

Psalm 31

Jesus

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

I Spoke Too Soon

In You, **O Lord, I put my trust; Let me never be ashamed;** Deliver me in Your righteousness.² **Bow down Your hear** to me, Deliver me speedily; **Be my rock of refuge, A fortress** of defense to save me. ³ For You *are* my rock and my fortress; Therefore, for Your name's sake, Lead me and guide me. ⁴ **Pull me out of the net** which they have secretly laid for me, For You *are* my strength. ⁵ **Into Your hand I commit my spirit;** You have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth. ⁶ I have hated those who regard useless idols; But I trust in the Lord. ⁷ I will be glad and rejoice in Your mercy, For You have considered my trouble; You have known my soul in adversities, ⁸ And have not shut me up into the hand of the enemy; You have set my feet in a **wide place**. ⁹ Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble; My eye wastes away with **grief**, Yes, my soul and my body! ¹⁰ For my life is spent with **grief**, And my years with sighing; My strength fails because of my iniquity, And my bones waste away. ¹¹ I am a reproach among all my enemies, But especially among my neighbors, And *am* repulsive to my acquaintances; Those who see me outside flee from me. ¹² I am forgotten like a dead man, **out of mind**; I am like a **broken vessel**. ¹³ For I hear the slander of many; Fear *is* on every side; While they take counsel together against me, They scheme to take away my life. ¹⁴ But as for me, I trust in You, O Lord; I say, "You *are* my God." ¹⁵ My times *are* in Your hand; Deliver me from the hand of my enemies, And from those who persecute me. ¹⁶ Make Your face shine upon Your servant; Save me for Your mercies' sake. ¹⁷ Do not let me be ashamed, O Lord, for I have called upon You; Let the wicked be ashamed; Let them be silent in the grave. ¹⁸ Let the lying lips be put to silence, Which speak insolent things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous. ¹⁹ Oh, how great *is* Your goodness, Which You have laid up for those who fear You, *Which* You have prepared for those who trust in You In the presence of the sons of men! ²⁰ You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence From the plots of man; You shall keep them secretly in a pavilion From the strife of tongues. ²¹ Blessed *be* the Lord, For He has shown me His marvelous kindness in a strong city! ²² For **I said in my haste**, "I am cut off from before Your eyes"; **Nevertheless You heard** the voice of my supplications When I cried out to You. ²³ Oh, love the Lord, all you His saints! *For* the Lord preserves the faithful, And fully repays the proud person. ²⁴ Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart, All you who hope in the Lord.

John 16:33b... In the world **you will have tribulation**; but be of good cheer [lir. **courage/comfort**], I have overcome the world.

Trouble does not mean God has abandoned us...

- **Song of David:** Sung publicly/Psalm of **desperation**

vv1-3 You are my only hope...My Rock/Fortress

Psalm 86:1 [David] Bow down Your ear, O Lord, hear me; For I am poor and needy. **2 The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;** My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

- **Immutability:** Attribute God. Immovable/Unchanging/Solid/Trustworthy

v4 Pull me out of their net

Not asking to avoid snares/traps. **He's already caught**

- Messed up/Bought into a lie. Fell to temptation. How?
- Listened to stupid people/made stupid decisions
- Compromised his walk. Shrunk back from doing hard thing. People pleasing.
- **Result?** Ashamed/Trapped. Sought safety in men? Compromise?

Proverbs 29:25 The fear of man **brings a snare...** whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.

- **In enemy's net:** Aha. We saw what you did. Call yourself man of God?

One option left: Backward freefall into the hands of his Father
v5 Into Your hands I commit My spirit

Luke 23:46 [Quoted]... Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, **'into Your hands I commit My spirit.'** ...

Acts 7:59 [Stephen] "Lord Jesus **receive my spirit.**"

- **Hands of God:** Place of protection for believers now/forever

John 10:28 ...I give them eternal life, and they shall **never perish**; neither shall anyone snatch them **out of My hand**. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and **no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand**.

