Devotional Guide: Psalms 6-10
January 3, 2016

**PSALM 6**
This song is intended to be played according to “shiminith”. History indicates that this was an 8-stringed instrument in the configuration of a harp.

Many believe David wrote this Psalm during a time of extreme physical suffering, presumably a result of grievous sin. In the Old Testament we see a common perception of physical pain as a consequence of sin (specifically in the book of Job). Although David is clearly suffering, there is no specific place in the historical record of David’s life where this Psalm can be particularly associated.

In this Psalm we see a great depiction the consequences of sin leading to repentance

- **ACKNOWLEDGING SIN (vs. 1-7)**
  - All sin has consequence. Sometimes those consequences are in the form of physical pain, loss, heartache, or disappointment. This is certainly not to say that ALL pain is a result of personal sin. Sometimes pain is just pain!
  - In this case, however, David acknowledges that sin can have both a spiritual and a physical effect.
    - Acknowledgment of Sin (v.1)
      - God’s anger (could result in rebuke)
      - God’s wrath (could result in discipline)
    - Spiritual (vs. 2)
      - My SOUL is in anguish
    - Physical (vs. 2-7)
      - My BONES are in agony
      - I am worn out from GROANING
      - I flood my bed with WEEPING / TEARS
      - EYES grow weak with sorrow
    - V. 2: Heal me, m

- **STAYING AWAY FROM SIN (vs. 8).**
  - The heart of repentance is one who not only addresses past grievances, but prevents future opportunities to sin in like manner.
    - AWAY FROM ME, all you who do evil

For many, our New Testament view of God is one that is predominantly based upon Love – and rightfully so (1 John 4:8). But in order to begin to understand and appreciate the extent of God’s love, it helps to have the context of knowing what sin does to the heart of a Holy God. He is rightfully angry and wrathful. God’s grace is made manifest to us in contrast to His wrath (Ephesians 2:1-10) Thank God for His grace!

Even in the Old Testament, David understands this grace from God. This is revealed in the nature of his plea to God:
- Be merciful to me (v. 2)
- Turn and deliver me (v. 4)
- Save me because of your unfailing love (v. 4)
  - *Brady note: This is my favorite verse in this Psalm. This phrase “unfailing love” is used repeatedly throughout the Psalms.*
- The Lord has heard my weeping (v. 8)
- The Lord has heard my cry for mercy (v. 9)
- The Lord accepts my prayer (v. 9)

**QUESTIONS AND FURTHER STUDY**

- 2 Corinthians 7:8-12 deals with a New Testament descriptor of what genuine repentance is. Not just sorry for getting caught, but sorrow for grieving God. How are Psalm 6 and 2 Corinthians 7 similar? How are they different?
- What does David mean in verse 5?

_Brady Thornton_

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**PSALM 7**

The introduction to this Psalm indicates that it came from David concerning “Cush, a Benjamite”. The identity of this “Cush” is unknown. Therefore, there is no specific place in David’s storyline to associate this Psalm. Some believe it is a coded reference to King Saul – A Benjamite and the son of Kish. One of the great legacies of David’s life was the way he handled being unjustly persecuted by King Saul. David repeatedly showed respect for the man Saul and the position of King.

This song is also called a “shiggaion”. Although the meaning of this term is uncertain as well, the root of the word means “to wander”. Either this Psalm was written as a result of David’s forced exile through Saul’s pursuit, or the pace of the song itself is improvisational in nature.

There are times in our lives where we will be unjustly persecuted for something. In this Psalm David appeals to God as both Righteous Judge and Refuge

God as **RIGHTeous JUDGE** (v.11)

- David appeals to God to judge the situation upon the condition of his righteous life and his integrity (v. 8)
  - *This is a bold request. Shows that David is one who generally kept short accounts with God from a sin perspective.*
  - *Reveals the value David placed upon walking in a blameless manner.*
- David appeals to God to evaluate the minds and hearts of those involved in this dispute
  - *God in His Omnipresence SEES all*
  - *God in His Omniscience KNOWS all*
  - *We might be able to conceal our actions or intent from others but not from God*
  - *Thank God that HE is the Righteous Judge*
- Several times in verse 6 David appeals to God to “Arise”, “Rise Up”, or “Awake”
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- A judge would often sit to hear a case, and rise to pass judgment and execute the sentence.
- David is appealing here for God to move to bring the situation to a speedy close.

God as OUR REFUGE
- This is another common theme throughout the Book of Psalms.
- For many of us, our response in times of dispute is SELF-PRESERVATION
- Here David appeals to God to be his Refuge (v. 1) and his Shield (v.10)

QUESTIONS AND FURTHER STUDY
- Think back to a time when you were wrongly / falsely accused. What was your initial reaction? Based upon this Psalm, how would you respond in a future situation?
- God is indeed a Righteous Judge. What must be the primary condition of our souls in a situation like this in order to find refuge in the Righteous Judge?
- Read James 1:15 for a New Testament version of 7:14

Brady Thornton

PSALM 8

Psalm 8:1 begins with praise, "Lord (Yehovah), our Lord (Adonay), how majestic is Your name in all the earth! You have set (or displayed) your glory in the heavens.", and ends in praise in verse 9, "Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"

TERMS DEFINED
- Yehovah - means "the existing One", self-existent or eternal
- Adonai - means Lord, title, spoken in place of Yehovah the Lord (used as a proper name of God only)
- Majestic - means large, very great, might. Example would be the vastness of the sea.

Verse 2: Our praise to God is a weapon of warfare.

