

Sermon Seeds from the Psalms

by

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Psalms One Hundred to One Hundred Nine

PSALM ONE HUNDRED

- 1. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.**
- 2. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.**
- 3. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**
- 4. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.**
- 5. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.**

A Psalm of Thanksgiving

"Make a joyful noise." "Serve the Lord with gladness." "Come before his presence with singing." "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving." "Enter into his courts with praise." "Be thankful unto him." "Bless his name."

All these expressions of thankfulness are found in only five verses.

Psalms 92-100 are Kingdom, Millennial and Second Coming Songs. The hope of all mankind rests in the coming of CHRIST to reign.

"Garibaldi is coming," were words which brought courage to thousands of Italians who longingly looked for a deliverer. "Garibaldi is coming," were words of magic chalked on walls of houses and pavements of streets. He came, and Italian fetters were broken. Thank GOD, greater than Garibaldi is coming. The **"desire of all nations"** will soon split the eastern sky, for CHRIST is coming again.

CHRIST is coming back, coming back to reign. Then all the lands shall make **"a joyful noise unto the Lord,"** and then the people will **"serve the Lord with gladness,"** and then the happy worshippers shall **"enter into his gates with thanksgiving . . . and bless his name."**

For such an hour all creation waits and groans.

PSALM ONE HUNDRED ONE

1. I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O Lord, will I sing.
2. I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.
3. I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.
4. A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person.
5. Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.
6. Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me.
7. He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight.
8. I will early destroy all the wicked of the land; that I may cut off all wicked doers from the city of the Lord.

A Psalm of Separation and Sanctification

The inspired writer has dealt with prayer, praise, thanksgiving, and almost every other subject in the theological catalogue, and then bursts forth in this Song upon the subject of perfection, sanctification, and holiness. David resolves to behave himself, behave himself wisely, even to the behaving in a perfect way. He also resolves to walk within his own home with a perfect heart . . . set no wicked thing even before his eyes . . . separate himself from all the unholy . . . fellowship with only those who are sanctified . . . the godly only shall be welcome to tarry in his presence. Such a standard is worthy of emulation. Separation and sanctification has always been the divine standard for both character and conduct of all GOD's children.

This Song sets forth:

- (1) Holiness in the heart, "**a perfect heart**" (verse 2).
- (2) Holiness in the life, "**I will behave.**"
- (3) Holiness in the walk, "**I will walk.**"
- (4) Holiness in the home, "**Within my house.**"
- (5) Holiness in all the relationships of life, "**He that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me**" (verse 6).

Evidently, holiness is intended to be a practical thing in heart, life, home, business, family, thinking, living, talking, conduct, and character, and all expressed in only eight verses.

PSALM ONE HUNDRED TWO

1. Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my cry come unto thee.
2. Hide not thy face from me in the day when I am in trouble; incline thine ear unto me: in the day when I call answer me speedily.
3. For my days are consumed like smoke, and my bones are burned as an hearth.
4. My heart is smitten, and withered like grass; so that I forget to eat my bread.
5. By reason of the voice of my groaning my bones cleave to my skin.
6. I am like a pelican of the wilderness: I am like an owl of the desert.

7. I watch, and am as a sparrow alone upon the house top.
8. Mine enemies reproach me all the day; and they that are mad against me are sworn against me.
9. For I have eaten ashes like bread, and mingled my drink with weeping.
10. Because of thine indignation and thy wrath: for thou hast lifted me up, and cast me down.
11. My days are like a shadow that declineth; and I am withered like grass.
12. But thou, O Lord, shalt endure forever; and thy remembrance unto all generations.
13. Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come.
14. For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favour the dust thereof.
15. So the heathen shall fear the name of the Lord, and all the kings of the earth thy glory.
16. When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory.
17. He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer.
18. This shall be written for the generation to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the Lord.
19. For he hath looked down from the height of his sanctuary; from heaven did the Lord behold the earth;
20. To hear the groaning of the prisoner; to loose those that are appointed to death;
21. To declare the name of the Lord in Zion, and his praise in Jerusalem;
22. When the people are gathered together, and the kingdoms, to serve the Lord.
23. He weakened my strength in the way; he shortened my days.
24. I said, O my God, take me not away in the midst of my days: thy years are throughout all generations.
25. Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands.
26. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed:
27. But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end.
28. The children of thy servants shall continue, and their seed shall be established before thee.

The sorrows of the Saviour are succinctly set forth in this Song.

