



**Decision Making 101
Take Everything to the Lord, Yes, Everything
Psalm 34**

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As we read through the Bible, many of us tend to get ideas that the folks in the pages of the Bible did not have some of the same problems that we have today.

But if you take the time to truly study the people in the Bible, none of the people in the pages, with the exception of Jesus Christ, are perfect.



They have issues. All of them. One of the issues that David had was in the realm of decision making. He would make superior decisions as long as he prayed about it and relied on the Lord, but when he didn't, stupid decisions. Not a whole lot different than us.

The psalm we have arrived out here in Psalm 34 is here because of, another "what were you thinking David" moment.

David has just fled from Saul. He is officially an enemy of the state. On his way out of town, he stops by the tabernacle with those who are traveling with him, looking for food as well as the weapon, he had left there years earlier.

Let's pick up as David tries to explain why he, a senior officer in the army of Israel until a few hours ago, is now traveling unarmed. And yes, the spin (lies) are flowing hot and heavy here.

1 Samuel 21:8–10

"Then David said to Ahimelech, "Then have you not here a spear or a sword at hand? For I have brought neither my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste." And the priest said, "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you struck down in the Valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you will take that, take it, for there is none but that here." And David said, "There is none like that; give it to me." And David rose and fled that day from Saul and went to Achish the king of Gath." (ESV)

David is on the run for his life. He doesn't have any weapons or food, but a few men and they are running for safety. He has not prayed about this yet. All the warning signs were there, but like all of us, he ignored them until it was almost too late.

He is at the tabernacle, and by the way, this will mean for all who are there helping, a death sentence thanks to Doeg the Edomite, the chief of Saul's shepherds who just happened to be there and witnessed everything. They have no idea why David is there.

David and those with him eat the shewbread, and then He takes the sword of Goliath and disappears.

We do not read of any prayer or seeking the Lord prior to this event. Remember, David killed Goliath and has been busy killing Philistines for the past few years. Lots of them. He even became a bit of an anti-hero to them as he took care of the required bride price for Michal (1 Samuel 18:20-28).

So, what was he thinking when he takes his small group and goes running to Gath? Let's do the math, David killed the hero of Gath, he also has been busy killing many of their young men as well, and now he shows up as an enemy of Saul and wants protection?

When ever you find that you do not understand the politics of the middle east, nothing has changed much in over 2000 years. They still are making very unusual decisions.

What takes place is expected by those of us looking on but is a huge wake up call for David.

1 Samuel 21:11–22:2

"And the servants of Achish said to him, **"Is not this David the king of the land? Did they not sing to one another of him in dances, 'Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands'?"** And David took these words to heart and was much afraid of Achish the king of Gath. So he changed his behavior before them and **pretended to be insane in their hands and made marks on the doors of the gate and let his spittle run down his beard.** Then Achish said to his servants, "Behold, you see the man is mad. Why then have you brought him to me? Do I lack madmen,



that you have brought this fellow to behave as a madman in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?" David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. And when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him. And everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was bitter in soul, gathered to him. And he became commander over them. And there were with him about four hundred men." (ESV)

David had his aha moment when non-believers pointed out that his being there was seriously weird. Why is he here? David heard that and knew he was toast unless he lied again. So, he feigned madness to create the impression that is why he is there. It worked.

When you and I stray off on our own, in the flesh making decisions on our own, the Lord begins to woo us back into fellowship and yes, the Holy Spirit will provide us an aha moment or two as well. The problem arises when we are too stubborn to see them since we are where we are due to our flesh and not because of any guidance from the Lord. We need to be like David and come to our senses.

What we find here in Psalm 34 is the result of David coming to his senses and realizing how the Lord was there protecting him even when he was making insane decisions without seeking the Lord. And had to act in accordance with his decisions. Praise the Lord, He looks out for us even when we run from Him and try to do things on our own.

Let's take a look at Psalm 34 and unpack the lessons David learns.

