king:
we...with glee and unspeakable joy...will be led to the King in a breath-taking
wedding procession into the Temple in heaven

v16-17 instead of thy fathers shall be thy children:
instead of "patriarchs", the King will be with His fruit...
borne throughout the ages by faith

Matt 22:2-14

princes in all the earth:
sons of the Kings will reign with Him

a good psalm to read when wondering if you are of any value to
anyone

Ps 46

Author:

Type of Psalm:

v1 Alamo: “girls, soprano”

best thing to do with this verse is...memorize it!

very present help in trouble:

this is a *vehemently* emphatic statement by God

“I AM your shelter, your strength, and your help in every trial, tribulation, affliction, anguish.

I AM bigger than anything you are facing now or ever will face.”

this psalm is for numerous people in our fellowship who are struggling under the weight of very severe and stressful circumstances

- vocational
- financial
- relational

you know who you are...I may know who you are...

God most definitely knows who you are

God’s very pointed message to you is:

He is your only haven of peace and safety

The world can make promises but cannot deliver

Your own energies and abilities and intelligence are no match for the circumstances you face

He walks above the storm where it is calm and peaceful...

will you reach for the hand He is extending to you?

8 years ago, we suffered a financial trial that broke our backs.

We were on the verge of losing our house

while in Tucson on a business trip, God used a sparrow to correct my fearful perspective...

Why did I think that the Lord was not our very present help in that trouble?

He always had been before.

He held my breath in His hands (Dan 5:23) and...

here I am, 8 years later, still breathing...

I AM is the only shelter we have...and need

I was regretting the past
And fearing the future...
Suddenly my Lord was speaking:
"MY NAME IS *I AM*." He paused.
I waited. He continued.

"WHEN YOU LIVE IN THE PAST,
WITH ITS MISTAKES AND REGRETS,
IT IS HARD. I AM NOT THERE.
MY NAME IS NOT *I WAS*.

"WHEN YOU LIVE IN THE FUTURE,
WITH ITS PROBLEMS AND FEARS,
IT IS HARD. I AM NOT THERE.
MY NAME IS NOT *I WILL BE*.

"WHEN YOU LIVE IN THIS MOMENT,
IT IS NOT HARD. I AM HERE.
MY NAME IS *I AM*.

v2-3 Therefore:
because that is true...a fact stated by God

will not we fear:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| overwhelming opposition | Ex 14:5-15 |
| unbearable financial pressure | Ps 50:7-15 |
| Any "unending" trial | Is 40:25-31 |
| | Is 41:10-13 |

Though the earth...mountains...waters...mountains:
even though

- the earth is disposed of..."dissolved"
- the mountains are picked up and tossed in the oceans
- the oceans begin to boil
- the mountain shake, rattle, and roll

(God, Who just stated He is our shelter, can do all those things!)

“Even in the most extreme circumstances...which you cannot even imagine let alone be enduring right now...fear not. For I AM.

Is 40:12

Is 40:1

Fear is a corrupted faith...the antidote to fear is faith
2 Tim 1:7

in the face of your circumstances, believe God is and is able

Dan 3:17-18

Dan 6:20-22

1 Cor 10:13

v4 a river...shall make glad:
you are the Temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19-20)
...the Living Waters of God work in His Temple

- refreshing the tired and thirsty
- soothing the agitated
- comforting the anxious
- healing the broken
- strengthening the weak

v5 God is in the midst...shall help:
in your fear and anxiety you scream, “Where are You, God!?!”

Where? Right in the very midst of the circumstances...
and right in the very midst of you!

So...you will not fall...God is surrounding and protecting you

Right early:
early in the morning...the 1st step is very important

Ps 59:16-17

Ps 143:7-8

Can you be still and hear His voice?

v6 the kingdoms were moved...the earth melted:
sounds like Ps 2

the kingdoms of man are given and taken by God
the earth swallowed up Korah for his unbelief and rebellion, remember?

Meaning...the Lord is in absolute control

v7 LORD of hosts:
a military term

the all-powerful God has as His army untold legions of angels, all of which are
more powerful than at least 185,000 men
this is a glimpse of the power that is on our side!

Does God need our help? No
Do we need His?
Is He able to help?
Does He want to help us?
...so let Him

Come to the end of yourself and go straight to the proper 1st line of Defense

Lord, burn this truth into our consciousness, that You may change our thinking
and our actions.

v8-9 Come behold:
look at the Lord of hosts, not at your circumstances

stop crying long enough to clearly see

- the ruin He has inflicted on Satan's kingdom
- the wounded He has healed
- the miracles He has performed
- the peace He offers

v10 Be still and know that I am God:

Circumstances have you spinning out of control?

Stop!

Get off the emotional roller coaster and stand still on the Rock

Focus on what you know...Who you know...and not on what you feel

it is hard to be still when you are in an emotional frenzy

it is hard to KNOW when you are running around like a chicken with its head cut off

take a deep breath and relax...the sky is not falling

God is able.

stop asking so many questions...

"Why? Why? Why me? Why now? Why?"

and start answering one question:

"Do you trust Me today?"

2 Cor 12:7-10

So what do we do in the midst of crisis?

Be still and know that He is God.

Our tomorrows belong to Him...He is our Shepherd and we shall not want.

v11 repeated so we would know He is God...He is our shelter...

He is with us...right now!

God should be our 1st line of Defense

but due to our pride, we make Him our Last Chance...

and we struggle tremendously and unnecessarily

Ps 5:11-12

a good psalm to read when

- in trouble and you are afraid
- circumstances have you crying like a school girl

Ps 47

Author:

Type of Psalm:

v1 clap...shout:

no rhythm required!

Just enthusiastic expressions of joy and triumph

not NFL/NBA style that draw attention to us...

but a joyful noise giving all glory and honor to Jesus Christ

we can do this today by faith...but some tomorrow in the near future, by fact.

Just wait!

v2 terrible:

“to fear, to revere”...awesome

king over all the earth:

Zech 14:1, 9

v3 He shall subdue the people:

Deut 7:1-10

Joshua was the shadow...

Ps 2

v4 he will choose our inheritance for us

1 Peter 1:3-5

An inheritance awaits those who hear the words,

“Well done good and faithful servant.

You have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things.

Enter into the joy of your Lord.”...

we will rule and reign with Jesus during His 1000 year kingdom

Rev 1:5-6

v5 gone up with a shout...the sound of a trumpet:
“the action” starts with a trumpet blast...

Joel 2:1
Zeph 1:14-18

After we have been snatched out of harm’s way

Rev 4:1
1 Thes 4:12-17

v6-7 sing praises:
the Lord fights, we sing victory songs!

Rev 19:11-16
Is 63:1-6
2 Chron 20:12, 15, 22

we are to sing with understanding...intelligence...knowing the Word of God

v8-9 the princes of the people are gathered:
during His 1000 year reign, the nations gather TO Jesus, not against Him

Zech 14:16

The Son of David is the King of kings and Lord of lords...the God of all people

Gal 3:11-14, 26-29

So...I am neither Republican nor Democrat nor Libertarian nor Green...
I am a Monarchist
My King reigns!

a good psalm to read when the pressure and the burden of the present is crushing you...
we know who wins!

This is a song of Victory and Righteousness

It is an accomplished fact...but first evil must be allowed to run its full course so all
creatures will see the depth and breadth of God’s holiness and righteousness

Ps 48

Author:

Type of Psalm:

v1-2 Great is the Lord:
don't skip past this...meditate on this

He is greater than anything, anyone...greater than any good or any evil

Greatly to be praised:
loudly, vehemently...not "sheepishly"

City...mountain:
Jerusalem: the city He has chosen...
beautifully situated in the mountains of Judea
it is a stirring experience to be in Jerusalem...

but for the heathen, it is a burdensome stone

Zech 12:2-3

Zion, Moriah: all north of Zion

- Abraham and Isaac
- Tabernacle
- Temple
- Calvary

v3 God is the Source of Beauty and Safety

v4-8 Jerusalem has been besieged many, many times in her past...
and will be again in the future

all the "action" is intensely spiritual

Jerusalem is the city God chose for Himself.
The Son of David will rule the world from there

v9-11 He will rule with righteousness, justice, truth

all will hear His judgments and say,
“Right on! You are absolutely right and fair!
You are holy!”

v14 our King is a shepherd...who leads us always...even into the next age

God will never abandon me...I am never alone
He is our refuge

a good psalm to read when

Ps 49

Author:

Type of Psalm: "Heads Up!"

v1-2 hear...all inhabitants of the world:
a "world-wide" proclamation...something every man is being called to hear

every man on earth, regardless of

- position
- possessions
- pigmentation
- or any other measurement

is on equal footing before God

- all must look up!
- every man is a "whosoever" (John 3:16)

v3 "These are words of wisdom... words to live by.
Listen.
Think clearly.
Understand what I am about to say."

v4 the psalmist is going to give the men of earth

- a proverb...
- a riddle...
- a brain-teaser...
- an eye-opener

v5 should I fear in the days of evil:
when my foes are lying in wait...foes that v6-9

or could ask,

"What is important on your death bed?
When the "curtain falls", what counts?"

v6-9 they that trust in their wealth...none can:
neither old money (Rockefeller, Rothschild, Carnegie)
nor new money (Gates, IKEA man, Jordon, LaBron James)
can give to God required payment of the ransom note for

- himself
- his children
- anyone else

from death and decay

Problem:

- How do you attach “fair market value” to a person’s life?
- What is fair consideration for...how do you price... a man’s life?

Answer:

NO amount of

- gold and silver and precious jewels
- stocks and bonds
- land and real estate...

can buy

- eternal life...or
- spiritual purity
- peace
- righteousness
- contentment
- joy...in this life

What benefit does material wealth offer on your death bed?
When the curtain falls?

v10 all who would just think clearly can see that all

1. physically die
 - the wise and the fool
 - the wealthy and the poor
 - the thinking and the unthinking person
2. leave whatever stuff they have to the next generation...
i.e. cannot take it with them!
Eccl 2:16-19

v11 their inward thought:
they that trust in their wealth...are motivated by thoughts such as these

- their houses continue forever:
by the
accumulation of wealth
building empires and estates
their legacy...
of their name
of “their accomplishments”...
would remain on the earth forever

(thereby beating the enemy of time...
problem is, the earth dies too!)
- call lands after their own names:
for their name to live on, they name
businesses
cities
etc
after themselves
- erect a façade of prosperity covering a mountain of debt...
because you are what you drive...
you are where you live

v12 man in honor abieth not:
but a man pursuing self-honor and self-glory will not live...
for there is no life in material wealth
not even a vapor of life
James 4:14

- v13 money is not
- the deciding factor in life vs death
 - the intelligent way to keep score
 - the medium of exchange for ANYTHING that is truly important

but the world proclaims it is...
and most men approve of the world's teaching

money enables choices that may be unhealthy/destructive to

- selves
- others
- relationships

unless clear thinking is engaged

the unthinking do not learn from those who went before them

- v14 death shall feed on them:
their material wealth will not counteract God's promise that we are dust and will
return to dust when we die

- the strongest man decays in the grave
- the most powerful man is powerless against death
- the most beautiful woman decays in the grave

death is not a respecter of persons...

v15 But God:

appears 38 times in the Bible

“only God” can pay the ransom that is of higher value than all life
“only God” makes it possible for life to not end with death

meaning...the Messiah must be God, not merely a man

Heb 2:9-15

He shall receive me:

God will take me

- From the decay of the grave
- To Himself...and a mansion made by His hands in the heavens

A “reasonable” alternative to the world’s ways!

Is 1:18

a crisp statement of why

- no man can afford the price of his life or anybody else’s
- every man needs a Savior
- only God can pay the price to redeem fallen man
- the hope and promise of the resurrection by those who believe God and not the world

v16-17 be thou not afraid:

Don’t worry or be envious when someone becomes rich...

- there is much heaviness in worldly wealth
- their inheritance may be horrific

that “glory” still ends in death...and emptiness...vanity

but the glory of a bondservant of God starts with death!

Ps 116:15

v18 Although he counted himself blessed because of his wealth...

and like-minded people will praise you if you were to prosper...

“See how successful he is!

A self-made man!

A rich man!

He sure realized the American dream!”

v19 ...he will still die and go where his fathers went before him...to the grave

they shall never see light:

God is light (1 John 1:5)...fellowship with the world is darkness

James 4:4...so count the real cost of the pursuit of material wealth!

v20 the self-made man...without spiritual intelligence...in pursuit of self-glory and self-honor
is no different than a donkey

which is more important and more valuable:

honor or understanding?