Verse 3-4: That God, who spoke and the universe came to be would be mindful of man is far too wonderful indeed. Cross-reference Psalm 33:5-9 and Romans 1:16-32.

Verses 5-8: Our role in God's plan. Under His control and His plan.

POINTS TO BE LOOKING FOR
LORD or Lord - Notice as you read through the rest of the Psalms the difference of LORD or Lord.
- LORD - the Great One
- Lord - our personal God, who in creation shows us His handiwork.
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- Lord - who is mindful of us.

QUESTIONS AND FURTHER STUDY
- If God is mindful of us (verse 4), given our responsibilities (verses 5-8) what should our response be to Him? (verses 1&9)
- Do you live in awe of His majestic name?
- How would we honor His name in our thoughts, speech and actions?

Steve Morgan

PSALM 9

This is a Psalm of praise to God for His faithfulness, righteousness, and deliverance. In it we see God as an advocate for the righteous and a prosecutor of the wicked.

While this entire Psalm is good, I would like to focus our attention upon the words of vs. 7-10 as we see in it a descriptor of the God we worship. As you do so, please place your finger in Isaiah 9:1-7. Here Isaiah gives a prophecy regarding the Messiah that is often read at Christmastime. Look at the similarities between the descriptors of God and the Messiah in Psalm 9 and Isaiah 9.

- Psalm 9:7 – “The Lord Reigns forever”
  o Isaiah 9:7 – “He will reign on David’s throne...from that time on and forever”
- Psalm 9:7 – “He has established His throne for judgment”
  o Isaiah 9:6 – “The government will be on His shoulders”
- Psalm 9:8 – “He will judge the world in righteousness; He will govern the peoples with justice”
  o Isaiah 9:7 – “He will reign on David’s throne and over his throne, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness.”
- Psalm 9:9 / Isaiah 9:1-4

In my opinion, the key verse here is 9:10 “Those who know Your name will trust in you, for You, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.” Throughout the course of the Psalms you will find times where the Psalmist will ask of God why he has been forsaken. For many of us there are times where our relationship with God will feel distant, cold – forsaken. It is during these times that it becomes necessary for us to stop and look around.

- Look around to see where God is in relation to us. When we feel distant from God, it is only because we have walked away from Him. God promises to never leave us or forsake us (Deuteronomy 31:6, Hebrews 13:5)
- Look back to reflect upon God's faithfulness to us in the past. We often will feel consumed by the specific scenario of our current conflict. Look back through your life to see how God has worked before.
- Look into God’s Word to remind us of His promises to us once again. We might feel forsaken because we feel lost in our circumstances. Our present place is not where we expected to be. But the reality is that we probably have not reached the end of this particularly journey yet. Trust the Lord and His promises during these times of despair.
QUESTIONS AND FURTHER STUDY
- Think back to the number of times God has provided for you in a special way. You might want to even write these down in a journal. Although you might be in a good place now, this exercise will help you to look back on God’s previous faithfulness to you when you feel forsaken. Proper perspective is key to understanding God’s faithfulness.
- Do you consider yourself as one who “seeks God” (v. 10)? In what specific ways do you seek God in your life?
- Note: I find it odd that such a triumphant Psalm would be sung to the tune of “The Death of the Son”.

Brady Thornton

PSALM 10

In contrast to Psalm 9, Psalm 10 is written from the perspective of one who questions the faithfulness of God as he observes the supposed prosperity of the wicked. In verses 2-11 we see no less than 20 descriptors of a wicked person. Take the challenge of locating these descriptors in the text. When we read about the “wicked”, it is easy for us to read through it with someone else in mind. Don’t fall into that trap. Take the time to see how many of these descriptors define YOU. Hopefully not many, but there are a few that I think many of us could be guilty of:

- Psalm 10:4 – “In his pride the wicked does not seek Him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God”
  o In Psalm 9:10 the statement is made that God will not forsake those who seek Him. The question was asked “How do you seek God”. Did you ever stop to think that NOT seeking God is a characteristic of wickedness? Perhaps now would be a good time to stop and re-evaluate HOW you seek God in your life.
  o God is often the last thought for many professing Christians God – if He is thought of at all. Once again, God identifies this as wickedness. How can we be deliberate in seeking / considering God first in each and every situation?
- Psalm 10:6 – “He says to himself “Nothing will shake me; I’ll always be happy and never have trouble.”
  o Many of today’s TV preachers will talk about health, wealth, and prosperity as signs of God’s blessing. David says these types of thoughts are WICKEDNESS! Who do you believe?
  o In fact, the balance of Scripture states plainly that we will face tribulation and hardship in life (John 16:33, 1 Peter). It is important to understand this because many Christians are shaken to their core when they face times of hardship when they were told they would be happy and never have trouble. Bad doctrine isn’t God’s fault...
This Psalm concludes with two verses that are a tremendous source of encouragement:
- Psalm 10:14 “But You, O God, do see trouble and grief; You consider it to take it in hand.
- Psalm 10:17-18a “You hear, O Lord, the desire of the afflicted; You encourage them and listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed.”

What a blessing it is to love a God – and be loved by a God – who sees our trouble, hears our desires, and is moved to action.

QUESTIONS AND FURTHER STUDY
- The question of why the wicked are seemingly disproportionately blessed is a common one. Do you have a good answer for it? Consider Matthew 5:3-12 and 5:43-45. Is it possible that the wicked are indeed enjoying “Their Best Life Now”?

Brady Thornton