

S. N. May 21, 78 A.M.

"A HEAVENLY KING"

Psalm 21

INTRODUCTION:

It is a thanksgiving for the king's triumphant return from war. It includes a thanksgiving to God for the blessings he has conferred upon the king. V. 1-6. And an expression of the confidence that the king will be victorious over his enemies. V. 8-12.

We have the portrait of a Godly king. Shakespeare wrote, "uneasy lies the head that wears a crown."

O.T. Two Whole Books 1st & 2nd Kings, History of Kings of Judah & Israel
Some good = bad =

Happy is the nation that has a ruler that remembers that God is at the head. The United States has been very fortunate in having many Godly presidents.

Lincoln once said, my friends, "I am a young man. And whether I shall live a few years or many, I do not know. But I hope that while I do live, I shall so conduct myself that it will not be necessary for me to put a lightning rod upon my house, to save me from the vengeance from Almighty God."

Mr. Truman once said, as he assumed office - "I asked only to be a good and faithful servant of my Lord, and of my people."

He closed the first address that he gave to Congress - with these lines.
"I Kings 3:9. Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad." This was taken from the

prayer of Solomon.

In this Psalm we see a contrast of the king on earth and the king in Heaven. Here is a great celebration, as we can very easily see the contrast as it develops.

v (1) - Lord, the King rejoices in your power. How he rejoices in your saving help. Here is a consciousness that the victory was by super-natural power. In thy strength, Oh Lord. He relied on the strength of Jehovah and this was not in vain. How often do we fail in the battle of life by being too self-reliant. We are blind by the confidence that we put in self and in our own weaknesses.

David here speaks for himself in the first place. Professing that his joy was in God's strength and salvation. And the people conferred with him. This probably had its background in 2 Sam. 3:36. The king rejoices - he rejoices in thy strength. And so do we. But what pleases the king, pleases us. Here is a happy character - the people. Because the king is made strong because of God.

Now in contrast, our Lord Jesus, in his great undertaking relies upon help from Heaven. And it pleased God as he worked out this great salvation.

Let us look at two or three things now.

I. THE JOY OF THE KING

~~V. 2~~ Think about his desire. Thou hast granted him his in-most prayers. Nor have you refused his spoken petition. " Desire is the mainspring of life. The whole human drama of life would come to a dead stand-still - just like an engine burnt out if it were not for desire.

By your heart's desire, you can test your character. " As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he. "

If we do not present to God our heart's desire, we do not pray. Words without desire are not living prayer. Rom. 8:26. It is a heartless and lifeless way that is dead in form.

When men came to our Saviour, the question was, not what have you to say, but what wilt thou, that ~~thou~~ should do unto thee,? What is thy heart's desire.

The human desire is open to the eye of God. The heart seeketh, and its secrets are no secret to God. Jer. 17:9-10. It always flashes to the surface, God saw it and he still sees it. And he has a perfect divine knowledge of our desire. They are foreseen and by this, we can test.

Are your prayers such that we can come with boldness to the throne of grace through the blood of Christ, and say, Lord, all of my desire is before thee.

Prayer is living, real, worth offering when you pour out your heart.

Now suppose you join in singing a hymn, or offering a prayer. And you do not mean what you say. Would it be good or ill - here and the hereafter, if God did indeed grant your heart's desire.

So the hidden (treasure) within a man's heart is here tested. For he says, they gave God all the praise of those things which caused the king rejoicing. God had heard their prayers. When God gives to Christ the heathen for inheritance, and he accepts his intercessions for his believers, he gives him his heart's desire. Jesus coveted this. So the king found joy in his desire.

V. 3 - Notice that the blessings that are showered upon him. And anticipating his desires would bless him, he says, you have put on your head the golden crown. V. 3. God has surprised him with favors. And much has outdone even his expectations. His blessings are goodness. And there was nothing but the enlarging of the soul. God's blessings came sooner and richer than he imagined. We, as individuals, experience that God gives as we pray. Nothing indeed prevented receiving these. God had advanced him to the highest honor. God has set a crown of pure gold upon his head.

Now his enemies attempted to over-throw that. But crowns are for God's disposal. No head wears them but God sets them there.

On the head of Christ, God set a crown of gold. Men placed a crown of

(thorns) but this was turned into a crown of glory. Yes, Jesus wore this crown. And it was one of splendor. As the wood in the tabernacle was overlaid with pure gold, so is Jesus covered with honor and glory. He has become Lord Jesus above all. Jesus is king. As a king, he was announced by Gabriel. Luke 1:32.

As a king he was worshipped in the cradle by the wise men. Matt. 2:11.

As a king he was rejected by the Jews, persecuted by the chief priest, crucified by Pilate. John 19:19.

As king, he arose from the dead - and received up into Glory. And now rules in power in Heaven and upon earth. I Tim. 6:15.

To this day, and everywhere, Jesus receives royal honors. Thou art the king of glory, oh Lord.

Because of his favor with God, God honored him all the way from the cradle to the cross.

