

## Psalm 7-9 – Thursday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018

**Psalm 7** -- A Meditation Concerning the Words of Cush, a Benjamite.

- Psalm 7 is another Psalm that has an introductory title of sorts such that, it's a Psalm concerning David having been slandered.
- Actually, Psalm 7 has been dubbed "the Psalm of the slandered saint," this because David has been lied about and slandered.
- While we aren't really told who this Cush was specifically, we know he was a Benjamite, like Saul, and that he slandered David.

Charles Spurgeon - "It appears probable that Cush the Benjamite had accused David to Saul of treasonable conspiracy against his royal authority. This the king would be ready enough to credit, both from his jealousy of David, and from the relation which most probably existed between himself, the son of Kish, and this Cush, or Kish, the Benjamite... This may be called the SONG OF THE SLANDERED SAINT."

1 O LORD my God, in You I put my trust; Save me from all those who persecute me; And deliver me, 2 Lest they tear me like a lion, Rending me in pieces, while there is none to deliver. 3 O LORD my God, if I have done this: If there is iniquity in my hands, 4 If I have repaid evil to him who was at peace with me, Or have plundered my enemy without cause, 5 Let the enemy pursue me and overtake me; Yes, let him trample my life to the earth, And lay my honor in the dust. Selah 6 Arise, O LORD, in Your anger; Lift Yourself up because of the rage of my enemies; Rise up for me to the judgment You have commanded! 7 So the congregation of the peoples shall surround You; For their sakes, therefore, return on high. 8 The LORD shall judge the peoples; Judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness, And according to my integrity within me. 9 Oh, let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, But establish the just; For the righteous God tests the hearts and minds. 10 My defense is of God, Who saves the upright in heart. 11 God is a just judge, And God is angry with the wicked every day. 12 If he does not turn back, He will sharpen His sword; He bends His bow and makes it ready. 13 He also prepares for Himself instruments of death; He makes His arrows into fiery shafts. 14 Behold, the wicked brings forth iniquity; Yes, he conceives trouble and brings forth falsehood. 15 He made a pit and dug it out, And has fallen into the ditch which he made. 16 His trouble shall return upon his own head, And his violent dealing shall come down on his own crown. 17 I will praise the LORD according to His righteousness, And will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.

- Couple of thoughts on this interesting Psalm, the first of which has to do with what David does not do about being slandered.
- Namely, that of not going to social media and posting on Facebook or tweeting on Twitter or doing a YouTube video about it.
- Instead, he goes right to the Lord and prays about it asking God for deliverance from his enemies who rage and slander him.

- The second thought has to do with the confidence that David has by the end of the Psalm knowing that God will be his defense.
- So much so, that he's already praising the Lord in advance of what he already knows God will do on his behalf, in his defense.
- In so doing, he's singing praise to the Lord, which speaks to the importance of never allowing slanderers to silence your praise.

Psalm 22:3 - But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

Psalm 16:11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**Psalm 8** -- To the Chief Musician. On the Instrument of Gath. A Psalm of David. 1 O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens! 2 Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger. 3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, 4 What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? 5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. 6 You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet, 7 All sheep and oxen— Even the beasts of the field, 8 The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas. 9 O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth!

- Psalm 8 draws upon a profound paradox of God creating the unfathomable universe, yet is mindful of the smallness of man.
- I would suggest that it's impossible for us as man to fully comprehend in the finite the implications of this contrast in the infinite.
- Actually, that's sort of the point of the Psalm in the sense that David is just flabbergasted with God who is mindful of mere men.

G. Campbell Morgan - "The contrast between the stately splendor of the moon and the stars, and man—Enosh—frail man—and the son of man Ben-Adam—of apparently earthly origin. The contrasts are graphic."

- It's interesting to note in verse two, David, who it's believed wrote this Psalm, refers to what comes out of the mouth of babes.
- Specifically that they not only confound the wise and strong, but they actually, by God's design, will also shame them as well.
- The reason this is interesting is because it speaks to how God will use the weak things of this world to put to shame the strong.

1 Corinthians 1:26–31 - 26 Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before him. 30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 31 Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."