Understanding!

the purpose of life is not “self”

- the world’s richest men die
- the world’s most powerful men die
- the world’s most beautiful women die

death is the great equalizer

what is the world-wide proclamation/warning/exhortation?

1. Think clearly and consider the end of the matter

- I came with nothing, I leave with nothing
1 Tim 6:7
- The riches of the world preceded me...succeed me
- Therefore, I am not the owner of riches...but the “watchman”...a steward
- With stewardship comes responsibility and accountability
- I must use whatever has been entrusted to me to please The Owner
- 1 Tim 6:6

2. The clear-thinking man

- Makes important today that which is important on the death bed
- Knows there is more freedom in not owning than in owning much...
man becomes a slave to his possessions
- Knows the earth also dies...it is all going to burn
- Counts the cost of material wealth
 - [Luke 12:15-21](#)
 - [1 Tim 6:9-11](#)
 - [James 4:4](#)
 - [James 5:1-5](#)
- Sees a more reasonable alternative (1 Cor 2:9)
- Embraces the God of the living as the reason for living
- Invests in the kingdom of God ([Matt 6:19-21, 24](#)), not settling for a lesser ROI

a good psalm to read when

- feel owned by your possessions
- envious of your neighbor who has a bigger house, more stuff...
- after you watch the Travel channel, the Home & Garden channel...
- bitten by covetousness

Ps 50

Author: Asaph, one of David's three chief musicians
(Heman and Ethan being the others)

Type of Psalm: Warning of Righteous Judgment at 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ

v1 the mighty God, the Lord:
the ALMIGHTY, self-existent, eternal Lord God of the universe

called the earth:

“to call out, to summons” i.e. “I’m calling you out!”

the entire earth...from the east to the west

Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the Lord your God, also the
earth with all that is in it.

Deut 10:14

v2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty:
a name and God's description of His chosen city

“Is this the city that is called ‘The Perfection of Beauty, the joy of the
whole earth?’”

Lam 2:15b

God hath shined:

when Jesus reigns from there, His glory will shine forth from Jerusalem...
and then His chosen city will truly be the perfection of beauty!

v3 Our God shall come and shall not keep silence:
The Husbandman will come tend His vineyard

Is 5:1-7...followed by 4 “Woes”
(v8, 11, 18, 20)

as He tends us now

John 15:1-8

God is love...gracious and merciful...slow to anger...kind...longsuffering

Wicked people are self-deceived by the nature of God

- “He does not see!”
- “He does not care!”
- “He cannot do anything about it!”
- “He approves!”

A fire shall devour before Him:

at the end of God’s longsuffering is God’s cleansing wrath...
vengeance...and justice

around Him is a firestorm no one can quench, no one can stand against

2 Peter 3:3-12

this is beyond frightening!

Heb 10:31

v4 call to the heavens...to the earth, that he may judge:

God will call the heavens and the earth to testify against wicked men at that
time...starting with Israel, for judgment starts at the house of God

all whose sins were judged on the Cross will face God themselves...personally

Rom 1:18-22

Rom 3:10-19

v5 Gather my saints:

He will also call the saints to testify...those who accepted by faith His sacrifice on
their behalf

Rom 3:20-27a

v6 the heavens shall declare his righteousness:
the heavens boldly, clearly, unashamedly announce the glory and honor and
power of the One, True, and Living God...Jesus Christ

that He is righteous...and His sacrifice totally acceptable

God is judge himself:
therefore,

- He Alone has perfect knowledge and Wisdom...
capable of fair judgment
- He is the offended...He is the Avenger

v7 Hear, O my people:
“hear” is also translated “listen” in Is 49:1
...“with intelligence and obedience”

I will testify against thee:
the Judge is His own Star Witness!

The charge: His people rejected their God...forgot Him

He will testify...as in a Court of Law...against the accused
Who will be able assail the character of this Witness or cast doubt on His
testimony?

v8 I will not reprove you:
“I will not argue in your defense...I will not argue that you are right because you
offered sacrifices.”

1 Sam 15:22-23

Hab 2:4

Hosea 6:6

“I commanded you...you obeyed the letter of My Law, not the Spirit of the Law.
You have missed My message, the shadows of a Deeper Truth to be revealed in
My Son.”

John 5:39

v9-11 I will take no...are Mine:

“You cannot give Me anything that is not already Mine...
everything you see is Mine. (Ps 24:1)
I care for everything you see.”

“I am not poor...I need no assistance from you!”

v12-13 I would not tell you...will I eat:

“If I were hungry, I would never tell you! Why not?

- You could do nothing about it...you are totally insufficient
- I do not depend on you...you depend entirely upon Me!

“Would I eat meat? I AM Spirit (John 4:24).

The ‘BBQ’ is for your provision and need, not for Mine!”

v14 Offer unto God:

“You cannot give Me anything that is not already Mine...
except your heart...filled with thanksgiving and praise and adoration.
Offer up your heart and devotion and gratitude.

An acceptable sacrifice is

- a broken heart and a contrite spirit...of
- surrender
- submission
- obedience
- integrity.”

v15 Call on me in the day of trouble:

“Help me, Lord! Rescue me...no one else can but You!”

a requirement is that we recognize we are in trouble.

Most people in trouble don’t know that they are

- hardened heart of the willful sinner
- deceived heart of the complacent
- deaf heart of the sleeping

but some Day, it will be apparent to all...in that great a terrible Day of the Lord...
Jacob’s Trouble

I will deliver thee and thou shall glorify me:

God acts...when our hearts are ready (broken) to give thanks and glory to
Him...man responds

God works, we sing praises in gratitude and worship

v16 What hast thou to do to declare my statutes:

to the disobedient, rebellious, and unbelieving nation God asks,

- How deep must you dig that pit before you cry out to Me?
- How far must you run before you realize you are lost and alone?
- How long must you be stubborn before you feel the pain of pride?
- When will you come to the end of yourself so that you may come to Me?
- When will you see that My ways are for your protection and blessing...
peaceable, safe, refreshing and strengthening...
and your ways are self-destructive?

v17-20 See thou:

“You despise My Word in that you disobey me continually and in every way.

Yet you self-righteously hold up My Word before those you think are spiritually beneath you.

You do not understand.”

Mark 7:6-9, 13

how dare you quote My Word, made void by your traditions, seeing that you are guilty of

- hating My instruction –
refusing warnings, coaching, direction, correction...
misunderstanding My chastisement
- casting my words behind you –
refusing to listen, thinking you know better
(a more active rejection than ignoring, is actively defiant)
- hanging out with thieves and liars and whores...criminals
(Rom 6:12-13)
- hating your brother –
very un-God-like and very devil-like
1 John 2:7-11...

v21 I kept silence:

“I have been working on your behalf.
I have been waiting for you to notice and to respond.
I have been waiting for your surrender in brokenness.”

Thou thought I was altogether as thyself:

“You thought that I was like you!
Nothing could be further from the truth...the sacrifices should have told you
that!
You misunderstood my silence and my longsuffering – I am neither apathetic
nor approving.

I will reprove thee:

“I will dispute your ‘logic’...I will declare my ways...I will present my case to
your face!
My longsuffering is finite...my mercy ceases.
There is a point of no-return.
I will not always refrain my justice.”

v22 ye that forget God, lest I:

“Listen! Look! See and obey!
Count the cost of disobedience, pride, stubbornness, self-will.

I AM your only Deliverer.
When I refuse to save you, you are truly and eternally without hope.

v23 whoso offereth praise glorifieth me:

“With a broken heart and a contrite spirit, call upon Me.
I will deliver you.

You will offer up thanksgivings of praise and glorify Me.
And I will show you My salvation!”

this is God’s will, His heart

God’s work: to reveal sin, to convict sin, to save from sin
Only God can deliver, break the bondage of sin
He is looking for our response..

Next week...an acceptable response from a sinful man

a good psalm to read for a wake-up call for the

- defiant
- distracted
- arrogant
- religious

Ps 51

Author: David

Type of Psalm: Broken cry for forgiveness

Background: 1 Sam 11-12

David is lazy and complacent...lukewarm.

By staying home, he is someplace he is not supposed to be

- He is an unfaithful king

Then he saw something...someone, a very beautiful woman

(only mentioned 5 times in the Bible)...he saw what he should not have

Rather than taking the thought captive, he was taken by his thoughts

David abused his position and power by taking another man's wife...

the wife of one of his loyal mighty men that had fought with him and protected him all the years Saul was trying to kill him

- he was an unfaithful servant of God

the very beautiful woman became pregnant...his sin would be revealed in a few months

David, rather than stepping toward God, steps even further away from his God by

launching a campaign to cover up his sin...his equivalent of Adam's fig leaves

1. status report and shore leave – failure...
a faithful friend does not take the bait
2. wined and dined – failure...
a faithful friend does not take the bait
3. already betrayed and now abandoned, Uriah carries
the contract on his own life

- David is unfaithful friend

David is an adulterer – worthy of death –

and a murderer – worthy of death

And he is self-deceived: “No one knows! I got away with it!

Now I can live in peace with a trophy wife.”

Problem: God sees everything, knows everything...even our thoughts and our motives

God sends a messenger with a story tailor-made for a shepherd and a king

David's heart and sin are revealed...his pride and self-righteousness exposed

a backslider has his eyes opened before a holy God

2 Sam 12:5-9, 13

So, David, as an unfaithful child of God, cries out...

a prayer we all would do well to meditate on frequently, that we be aware of

- how we fall short of the glory of God
- His loving kindness toward us

Take my heart, Lord!

1. Break it!
2. Cleanse it!
3. Renew it!

v1 Nathan:

“gift of God”...an encapsulation of this psalm

Have mercy on me:

David's first words are most appropriate

“Don't give me what I deserve, Almighty and Holy God!
Erase, cover my rebellion!”

On what grounds dare he ask for mercy?

- God's mercy
- God's innumerable compassions and unfailing love

David, a man after God's own heart, knows his God
Jonah 4:2

“Have mercy because You are merciful.
Be gracious because You are gracious.
Do not be angry because You are slow to anger.”

James 2:10-13

v2 Wash me...cleanse me:
“Wash me thoroughly...by stamping your feet, by trampling...of my perversity
and filth.
Purify me of my offenses.”

“I’ve been sitting and sleeping in my own filth.
Cleanse me!”

v3 For I acknowledge my transgressions:
Step 1 toward forgiveness...our response to His purity and holiness

“I see and feel my sin.
I see it very clearly...in fact it is all I can see!
(LB: it haunts me day and night)
You are right, I am wrong!”

now, there is agreement between David the sinner and God...and fellowship is
now possible

Can anyone beside me relate to this????

v4 against thee, thee only, have I sinned:
we sin against God.

- It is God’s Law we break
- His mark we have missed
- It is His glory we fall short of.

But did David not sin against

- Bathsheba?
- Uriah?
- The innocent child?

Yes (Matt 18:15-18)

So we must “come clean” as publicly as we sinned

- To God only
- To God and an offended individual
- To God and an offended group
- To God and the public

evil in thy sight...justified...clear:
seeing his behavior as God sees it, David acknowledges that God would be right
and just and blameless in judging him “Guilty!”

- v5 I was shapen in iniquity...conceive me:
was David the result of a wicked liaison like his and Bathsheba's?
No
- fallen is the human condition...sin is our nature
which is why we must be born-again to enter into the kingdom of God
- v6 truth in the inward parts and in the hidden:
God desires that we know the truth and be trustworthy inwardly...
in our hearts and spirits
- our thoughts and motives count to the all-seeing and all-knowing God
Matt 5:21-22, 27-28
- and there are no secrets from Him!
"Secret sin" is a lie from the pit of hell
- v7 Purge me with hyssop:
Cleanse me, reconcile me
- hyssop was used to
- cover the nation with the blood of the Passover lamb (Ex 12:21-23)
 - in cleansing the leper (Lev 14)
- and I shall be clean...whiter than snow:
David had consummate faith in God's faithfulness
- only "snow white" can have fellowship with God
Is 1:18
- v8 bones thou hast broken may rejoice:
sin is fun! For a season...then comes misery and agony
- the accusations of guilt and condemnation from the slanderer
 - the heavy conviction of the Holy Spirit
- unrepented sin is a terrible burden, too heavy for the child of God to carry.
And we rejoice when it is lifted!

v9 hide thy face from my sins and blot out:
“Do not see what I cannot bear to see!”
“Take it away! I cannot bear

- the stench covering everything I do...
- the sights stamped in my mind...
- the sounds ringing in my ears.