- (1) "I am in trouble."
- (2) "My days are consumed like smoke."
- (3) "My bones are burned as an hearth."
- (4) "My heart is smitten, and withered like grass."
- (5) "I forget to eat my bread."
- (6) "My bones cleave to my skin."
- (7) "I am like a pelican of the wilderness."
- (8) "I am like an owl of the desert."
- (9) "I watch, and am as a sparrow alone upon the house top."
- (10) "Mine enemies reproach me all the day."
- (11) "They that are mad against me are sworn against me."
- (12) "I have eaten ashes like bread."
- (13) "I have... mingled my drink with weeping."

(14) "My days are like a shadow that declineth."

(15) "I am withered like grass."

Language completely breaks down when an attempt is made to describe the fearful agonies, the awful soul travail of the suffering Son of GOD as He became the sin bearer, the taker away of the sin of the world.

PSALM ONE HUNDRED THREE

- 1. Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.**
- 2. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:**
- 3. Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;**
- 4. Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;**
- 5. Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.**
- 6. The Lord executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.**
- 7. He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.**
- 8. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.**
- 9. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever.**
- 10. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.**
- 11. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.**
- 12. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.**
- 13. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.**
- 14. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.**
- 15. As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.**
- 16. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.**
- 17. But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;**
- 18. To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.**
- 19. The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.**
- 20. Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.**
- 21. Bless ye the Lord, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.**
- 22. Bless the Lord, all his works in all places of his dominion: bless the Lord, O my soul.**

A Psalm of Exaltation

The Psalmist here shouts the praises of CHRIST

- (1) His Grace and Goodness.
- (2) His Forgiving and Healing Benefits.
- (3) His Protecting and Preserving Power.
- (4) His Mercy and Love.
- (5) His Pity and Compassion.
- (6) His Justice and Righteousness.

(7) His Holiness and Faithfulness.

The inspired Psalmist begins by praising The Lord.

- (1) For forgiveness, **"Who forgiveth all thine iniquities."**
- (2) For healing, **"Who healeth all thy diseases."**
- (3) For protection and preservation, **"Who redeemeth thy life from destruction."**
- (4) For kindly providences, **"Who crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies."**
- (5) For all temporal supplies, **"Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things."**
- (6) For daily strength, **"so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's."**

He closes his Song as he began it, by calling upon the angels also to exalt the CHRIST of GOD.

PSALM ONE HUNDRED FOUR

- 1. Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty.
- 2. Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain:
- 3. Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind:
- 4. Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire:
- 5. Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever.
- 6. Thou coveredst it with the deep as with a garment: the waters stood above the mountains.
- 7. At thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away.
- 8. They go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys unto the place which thou hast founded for them.
- 9. Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth.
- 10. He sendeth the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills.
- 11. They give drink to every beast of the field: the wild asses quench their thirst.
- 12. By them shall the fowls of the heaven have their habitation, which sing among the branches.
- 13. He watereth the hills from his chambers: the earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy works.
- 14. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth;
- 15. And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart.
- 16. The trees of the Lord are full of sap; the cedars of Lebanon, which he hath planted;
- 17. Where the birds make their nests: as for the stork, the fir trees are her house.
- 18. The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats; and the rocks for the conies.
- 19. He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down.
- 20. Thou makest darkness, and it is night: wherein all the beasts of the forest do creep forth.
- 21. The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God.

22. The sun ariseth, they gather themselves together, and lay them down in their dens.
 23. Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labour until the evening.
 24. O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.
 25. So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts.
 26. There go the ships: there is that leviathan, whom thou hast made to play therein.
 27. These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season.
 28. That thou givest them they gather: thou openest thine hand, they are filled with good.
 29. Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust.
 30. Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth.
 31. The glory of the Lord shall endure for ever: the Lord shall rejoice in his works.
 32. He looketh on the earth, and it trembleth: he toucheth the hills, and they smoke.
 33. I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.
 34. My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the Lord.
 35. Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless thou the Lord, O my soul. Praise ye the Lord.

CHRIST is the sublime theme of this sagacious Song.

It begins and ends with "**Bless The LORD, O my soul.**"

The Lord is to be praised because of his greatness, honour, and majesty.
 He is to be praised because of his power and wisdom.
 He is to be praised because of his justice and righteousness.
 He is to be praised because of his holiness and goodness.