It should also be noted that Jesus actually quotes from this passage when He confronts his accusers in Matthew 21:16 when He said, "Do You hear what these are saying?" ... "Yes. Have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise'?"

Charles Spurgeon - "Aha! Aha! O adversary! To be overcome by behemoth or leviathan might make thee angry; but to be smitten out of infants' mouths causes thee to bite the dust in utter dishonor. Thou art sore broken, now that 'out of the mouth of babes and sucklings' thou art put to shame."

In addition to Jesus quoting this Psalm, so too does the writer of Hebrews also quote this Psalm as it relates to fallen man being made a little lower than the angels on earth, but that we will be over them in heaven: Hebrews 2:5-9 - 5 It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. 6 But there is a place where someone has testified: "What is mankind that you are mindful of them, a son of man that you care for him? 7 You made them a little lower than the angels; you crowned them with glory and honor 8 and put everything under their feet." In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. 9 But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

In addition to the Savior and the writer of Hebrews quoting this Psalm, so too does the Apostle Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians, in chapter 15:27 - For he "has put everything under his feet." Now when it says that "everything" has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ.

F.B. Meyer - "He made us to have dominion by the word of creation. He made us kings unto God by his blood. His name shall, therefore, be honored through all the earth."

**Psalm 9** -- To the Chief Musician. To The Tune of "Death of the Son." a Psalm of David.

- Here we're told that this Psalm of David was written as a tune of the "Death of the Son," which some believe is about Goliath.
- It's also believed that Psalm nine and ten were actually written as one single song, while others follow the Hebrew reckoning.
- Regardless, it is a magnificent Psalm of David who sings praises to God from his whole heart for the victory over the enemy.

1 I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. 2 I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High. 3 When my enemies turn back, They shall fall and perish at Your presence. 4 For You have maintained my right and my cause; You sat on the throne judging in righteousness. 5 You have rebuked the nations, You have destroyed the wicked; You have blotted out their name forever and ever. 6 O enemy, destructions are finished forever! And you have destroyed cities; Even their memory has perished. 7 But the LORD shall endure forever; He has prepared His throne for judgment. 8 He shall judge the world in righteousness, And He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness. 9 The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, A refuge in times of trouble. 10 And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; For You, LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You. 11 Sing praises to the LORD, who dwells in Zion! Declare His deeds among the people. 12 When He avenges blood, He remembers them; He does not forget the cry of the humble. 13 Have mercy on me, O LORD! Consider my trouble from those who hate me, You who lift me up from the gates of death, 14 That I may tell of all Your praise In the gates of the daughter of Zion. I will rejoice in Your salvation. 15 The nations have sunk down in the pit which they made; In the net which they hid, their own foot is caught. 16 The LORD is known by the judgment He executes; The wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Meditation. Selah 17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, And all the nations that forget God. 18 For the needy shall not always be forgotten; The expectation of the poor shall not perish forever. 19 Arise, O LORD, Do not let man prevail; Let the nations be judged in Your sight. 20 Put them in fear, O LORD, That the nations may know themselves to be but men. Selah

- What I absolutely love about Psalm 9 is David starts out with a very important principle that sadly, is often a forgotten factor.
- Namely, that of telling of all God's marvelous works, such that he is remembering them and recounting them in his praise.
- To me, one of the most powerful and effective ways to pray and praise is to remember and articulate all that God has done.

- I want to draw your attention to verse 4 where David praises God for ruling and judging in righteousness seated on His throne.
- The reason is that this too speaks to another forgotten factor, which is that of God being a just and righteous judge in the end.
- The truth of the matter is, the judgment of God is coming upon the world and this is something we should praise God for now.

This Psalm like the one before it is quoted by the Apostle Paul when he was on Mars Hill in Acts 17:31 - "...For He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

- Here's the bottom line in closing, there is always something to praise God for no matter how difficult the trial you're in may be.
- I'll take it a step further and suggest that praising God in the midst of the trial can be what you need to get through that trial.
- I'm of the belief that these very Psalms are evidence of this truth by virtue of the change that takes place from front to finish.