

Psalms 92

This evening - we're continuing our overview of the Old Testament book titled Psalms.

With this as our focus - let's open our Bibles to Psalms chapter 92 - and as we make our way to the 92nd Psalm...

...I should take a moment to point out that - this is another anonymous Psalm - whose authorship is unknown.

And as I pointed out in our last study - one-third of the psalms were written by an unknown Psalter.

According to the ancient Midrashim - the author of this Psalm is none other than Adam.

According to these Jewish commentaries - Adam was created on a Friday afternoon - which was the 6th day of creation.

And as the sun began to set - giving way to the first Sabbath day...

...Adam supposedly created this hymn for the Sabbath.

As we consider the contents of this Psalm - we'll soon see that the Adamic authorship of this song - is difficult to defend.

It's for this reason that many attribute this psalm to Moses - while others insist that the author of this song is King David.

The Arabic - and Latin Vulgate versions of the Bible both include David's name in the superscription section of this psalm.

But regardless of the Author's identity - what we can say for sure is that...

...this Psalm was a song that was sung on the Sabbath.

With this as our focus - let's turn our attention to the lyrics that we find here in the 92nd Psalm.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 1 - where the Psalmist declared...

Psa 92:1 A Psalm. A Song for the Sabbath day.
It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;
Psa 92:2 To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning,
And Your faithfulness every night,
Psa 92:3 On an instrument of ten strings,
On the lute, And on the harp,
With harmonious sound.

Here in the beginning of this Psalm - we find the Author - helping his audience to realize that...

...this song was created - for the purpose of worshipping the Lord - on the Sabbath.

And just to be clear - that word - Sabbath - found there in verse 1...

...was translated from a Hebrew word - which refers to the REST that is enjoyed - when we stop working.

With this as our focus - let's take some time to consider how our Creator created the example of Sabbath rest - on the 7th day of creation.

Hold your place - here in this Psalm - and let's turn in our Bibles - to Genesis chapter 2.

As you make your way to the 2nd chapter of Genesis - I want to take a moment to remind you that...

...it's in the first chapter of the Bible where we find Moses - presenting us with the creation account.

After describing the 6 days of creation - Moses tells us about the 7th day - which was a day of rest.

Let's consider how he put it - here in Genesis chapter 2 - look with me - beginning there at verse 1 - where Moses writes...

Gen 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished.

Gen 2:2 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

Gen 2:3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

Here in these verses - we learn about the way in which the Lord rested on the 7th day.

And just to be clear - that word - rested - found there in verses 2 and 3 - was translated from a Hebrew root...

...from which we get the word - Sabbath.

And what's even more interesting is that - the Lord used this as the basis...

...for the Sabbath law that he presented to Moses.

With this as our focus - let's consider how the Lord explained it - when He presented Moses with the 10 commandments.

Continue holding your place there in the book of Psalms - and let's turn in our Bibles - to Exodus chapter 20.

You see - it's here in the 20th chapter of Exodus - where we find the Lord - presenting Moses with the Decalogue.

It's the fourth commandment - where the Lord commanded the children of Israel...

...to follow the example that He set - during the days of creation.

Let's consider how the Lord explained it - here in Exodus chapter 20 - look with me - beginning there at verse 8 - where He declared...

Exo 20:8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Exo 20:9 Six days you shall labor and do all your work,

Exo 20:10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates.

Exo 20:11 For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

So - according to the Lord - the children of Israel were called to rest from their work on the 7th day of the week...

...according to the example that our Creator established during the days of creation.

And while there are many Christians who insist that the days of creation were long ages of time...

...the Lord made it perfectly clear - here in Exodus chapter 20...

...that the days of creation were 7 literal days.

We should also consider how the Lord expounded upon the Sabbath day of rest - in the 31st chapter of Exodus.

Let's flip forward to Exodus chapter 31 - where we find the Lord - helping the children of Israel to realize that...

...they were called to observe the Sabbath day of rest - throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.

The reason why was because - the Sabbaths would serve as sign between them - and the Lord.

With this as our focus - look with me - beginning there at verse 13 - where the LORD spoke to Moses - saying...

Exo 31:13 “Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you.

Exo 31:14 ‘You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people.

Exo 31:15 ‘Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.

Exo 31:16 ‘Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.

Exo 31:17 ‘It is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.’”

So - according to the Lord - the Sabbath day of rest was not only based on the days of creation...