V. 4 Everlasting length of days. The (king has the life) and you have given him, (everlasting length) of days. Here is the sacredness of life. This is very great Scripture here. God has done more for him than he was able

even to ask or think. God put into his hands the length of days forever and ever. That is far beyond his expectations. Immortality is something in our minds. He was dead indeed that we might live. But he lives forever more. That we too might have life. And he obtained this through a sacrifice as he went through the garden, and the agony - and thrice he cried with tears - and we see him submitting to love and faith. The holy will of God. He died that sinners might be saved. Even the length of days forever more. Jesus, as man, asked for life. And he heard, because he was raised from the dead to die no more. He was endowed with the length of days forever and forever.

What does this mean. David does not dream that God here has really given him this kind of life. Here is life immortal. He has caught the sight of every - not earthly immortality, but here is the perpetuation of David's life and influence that is going to continue over unborn generations. It will last, he says, forever and ever.

Now this is a pre-figure of Christ. Who will come and will be the fulfillment who will come and reign forever and ever. This was the immortality which he heard God promising him. Life, he asked to be saved from death by sickness. The paw of the lion, the paw of the bear, by the soldiers of Saul. And God gave him life. And at first, it may be he thought, that God had given him no more than he had asked for. It was only the immediate escape from dying. But by and by he found that life that was long and deep, and mysterious. And it was destined beyond his faintest hope. The spiritual forces would never decay. That is, there was something that belonged to a non-ending life of God. This deepened the sight of the life which came to David. The spiritual forces will never decay. And David had come to see this - and I hope that you will come to see this. That we may mean what we pray. We have to take life as God gives it to us. As we know it.

And then we have to truly think of life as that which will go on. Oh, the wild joys of living. The leaping from rock to rock. How good is man's life. The mere living. How fit to employ all the heart, the soul, and the sense forever in joy.

How have these things come to pass for the king, as he looks here in obedience to what God wanted him to do.

The prodigal son's story is that of a man who thought he knew where living was all about. He was delighted in mere living. But he finally has to go back to God for repairs. Because he felt the terrible sin in his life, and before he got life. Long life, even forever and ever, he gives us day by day. When we ask for life, oh, may God somehow give us more, than life.

If we had time, we could consider a parable in the New Testament. Of a man who had five brothers and his name was Dives. He has experienced death. Luke 16:23. And we find that here is an unforgettable lesson of immortality. It is one parable that gives us the nature of the soul. The rich man Lazarus - leading the strong lesson that the destiny of life is settled here in this world. And there is another world of the spirit that we need to be prepared for. Jesus told us about two men in order to illustrate the fact, that how we live here, determines how we live in the hereafter. Immortality is based upon he who believes in the son has eternal life. He who does not obey the son, shall not see life. But the wrath of God rests upon him. John 3:36.

And that's what life - we are preparing to go to another country.

I read about a missionary sometime ago who was going to a South American nation. And in preparing to go, the customs rules said that new residents and new families coming into the country, could not bring anything new. They could only bring used furnishings. They had to have invoices proving that the items had been in their possession at least six months. For example, they could not bring new shoes. They had three small children. This was frustrating - the mother said, can you imagine trying to buy shoes for your children in advance. But that is the way you had to work it. Bed linens, medicine, kitchen appliances - all of this. Now they were doing this because of the will of God.

Now here is a lesson in immortality beyond death. Personally and self-consciousness continued. The rich man knew himself as himself. Lazarus was identified as Lazarus. And Christianity says, after death, personality survives. After death there is memory and recognition. Beyond this, we have no right to draw any future lessons. Well, it is really doubtful if we have the faculty to understand all that is out there in time and space. You know, Jesus once said, I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

They could not understand the things of the earth. How were they going to understand all of those things in the future.

But in the parable, Jesus gives us the impression that we will be fully astonished about the life to come. Jesus may have been directing this to our own generation. Those who did die. The rich man, from Hell is still heard today.

As many in this generation say, that the way is not yet clear and discernable
- but the rich man still speaks.

And how true, there are still very few sincere seekers after truth. God
gives the advantages, the opportunities, and some of them turn away empty. There
is enough guidance now for eternal assurance.

A preacher visited a young mother in the hospital. The doctor had
diagnosed an incureable thing and she had only a few weeks remaining to live.
She was a brave person. The doctor had told her all of the cruel facts.

Now she was a (nominal Christian) - the product of a wealthy home. A well-
known family. She greeted the preacher with - I have known the Bible all of my
life. But now I realize that I don't know it. Will you tell me what it is like
for a Christian to die and to go out into eternity.

He reflected in those crucial moments. And he said he had never known eyes
to penetrate so deep into another's personality and mine. There was a Bible nearby
and he reached for it - and prayed for the right thing to say. The (first) reference
he read - was the (parable) of the rich man and Lazarus. I surely cannot explain
why this ancient story came to mind he said. But it has the emphasis. Then I read
Jesus' discussion about a heavenly home. The (lesson) he gave his Disciples the very
night before his death. And then how natural it was to turn to (Paul) for help in
the (Corinthian) letter. Jesus resurrection, and what it would ultimately mean to
us.

Her first response was - how beautiful. And then next, there was a question. But why hasn't someone told me about it before.

