

Psalms 6-8

Well we are going to continue our study here this morning through the book of Psalms and if you remember the Psalms are of course a huge blessing to us as believers and really in my opinion the Psalms teach us how to pray, they teach us how to walk and talk with God on a daily basis, they teach us how to praise the Lord and how to remember His great works not only in our lives but also in all of creation.

We'll be working to look at 3 Psalms today and We'll begin in Psalm 6 if you want to look at that in your Bible and we do learn it was written by David and just like last week in Psalms 4 and 5 we learn it was written to the chief musician.

Look with me at verses 1-3 which say this **6 O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your anger,**

Nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure.

²Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak;

O Lord, heal me, for my bones are troubled.

³My soul also is greatly troubled;

But You, O Lord—how long?

Now really as we read this it almost seems like a Psalm of repentance like something has happened in David's life and he is kind of returning to the Lord for we can see here that David asks the Lord not to rebuke him in His anger...

I think we should be reminded that God does discipline those that He loves...What father doesn't discipline his kids? My kids usually do pretty well at being obedient but sometimes they get out of line and

punishment does take place. I find taking dessert away from a child for the day or taking away TV time is quite effective.

God also disciplines us, He can cause conviction to sit in our hearts but David here is pleading with God saying Lord don't give me perhaps what I deserve, Lord don't go too far with me, Lord have mercy on me for the things that have taken place.

I don't know about you but I have made mistakes in my own life and I have asked God to cover my mistakes, to forgive me without disciplining me, to really have mercy on me for the wrongs that I have done.

I'm thankful the Lord so often gives grace to me that I don't deserve...We all fall short as we go through life...yes there are consequences but I'm thankful the Lord certainly forgives us.

Look with me at verses 4-5 which say this **4 Return, O Lord, deliver me! Oh, save me for Your mercies' sake! 5 For in death there is no remembrance of You; In the grave who will give You thanks?** David wants the Lord to work in his life now, he wants to see the Lord's mercy for he knows that in death there is no remembrance of You and in the grave none can give Him thanks...I think really what David is trying to convey is that he desires that God would just do a wonderful work in his life now as he was in this world for once someone has died things are different indeed.

Look with me at verses 6-7 which say **6 I am weary with my groaning; All night I make my bed swim; I drench my couch with my tears. 7 My eye wastes away because of grief; It grows old because of all my enemies.**

I am struck by how David speaks about sleep from one Psalm to the next...Previously he was running from his enemies, and he said that he found rest even in trouble.

Now though we can see he was up all night as he wept and sought the Lord. There are times in life when sleep flees from us...Paul even said of his ministry that he often had sleeplessness...Perhaps you have been or are passing through a time like that in your life today...It's tough because you can't find rest, you can't stop your mind from thinking and you are crying out to the Lord for help and restoration in your soul.

Physically David was having a hard time as he says his eyes were wasting away because of his enemies.

Look with me at verses 8-10 which say **8 Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity; For the Lord has heard the voice of my weeping. 9 The Lord has heard my supplication; The Lord will receive my prayer. 10 Let all my enemies be ashamed and greatly troubled; Let them turn back and be ashamed suddenly.** And now David at the end of this Psalm is seen to be strengthened...At the beginning he is asking how long O Lord...and he is asking God for mercy that He would not rebuke him in his anger and now it would seem the Lord has strengthened his position in life.

How awesome it is that the Lord as we seek after Him helps us and restores our soul putting our feet on solid ground. That the Lord hears us even when we are weeping before Him...David clearly says the Lord has received my prayer...How amazing when the Lord breaks through in our hearts and minds.

We then see David close by saying may my enemies be ashamed and greatly troubled; and them turn back and be ashamed suddenly...God has a way of doing that with those that come against His people. The Lord can turn the tables on those who come against the children of God. There are times that situations can look very bleak, but God will turn them around and use them for His glory.

All right let's head into Psalm 7 and here in the title we are told again it was given by David and it was a meditation that he sung to the Lord...That word for meditation and I'm not going to try and pronounce it in the Hebrew is defined in the following way in a reference book titled the Brown-Driver-Briggs Lexicon...it says the word means a wild, passionate song, with rapid changes of rhythm...So the idea is that David is extremely upset about what is taking place.

