

WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

November 22, 2015

Worship, as God intended, is a supernatural event. As we enter into this service of worship, we cross the threshold of the secular to the sacred, from the common to the uncommon, from the profane to the holy. Prepare yourself therefore for this most holy convocation!

Prelude

Worship Theme

Christ is Awesome

Psalm 66:1-7: "Shout joyfully to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; make His praise glorious. Say to God, 'How awesome are Thy works! Because of the greatness of Thy power Thine enemies will give feigned obedience to Thee. All the earth will worship Thee, and will sing praises to Thee; they will sing praises to Thy name.' [Selah]. Come and see the works of God, *who is awesome in His deeds toward the sons of men. He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot; there let us rejoice in Him!*"

God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross Ps. 22:25

+We Adore Him

Hymn #69, "Thy God Reigneth!"

We Confess Our Sin

Our soul is like a house, small for You to enter, but we pray that You will enlarge it. It is in ruins, but we ask You to remake it. It contains much that You will not be pleased to see; this we know and do not hide. But to whom can we cry except to You? Forgive us, O Lord. Cleanse us from our sins, our secret sins. What wretches we are! In your mercy, tell us what You are to us. Say to our soul, "I am your salvation." Come, O Lord, and stir our hearts. Call us back to yourself. Kindle Your fire in us and carry us away. Let us love You and hasten to Your side. In Jesus' name, Amen. [Adapted from Augustine's *Confessions*, I, v-vi; VIII, i]

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #173, "Praise Him! Praise Him!"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication Rom. 6:12-13

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #508, "Jesus, Lover Of My Soul"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship

Ps. 19:7

We Read His Word

Sermon

*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #580, "Lead On, O King Eternal"

God Blesses us in the Benediction

Welcome and Announcements

Postlude

(Containers have been placed at the front for communion cups and small trash)

+You are invited to raise your hands during the prayer of adoration.

*Visitors, please see note below on the Lord's Supper.

The Restoration of a King, Psalm 61
Study Notes for November 22, 2015

I. Introduction: Manasseh's prayer of restoration (2 Chron. 33:19)... David's prayer of restoration (Ps. 61)!

II. The Restoration of a King, Psalm 61.

A. The Background, vv. 1-2a.

"From the end of the earth..."

It is clear that David considered himself to be as far away from God as he possibly could be. He is at "the end of the earth"- not literally, but spiritually and so emotionally!

David on the run from Absalom (2 Sam. 12:10-11a; 16:20-23)...

W. A. VanGemen wrote, "Though the phrase 'from the ends of the earth' may denote a geographical distance away from the land (cf. 46:9; Deut 28:49), it is also a metaphor for despair, alienation, and spiritual distance from the Lord." (*Psalms*, EBC, p. 418)

*As David fled for his life from Jerusalem, one of the remaining sons of Saul met him on the way and began cursing him (2 Sam. 16:5-6a; 10-11)...

David here is NOT speaking about his geographical location when he referenced "the end of the earth," BUT his perception as to his spiritual location. At this moment in his life, he believed he was cursed by God! He was as far away from God in his walk as he had ever been!

"...when my heart is faint"

The word for "faint" (אָפֵף [ataph]) is used in reference to (1) feeble cattle, Gen. 30:42, and (2) the people of God during the Babylonian siege who fainted due to weakness from lack of food, Lam 2:11, 12, 19. When used of "the heart" it speaks of emotional and spiritual exhaustion, a languishing of the inner man to the point of death!...

Dr. C. Schultz wrote, "This term is descriptive of the individual when he observes his circumstances and then becomes aware of his separation from God. As a result he is overwhelmed." (*TWOT*, p. 662)

***Where We Live**

1. Christian, do you know this place? Have any of you spent time there? I think some of you have!
2. Like David, you have been made a king on account of Christ (1 Pet. 2:9). And like David, there have been times in your life where spiritually you have found yourself "at the end of the earth" with a "heart that is faint/languishing." At these times, what ought we to pray?