...but - it was also created to serve as a sign - between the Lord - and the people that He sanctified...

...for the specific purpose of bringing forth the promised Messiah into the world.

Just to be clear - that word - Sign - found there in verses 13 and 17 - was translated from a Hebrew word - which - in this context...

...was used in reference to a prophetic symbol - that points to the fulfillment of God's promise.

And to be more specific - the Sabbath Day of rest was a sign that was pointing to our Savior Jesus.

In order to prove my point - let's consider how Paul explained it...

...in the letter he sent to the Hebrew believers
of the first century.

Continue holding your place - there in the book of Psalms - and let's turn
in our Bibles - to Hebrews chapter 4.

As we make our way to the fourth chapter of Hebrews - I should take
a moment to point out that...

...this book was written by a Hebrew believers - to Hebrew
believers...

...in order to help them understand how their Hebrew
religious rulers...

...failed to understand the sign of the Sabbath.

Let's consider how Paul explained it - here in Hebrew chapter 4 - look
with me - beginning there at verse 1 - where he declared...

Heb 4:1 ...since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear
lest any of you seem to have come short of it.

Heb 4:2 For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to
them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being
mixed with faith in those who heard it.

Heb 4:3 For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has
said: "So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest,'"
although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

Heb 4:4 For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in
this way: "And God rested on the seventh day from all His works";

Heb 4:5 and again in this place: "They shall not enter My rest."

Heb 4:6 Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and
those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of
disobedience,

Heb 4:7 again He designates a certain day, saying in David,
"Today," after such a long time, as it has been said:

"Today, if you will hear His voice,
Do not harden your hearts."

Heb 4:8 For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not
afterward have spoken of another day.

Heb 4:9 There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.
Heb 4:10 For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased
from his works as God did from His.
Heb 4:11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone
fall according to the same example of disobedience.

Here in these verses - we find Paul - helping his Hebrew audience to understand that...

...you could be an Israelite - under the leadership of Joshua -
taking a nap in Jerusalem - on a Saturday...

...and still fail to enter into the rest that the Sabbath day
symbolized.

And the reason why is because - the Sabbath rest
was actually a sign of the salvation we receive...

...by faith in the gospel message of grace.

Paul put it plainly - there in verses 2 and 3 - where we learn that...

...those who believe in the gospel message of grace - do enter
that rest.

Christian - listen - Jesus is our Sabbath rest - - and what
this means is that...

...the sign of the Sabbath is fulfilled by those who
trust in Him.

I like the way that Christ Jesus explained it - in Matthew chapter 11 - it's
beginning at verse 28 - where He declared...

Mat 11:28 "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and
I will give you rest.

Mat 11:29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am
gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Mat 11:30 "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Those who trust in the Lord Jesus Christ - have entered into the Sabbath rest of our Savior.

And with all of this in focus - let's take some time to consider the lyrics that we find - here in the 92nd Psalm.

Let's turn back to Psalm 92 - where we find the Psalmist - presenting us with a Song for the Sabbath.

Look with me again - beginning there at verse 1 - where we read...

Psa 92:1 It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;
Psa 92:2 To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning,
And Your faithfulness every night,
Psa 92:3 On an instrument of ten strings,
On the lute,
And on the harp,
With harmonious sound.

Here in the beginning of this Psalm - we find the psalmist - assuring his audience - that it is good to give thanks to the LORD.

And just to be clear - we should notice that the title - LORD - is found in all caps.

What this means is that - the Psalmist was encouraging his audience to give thanks to Yahweh.

I like the way in which the scholars who created the Legacy Standard Bible rendered verse 1 - they put it like this...

Psa 92:1 It is good to give thanks to Yahweh
And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;

Christian - those who have entered into the Sabbath rest of the Lord Jesus should remember that...

...the best way for us to spend our time - is by sing the praises of Yahweh -- Who is God Most High.

And listen - those who trust in Jesus shouldn't just sing the praises of the Lord on Sunday....

...we ought to sing his praises - everyday.

Let's consider how the Psalmist put it - there in verse 2 - where he cried out...

Psa 92:2 To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning,
And Your faithfulness every night,

Christian - listen - we ought to become those believers - who sing the praises of the LORD - every morning - and every night.

In the morning - we should sing about His unfailing love...

...and at night - we should sing about His steadfast truth.

It is good to give thanks to Yahweh - and to sing praises to the name of God Most High.