We are also told here in the title that there was a man whose name was Cush that was coming against him and we learn here that he was a Benjamite...We don't have any other details in the Word about this situation but we do know that Saul came from the tribe of Benjamin and they were decidedly for Saul and supported him...so this may have been someone close to Saul.

It would seem from the context of this Psalm that there were accusations being made against David...Down in verses 3-5 David says "IF I HAVE DONE THIS" and then lists a few things...So it would seem that this Cush was bringing charges of wrong doing against David.

Ok let's get into this here if you look at verses 1-2 which say this

7 O Lord my God, in You I put my trust;

Save me from all those who persecute me;

And deliver me,

²Lest they tear me like a lion,

Rending me in pieces, while *there is none to deliver.*

I think David as he matured in life and went through so much even before becoming the king had learned that really there was no refuge in life but One, and that there was no one that could save him from the onslaught of his enemies except the Lord.

I have found in life that friendships are incredibly important and you need to have people in your life that you can talk to and that can speak into your life but at the same time when everything goes haywire there is really only one place to run that is truly a place of safety...and that is the Lord.

I believe David had seen in his own life that when he ran to the Lord and trusted in Him that God in turn had delivered him from so much. Perhaps David had learned that if God didn't watch over him then he was in big trouble. It has been said that if God doesn't watch over you and I, that the enemy can **and will easily destroy us**. The enemy of our souls is far more powerful than we are...But if we are in Christ the One that lives in us is greater than the one that lives in the world.

David here let's the Lord know that he needs help against those that come against him and he says that they really desire to tear him like a lion...and the thought of his enemies was that there would be none to deliver him. Our enemy the devil constantly wants to tear us up as a lion does it's prey...Over in 1 Peter 5:8 the Word says this ⁸**Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.** It's certainly true that the enemy would love to destroy you and I who name the name of

Jesus. Satan would ultimately love to tear us limb from limb as we seek to honor the Lord.

I'm equally thankful that while the enemy of our souls constantly accuses us and comes against us that we have an Advocate that stands before the Father on our behalf and His name is Jesus.

I want to point out to you that in verse 2 if you look that up in multiple versions I think it gives a little different flavor of what might have been taking place...In the King James Version it says this in verse **2 Lest he tear my soul like a lion, rending it in pieces, while there is none to deliver.** So it would seem that this Cush as he was coming against David was really causing David to be crushed and torn within his soul.

It's obvious here that David is having a hard time in his life as this individual is really coming at him like a lion.

Look with me at verses 3-5 which say the following **³O Lord my God, if I have done this:**

If there is iniquity in my hands,

⁴If I have repaid evil to him who was at peace with me,

Or have plundered my enemy without cause,

⁵Let the enemy pursue me and overtake me;

Yes, let him trample my life to the earth,

And lay my honor in the dust. Selah

Notice David here in the text doesn't approach the situation like he is blameless or like he has it all together but instead he leaves room for the Lord to do what is necessary. If he had failure in his life David was willing to face the music so to say. It is as if David is saying if I'm guilty

I will take what should come to me...Perhaps David knew that it was hard to gauge himself honestly and purely. Over in Jeremiah 17:9 the Word says this **The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?**

I get the sense that David is really just throwing himself upon the Lord and asking the Lord to sort through things...It's like David is saying I will not try to get away from what You deem I may deserve.

I think it's important to remember that in life the enemy of our souls and even people may come against you in a thousand ways...you and I don't have to justify ourselves nor do we have to clear our own names...Instead we can simply say Lord you know it all, you know my heart, you know my actions and my thoughts and I'm open Lord to You doing whatever you need to in my life.

I think we can see several different things here that David was being accused of. It would seem there were those that said that David had iniquity or sin upon his hands meaning they were saying he was guilty of violating God's law.

It would also seem that David was being accused of doing evil to him who was at peace with him...Perhaps this Cush was saying that David had wronged someone or came against them without reason...Kind of like David had done something to take advantage of another person.

And then David says if I have plundered my enemy without reason...meaning perhaps this Cush said that David had wrongfully gone to battle against a group of people and actually taken the spoils for himself in an improper manner.