Thomas Collins writes of an invalid thankful for intervals of ease, but doubtful of GOD's mighty mercy in JESUS. He said to him, "Thomas, suppose I plunged into the Severn to save you from drowning, got you out, led you home, and at parting on your door step gave you a lozenge. What would rise to your mind ever after when you thought of me? The lozenge? the lozenge?" "O no, sir! the rescue!" "Well, let it be so concerning JESUS. You tell me of just one of his little gifts. Speak as Paul did of his dying love. Say, He '**loved me, and gave himself for me.**' Think of that till it sets your soul on fire; think of that till a passion for him swells within you."

PSALM ONE HUNDRED FIVE

1. O Give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people.
 2. Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works.
 3. Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord.
 4. Seek the Lord, and his strength: seek his face evermore.
 5. Remember his marvellous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;
 6. O ye seed of Abraham his servant, ye children of Jacob his chosen.

7. He is the Lord our God: his judgments are in all the earth.
8. He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations.
9. Which covenant he made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac;
10. And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant:
11. Saying, Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance:
12. When they were but a few men in number; yea, very few, and strangers in it.
13. When they went from one nation to another, from one kingdom to another people;
14. He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reproveth kings for their sakes;
15. Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.
16. Moreover he called for a famine upon the land: he brake the whole staff of bread.
17. He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant:
18. Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron:
19. Until the time that his word came: the word of the Lord tried him.
20. The king sent and loosed him; even the ruler of the people, and let him go free.
21. He made him lord of his house, and ruler of all his substance:
22. To bind his princes at his pleasure; and teach his senators wisdom.
23. Israel also came into Egypt; and Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham.
24. And he increased his people greatly; and made them stronger than their enemies.
25. He turned their heart to hate his people, to deal subtilly with his servants.
26. He sent Moses his servant; and Aaron whom he had chosen.
27. They shewed his signs among them, and wonders in the land of Ham.
28. He sent darkness, and made it dark; and they rebelled not against his word.
29. He turned their waters into blood, and slew their fish.
30. Their land brought forth frogs in abundance, in the chambers of their kings.
31. He spake, and there came divers sorts of flies, and lice in all their coasts.
32. He gave them hail for rain, and flaming fire in their land.
33. He smote their vines also and their fig trees; and brake the trees of their coasts.
34. He spake, and the locusts came, and caterpillars, and that without number,
35. And did eat up all the herbs in their land, and devoured the fruit of their ground.
36. He smote also all the firstborn in their land, the chief of all their strength.
37. He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and there was not one feeble person among their tribes.
38. Egypt was glad when they departed: for the fear of them fell upon them.
39. He spread a cloud for a covering; and fire to give light in the night.
40. The people asked, and he brought quails, and satisfied them with the bread of heaven.
41. He opened the rock, and the waters gushed out; they ran in the dry places like a river.
42. For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham his servant.
43. And he brought forth his people with joy, and his chosen with gladness:
44. And gave them the lands of the heathen: and they inherited the labour of the people;
45. That they might observe his statutes, and keep his laws. Praise ye the Lord.

A Psalm of Salvation

Salvation is the big theme and biggest word in the Bible. The 105th Psalm is a Song of Salvation.

It sets forth in most exquisite language the deliverance of the seed of Abraham from the dreadful bondage of Egypt. It is a sublime story of salvation from its Alpha to its Omega. Out of Egypt, into Canaan and through the land - salvation from sin to holiness.

An Indian, when asked what the Lord had done for him, gathered some dry leaves into a circle, and placing a worm in the centre, set them on fire. As the flames drew nearer on every side, and were about to consume the worm, he lifted it out, and, placing it safely on a rock, looked up and said, "This is what JESUS did for me."