Take it all away!”

v10 create in me a clean heart:
“bara”: to make something from nothing

only God can make something pure from nothing but impurity...it's a miracle!

renew a right spirit within me:
singleminded and steadfast...willing to obey

2 Cor 5:17 is exhilarating!
John 13 is refreshing!

v11 cast me not away...take not thy holy spirit:
can you hear David's desperation?

“Don't throw me away like yesterday's garbage...even though that is what I'm worth.
Don't give up on me!”

OT ministry of the Holy Spirit – to come upon and to leave
NT ministry: to indwell and seal...until the day of redemption

v12 restore unto me the joy of thy salvation:
there is no happiness that compares to the joy of fellowship with God

when the burden of sin is lifted...when we are cleansed and smell
“spring clean”...that joy is restored
there is no joy in sinning...only joy in NOT sinning
there is no freedom in disobedience...only in obedience

to those who think teaching the grace of God leads to people taking license to
sin...Rom 5:20b – 6:1
no license is granted by the grace of God...it is revoked!
There is no license for “fun”...only a license for misery

uphold me free spirit:

“Prop me up, sustain me with a willing spirit...a spirit willing to obey and free to
NOT sin

v13 will I teach transgressors thy ways:

you have asked for and received the forgiveness of God, who is loving and kind
and merciful and gracious toward us.

Share what you have received with those in rebellion against God.

Be gracious.

Be gratitude in action...and the sinner will be drawn to the grace and love of God
for them

God has forgiven us of soooo much!

We owe Him everything, He owes us nothing

There is no room in the life of a believer to be angry with God about
ANYTHING!

That self-centered anger is ingratitude in action.

v14 deliver me from bloodguiltiness...God of my salvation:

whoso sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed (Gen 9:6)

David is guilty of murder...but calling on the nature of God to snatch him from
the penalty of his nature/choices

My tongue shall sing:

not curse God...whine...complain...be complacent and lukewarm...

But it will sing loudly! I have been saved from death...I will sing like it!

Rom 6:23

Shout to the Lord!

v15 open thou my lips...my mouth shall:
"Open WIDE my lips and I will announce Your praise!

I will sing and speak of Your love, grace, mercy, compassions, faithfulness

I will praise You that You are

- Not like me
- Higher than me
- Greater than me
- The lifter of my eyes

v16 desirest not sacrifice:

God is not satisfied by the blood of innocent animals

...those sacrifices merely point to the only acceptable sacrifice for our sins
...that of His Lamb

Hosea 6:6

1 Sam 15:22-23

Heb 9-10

I desire mercy, not sacrifice

obedience is better than sacrifice

impossible for the blood of bulls
and goats to purify us...

only the blood of the Lamb of God can

The price of God's pardon is not cheap...it was paid for with the very highest of
prices

v17 sacrifices of God are a broken spirit...heart:

we are all helplessly and hopelessly dead in our sins without God's

- mercy
- grace
- longsuffering
- kindness
- cleansing
- sacrifice...HIS sacrifice

our sacrifice of brokenness is the proper response to His sacrifice...

He will never scorn those sacrifices

v18 build thou the walls:
sin destroys our homes, our families
but God can heal, re-build, fortifies

Have you grown in your walk with the Lord?
Have you learned from your forgiven sin?

v19 sacrifices of righteousness:
are

- brokenness, humility (v17)
- denial of self vs indulgence of self
- love God and others vs love self

whole burnt offering:

a sacrifice entirely consumed
a reasonable sacrifice of our whole selves (Rom 12:1-2)
...not part of ourselves
...with a heart that is sold-out, not a hold-out

then, you will know the full joy of restored fellowship with your God

first words: have mercy on vile me and my wretched ways
last words: be honored, glorified, magnified as I obey your ways

first words: I am not faithful
last words: You are faithful

Lam 3:22-23

1 John 1:9

Ps 32:1-2

a good psalm to read when
feeling convicted and sorry...or not feeling forgiving
need forgiveness and restoration

Ps 52

Author: David

Type of Psalm: Confident Correction of Corruption

Maschil: an instructive poem

- I. Rebuke of the boaster (v1-5)
- II. Response of the righteous (v6-9)

Background: 1 Sam 21:1-9; 22:6-23; 24:9-15

v1 names are important
David: “loving”
Doeg: “anxious”
Ahimelech: “brother of the king”

Why boasteth thou thyself in mischief, o mighty man:
“Why are you foolishly celebrating your evil?”

Doeg was trying to look good in the eyes of King Saul...for self-gain

The goodness of God endureth continually:
“The lovingkindness of God always wins!
You are on the wrong side, a loser!”

v2-4 thy tongue:
an “anxious” tongue wags
e.g. nervous Grandma in San Marcos

3 pairs of “evil” and deceit”

1. devises mischiefs (invents calamity)...works deceit
(gossip, talebearer, slanderer, false witness, fraud)
2. loves evil...lying
3. devouring words (cutting, hurtful words that swallowing up in
destruction)...deceitful

the Edomite's motives were most certainly not pure
he is his father's son

Edom = Esau = the flesh

despised his birthright (of the spirit) and sold it to feed his flesh

The flesh and the tongue is a very destructive combination...
a knife shredding everything

James 3:6-8

better to bite it than wag it
...and when you hear a wagging tongue, consider the source...

v5 God shall likewise destroy thee forever:
payday someday, evil and lying man!
Heb 10:30-31

out of the land of the living:

“Ally yourself with Saul, the enemy of God, and you will share his destiny.
The Almighty God will tear/rip you out of that tent and plop you in hell.”

the wicked do seem to prosper in this world....but there is a day of reckoning
before the Lord God Almighty!

always, God wins
so why fight against God? It's irrational.

v6 the righteous shall see...fear...laugh:
our payday was almost 2000 years ago and we have been pulled out of the
kingdom of darkness and lovingly placed in the kingdom of Light...

the just shall live by faith
we see spiritual truths...
we awe and revere the Almighty God, our Father...
ours is the last laugh

have you been mocked and laughed at for your faith in Jesus?
Who gets the last laugh?
Who is the fool?

v7 Lo the man:

at the time this was written by David, the dead went to hell and were seen across the great gulf by the “sleeping” in Abraham’s Bosom (Luke 16)

“Behold the great warrior who fought God instead of making God his Rock and Refuge!

Look at the one who trusted in the things of the world instead of the things of God!

He had it all on earth – wealth, power, position, possessions, lustful pleasures! He thought he had life by the horns!

He thought the ends justified the means...using people as stepping-stones for his own gain.

Look where his coveting and his schemes has landed him!

The same place the proud one who deceived him will land (Is 14:12-17).”

1 Tim 6:9-10

Luke 12:15 take heed, beware covetousness

James 5:1-5

v8 But I am like a green olive tree:

David, a man after God’s own heart, is a prospering and fruitful tree, bearing good fruit

Ps 1:1-3

John 15:1-5

I trust in the mercy of God forever and ever:

“I believe in the lovingkindness of God (v1b) and will forever stand on Him, my Rock.

My faith is in my God, not in myself or in the world.”

v9 thou hast done it:
past tense... I am more than a conqueror
God has won the victory for me – the victory over sin and death and the devil

I will wait:
faith = H + B + O+ W...patiently, expectantly

David sees the end of the path, is not focused on the path

- where he is standing
- between the here and the end

There IS suffering on the path...for all

- the faithful – persecution (2 Tim 3:12)
- the unfaithful prodigal – famine (Luke 15:13-20a, Amos 8:11)

...but absolute, complete, irreversible victory is already won for the faithful...
those who hear...

the end of the path is glorious
so wait...get and keep God's perspective

the righteous shall live

1. trust in the mercy of God forever
2. praise God forever
3. wait on His name

2 very important "grips" on life:

1. God's will – seek it, stay in it
2. God's timing – wait for it, respond to it

Note: waiting does not imply idleness or motionless

a good psalm to read when the wicked are "winning"
the wicked will not prosper...God is not mocked

Ps 53

Author: David

Type of Psalm: a Song of mourning

upon Mahalath:

- a musical instrument...or...
- a song of mourning “sickness”

v1-5a is word-for-word like Ps 14:1-5a
2nd chorus

v1 the fool has said in his heart, “there is no God”

a fool:

- unbeliever
- one who puts no faith in Almighty God
- an irrational person
- a silly and stupid person
- a pathetic and blind person

- NOT an innocent person...one rejecting God and living for self

The fool is

1. corrupt
2. contrary to the will of God...self-destructive

v2 God looked down...did seek God:

Did God see any that desired to

- worship Him
- fellowship with Him
- obey Him

rather than indulge themselves?

v3 every one of them is gone back:

No!

Rom 3:23

Rom 3:10-18

All He saw was a bunch of filthy backsliders who were miserable in their
“me, me, me”...”mine, mine, mine”

v4 workers of iniquity no knowledge:
a rhetorical question
Prov 1:7

v5a in great fear no fear was:
at one time cocky and boastful in themselves, they are now terrified
of what?

- A conqueror...another more stronger, more fierce, more ruthless
- death
- wanting...if of not having enough for “me”

v5b God hath scattered...despised:
do not be fearful of the fool...God will reject them and their irrational rebellion

they are fighting against Him, not you
He will cast them away, you have no power to do so

“Relax, son. I’ll take care of them.”

v6 oh that the salvation of Israel:
the Messiah that sets the prisoners free

Come quickly, Lord Jesus!
2nd to the last verse in the Bible...[Rev 22:20](#)
last word: grace ([Rev 22:21](#))

give grace to all the fools in your life...
it is what they need to open their eyes...
pray for them, love them

and grace is what the wise needs also (2 Cor 12:10) !

by the way, all the tornadoes and flooding in the Midwest...

- just a record-breaking season...or...
- the price of national foolishness?

Secular Israel is also doing some foolish things

But some day soon they will call on the name of the Lord

2 Chron 16:9

a good psalm to read when surrounded by fools

Ps 54

Author: David

Type of Psalm: Confident correction

Background: **1 Sam 23:14-29**

dirty little snitches!

v1-2 on Neginoth, Maschil:

an instructive poem played on a musical instrument by David, a very gifted musician

exposed by non-combatants, David cries out

1. Save me!
2. Judge me!
3. Hear me!

v3 For strangers...oppressors:

“I have nothing against the Ziphites...they have nothing against me!

Why did they betray me?

Why do they put their trust in my oppressor (Saul) instead of my God, the Creator of Saul?”

v4 God is mine helper:

the Ziphites are God-less...trusting in man

Saul is God-less...trusting in himself

David is God-ly...trusting in the Lord of the universe

And God has surrounded David with

- loyal, mighty men
- a God-ly friend – Jonathan
- Himself

v5 He shall reward evil...cut them off:
not "might"...but "will"
the victory IS won

God is David's high tower...God will destroy the enemies of His son

"God is with me." (Rom 8:31, Gal 6:7-8)

"His Word is Truth." (John 17:17)...

God will destroy His enemies with His Word, which is sharper than any
two-edged sword David could wield

In your time of affliction and trouble, the Word is both your comfort and your
weapon
we must learn how to use it...

v6 I will freely sacrifice:
spontaneously, willingly offer acceptable sacrifices...
Ps 51:16-17
Rom 12:1-2

v7 he hath delivered me out of all trouble:
keyword: all

God has never failed to snatch David out of trouble...
so He can be trusted to do so this time too!

God protects His children...He takes attacks on them quite personally
Acts 9:4-5

When has God ever failed you?
(not to be confused with...When did you not get your way?)

a good psalm to read when in trouble

- in times of trouble, do not flee God. Sprint to him.
Trouble should cause us to sprint to God, not to flee from Him
- be God-ly...trust in Him to deliver you from ALL your troubles

Ps 55

Author: David

Type of Psalm: Song of Bitterness and mourning...healed

Background: 2 Sam 15:1-17, 30-31

Ever had a close friend turn against you?
Or a child/family member...like Absalom
Ever had a friend become a foe?
Like Ahithophel (Bathsheba's grandfather)
That is David's frame of mind

v1-2a Neginoth, Maschil:

like Ps 54, an instructive poem played on a stringed musical instrument

David's first words: "Listen to me...don't turn a deaf ear toward me...answer my cry!"

words laced with despair and doubt

v2b "I am restless in my prayer...I am deeply troubled...moaning and groaning and wailing."

David's pain

- throbs
- continually aches
- periodically erupts
- pierces his soul
- drains his spirit

Prov 15:13, 17:22, 18:14, 25:19

v3 Why?