- **Risen:** Let it go...die to old life/self-life/community your spirit into His hands

vv6-8 God's Past Faithfulness

I was trapped you set me free...I was confined You gave me a wide space

- Recued us at Salvation. Continues to rescue us from enemy's snares/temptations

v9-13 David's Current Troubles

- **Prays Mercy** for getting himself into this trouble
- **Emotions winning over Faith:** Feels Forgotten/Broken/Fearful manifested in...

1. **Grief** My eyes/Soul/Body wasting away w/grief
2. **Self-Pity** My entire life has been sorrow? Really?
3. **Confession** My strength fails because of my iniquity
4. **Shame** My witness is shot. Reproached/slandered/repulsive to all

How can I preach liberty when I'm now in bondage myself?

I have nothing good to say to anyone...

Psalms 73:15 If I had said, "**I will speak thus,**" Behold, I would have been **untrue** to the generation of Your children.

v14-19 I guess all I can now do is pray?

- **Last resort/good resort none the less...**
 1. You are my God I trust in You
 2. My life is in Your hands
 3. Deliver me/Turn Your face to me/Save me
 4. Silence my enemies lies/Amplify Your truth

vv19-21 Progression: Feelings to Faith

- Faith in God's **Strength**/Faith in God's **Goodness**/Faith in God's **Protection yet...**

**v22 Regret for not trusting sooner
I said in my haste I thought God has forgotten me**

- **J the B in prison:** Is it You or...are we looking for someone else?

Matthew 11:6 "...And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."

- **Tell John not to be offended/stumble because of Me**

1. **My ways**
2. **My timing**...but trust My love/My sovereignty/My faithfulness

vv 23-24 God delivers David and he wants us to know

Oh, love the Lord, all you His saints!
For the Lord preserves the faithful/Fully repays the proud person.
Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart
All you who hope in the Lord.

Psalm 31 I Spoke Too Soon...I said in My haste God has forgotten me
Nevertheless...you were Faithful as always

Psalm 32

Jesus

A Psalm of David. A Contemplation.

Refreshment and Joy of Forgiveness

1 Blessed is he whose **transgression is forgiven**, Whose **sin is covered**. 2 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit. 3 When I kept silent, my **bones grew old** Through my groaning all the day long. 4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer. **Selah** 5 I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin. **Selah** 6 For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You In a time when You may be found; Surely in a flood of great waters They shall not come near him. 7 You are my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance. **Selah** 8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. 9 Do not be like the horse or like the mule, Which have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you. 10 Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; But he who trusts in the Lord, mercy shall surround him. 11 Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous; And shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

- **Connection:** Psalm 51/32

In **Psalm 51** written after David's sin w/ Bathsheba/against Uriah, David promised to "teach transgressors God's ways. This psalm may be the fulfillment of that vow. [Guzik]

Psalms 32 and 51 are "tuned together." [John Trapp]

- David finally repents/forgiven/again comfortable in his own skin

v1 Happy are those who are forgiven

Transgression Forgiven...Sin Covered...Iniquity forgotten...Spirit Cleansed

- **vv3-4** Recalls consequences of Unconfessed Sin

1. **Old/Sickly** Before our time. E.g., meth/promiscuity
2. **Groaning** Conviction of the Holy Spirit/Condemnation of Devil

Why is the Living Water of Abundant Life dried up in my life?

Refuse to come to terms w/our own sin...Confess. Puke it up on the table

- **If we are His** children [Heb 12] God will not let us go...

Psalm 38:2 ...Your arrows pierce me deeply, And Your hand presses me down.

Psalm 39:10 Remove Your plague from me; I am consumed by the blow of Your hand.

The purpose of God's given pain God-given Healing
Stop Blaming Others/Playing Victim/Take full Responsibility for your sin

- **v5** Refreshment from confession

Acts 3:19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord...

