

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 92 - Don't Follow The Ungodly Through Fear To Know We're Just Men (Psalms 1-9)

1. According to the first two verses of Psalms chapter one, who is blessed?

“(1) *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. (2) But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night*” (Psalms 1:1-2).

In regard to verse 1, see also: **Psalms 26:4-5, Jeremiah 15:17, and Ephesians 5:11.**

In regard to verse 2, see also: **Psalms 119:97; 115, Matthew 4:4, and I Timothy 4:15.**

2. When studying the first chapter of Psalms, will the end of the godly and the wicked be the same?

No: “(3) *And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. (4) The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away... (6) For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: **but the way of the ungodly shall perish***” (Psalms 1:4; 6).

3. Should the ungodly be in the congregation of the righteous?

No: “*Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, **nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous***” (Psalms 5:5).

4. Is it wise for a nation to rise against God and His anointed king (i.e. David)?

No: “(1) *Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? (2) The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, (3) Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. (4) **He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.** (5) Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. (6) Yet **have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.** (7) I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. (8) Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. (9) Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. (10) **Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. (11) Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. (12) Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him**” (Psalms 2:1-12).*

5. Were enemies of the Psalmist afraid that God was with him?

No: “(1) *LORD, how are they increased that trouble me! many are they that rise up against me. (2) **Many there be which say of my soul, There is no help for him in God. Selah***” (Psalms 3:1-2).

If this is David, he certainly qualifies when Israel followed his son (**II Samuel 15:13**).

6. Did the Psalmist have God's help?

Yes: “(3) *But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head. (4) I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah* [PAUSE- B.A.Y.]. (5) *I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD sustained me*” (Psalms 3:3-5).

7. Was the Psalmist in fear of those surrounding him?

NO: “(6) *I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, that have set themselves against me round about. (7) Arise, O LORD; save me, O my God: for thou hast smitten all mine enemies upon the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly. (8) Salvation belongeth unto the LORD: thy blessing is upon thy people. Selah* [PAUSE- B.A.Y.]” (Psalms 3:6-8).

Why not fear (Psalms 118:6 and Hebrews 13:5-6)? Understanding that the Lord does not work directly today!

Fear of man does what (Proverbs 29:25)?

8. What did God do for the Psalmist when he was in distress?

He enlarged [caused to grow; removed pressure from] him: “*Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer*” (Psalms 4:1).

9. What did the enemies of the Psalmist love and seek after?

“*O ye sons of men, how long will ye turn my glory into shame? how long will ye love vanity, and seek after leasing* [Strong’s #3577; falsehood]? *Selah*” (Psalms 4:2).

10. Who is set apart for the Lord?

“*But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him*” (Psalms 4:3).

11. If one were to stand in awe, cease from sin, and serve the Lord would that person be at peace?

Yes: “(4) *Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah. (5) Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD. (6) There be many that say, Who will shew us any good? LORD, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us. (7) Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased. (8) I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety*” (Psalms 4:4-8).

12. The Psalmist was confident that God would hear his prayers (Psalms 5:1-3), but what about God’s view of sinners?

Not good, He hates them: “(4) *For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee. (5) The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity. (6) Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man*” (Psalms 5:4-6).

We know that this is not just figurative, for many other Scriptures sustain His point (Psalms 11:5-7, Proverbs 6:16-19, Romans 9:13, and Hebrews 1:8-9).

God does not hear the prayers of sinners (**Proverbs 15:29, Proverbs 28:9, Isaiah 59:1-2, John 9:31, and I Peter 3:12**).

13. Some think that God is not to be feared. Does anything in our study help us see otherwise? Consider this: *“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”* (**Psalms 5:7**).

Consider also: **Philippians 2:12, Hebrews 12:28-29, and I Peter 2:17**.

14. Why did the Psalmist need God to lead him?

*“(8) Lead me, O LORD, in thy righteousness **because of mine enemies**; make thy way straight before my face. (9) **For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; their inward part is very wickedness; their throat is an open sepulchre; they flatter with their tongue.** (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. (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. (12) **For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield”*** (**Psalms 5:8-12**).

15. When did the Psalmist especially fear God’s correction?

When God was angry: *“O LORD, rebuke me not in thine anger, neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure”* (**Psalms 6:1**).

16. What can we tell about the condition of the Psalmist in chapter six?

First, we saw he did not want corrected in God’s anger. So, we can see he feels he is being corrected. Then we find his plea for mercy and his fear of death. He is crying because of his position: *“(2) Have mercy upon me, O LORD; **for I am weak: O LORD, heal me**; for my bones are vexed. (3) **My soul is also sore vexed**: but thou, O LORD, how long? (4) Return, O LORD, deliver my soul: oh save me for thy mercies’ sake. (5) For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks? (6) **I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears.** (7) **Mine eye is consumed because of grief; it waxeth old because of all mine enemies”*** (**Psalms 6:2-7**).