His enemies, who revile him, are lurking about to trouble him and inflict suffering upon him...

but that is not the deepest agony of his spirit...

v4-5 “The very core of my being writhes in pain.
I am in deep anguish. I can’t think. I can’t move.
And I am afraid.”

A1. Fear is a debilitating emotion.

A2. Fear causes

- wrong thinking
- distorted vision
- rash action when there should be no action
- paralyzed inaction when there should be action

A3. Fear robs us of spiritual, emotional, and physical health and vitality

A4. Fear is a betrayer!

B1. Fear is a corrupted faith...I believe my circumstances and my enemies are greater than my God

B2. Fear is totally human and natural...

B3. Fear is irrational...

B4. Fear is sin

v6-8 this is our natural reaction when fearful:

“Oh that I could just fly away and be at peace.

Oh that I could just flee this storm and be by myself, in the safety and solitude of a shelter!”

our “natural” prayer:

“Take me away from here, Lord.

Don’t leave me here...to face and to confront my fears.”

v9-11 “Confuse my enemy, Lord, as you did yours at Babel.
They are continually prowling this city.
Because of them, this city has become filled with

- mischief
- misery
- calamity
- fraud

Who can I trust?

Who is just around the corner?

I’m on eggshells...looking over my shoulder continually...
what a miserable way to live!”

v12 “It would not be this bad if a known enemy was railing against me...
I could easily endure that.

It would not be this horrible if I were facing someone who hated me...
I could hide from them.”

v13-14 the depth and intensity of David’s agony and misery was due to the mischief and
calamity of a

- close friend
- companion
- trusted advisor and confidant (2 Sam 16:23)
- “buddy” with whom he had close fellowship...or thought he did...
he had been deceived

v15 David’s vehement plea:

“May sudden, surprising, violent death fall upon him...
may he be thrown alive into the torment of hell.”

inspired by the Holy Spirit...

this is how God feels about betrayers...

this is their destiny

(Solomon executes Joab and Adonijah, who also betray David in his old age...

1 K 1)

v16-18 “He who I thought was my close friend really is not...do I have any close friends?
Wait a minute...Yes! My God and My Lord is my very best friend!
He has always been here with me and He will never leave me nor forsake me!
He is my Faithful Shepherd!
I am not alone after all!
Even though many oppose me, God is with me!
As He always has in the past, He will rescue me!
If God be for me, who can be against me?!

Right thinking (eyes on the Lord!)

- brings peace to a fearful man
- comforts a man in despair
- heals a tormented soul and strengthens a weak spirit
- is found in the Word of God

v19a faith dispels the fear
Rom 10:17

v19b-21 his “friends”

- are still dead in their sins
- do not repent because they do not fear God
- turn on him...when they see an opportunity for themselves
- cannot be trusted...they break their promises
- speak words that are smooth and soothing...but poisonous lies

v22 1 Peter 5:6-7
1 John 4:4
1 John 4:16b-18

v23 David’s last words:
but (in spite of my circumstances and my enemies) I will trust in You
words dripping with faith and peace

what happens? 2 Sam 17:23
a foreshadow of the Son of David and the son of perdition

a good psalm to read when you have been betrayed

remember Who is your True Friend...

be in the Word of God...

walk in the love of God...

and Fear not

[Is 41:10-13](#)

[Phil 4:6-9](#)

Ps 56

Author: David

Type of Psalm: A cry of hope in a hopeless situation

Jonath-elem-rechokim: Silent Dove in Distant Lands

Michtam: poem

Background: **1 Sam 21:10-15**

A crazy man!

Really “hanging out”, isolated in a hostile environment without a safe haven,

David must have felt like he was going crazy.

So he acts like it to buy some peace and safety

Perhaps a relationship and circumstances

- at home
- at work
- with a neighbor
- with a family member not in your home
- with a brother or sister in Christ...

is characterized by rabid, attacking criticism...

and it is making you crazy...

...that’s where David is...

and God knows

v1-2 Be merciful unto me, O God!

“Help me, Lord!

Enemies on every side are pursuing me.

I have no where to go.”

Life is a daily battle, is it not!

“It” never ends...every day is a fight.

Some days are more intense than others...

But every day, it is better to fall into the mercies of God than into the hands of
men

What does the Word of God say we should do in the face of rabid, attacking criticism?

- Forgive them, they do not know what they are doing...they are out of their minds
- Love your enemies
Rom 12:14, 17-21

Humanly impossible...supernatural

v3-4 I will trust in thee:

“The days I am afraid...in fact whenever I am afraid...I will trust in You, Lord.”

Note: we are also to trust Him in times of peace, when we tend to forget Him

God is all the help I need every day

2 Cor 12:9-10

In God I will...I have...I will not fear:

our reaction now and in the future is determined by the past...

I will (now and future) celebrate the promises of God...

because I have (past) trusted the Lord, Who has always shown Himself to be trustworthy...

therefore, I will (now and future) not fear man

I will **not** be governed by my emotions...they only bring my focus upon poor little 'ole me

I will be governed by the Word of God...He brings Himself into my focus... and His victory

I choose to serve the Lord...not myself...in spite of my emotions

fear is vanquished when we trust God

Don't think on things or persons here in space and time, think on Him who inhabits eternity

Matt 10:28

Who else says this?

All our dead presidents...

It is a foundational truth

v5-6 Every day they wrest...gather...hide...mark...wait:
“Every day these troublemakers twist my words around to make me look like a fool...a crazy man.
They gang up on me and hunt me like they would a rabid dog.
They never stopping thinking of ways to destroy me.”

But...what does God think?

Ps 40:5

Ps 139:17-18 (vial) precious, great is the sum

Jer 29:11-12

v7 Shall they escape...cast down:
“Are they getting away with this?
Can they treat Your servant this way and believe You don’t see and will not act?

Show Yourself mighty on my behalf, Lord!
Show them Who is in control!”

v8-9 my tears into thy bottle...this I know:
remember that Jim Croce song in the early 70’s...

God KNOWS the depth and the breadth of our fears.
He knows the precise number of our tears...none fall unnoticed by our Father.

Ps 126:3-6

Fear not...God knows...

He knows me

Matt 10:30

Ps 139:1-6

and loves for me

Rom 8:28-39

and protects me

Jer 1:5, 8, 19

and will make right every wrong

Rev 21:3-5

v10 In God will I praise His word:
Abiding in Christ...not in the world...
clarifying Whose I am and where my citizenship is...

I will praise God for His Word...His promises

1 Cor 14:1-3

v11 v4 is repeated...because we need to repeat v4...
because we forget v4 very quickly when faced with people and circumstances like David
is

we must daily...continually...

- repeat this truth to ourselves and to each other
- hold onto the truth of “the vial”

Phil 4:4-9

v12 Thy vows are upon me:
God has showered us with His promises

 (“God’s Promises” book...read some categories)

God is faithful...God is able

God’s promise to David the fugitive:
“You are the anointed King...
you are My chosen shepherd of My flock...
I have a plan for your life.”

That promise has been given but has not yet been fulfilled...but it will

And no man or men can change the promises of God

So take heart...have faith (H + B + O + W)

v13 hast delivered:

the Lord has delivered me every time in the past...
the Lord has (past tense) delivered me from death...
what in this world need I fear?

He has actively demonstrated His ability and His desire to keep His promises

so trust Him now...that's reasonable...that's clear thinking

keep my feet from falling that I may walk:
a question that is really a strong statement

God, Who is greater than evil men and overwhelming circumstances, WILL direct
our steps and keep us from falling so that we WILL walk with Him in the
land of the living

Jude 24-25

The battle belongs to the Lord...

a good psalm to read when you are afraid

When you are fearful, trust God
He is Light...Life...Love
He transcends the problems in this tent and this world

The world is crazy...and getting geometrically crazier
people are crazy...they are out of their minds, like the demon-possessed man of Gadara

But the person focused on the promises of God is in his right mind...
and will be able stand against all odds

A man of God in the will of God is always in the majority...
and is immortal until his ordained work is done

Ps 57

Author: David

Type of Psalm: It's all a matter of focus

Al-taschith: thou must no destroy

Michtam: poem

Background: 1 Sam 24

Faced with an opportunity to avenge himself, David

- is obedient to the Lord
- acts with honor and integrity

v1-4 1st stanza

v5 chorus

v6-10 2nd stanza

v11 chorus

v1 Be merciful...thy wings will I make my refuge:
Help me! I know You can...I know You will.

the faith of a child...comforted by the protection of a loving Father

God is the very best place to hide in the midst of danger...He is our Hiding Place

Lesson: keep our eyes on God, not our troubles!

v2 God that performeth for me:
"to do unto the end, to complete"

God will accomplish His purpose for me...
the Potter will make the pot He has in mind!

Phil 1:6

1 Thes 5:18

v3 He shall send from heaven...his mercy and his truth:
God knows what we need and He will send it...a CARE package from home

- mercy: lovingkindness, compassion, practical help
- truth: His word (John 17:17) and His Spirit (1 John 5:6)

how much? v10

the God of all comfort (2 Cor 1:3-4) sends comfort...His Spirit (John 14-16)
and His Word (Ps 119:50)

v4 "I am among fierce, brutal, fire-breathing men who devour
others with spears and arrows...and their tongues."
yet...

v5 ...my eyes are on my God, my Hiding Place Who is high above the heavens.
Amen! PTL!

v6 prepared a net...dugged a pit:
these ruthless men have set traps...as if they were hunting for birds...
and dug pits...as if they were hunting a wild, man-eating animal

...but...they have fallen into their own pits!
Ps 7:10-16
...the enemy will fall into his own trap

v7 my heart is fixed:
My heart is steadfast, prepared, established, committed.
I am single-minded and cannot be moved

Dan 1:8

And standing on the Rock that cannot be moved, I sing praises to the King of
kings

v8 I will awaken the dawn with my praises!

v9 I will sing unto thee among the nations:
this is God's will for us, too...

- to be salt and light
- to share His love

invite family, friends, and neighbors to church

- to be comforted by the Word of God
- to hear how much God loves them and desires an intimate relationship with them

v10 every man needs

- God's loving kindness
- God's truth – the Word

v3 - He sends to abundance and overflowing
Eph 3:20

v11 chorus

we have a choice upon which to focus – our problems or our God

remember...our mind is

- a garden – cultivated to produce a harvest we desire
- a workshop – where decisions about life and eternity are made
- an armory – where we forge the weapons of victory...or destruction
- a battlefield – where all the decisive battles are won or lost

a good psalm to read when facing trouble

Prov 19:23 (NIV)

The Fear of the Lord leads to life:

Then one rests content, untouched by trouble.

Ps 58

Author: David

Type of Psalm: A very clear warning to the wicked

“It doesn’t matter what we do or what we believe.
God accepts everyone.”

That is a lie from the father of lies.
Such belief reveals an ignorance of the Word of God.

God is holy and just, He cannot fellowship with sin and corruption.
Since no one is perfect, all are sinners...separated from God (Is 59:1-2)
Sin must be judged by God’s justice.

v1 Do ye indeed speak righteousness, o congregation?
God is addressing the wicked...

“Do you really think your choices do not matter to Me?
Do you really know the difference between right and wrong?
Rom 3:10, 23
There is nothing you can do to become acceptable to Me!
Is 64:6
Why have you nothing to say?
Why are you silent?”

Do ye judge uprightly:
“Are you able to judge fairly?
Are you all-knowing and perfect?”

v2 in heart ye work wickedness:
“Do you know right from wrong?
No, you devise evil in your hearts and practice violence with your hands.”

Jer 17:9-10

v3 the wicked are estranged from the womb...stray:
Ps 51:5 in sin did my mother conceive me

conceived in sin (with a sin nature inherited from Adam) men stray from the
truth and rebel against God from the moment they are born

all men are adulterous...wandering after other gods...from the womb

v4-5 their poison:
their anger toward and indignation against God is lethal
they have been infected with deadly poison

Rev 12:7-9

Like the deaf adder:
like a cobra that cannot be charmed...unwilling to hear even the best charmer

They choose to close their ears to

- the Word of God
- God's still small voice
- the evidence of faith in Jesus Christ

v6 Break their teeth...great teeth of the young lions:
"Enough is enough!"

"Break their front teeth!
Break their "grinders" (molars)!"

Result: a toothless enemy...which is what happened on the Cross...
as the wrath of God fell on the Son of God to judge the sins of all those
who would believe in Him.