The Psalmist also encouraged us to use musical instruments - as we sing the praises of the Lord.

Look with me again - there at verse 3 - where he declared...

Psa 92:3 On an instrument of ten strings,
On the lute,
And on the harp,
With harmonious sound.

Here in this verse - we find the psalmist - referring to three different instruments...

...which would've been used to enhance the worship service - as harmonious music would be played...

...along with those who were singing songs of praise.

Now - there are those who Want to argue about the style of praise music - while ignoring the substance of the lyrics.

Some will insist that certain instruments must be used - while others must be excluded.

The leaders of the church of Christ go as far as insisting that praise songs must be sung a cappella....

...because according to them - there's no reference to musical instruments in the NT epistles.

What they fail to realize is that - Paul encouraged the use of musical instruments - in Ephesians - and Colossians.

For example - it's in Ephesians chapter 5 - beginning at verse 18 - where he declared...

Eph 5:18 ...do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

Eph 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Eph 5:20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Eph 5:21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Now - when Paul encouraged the Christians in Ephesus to speak to one another in Psalms...

...the Greek word - Psalms - was used in reference to a sacred ode...

...accompanied with a harp or other instruments.

He used the same word in Colossians chapter 3 - it's verse 16 - where he declared...

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Again - this word - Psalms - was used in reference to a sacred ode - accompanied with a harp or other instruments.

And from this - we can see that musical instruments should be used...

...as we proclaim the praises of the LORD.

At the same time - it's also important to realize that the style of the music is less important than the substance of the lyrics.

And while I realize that we all have our musical preferences....

...the style of the music is not a good indicator of how solid the lyrical content is.

And just to be clear - the lyrical content of a praise song - should be all about the One we're praising.

Sadly - many songs being sung in churches today - seem to be more centered on the sinner - rather than the Savior.

That being the case - we will all do well to consider the example of this Psalm - which begins with a focus on the Lord...

Psa 92:1 It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;
Psa 92:2 To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning,
And Your faithfulness every night,
Psa 92:3 On an instrument of ten strings,
On the lute,
And on the harp,
With harmonious sound.

We don't really know the meter of the music - nor do we know the harmony of the chords.

But what we do know is that - the Psalmist focused on the lovingkindness of the Lord...

...and he sang about the faithfulness of our God.

And so should we.

We should also consider how the Psalmist praises the Lord for all of His works.

With this as our focus - let's pick up our study of the 92nd Psalm - beginning there at verse 4 - where the Psalmist declared...

Psa 92:4 For You, LORD, have made me glad through Your work;
I will triumph in the works of Your hands.

Psa 92:5 O LORD, how great are Your works!
Your thoughts are very deep.

Psa 92:6 A senseless man does not know,
Nor does a fool understand this.

Here in these verses - we find the Psalmist - singing the praises of the LORD - and the reason why was because...

...the LORD was the One Who accomplished all of the works
necessary - to give him the victory.

That's why he declared - - I will triumph in the works of Your hands.

Christian - listen - the LORD is the One Who gives us the victory...

...according to the great works that He has accomplished.

I like the way that the apostle John explained it - in 1st John chapter 5 - it's verses 4 and 5 - where he declared...

1Jo 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

1Jo 5:5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Christian - listen - we aren't saved by the sweat of our brow - and we aren't saved by our good works.

No - instead - we aren't saved saved by faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus.

And those who trust in Him will triumph over the grave - and the reason why is because...

...the victory that Jesus secured on the cross - belongs to those who believe in Him.

Therefore - we should proclaim the praises of the One Who saved us.

Not only that - but we should also proclaim the praises of the One Who will defeat every enemy.

Let's consider how the Psalmist put it - here in the 92nd Psalm - look with me - beginning there at verse 7 - where he declared...

Psa 92:7 When the wicked spring up like grass,
And when all the workers of iniquity flourish,
It is that they may be destroyed forever.

Psa 92:8 But You, LORD, are on high forevermore.

Psa 92:9 For behold, Your enemies, O LORD,
For behold, Your enemies shall perish;
All the workers of iniquity shall be scattered.

Psa 92:10 But my horn You have exalted like a wild ox;
I have been anointed with fresh oil.

Psa 92:11 My eye also has seen my desire on my enemies;
My ears hear my desire on the wicked
Who rise up against me.

Here in these verses - we find the Psalmist - singing the praises of the One Who will eventually punish the workers of iniquity.

I can't help but to think about those who chant - no justice - no peace.