PSALM ONE HUNDRED SIX

- 1. Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.**
- 2. Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord? who can shew forth all his praise?**
- 3. Blessed are they that keep judgment, and he that doeth righteousness at all times.**
- 4. Remember me, O Lord, with the favour that thou bearest unto thy people: O visit me with thy salvation;**
- 5. That I may see the good of thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that I may glory with thine inheritance.**
- 6. We have sinned with our fathers, we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly.**
- 7. Our fathers understood not thy wonders in Egypt; they remembered not the multitude of thy mercies; but provoked him at the sea, even at the Red sea.**
- 8. Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake, that he might make his mighty power to be known.**
- 9. He rebuked the Red sea also, and it was dried up: so he led them through the depths, as through the wilderness.**
- 10. And he saved them from the hand of him that hated them, and redeemed them from the hand of the enemy.**
- 11. And the waters covered their enemies: there was not one of them left.**
- 12. Then believed they his words; they sang his praise.**
- 13. They soon forgat his works; they waited not for his counsel:**
- 14. But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert.**
- 15. And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.**
- 16. They envied Moses also in the camp, and Aaron the saint of the Lord.**
- 17. The earth opened and swallowed up Dathan and covered the company of Abiram.**
- 18. And a fire was kindled in their company; the flame burned up the wicked.**
- 19. They made a calf in Horeb, and worshipped the molten image.**
- 20. Thus they changed their glory into the similitude of an ox that eateth grass.**
- 21. They forgat God their saviour, which had done great things in Egypt;**
- 22. Wondrous works in the land of Ham, and terrible things by the Red sea.**
- 23. Therefore he said that he would destroy them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, to turn away his wrath, lest he should destroy them.**
- 24. Yea, they despised the pleasant land, they believed not his word:**
- 25. But murmured in their tents, and hearkened not unto the voice of the Lord.**
- 26. Therefore he lifted up his hand against them, to overthrow them in the wilderness:**
- 27. To overthrow their seed also among the nations, and to scatter them in the lands.**

28. They joined themselves also unto Baalpeor, and ate the sacrifices of the dead.
 29. Thus they provoked him to anger with their inventions: and the plague brake in upon them.
 30. Then stood up Phinehas, and executed judgment: and so the plague was stayed.
 31. And that was counted unto him for righteousness unto all generations for evermore.
 32. They angered him also at the waters of strife, so that it went ill with Moses for their sakes:
 33. Because they provoked his spirit, so that he spake unadvisedly with his lips.
 34. They did not destroy the nations, concerning whom the Lord commanded them:
 35. But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works.
 36. And they served their idols: which were a snare unto them.
 37. Yea, they sacrificed their sons and their daughters unto devils,
 38. And shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and of their daughters, whom they sacrificed unto the idols of Canaan: and the land was polluted with blood.
 39. Thus were they defiled with their own works, and went a whoring with their own inventions.
 40. Therefore was the wrath of the Lord kindled against his people, insomuch that he abhorred his own inheritance.
 41. And he gave them into the hand of the heathen; and they that hated them ruled over them.
 42. Their enemies also oppressed them, and they were brought into subjection under their hand.
 43. Many times did he deliver them; but they provoked him with their counsel, and were brought low for their iniquity.
 44. Nevertheless he regarded their affliction, when he heard their cry:
 45. And he remembered for them his covenant, and repented according to the multitude of his mercies.
 46. He made them also to be pitied of all those that carried them captives.
 47. Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the heathen, to give thanks unto thy holy name, and to triumph in thy praise.
 48. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting: and let all the people say, Amen. Praise ye the Lord.

This is a racy, spicy, and pungent Hymn of remembrance.

With a mighty hand and stretched out arm GOD had marvelously saved his people from slavery. But "**they remembered not**" the multitude of his mercies. "**He rebuked the Red sea . . . led them through the depths . . . saved them . . . redeemed them.**" But "**they soon forgot his works . . . they forgot GOD their saviour . . . they believed not his word: But murmured . . . and hearkened not.**" Despite all their vanities and violence, their shallowness and superficiality, their sluggishness and soporific ways, their wilfulness and wickedness, GOD "**remembered for them his covenant,**" and "**made them also to be pitied of all those that carried them captives.**"

What a clear comparison and contrast in these words "**they remembered not**" (verse 7), and "**he remembered for them**" (verse 45).

The supplies of a missionary among the Indians were reduced, for three persons, to one small piece of meat and three potatoes. It was winter. There was no game, and no means of obtaining any. They laid their case before GOD in prayer, and claimed his promise, that the trusting shall be fed. The last morsel they had was spread on the table, when an Indian came in with a quarter of venison, saying, "I come to feed you." When the Indian heard of their extremity and prayer, he said, "Now I know why, when I killed my deer, seven miles away, something said to me, 'Go quickly, and carry a piece to the missionary!'"