For the believer, the devil is

- a roaring lion...with no teeth
- a rabid dog...but toothless.

v7-8 Let the melt away...arrows...be cut in pieces...snail:
pictures of wicked men standing before the wrath of a holy and just God:

- a cup of water in a raging river...the water flows away, never to return
- a headless and harmless arrow...destroyed in the very act of destruction
- a snail on a Phoenix sidewalk on a July afternoon
(or a slug or earthworm)...cooked slime
or...just add salt (Word of God)
- a miscarried child...heart-breaking to the Father

v9 Before your pots can feel...he shall take them away:
Hosea 8:7a

the end of God's longsuffering will come suddenly

Rev 1:1

Rev 22:20

- for the exodus of the righteous
- for the vanquishing of God's enemies

Are you ready?

v10 the righteous shall rejoice when he seeth the vengeance:
righteous not by their works but by the work of God on their behalf...
righteous by faith

Gen 15:6

John 6:29

Hab 2:4

seeth the vengeance of the Lord...consider, not see with one's eyes, for our
attention will be elsewhere!

He shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked:

He...Jesus Christ...will wash His feet in the blood of His enemies

Is 62:8 – 63:6

v11 verily there is a reward for the righteous:
surely there is a reward for agreeing with God

- forgiveness
- reconciliation
- grace
- peace
- eternal life

Ps 103:8-14

Hosea 10:12

“Hey, it DOES pay to obey!”
faith WILL be rewarded

verily he is a God the judges in the earth:
Surely God WILL judge every sin, every man

Heb 12:29 our God is a consuming fire
Heb 10:30-31 vengeance is mine...fearful thing to fall into hands of God

a good psalm to read when you are in the flesh...when the flesh reigns in your life...so that you

don't misunderstand the longsuffering of God

don't forget that God declared war on sin

Gen 3:14-19

Playing with sin is like playing Russian Roulette

Prov 6:27 can a man play with fire and not get burned?

Rom 6:23

Ps 59

Author: David

Type of Psalm: Messianic...although unaware it was

Background: **1 Sam 19:9-17**

little did David know as he lived his life...shepherd, fugitive, King...
that his life was a shadow of the Substance that God had promised would come thru him,
the Son of David

when David wrote this song, during the time when he was hated and hunted and he lived the life
of a fugitive, he wrote of things he could not know...
things speaking of the life of Jesus Christ when he was hated and hunted

v1-2 deliver me from my enemies...workers of iniquity...bloody men:

shadow: the blood thirsty killers seeking his life were not the Philistines, but his
brethren

Substance: the bloodthirsty killers seeking Him were not the devil and his
demons, but His brethren

v3-4 they lie in wait for my soul:

shadow: physical ambushes and traps set by men chasing a righteous man...
a military hero

Substance: "legal" and spiritual ambushes and traps set by the Pharisees,
who followed Jesus everywhere He went, keeping track and looking for
Him to trip so they could "legally" execute Him...
God's Righteousness, the Messiah

v5 O LORD God of hosts...visit all the heathen, be not merciful:

shadow: "Come abruptly to all the nations, without mercy, to judge the wicked."

Substance: not during His first coming (even though God could have sent
legions of angels) but during His 2nd coming aka the Day of the Lord
when the longsuffering of God ends and He judges the unbelieving world

v6-7 they return...like a dog...belch out:

shadow: the hunters of David, led by Saul, were relentless...constantly howling and barking (like Bijon!) and spewing foulness and evil (threats, slander, backbiting) from their mouths

Substance: in the physical realm and the spiritual realm, Jesus was constantly harassed by “barking dogs” threatening and slandering Him

His words were not heard because His audience did not believe; they could not see or hear God so they could not see or hear their sin

v8 LORD shall laugh at them...in derision:

shadow: David heard, believed, obeyed, and waited for the promise of God to come

he knew the all-knowing God Almighty saw and heard his trouble and his innocence

Substance: also the promised Day of the Lord upon which we wait

God will mock His enemies and have them stuttering and stammering, mumbling to themselves

Ps 2:1-6

v9 his strength will I wait...God my defense:

shadow: by faith, David obeyed the Word of God, put his faith in Him rather than in himself and his military abilities.

He had an unshakeable confidence in the promises of God, no matter how severe the trouble he faced

Substance: Jesus came to do the will of the Father.

In His deepest trouble He was silent like a lamb, His eyes fixed on the glory beyond the Cross
(Heb 12:1-2)

no matter where I go God has already been there.
My Lord precedes me.

v10 God of my mercy shall prevent me...shall let me see:
shadow: David, a shepherd, knew that the Lord was his shepherd and went before
him every step.

He knew that the Good Shepherd would see him thru his trouble...
not out of it.

He also knew that his holy and just God would at the appointed day take
His vengeance upon His enemies

Substance: The Good Shepherd, the Firstfruits, has gone before us.

He knows our trouble...He knows more trouble than we will ever know!

On that appointed day, He will call all debts in as He judges the earth

v11-12 Slay them not...be taken in their pride:
shadow: David prays for the humbling of his enemies, his brethren.

He desires them to be broken but not destroyed.

Substance: "Forgive them, Father. For they know not what they do."
...with 2 Peter 3:9

v13-15 Consume in wrath, consume...let them return...and grudge:
shadow: "Destroy their power and glory.

Let them not rule over your people but may they know that YOU are the
King of your people.
Let their ways be vanity that they may know You are our Provider, Peace,
Prince."

Substance: God hates pride.

Jesus is humble and meek.
He is the King of kings and Lord of lords.
He is the Prince of Peace apart from whom there is no peace.
His ways are higher than our ways.
He lets us come to the end of ourselves so that we will turn to Him,
acknowledge His power and Lordship, and give Him all the glory.

v16-17 But I will sing of thy power...mercy:
shadow: David knew God was on the throne in complete control.

He chose to not fret or worry about his trouble, but instead to sing praises
of God's power and glory and mercy (help in our time of need)

Substance: Jesus looked beyond the Cross.

Paul and Barnabas looked beyond their prison cell in Philippi...

we can look beyond our trouble...and sing

a good psalm to read when in trouble.

Know God sees and is working.

He knows your trouble (1 Peter 5:6-10)

Ps 60

Author: David

Type of Psalm:

Background: 2 Sam 8:13-18, while on the way home from defeating the Syrians

v1-3 thou hast cast us off...drink the wine of astonishment:

during the times of the judges, a time not so removed from David

in the downward slide of that time when every man did

what was right in his own eyes, God sent enemies to chastise His people
and when they cried out to Him, He lifted up a judge to deliver
them

when the nation was in rebellion, God used their enemies to

- scatter them
- oppress them
- treat them severely

allowing circumstances that would cause them to stagger and tremble

v4-5 given a banner...beloved may be delivered:

cause-and-effect is more than a natural law, it is also a spiritual law

warnings are given so we can avoid the circumstances of an ungodly choice
if we make it anyway, the consequences are used to teach us to make a better
choice next time...to trust Him and His ways next time

the warnings are from a loving Father for our good...

and the consequences are allowed and used by an all-powerful Father for
our good

the safest place to be is right next to the Father...

not ahead or behind, not to the left or to the right

v6-8 God has spoken:

I will

- rejoice
- divide

the whole earth is God's (Ps 14:1)

Rom 9:14-24

Ephraim is the helmet to protect the head
Judah is the scepter (Gen 49:10) of the King
Moab is where dirty feet are cleaned
Edom is rejected...because Esau despised his birthright
even His enemies are a part of God's plan (time of judges, etc)

v9-10 Who will bring me...lead me:

even so, who will save us when we cry out?

The Lord our God

v11-12 Give us help...we shall do valiantly:

we cannot rescue ourselves, we cannot save ourselves.

Nor can any man for us.

But God most certainly can...and wants to!

When I depend on myself/on man...I get what I can do/man can do

When I depend on prayer...I get what God can do

The Battle belongs to the Lord...so fear not

2 Tim1:7

1 John 4:4

Jesus Christ is the only formula for victory

a good psalm to read when in trouble...

to remind us that we are refined in times of trial, as fire refines gold and silver

Ps 61

Author: David

Type of Psalm: A cry for help in a time of trouble

Cry to the Lord (v1-3)

Abide in the Lord (v4-8)

written, along with Ps 62 and Ps 63, and possibly also Ps 64, when David was fleeing Absalom (2 Sam 17)

David, an old man by now, flees his throne, his home, and his city when Absalom conspires against him

Too old to fight and unwilling to engage in a war with his son, David flees to refuge on the other side of the Jordan River

v1-2 Hear my cry, O God, attend to my prayer:

in times of trouble, he always draws closer to God, his Savior...he does not backpeddle away from God like many of us do.

David knows the only way out is the Lord

with t&e, David has an intimate relationship with God

From the end of the earth:

it feels to David like he is at the end of the earth...but prayer knows no distance of time limitations

I cry unto thee when my heart is overwhelmed:

the heart of a father and a shepherd is breaking

The sheep he loves so have turned against him, deceived by a wolf in sheep's clothing...his very own son

He has been betrayed, disgraced, and shamed before the entire nation by his son

Note: the consequences of his unfaithfulness, foretold in 2 Sam 12:11-12, has most assuredly come to pass

Lead me to the rock higher than I:

David cries out for comfort and security from the Lord, the God of all comfort.

David knows that

- the Lord alone is faithful
- the Lord will never leave nor forsake him
- the Lord is bigger than these overwhelming circumstances, emotions

- v3 has been a shelter...a strong tower:
 The Lord has always been his help in time of trouble, his Hiding Place...
 and He always will be
- v4 I will abide...I will trust:
 in the Lord's presence there is safety and peace, comfort and rest
- more than anything, David longed for fellowship with his Lord
 he was a man after (in pursuit of) God's heart
- David has complete assurance in God's triumph over his enemies...
- he will assemble to worship the Lord...
 - he will put his faith in God's protection
- David is a man of prayer and a man of faith
- v5 has heard my vows...given the heritage:
 as a man after God's own heart...a man of prayer and faith...
 David's prayers started in the heart of God
- David's faith was pleasing to God (Heb 11:6) and by faith David has the
 inheritance of God's children
- eternal life
 - peace with God
 - the peace of God that surpasses human understanding
 - joy regardless of circumstances
- v6-7 prolong the king's life...mercy and truth may preserve him:
 speaking of himself in the 3rd person, David rests in the promises of God
 the Lord will fight for him, his throne will be restored
- the world piles on harm, hassle, and noise...
 God settles our hearts, minds, souls, and spirits
- walking in the flesh...in the world...is filled with anguish, trauma, and heart-ache
- walking in the Spirit overflows with peace and joy...
 where we are protected from the evil of the world by God's mercy and
 truth
- even in the midst of heart-breaking trouble, we can walk in the Spirit and know
 the joy of the Lord

v8 So will I sing...that I may daily perform:
walking by fear in the flesh or by faith in the Spirit is a choice that must be made
every day...and many times during the day

in every circumstance, especially in times of trouble,

- draw close to the Lord, your Savior
- put your trust in Him...for He is faithful

His faithfulness so much more than offsets the unfaithfulness of those who betray,
disgrace, and shame you

His mercy and truth protects us from evil men

So sing to the Lord!

Singing praise and worship unto the Lord is a highly effective way to focus your
heart, mind and soul on the Lord Who is worthy of all praise and Who
alone is to be worshipped

Sing to the Lord...and be at peace

a good psalm to read when in trouble

Ps 62

Author: David

Type of Psalm: Faith in the face of trouble

Also written when old King David was fleeing his son Absalom

v1-2 Truly my soul waiteth upon God:
truly = “only”

“My only rest is in God.
My only hope is in God.
My trust is in God alone.
I will wait patiently for my God.”

Heb word translated “truly”, “only”, “surely” appears 6 times in this psalm.
Without a doubt, David put his faith only in God

from him my salvation:

out of a relationship with God built on faith comes

- salvation (Acts 4:12)
- refuge in time of trouble

I shall not be greatly moved:

“I will not fall...I will not be removed.”

No man...not even his son...could touch David (1 John 4:4)

Nothing the world or the devil throws at us can take us away from the safety we
have in Christ Jesus...

so do you wait patiently upon the Lord in your times of trouble?

Even though His timing is always different than ours?

v3-4 How long will ye...bowing wall...tottering fence:
“How long will this nonsense last?
Why are you expending such energy on this old man, who is like a wall or a
fence that is about to collapse?
You shall all die, dashed to pieces, for your wicked plot.”

they only consult...delight in lies:
Speaking of the conspirators for his throne and the kingdom, they are determined
to depose David, to drive him away or to kill him and push him off the
throne.
They flatter him, all the while scheming a coup.