Psalm 34:title-22

"A Psalm of David, when he pretended to be insane before Abimelech, who drove him away, and he departed. **I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul will make its boast in the LORD; The humble will hear it and rejoice. Exalt the LORD with me, And let's exalt His name together. I sought the LORD and He answered me, And rescued me from all my fears.** They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces will never be ashamed. This wretched man cried out, and the LORD heard him, And saved him out of all his troubles. **The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them. Taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! Fear the LORD, you His saints; For to those who fear Him there is no lack of anything.** The young lions do without and suffer hunger; But they who seek the LORD will not lack any good thing. Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. Who is the person who desires life And loves length of days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil And your lips from speaking deceit. Turn from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it. **The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous, And His ears are toward their cry for help. The face of the LORD is against evildoers, To eliminate the memory of them from the earth. The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears And rescues them from all their troubles. The LORD is near to the brokenhearted And saves those who are crushed in spirit.** The afflictions of the righteous are many, But the LORD rescues him from them all. He protects all his bones, Not one of them is broken. Evil will bring death to the wicked, And those who hate the righteous will suffer for their guilt. **The LORD redeems the souls of His servants, And none of those who take refuge in Him will suffer for their guilt.**" (NASB 2020)

Does David deserve to be saved from his really dumb decision to go and find protection in Gath? Not really. He knows that too.

David has just experienced the grace of God, in real time. He escaped from Saul, he escaped from the assassins sent to kill him, he has made it out of town. He was able to get some food. But rather than tell the truth to High Priest, he kept him in the dark as to what was really going on. Those folks who would be murdered for helping David, had been led to believe they were serving Saul as David was on some very



important mission. David was actually running for his life. David lied rather than tell the truth and then followed up with seriously flawed decision making.

Does he cover any of that in this psalm? No, he dwells on the deliverance of the Lord and invites us to join in with him and his joy over being saved from the clutches of death. David is writing this as he looks back on those events.

In this psalm, David will also answer a couple of questions for us. What does it mean to seek after the Lord over everything else? How do we go about the business of pursuing the God of the universe? The first thing David shows us is that seeking after. Worshipping the Lord is a voluntary act and as he begins, he is celebrating God.

Psalm 34:1–3

“I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul will make its boast in the LORD; The humble will hear it and rejoice. Exalt the LORD with me, And let’s exalt His name together.” (NASB 2020)

As we read those words, we too can agree with David on a good day when everything is going right. But for him, it was not a good day and everything was not going to well at all. Praise and worship is a decision we make in spite of our circumstances. “I will bless the Lord at all times.” That is a statement of purpose and it is a statement of the will.

When we are involved in some trial or test, do we continue to understand who is totally and entirely in control of everything and intentionally turn towards Him. Or do we do the grumble and saunter off talking to ourselves.

If we allow ourselves to be filled with and listen to the Holy Spirit rather than our flesh, then we will find ourselves agreeing with Paul and joining in with David here.

Romans 8:26–28

“In the same way, **the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how we should pray, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with inexpressible groanings.** And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes on behalf of the saints according to God’s will. **And we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose,**” (NET 2nd ed.)

As we come to understand just who it is we serve and who it is that made us, not only will we bless the Lord, but we will also be inclined to have “His praise shall continually be in my mouth.”

We are inclined to wonder how could we possibly rejoice in the Lord from the bottom of the ditch we are in. But if we understand that He is with us in that ditch, we indeed can rejoice and His praise is there because we know He is with us. Even though I made a really bad decision without praying about it? Yes, He has not stopped loving you and me simply because we have made a dumb decision.

The Lord does not look down at us and tell the angels, “well I saw that one coming and that is the last straw” as He turns away from us. No, not at all. He loves us as much then as when He created us. That has never changed and yes, He does desire for us to be obedient, and He will indeed take actions to encourage us to repent and return to obedience. We need to listen to Him.

First, we repent of our sin of self-centeredness, then we look to Him for help. Yes, there are consequences for our sin, but never forget what it is He told the people of Judah after they decided they



could do life on their own. First, He had every locust in the world visited them. Talk about serious encouragement to repent.

They were staring at the flocks starving to death, their children doing the same and the remaining members of the nation going into slavery to purchase food and supplies from elsewhere. Joel encouraged the people to repent.

Joel 2:12–14

““Yet even now,” the LORD says, **“return to me with all your heart— with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Tear your hearts, not just your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, slow to anger and boundless in loyal love—often relenting from calamitous punishment.** Who knows? Perhaps he will be compassionate and grant a reprieve, and leave blessing in his wake— a meal offering and a drink offering for you to offer to the LORD your God!” (NET 2nd ed.)