And while I probably disagree with their concept of justice - -
I agree with the axiom.

There won't be any peace on this planet - until the day
when true justice is established.

Thankfully - there's coming a day - when the Lord Jesus Christ will return.

It's at that point in time when the government of the world will
be upon His shoulders.

And as He rules the world with a rod of Iron - we will finally
enjoy true peace here on Earth...

...as the King of kings establishes everlasting
righteousness.

In this way - the Lord Jesus will solve the problem of evil - - as He casts
those who will not repent of their wicked ways - into Gehenna...

...where they will wait for the final judgment - which will take place at
the great white throne of Jesus.

And knowing that the unrepentant will perish - as they are
punished forevermore...

...we should sing the praises of the Lord - knowing that
He will eventually punish the workers of iniquity.

We should also take the time to warn those who are currently rejecting
Jesus.

And when we hear the activists who declare - no justice - no
peace...

...we should help them to understand that - there's coming a
day when the prince of peace will establish perfect peace...

...and He's going to do this - by casting the workers of
iniquity - into the Lake of Fire.

That being the case - we should encourage every unbeliever to repent of their dead works...

...and trust in the One - Who alone can save us from the punishment we deserve.

With this as our focus - let's consider how the Lord is going to bless those who trust in Him.

Let's look at the final stanza of the 92nd Psalm - beginning there at verse 12 - where the Psalmist declared...

Psa 92:12 The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree,
He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Psa 92:13 Those who are planted in the house of the LORD
Shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Psa 92:14 They shall still bear fruit in old age;
They shall be fresh and flourishing,

Psa 92:15 To declare that the LORD is upright;
He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

Here in the final verses of this Psalm - we find the Psalmist - singing the praises of the One - Who is the Rock of righteousness.

And as we consider how the righteous shall flourish like a palm tree...

...we can rejoice in knowing that - those who trust in the Lord Jesus...

...have received the imputation of Christ's righteousness.

I like the way that Paul explained it - in Romans chapter 3 - it's beginning at verse 20 - where he declared...

Rom 3:20 ...by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Rom 3:21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

Rom 3:22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;
Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
Rom 3:24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,
Rom 3:25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,
Rom 3:26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

The righteousness of the Lord is imputed to all who believe in Jesus Christ.

And just to be clear - Jesus was sent to serve as a propitiatory sacrifice...

...by receiving the punishment that we deserve - so that He could remain just...

...while simultaneously becoming the justifier of those who trust in Him.

It's at the moment when we trust in Him - when we are judicially justified - according to the righteous ruling of the Lord.

And at the same time - we receive the imputation of Christ's righteousness...

...so that we can be accepted - in the beloved.

And now - every believer can rejoice in knowing that the righteous shall flourish like a palm tree...

...as we grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Not only that - but - we will also thrive - as we grow in the grace of God.

Let's consider how the Psalmist put it - there in verses 13 and 14 - where he declared...

Psa 92:13 Those who are planted in the house of the LORD
Shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Psa 92:14 They shall still bear fruit in old age;
They shall be fresh and flourishing,

Christian - listen - those of us who will plant our lives in the house of
the Lord - will flourish .

And even as we grow old - the believer who continues to grow
in the grace of God...

...will flourish in our silver years - - by the power of God.

That word - flourish - found there in verses 13 - was translated from
a Hebrew word - - which speaks of an abundance.

And the word - flourish - found there in verse 14 - was
translated from a Hebrew word...

...which speaks of luxurious prosperity.

As we consider the meaning of these words - we can rejoice in
knowing that...

...those who stay grounded in their Christian community will
flourish - as we grow in faith.

And we will become those believers who declare that the
LORD is upright...

...because - He is our rock - and there is no
unrighteousness in Him.

I like the way that the Psalmist put it - back in the first chapter of this book -
where we read...

Psa 1:1 Blessed is the man
Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
Nor stands in the path of sinners,
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

Psa 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
And in His law he meditates day and night.

Psa 1:3 He shall be like a tree
Planted by the rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper.

If you want to become a believer who prospers in everything you do...

...then make sure that your roots are planted in the word of God.

And as we abide in Christ - - He will empower us - so that we
can bear the fruit that last forever.

With this as the goal - let's make sure that we stay planted
in the house of the LORD...

...and as we do - Jesus will help us to flourish in the
courts of our God...

...as we rest in the Sabbath of our Savior.