And then David simply says if I done these things Lord let the enemy overtake me and let my life be trampled to the ground. That's a bold statement from David...I think David had a rock solid trust in the Lord that God had worked in his life very purposefully to this point and that when the Lord was done with him, and if in this instance the Lord was done with him, that God had the right to remove him or take him out.

Verse 6 says the following ⁶Arise, O Lord, in Your anger;
Lift Yourself up because of the rage of my enemies;
Rise up for me to the judgment You have commanded

It would seem that David was confident that he had done none of the things that were spoken against him...As such he trusted that God would be for him and that God would take care of his enemies.

Essentially David is asking the Lord to take care of business on his behalf. I won't say that I always agree with David and his heart towards those that come against him. but I do think his reaction in this case is appropriate and that you and I should refuse to come against those who are decidedly against us in our own strength. The Lord is big enough to watch over us and has a way of dealing with those who come against His children.

Look with me at verses 7-8 which say ⁷So the congregation of the peoples shall surround You;

For their sakes, therefore, return on high.

⁸The Lord shall judge the peoples;

Judge me, O Lord, according to my righteousness,

And according to my integrity within me.

I want to point out to you that while humanity may judge a person for their actions and the things they choose to do **that the Lord is the one that sees the heart** and the motives behind our actions. **Man can only see the outside of a person while the Lord knows the deepest truths** of a situation.

Over in 1 Corinthians 4:5 the Word says this ⁵**Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.** **Of course, you and I are to judge properly as we examine the fruit** that comes from a person's life...**but we should also know that what we can see is only finite, while God can see that which is hidden.**

I want to add here that while David sure seems to be very confident in who he is as a person **that I would personally never want to be judged by God based** on my righteousness or on my own integrity...**And I say that because if God were to look at my life based on what I have done and accomplished I know that I would be found guilty and deserving of damnation.**

Instead in a New Testament sense you and I should be finding our standing before God not in ourselves **but instead we should stand in the righteousness of Jesus Christ** that is applied to our hearts by faith. **We must always remember that God does not see us as worthy of heaven because** of us or our actions **but instead because of what Jesus has accomplished on our behalf.**

Verse 9 says the following⁹**Oh, let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, But establish the just; For the righteous God tests the hearts and minds.** **I want to ask you today have you ever felt like**

this? Have you ever wanted God to bring the wickedness of the wicked to an end? **I know I do every time I turn on the news and something horrible seems to have happened.**

In our hearts and souls as believers in Jesus Christ there should be a great yearning within us that all evil would be removed from the earth.

I like it that David as he cries out to God is saying Lord please deal with the wicked while at the same time establishing the just. And then he simply puts it in the Lord's hands by saying the Lord is the one that tests the hearts and minds.

I like what the Word says over in 2 Peter 2:9 about the wicked of this world and the just of this world when it says ⁹ **then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment,** Rest assured God will take care of business one day...Though we live in a fallen world that is really run by Satan at this point the Lord will one day establish righteousness and separate the wicked from the just.

Verse 10 says this ¹⁰ **My defense is of God, Who saves the upright in heart.** I can think of no better defender than God Almighty and I have to tell you today that if you are in Christ then the Lord is decidedly for you and acts on your behalf. This does not mean that hard times will not come on your life but it does mean that God will always be with you helping you along the way...Yes there will be lessons to learn, and yes sometimes we do deserve the trouble that has come upon us but we can have confidence that the Lord will shield and defend us.

The armies of this world hide behind missile defense systems, military aircraft and all kinds of worldly items but you and I who are in Christ

have something much better in that we shall be defended by our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Verses 11-13 say this ¹¹ **God is a just judge,**

And God is angry with the wicked every day.

¹² **If he does not turn back,**

He will sharpen His sword;

He bends His bow and makes it ready.

¹³ **He also prepares for Himself instruments of death;**

He makes His arrows into fiery shafts.

When it says here that God is a just Judge we can know that our God never judges wrongly. Isn't that amazing to think about? God sees it all and when He judges it's never done improperly. When our lives are said and done we will also be judged as believers not unto condemnation but for the things we chose to do while in this life with the resources, talents and callings that God has placed on our lives.