Absalom is exalting himself...consumed with jealousy (of Solomon?) and with
covetousness for power
he is a picture of [\[Is 14:13-14\]](#)
David is a picture of the Son of David, Who will put the usurper away

v5-6 wait thou only on God:
God alone can help...God alone can save and protect and preserve...
no man can, no church can

David will not take matters into his own hands...
he will wait patiently for God to make things right

As David prays, his faith increases

v7-8 In God my:
a very simple, very powerful profession of faith

God is my

- salvation
- glory
- strength
- shelter

pour out your heart:

David, ever the shepherd, is tending the flock with him in exile

- Trust the Lord God Almighty in ALL things...even this terrible mess!
- Pour out your heart to the Good Shepherd...take heart by pouring yours out
- Find refuge in God (John 10:7-9)

v9 men of low degree...high degree:

common, garden-variety man is but a breath

(James 4:14)

mighty men are an illusion

(they really aren't very mighty...)

together, common man and mighty man less than a breath...empty

man cannot be leaned upon for support for none possess the strength to support any weight

the humble will be exalted and the exalted will be humbled

James 4:10

v10-11 oppression...robbery...set not:

Absalom wanted power and wealth...his father's power and wealth.
he wanted a re-distribution of wealth – "Yours to me!"

the warning: do not trust in riches...do not trust in the world or in the ways of the world

power unto God:

God said it and it was worth repeating:

"All power in heaven and in earth is Mine."

The world thinks money is power.

It is not, that is a corrupted perspective

In the world, "It's all about the money."

Not so in the kingdom of God...it's all about God

John 15:5 with Phil 4:13

Ex 3:12

v12 renderest to every man:

 Absalom was scheming to take for himself that which was not his to take...
 his battle is with God, not his father
 thus, David will wait patiently for God

 work of man (singular) is a choice:
 to believe God, to trust God...or not

 trust in God and leave your enemies to Him...their issue is really with Him

a good psalm to read when in trouble

Ps 63

Author: David

Type of Psalm: Wow! Look at all those stars...

also written when old King David was fleeing from Absalom
in the midst of trouble, totally focused on the Lord

v1 early will I seek thee:

David had an intimate relationship with God, his Almighty Strength and Protector.

He started seeking the Lord early every morning...and continued right on thru the day

dry and thirsty land:

Ps 42:1-2

poetic language for a place God isn't...

- a land where the inhabitants do NOT seek God...
- where the Living Water does not flow

a thirst and hunger for the Lord comes FROM the Lord

...a relationship He initiates

I thirst for God and hunger for Him because He gave me that hunger and thirst.

v2 seen thee in the sanctuary:

David, an outcast of the land, is seeking the power and glory of God...

as He is between the cherubim in the Tabernacle.

On the eastern side of the Jordan River, he feels separated from the splendor of God

v3 my lips shall praise thee:
so is David going to mope and pout?
is he going to throw a Pity Party, with himself being the guest of honor?
No.

He knows God loves him!
He knows God has mercy on his soul!
He knows He is forgiven!

Nothing in the world can soil those truths.
The love of God (eternal) is far more valuable than physical life (temporary).

So, outcast and separated...David sings for joy!
Paul and Silas will follow his example in about 1000 years.
Will you sing for joy in your time of trouble?

“All to Jesus I surrender.....I surrender all”
Really?
Is God’s love more valuable to you than all your material possessions,
your lifestyle?

v4 bless thee while I live:
As long as his body has breath, he will praise the Lord...no matter what comes in
this life

I will lift up my hands:
a form of worship...an act of praise...
like reaching out to touch God...as a child reaches to

- touch the face of his father
- be picked up into his arms

lift holy hands without wrath and doubting!
1 Tim 2:8

v5 My soul shall be satisfied...my mouth shall praise:
Phil 4:11-13, 19
1 Tim 6:6

a man who had about as much as the world could offer
was content with nothing from the world...
because he had all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus

v6-7 when I remember thee upon my bed:
David is not in his bed...a bed suitable for a king!
He is sleeping on the cold, hard ground...again!

There, he looks up at the stars...thinks about his situation...
and then Ps 8:3-4 comes rushing to mind...and his troubles disappear

in the shadow of thy wings:
there, with the canopy of stars overhead, David feels the safety, peace, and rest of
God's protection and presence

v8 My soul followeth hard after thee:
"My soul clings to, cleaves to You, Oh God!
You are my strength. You are my life.
You lead me thru these deep and dangerous valleys."

truly, a man after God's heart

v9-10 But those that seek my soul:
those that are actively seeking the destruction of David will find themselves

- becoming Fox Chow...Vulture Chow
- and being sent to hell...the place God created for the fallen angels

it just doesn't pay to be an enemy of God.
Just ask King Herod (Acts 12:21-23)
And when an adversary attacks one of God's children, He takes it very
personally!
Just ask Saul of Tarsus!

v11 But the king shall rejoice...but the mouths...shall be stopped:
God gets the last word.
Truth wins.
God's children rejoice!

a good psalm to read when in trouble...
focus on the Lord, not on your problems

Ps 64

Author: David
Type of Psalm:

most likely written when old King David was being pursued by Absalom

v1 preserve my life from fear of the enemy:
“Preserve me from the threats and the terror of my enemies.”

a modern day translation: a cry of the nation Israel
“Save us from the terrorists.”

Fear...is natural...and therefore irrational
Fear...is human...and therefore un-God-like
Perfect love casts out fear....
Jesus sets us free from fear
We are preserved...in God’s love

v2 Hide me from the secret counsel:
“The wicked are hatching secret plots against me.”
Terrorists are secretly plotting against Israel

Secret to you, David, and from you, Israel...but not secret from God.
There are no secrets from God...He knows all men’s thoughts and motives

Num 32:23
Luke 12:3

v3-4 whet their tongue...arrows bitter words:
“They sharpen their tongue like a sword, the arrows they shoot are bitter, angry words.”

shoot in secret at the perfect...fear not:
They conduct covert operations against God’s anointed...
and have no fear in doing so.

This is a totally foreign concept to David, who refused to harm God’s anointed...
Saul

But guess what? Life is not fair.
Just because David was a man of integrity and would harm God's anointed does
not mean that he will not be harmed now that he is God's anointed.

God did not promise "fair" in this life...

v5 encourage themselves...commune of laying snares:
The wicked get courage from each other...

They sit around in their secret hiding places, giggling about the traps they have
hidden and about the cleverness of their plot.

Who sees them? The Lord does!

v6 they search out iniquities...accomplish a diligent search:
They invent ways to harm and destroy...
they cleverly disguise their wicked motives.

They hatch a very clever plot and lay a sneaky trap.

In the deep recesses of their heart (Jer 17:9), they plan the perfect crime.

Akin to a modern day criminal being one step ahead of the police...
but where can he run to escape the police helicopter?

v7 But God:
After they shoot, it's God's turn

with perfect aim...a perfect word (Heb 4:12)...
perfect timing...obtaining a perfect result

God destroys His enemies with His Word

v8 own tongue to fall upon themselves:
God's enemies will be ruined by their own words
Gal 6:7-8
kinda like a fire hose gone out of control and turning back on the fireman

all that see them shall flee away:
onlookers will shake their head in amazement and scorn

v9 all men shall fear:
when God acts and speaks, all men will understand, revere Him, and profess His
goodness and glory

faith in God is...rational

v10 the righteous shall be glad:
the righteous will praise the holy and just God.
Truly, His judgments are right!

Ps 61-64 were written at the same time about the same issue.
Why so many psalms?
Why couldn't David rest in the rest he found?
Why did he need to be comforted over and over again?

Could we be comforted once and only once? No!
We need comfort...repeatedly and continually
I AM gives us what we need right now...
and the next right now...later...when we ask then
He is outside of time but we float in the flow of it

We must continually seek what we need right now
(phone call this morning – why do I continue to struggle?
thought it (old nature) just went away)

a good psalm to read when need comfort...again

Ps 65

Author: David

Type of Psalm: A Song of Praise

written at a time of prosperity in an agrarian society...one utterly dependent upon God

- man sow the seed and buries it in the earth
 - God waters
 - God brings forth a plant
 - God multiplies the seed
- man reaps

v1 Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Zion:

“Praise is waiting for You...praise that is rightfully only Yours.”

unto thee shall the vow be performed:

God has kept His promise to provide for men...

David will keep his promise to praise God

v2 unto thee shall all flesh come:

all men KNOW God exists...and all men will one stand before Him

in the meantime, all men at some point in time realize they are dependent upon Him...even under their breath

Question is: Will all men submit to God?

Will they cry out to Him in their need?

v3 iniquities prevail...thou shall purge them away:

no man is worthy to be heard...because...

our sin is stronger than us...

we do what we should not do and

don't do what we know we should do (Rom 7)

But God...came to cover, cancel, forgive, atone for our sins with His own blood

Ps 103:8-12

Eph 2:1-5

Is 53

v4 Blessed thou chooseth and causeth to approach:
oh how happy...is a forgiven man

Ps 32:1

The sovereign God chooses and draws man to Himself

John 15:16

John 6:44

John 14:6

man does not seek God (Rom 3:10-11) ...

God pursues after man...that we may

- dwell with Him

2 Peter 3:9

- be filled to overflowing with His goodness of His house

2 Sam 4:4

2 Sam 9:1-7, 13

Ps 84:10

God chose me before the foundation of the world

(Eph 1:4) because He foreknew I would choose His Son

v5 terrible things in righteousness:

with awesome deeds of His righteousness, God will respond to us rebellious,
unworthy men

the most awesome of deeds: salvation by grace thru faith in Jesus Christ His Son,
the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world

confidence of all:

Jesus Christ is the hope of all men everywhere

- our salvation
- strong and powerful refuge
- calming assurance

v6-7 by his strength:

Jesus...man's sure refuge

- "planted" the mountains
- calmed the tumult of the wicked

physical: Matt 8:23-27

spiritual: Is 17:12-13

Is 57:20-21

By the way...Jer 5:22

the Lord planted and sustains the mountains,
which "deflate" the powers of the oceans...
to protect the tillable land to feed man

v8 they...are afraid of thy tokens:

men throughout the world are awed by His signs...
men from the east and the west rejoice in His power

v9-10 Thou visitest...waterest...enrichest...preparest:

The earth and the fullness thereof belong to the Lord

He cares for His creation

- waters the dry and thirsty land with rain and snow...
and He waters abundantly
- refreshes, replenishes, nourishes the land with rain...
and man with Living Water (fallow ground)
- brings forth abundant life thru death...
one seed produces many hundred-fold
- provides the animals and men with food

waterest the ridges abundantly:

He drenches the terraces

in most places in Israel, the only way to grow crops was to build terraces
on the hillsides...after removing the rocks
unlike Great Plains or San Fernando Valley

soft with showers:

a gentle rain...not a violent rain...makes the hard and rocky soil workable and productive for the descendents of Adam

want evidence of God's grace, lovingkindness, and longsuffering?
Consider the rain. (Matt 5:45)

Note: tornados are NOT acts of God...but of the prince of the power of the air

blesses the springing:

and He blesses the sprouts that come up out of the soil with fruit

v11-13 crownest the year with thy goodness:

the crowning of the agricultural year: a big harvest!
an abundant and bountiful harvest...good and plenty
(and I don't mean candy you buy in the movie theatres)

The pastures of the wilderness:

in Israel today...the Negev blossoms!
A beautiful green carpeting of life erupting in the desert by the blessing of the
God of AI&J

Today...Israel is the world's third largest exporter of food!

The pastures are clothed with flocks:

the hills and meadows are covered with grazing sheep

The valleys are covered over...sing:

the earth prospers with the watering of God...and rejoices

The valleys are the fertile areas...where fruit is borne

We do not bear fruit on the mountain tops

So do not lament the valley you are in

- The Good Shepherd is leading you thru it
- This is a time of spiritual fruitfulness

Trials and tribulations are times of

- Productivity in the soil of your heart
- Dependence upon God vs upon self
- Being watered by the river of God

Ps 1:1-3

Is 55:8-11

a good psalm to read when times are good...a reminder

- to praise the Lord of the Harvest
- to give abundant thanks and praise to God who superabundantly provides
- that trials and tribulations are times of fruit bearing

Ps 66

Author: Unknown

Type of Psalm: Praise to an Awesome God

v1-2 make a joyful noise...make his praise glorious:
sing out, sing loud...sing like you've been saved!
And it does not say "on key"!