PSALM ONE HUNDRED SEVEN

- 1. O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.**
- 2. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;**
- 3. And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south.**
- 4. They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way; they found no city to dwell in.**
- 5. Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them.**
- 6. Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses.**
- 7. And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation.**
- 8. Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!**
- 9. For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.**
- 10. Such as sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, being bound in affliction and iron;**
- 11. Because they rebelled against the words of God, and contemned the counsel of the most High:**
- 12. Therefore he brought down their heart with labour; they fell down, and there was none to help.**
- 13. Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them out of their distresses.**
- 14. He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and brake their bands in sunder.**
- 15. Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!**
- 16. For he hath broken the gates of brass, and cut the bars of iron in sunder.**
- 17. Fools because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, are afflicted.**
- 18. Their soul abhorreth all manner of meat; and they draw near unto the gates of death.**
- 19. Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he saveth them out of their distresses.**
- 20. He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.**
- 21. Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!**
- 22. And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing.**
- 23. They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters;**
- 24. These see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep.**
- 25. For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof.**
- 26. They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted**

because of trouble.

27. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wit's end.

28. Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses.

29. He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still.

30. Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven.

31. Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

32. Let them exalt him also in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders.

33. He turneth rivers into a wilderness, and the watersprings into dry ground;

34. A fruitful land into barrenness, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein.

35. He turneth the wilderness into a standing water, and dry ground into watersprings.

36. And there he maketh the hungry to dwell, that they may prepare a city for habitation;

37. And sow the fields, and plant vineyards, which may yield fruits of increase.

38. He blesseth them also, so that they are multiplied greatly; and suffereth not their cattle to decrease.

39. Again, they are minished and brought low through oppression, affliction, and sorrow.

40. He poureth contempt upon princes, and causeth them to wander in the wilderness, where there is no way.

41. Yet setteth he the poor on high from affliction, and maketh him families like a flock.

42. The righteous shall see it, and rejoice: and all iniquity shall stop her mouth.

43. Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the Lord.

A Psalm of Praise for the goodness of GOD

The key which opens this Song is easy to find. "**Oh that men would praise The LORD for his goodness,**" is found four times in this one Psalm (verses 8, 15, 21, 31).

Another key which is helpful and which also hangs behind the door is "**Then they cried**" (verses 6, 13, 19, 28). "**Then they cried**" is also found four times in the Song.

The people had been saved and separated but had failed GOD. "**They wandered . . . they found no city to dwell in . . . their soul fainted.**" "**Then they cried**" (verse 6).

A good and gracious GOD delivered them, led them, satisfied them, but again they rebelled, again they turned a deaf ear to the Word, again they suffered and "**Then they cried**" (verse 13).

In mercy The Lord saved them out of their distresses, but again they were forgetful and ungrateful. They despised the food which GOD provided. They grieved the good Spirit of GOD and again they suffered and weakened even unto death, and "**Then they cry**" (verse 19).

Again GOD was gracious. He healed them . . . saved them . . . delivered them. This has ever been the story of GOD and this also has ever been the story of man. On GOD's side there is grace, goodness, and loving-kindness. On man's side there has always been ingratitude, rebellion, lust, forgetfulness, stubbornness, and misery.

PSALM ONE HUNDRED EIGHT

1. O God, my heart is fixed; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory.
2. Awake, psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early.
3. I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: and I will sing praises unto thee among the nations.
4. For thy mercy is great above the heavens: and thy truth reacheth unto the clouds.
5. Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: and thy glory above all the earth;
6. That thy beloved may be delivered: save with thy right hand, and answer me.
7. God hath spoken in his holiness; I will rejoice, I will divide Shechem, and mete out the valley of Succoth.
8. Gilead is mine; Manasseh is mine; Ephraim also is the strength of mine head; Judah is my lawgiver;
9. Moab is my washpot; over Edom will I cast out my shoe; over Philistia will I triumph.
10. Who will bring me into the strong city? who will lead me into Edom?
11. Wilt not thou, O God, who hast cast us off? and wilt not thou, O God, go forth with our hosts?
12. Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man.
13. Through God we shall do valiantly: for he it is that shall tread down our enemies.

This is a hymn of the fixed heart.

