Sermon Seeds from the Psalms

by

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Psalms Twenty to Twenty-Nine

PSALM TWENTY

- 1. The Lord hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee;
- 2. Send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion;
- 3. Remember all thy offerings, and accept thy burnt sacrifice; Selah.
- 4. Grant thee according to thine own heart, and fulfil all thy counsel.
- 5. We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners: the Lord fulfil all thy petitions.
- 6. Now know I that the Lord saveth his anointed; he will hear him from his holy heaven with the saving strength of his right hand.
- 7. Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.
- 8. They are brought down and fallen: but we are risen, and stand upright.
- 9. Save, Lord: let the king hear us when we call.

As a man who has ploughed all day in the hot sun welcomes the sunset and longs for home, so the inspired singer here seeks, sighs, and cries for the comforts of his GOD and consolation from his Word. The first four stanzas present eight pleas:

- (1) "The Lord hear thee in the day of trouble."
- (2) "The name of the God of Jacob defend thee."
- (3) "Send thee help from the sanctuary."
- (4) "Strengthen thee out of Zion."
- (5) "Remember all thy offerings."
- (6) "Accept thy burnt-sacrifice; Selah." Stop here and think.
- (7) "Grant thee according to thine own heart."
- (8) "Fulfil all thy counsel."

The closing verses are filled with joy, victory, confidence, strength, and salvation:

- (1) Joy. "We will rejoice."
- (2) Victory. "In the name of our God will we set up our banners."
- (3) Confidence. "Now know I that the LORD saveth...he will hear."
- (4) Strength. "Some trust in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD."
- (5) Salvation. "Save, LORD."

"Thank God, I have a Bible!" said a poor old woman in London. "What should I do without my Bible? It was the guide of my youth, and it is the staff of my age. It wounded me, and it healed me; it condemned me, and it acquitted me. It showed me I was a sinner, and it led me to the Saviour. It has given me comfort through life, and I trust it will give me hope in death."

PSALM TWENTY-ONE

- 1. The king shall joy in thy strength, O Lord; and in thy salvation how greatly shall he rejoice!
- 2. Thou hast given him his heart's desire, and hast not withholden the request of his lips. Selah.
- 3. For thou preventest him with the blessings of goodness: thou settest a crown of pure gold on his head.
- 4. He asked life of thee, and thou gavest it him, even length of days for ever and ever.
- 5. His glory is great in thy salvation: honour and majesty hast thou laid upon him.
- 6. For thou hast made him most blessed for ever: thou hast made him exceeding glad with thy countenance.
- 7. For the king trusteth in the Lord, and through the mercy of the most High he shall not be moved.
- 8. Thine hand shall find out all thine enemies: thy right hand shall find out those that hate thee.
- 9. Thou shalt make them as a fiery oven in the time of thine anger: the Lord shall swallow them up in his wrath, and the fire shall devour them.
- 10. Their fruit shalt thou destroy from the earth, and their seed from among the children of men
- 11. For they intended evil against thee: they imagined a mischievous device, which they are not able to perform.
- 12. Therefore shalt thou make them turn their back, when thou shalt make ready thine arrows upon thy strings against the face of them.
- 13. Be thou exalted, Lord, in thine own strength: so will we sing and praise thy power.

Like echoes from a hidden lyre, this hymn reaches the heart. Swifter than the swallow heading south, this song reaches the soul and quiets the spirit. Tempests may rage and storms may sweep around but truth and right shall triumph. This song concerns CHRIST the King. "The king shall joy." "Thou settest a crown of pure gold on his head." "The king trusteth."

That a greater than David is in view seems clear from the following stanzas:

- (1) "Thou hast given him his heart's desire."
- (2) "Thou gavest it him, even length of days for ever and ever."
- (3) "Thou hast made him most blessed for ever."

PSALM TWENTY-TWO

1. My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?

- 2. O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent.
- 3. But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.
- 4. Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them.
- 5. They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded.
- 6. But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.
- 7. All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying,
- 8. He trusted on the Lord that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.
- 9. But thou art he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope when I was upon my mother's breasts.
- 10. I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou art my God from my mother's belly.
- 11. Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help.
- 12. Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round.
- 13. They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion.
- 14. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels.
- 15. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.
- 16. For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.
- 17. I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me.
- 18. They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.
- 19. But be not thou far from me, O Lord: O my strength, haste thee to help me.
- 20. Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog.
- 21. Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns.
- 22. I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.
- 23. Ye that fear the Lord, praise him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; and fear him, all ye the seed of Israel.
- 24. For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard.
- 25. My praise shall be of thee in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before them that fear him.
- 26. The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the Lord that seek him: your heart shall live for ever.
- 27. All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the Lord: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.
- 28. For the kingdom is the Lord's: and he is the governor among the nations.
- 29. All they that be fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him: and none can keep alive his own soul.
- 30. A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation.
- 31. They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done this.

remembered that crucifixion was not a Jewish but a Roman form of punishment and that the Empire of Rome was not even in existence until a thousand years after the days of David, the proof of divine inspiration is beyond question.