The Father loves to hear His children sing to Him...as we do our children

v3-4 How terrible...power...enemies submit themselves:
Our God is an awesome God!
He reigns from heaven above!

Ultimately all creatures will submit and obey...

- voluntarily with thanksgiving
- or
- as they cringe and bow down before Him

His enemies WILL submit...Phil 2:5-11...
but not unto salvation,
rather, to self-condemnation

All the earth shall worship thee:
in the Kingdom to come...when our awesome God reigns from Jerusalem!

v5-6 Come and see the works of God:
Our God is an awesome God and He does awesome things!

- He led Moses and the nation of Israel out of Egypt thru the Red Sea...
on dry ground
- He led Joshua and the nation of Israel into their inheritance thru the
Jordan River at flood stage...on dry ground
- He will meet us in the clouds...and lead us home!

v7 He ruleth by his power forever:
He will rule with a rod of iron...sin quashed instantly
perfect government and perfect peace for all in the administration of the
Prince of Peace

v8-9 praise to be heard...holdeth our soul in life:
Can others hear you PTL?
Do you give Him the glory and the praise in public?

Publicly praise the God that preserves our life...holding even our breath in His
hands

Praise the God that will not let us slip off the edge of the cliff to destruction and
hell...

Who steadies our walk with Him as we keep our eyes on Him

v10 God hast proved us...refined us:

1 Peter 1:6-7

God tests us...the test results are for us, not Him.
Tests reveal how much we trust Him.

The purpose of the test is not destruction but to increase our value
(usefulness in His hands)

In trials we see more clearly

- our limitations...His infinite power
- our weakness...His strength

The process of refining silver:

- intense heat
- the impurities rise to the surface (slag)
- slag is scraped off
- repeat...
- until can see reflection in the silver

The Father refines us...until He can see His reflection in us

Ps 17:15

Trials are a very good thing! PTL (v1-2)

v11-12 laidst affliction on our loins:
in Egypt...a monumental trial with a absolutely Divine deliverance

every trial in our lives has a purpose in God's plan for our lives –
for His glory and our good

thru them we grow in faith

v13-15 I will go...burnt offerings...my vows:
“Lord, You are absolutely, completely trustworthy.
I will totally consecrate my life to You.”

v16-17 come hear...hath done for my soul:
no witness of Jesus Christ is as powerful as your personal testimony.

And no one can take it away from you.
“All I know is I once was blind but now I see.”

Your testimony is priceless...do you share it?

v18-20 if I regard...verily God hath heard:
God knows our motives...and does not answer prayer offered with an impure
motive
sin hinders our prayers (Is 59:1-2)

answered prayer starts in the heart of God (the motive is pure)...
it is impressed upon the heart of man...and returned

PTL! God answers prayer and does not withhold His lovingkindness from us!

What is the roadblock? Our ability to hear the Lord.

What is required? Faith (H + B + O + W)

a good psalm to read to help you reflect and PTL

Ps 67

Author: generally credited to David

Type of Psalm: a song about the kingdom of God

v1 God be merciful...bless...shine upon:
a plea for the Aaronic blessing (Num 6:24-26)

Jesus is the very personification of that blessing

someday soon, that which was witnessed by only
James, John, and Peter (Matt 17:1-2)

will be witnessed by everyone on earth (Rev 1:16b)

the Prince of Peace will rule and man will know perfect peace...

after our sorry attempts to govern ourselves, what a blessing!

This prayer...especially the "have mercy on us" part...
should be earnestly prayed today and every day by

- The Church
- USA

v2 That thy way be known...thy saving health:
then, God's way will reign...a government of holiness...selfless love...purity...

and God's salvation will be known among the Gentiles

v3 Let **the** people praise:
THE "tribes"...the Jews

Let **all** the people praise:
the Gentiles

Now...only a very small minority praise the Lord God

v4 O let the nations be glad and sing for joy:
the entire community of man...Jew and Gentile...will shout to the Lord!

thou shalt judge the people righteously:
God...and only God...can judge

- fairly
- with complete knowledge
- in pure truth
- without respect of persons...not playing favorites

man has proven himself incapable of governing himself...
in His kingdom Jesus will govern in perfect peace...
we will have fellowship based on agreement

v5 a repeat of v3...the chorus
the chorus: Jew and Gentile will praise the Lord

v6 shall the earth yield her increase:
the time to harvest is here...the fields are white

- nothing from the wayside...
- nothing from the stony soil...
- nothing from the thorny soil...
- buy abundantly from the good soil

- the tares will be separated from the wheat
- the chaff will be separated from the wheat

the “garden” of the Lord’s reign will be blessed

v7 all the ends of the earth shall fear him:
the entire earth...not just a mere fraction...will revere
AND fear Him Who rules with a rod of iron

For He is worthy to be praised!
(Ps 18:3)

For He is worthy to receive glory and honor and power!
(Rev 4:11)

For He is worthy to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor
and glory and blessing
(Rev 5:12)

Until then...the Lord is looking

2 Chron 16:9

2 Chron 7:12-14, 19-20

these days, we must be in the Word and in prayer

Come to the Men's and Women's Prayer Meetings!

a good psalm to read when tired of election rhetoric

Ps 68

Author: David

Type of Psalm: Praise God

a very God-centric song

- “God” 32 times
- “LORD” 9
- “JAH” 1
- “The Almighty” 1

this Psalm has two applications

1. national – God’s deliverance of Israel from the bondage of Egypt...and the kingdom of God to come
2. personal – God’s deliverance of the sinner/backslider from the bondage of sin and death...in the struggle of two natures

outline:

| | |
|--------|--------------------|
| v1-4 | God arises |
| v5-6 | the God of who |
| v7-10 | God provides |
| v11-14 | God’s Word divides |
| v15-18 | God dwells |
| v19-20 | God saves |
| v21 | God judges |
| v22-23 | God delivers |
| v24-27 | Praise God! |
| v28 | more of God |
| v29-33 | the kingdom of God |
| v34-35 | the power of God |

v1-4 Let God arise:

the Lord was seated in His longsuffering patience before rising on behalf of His people in Egypt...He rose when the sin of the Amorites was full

(Gen 15:13-16)

Ex 3:7-10

this was a day of

- “Enough is enough!”
- intervention
- destruction
- separation
- purification by water

the Lord...the God Who is risen...has been seated in His longsuffering patience will soon rise on behalf of His people again

Zech 14:1-12

this will be a Day...the Day of the Lord...of

- “Enough is enough!”
- intervention
- destruction
- separation
- purification by fire

what happens when God arises?

1. His enemies are blown away
2. the righteous rejoice

Ps 2:1-5

let His enemies:

those opposed to God are described as

1. enemies
2. them that hate Him
3. the wicked

and they

1. are dashed to pieces...dispersed...separated from Him
2. vanish from His presence
3. are blown away...as the smoke is by the wind and as a vapor is by the sun
4. perish...as did 185,000 Assyrians (1 K 19)

those opposed to God are

1. spirit beings
 - Eph 6:12
 - Dan 10:12-13, 20-21
 - 2 Cor 4:3-4

2. men...spiritually dead beings
 - Gal 5:19-21
 - Eph 2:1-3
 - Rom 8:5-8
 - Ps 14:1
 - Ps 92:5-7
 - Jer 51:17-18
 - selfish and self-centered...
 - unbelieving...
 - putting their faith in a false god...
 - condemned

let the righteous:

the righteous are those who

1. live by faith (Hab 2:4 + Paul's trilogy)
2. see the light...believe and agree with God
3. deny themselves, pick up their Cross, and follow Jesus
4. saved by grace thru faith, not by works...cleansed (1 Cor 6:9-11)

they

1. are exceedingly, rapturously joyous
2. jump for joy in the presence of God
3. sing praises to God
4. exalt the Lord that comes riding on the clouds (Rev 1:7)
5. exalt His name (authority) – JAH
(only time it appears in Scripture)

the first and the LAST...

the beginning and the ENDING

- Eli-jah
- Isa-iah
- Jerem-iah
- Zechar-iah

In the quagmire of “no-man’s land” are men that are spiritually alive beings who live like spiritually dead beings...opposing themselves

1 Cor 3:3

Gal 6:1

2 Tim 2:24-26

- backsliders...
- walking in the flesh and not in the Spirit...
- weak in the faith...
- carnal

v5-6 The God of who:

the God Who arises is

1. Father to the fatherless...
fatherless by either death or dereliction

Heb word = “ab”...alphabetically the 1st letter

God is the FIRST and the last...
the BEGINNING and the ending

John 14:18

2. Advocate...Defender...Champion...
of the widows...a real Husband!
3. Home-Maker for the lonely
4. Liberator/Deliverer of the captives in bondage (in Egypt...in sin)

God has special interest in the defenseless

(Ex, Deut)...

but the unrepentant will live in a parched and scorched place

v7-10 God provides:

after His people were unfaithful to follow Him into their promised inheritance due to unbelief...

the Lord led them in the desert of wandering...where He faithfully provide for their needs

the barren and unfriendly earth trembled at His Word...

the sky showered rain in the desert...

as the God of Israel provided for His inheritance, His created nation (Is 43:1)

when they were

unfaithful...

tired and weary...

lowly and needy...

He provided of His goodness so they would live

when we, the children of God (John 1:12), are

unfaithful...

spiritually tired and weary...

lowly and needy...

the Lord faithfully provides to meet our need...

showering us the rain of His Holy Spirit

Spiritual comfort from our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort ministers to creature comfort as well (Phil 4:11-13)...

but creature comfort has no effect on spiritual comfort

Hence, why there are so many “wealthy” people who are so miserable

when the Lord rises in our lives on our behalf,

- He goes before us
- it sure feels like the earth moves!

v11-14 God's Word divides:

when it was time to rise...the Lord spoke

- His enemies fled...were driven away
- His people were lifted up (Is 40:29-31)

and a great army has faithfully proclaimed it...

Is 52:6-10

the Word of God, El Shaddai, protects us

Rev 1:8

He lifts up the abased and humbles the proud

1 Peter 5:5-10

v15-18 God dwells:

1. in Zion

Bashan (Golan Heights) is "the high ground" of strategic military importance and a wonderful pasture land for the flocks and herds

yet those hills are jealous of the hill the Sovereign God has chosen as His holy hill – Zion (Ps 2:6)

2. among His armies...as the Lord of hosts

His army is an innumerable host of angels...an army He could have called down to free Him during His darkest hour (John 18:33-37)

3. on high...where Jesus ascended to the right hand of the Father

4. among men...

the POWs He freed and carried with Him when He ascended on high... righteous believers who lived by faith

these He has restored and reconciled...they give Him thanks and praise

and on earth, the rain falls on the just and the unjust...blessings for all

His goodness leads to repentance...which is the desire of His heart

v19-20 God saves:

He loves us so much!
He desires to bear our burdens every day
1 Peter 5:7
Matt 11:28-30
Gal 6:1-2

He delivers from the penalty of sin...death...those who put their faith in Him...
Eph 2:8-9
Rom 6:23

salvation is THE BEST gift!

v21 God judges:

but the overwhelming majority of people reject His love and grace...
and remain dead in their sins

He will crush the heads of the unrepentant...His enemies

willful sin...without repentance...leads to death

| | | |
|---|-----|----------------|
| escape comes only by <u>repentance...</u> | not | <u>remorse</u> |
| John 8:10-11 | | Prov 26:11 |
| Peter | | Judas |
| change | | no change |

v22-23 God delivers:

...with a mighty hand...and feet!

- The Lord brought His people out of Egypt and into their land with a mighty hand...
- He brought them back again into the land suddenly in 1948...
- He preserved them in the land in 1973
[Zvki on Pastor Chuck tape #7033, Ex 23]
- He is bringing His people home today (Jer 23:5-8)
- He will snatch us out of this world...

- He will plunge His foot into the blood of His enemies (Is 63:1-6)...He will wade in their blood

(they will suffer the same fate as Jezebel)

v24-27 Praise God:

His enemies have seen the works of God

- the Red Sea deliverance was right in front of His enemies... they did not repent
- the Cross was right in front of His enemies... they did not repent
- He is re-gathering His people right in front of His enemies... they are not repenting
- They will see the sudden exodus of born-again Christians... they will not repent

They have seen God's people praising Him

...gathering to worship Him, the Source of Living Water

But they mock...

- Benjamin: Little brother, the baby... as unsophisticated and simple and weak for their faith in the Lord
- Judah: those who "praise" Him
- Zebulun: the "habitation" of God (both Israel and the Church)
- Naphtali: just Who are they "wrestling"? (not man!)

v28 more of God:

yet the children of God want more of Him.

