

Psalms Chapter 005 Commentary

To the chief Musician upon Nehiloth, A Psalm of David

Ps 5:1 "Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my meditation."

"**Give ear to my words**" King David request of God that his prayers be heard, and that God consider the meditations of his heart and mind. Since we know that David was a man after God's own heart, we can be assured that his meditations and prayers were the kind that God would hear and consider. Well, what about when he turned away from God? If David was turned away from God, he would not be praying to God or meditating upon godly things.

As we, the children of God, examine our own lives; can we with the confidence of King David pray these same words to God? When things are going well in our lives, it is easy for the lust of our flesh, our old inherited sin nature, to entice us to at least consider indulging in those sinful lusts again.

As we see in the life of King David, he was often beset with trials and tribulations on every side by those who would desire to make him lose faith in the promise of God to him, which was that he would be king over all Israel. The same is true in our own lives when we are born again, and especially when we declare our discipleship to Christ by joining the church and being baptized.

As we continue in this chapter, we shall see that King David is seeking to be saved from the ungodly, and for his soul's desire, his meditations, to be to praise and glory the Lord. We can apply these same thoughts to our individual lives as Children of God, and to the kingdom of God on earth, the church established by Jesus Christ, of whom David is a prophetic picture in many ways.

2 "Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray."

We see that King David knows where his help and deliverance will come from. We see that he prays to "**my King, and my God.**" If you are a Child of God, you understand that danger is always near and we, like King David, have only one place to send our prayers for help and deliverance, which is the same as David's, to "**my King, and my God.**" What do you mean by danger always being near? We can start with our inherited sin nature, with which we have constant warfare. We can add those who do not believe in God and Jesus Christ, who Satan will use, to tempt us to turn from God to sin, just as our inherited sin nature does.

There is also the danger found in the church, which has been infiltrated by demonic and satanic beings who are pretending to be children of God. Paul speaks to us of this in: **2Co 11:22-28; 22 ¶ "Are they Hebrews? so am I. Are they Israelites? so am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so am I. 23 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. 24 Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. 25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; 27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. 28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches."** If Paul suffered these things from false brethren within the church, and dangers from every side as described, we can expect that these conditions have not improved in the church today. These attacks may not be physical but may be mental, and certainly spiritual. In 1 John, we are told that there were many antichrists already present. These very thoughts should give us cause to want to be prayerful, and to be meditating upon the word of God.

3 "My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up."

We remember in the close of the previous chapter, King David's prayer was an evening prayer, for he told us in: **Ps 4:8 "I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety."** Now, we see that God has answered his evening prayer, and he is now making intercessions with a morning prayer. God directed Israel to make daily, morning and evening sacrifices to God. If God wanted his chosen nation of people to make supplications, and meditations, upon him both morning and evening, how much more should we, the visible church of God on earth, make daily, morning and evening prayers and meditations, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour, Lord, and King.

"in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up." Since our God and King is in the eternal heaven, we too should be looking upward. The fleshly pleasures and conveniences of this present world should not become idols as we look upon them, for in so doing they will keep us from looking up to our King. It is a great blessing to awake each morning, and remember there is a God in heaven, and offer up our prayers and thanksgiving to him.

4 "For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee."

If you wonder if God is serious about wickedness and evil, just remember the judicial judgments God meted out to Eve, Adam, and the serpent, when the very first wickedness and evil was committed. God's purpose to have a sinless family to worship him in eternity is manifested in: ***Re 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.*** We are told, plainly, there will be no sin in the eternal heaven and earth. This is why this world is not our home, because it is infested with wickedness and evil. This is why our King Jesus promised us: ***Joh 14:1-3; 1 ¶ "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.***" Thank you, King Jesus, for this precious promise.

"neither shall evil dwell with thee." This is the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ to the Child of God. How? What happened in the new birth? You were made a new creature in Christ and indwelt with the Holy Spirit. We are told in scripture: ***1Jo 3:9 "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."*** "His seed" is Christ in you. This tells us that the Jesus that is in us cannot sin. It also reminds us that as children of God we are to lead sinless lives.

Scripture tells us that God cast Satan, and his followers, out of heaven, so we know that God will not dwell with sin. Remember what we were told above in: ***Re 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.***"

5 "The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity."

Who are the foolish? God tells us in: ***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. 2 God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God. 3 Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 4 Have the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread: they have not called upon God."*** King David understood that all those who did not believe in God were fools, and they were hated of God; because they were of their father the devil, who is sin through and through.

6 "Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man."

Leasing means lying. The foolish are liars and are of their father the devil, as Jesus told us of the heretical Israelites in: ***Joh 8:44 "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."***

"the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man." We are also told in: ***1Jo 2:22 "Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son."*** The antichrist is a bloody and deceitful man, who persuades men to not believe in God and Christ. Any that he can convince of this has been murdered by a bloody and deceitful man.

7 ¶ "But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple."

King David tells us, as a man after God's own heart, I will come to the house of God by thy great mercy, and I will with reverential fear worship toward thy holy temple. How does this apply to us today since we do not have the tabernacle and the temple that Solomon built? Jesus Christ is the temple and when we become a part of the

church of Jesus Christ, the kingdom of God on earth, all our worship is to be directed to Jesus. This is the big picture.

In the smaller and more personal picture, we know that in the new birth our body becomes the temple, for we are indwelt with the Holy Spirit of God, as seen in: **1Co 6:19 "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"** This tells us that we will purge ourselves of the desires of the flesh and enter into communal prayer, and worship of God. It is like we are told in scripture: **Mt 6:6 "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."**

8 "Lead me, O LORD, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies; make thy way straight before my face."

