

Psalms – Ruin and Redemption (Israel in Focus)

Lesson 4– Psalm 42-72 (Book 2)

June 1 & June 8, 2014

A. Favorite Psalm of the Week

Keith Hackett; Psalm 22

B. Ruin and Redemption (Israel in Focus) – Lesson 4

A. Exodus Section; Book 2 is composed of Chapters 42-72

- a. In Genesis section, *Jehovah* is used 272 times, *Elohim* is only 15 times
- b. In Exodus section, *Elohim* is used 164 times, *Jehovah* is only 30 times
- c. While both refer to God, significance is that *Jehovah* is involved with redemption, the one who keeps Israel while *Elohim* speaks of the fullness of God's divine power.
- d. David is the author attributed to only 19 of the 31 Psalms in the Exodus Section
- e. All Psalms are a prophetic view of Israel in the last days
- f. Primary application and fundamental interpretation is to the nation of Israel
- g. Heart cry of the God-fearing remnant
- h. Presents the future suffering of Israel during the Great Tribulation Period

B. Psalm 46 - God is our refuge

1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, 3 though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. 5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. 6 The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. 7 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. 8 Come, behold the works of the Lord, how he has brought desolations on the earth. 9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire. 10 "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" 11 The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

- Martin Luther's favorite Psalm
- God is sufficient in any circumstance
- Has your earth ever been moved, shifted or in trouble?
- Stream is symbolic of supply and refreshment
- One of the most favorite verses, "Be still and know that I am God", total calm in your time of trouble
- One of great comfort and blessing to God's people today
- Where do you find peace? What about your place in the time of trouble?

C. Psalm 51 - David's Great penitential psalm

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. 5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. 6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart. 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. 10 Create in

me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. 11 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. 14 Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness. 15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. 16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. 18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem; 19 then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

- Nathan, the prophet, came to David after his incident with Bathsheba
 - One of the most dramatic moments in God's word
 - David chose to accept his sin and repent
- Psalm 32:3 captures David's inner thoughts while he was quiet; but had inner torment
 - *"When I kept silent, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the daylong"*
- Captured David in the privacy of his chamber and the confession
- Known as one of the greatest confessionals that has ever been written
- Divided into three divisions:
 - Cry of conscience and conviction of sin, Vs 1-3
 - Cry of confession of Sin and Clemency, Vs 4-8
 - Cry for Cleansing and Communion, Vs 9-19
- Personal example for everyone for admission of sin and way to approach our wrong doing
- Sin is called:
 - Transgression – Step over the boundary of God
 - Iniquity – Altogether wrong
- David had a cry of conscience within him; God's word and spirit was within
- Sin is not learned or taught, we are born and created with a "Sin Nature", Vs 5
 - Ecclesiastes 7:20 – *"For there is not a just man upon earth, that does good, and sins not"*
 - Proverbs 30:20 - *"There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness"*.
- When was the last time we wept over our sins? When was the last time we cried out to God over our failures? This must start with our heart-felt confession of our sin.

D. Psalm 62 – The "Only" Psalm

1 For God **alone** my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. 2 He **alone** is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken. 3 How long will all of you attack a man to batter him, like a leaning wall, a tottering fence? 4 They only plan to thrust him down from his high position. They take pleasure in falsehood. They bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse. 5 For God **alone**, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. 6 He **only** is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. 7 On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. 8 Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. 9 Those of low estate are but a breath; those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath. 10 Put no trust in extortion; set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, set not your heart on them. 11 Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God, 12 and that to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love. For you will render to a man according to his work.

- Psalm of simple faith
- Tradition is that this Psalm came from David during the period following the rebellion led by his son Absalom

- Absalom marching on Jerusalem created a situation where people had to choose between them
- Tragic time where David's trusted friends turned on him
- David fled the city, barefoot and weeping
- We do not find discouragement, suggestion of fear, anything about distress, no bitterness
- How can David sing such a song of salvation, praise and trust during one of the most difficult times in his life with everything taken away?
- How much more should we learn from this incredible testimony of Psalms?

C. Personal Testimony Section

Dealing with So Many Difficult Situations at Once

Psalm 34:17-19; Glenda McKee

17 The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. 18 The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. 19 The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all;

D. Group Reading of Psalm

Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. 3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

E. Questions for Small Group Discussion

1. Think of a time in your life where you needed refuge? What was your first thought and action? Was it like David and going straight to God in prayer? Did you claim His promise of Psalm in your life?
2. Do you really think that you can get yourself to the point of "we will not fear"? How can you do this?
3. We all talk about faith, but how can we develop the spirituality and strength that grows to David's level of peace and calm through some of the darkest moments of our life?
4. How can we be still? What does Vs 10 mean? How does this help us to "know" God?
5. How do you grasp and really live that "God is sufficient in any circumstance"? Can you ever arrive at that point if you have not experienced dramatic points in your own life?
6. Do you have your own "special place" that 'God takes you in time of trouble'?
7. With David being quiet and keeping sin to himself, what did that do to his inner self, spirituality and peace?
8. How should this lead us to confess our sins immediately?
9. With this known as one of the greatest professions of all time, how should David's prayer direct us in our own approach to dealing with our sin?
 - a. Cry of conscience and conviction of sin, 51:1-3
 - b. Cry of confession of Sin and Clemency, 51:4-8
 - c. Cry for Cleansing and Communion, 51:9-19
10. Have you ever had someone back stab you and turn against you? Describe how you felt. Was it family?
11. What should we learn from David on Psalm 62 about our faith? Was David's faith affected by his worldly position, happiness or wellbeing?
12. How much more should we learn from this incredible testimony of Psalms? How can we not grip or complain about our discouragement, fear, distress or bitterness in our time of trouble?