

Where is Your Faith? Psalms 49

Ps 49:1 <<To the chief Musician, A Psalm for the sons of Korah.>> Hear this, all ye people; give ear, all ye inhabitants of the world: 2 Both low and high, rich and poor, together. 3 My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding. 4 I will incline mine ear to a parable: I will open my dark saying upon the harp.

The penmanship of this Psalm being unknown, we shall simply use psalmist when referring to the one who is speaking.

We see here an admonition, to all people, to hear the message that God is sending to psalmist. The psalmist says: God has given me this lesson of life to proclaim to others, that they also may learn; to have faith in God first; and love of the world last. The psalmist says: I, myself, have listened to God's message and heard the voice of God. The psalmist declares: I will sing this song of wisdom and understanding to you, that you may follow my example and learn to praise and have reverence for the Lord.

"I will open my dark saying upon the harp." Quite simply interpreted, this phrase teaches: what I have learned by revelation from God, I will not hide, but I will proclaim it to all, that they too may be brought to understand the truth of God. God is teaching us to not let wealth or poverty distract our hearts and minds from the truth that He is God and the Saviour of his people.

As this psalm is addressed to the sons of Korah, who were of the Levitical lineage, and were teachers and singers in this time; thus, we understand; the psalmist is telling them: you teach and sing this song to all people, and may all people learn to sing this song with wisdom and understanding. Here is another reason why we sing hymns, instead of worldly songs.

5 Wherefore should I fear in the days of evil, when the iniquity of my heels shall compass me about?

There is a lesson, for us here, to be fearful, in the days of our lives, when evil prevails upon the earth. Fearful that we may fall in temptation and turn from following the voice of God. We should be fearful that we may fail in our duty to teach and sing of the greatness of God and the surety of the salvation of our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ. It is an admonition to us to hold steadfast to the word of God; to not turn from following our King Jesus, in the way of truth and faithfulness in God. We have a reminder of this in: ***Lu 21:25-28; 25 "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; 26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. 27 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."***

"when the iniquity of my heels shall compass me about" Heels is from the Hebrew word `aqeb (pronounced; aw-kabe') and means: *a lier in wait*. This definition gives us the picture Psalmist is projecting for us: which is the same as when Christ was incarnate upon the earth. Jesus was surrounded by those who were hopeful of catching some error in Jesus's walks or words, by which they may bring accusation against Jesus and declare his testimony and actions as nothing. Jesus was

surrounded by those who were tempting him to break the law commandments, trying with all their might to trick him into sin. He was even tempted by the devil himself.

This is our admonition to continue in the righteousness of Christ, which God has bestowed upon us. For truly, we are living in such a world as this pictured here in this text. We are surrounded by those who are watching our talks and walks, seeking some error or flaw by which they might defame us upon the earth. Others are in the way we walk; tempting us to turn from God to idolatry, and to other forms of sinfulness. If we fall into these snares of the devil, it will destroy the voice of our testimony, of the greatness of God, and the greatness and surety of our salvation in Jesus Christ.

6 They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; 7 None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him:

The Psalmist paints us a picture of truth, to which all should give full attention. He tells us: those who are trusting in the riches of the earth for salvation and eternal life, go about boasting and proclaiming a false salvation story. This is the story of the world by which we are surrounded today. It is floundering around in the riches of the earth and proclaiming the pride they have in the love of money, the lust of the flesh, the lust of their eyes, as seen in: **1Jo 2:16 "For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."**

We should always remember: the world has no message for after death and while in the grave. They have no message of eternal life in Christ, after death of the body. It has no message of the eternal remission of sins to proclaim. The testimony of the unsaved world is only of the love of carnal and earthly things.

We should remember; the church of Jesus Christ has the message, in bible teachings and hymns, of eternal remission of sins; the message of eternal life in Christ; the message of an eternal home, which has no sin or allurements to be tempted to turn from our worship of God and Christ. The church of Jesus Christ proclaims there is only one way to be saved eternally, which is through Christ, who is the eternal Saviour. Jesus is not a Saviour in time only.

The message the riches of this earth, and those who gather them up, proclaims is for time only, which is the deceptive message of sin and satan. That is why we hear the message today: life is all about me and what I can get out of it, with no consideration of the consequence of living a life without Christ. This is the devil's way of deceiving with the same tactic he used in the garden of Eden in the fall of man into sin and judgment (he just changed one word of scripture to get his desired affect). The church proclaims the message seen in: **Ga 5:16 "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."** The devil proclaims the message: forget about God "and ye shall fulfill the lust of your flesh." Leaving out the "not."