He is also surrounded by enemies and tells them to depart for he believes his prayer will be heard: *“(8) Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity; for the LORD hath heard the voice of my weeping. (9) The LORD hath heard my supplication; **the LORD will receive my prayer.** (10) Let all mine enemies be ashamed and sore vexed: let them return and be ashamed suddenly”* (**Psalms 6:8-10**).

17. Did the Psalmist trust in his own ability for deliverance from his enemies?

No: *“(1) O LORD **my God, in thee do I put my trust: save me** from all them that persecute me, and deliver me: (2) Lest he tear my soul like a lion, rending it in pieces, while there is none to deliver”* (**Psalms 7:1-2**).

18. Does the Psalmist, in the beginning verses of chapter seven, have a clear conscience?

No, he is not sure if he has done something wrong or not, though he is willing to accept punishment at the hand of his enemy if he has done wrong: *“(3) O LORD my God, **if I have done this; if there be iniquity in my hands**; (4) **If I have rewarded evil** unto him that was at peace with me; (yea, I have delivered him that without cause is mine enemy:) (5) Let the enemy persecute my soul, and take it;*

yea, let him tread down my life upon the earth, and lay mine honour in the dust. Selah” (Psalms 7:3-5).

19. The Psalmist didn’t want God to judge him in anger (Psalms 6:1), so what does He want God’s anger turned towards?

His enemies as God would rise to his defense: “(6) Arise, O LORD, **in thine anger, lift up thyself because of the rage of mine enemies**; and awake for me to the judgment that thou hast commanded. (7) So shall the congregation of the people compass thee about: for their sakes therefore return thou on high. (8) The LORD shall judge the people: judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness, and according to mine integrity that is in me. (9) **Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just**: for the righteous God trieth the hearts and reins. (10) My defence is of God, which saveth the upright in heart” (Psalms 7:6-10).

20. Who is God angry with every day?

God is angry with the wicked: “God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day” (Psalms 7:11).

21. Will the wicked escape the consequences of their actions?

No: “(14) Behold, he travaileth with iniquity, and hath conceived mischief, and brought forth falsehood. (15) He made a pit, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch which he made. (16) **His mischief shall return upon his own head**, and his violent dealing shall come down upon his own pate. (17) I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high” (Psalms 7:14-17).

22. Do infants show forth God’s strength?

Yes, as does all that God created: “(1) O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. (2) Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger” (Psalms 8:1-2).

23. How high has God made mankind on this earth?

Above everything, which is what the Psalmist wondered in amazement about: “(4) What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? (5) For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. (6) **Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet**: (7) All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; (8) The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. (9) O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth” (Psalms 8:4-9)!

24. How willing was the Psalmist to praise God?

Very willing: “(1) I will praise thee, O LORD, **with my whole heart**; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works. (2) I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High” (Psalms 9:1-2).

25. To whom does the Psalmist credit for victory over his enemies?

God: “(3) When mine enemies are turned back, they shall fall and perish at thy presence. (4) For thou hast maintained my right and my cause; thou satest in the throne judging right. (5) Thou hast rebuked the heathen, thou hast destroyed the wicked, thou hast put out their name for ever and ever.”

(6) *O thou enemy, destructions are come to a perpetual end: and thou hast destroyed cities; their memorial is perished with them*” (Psalms 9:3-6).

26. Is God a just judge whom is worthy of our trust?

Yes: “(7) *But the LORD shall endure for ever: he hath prepared his throne for judgment.* (8) *And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness.* (9) ***The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.*** (10) ***And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee***” (Psalms 9:7-10).

27. When God exacts His judgment on evil, is this a time to rejoice?

Yes, not only such but in all that God does: “(11) *Sing praises to the LORD, which dwelleth in Zion: declare among the people his doings.* (12) *When he maketh inquisition for blood, he remembereth them: he forgetteth not the cry of the humble.* (13) *Have mercy upon me, O LORD; consider my trouble which I suffer of them that hate me, thou that liftest me up from the gates of death:* (14) ***That I may shew forth all thy praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion: I will rejoice in thy salvation.*** (15) *The heathen are sunk down in the pit that they made: in the net which they hid is their own foot taken.* (16) ***The LORD is known by the judgment which he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands.*** Higgsaion [a murmuring sound, i.e. a musical notation; Strong’s #1902]. *Selah*” (Psalms 9:11-16).

28. Does the Psalmist declare that God allows the wicked to prosper while the needy suffer?

No, the opposite is true when God’s hand is involved: “(17) *The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.* (18) *For the needy shall not alway be forgotten: the expectation of the poor shall not perish for ever*” (Psalms 19:17-18).

29. What final requests did the Psalmist make in chapter nine?

“(19) *Arise, O LORD; let not man prevail: let the heathen be judged in thy sight.* (20) *Put them in fear, O LORD: that the nations may know themselves to be but men.* *Selah*” (Psalms 19:19-20).