The Holy Word has much to say about the heart. In the unconverted, the heart is totally corrupt. By nature, the heart of man is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. It is a cage filled with unclean beasts and birds. After regeneration the heart is double. The new and changed heart beats true to GOD but the old heart, the depraved heart, the carnal heart, has a bent toward the world, the flesh, and all unholiness. A lustful, sneering, and contemptible Ishmael is in the same house with the loving, sincere, and kindly Isaac. Since Ishmael was first he often gets the mastery. Having a fourteen year start against Isaac, the Ishmael nature exerts a powerful influence and is liable to gain the upper hand. The only cure is to have Ishmael cast out. Suppression of the old man is not sufficient. He must be cast out. Isaac, the second born, must be set free. An unsanctified heart is a wavering, wandering, and willful heart. The heart of the holy is fixed. Hence the Song ends with the triumphant words, "**Through God we shall do valiantly.**"

PSALM ONE HUNDRED NINE

1. Hold not thy peace, O God of my praise;
2. For the mouth of the wicked and the mouth of the deceitful are opened against me: they have spoken against me with a lying tongue.
3. They compassed me about also with words of hatred; and fought against me without a cause.
4. For my love they are my adversaries: but I give myself unto prayer.
5. And they have rewarded me evil for good, and hatred for my love.
6. Set thou a wicked man over him: and let Satan stand at his right hand.
7. When he shall be judged, let him be condemned: and let his prayer become sin.

8. Let his days be few; and let another take his office.
9. Let his children be fatherless, and his wife a widow.
10. Let his children be continually vagabonds, and beg: let them seek their bread also out of their desolate places.
11. Let the extortioner catch all that he hath; and let the strangers spoil his labour.
12. Let there be none to extend mercy unto him: neither let there be any to favour his fatherless children.
13. Let his posterity be cut off; and in the generation following let their name be blotted out.
14. Let the iniquity of his fathers be remembered with the Lord; and let not the sin of his mother be blotted out.
15. Let them be before the Lord continually, that he may cut off the memory of them from the earth.
16. Because that he remembered not to shew mercy, but persecuted the poor and needy man, that he might even slay the broken in heart.
17. As he loved cursing, so let it come unto him: as he delighted not in blessing, so let it be far from him.
18. As he clothed himself with cursing like as with his garment, so let it come into his bowels like water, and like oil into his bones.
19. Let it be unto him as the garment which covereth him, and for a girdle wherewith he is girded continually.
20. Let this be the reward of mine adversaries from the Lord, and of them that speak evil against my soul.
21. But do thou for me, O God the Lord, for thy name's sake: because thy mercy is good, deliver thou me.
22. For I am poor and needy, and my heart is wounded within me.
23. I am gone like the shadow when it declineth: I am tossed up and down as the locust.
24. My knees are weak through fasting; and my flesh faileth of fatness.
25. I became also a reproach unto them: when they looked upon me they shook their heads.
26. Help me, O Lord my God: O save me according to thy mercy:
27. That they may know that this is thy hand; that thou, Lord, hast done it.
28. Let them curse, but bless thou: when they arise, let them be ashamed; but let thy servant rejoice.
29. Let mine adversaries be clothed with shame, and let them cover themselves with their own confusion, as with a mantle.
30. I will greatly praise the Lord with my mouth; yea, I will praise him among the multitude.
31. For he shall stand at the right hand of the poor, to save him from those that condemn his soul.

CHRIST is the central theme of this Hymn. There are four parts.

1. His slanderous and deceitful enemies.

(1) "The mouth of the deceitful are opened against me."

(2) "They have spoken against me with a lying tongue."

- (3) **"They compassed me about also with words of hatred."**
- (4) **"And fought against me without a cause."**
- (5) **"For my love they are my adversaries."**
- (6) **"They have rewarded me evil for good."**
- (7) **"They have rewarded me... hatred for my love."** (See verses 1-5.)

2. An imprecatory prayer against his betrayer.

- (1) **"Let Satan stand at his right hand."**
- (2) **"Let him be condemned."**
- (3) **"Let his prayer become sin."**
- (4) **"Let his days be few."**
- (5) **"Let another take his office."**
- (6) **"Let not the sin of his mother be blotted out."** (See verses 6-20.)

3. The sorrows and sufferings of the Saviour.

- (1) **"Deliver thou me."**
- (2) **"I am poor and needy."**
- (3) **"My heart is wounded within me."**
- (4) **"I am gone like the shadow when it declineth."**
- (5) **"I am tossed up and down as the locust."**
- (6) **"My knees are weak through fasting."**
- (7) **"My flesh faileth."**
- (8) **"I became also a reproach unto them."**
- (9) **"When they looked upon me they shook their heads."**
- (10) **"Help me, O Lord."** (See verses 21-29.)

4. The final triumph of CHRIST

- (1) **"I will greatly praise the LORD."**
- (2) **"I will praise him among the multitude."** (See verses 30-31.)

~ end of chapter 11 ~

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