

Psalms 19-22 – Thursday, July 12th, 2018

Psalm 19 -- To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. 1 The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. 2 Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. 3 There is no speech nor language Where their voice is not heard. 4 Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, 5 Which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, And rejoices like a strong man to run its race. 6 Its rising is from one end of heaven, And its circuit to the other end; And there is nothing hidden from its heat. 7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; 8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; 9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. 10 More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. 11 Moreover by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward. 12 Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults. 13 Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression. 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

- Psalm 19 answers three important questions, the first of which is, "Is there a God?" and secondly, if so, what kind of God is He?
- Then, third, what kind of a God will He be for me and even to me? The truth of the matter is, this is what it all comes down to.
- Namely, that of a true and living God with whom I can have a loving and saving relationship with both on earth and in heaven.

- This Psalm answers all these questions with a powerful and poetic clarity by way of the creation of God, and the Word of God.
- It's interesting to note how that David ever so eloquently and even perfectly describes the Word of God in seven glorious ways.
- To me, this, like the great Psalm 119 is about the supremacy of the Word of God to convert to salvation and bring sanctification.

Psalm 20 -- To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. 1 May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble; May the name of the God of Jacob defend you; 2 May He send you help from the sanctuary, And strengthen you out of Zion; 3 May He remember all your offerings, And accept your burnt sacrifice. Selah 4 May He grant you according to your heart's desire, And fulfill all your purpose. 5 We will rejoice in your salvation, And in the name of our God we will set up our banners! May the LORD fulfill all your petitions. 6 Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed; He will answer 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 have bowed down and fallen; But we have risen and stand upright. 9 Save, LORD! May the King answer us when we call.

- Psalm 20 is an interesting and unique Psalm in the sense that it's in the voice of a multitude that prays for David before a battle.
- This because Israel knew that their leader was entering into a battle where the stakes were so high as to be that of life or death.
- The reason I mention this is because it speaks to the importance of praying for those who are on the front lines of spiritual war.

- Actually, this ever so beautifully and powerfully dovetails into the next Psalm, such that, Psalm 20 is prior to and Psalm 21 after.
- Specifically, they prayer before entering the battle, then they offer a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the victory after the battle.
- It's important to note the prayer in Psalm 20 is one of faith in trusting that God would grant them success and give them victory.

G. Campbell Morgan of this wrote, "This is the language of faith, not after the battle, but before it."

Psalm 21 -- To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. 1 The king shall have joy in Your strength, O LORD; And in Your salvation how greatly shall he rejoice! 2 You have given him his heart's desire, And have not withheld the request of his lips. Selah 3 For You meet him with the blessings of goodness; You set a crown of pure gold upon his head. 4 He asked life from You, and You gave it to him— Length of days forever and ever. 5 His glory is great in Your salvation; Honor and majesty You have placed upon him. 6 For You have made him most blessed forever; You have made him exceedingly glad with Your presence. 7 For the king trusts in the LORD, And through the mercy of the Most High he shall not be moved. 8 Your hand will find all Your enemies; Your right hand will find those who hate You. 9 You shall make them as a fiery oven in the time of Your anger; The LORD shall swallow them up in His wrath, And the fire shall devour them. 10 Their offspring You shall destroy from the earth, And their descendants from among the sons of men. 11 For they intended evil against You; They devised a plot which they are not able to perform. 12 Therefore You will make them turn their back; You will make ready Your arrows on Your string toward their faces. 13 Be exalted, O LORD, in Your own strength! We will sing and praise Your power.

- Psalm 21 is arguably one of the most encouraging passages of scripture in the entire Bible because it's about answered prayer.
- David is clearly very encouraged because he has been on the receiving end of encouragement and prayer from God's people.
- This hits home with me for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that I too have many who encourage and pray for me.

- I really don't know if it's possible to overstate the importance of God's people encouraging and praying for those in the ministry.
- Please know that I'm not just talking about myself when I say this, as everyone who serves in this church needs our prayers.
- Whenever I hear the statistics of pastor's in particular leaving the ministry I often wonder if it was a prayerless discouragement.