On this particular occasion, the entire nation did repent, all of them. They did exactly as the Lord commanded and returned to Him. This is a picture of what the nation will do in the future as the armies of the beast come into the land and they repent and return to the Lord at the end of the Tribulation as well. Yes, bad decision making got them there, and good decision making and obedience to the Lord changes things.

Joel 2:18–19

“Then the LORD became zealous for his land; he had compassion on his people. The LORD responded to his people, “Look! I am about to restore your grain as well as fresh wine and olive oil. You will be fully satisfied. I will never again make you an object of mockery among the nations.” (NET 2nd ed.)

They repented and were delivered by the Lord. A picture of the future deliverance at the end of Armageddon.

Just as Paul tells us in Romans 8, God will take the bad and begin to mold it to our good.

Joel 2:25

“I will make up for the years that the ‘arbeh-locust consumed your crops— the yeleq-locust, the hasil-locust, and the gazam-locust— my great army that I sent against you.” (NET 2nd ed.)

God promised to restore the people in Joel. What did He do for Job after the trial he went through. God restored Job.

He also does that for us as well. Many of us are living a life of locust recovery and rejoicing in the grace of the Lord.

Once again, David has come through a crisis and yet, he is still in one. To a degree, he made some of this one happen all on his own, yet in the middle of the major crisis, he recognizes the grace of God and calls for us to join him in making praise a consistent part of our life. Yet he is still in crisis and trials, yet he is praising.

When you and I fully realize that God has no favorites, then we too realize that as He brings us through a trial, as He brings us through the fire, molding us to be that child of His He wants us to be, we to want to worship Him and have others join in with us as we do so.

“Though it was his fault that he changed his behaviour, yet it was God’s mercy that he escaped, and the mercy was so much the greater in that God did not deal with him according to the desert of his



dissimulation, and we must in every thing give thanks.” (Henry 1994, 788) And that includes having to act like a raving mad man to protect yourself because you went someplace you should not have gone to.

He may have acted like a fool, but he was not so foolish as to neglect praise of him who was his only true wisdom. He may have been hiding in a dismal cave, but his psalm tells us that in his heart he was hiding in the Lord. (Boice 2005, 294)

When we are in a trial, and things get better and the trial ends, it did not end because of our skills or intellect, it ended because of the Lord providing us the wisdom we needed to get through it.

This is why David says the humble will hear it and rejoice.

Those who are filled with pride will think they did this with their skills and might, but the humble know who did this. The Lord did it.

And the natural thing to do is to invite others to join in with you in the joy the Lord has given you as He has delivered us from a trial.

How do we know that David would be include himself in the humble and not the proud. He provides his own personal testimony for us next.

Psalm 34:4–7

“I sought the LORD and He answered me, And rescued me from all my fears. They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces will never be ashamed. This wretched man cried out, and the LORD heard him, And saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them.” (NASB 2020)

What is taking place in David's life is the lowest despair he will ever experience. He is at the absolute low point of his life. Saul is trying to kill him, his wife had to sneak him out of the house, he has only what he is wearing and had to rely on others for food and even lied to get a weapon that he was actually entitled to. When he went to Gath, he was desperate and not thinking straight.

A test or trial can do that.

When we are counseling someone who is going through a tough time, be there for them. They may feel as if they are all alone. Your voice, as you love on them and share with them may be the only encouragement they may be getting at the time. Listen, avoid advice as that did not work out really well for those friends who wanted to help Job. He called them out.

Job 16:2–3

“I have heard many such things; miserable comforters are you all. Shall windy words have an end? Or what provokes you that you answer?” (ESV)

David says he sought the Lord, lead your brother or sister there. Ask for wisdom from the Lord and then pray together. Seek the Lord together and not only does He provide peace, but David tells us here he rescues us from all our fears.

I don't know about you, but when I am in a trial, I tend to exercise all the negative stuff in my mind. Not only that, but I also then tend to talk about it too. Fortunately, I have a wife who loves me and knows when to listen and when to apply a frying pan to the situation.

We need to seek the Lord and allow Him to allay our fears.



David is very clear here. First there is trouble which results in his fear factor going up and increase his troubles. Some were caused by his own stupid decision making, some not. But God was there for all of them.