Reason world is sick/depressed/groaning/lives shriveling up/dry as dust?
No refreshment/wholeness...w/out repentance

- **NOTE:** No personal/collective Spiritual Revival **without repentance**

v6 We acknowledge our sin because we trust our Savior to forgive
Pride leaves us dry...Repentance leads to Refreshment. Selah

- **vv8-11** Instruction/Warning from mouth of God through David

1. There is a way you should go. I know it and will show you
2. Learn from David, i.e., Stubborn/prideful for a year. Dying/Drying

- **v10** Mercy shall surround to man who fears God demonstrated by repentance

Psalm 34:6 [David] This poor man cried out, and the Lord heard him, And saved him out of all his troubles. 7 The **angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him**, And delivers them. 8 Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

This is My will for your life...

Gladness/Joy as you walk in My righteousness with a Shiny New Clean Slate

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to **forgive us** our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- **Perfect Positional Righteousness in Jesus...**

Romans 4:5 [Paul quoting Psalm 32] ... to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, 6 just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God **imputes righteousness apart from works:**

Blessed are those whose **lawless deeds are forgiven**, And whose **sins are covered**; 8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin."

Psalm 32 Refreshment and Joy of Forgiveness

Psalm 33

Jesus

God's Sovereignty in Creation and History

1 Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! For **praise from the upright is beautiful**. 2 Praise the Lord with the harp; Make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings. 3 Sing to Him a new song; **Play skillfully** with a shout of joy. 4 For the **word of the Lord is right**, And all **His work is done in truth**. 5 **He loves righteousness and justice**; The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord. 6 **By the word of the Lord the heavens were made**, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. 7 He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deep in storehouses. 8 Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. 9 For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. 10 The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect. 11 The counsel of the Lord stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations. 12 **Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord**, The people He has chosen as His own inheritance. 13 The Lord looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men. 14 From the place of His dwelling He looks On all the inhabitants of the earth; 15 He **fashions their hearts individually**; He considers all their works. 16 No king is saved by the multitude of an army; A mighty man is not delivered by great strength. 17 A horse is a vain hope for safety; Neither shall it deliver any by its great strength. 18 Behold, **the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him**, On those who **hope in His mercy**, 19 To deliver their soul from death, And to keep them alive in famine. 20 Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield. 21 For our heart shall rejoice in Him, Because we have trusted in His holy name. 22 Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, Just as we hope in You.

- **Unattributed:** Liturgical Use/Public Worship

v1 Praise from the upright is beautiful to the Lord

Psalm 22:3 But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel.

- **v2-11 Reasons to Praise**

1. His Word is Right/His Works are True
2. He fills earth He made with His Goodness
3. He is sovereign over Nations even World Economic Forum

Quotes Yuval Noah Harari from WEF re. Upgrading Humans to gods. Story of Jesus resurrection is fake news. Humans are hackable animals, etc. Guess we'll see how that works out? **What about us as a nation?**

- **v12 Happy Nation is Nation whose God is the Living God**

1. United States/Israel was and soon will be again
2. Rapture/Trib/2nd Coming: All nations will worship one God/Living God

Is the Living God the God of America? He once was.

- **Questions for Americans today...**

1. Is the Bible the Word of God?
2. Is the God of the Bible the only God?
3. Is there **absolute truth**?
4. Is there an absolute **moral code**?

Is creation taught in schools/colleges? Why not?

Oh, the Beauty men created as they at least acknowledged the true God

- Colleges
- Art/Music
- Architecture

Why have these areas of education/music/art digressed into dark and ugly things America's god for the most part is no longer the living God but in fact Satan himself. No? Look around. [NJC]

Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord

Maybe that's why things are the way they are?

- **Holy Nation** is not defined by border but by faith

1 Peter 2:9 ... you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, **a holy nation**, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you **out of darkness into His marvelous light...**

**So we don't despair but praise God for giving us Light in midst of darkness
Individual care for each of us as we wait Jesus to Light this place up again**

- **v15** Fashions each heart individually...