King David understood that as much as God had done in protecting his life, he also understood the times when he had acted on his own and got himself in trouble. Therefore, David now understands that he needs the leading of God to keep him in the paths of righteousness of God.

"**in thy righteousness because of mine enemies;**" David understands that he needs the leading of God to keep him from casting a shadow on the name of God, and to keep him from giving his enemies a reason to blaspheme the name of God.

"**make thy way straight before my face.**" King David understood that he needed God to hedge him in the path of the righteousness of God, which is a straight way. Straight because it would not veer from following the way of God. It would not allow him to turn aside from following God, and to go after the lust of the flesh and be found in disobedience to God.

It is very easy for us to make the application of these words to our own lives as Children of God. We remember the scripture in: **Mt 7:13-14; 13 "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in there at: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."** We understand that Jesus is the gate because he told us he is the door. We understand that the way of God is narrow as we remember the deliverance of Israel from Egypt. We have the graphic image of the narrow way, as God brought Israel through the sea: the way to life open before them, the means of death behind them, and no way to turn aside because of the wall of water on each side.

This reminds us, as David is reminded here, we need the leading of God to keep us from the enemies of destruction who are pursuing us in this life. We understand that it is the righteousness of Jesus Christ that has made us to be acceptable to God and to be known as the Children of God, and to know that we need to Holy Spirit assistance to keep our eyes focused upon Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith.

9 "For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; their inward part is very wickedness; their throat is an open sepulcher; they flatter with their tongue."

King David declares to us and God what we both already know. There is no faithfulness in the ungodly. They are what we once were, before our new birth, as seen in: **Mt 15:18-20; 18 "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: 20 These are the things which defile a man:**" Man in his inherited sin nature can only do what is in his heart. In contrast. Those, who are made new creatures in Christ, have the heart of Christ, and thus, they can bring forth good fruits in the Holy Spirit power.

"**their throat is an open sepulcher; they flatter with their tongue.**" Flatter means to separate, or in this case it means to deceive. Remember the scripture in: **Pr 29:5-6; 5 ¶ "A man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet. 6 ¶ In the transgression of an evil man there is a snare: but the righteous doth sing and rejoice."** Flattery, as is pointed out in these texts, is the way that leads to eternal death and the eternal lake of fire. It is that which leads man to walk in the paths of unrighteous.

This is how the devil works today. He is always flattering our flesh, to follow the inherited lust thereof, and be exalted in the pleasures thereof. This is a picture of that daily warfare between the natural and spiritual man.

10 "Destroy thou them, O God; let them fall by their own counsels; cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions; for they have rebelled against thee."

David prays for God to deal with those who are his enemies, by destroying them with their own devices. David is praying to God that God separate the chosen from the wicked, who are those who hate God. David reminds God that these have risen in insurrection against God.

We are taught to pray to be delivered from our enemies, seen in: *Lu 11:4; 1 ¶ "And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples. 2 And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. 3 Give us day by day our daily bread. 4 And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive everyone that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil."*

11 "But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee."

King David says to God; and thus, conveys to us: those who trust in God are to rejoice. They are to ever shout for joy for the deliverance of their souls from present, and future troubles, because God defends them. David says that all who love God should be joyful in God. This is picturesque of the eternal security of Child of God, in this age of Salvation by the Grace of God.

King David reminds us of the eternal perspective when he says, "*let them ever shout for joy.*" We, as Children of God, should always be rejoicing in the truth that we have been delivered from the wiles of Satan, and we have been given eternal forgiveness of sin, and eternal life in Christ Jesus. No temptation, or trial of life, should divert our attention from this truth.

12 "For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield."

King David tells us here: he believes that God has made him to be righteous, and therefore God will bless him, and God will be as an impenetrable wall about him, to protect from his enemies.

It also gives us the picture of the coming of Jesus Christ and the work of God that he would complete. How do we see this? Who is righteous in and of themselves? None but Jesus, who came to earth in a prepared body that was sinless and pure in every way. Because Jesus was the beloved Son of God, he protected himself, and was protected, all the time he was upon the earth. When Jesus completed the work of making all of God's people righteous, he went back to heaven from whence he came. Wherefore, we can say with King David: "**For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield.**"

Does this mean that we will live sinless lives? Did King David live a sinless life? The answer to both questions is no. However, because the work of redemption, which Jesus did is eternal, in the resurrection of the dead in Christ, and the change of those who are alive at the return of Christ, we shall be eternally victorious in Christ Jesus, our Saviour and Lord. Wherefore, because God has blessed the righteous, Christ Jesus: we, being made new creatures in Christ, will be blessed as righteous, and be enveloped in the eternal favor of God. Hallelujah! Praise, ye the Lord!

Sing Hymn 582 11s & 8s.

Thanksgiving and praise in the sanctuary.

Sung to the tune "Old Aire Of Nelly Gray" 348 in the J L White Sacred Harp book.

- 1 BE joyful in God, all ye lands of the earth; O serve him with gladness and fear:
Exult in his presence, with music and mirth; With love and devotion draw near.
- 2 Jehovah is God, and Jehovah alone; Creator and Ruler o'er all;
And we are his people, his sceptre we own; His sheep, and we follow his call.
- 3 O enter his gates with thanksgiving and song; Your vows in his temple proclaim;
His praise in melodious accordance prolong, And bless his adorable name.
- 4 For good is the Lord, inexpressibly good, And we are the work of his hand;
His mercy and truth from eternity stood, And shall to eternity stand.