Damian Kyle - David is clearly encouraged by the encouragement and prayers of God's people. I don't want to say it in a way that sounds self-serving. ...But it is good for us, and it's right here in the Bible, to realize that the people God raises up in the body of Christ to lead, they pay a price for that. I don't say to pity them or to pity us for that. The price really does need to be paid because there are so many blessings, so much happens between an individual and God in that position and I don't say that it's better than what happens in anybody else's life it just is what it is. Sometimes it needs to be hard ...otherwise a person can get lifted up in pride ...There is a spiritual warfare for a leader that has a great intensity that just never stops. ...It can escalate and it can de-escalate, but there's always that constant kind of hum that is just always there. ...Leaders in the body of Christ really need the prayer and the encouragement of God's people. ...I remember as it relates to me personally, when we first moved into this building and began the services here. We hit a block of time when I was getting up in this pulpit and it was like I was running through mud. I mean the spiritual warfare against what was happening in this church and it was coming against me in particular while trying to minister the Word and also in sermon preparation, it was reaching all the way into the pulpit. It was just getting way to far in as far as any opposition had a right to, consistently to where the pastor shouldn't have to be dealing with that degree of warfare in ministering the Word over and over again continually. Today, on Sunday mornings there's a group of men and women that are in the prayer room first and second service and they're praying for everyone in this room including me. Ever since we began that intercession, what I was experiencing for all those months has been gone and it's been years now. It's just the power and witness to Psalm 20 here: the importance of encouragement and the importance of intercession for leaders.

- Before we jump into Psalm 22, I think it requires a bit of an introduction by virtue of how prophetic it is concerning Jesus Christ.
- In it, David is given a glimpse into that which will take place yet future, when Jesus would be crucified for the sins of mankind.
- What's interesting about this Psalm in particular is that it describes with painful detail the Savior's suffering while on the cross.

Psalm 22 -- To the Chief Musician. Set to "The Deer of the Dawn." a Psalm of David. 1 My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning? 2 O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear; And in the night season, and am not silent. 3 But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel. 4 Our fathers trusted in You; They trusted, and You delivered them. 5 They cried to You, and were delivered; They trusted in You, and were not ashamed. 6 But I am a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people. 7 All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, 8 "He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!" 9 But You are He who took Me out of the womb; You made Me trust while on My mother's breasts. 10 I was cast upon You from birth. From My mother's womb You have been My God. 11 Be not far from Me, For trouble is near; For there is none to help. 12 Many bulls have surrounded Me; Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled Me. 13 They gape at Me with their mouths, Like a raging and roaring lion. 14 I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me. 15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death. 16 For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; 17 I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. 18 They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots. 19 But You, O LORD, do not be far from Me; O My Strength, hasten to help Me! 20 Deliver Me from the sword, My precious life from the power of the dog. 21 Save Me from the lion's mouth And from the horns of the wild oxen! You have answered Me. 22 I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You. 23 You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, And fear Him, all you offspring of Israel! 24 For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; Nor has He hidden His face from Him; But when He cried to Him, He heard. 25 My praise shall be of You in the great assembly; I will pay My vows before those who fear Him. 26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied; Those who seek Him will praise the LORD. Let your heart live forever! 27 All the ends of the world Shall remember and turn to the LORD, And all the families of the nations Shall worship before You. 28 For the kingdom is the LORD's, And He rules over the nations. 29 All the prosperous of the earth Shall eat and worship; All those who go down to the dust Shall bow before Him, Even he who cannot keep himself alive. 30 A posterity shall serve Him. It will be recounted of the Lord to the next generation, 31 They will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, That He has done this.

- While this Psalm is rich with such poetic and prophetic imagery, there's one reference that stands out in a most enigmatic way.
- It's in verse six, where David by the Spirit prophetically writes that which is not contained in the gospels about being a worm.
- This is a powerful and profound picture of what's known as the "crimson" or "scarlet" worm, commonly found in the Middle East.

What follows is a description of what this scarlet worm is and does as it relates to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. First, when the worm is ready to lay its eggs, it fastens itself to a tree and dies. After hatching its eggs, the worms that were birthed, feed on the body of the worm for three days. During the three days, the worm will leave a scarlet or crimson red fluid, which stains the tree and permanently stains the worms that were birthed. After the third day, the worm's tail pulls up to its head into a heart shape, and is no longer red, but instead turns from a scarlet to a snow-white wax. While the worm's remains are still red and attached to the tree, they are taken and used to this day, to make a royal-red dye. This was the same dye used as the red in the robe of the High priest and the covering of the Tabernacle in the wilderness. If the worm did not die, there was no new birth, no blood red dye, and no becoming white as snow with new life.