Psalms 139:12 Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You. 13 For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well **...16** Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them. 17 **How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!** 18 If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand...

v18 The Eye of the Lord is on **those who fear Him**

Luke 12:5 But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, fear Him! [Fear the One who loves you] 6 "Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. 7 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

- The loving eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him

God's love to us is demonstrated in His command to fear Him because as we fear Him we obey Him and when we obey Him things go better for us. [NJC]

vv20-22 Our soul waits for the Lord...He is our help and our shield.
Our heart shall rejoice in Him...Because we have trusted in Him

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us...as we hope in You.

Psalm 33 God's Sovereignty in Creation and History

Psalm 34

Jesus

A Psalm of David when he pretended madness before Abimelech

Happy are Those Who Trust in God

1 I will **bless the Lord at all times**; His **praise shall continually be** in my mouth. 2 My soul shall make its boast in the Lord; The humble shall hear of it and be glad. 3 Oh, **magnify the Lord with me**, And let us exalt His name together. 4 I sought the Lord, and He heard me, And delivered me from all my fears. 5 They **looked to Him** and were **radiant**, And their faces were not ashamed. 6 This poor man cried out, and the Lord heard him, And saved him out of all his troubles. 7 The **angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him**, And delivers them. 8 Oh, **taste and see that the Lord is good**; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! 9 Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints! There is **no want to those who fear Him**. 10 The young lions lack and suffer hunger; But those who seek the Lord shall not lack any good thing. 11 Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. **12 Who is the man who desires life, And loves many days, that he may see good?** 13 Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit. 14 Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it. 15 The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their cry. 16 The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. 17 The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, And delivers them out of all their troubles. 18 The **Lord is near to those who have a broken heart**, And saves such as have a **contrite spirit**. 19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord **delivers him out of them all**. 20 He guards all his bones; **Not one of them is broken**. 21 **Evil shall slay the wicked**, And those who hate the righteous shall be condemned. 22 The Lord **redeems the soul of His servants**, And none of those who trust in Him shall be condemned.

- **Crazy David** among the Philistines

1 Samuel 21:10 Then David arose and fled that day from before Saul, and went to Achish the king of Gath. 11 And the servants of Achish said to him, "Is this not David the king of the land? Did they not sing of him to one another in dances, saying: 'Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands?'" 12 Now David took these words to heart, and was very much afraid of Achish the king of Gath. 13 So he changed his behavior before them, pretended madness in their hands, scratched on the doors of the gate, and let his saliva fall down on his beard. 14 Then Achish said to his servants, "Look, you see the man is insane. Why have you brought him to me? 15 **Have I need of madmen**, that you have brought this fellow to play the madman in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?"

- Escapes laughing/praising

v1 Continual Praise

What do we do with the 1440 minutes in each day?

Pareto Principle: [20/80 Rule] ... for many outcomes, roughly 80% of consequences come from 20% of causes [vital few] IOWs Only 20% of what we do matters. **Goal?** Figure out what's working [20%] and do more of that to raise the percentage of what we do that matters higher than 20%

- **David says** I will praise continually That matters
- **Paul says** I will give thanks for all things That matters

IOWs I will magnify the Lord because that's what matters. Gives good result
Lift up God as bigger than our problems...

v3-5 Our faces are Radiant as we look to/Magnify the Lord

- Our countenance can be seen on our faces

Moses spent time with God and his face showed it...

2 Corinthians 3:7b... the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away...

- People know when we are self-absorbed: **Lemon face** Stink
- People know when we are in awe of God: **Radiant faces** Fragrance of Christ

v7 The Angel of the Lord encamps ALL around those who fear Him

- These are those with full protection:
 1. Fear Him above everyone/everything else
 2. Fear Him by obeying Him letting chips fall
 3. Fear Him by Trusting Him committing spirit into the hands of a loving God...

v8 Taste and See that the Lord is Good [2 of 5 senses]

1 Peter 2:2 ... as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, 3 if indeed **you have tasted** that the Lord is gracious.