Now this story from Jesus is an unending supply of truth. It gives us strong convictions about our beliefs in immortality. For such details we can put them to our hearts for emphasis.

There is great guidance here in this Psalm.

V. 5 - Your saving help confers great glory and majesty and splendor.
This is something else about the joy of the king. Great glory. A glory which every good man is ambitious of. To (see the salvation of the Lord) and this is layed up in him. Jesus Christ, received from God the Father, honor and glory. 2 Peter 1:17. Glory which he had with him before the world. John 17:5.

V. 6 - It conferred ever lasting blessings. You gladdened his heart. With the joy of your presence.

Here we find that Christ has the source and blessing for the entire race. Thou hast made him exceeding glad. This is the experience of every Christian. Our anticipations may be cheerful as we look forward to them. But there is further joy in the blood bought ones of Christ.

I think of Jesus despised, rejected, by the honors of this world - it was useless. But all power was given to him in Heaven and in earth. And God has made him a blessing forever.

A Spanish captain once said, there is no way of enjoying one's property, like giving it away. "

It is a joy, a luxury to give. The (generosity) of Christ.

An English king once threw open his park and gardens to the public. The royal gardener finding it troubling - complained to his majesty, that the visitors plucked the flowers. What, said the kind-hearted king, are my people fond of flowers. "Then plant some more."

It is (just) like that with (Jesus), our Heavenly king. He scatters on our daily pathway, the flowers of blessings. (Just) as fast as we can gather them, and he does not give as the world gives.

The Lord rejoiced over you to do you good. Deut. 28:63.

II. THE VICTORY OF THE KING

Now we turn from the joy to the victory of this king. Through his mercy, the Lord by grace, the most high. He reigns - V. 7. The king here trusted in God.

And his great confidence and stability in the kingdom. It has come about because of that trust.

v, 8 - First, the (description of enemies). V. 8. Your hand will unmask all enemies. Those who hate you.

Sin will deprive sooner or later, even the inner most feelings of your heart. He says, thy right hand shall (find out) those who (hate you). This (secret haters) of God, only find the opportunity and the power. They say he might never rise.

Now a (ship) has on board, of the vessel, a log - a simple thing that the captain can sit in his quarters and tell the movements. The (depth) of the sea. The (weight) of the vessel. How it is (traveling). Now God can know about your life and the (direction) of it.

The enemies of Christ will certainly be (detected) and (exposed) is here revealed. Not only, he says, will the eyes of the Lord be upon the wicked - but his hand, is to search them out. His hand will grasp these workers of the wicked.

(Rocks and mountains) will be no better shelter at last. Than (fig leaves) were at the first. God discovers the (hiding places), the (haters) of God. And when he appears to judge the world in hard heart.

But here is going to be a discovery.

He describes these enemies as those that hate him. Now there were those that hated David. Because God had set him apart himself. They hated Christ. Because Christ was light and men hate light. They prefer darkness.

John 15:23-25.

V, 9
The destruction, V. 9. You will make a bond (fire) of them. The Lord will engulf them. He says. V. 9. This is the destruction. Luke 19:27. They will be swallowed up. Hell is the portion of all of Christ's enemies. There is complete misery of both body and soul. That is pictured in the Scripture.

Christ will be utterly overthrown. And they will have suffering. The wicked shall be consumed with the fire of divine wrath. And cast into the furnace of fire.

How tragic. Deut. 4:24, Mark 9:44, 2 Thess. 1:8. The enemies of Christ will be defeated here and they are going to meet with destruction in V. 9.

V, 10
In V. 10 - Their descendents - you will wipe their children off the earth. And rid the human race of their descendents. The overflow of evil - overthrow evil and wickness is going to be complete. Now they prize the life that they carry on now but they are going to perish. And even their prosperity and their

children will be forgotten.

V. 10-11.

// The design in V. 11 - they intend evil against you. They plot as they may but they cannot win. You know, even though the desire here is against Christ, they will never win a single victory now that he has been crowned with a golden crown.

12 - V. 12 - They may as well retreat. They are going to be disappointed.
His arrows will find their mark.

- V. 13 - He concludes with the glory of the king. Up Lord, show your power. We shall sing and play in honor of your strength. Christ here is the supreme power of Jehovah. And it is self-sustaining. The Lord is the one who will execute. God's right hand here is given credit for the victory. And is passed on to his followers.

Now the supremacy of Jehovah should be joyfully celebrated. We should sing praises to that power. God is to receive praise in reference to what he has been able to do. God will ultimately triumph over all of his enemies. And that his enemies will be followed by universal rejoicing and praise. We might well pray haste over haste. That day.

There is a magnificent hymn that proclaims the feeling at this point.

Of all the dark places of earth's heathen races
Oh see how the thick shadows fly
The voice of salvation, awakes every nation
Come over and help us, the cry.

With shouting and singing, and jubilant ringing
Their arms of rebellion cast down
At last every nation, the Lord of salvation
Their king and redeemer shall crown.

The kingdom is coming
Oh, tell you the story
God's banner exalted shall be
The earth shall be full of his knowledge and glory
As waters that cover the sea.

Who is this & glory?