8 (For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever:) 9 That he should still live forever, and not see corruption.

This verse proclaims the finality of the salvation of Christ Jesus. It teaches us: the born-again soul never dies, and does not see corruption, as the natural body does. The born-again sinner is only born-

again one time, as demonstrated in scripture in: ***Heb 9:11-12; 11 "But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; 12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.***" This is how Christ redeemed our souls from corruption.

Our souls will not go down into the grave when we die, but they will immediately be in the place where Jesus is. Consider: ***Mt 10:28 "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."*** Every soul, which is not redeemed by Christ, is condemned to hell along with the body. Why? Because the unsaved soul is corrupt and there will be no corruption in the eternal abode of God's people.

It is the message of the church of Jesus Christ: we have eternal life in Jesus Christ, who has purged our souls of our sins, and delivered the soul from corruption in the grave, and from the eternal lake of fire. We understand that our natural body is corrupt because of the inherit sin nature. However, as the body of Christ resurrected, and was not seen to rot away in death as our natural bodies do, so our mortal and corrupt bodies shall be raised incorruptible and immortal, as seen in:

- ***1Co 15:51-54; 51 "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory."***
- ***1Pe 1:23-25; 23 "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever. 24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: 25 But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you." "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever."*** This is the life of the soul resurrected from death and made a new creature in Christ. It is alive, holy, and sinless, because it is occupied of God and Christ.

10 For he seeth that wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others. 11 Their inward thought is, that their houses shall continue forever, and their dwelling places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names. 12 Nevertheless man being in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish. 13 This their way is their folly: yet their posterity approve their sayings. Selah.

They that trust in wealth believe that they shall continue forever in their abundance of wealth and riches. They defy our Creator God by naming their possessions after themselves, forgetting that the heavens, and the earth, are God's own creation, and they are for the fulfillment of his will and purpose.

We interject here a scripture that gives the definition of a fool: ***Ps 53:1 "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good."*** The unsaved of the world proclaim that there is no God. They do this by word and action. They also raise up their children to believe the same things.

14 Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling.

The unsaved of the world are the "**they**" in this verse. They shall die naturally, their souls unchanged, and when the resurrection comes (the morning is representative of the beginning of the eternal day for the saved) the saved shall have dominion over the unsaved. The unsaved shall not be changed to immorality, or incorruption, and shall continue in death forever. All they believed to be beautiful in life will be consumed by eternal death, in the eternal lake of fire.

15 But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah.

This was already demonstrated in the commentary of verse 8.

16 Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased; 17 For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him. 18 Though while he lived he blessed his soul: and men will praise thee, when thou doest well to thyself. 19 He shall go to the generation of his fathers; they shall never see light. 20 Man that is in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish.

"**they shall never see light.**" We see this picture manifested in the New Testament in: **2Pe 2:9-17; 9 "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: 10 But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. 11 Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord. 12 But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption; 13 And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; 14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: 15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; 16 But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet. 17 These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever."** It is easily discerned from this chapter, and this text, the eternal darkness that will be in the life of all that are not saved by grace.

Salvation and eternal life are brought to light in the redemption, of the saved by grace people, to an eternal day as seen in: **Re 22:1-5; 1 "And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: 4 And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. 5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever."**

Thinking of the revelations of this chapter to us: we get the message; no matter how dark the way seems; no matter how many enemies we see surrounding us seeking to destroy our testimony of faith in Christ, let us not despair but rather, be encouraged to proclaim and sing like the Psalmist in: ***Ps 49:3-4; 3 "My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding. 4 I will incline mine ear to a parable:***"

We are given a New Testament proclamation of this Psalm in: ***1Ti 6:3-19; 3 "If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; 4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, 5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. 6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. 9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. 11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. 12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. 13 I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; 14 That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: 15 Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; 16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen. 17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; 18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; 19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."***

May God grant us the strength to proclaim, and sing, of the salvation, and eternal life, we have in Jesus Christ. Let us watch with carefulness, lest we be ensnared in the temptations, of the riches of the world, and the pleasures of sin. What a day that will be, when we are called to go to the place Jesus has gone to prepare for us. Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!