

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 105 – Request For Mercy Through God Saving Zion (Psalms 67-69)

1. Did the Psalmist think that God being merciful would display His goodness to others?

Yes: “(1) **God be merciful unto us**, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; Selah. (2) **That thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations**. (3) Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. (4) O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Selah. (5) Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. (6) Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us. (7) **God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him**” (Psalms 67:1-7).

2. Did the Psalmist want to see the wicked near to God?

No: “(1) Let God arise, **let his enemies be scattered**: let them also that hate him flee before him. (2) As smoke is driven away, so drive them away: as wax melteth before the fire, so **let the wicked perish at the presence of God**” (Psalms 68:1-2).

We need to be mindful that those who are not with God are against Him (Matthew 12:30 and Luke 11:23). We also need to be mindful that God is angry with the wicked every day (Psalms 7:11-12).

3. Should the righteous be glad before God?

Yes, of course: “(3) But let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God: yea, let them exceedingly rejoice. (4) Sing unto God, sing praises to his name: extol him that rideth upon the heavens by his name JAH, and rejoice before him” (Psalms 68:3-4).

See also: Psalms 32:11, Psalms 64:10, and Proverbs 10:28; cf. James 5:13.

4. Is God against the fatherless and the widows?

No: “A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation” (Psalms 68:5).

5. If God is not against the fatherless or the widows, what role do we play in caring for them today?

**I Timothy 5:3-16 and James 1:26-27.**

6. What does, “God setteth the solitary in families” (Psalms 68:6) mean?

BDB defines “solitary” (Strong’s #3173) as: “only, only one, solitary, one; a) only, unique, one; b) solitary; c) (TWOT) only begotten son”.

Here are the verses that the word solitary appears in:

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**Gen 22:2** And he said 559 , Take now 3947 thy son 1121, **thine only 3173 [son]** Isaac 3327, whom thou lovest 157 , and get thee 3212 into the land 776 of Moriah 4179; and offer him 5927 there for a burnt offering 5930 upon one 259 of the mountains 2022 which I will tell 559 thee of.

<b>Gen 22:12</b>	And he said 559 , Lay 7971 not thine hand 3027 upon 413 the lad 5288, neither do thou 6213 any thing 3972 unto him: for now 6258 I know 3045 that thou fearest 3373 God 430, seeing thou hast not 3808 withheld 2820 thy son 1121, <b>thine only 3173 [son]</b> from me.
<b>Gen 22:16</b>	And said 559 , By myself have I sworn 7650 , saith 5002 the LORD 3068, for because 3282 834 thou hast done 6213 this thing 1697, and hast not 3808 withheld 2820 thy son 1121, <b>thine only 3173 [son]:</b>
<b>Jdg 11:34</b>	And Jephthah 3316 came 935 to Mizpeh 4709 unto his house 1004, and, behold, his daughter 1323 came out 3318 to meet 7125 him with timbrels 8596 and with dances 4246: <b>and she [was his] only child 3173</b> ; beside her he had neither son 1121 nor 176 daughter 1323.
<b>Psa 22:20</b>	Deliver 5337 my soul 5315 from the sword 2719; <b>my darling 3173</b> from the power 3027 of the dog 3611.
<b>Psa 25:16</b>	Turn 6437 thee unto me, and have mercy 2603 upon me; for I [am] <b>desolate 3173</b> and afflicted 6041.
<b>Psa 35:17</b>	Lord 136, how long wilt thou look on 7200 ? rescue 7725 my soul 5315 from their destructions 7722, <b>my darling 3173</b> from the lions 3715.
<b>Psa 68:6</b>	God 430 setteth 3427 <b>the solitary 3173</b> in families 1004: he bringeth out 3318 those which are bound 615 with chains 3574: but the rebellious 5637 dwell 7931 in a dry 6707 [land].
<b>Pro 4:3</b>	For I was my father's 1 son 1121, tender 7390 <b>and only 3173 [beloved]</b> in the sight 6440 of my mother 517.
<b>Jer 6:26</b>	O daughter 1323 of my people 5971, gird 2296 [thee] with sackcloth 8242, and wallow 6428 thyself in ashes 665: make 6213 thee mourning 60, [as for] <b>an only son 3173</b> , most bitter 8563 lamentation 4553: for the spoiler 7703 shall suddenly 6597 come 935 upon us.
<b>Amo 8:10</b>	And I will turn 2015 your feasts 2282 into mourning 60, and all your songs 7892 into lamentation 7015; and I will bring up 5927 sackcloth 8242 upon all loins 4975, and baldness 7144 upon every head 7218; and I will make 7760 it as the mourning 60 of <b>an only 3173 [son]</b> , and the end 319 thereof as a bitter 4751 day 3117.
<b>Zec 12:10</b>	And I will pour 8210 upon the house 1004 of David 1732, and upon the inhabitants 3427 of Jerusalem 3389, the spirit 7307 of grace 2580 and of supplications 8469: and they shall look 5027 upon me whom they have pierced 1856 , and they shall mourn 4553 for him, as one mourneth 5594 for [his] <b>only 3173 [son]</b> , and shall be in bitterness 4843 for him, as one that is in bitterness 4843 for [his] firstborn 1060.

