

A Survey of the Psalms - 1

Psalm 7

A Christian's Confidence

Focus Verse: Psalm 150:6

Lesson Verse: Ps 118:8

I. Introduction to the Book of Psalms

- A. The Book of Psalms in the Old Testament is God's answer to the headaches and heartaches of life. Without it the Bible would not be complete - as a matter of fact, next to the Gospels, Psalms is probably the most read part of the Bible because of the reality and the promises found there!
- B. Psalms is not a fairy-land Book though - always talking about airy-fairy feelings, but down-to-earth experiences, and the way through them. David is the greatest window in the mind of Christ, and how to rely on it!
- C. The key is in getting serious about it though! We are told to STUDY because it takes Study to learn, and integrate what we learn!
- D. This Psalm is a great encouragement to putting our trust to the test, especially when someone has or is hurting us!
- E. The goal is to trust in the Lord to do right, not in yourself (Ps 118:8)

II. Message - A Christian's Confidence**A. David's Worry (7:1,2)**

1. Notice the line just above verse 1 "Shiggaion of David, which he sang unto the LORD, concerning the words of Cush the Benjamite." It is a song that David sang unto the Lord
2. A song about hurt, about threats against him, about feeling alone
3. Sometimes WORDS upset us. Threats
4. Words can tear us apart like a lion – reference to the devil (1Pet 5:8)
5. Persecution from Cush the Benjamite – whoever it is?
6. David made several enemies in his lifetime
 - a) King Saul – for seven years of his life
 - b) His own son Absalom
 - c) But also an insignificant man named Shimei (2Sam 16:5-13)
7. This Psalm was written evidently about the hurt he felt from the words of this man Shimei
8. David's enemy was affecting his SOUL
 - a) Enemies are rough enough on the body
 - b) It's Harder when it is emotional, spiritual even
9. David is accused of (2Sam 16:7,8):
 - a) Being a "bloody man" – a murderer of Saul
 - b) Being a man of Belial – a Satanist
 - c) That the LORD was returning upon him all the blood of the house of Saul
 - d) Of stealing the kingdom ("in whose stead thou hast reigned")
 - e) Of getting what he deserved by losing the kingdom to his own son ("and the LORD hath delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom thy son")
10. On top of it all, Shimei was chucking rocks onto the heads of everyone around David, and humiliating him
11. His worry was that he would be alone in the fight – no one would intervene, stand with him, defend him
12. It is when you are worried, that you had better turn to the Lord and lean upon Him
13. When you have a relentless enemy (as was king Saul), is when you should pray verses 1 and 2!

B. David's Righteousness (7:3-5)

1. David is referring to personal righteousness – the righteousness of the saints (Rev 19:7,8)
2. A Christian has another layer of righteousness – CHRIST'S righteousness (Philp 3:9). That's why we know we are eternally secure, because we have HIS perfect righteousness IMPUTED to us, at salvation!
3. David Asks God to examine him (Ps 139:23,24)
 - a) If I HAVE done what Shimei is accusing me of doing
 - b) If I have been wrong...
 - c) A very good thing to do is examine whether what someone is saying is true or not!
 - d) Then I surrender. I will not fight what is true about me!
 - e) Job asked and determined the same thing in Job 31
4. David has the right attitude about personal sins
 - a) Willing to accept chastisement from God, punishment

- b) Not only from God, but even from his enemies
 - c) Paul was willing to accept the death penalty if shown he had committed a sin worthy of such a punishment (Acts 25:10,11)
5. The truth is, you are in a better position to get answers to prayer when you are not sinning
- a) Abiding in Christ, and His word abiding in you – not backslidden (John 15:7)
 - b) Proverbs 15:8,29
 - c) 1John 3:20-22
 - d) Don't take things and attitudes so flippantly – they can be the thing that blocks answers

C. David's Plea (7:6-9) for Vengeance

1. David does NOT seek to hurt Shimei back. He let's GOD "get him"
2. For God to get Angry – and He does!
 - a) God can get angry and still do right – we usually mess things up when we get angry!
 - b) Makes Christian's appreciate grace of God and His mercy!
 - c) Makes Christians live soberly (Tit 2:11-12; 1Pet 5:8)
 - d) Gives Christian's hope - God is in control
 - e) Because it is against the wicked (7:11)
3. For God to Act (Rom 12:19)
 - a) Trust in the LORD only (Pr 3:5,6; Ps 18:2; 20:7; **22:8**)!
 - b) It will cost you sometimes, when by trusting God, things work out differently than expected, yet better!
4. For God to Prove Himself true to His character (7:7)
5. For God to Prove David is right (7:8) – "*according to my righteousness, and according to mine integrity that is in me*"
6. For God's Enemies (which are David's enemies) to quit – not a very Christian ideal, but a plea for justice
7. For God's People to be "Established" - grounded, made permanent, protected
8. Pray that your enemy (Satan) fails in his attempts to ruin you

D. David's Confidence (7:10-16)

1. David's defence is in GOD – not in armies, horses, money, friends, family, stability
2. David Rests in God's character
 - a) He delivers the godly (Pr 11:20) – the upright
 - b) He judges/sides with the righteous
 - c) He is angry with the wicked every day
3. David Rests in God's Justice
 - a) If God does not change His mind...
 - b) He will whet His sword – sharpen it
 - c) He already has His own bow bent and ready to shoot
 - d) He has prepared to kill
 - e) All against David's persecutors!
4. David Rests in God's Laws – Sowing and Reaping
 - a) Shimei is struggling with sin in another man's life
 - b) He has made up a story about David's mischief
 - c) He has lied about David
 - d) And the pit he has dug for David will be the pit that he himself will fall – and he does

E. David's Praise (7:16)

1. Praised God because of GOD'S righteousness – not his own
2. Just thankful for the trustworthy name of the Lord most high – the One in control, who will make everything work out right!
3. All this even though Shimei was still out there, throwing rocks, and saying such hurtful things

III. Challenge

- A. Are there words that hurt you?
- B. What should you do with those words?
 1. Examine, listen to them
- C. What should you do when you are worried that someone's hurt will continue?

1. You had better turn to the Lord and lean upon Him
 2. Pray verses 1 and 2!
 3. Trust that the Lord will deal with your enemy
 4. Trust that the Lord WILL do right
- D. What two kinds of righteousness does a Christian have?
1. Personal righteousness – the righteousness of the saints (Rev 19:7,8)
 2. CHRIST’S righteousness (Philp 3:9).
- E. When are you are in a better position to get answers to prayer?
1. When you are not sinning
 2. When you are abiding in Christ, and His word abiding in you – not backslidden (John 15:7)
- F. **Should a Christian Pray** for Vengeance?
1. Probably not at first
 2. The idea is to not seek to hurt YOUR Shimei back. Let GOD “get him”
 3. Jesus says the best way to hurt someone is to bless them – it heaps coals of fire on their heads!
 4. So, Let God get angry
 5. Let God prove you are in the right
 6. Just pray that your enemy (Satan) fails in his attempts to ruin you
- G. **What should you and I “rest” in?**
1. David Rests in God’s character
 2. David Rests in God’s Justice
 3. David Rests in God’s Laws – Sowing and Reaping
- H. **When can a Christian Praise God?**
1. Even when being hurt