He says in verse 4 that he prayed, he sought the Lord. And God answered him.

How often do we, while in a test, pray or not pray. What we see in verse 4 is how prayer helps deal with the fear and then in verse 6, continuing to pray and cry out to the Lord results in deliverance.

The big problem for many today, they don't even ask. They get mad, proud, like wallowing in their pity pot, or whatever.

That isn't a new development though since even James wrote about it.

James 4:2-3

"You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. **You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions." (ESV)**

David prays and looks to the Lord in the midst of his trials. Some self inflicted, some not. He calls on the Lord, and his fears are removed. He is still in the middle of the trial, it has not ended yet for him, but the Lord heard him, his fears are gone, and he has been delivered from his troubles. The miracle he needed, the King of Gath cut him loose.

The promise of prayer does not mean that God will change every difficult thing in your life. But he will preserve you for as long as he has work for you to do, and he will transform even the difficult circumstances by his presence and perhaps by the presence of others whom he sends to be with you. (Boice 2005, 295)

Psalm 34:7

"The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them." (NASB 2020)

The God of the cross is a God who suffers with us. He invites us to work to reduce this world's suffering, but suffering will remain with us until Jesus returns. Death was not God's creation ideal for sinless humanity, but humanity (inevitably?) sinned. In this fallen world, however, the cross demonstrates that obedient suffering can serve God's redemptive purpose. (Keener 2025, XV)

God Himself in the preincarnate Christ, the Angel of the Lord, is the one who encamps around those who fear Him. For us, as New Testament followers of Jesus, because we are His, the Holy Spirit is in us. God Himself is with us. You may feel all alone, but you aren't.

He is no longer camping around you; He is living in you. And He will never leave. In verse 5, David talked about the desire for the intimacy in his walk with the Lord to have eye contact. Looking to Him means seeing Him for who He is and that makes everything on this planet much much smaller.

When we seek God this way he promises never to shame us or humiliate us or mock our feeble efforts. God will never belittle or demean you for coming to him! Just think of it: no shame ... for those who seek God! (Storms 2016, Ps 34)

Based on his own personal testimony, David provides a dare to us. Do we dare long for this type of intimacy with the Lord, do we dare look to Him and trust Him while we are in the turmoil of trials?



Psalm 34:8–10

“Taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! Fear the LORD, you His saints; For to those who fear Him there is no lack of anything. The young lions do without and suffer hunger; But they who seek the LORD will not lack any good thing.” (NASB 2020)

David dares us to experience God as he has. To taste and see. Try this type of faith for yourself and see. If you do not know Jesus Christ as your Savior, taste and see. You will never regret the decision.

We are told here that if you are willing to take David up on the dare, you will discover there is refuge in the Lord, and you will indeed be blessed. You will never regret giving your life to the Lord. One million years from now you still, while living with Him for all eternity, will not regret the decision you made to taste and see.

Satan lies to us about this. No, you don't want to take up this dare from David, it really is not for you. It is for you. David tells us that it is for him, this man who was a man after God's own heart yet prone to making bad decisions. A murderer, and a womanizer, yet God forgave him. While David has been on the lam he has seen the next event.

He has watched lion cubs complaining when they are hungry. With that thought in his mind, he then turns to his situation as well as the situations of others who take refuge in the Lord and trust in Him. They lack no good thing. That is not a promise of prosperity and there are some who will twist it that way. It is a promise of blessing, of just in time meeting of needs.

David knows this, he is experiencing God meeting his every need. His life was preserved as he trusted in the Lord, that is indeed a good thing. He has needed food and the Lord has provided. He has needed others to talk with, and others are being led to join him.

No really good thing shall be denied to those whose first and main end in life is to seek the Lord. Men may call them fools, but the Lord will prove them wise. (Spurgeon n.d., 125)

Proverbs 3:5–8

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.” (ESV)

Psalm 34:11–14

“Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. Who is the person who desires life And loves length of days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil And your lips from speaking deceit. Turn from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.” (NASB 2020)

David wants to prepare the next generation to learn how to fear the Lord. To make the Lord number one in all they do. That is our desire here at Calvary Chapel as well. Be praying for CEF as we partner with them to put a Good News Club into the elementary schools here in Hobe Sound. Jesus had this to say.

