

The Red Sea Crossing Psalms 77

To the chief Musician, to Jeduthun, A Psalm of Asaph.

Ps 77:1 "I cried unto God with my voice, even unto God with my voice; and he gave ear unto me. 2 In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord: my sore ran in the night, and ceased not: my soul refused to be comforted. 3 I remembered God, and was troubled: I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed. Selah."

Have you ever had soul trouble? Have you ever had such sorrow of heart that you found nothing to give you relief? Have you ever cried out to God both day and night? Have you known that God has heard your prayers, and yet your soul would not believe and find rest? Have you ever thought of God, and it struck fear in your heart? Have you prayed orally until you had no words or lost your voice? Have you complained to God? Have you experienced being overwhelmed in spirit? I believe all Christians can say they have had such experiences in their lives. It is what happens to us when the devil strikes at us and stirs up unbelief in our hearts and souls.

In the present-day world: Do you see a lack of weeping over sin and praying to God today? We live in a world that has no fear of God. A world that does not believe that God will punish sinners and destroy this earth. A world that does not believe in God, the Word of God, and especially do not believe in Jesus Christ.

A lesson of encouragement we can learn from these verses: if we are praying, we have faith. Understand, prayer is a result of having faith. How can we understand this? Why would you pray if you did not believe that there was someone to answer? Think about this scripture: ***Jas 5:15; 13 "Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. 14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: 15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."*** Be encouraged, when in the midst of the storms of life, you have a desire to pray, which is an exercise of faith, which is a gift from God. ***Eph 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:"*** Both salvation and faith are gifts from God. Because you are saved you can exercise the gift of faith.

4 "Thou holdest mine eyes waking: I am so troubled that I cannot speak. 5 I have considered the days of old, the years of ancient times. 6 I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search. 7 Will the Lord cast off forever? and will he be favourable no more? 8 Is his mercy clean gone forever? doth his promise fail for evermore? 9 Hath God forgotten to be gracious? hath he in anger shut up his tender mercies? Selah."

Have you ever experienced sleepless days and nights? Have you ever prayed until no words would come out of your mouth? When you did: Did you think about all the great things God has done throughout time for his people, and for you? Especially, the finished work of Jesus Christ in providing eternal life to God's people. These kinds of thoughts should bring peace, consolation, and confirmation, to our hearts and souls.

What is this song that is remembered in the night? I believe it is the song which began when you came to understand that you were a chosen child of God, and you were given the new birth. Surely, this is a song of triumph to be remembered in times of distress and trouble. If we remember when we were born again, we can commune with God in our hearts and souls. We can search our memories and be reassured of our gift of salvation by grace, even when we are in the deepest channels of trouble and distress.

When we are in the troublesome times in life, Satan will try to get us to believe that God has cast us off forever, and that we will receive no more favor from God. Satan will tempt us to believe that God's mercy is completely gone from us, and that God will not honor his promise of eternal life to us any longer.

Sometimes, it will seem like God is no longer gracious when the devil is tempting our hearts and souls away from following God and Christ Jesus. Sometimes when our trials and tribulations last a long time, we may be tempted to believe that God has completely cut off his tender mercies from us.

However, remember what the writer said in verse 1: ***"I cried unto God with my voice, even unto God with my voice; and he gave ear unto me."*** We need to remember, often, that God does hear our prayers, though it seems that he is not answering. Herein, we find peace of heart knowing that God hears our prayers, because it is Christ that presents our prayers to God the Father.

"I have considered the days of old, the years of ancient times." We live in a world, today, where people do not consider the truth of creation taught in the King James bible. We live in a world that does not believe in the mercies of God. Why? Because they sin and there is no immediate retribution, they think that God does not

exist, or does not see or care what they are doing. We live in a world that does not have the song of salvation by grace to be sung in the day or night.

10 "And I said, This is my infirmity: but I will remember the years of the right hand of the most High. 11 ¶ I will remember the works of the LORD: surely I will remember thy wonders of old. 12 I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings. 13 Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God? 14 Thou art the God that doest wonders: thou hast declared thy strength among the people. 15 Thou hast with thine arm redeemed thy people, the sons of Jacob and Joseph. Selah."

"This is my infirmity:" In the weakness of our flesh, and in the weakness of our faith in God, we are infirm. However, in the Holy Spirit strength of Christ in us, we are strong.

"surely I will remember thy wonders of old." If we can remember Christ, and all the graces and mercies we have experienced since our new birth, we will be strong in the Lord. We can meditate upon these true-life experiences when we are troubled and find peace. We can call to remembrance the great plan of salvation by grace, and the establishment of the New Testament Church by Jesus Christ. When we remember the mercy and grace of God, then we can speak of the greatness of God and Christ.

"Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary:" We recall that the sanctuary of God has a holiest of holy places, wherein was the mercy seat and the place where God communed with Israel. Today, we remember that the sanctuary of God is in our bodies, minds, and souls, where God communes with us, and makes us know that there is none so great as our God. We know that God does wonders because he has saved us. We commune with God through the written testimony of Jesus, the King James bible, and the preaching of the gospel of Christ. We know that Jesus is our strength: because, as the veil of the temple was rent and exposed the mercy seat, when Christ died for us: so, in regeneration; Christ in us allows us to see and commune with God.

"Thou hast with thine arm redeemed thy people, the sons of Jacob and Joseph. Selah." For the writer: the sons of Jacob and Joseph are representative of the twelve tribes of Israel, who were given possessions of land in the land of promise. The two sons of Joseph were adopted by Jacob before his death.

In this world that does not believe in God: God, in his mercy and grace, has chosen to save a people out of the world of sin. This is the New Testament Church, which includes both Jew and Gentile. Wherefore, we see the sons of Joseph as the New Testament church. This is the Gentile people being adopted into the family of God. This is representative of the whole family of God's people that will be saved in the eternal resurrection: all which have been saved by God's grace.

Do you understand: God has always saved people by his grace? **Eph 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:"** It is the only way any are saved. Do you understand: the eternal remission of sins, by Jesus Christ, will be applied to the bodies of the saved in the eternal resurrection? It will be applied to every person that is going to heaven. The resurrected bodies, and the changed bodies of those who are alive and remain at his coming, will all be sinless bodies, because their sins were remitted by Jesus Christ on the cross. Thank you, Lord Jesus!

The last two Sundays we have preached from Exodus chapter 14 about God bringing Israel through the Red Sea on dry ground. Here, in Psalms 77:16-20, we have some details that are not in Exodus.

16 "The waters saw thee, O God, the waters saw thee; they were afraid: the depths also were troubled. 17 The clouds poured out water: the skies sent out a sound: thine arrows also went abroad. 18 The voice of thy thunder was in the heaven: the lightnings lightened the world: the earth trembled and shook. 19 Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known. 20 Thou leddest thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron."

Remember the psalmist said: **"surely I will remember thy wonders of old."** Here, the scene is the great wonder of God's salvation of Israel. **"The waters saw thee, O God, the waters saw thee; they were afraid: the depths also were troubled."** What a beautiful picture the psalmist is painting here. He demonstrates how the presence of God made, what we see as inanimate objects, aware of his presence. He paints a word picture of God appearing on the scene, and the waters scurrying out of his path as he proceeds through the Red Sea, making a way for Israel to escape the Egyptians. Not only the surface waters but the waters of the deep.

The psalmist tells us: when Pharoah and his armies tried to follow in the pathway of God, God did some marvelous wonders, which are not seen in Exodus. In Exodus, we are told that God caused the sea to return to her normal conditions and drowned the armies of Egypt. Here we see that not only did the sea return, but while that was happening, God caused a great storm to begin to rage on the Egyptians. A great storm of thunder and lightning. We know that God has thundered upon the enemies of Israel several times in scripture, to their discomfiture, and the salvation of Israel.

Remember in Exodus: God troubled the Egyptians and took off their chariot wheels? Here the psalmist tells us that God sent rain, thunder, lightning, and an earthquake, "**the earth trembled and shook.**" to discomfit the Egyptians. All these things hindered the Egyptians from escaping death in the Red Sea, which judgment God had pronounced upon them. This certainly demonstrates the greatness of the power of God in fighting for his people. It also demonstrates the finality of eternal judicial punishment for those who do not believe God.

"and thy footsteps are not known." With the return of the Red Sea to her normal condition, the pathway of God through the sea was hidden. Thus, we see the picture of the New Testament Church in the way of salvation, which is hidden from the view of all that do not believe God.

"Thou leddest thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron." We see the picture of the New Testament church being led by God in the pathway of salvation, through the sea of life. As God used Moses and Aaron to lead Israel: God is using Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, to lead the New Testament church. We understand that Jesus is our great Shepherd, who is tending us like a flock of sheep.

In this world that does not recognize, or acknowledge, God: This is the great hope of the child of God, we have the promise of the eternal resurrection to life with Christ. Even, when we are suffering under tribulations and distresses in life's journey: even, as we struggle with our flesh nature, which wars against our Christian nature, in our pilgrimage through this world of evil and sin: No matter how dark the devil may make the way seem: not matter how disillusioned our minds may get: we need only remember: our God is sufficient. We need only to remember: Christ has completed the will of God the Father in the salvation of all of God's people, and our souls will have peace. Out of our distresses, we are lifted in the exaltation of Jesus Christ. Wherefore, we wait with patience for the return of our Saviour and Lord. Hallelujah! Amen!