The Word speaks of this in 1 Corinthians 3:12-15 if you wanted to read that for homework but the Lord will one day judge not only you and I who believe but also the wicked of this world will be fully exposed...and when it's all said and done not one person will say "God you judged wrongly or God you judged unfairly"

Notice in verse 12 it says if he (and this is speaking of Cush) does not turn back and then it says that God will sharpen His sword and prepare His arrows into fiery darts...In other words if Cush doesn't get things straight or change his actions David had an expectation that God was going to defend him and essentially take care of business against Cush.

Notice David doesn't mention anything about himself taking action but instead he is resigned to allowing God to deal with the situation...I suppose David had learned this in his interactions with Saul...David refused to touch the Lord's anointed but instead waited until the Lord took care of Saul.

Look at verses 14-16 which say this ¹⁴ **Behold, the wicked brings forth iniquity; Yes, he conceives trouble and brings forth falsehood.** ¹⁵ **He made a pit and dug it out, And has fallen into the ditch which he made.**

¹⁶ **His trouble shall return upon his own head, And his violent dealing shall come down on his own crown.**

There is a passage in Galatians 6 that says God will not be mocked and that a man will reap from that which he sows...if a person chooses to sow to the flesh then from the flesh he shall reap destruction...and I think that's what David is referring to here...People who live for the wrong things in life will eventually reap from those decisions...God of course is merciful but there does come a point that destruction will come.

Notice verse 15 says that Cush had dug a pit almost like making a trap for David to fall into and had instead himself fallen into it. Proverbs 26:27 says the following, **Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, And he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him.** and then Psalm 37:12-15 says this **The wicked plots against the just, And gnashes at him with his teeth.** ¹³ **The Lord laughs at him, For He sees that his day is coming.** ¹⁴ **The wicked have drawn the sword And have bent their bow, To cast down the poor and needy, To slay**

those who are of upright conduct. ¹⁵ Their sword shall enter their own heart, And their bows shall be broken.

God has a way of working things out for the favor of His kids...The world may come against us but God can and does protect us and work in us.

Look at verse 17 which says this **¹⁷ I will praise the Lord according to His righteousness, And will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High.**

As David closes, he rightly ascribes praise unto the Lord...He knows that God will work through this situation, that God will uphold the righteous while coming against the wicked, he knows that God is his defender and he has entrusted himself to the care of his great God...I think when you do that you won't be able to help but to sing unto the Lord and to glorify His name.

Let's move into Psalm 8 here and again we are told it was written to the chief musician.

Verse 1 says this **O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens!** I want to point something out to you right away here in verse 1...Notice that first we have O LORD and in your Bibles that word for LORD should be all capitalized...when we see that in the Bible it means that this is referring to the covenant name of God...which we would say is Jehovah or YaHWeH so as David begins he speaks the name of God.

And then notice after this it says our Lord and its got a capital L but the rest is lower case and that's the word Adonai which can mean master or lord.

So David is here mentioning the covenant name of God and then simply saying that God is his personal lord or master.

And then David says how excellent is Your name in all the earth and that His glory is high above the heavens. How true it is that God should be glorified and lifted up on a regular basis in our lives. David knew that God had done so much on his behalf and he had experienced the Lord in so many ways as he had gone through life.

There are times that all that is left is to praise the name of the Lord, to ascribe worth to our Creator, to rejoice in the glory of our God.

We'll get to this in a minute but notice David says that God's glory is greater than the heavens...Have you ever considered the heavens in your life? Have you ever looked at the stars and the sky and just been in awe of the creative power of our God?

Look with me at verse 2 which says ²**Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.** It's an amazing thing but so often in life children will be the ones to truly wonder at the awesomeness of God. It has been said that children are by far the most receptive to asking Jesus into their hearts to be their Lord and Savior. In Matthew 21:15 we are told that the children cried out in the temple saying "Hosanna to the Son of David!" while the chief priests and leaders we are told were indignant.

We also see here that God will silence the enemy and the avenger.

Look with me at verses 3-5 which say this ³**When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,**

4What is man that You are mindful of him,

And the son of man that You visit him?

5For You have made him a little lower than the angels,

And You have crowned him with glory and honor.

David again is seen thinking on creation and he is just blown away...David is thinking of the moon and the stars and how God has ordained them even saying that these were just the work of His fingers.