Mark 10:13–16

“And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But **when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.**” (ESV)



David prioritized the training of children as did Jesus. Children are teachable where many of us who are older, aren't. Yet we are told we need to be childlike in order to come to Jesus.

The Kingdom of God belongs to children, and to others like them who are of no apparent importance, because God has willed to give it to them. That is why these children are to be given access to Jesus, in whom the Kingdom has drawn near. Unlike adults, who do not want anything to be given to them, children are comparatively modest and unspoiled. The Kingdom belongs to such as these because they receive it as a gift. The ground of Jesus' surprising statement is not to be found in any subjective quality possessed by children but rather in their objective humbleness and in the startling character of the grace of God who wills to give the Kingdom to those who have no claim upon it. (Lane 1974, 360)

Proverbs 22:6

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." (ESV)

As he trains children, David reminds them that the person who fears the Lord, is someone who desires life and length of days.

Psalms 34:13–14

"Keep your tongue from evil And your lips from speaking deceit. Turn from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it." (NASB 2020)

For all of us, here are some basics for following the Lord and in light of his recent experience, they make sense. Dr. Leupold pointed out that David *"does not attempt to give a summary of all the items that belong to a life that is lived in the fear of the Lord. He mentions a few typical ones that stand out and bear emphasizing, at least in the light of his recent experience of deliverance. They are: Watch your tongue; seek the good; seek peace with your fellow man. He could have spared himself much grief if he had kept his tongue under control, seeing that he resorted to "deception" in his dealings with Achish. Whether this deception was put precisely into words or acted out is of secondary moment in this application. In fact, this rule is merely a subhead under the broader rule of seeking the good, which is always a two-sided attitude, involving as much the shunning of evil as the doing of the good itself. The "peace" here advocated is not the peace of heart that a man should seek in relation to his God. In this connection it must be some expression of such a proper relationship, and it, therefore, is in the category of the things the Savior inculcated in Matt. 5:9, peaceful relations with our fellow men. The double statement ("seek" and "follow after") indicates that all such virtues must be cultivated."* (Leupold 1959, 282)

Again, David is instructing from his own experience and relating where his own shortcomings were and what he was paying attention to in his own spiritual development.

Psalms 34:15–18

"The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous, And His ears are toward their cry for help. The face of the LORD is against evildoers, To eliminate the memory of them from the earth. The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears And rescues them from all their troubles. The LORD is near to the brokenhearted And saves those who are crushed in spirit." (NASB 2020)

When you and I are in the midst of a trial, like David was, this is an important point to remember. God has not abandoned us, He is watching and listening. But here we also learn something else that our culture does not want to contemplate.

Progressive Christians today are busy teaching a universalist aspect of who God is and that we all win. Implying that even those who are unsaved can be heard by God. Here though, we find out that there is only one prayer God will ever hear from them, the one to repent of their sins and profess faith in Jesus Christ.



Here we learn that God is for followers of Jesus, and against everyone who is not a follower of Jesus. Those of our friends, family and neighbors who do not know Jesus, will not be heard by the Lord at all.

Such a person has no right to go to God and ask Him for anything except salvation. You don't even have to ask for forgiveness. He's got forgiveness for you. All you have to do is confess yourself a sinner and trust Christ as your Savior. He will automatically forgive you. "... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved ..." (Acts 16:31). (McGee 1997, 734)

But the face of the Lord is against evildoers, that is everyone who has rejected Jesus.

What do they have to look forward to from God unless they believe?

The memory of them will be eliminated from the earth. Not my words, those are the words of David, inspired by the Holy Spirit telling us that those who reject Christ and go to a Christless eternity will be forgotten forever.

Those who are the Lord's, the righteous, only because of Jesus Christ have the privilege of being able to cry out to God who is watching and listening for them to do so and there is the promise of rescue, an eternity with the Lord. But for those who are not His, if they persist in that course, no one will remember who they were.

