

Opening Dark Saying; Psalms 49 Verses 1-5
To the chief Musician, A Psalm for the sons of Korah.

Ps 49:1 "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."

Herein is an admonition, *to all people*, to hear the message that God is sending to the 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 reverence the Lord.

"I will open my dark saying upon the harp." Why is it a dark saying? Because the unregenerate cannot see the mystery of the eternal salvation of God, because Satan has blinded their eyes, therefore it is a dark saying. However, the psalmist says he will open the dark saying, which tells us that the psalmist has been regenerated, and he has understood the dark saying, and now he can proclaim the revelation of God. If we have been born again, we have had the dark sayings of God opened to us, and we are to do like the psalmist and sing the praise of God aloud.

Why the harp? We remember that when an evil spirit troubled king Saul, they secured David to play upon the harp to bring relief to Saul and calm his troubled mind. Today, instead of the physical harp, we use the harp of God, our voice, to sing and praise God, which cleanses our hearts and minds of evil, brings rest to the weary soul, and brings the focus of our spiritual eyes to be upon the Lord.

This phrase teaches: what we have learned by revelation from God, we should not hide, but we should proclaim it to all, that they too may be brought to understand the truth of God. Remember **2Co 4:6 "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."** God is teaching that the dark saying has been opened to us through knowledge of the glory of God and Jesus Christ.

As this psalm is addressed to the sons of Korah, who were of the Levitical lineage, and were teachers and singers in that time. 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. This is why we sing hymns, instead of worldly songs.

Remember the scripture in **Mt 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."** Why can we glorify God in heaven? Because of the new birth. But preacher, we cannot save a soul: only God can do that. 'Tis true, however, that does not lessen our duty to proclaim the truth of God, by walking uprightly before all of mankind, as we are commanded to do.

Preacher, some people do not like singing. True: but as we walk uprightly before God and mankind, we are singing a song of praise and glory to God. Think of life as a song because it is a song. In a song you have high notes and low notes and notes in between. In life you have high notes and low notes and those in between. The same is true in our spiritual lives. However, when we sing, we do not change how we act when we get to the low notes or the high notes. We are to remain steadfast in our resolve to please and praise God. We rejoice that God, in his rich and abundant mercy, has given us understanding of the great work of eternal salvation, which He has given to us freely.

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

There is a question here: Why should I be fearful of evil, when I am compassed about with the evil of this world, and my flesh is full of temptations to do evil? Well preacher: I am fearful that I 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, to preach, and to 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 our 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."*** I would ask: Who are those whose hearts are failing for fear? It is those who have not been born again. It is those who have not received the truth that Christ Jesus gives eternal life to His people in regeneration. Also, we are taught in ***1Pe 3:14-17; 14 "But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 16 ¶ Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. 17 For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing."*** Peter tells us each day of life will be filled with low, high, and in between notes, and we are to remain steadfast in our song of praise and worship to God.

"when the iniquity of my heels shall compass me about" Heels is from the Hebrew word (*`aqeb*, pronounced; aw-kabe') and means: *a liar in wait*. This definition gives us the picture: when Christ was incarnate upon the earth, He was surrounded by those who were hopeful of catching some error in His walks or words, by which they may bring a true accusation against Him, 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. The devil personally tempted Jesus.

This is our admonition to continue steadfastly in the righteousness of Christ, which God has bestowed on us. Truly, we are living in a world where we are surrounded by those who are watching our walks and talks, seeking some error or flaw, by which they might defame us upon the earth, and swage their conscience of their guilt. Others are tempting us to turn from God to idolatry, or any kind of sinfulness. If we fall into these snares, it will destroy the voice of our testimony, it will be a blight on the greatness of the name of God, and the greatness and surety of our salvation in Jesus Christ.

Therefore, we pray that God will, through the Holy Spirit power in us, guide us to keep our eyes focused upon Him: that we never forget our Saviour and the price of grief and woe He paid to erase our sins eternally, and the knowledge that there is life after the death of the body. May we be kept in remembrance the Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us in eternity, which we will spend in His presence there. Thank you, Lord, for your abundant mercy and grace manifested in our lives. Thank you, King Jesus, for opening the dark sayings of old to us. Thank you, King Jesus, for giving us the harp of God, upon which we can sing the song of life, that others may see and learn of you. Hallelujah! Amen!