- 1. The agonizing cry of CHRIST upon the Cross. "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"
- 2. The terrific testings and temptations upon the Cross. "O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent."
- 3. The divine reason for the Cross. "Thou art holy."
- 4. The contumely and disgrace. "Our fathers trusted . . . and thou didst deliver them . . . but I am a worm . . . a reproach. . . . and despised."
- 5. The scorning and sneering mob. "All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head."
- 6. The wicked words of the watchers. "He trusted on the LORD . . . let him deliver him."
- 7. The cruelties of the crowd. "Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me around. They gaped upon me... as a ravening and a roaring lion."
- 8. The profuse perspiration caused by intense pain. "I am poured out like water."
- 9. The suspension from the Cross, causing disjointed bones. "All my bones are out of joint."
- 10. The fluttering and failure of the heart. "My heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels."
- 11. Extreme exhaustion. "My strength is dried up like a potsherd."
- 12. The awful thirst. "My tongue cleaveth to my jaws."
- 13. The slow approach of death. "Thou hast brought me into the dust of death."
- 14. The piercing of the hands and feet. "They pierced my hands and my feet."
- 15. The nudeness, indignities and shame. "I may tell all my bones: they look and stare."
- 16. The gambling for the garments. "They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture."
- 17. The darling of GOD in the hands of the Devil. "O my strength... Deliver . . . my darling from the power of the dog. Save me from the lion's mouth."

PSALM TWENTY-THREE

- 1. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- 2. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
- 3. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- 4. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
- 5. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
- 6. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

This boundless, immeasurable, and unlimited Song of the Shepherd has breathed solace into the souls of saints for thirty centuries.

In this priceless pearl of the sacred Scriptures there is bound up enough comfort, encouragement, and consolation to meet the needs of the people of GOD in every age and everywhere. It unveils

GOD's care and concern for all the converted and cleansed sons of toil.

For spirit, soul, and body, in time and in eternity, here and hereafter, every need has been anticipated and suitable provision made:

- (1) The physical man. "I shall not want. . . . he maketh me to lie down."
- (2) The spiritual man. "He restoreth my soul. He leadeth me."
- (3) The present. "Goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life."
- (4) The future. "I shall dwell in the house the LORD for ever."
- (5) The emergencies and uncertainties of life. "Yea though I walk through the valley... I will fear no evil." "Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."
- (6) Full sanctification and satisfaction for the whole man. "He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake." "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies."

All this, of course points to CHRIST, the Shepherd.

- The blessed man of Psalm 1,
- the King of Psalm 2,
- the falsely accused of Psalm 3,
- the righteous of Psalm 5,
- the groaning one of Psalm 6,
- the son of man of Psalm 8,
- the Lord in Psalm 10,
- the distressed one in Psalm 18,
- the suffering one of Psalm 22,
- the Shepherd of Psalm 23

look beyond David, beyond man, and beyond the children of men, to our Lord and Saviour, Judge and King, JESUS CHRIST.

PSALM TWENTY-FOUR

- 1. The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.
- 2. For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.
- 3. Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place?
- 4. He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.
- 5. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
- 6. This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah.
- 7. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.
- 8. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.
- 9. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.
- 10. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah.

Psalm 22 sets forth the sufferings of CHRIST, CHRIST the good Shepherd, CHRIST on the Cross, CHRIST crucified and risen.

Psalm 23 reveals CHRIST as having finished his work upon the Cross, as having risen, and now as the shepherd of his people. Psalm 23 presents the ascended CHRIST pastoring his people, interceding for, caring for, and feeding his sheep. CHRIST is the good shepherd in Psalm 22 and the great shepherd in Psalm 23, the great shepherd in the glory interceding and planning for his own.

Psalm 24 pictures CHRIST as the King, the chief Shepherd, the ruler and the centre of divine worship.

This suggestive song asks one of the many big questions of the sacred Scriptures: "Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD?" "Who shall stand in his holy place?" After asking the question, the inspired poet proceeds to answer. The answer is plain and pointed. The "who," is answered by an "he," and an "and."

- (1) "He that hath clean hands,"
- (2) "a pure heart."