B. The Supplication, vv. 2b-4, 7b.

=vv. 2b-4: "...rock... refuge... tower of strength... tent... shelter... [Selah]."

What is significant about these five references is that (1) they reflect a growing intimacy that comes with restoration (n.b., from a "rock" to "the shelter of Thy wings"), and (2) ALL of these references are used in Scripture in reference to the Holy of Holies!

B. Tanner observed, "Each of these images (rock, refuge, tent, and shelter of your wings) are metaphors that represent God's temple or dwelling place, so the petitions in vv. 2c-4 move the one praying from a distant place to the very center of God's dwelling on earth." (*The Book of Psalms*, NICOT, p. 511)

Consider the words themselves; they are quite vivid...

=v. 2b: "...lead me to the rock that is higher than I."

=v. 3a: "For Thou hast been a refuge for me..."

=v. 3b: "For Thou has been... a tower of strength against the enemy."

=v. 4a: "Let me dwell in Thy tent forever..."



=v. 4b: "...let me take refuge in the shelter of Thy wings."

Leanness of Soul, Ps. 106:15

=v. 7b: speaking of the future king(s) that would sit on his throne, David asked that God would, "...appoint lovingkindness and truth, that they may preserve him."

What was David's prayer here? That these future kings who would sit on his throne would be preserved on account of "the lovingkindness and truth" of the Lord- that is, the grace of Christ and the truth of His word! In essence, that when they seem far away from the Lord, that they would sup upon the kindness, grace, and love of Christ given to us in His word... and thereby be restored!

In the words of Derek Kidner, "Through [Christ] his people share the kingly blessings (Eph. 2:6; Rev. 22:3-5) and can pray this magnificent petition on their own behalf." (*Psalms 1-72*, TOTC, p. 238)

***Where We Live**

1. So what ought we to do when we find ourselves "at the end of the earth"? By faith, gaze upon the lovingkindness of Christ as proclaimed by the word, get on your knees, and so long for the restoration of the covenant blessings of the Lord in your life!
2. And yet in order for you to respond accordingly and so pray this prayer, you must share the Conviction that David had when he wrote this Psalm- a conviction that is forged *PRIOR* to being in the desert...

Remember Rutherford's exhortation?, "Look for crosses, and while it is fair weather mend the sails of the ship." (*Letters of Samuel Rutherford*, Letter XXX, p. 92)

C. The Conviction, vv. 5-6.

1. If you are in Christ, God will always Hear your Prayer, v. 5a.

In the Bible, if God is said to have "heard our prayer" (which a "vow" is a form of a prayer] it means that He has answered it... it means that He is going to respond favorably to it!

2. If you are in Christ, then God has already Given you Heaven, v. 5b.

Any time you read about "the inheritance" in Scripture, you are reading about The Promised Land which ultimately was the promise of the New Heavens and Earth (cf. Heb. 11:15-16a)...

3. Regardless of your Relationship with Christ, God always Fulfills His Promises, vv 6-7.

This is the language and so The Promise spoken to David when he became king (cf. 2 Sam. 7:16)...

D. The Result, v. 8.

This is how David closed out what at the beginning seemed like a Psalm of despair. I will sing a song of Your praises throughout my days and forever beyond!!!

"Surely Thy sweet and wondrous love, shall measure all my days; and as it never shall remove, so neither shall my praise." (George Herbert, *The God of Love My Shepherd Is*)

This really is quite amazing! Though none of his circumstances had changed, nevertheless David went from despair to gladness in a single sitting! How? By taking his eyes off of himself and his circumstances and placing them on the Lord, His Character, and so Promises. As he did that, David's "valley of weeping became a spring!"

***Where We Live**

1. Fellow kings and queens, this is how we go from sadness to gladness in a single sitting! We take our eyes off of our circumstances and place them on God (cf. Ps. 73:16-17a)...
2. Truly, our growth as a king will come NOT as we get more from God, BUT as we appropriate what God already has given us! When that occurs, the result will be a life of praise and adoration that will last throughout eternity!