Listen to what Isaiah 40:12-13 says when it says **Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, Measured heaven with a span And calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales And the hills in a balance? ¹³Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, Or as His counselor has taught Him?**

I think we forget the incredible power of God and creativeness of God. To think that the heavens and the stars and the moon and even the sun were created as recorded in Genesis 1:16 in one single day is astounding.

I want you to think about David and we know that when he was young he was a shepherd of the flocks of his family. As such David probably spent many nights outside protecting and watching over the sheep. It was probably at times a very lonely life that this young man lived...and I can just imagine David as he was out in the middle of nowhere with no light around looking up into the heavens and seeing the stars in abundance.

I would encourage you one night on a clear night to head out into the country and just get away from the noise of the city and the light and just look up into the heavens and you won't be able to help but be in awe of God Almighty.

If you just do some research the amount of stars in the universe is staggering...For David and with the naked eye it is said humans can see anywhere from 2,500 to 4,500 stars at one time...today with modern day telescopes the number of total stars is estimated to be in the billions.

You and I here on planet earth are a tiny spec of dust compared to all of creation...our sun which seems so large to us is nothing compared to the size of the stars in the universe.

Did you know it would take nearly 1 million earths to fill the sun? Our sun is massive and yet there is a star you may have heard of called Betelgeuse and it is estimated that this star is so large that anywhere from 700 million to 1 billion of our suns could fit inside of it.

And then as David is just thinking about the incredible size and awesomeness of the heavens he comes to a very interesting conclusion when he says what is man that you are mindful of him? Or the son of man that you visit him? That's a good question...Why is it that in all of creation that God has chosen humanity to be the object of His love and devotion? Why is it that God has chosen man to be made in the image of God?

I don't think there is a logical step by step answer to that question...Instead my response is that we were made for His glory and

for His purpose...He did so because He wanted to...and to me that's a glorious truth to dwell upon.

Then in verse 5 David says that man has been made a little lower than the angels and yet has crowned man with glory and honor...it's interesting to think how powerful angels are and how majestic they can be and yet God clearly has a special place in his heart for humans...It is humanity that gets to experience the forgiveness and mercy of God while the angels do not get to experience restoration.

Verses 6-8 say this ⁶You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all *things* under his feet, ⁷All sheep and oxen— Even the beasts of the field, ⁸The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas.

In the beginning God placed man in the Garden of Eden and gave him the command and authority that he was to have dominion or authority over all of creation...and that's God's desire even today.

Sadly man gave his authority over to Satan when he chose to sin against God and now the enemy of our souls is the ruler of this world.

I do believe we can still see man has authority over creation in many ways for it is man that is the pinnacle of God's creation and it is man that has control over the animal kingdom...Yes, creation is in revolt against man and we do see certain animals having power over man but by and large the animal kingdom and this world are under the authority of man.

It's a fallen world currently that we live in and we should be reminded that one day the Lord Jesus will come back to rule and reign in righteousness and set all things in its proper order.

Now we don't have time today but not only should we see the glory of God in the heavens but we should also see the glory of God in creation as we see it in this world...It's amazing to just examine the vast creativeness of God who has created both the giraffe in all its beauty and the goat who in my opinion has to be one of the oddest animals on the planet.

Verse 9 brings praise once again to the Lord when it says **9 O Lord, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth!** It's kind of like a sandwich that David has made with praise of God at the beginning and at the end...The name of God is excellent indeed and He is worthy of our praise and admiration.

In closing, so often you and I as we go through life can really just get our focus on the wrong things. Whether it be the circumstances that take place around us or it be the enemies that hate us and constantly plot against us...I believe David does a good job maybe not always but a good deal of the time just putting his eyes where they belong in life.

You and I also must learn to put our eyes on Jesus trusting that He will stand up for us and that He has our best interests in mind.

Maybe today you find yourself in the wrong frame of mind as you go through life...I would encourage you to look up to the heavens, to look around at creation and to remember that the name of God is excellent and worthy of praise

Let me pray for us and we'll worship the Lord in closing.

Psalms 6-8 “How Excellent Is His Name”

Chapter 7

Verse 1

1 Peter 5:8

Verses 3-5

Jeremiah 17:9

Verses 7-8

1 Corinthians 4:5

Verse 9

2 Peter 2:9

Verses 14-16

Proverbs 26:27

Psalms 37:12-15

Chapter 8

Verses 3-5

Isaiah 40:12-13