Clean hands represent the clean outward life consequent to the regeneration of the Spirit while a pure heart speaks of the inward state consequent to the baptism with the HOLY SPIRIT. Here is both justification by faith (clean hands) and sanctification by faith (a pure heart).

Only such shall ascend the hill of the Lord and stand in his holy place.

PSALM TWENTY-FIVE

- 1. Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.
- 2. O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me.
- 3. Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed: let them be ashamed which transgress without cause.
- 4. Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths.
- 5. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.
- 6. Remember, O Lord, thy tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses; for they have been ever of old.
- 7. Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O Lord.
- 8. Good and upright is the Lord: therefore will he teach sinners in the way.
- 9. The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.
- 10. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.
- 11. For thy name's sake, O Lord, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great.
- 12. What man is he that feareth the Lord? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose.

- 13. His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth.
- 14. The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.
- 15. Mine eyes are ever toward the Lord; for he shall pluck my feet out of the net.
- 16. Turn thee unto me, and have mercy upon me; for I am desolate and afflicted.
- 17. The troubles of my heart are enlarged: O bring thou me out of my distresses.
- 18. Look upon mine affliction and my pain; and forgive all my sins.
- 19. Consider mine enemies; for they are many; and they hate me with cruel hatred.
- 20. O keep my soul, and deliver me: let me not be ashamed; for I put my trust in thee.
- 21. Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee.
- 22. Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.

Here is a truly great song setting forth the riches of our inheritance in CHRIST.

- 1. Prayer. "Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul."
- 2. Trust. "I trust in thee."
- 3. Instruction. "Teach me."
- 4. Guidance. "Lead me."
- 5. Communion. "On thee do I wait all the day."
- 6. Obedience. "Unto such as keep."
- 7. Illumination. "He will shew them his covenant."
- 8. Preservation. "He shall pluck my feet out of the net."
- 9. Forgiveness. "Forgive all my sins."
- 10. Protection. "O keep my soul."

The missionaries to the Fiji Islands were threatened with destruction by the enraged natives, and had no means of defence except prayer. Their enemies heard them praying, and became fearful, and fled. The reason was given by one of them: "They found you were praying to your GOD, and they know your GOD is a strong GOD; and they are gone."

PSALM TWENTY-SIX

- 1. Judge me, O Lord; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the Lord; therefore I shall not slide.
- 2. Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.
- 3. For thy lovingkindness is before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth.
- 4. I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with dissemblers.
- 5. I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked.
- 6. I will wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O Lord:
- 7. That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works.
- 8. Lord, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth.
- 9. Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men:
- 10. In whose hands is mischief, and their right hand is full of bribes.
- 11. But as for me, I will walk in mine integrity: redeem me, and be merciful unto me.
- 12. My foot standeth in an even place: in the congregations will I bless the Lord.

A Psalm of Consecration

The key phrase of this delicately fine and dainty Song is set forth in verses 1 and 11. "I have walked in mine integrity," and "I will walk in mine integrity."

The possession of perfect love and purity of heart must be followed by the practice of the same. Possession of holiness must precede the practice of holiness. The word integrity means uprightness, virtuous, honesty, soundness, and is synonymous with holiness. It is the opposite of vice, wickedness, iniquity, sin, and evil doing.

The Psalmist testifies about his past, "I have walked," and also as to his determination and desire for the future. "I will walk in mine integrity." It is easy to find fault with David and to say harsh things against him, but let him that is without sin or blame cast the first stone. It is not so easy to walk as David walked. He was willing to be examined by GOD, tried, tested, and proved (verse 2). He had not fellowshipped with the light, chaffy, frivolous, and unstable rejecters of GOD, nor associated with secret plotters against Church and State (verse 4). David loved GOD, loved GOD's house (verse 8), and was set to do GOD's will (verse 12).

PSALM TWENTY-SEVEN

- 1. The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- 2. When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.
- 3. Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.
- 4. One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.
- 5. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.
- 6. And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the Lord.
- 7. Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me.
- 8. When thou saidst, Seek ve my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek.
- 9. Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.
- 10. When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up.
- 11. Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.
- 12. Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty.
- 13. I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
- 14. Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.

Life is filled with misunderstandings and misgivings, false accusations and fears, wars and

rumours of wars, troubles and tears, loneliness, unfriendliness, and lovelessness.

