

The God of All Comfort: Psalms

The Psalms for February 28 - March 6, 2021

The Life of David, Set 2

This week the group of Psalms we will be studying are from the experiences of trial in the life of King David. In these Psalms David expresses great struggle and difficulty, but also a sure and certain hope that God would deliver him. We see in these Psalms refreshing honesty and trust in God. One such verse is in Psalm 3 where David cries out, “How many are my foes! Many are rising against me; many are saying of my soul, “There is no salvation for him in God.” We can picture ourselves in similar situations. We face enemies of various kinds, we “feel” alone, deserted, and abandoned. No one cares. David’s honesty in sharing the travails of his soul is never with unbelief. Rather, David always has great hope. “I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.” This theme runs throughout these Psalms. He laments what is going on but also prays to the Lord. “Give ear to my prayer, O God,...”. “Make haste, O God, to deliver me.” David is unashamed to pray bold prayers. Jesus teaches the same kind of bold, frank, honesty in approaching the Father. In Luke 11:8, in the context of the Lord’s Prayer, Jesus teaches that the friend at midnight is heard not because he is his neighbor’s friend in need of food, but because of his “importunity”, his incredulous persistence, he receives what he asks. In the same way God hears us and answers our prayers as we pray with such honesty and faith.

- **Sunday – Psalm 7:** David was likely fleeing from King Saul who wanted to kill him. David prayed for God to establish the righteous.
- **Monday – Psalm 142:** A plea for deliverance as David and his men were fleeing from Saul and were taking refuge in a cave. He is in a hopeless situation and knows only God can help him.
- **Tuesday – Psalm 70:** A short Psalm of self-reflection of his spiritual condition, “poor and needy”, and knows only God is his help.
- **Wednesday – Psalm 60:** This Psalm records the events from 2 Samuel 8 and 1 Chronicles 18. This is a Psalm of victory in battle with many of David’s enemies killed in battle. David is thankful God gave the victory but it wasn’t easy.
- **Thursday – Psalm 3:** Sin had its consequences in David’s life. This Psalm is when Absalom pursued David to steal his kingdom. Things look bleak for David but he knew God had established him and given him his kingdom which would last forever even though David had grievously sinned. David could rest because of the promises of God.
- **Friday – Psalm 55:** This is a confession that God’s mercy is needed because of the reality of personal sin. If God kept a record of sin every believer would be doomed for eternity. Yet, the believer has hope and waits on God in faith.
- **Saturday – Psalm 18:** This is a Psalm reminding readers of their need of the Gospel that Paul teaches in Romans 3:20 and Galatians 2:16 . “...for no one living is righteous before you.”

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Psalm 7 Resources | February 28, 2021

Books

The Expositor's Bible Commentary on the Psalms by Willem VanGemeren Study notes in the Reformation Study Bible, Spirit of the Reformation Study Bible or ESV Study Bible Favorite Psalms, John Stott

Worship Resources

The Life of David, Set 2 (read one per day)
Ps. 7, 142, 70, 60, 3, 55, 18

Psalm 7

A Shiggaion of David, which he sang to the Lord concerning the words of Cush, a Benjaminite..

1 O LORD my God, in you do I take refuge;
save me from all my pursuers and deliver me,
2 lest like a lion they tear my soul apart,
rending it in pieces, with none to deliver.
3 O Lord my God, if I have done this,
if there is wrong in my hands,
4 if I have repaid my friend with evil
or plundered my enemy without cause,
5 let the enemy pursue my soul and overtake it,
and let him trample my life to the ground
and lay my glory in the dust. Selah
6 Arise, O LORD, in your anger;
lift yourself up against the fury of my enemies;
awake for me; you have appointed a judgment.
7 Let the assembly of the peoples be gathered about you;
over it return on high.
8 The LORD judges the peoples;
judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness
and according to the integrity that is in me.
9 Oh, let the evil of the wicked come to an end,
and may you establish the righteous
—you who test the minds and hearts,
O righteous God!
10 My shield is with God,
who saves the upright in heart.
11 God is a righteous judge,
and a God who feels indignation every day.

12 If a man does not repent, God will whet his sword;
 he has bent and readied his bow;
 13 he has prepared for him his deadly weapons,
 making his arrows fiery shafts.
 14 Behold, the wicked man conceives evil
 and is pregnant with mischief
 and gives birth to lies.
 15 He makes a pit, digging it out,
 and falls into the hole that he has made.
 16 His mischief returns upon his own head,
 and on his own skull his violence descends.
 17 I will give to the LORD the thanks due to his righteousness,
 and I will sing praise to the name of the LORD, the Most High.

Questions for discussion and reflection

- How is this Psalm divided up? Is there a natural flow to it? Note the ending.
- The last verse does not seem to fit into the theme of the Psalm. The Psalm is a lament and a prayer but it ends with thanksgiving and praise. How does that fit into the previous 16 verses?
- How have you dealt with an individual or a group of people who were against you in some way? Have you experienced injustice? How has your reputation and Christian character been undermined or attacked? How did you respond? Does this Psalm provide any help?
- David appears to have had a clear conscience from verses 3-4, 8. He didn't deserve the treatment he was receiving. (It wasn't that he was sinless but in this situation was righteous.) If you are in a conflict currently, can you say the same? Do you have integrity in how you treat people? Notice how concerned David was that he treated others with equity.
- David trusted in the judgement of God, verses 6-7, and he prayed for God to judge his enemies. What do you think of that? Should we pray "imprecatory" prayers like this against the wicked? How do we understand Jesus saying to do good to our enemies and then find in the Psalms, like this one, prayers for judgment upon the wicked? Do we pray for judgement or transformation? Note verse 9 where he prays for an end to violence and security for the righteous.
- David's prayer for judgment continues in verse 12. David warns the unrepentant. He gives imagery of God sharpening his sword and bending back the bow string to unleash his just judgment. Repentance is to be a daily spiritual discipline for the believer. God is patient towards sinners - this patience leads us to repentance. Is there a hardness in your heart to repent of sin? Are you keeping short accounts with God in this area of your Christian life? \
- What is in store for the unrepentant? See Psalm 7:14-16.

Prayer

Lord, give us strength to bear up and trust you in the midst of trial. Help us to give thanks and praise you while suffering unjustly.