- Some people taste the Word...like some of it...reject most of it...never digest

Hebrews 6:4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have **tasted the heavenly gift**, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have **tasted the good word of God** and the powers of the age to come, 6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance...

- Family/Friends enjoy blessing of Spirit-filled believers
- Reject Grace of God for themselves...

John 6:53 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day... **61** When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, "**Does this offend you?** ... **66** From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. 67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Not enough to just taste...All or none

v 12-14 Desire to love life and see many days? Keep your tongue from evil

- **Tongue is litmus for our walk:** Do we Flatter/Slander/Gossip/Lie/Talk foolishness?

James 3:1b... If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body. Indeed, we put bits in horses' mouths that they may obey us, and we turn

their whole body... **8** But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. **9** With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. **10** Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

Romans 12:1b...[Instead] **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

- **For a Good/Long Life**...Yield our tongues to the Holy Spirit
 1. Keep your tongue from evil/deceit.
 2. Err on side of silence/ **can't go wrong**

- Pride is the fuel of the evil tongue. **Yet...**

v15-22 **The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart**
Saves those with a **contrite spirit**

- **v20** Care toward His people/Judgment to His enemies
- **v20** Not one bone broken: David's Messianic Prophecy in fulfilled 1000 years later

John 19:33 [Romans broke 2 criminals' bones] ... But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs... **36** For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "**Not one of His bones shall be broken.**"

v21 Evil shall slay the wicked, And those who hate the righteous shall be condemned. **22** The Lord redeems the soul of His servants none who trust in Him shall be condemned

Psalm 34 Happy are Those Who Trust in God

Psalm 35

Jesus

A Psalm of David.

God the Avenger of His People Hornet vs Bees

1 Plead my cause, O Lord, with those who strive with me; Fight against those who fight against me. **2** Take hold of shield and buckler, And stand up for my help. **3** Also draw out the spear, And stop those who pursue me. **Say to my soul, "I am your salvation."** **4** Let those be put to shame and brought to dishonor Who seek after my life; Let those be turned back and brought to confusion Who plot my hurt. **5** Let them be like chaff before the wind, And **let the angel of the Lord chase them.** **6** Let their way be **dark and slippery**, And let the **angel of the Lord pursue them.** **7** For without cause they have hidden their net for me in a pit, Which they have dug without cause for my life. **8** Let destruction come upon him unexpectedly, And let his net that he has hidden catch himself; Into that very destruction let him fall. **9** And my soul shall be joyful in the Lord; It shall rejoice in His salvation. **10** All my bones shall say, "Lord, who is like You, Delivering the poor from him who is too strong for him, Yes, the poor and the needy from him who plunders him?" **11** Fierce witnesses rise up; They ask me things that I do not know. **12** They reward me evil for good, To the sorrow of my soul. **13 But as for me**, when they were sick, My clothing was sackcloth; I humbled myself with fasting; And my prayer would return to my own heart. **14** I paced about as though he were my friend or brother; I bowed down heavily, as one who mourns for his mother. **15** But in my adversity, they rejoiced And gathered together; Attackers gathered against me, And I did not know it; They tore at me and did not cease; **16** With ungodly mockers at feasts

They gnashed at me with their teeth. 17 Lord, how long will You look on? Rescue me from their destructions, My precious life from the lions. 18 I will give You thanks in the great assembly; I will praise You among many people. 19 Let them not rejoice over me who are wrongfully my enemies; Nor let them wink with the eye who hate me without a cause. 20 For they do not speak peace, But they devise deceitful matters Against the quiet ones in the land. 21 They also opened their mouth wide against me, And said, "**Aha, aha! Our eyes have seen it.**" 22 This You have seen, O Lord; Do not keep silence. O Lord, do not be far from me. 23 Stir up Yourself, and awake to my vindication, To my cause, my God and my Lord. 24 **Vindicate me, O Lord my God, according to Your righteousness;** And let them not rejoice over me. 25 Let them not say in their hearts, "Ah, so we would have it!" Let them not say, "We have swallowed him up." 26 Let them be ashamed and brought to mutual confusion Who rejoice at my hurt; Let them be clothed with shame and dishonor Who exalt themselves against me. 27 Let them shout for joy and be glad, Who favor my righteous cause; And let them say continually, "**Let the Lord be magnified, Who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant.**" 28 And my tongue shall speak of Your righteousness And of Your praise all the day long.