Source: <http://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strong's=H3173&t=KJV>

**Conclusion:** We can see that God sets in place the only child of a family or the lone child of a family. The fruit of the womb comes from God (**Genesis 30:22** and **Psalms 127:3**).

7. Did God's mighty acts of the past continue to stand before His people and the heathen as a testimony of His might?

Yes: "(7) *O God, when thou wentest forth before thy people, when thou didst march through the wilderness; Selah: (8) The earth shook, the heavens also dropped at the presence of God: even Sinai itself was moved at the presence of God, the God of Israel. (9) Thou, O God, didst send a plentiful rain, whereby thou didst confirm thine inheritance, when it was weary. (10) Thy congregation hath dwelt therein: thou, O God, hast prepared of thy goodness for the poor. (11) The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it. (12) Kings of armies did flee apace: and she that tarried at home divided the spoil. (13) Though ye have lien among the pots, yet shall ye be as the wings of a dove covered with silver, and her feathers with yellow gold. (14) When the Almighty scattered kings in it, it was white as snow in Salmon. (15) The hill of God is as the hill of Bashan; an high hill as the hill of Bashan. (16) Why leap ye, ye high hills? this is the hill which God desireth to dwell in; yea, the LORD will dwell in it for ever. (17) The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels: the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place. (18) Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them"* (Psalms 68:7-18).

8. What can we learn from Psalms 68:19?

The verse says: "*Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah*" (Psalms 68:19).

Therefore, we learn that we should be thankful DAILY for everything we have. We have too many blessings to try to number (Matthew 6:24-34, Acts 17:25, I Timothy 6:17, Ephesians 1:3). Consider this verse as well: "*In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you*" (I Thessalonians 5:18).

9. While God is the God of salvation, does He just leave His enemies to dwell in eternal bliss?

No: "(20) *He that is our God is the God of salvation; and unto GOD the Lord belong the issues from death. (21) But God shall wound the head of his enemies, and the hairy scalp of such an one as goeth on still in his trespasses*" (Psalms 68:20-21).

10. Did God promise His people that they'd triumph over their enemies?

Yes: "(22) *The Lord said, I will bring again from Bashan, I will bring my people again from the depths of the sea: (23) That thy foot may be dipped in the blood of thine enemies, and the tongue of thy dogs in the same*" (Psalms 68:22-23).

11. As you end the sixty-eighth Psalm (from verses 24-35), do we see that God is great and His deeds were visible so that they could praise Him for what He had done in their sight?

Yes: "(24) ***They have seen thy goings, O God; even the goings of my God, my King, in the sanctuary. (25) The singers went before, the players on instruments followed after; among them were the damsels playing with timbrels. (26) Bless ye God in the congregations, even the Lord, from the fountain of Israel. (27) There is little Benjamin with their ruler, the princes of Judah and their council, the princes of Zebulun, and the princes of Naphtali. (28) **Thy God hath commanded thy strength: strengthen, O God,*****

**that which thou hast wrought for us.** (29) Because of thy temple at Jerusalem shall kings bring presents unto thee. (30) Rebuke the company of spearmen, the multitude of the bulls, with the calves of the people, till every one submit himself with pieces of silver: scatter thou the people that delight in war. (31) Princes shall come out of Egypt; Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God. (32) Sing unto God, ye kingdoms of the earth; O sing praises unto the Lord; Selah: (33) To him that rideth upon the heavens of heavens, which were of old; lo, he doth send out his voice, and that a mighty voice. (34) Ascribe ye strength unto God: his excellency is over Israel, and his strength is in the clouds. (35) **O God, thou art terrible out of thy holy places: the God of Israel is he that giveth strength and power unto his people. Blessed be God”** (Psalms 68:24-35).