Here is a promise we can all take to the bank, "the Lord is near to the broken hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

Nowhere in this psalm does David suggest that the life of faith and obedience will exempt the child of God from trouble. He does promise that, if we trust Him and call on Him, the Lord can see us through our troubles and make them a blessing to us and through us to others. (Wiersbe 2004, 134)

As long as we live here on this planet subjected to the curse coexisting with those who do not know Jesus, as Dr. Keener puts it, *"sooner or later, all of us will face suffering—unless we suddenly die first. Whether grief, illness, financial hardship, or another crisis, challenges come unbidden. Given our world's electronic and other vulnerabilities, there is nothing implausible about even the more apocalyptic scenarios some critics offer, such as economic collapse, terrorists contaminating water supplies, outright persecution, or war on our soil. Forewarned is forearmed; recognizing that testing will come (Matt. 18:7; Luke 17:1) helps get us ready. **Being faithful to Jesus in our present tests helps make us ready for future ones. Understanding that eternal blessing follows helps us endure even our worst testing. Knowing what others have gone through also provides encouragement that we can make it too.**"* (Keener 2025, XV)

As we go about serving the Lord, we learn, just as David learned, the Lord will take care of our physical safety until our work is done. When it is time to go home, it is time to go home.

Psalm 34:19–22

"The afflictions of the righteous are many, But the LORD rescues him from them all. He protects all his bones, Not one of them is broken. Evil will bring death to the wicked, And those who hate the righteous will suffer for their guilt. The LORD redeems the souls of His servants, And none of those who take refuge in Him will suffer for their guilt." (NASB 2020)

Once again, a promise that many of us would like to see disappear from the Bible. "The afflictions of the righteous are many." The word used is רָעוּת (raot).

This word can mean "evil, wickedness, depravity; misfortune, disaster." (Lexham Press 2017)



The context here though is misfortune; “a state of ill-being due to affliction or misfortune.” (Lexham Press 2017)

However, if we take the entirety of the text here under consideration, yes it does seem that those who belong to the Lord have many ill-fortune events take place, but they also happen to those who do not know the Lord as well. We have a promise they do not have, “the Lord rescues him from them all.” Even the terms shift if we think about it.

When God is dealing with those who do not know Him, “His punishments are called plagues and destructions...But when He doth visit the righteous, His punishments are called corrections, and chastisements, and rods, which proceed from a Father, not to destroy us, but to try us, and purge us, and instruct us. (Exell 1909, 189)

Jesus became the ultimate example for us one who is afflicted. Isaiah tied this picture together for us.

Isaiah 53:4–7

“Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. **And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God’s paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all. He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word.** He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth.” (NLT)

Jesus became our Passover lamb. He took all our sin onto Himself and just like the Passover lamb was not to have any of His bones broken.

Divine love watches over every believer as it did over Jesus; no fatal injury shall happen to us, we shall neither be halt nor maimed in the kingdom, but shall be presented after life’s trials are over without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, being preserved in Christ Jesus, and kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. (Spurgeon n.d., 127)

Our destination is sure, no matter what man thinks thy can do to us, we still are in the hands of our Savior.

Psalms 34:21–22

“Evil will bring death to the wicked, And those who hate the righteous will suffer for their guilt. The LORD redeems the souls of His servants, And none of those who take refuge in Him will suffer for their guilt.” (NASB 2020)

David has escaped from the King of Gath as well as the people of Gath. He went there on his initiative, not the Lords. He was not thinking straight and was fighting all of the emotions that go along with treachery. He was running for his life and made some unsound decisions. We all tend to do that when under pressure. That is why it is so important, as David has pointed out to us here, to be in Him and worshipping Him even in the trial.

Those who do not know the Lord, even though they may think they are getting away with the persecution and rejection of believers, are not. Unless they repent, there is no future for them at all and any legacy they believe they are leaving, is a false one as soon no one will remember them. “Ungodly men only need rope enough and they will hang themselves; their own iniquities shall be their punishment. Hell itself is but evil fully developed, torturing those in whom it dwells.” (Spurgeon n.d., 127)



For those who trust in the Lord, for those who have given their life to Jesus Christ and trust Him for salvation, we have a different future to look forward to. We look forward to knowing that Jesus Christ has already redeemed our souls by what He did for us on the cross. Because of His work and our belief in Him, we see another promise, even though we are guilty, we are redeemed and will not “suffer for their guilt.”

As followers of Jesus Christ, we join with David and know that we will never be deserted, forsaken, abandoned, left, or given up. God is our guardian, our protector, our shield and our refuge. Let’s pray.

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