He is the source of our strength.

His Word is comforting, encouraging, correcting, instructing, healing...revealing

our fervent cry is that the Lord strengthen and multiply His work in and thru our lives

Phil 2:12-13

We want more!

v29-33 the Kingdom of God:

Someday soon, enough will be enough...again (v1-2)

God will take down the governments of man and establish His government on the earth...demanding obedience, not sacrifice

then all nations will come to Him...or suffer the consequences of disobedience

(Zech 14:16-18)

All nations will sing praises to Him...the eternal God

Every ear shall hear Him (Rev 1:15)

v34-35 the power of God:

give credit for "your" strength to God (2 Cor 12:9-10)

...Who is majestic...glorious...awesome

Acts 17:24-31

PTL!

good psalm to read

- when facing a powerful enemy/temptation
- as a reminder that God is not always going to be longsuffering

Ps 69

Author: David

Type of Psalm: Messianic...the Suffering Servant

v1-2 David is a shadow of the substance to come

waters...deep mire...deep waters...floods overflow me:
the Suffering Servant is up to His neck in raging water and mud...
without a foothold

He's drowning in trouble...the depths of which no man knows...
so we don't have to

without Jesus, I drown in my own filth.
I cannot save myself, nor can any man save me

v3 weary of my crying:

exhausted by crying out...the agony of which no man knows...
so we don't have to

my throat is dried:

thirst that no man knows...so we don't have to be eternally thirsty for the well of
water springing up into everlasting life

v4 they that hate me...are more than the hairs of my head:
hatred with an intensity of which no man knows

then I restored which I took not:

"Something was stolen from Me. I restored it."

His perfect creation and His beloved creature was defiled.

It had to be cursed.

Now, He is becoming a curse to restore the corrupted

2 Cor 5:17-19

v5 knowest my foolishness and my sins are not hid:
2 Cor 5:21 He who knew no sin became sin...
so we would be made righteous in Him

Gal 3:13 has redeemed us from the curse...
Being made a curse for us

Sin-full and cursed...so we would not be.

v6 Let not them that wait...be ashamed:
May no man who puts his faith in You be ashamed of his choice.

And none are.

But Jesus Christ is a stumblingblock to the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles
1 Cor 1:22-24

v7-8 for thy sake I have borne reproach:
Is 53:10 it pleased the Lord to bruise Him...when
made His soul an offering for sin

Acts 2:22-24

I am a stranger to my brethren:
the Jews (John 1:11)...for

- a Carpenter' son claiming to be the God of AI&J was "unbelievable"
- The Suffering Servant did not fit with their desires for the Messiah

an alien to my mother's children:
His step-siblings...for
"Our big brother is off his rocker!"

v9 zeal of thine house:
Jesus was jealous of His Father's house.
He was busy about His Father's business...and mammon-worshippers defiled His
Father's house.

Jesus... Who is the Beginning and the Ending...

- cleansed the Temple at the beginning of His ministry and at the end of His ministry
- cleanses all the sins of all believers...the Temple of the Holy Spirit

reproaches...reproach thee are fallen upon me:

When someone blasphemes God the Father, he is also blaspheming God the Son

John 8:23, 37-47

John 5:37-47

v10-12 I wept...made sackcloth...song of the drunkards:
Jesus wept over the condition of His brethren
Luke 19:37-47

while He mourned over them, they mocked Him...
from the “high and mighty”...to the “low lifes”

v13-15 my prayer is unto thee...Deliver me:
Jesus came to do the Father’s will...not His...not ours
He came with a sword...not with peace.
He came to seek and to save the lost...
not to win friends and influence people...
or to be politically correct

picking up your cross and following Jesus means the same thing.
It matters not what man thinks or does.
All that matters is what the Lord desires and wants to do

And fear not...He is the God of salvation.
Stand with and upon him, the Rock that cannot be moved.

Death could not hold Him down.
In fact, He came to conquer death...so we would not have to die

v16-19 hide not thy face from thy servant:
the Lord Jesus Christ...the Suffering Servant
Phil 2:5-8

the Father did in fact hide His face from His Son...who had become sin...
so that He would not have to turn His back to us!

We simply cannot understand what Jesus suffered during that time when He took
from us that which was rightfully ours – reproach, shame, and dishonor

v20-21 Reproach hath broken my heart...gall...vinegar:

He bore the burden of my sin and my reproach...and yours...
He was stressed and distressed...like no man has ever known

- comfortless
- abandoned
- given poison for food and vinegar to drink (bitter death)

and the weight of it all crushed His heart
myrrh...when crushed...releases a sweet fragrance

v22-25 Let their:

for those who refuse the sweet fragrance of His crushing...
to be saved by grace thru faith...

- that which would have meant freedom from the wages of sin (the Cross) means eternal bondage
- cannot see because they do not believe...as we pass from death to life by faith
- will suffer the fury of a holy and just God
- will be eternally homeless...in eternal terror and torment first in hell, then in the Lake of Fire

v26-28 they persecute...talk to the grief:

those who mock the Suffering Servant rather than mourn their spiritual poverty
and cry out to Him

- kick Him when He is down...just as their father does to us
- celebrate the grief of Him who was pierced

Add iniquity...Let them be blotted:

“Multiply their sins...
deny them My righteousness...
erase them from the Book of Life...
banish them into outer darkness, where

- there is weeping
- gnashing of teeth
- there worm never dies
- the fire is never quenched

written with the righteous:

those who live by faith...not by their own performance

v29-30 But I am poor and sorrowful:

humble, lowly, grief-stricken

Matt 5:3-4 poor...kingdom of heaven
mourn...will be comforted

2 Cor 8:9 though was rich, became poor
thru His poverty we made rich

Set me up on high:

Phil 2:9-11 God has highly exalted
given a name higher than every other
every knee...every tongue

praise the name of God with a song:

many of the martyrs in Smyrna did just that!

They were faithful...even though it killed them...
Because He was faithful...even though it killed Him

v31 please the Lord better than:

Ps 51:17 sacrifices of God

- broken spirit
- broken and contrite heart

v32 the humble shall see:

because the humble CAN see...and will be revived
the proud are blinded...and shall die in their sins

v33 the Lord heareth the poor:

He heard the saints in Smyrna!

Matt 5:5-6 meek...inherit the earth
Hunger and thirst...filled

v34-36 praise Him...God will save...servants shall inherit:
the bondservants...willing slaves that deny themselves and pick up their cross and
follow Jesus...
will be saved and given an eternal inheritance

by faith in the Suffering Servant, they will share in the glory of the Conquering
King

a good psalm to read when having a pity party

Ps 70

Author: David

Type of Psalm: A cry for help...written when fleeing his enemies
(I think Absalom...because sounds so much like Ps 71)

v1-3 “Lord, deal justly with my enemies, who want to kill me.
Cause them to retreat in confusion and shame.”

ala the Zvki Brigade in 1973...

application in the spiritual warfare raging around us...
especially as we build-out the new home the Lord has given to us

on Monday morning, the wheels coming off at Braden Ent job sites
at Scottsdale home site, back hoe broke a 2” water line...

very nervous homeowner
worker could not turn off the water...”Help!”

“Mike, we need to pray!”
2 minutes later...”Water just stopped by itself!”

God will deal with our enemies far better than we ever could

v4 those that
1. seek God...rejoice
2. love God’s salvation...give all the glory to God

LET God be magnified...in all things...in every circumstance, whether “good” or “bad”
(Rom 8:28)

v5 I am lowly and humble...Your will be done...
• not mine...
• but how about right now?
• please don’t waste any time!

At the start of the song: “Hurry!”
At the end, “Hurry!”

We pray that way don’t we?
So did David, a man after God’s own heart.

However, it doesn't seem that God hears these prayers...

But considering

- God inhabits eternity (absence of time)
- our lives are but a vapor

ANY action by God on our behalf during this vapor is timely...
happens with perfect timing...in the fullness of time

Keep an eternal perspective...everything here happens right on time

Greg Ramsdale: his thoughts this past year...

“Never find anything in Ahwatukee...”

a good psalm to read when you

- are all stressed out...ready to take matters into your own hands
- have no hope

Ps 71

Author: David (widely accepted)...while fleeing Absalom
Type of Psalm: Song of hope...the flip side of Ps 70

v1 never let me be ashamed...vs Ps 70:2

what is the difference?
Trust in God vs trust in self

v2 Jesus is our

- righteousness
- way of escape...from fear and death

we can be saved only by the Lord's righteousness

v3-5 to the man after God's own heart, the Lord is his:

1. strong habitation
2. rock
3. fortress
4. hope
5. trust

to Jesus may I continually resort...
may He be the 1st resort, not the last resort

(that change comes with maturity)

v6 holden me up...took me out of my mother's womb:

Ps 139:13-15

Gal 1:15-16a

v7-8 because of the Lord's repeated deliverance of David in his past, David has quite a reputation!

Saul learned...1 Sam 23:14, 19-23
Absalom should have learned...

v9-11 God is faithful...to our very last breath...which He holds in His hands!

the enemies of God believe in Him...

- but do not place their trust in him (James 2:19)
- are deceived into thinking that God doesn't care

v12-13 sounds like a continuation of Ps 70

- "Shame my enemies."
- "Hurry!"

God is never far, He is always near.
Meditate on the nearness of God.

v14-15 just as David cannot comprehend the love of God for him...

or count the number of God's thoughts for him

(Ps 139:17-18)...sand vial)...

he is humanly incapable of expressing the wonder, depth, and breadth of God's righteousness...

or the wonder and glory of God's salvation for those who live by faith, in fellowship with Him

therefore, his hope springs eternal

v16-17 David learned in the days of his youth to trust in the Lord

(Prov 22:6)...

and saw the fingerprints of the all-powerful, personal God his entire life

his entire life is a testimony of God's faithfulness

v18 God will not forsake us...no matter how old we get!

We are never too old to be used by God...

we are never too old to magnify His name

- v19-21 David swells with praise as his thoughts are trained on how God has faithfully
- delivered him...when there was no way out
 - poured out His favor upon him
 - comforted him in every time of need

in his crying he realizes God cannot fail...certainly not now

- v22-24 bursting with praise...
- with the psaltery
 - with the harp
 - with his lips
 - with his soul
 - with his tongue
- of God's victory over his enemies

a good psalm to read when God reminds you of how He has faithfully watched over you

worship is

- a function of the heart
- an expression of our being
- audible

so worship the God who alone is worthy of all praise!

Ps 72

Author: David

Type of Psalm: Song of Dedication of his Son

written by David for his son Solomon, who is about to become king

the immediate fulfillment...but partial...of these words is Solomon...
the long term...complete...fulfillment is the kingdom of Jesus Christ

- the Son of David
- the Son of God
- The King of kings and Lord of lords

v1-2 the judgments of God are to be the king's

Ps 19:7-11

Deut 17:18-20

to govern, a man must be governed...by the Word of God

When the kingdom of God on earth is established by the Messiah...The King

- the Righteousness of God is the Judge...
- the Word of God reigns

v3 the mountains:

During His kingdom...and not until His kingdom...

- man will finally live in peace and
- things "will be right in the world"

v4 God's eyes are on the poor

- physical (James 2:5)
- spiritual (Matt 5:3)

The Son of David will stand up for the defenseless and the vulnerable...
for whom there is a soft spot in His heart

v5-7 His kingdom is marked by

- Peace
- Life...Living Water
- Righteousness
- Reverence

v8-9 The Son of David will rule over the entire earth and over all men

v10-11 Solomon in his early reign foreshadowed Jesus

Solomon was honored for his wisdom...Jesus Christ will be served

v12-14 with zeal will He protect the defenseless and vulnerable

v15-16 During the reign of the son of David, food will be abundant...no famines

life in His kingdom will be

- prosperous...
- peaceful...
- praise worthy

v17 Gen 12:1-3 fulfilled
(in thee will all nations be blessed)

v18-19 Is 9:6-7

He shall:

1. judge God's people with righteousness (v1-2)
2. save the children of the needy (v4)
3. break in pieces the oppressors of the poor (v4)
4. come down like life-giving and cleansing rain (v6)
5. have complete dominion (v8)
6. spare/save the needy (v13)
7. redeem the souls of the needy from this deceitful, violent world and sinful nature (v14)
8. live (the resurrection) (v15)
9. be given (v15)
 - gold
 - continuous prayer
 - praise

a good psalm to read during an election year!