This gentle, persuasive and affective hymn pours its healing balm into the hearts of all whose lives are filled with perplexing and puzzling problems:

- (1) Whom shall I fear? "The Lord is my light and my salvation."
- (2) Of whom shall I be afraid? "The Lord is the strength of my life."
- (3) Do enemies seek to destroy? "Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear."
- (4) Does war rage or threaten? "Though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident."
- (5) Is it a time of trouble? "In the time of trouble he shall hide me.... he shall set me up."
- (6) Does Satan tempt and test and try? "Thy face Lord will I seek... leave me not, neither forsake me."
- (7) Do loved ones oppose? "When my father and my mother forsake me then the LORD will take me up."
- (8) Do noisy gossipers seek to injure your good name? "False witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty."
- (9) Are you downhearted? "I had fainted unless."
- (10) Do you feel discouraged and weak? "Wait on the LORD.... he shall strengthen thine heart."

PSALM TWENTY-EIGHT

- 1. Unto thee will I cry, O Lord my rock; be not silent to me: lest, if thou be silent to me, I become like them that go down into the pit.
- 2. Hear the voice of my supplications, when I cry unto thee, when I lift up my hands toward thy holy oracle.
- 3. Draw me not away with the wicked, and with the workers of iniquity, which speak peace to their neighbours, but mischief is in their hearts.
- 4. Give them according to their deeds, and according to the wickedness of their endeavours: give them after the work of their hands; render to them their desert.
- 5. Because they regard not the works of the Lord, nor the operation of his hands, he shall destroy them, and not build them up.
- 6. Blessed be the Lord, because he hath heard the voice of my supplications.
- 7. The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.
- 8. The Lord is their strength, and he is the saving strength of his anointed.
- 9. Save thy people, and bless thine inheritance: feed them also, and lift them up for ever.

This is a song of supplications. "**Hear the voice of my supplications**," and "**He hath heard the voice of my supplications**." The prayers of the poet got through to GOD and the answer came quickly down. In verse one he prays, and in verse six he is heard. Daniel also set his face to seek by prayer and supplications and GOD also quickly responded to his cry (Daniel 9:3).

The Spirit of grace and supplication was promised by the prophet Zechariah (12:10), and poured out upon the apostles at Pentecost. Our great High Priest also "offered up prayers and

supplications," and was heard and answered.

To supplicate means to ask humbly and beg most earnestly. To supplicate is to entreat, to plead for a special favor. It implies a petitioning, an imploring, and a crying to GOD for special help. It involves an earnest lifting up of heart, head, and hands to GOD.

If we thus supplicate, we shall soon discover that GOD is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him.

Not by my faith I plead, for that can falter, Aye, and has faltered in the days gone by; But by Thy faithfulness that cannot alter And by Thine ordered covenants on high, Set safe and sure above Time's brief duration, Beyond all change, eternally the same; By these I dare my fervent supplication, By Thy great mercies and Thy holy name.

PSALM TWENTY-NINE

- 1. Give unto the Lord, O ye mighty, give unto the Lord glory and strength.
- 2. Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.
- 3. The voice of the Lord is upon the waters: the God of glory thundereth: the Lord is upon many waters.
- 4. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.
- 5. The voice of the Lord breaketh the cedars; yea, the Lord breaketh the cedars of Lebanon
- 6. He maketh them also to skip like a calf; Lebanon and Sirion like a young unicorn.
- 7. The voice of the Lord divideth the flames of fire.
- 8. The voice of the Lord shaketh the wilderness; the Lord shaketh the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 9. The voice of the Lord maketh the hinds to calve, and discovereth the forests: and in his temple doth every one speak of his glory.
- 10. The Lord sitteth upon the flood; yea, the Lord sitteth King for ever.
- 11. The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace.

Centuries before any of these songs were penned, the people of GOD were promised that if they would diligently hearken "to the voice" of the Lord, they would be protected and preserved (Exodus 15:26).

Seven times in eleven verses, the twenty-ninth psalm speaks of "**the voice of the LORD**." Seven is the Scriptural number of perfection. GOD speaks by His holy Word, the Bible, and also by His HOLY SPIRIT in the heart of His regenerated and sanctified saints. By His SPIRIT He checks, guides, reproves, leads, warns, directs, and empowers His people. We should all learn to appreciate and promptly obey "**the voice of the LORD**."

This resplendent, noble, and exalted song from beginning to end honors CHRIST. In it we find:

- (1) the worship of CHRIST,
- (2) the glory of CHRIST,
- (3) the power of CHRIST,
- (4) the majesty of CHRIST,
- (5) the sovereignty of CHRIST,
- (6) the blessing of CHRIST,
- (7) the Kingship of CHRIST.

The key phrase is found in verse 10, "The Lord sitteth King for ever." Opening with the word "give," it ends with "peace." If we will "give," as in verses one and two, "The Lord will give," as in verse eleven. "Give unto the LORD.... give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name." Then "the LORD will give strength unto his people."

~ end of chapter 3 ~

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