- **David:** Enemies are all over him like bees/Tired of stung/Losing motivation/endurance
v3 David pleads: Tell me again you will save me...
Override my deceitful faithless gutless feelings...
- **Enemy Tactic:** Wear us out/Wear us down. **Feel** defeated. Feel Dis-**courage**.
- **We walk by Faith not feelings...**

Hebrews 10:35 [You've already been through a lot...] Therefore, **do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.** 36 For you have **need of endurance**, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: 37 "For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. 38 Now the just shall live by faith; **But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.**" 39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

- **Enemy never stops...**

Deuteronomy 1:44 ...the Amorites...came out against you and chased you as bees do...

Psalm 118:11 [My enemies] ...surrounded me, Yes, they surrounded me; But in the name of the Lord I will destroy them. 12 **They surrounded me like bees;** [yet] They were quenched like a fire of thorns; For in the name of the Lord I will destroy them. 13 You pushed me violently, that I might fall, **But the Lord helped me.**

v5 Let the Angel of the Lord chase them! Let their ways be dark and slippery

[God sends His Hornet the Angel of the Lord after the bees] Giant hornets hunt many insects, but the European honeybee is **easy picking**. The hornets, which can be up to **1 ¾ inches** long, hover above a hive and **bite off the heads of the bees with their strong jaws**, taking the meaty bodies back to their own colony.

Exodus 23:27 "I will send My fear before you, I will **cause confusion** among all the people to whom you come, and will make all your enemies turn their backs to you. 28 And I will send **hornets before you**, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite from before you.

Deuteronomy 7:20 Moreover the Lord your God will **send the hornet** among them until those who are left, who hide themselves from you, are destroyed.

Joshua 24:12 [Fulfillment] I sent **the hornet** before you which drove them out from before you, also the two kings of the Amorites, but not with your sword or with your bow.

vv7-12 They set traps and snares for me all day long
They pay back evil for good

Psalm 109:5 [David picture of Jesus] ...they have rewarded me evil for good, And **hatred for my love.**

Psalm 69:4 Those who **hate me without a cause** Are more than the hairs of my head; They are mighty who would destroy me, Being my enemies wrongfully; Though I have stolen nothing, I still must restore it.

- **Jesus:** Ultimate example of receiving evil for good/hatred for love...

John 10:32 ... Many good works I have shown you...For which of [them] do you stone Me?

John 15:25 [Quotes Psalm 69] But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, '**They hated Me without a cause.**'

v 15 Kicking me when I was down

- **David:** Let destruction come by surprise v8 [Descriptive not prescriptive]
- **Jesus:** Forgive them Father for they know not what they do!

v20 Aha, aha! Our eyes have seen it! We saw you!

- **Jesus entire earthly life:** Traps/Snares set to catch Him.
 1. Following Him ever place He went
 2. Scrutinizing every Word He said

v26 Let them be ashamed and brought to mutual confusion Who rejoice at my hurt Let them be clothed w/shame/dishonor Who exalt themselves against me. [c.f. Psalm 40]

v24 Vindicate me O Lord my God

- **God rewards our righteousness. Don't expect it from those who hate us...**

1 Peter 3:14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled." 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; 16 having a good conscience, that **when they defame you as evildoers**, those who revile your good conduct in Christ **may be ashamed.**

- **God will always make it right.** Always deal with our enemies.
- No one gets away with anything...Stand back and watch as the hornets are sent out

v27-28 Magnify God who takes pleasure in His Victory/Our Vindication!

Psalm 35 God the Avenger of His People Hornet vs Bees