

Psalms – Peril and Protection (Earth and Mans Mortality in Focus)

Lesson 6 - Psalms 90-106 (Book 4)

June 29 & July 6, 2014

A. Favorite Psalm Section

Wanda Munch

Psalm 86

B. Peril and Protection (Earth and Mans Mortality in Focus) – Lesson 6

A. Numbers Section; Book 4 is composed of Chapters 90-106

- a. Opens with a prayer from Moses, which is the only one in Psalms
- b. Numbers records the great tragedy of a generation dying in the wilderness, never reaching its goal of the promised land
- c. God is eternal, righteous, Creator and Sinless
- d. Man in sinful and mortal

B. Psalm 90 – Prayer of Moses, Focus on Sin

1 Lord, **you have been our dwelling place** throughout all generations. 2 **Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world**, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. 3 You turn people back to dust, saying, “Return to dust, you mortals.” 4 A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night. 5 Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death— they are like the new grass of the morning: 6 In the morning it springs up new, but by evening it is dry and withered. 7 We are consumed by your anger and terrified by your indignation. 8 **You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.** 9 All our days pass away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan. 10 Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away. 11 If only we knew the power of your anger! Your wrath is as great as the fear that is your due. 12 **Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.** 13 Relent, Lord! How long will it be? Have compassion on your servants. 14 Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. 15 Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen trouble. 16 May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children. 17 **May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us;** establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands.

- Links to our previous lesson on God’s creation in verse 1 and 2
- Has been called the Psalm of death since it deals with the period of 38 more years of wandering in the desert after not entering the promised land; until that generation died
- Moses saw over 2 million people die in the desert before entering the promised land
- Martin Luther wrote:
 - “Just as Moses acts in teaching the law, so does he in this Psalm. For he preaches death, sin and condemnation in order that he may alarm the proud who are secure in their sins, and that he may set before their eyes their sin and evil.”
- Should bring a sharp focus on our human frailty, finiteness of earthly life, limited control; while this may make some depressed, dark and negative, that is only from a perspective of a non-believer
- This should spotlight how “Our Sins” are ever before the Lord and how nothing is secret or hidden from God
- How do we overcome this depressive state and achieve the Victory of God as Moses describes?

- Trust and follow the one and only God
- Know and respect God's anger toward our sin; Fear the Lord
- Pursue a heart of wisdom; The beginning of all wisdom is "Fear of the Lord" (Proverbs 1:7, 2:5)
- Sing and praise the Lord all your days

C. Psalm 91 – Promise of Protection

1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High **will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.** 2 I will say of the Lord, "**He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.**" 3 Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. 4 He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. 5 **You will not fear the terror of night,** nor the arrow that flies by day, 6 nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. 7 A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. 8 You will only observe with your eyes and **see the punishment of the wicked.** 9 **If you say, "The Lord is my refuge," and you make the Most High your dwelling, 10 no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent.** 11 For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; 12 they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. 13 You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent. 14 "**Because he loves me,**" says the Lord, "**I will rescue him; I will protect him,** for he acknowledges my name. 15 He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. 16 **With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.**"

- Referred to as the "Psalm of Life"
- Sometimes also called the Messianic Psalm in reference to Jesus Christ
- Partially quoted by Satan (Vs 11-12) in his dialogue with Jesus (Luke 4:10)
- Theme set in verses 1,2
 - God will protect the person who loves Him
- Verses 3-13 describe the ways in which God protects those who depend on Him
- Verses 14-16 is confirmation of promise of divine protection
- Type of faith that makes us feel secure in the presence of the Lord

D. Psalm 101 –With Integrity of Heart

1 **I will** sing of your love and justice; to you, Lord, **I will** sing praise. 2 **I will** be careful to lead a blameless life—when will you come to me? **I will** conduct the affairs of my house with a blameless heart. 3 **I will** not look with approval on anything that is vile. I hate what faithless people do; **I will** have no part in it. 4 The perverse of heart shall be far from me; **I will** have nothing to do with what is evil. 5 Whoever slanders their neighbor in secret, **I will** put to silence; whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, **I will** not tolerate. 6 My eyes will be on the faithful in the land that they may dwell with me; the one whose walk is blameless will minister to me. 7 No one who practices deceit will dwell in my house; no one who speaks falsely will stand in my presence. 8 Every morning **I will** put to silence all the wicked in the land; **I will** cut off every evildoer from the city of the Lord.

- Davidic Psalm
- Call to purity and integrity
- 11 times David says "I will"; definitive call to action, not standing around
- No toleration of evil

- Vs 5-8, personal life is same as public or business life
- Demonstrates a righteous and holy model, full of integrity

C. Personal Testimony Section

David Peyton

Psalm 103

1 Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. 2 Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits— 3 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, 5 who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. 6 The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed. 7 He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel: 8 The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. 9 He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; 10 he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. 13 As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; 14 for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust. 15 The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field; 16 the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more. 17 But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children— 18 with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts. 19 The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all. 20 Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word. 21 Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will. 22 Praise the Lord, all his works everywhere in his dominion. Praise the Lord, my soul.

D. Group Reading of Psalm

Psalm 46

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

E. Questions for Small Group Discussion

1. Psalm 90:

- How does verse 1 & 2 relate to our previous series on the Creator?
- How do you react to these verses and the comments on life with respect to its finality, frailty, mortality, no control? How does this impact your Christian beliefs? How do you react to have this not negatively impact your everyday living and life? Discuss how Jesus Christ changed this picture?
- What does "Fear of the Lord" mean?
- Verses 8 and 11 in particular discuss our sin in God's sight, can you comprehend and understand? In today's world, have we Christians bought into being conditioned to "accept or condone" our sin as not really that bad and uncontrollable? Why is this true and has it changed over time?

- e. Have we lost our ability to “Fear the Lord”? Why or why not?
 - f. If we do not spiritually move our hearts to “Fearing the Lord” and understanding our own sin, how can we ever move to gain a “heart of wisdom”?
2. Psalm 91:
- a. Why do you think Psalm 91 is called “Life” verses Psalm 90 as “death”? Does this adequately describe death of sin before Christ and after? Discuss this topic?
 - b. Discuss the word “protection” and what really means? How do you explain this “protection” promised by the Lord from different things in life?
 - c. Verse 5 talks about fear, so why do Christians have so much fear, concern and apprehension?
 - d. How do you deal with fear of the unknown in your life? Describe how we can be free from fear and concern with our refuge in Christ?
3. Psalm 101:
- a. These are David’s “I will” items:
 - i. Sing of your love and justice
 - ii. Sing praise
 - iii. Lead blameless life
 - iv. Conduct my affairs with blameless heart
 - v. Not look on anything vile
 - vi. Have no part in vile activities
 - vii. Nothing to do with evil
 - viii. Put to silence haughty or proud talk
 - ix. Not tolerate haughty or proud talk
 - x. Put to silence wickedness in my land
 - xi. Cut off evildoers from my city
 - b. Are these all still applicable to our day?
 - c. If so, how do we begin to incorporate into our everyday life?