12. Does the Psalmist seem overwhelmed because of his enemies as we begin the sixty-ninth Psalm?

Yes: “(1) *Save me, O God; for the waters are come in unto my soul.* (2) *I sink in deep mire, where there is no standing: I am come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me.* (3) **I am weary of my crying: my throat is dried: mine eyes fail while I wait for my God.** (4) **They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, being mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored that which I took not away”** (Psalms 69:1-4).

Note: We have seen other Psalms discussing enemies without a cause (Psalms 35:7; 19; 109:3; 119:78; 119:161).

Consider this: “*Strive not with a man without cause, if he have done thee no harm”* (Psalms 3:30).

13. What do we find in the sixty-ninth Psalm that reminds us that we cannot hide anything from God?

“*O God, thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee”* (Psalms 69:5).

14. Did the Psalmist ask God for help so that he did not suffer for the Lord’s cause for nothing?

Yes: “(6) **Let not them that wait on thee, O Lord GOD of hosts, be ashamed for my sake: let not those that seek thee be confounded for my sake, O God of Israel.** (7) *Because for thy sake I have borne reproach; shame hath covered my face.* (8) *I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children.* (9) *For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.* (10) *When I wept, and chastened my soul with fasting, that was to my reproach.* (11) *I made sackcloth also my garment; and I became a proverb to them.* (12) *They that sit in the gate speak against me; and I was the song of the drunkards.* (13) *But as for me, my prayer is unto thee, O LORD, in an acceptable time: O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me, in the truth of thy salvation.* (14) **Deliver me out of the mire, and let me not sink: let me be delivered from them that hate me, and out of the deep waters.** (15) *Let not the waterflood overflow me, neither let the deep swallow me up, and let not the pit shut her mouth upon me.* (16) *Hear me, O LORD; for thy lovingkindness is good: turn unto me according to the multitude of thy tender mercies.* (17) *And hide not thy face from thy servant; for I am in trouble: hear me speedily.* (18) **Draw nigh unto**

*my soul, and redeem it: deliver me because of mine enemies. (19) Thou hast known my reproach, and my shame, and my dishonour: mine adversaries are all before thee. (20) Reproach hath broken my heart; and I am full of heaviness: and I looked for some to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none. (21) They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. (22) Let their table become a snare before them: and that which should have been for their welfare, let it become a trap. (23) Let their eyes be darkened, that they see not; and make their loins continually to shake. (24) Pour out thine indignation upon them, and let thy wrathful anger take hold of them. (25) Let their habitation be desolate; and let none dwell in their tents. (26) For they persecute him whom thou hast smitten; and they talk to the grief of those whom thou hast wounded. (27) Add iniquity unto their iniquity: and let them not come into thy righteousness. (28) Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous. (29) But I am poor and sorrowful: let thy salvation, O God, set me up on high" (Psalms 69:6-29).*

**Note:** While Psalms 69:21 & Matthew 27:34 can be tied together, the mindset presented in Psalms 69:24; 27-28 is NOT the attitude Jesus had on the cross (**Luke 23:34**; cf. **Matthew 20:28**).

15. Does the Lord appreciate being praised?

Yes: "(30) *I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving. (31) This also shall please the LORD better than an ox or bullock that hath horns and hoofs. (32) The humble shall see this, and be glad: and your heart shall live that seek God. (33) For the LORD heareth the poor, and despiseth not his prisoners. (34) Let the heaven and earth praise him, the seas, and every thing that moveth therein" (Psalms 69:30-34).*

\*\*When done right (**John 4:23-24**) with the right relationship (**Amos 5:21-27**).

16. Was the Psalmist confident that God would save His people?

Yes: "(35) *For God will save Zion, and will build the cities of Judah: that they may dwell there, and have it in possession. (36) The seed also of his servants shall inherit it: and they that love his name shall dwell therein" (Psalms 69:35-36).*