

Praising God for His Deliverances, Part VII

Call to Worship: Psalm 105:1-6

1st Scripture: 2 Samuel 22:1-46

2nd Scripture: 2 Samuel 22:47-51

Hymn #50- *Praise to the Lord*

Hymn #70- *Praise My Soul the King of Heaven*

Hymn #89- *Come Thou Almighty King*

Introduction:

We come now to the conclusion of this lengthy Psalm of praise, written by the beloved King David. At the beginning of the song, we found David making very bold statements about his invisible God, all with the intent of affirming that He is a defender and deliverer of His people. We saw in the first few verses, how David used such rich, descriptive words as, "a Rock, a Fortress, a Stronghold, a Shield, a Horn of Salvation... etc," to describe his God. And throughout the body of this Psalm, David has given us a very general overview of how God has more than met up to those illustrative labels, in the ways in which He has preserved David, from enemies far stronger than him, and from the strivings even of his own people. All in all, in the very exaltation and prosperity of David himself, over the surrounding nations; elevating David from being a shepherd boy in Bethlehem, to a respected ruler over nations, God has proven Himself more than capable and beyond faithful. And all of this, we have seen, was a prophetic portrayal, of that, which would take place thousands of years later, in the ultimate exaltation of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Ruler over all nations, in the most literal sense.

And so, the case has been stated and confirmed with David, and it has been better stated and confirmed with Christ, and this then leads to the conclusive statements of praise, given in the remainder of the Psalm, which is our focus of consideration for this morning. And the question then, for us, which will be begged, in all of this, brethren, is, "Where does this bring *us*? What is the compelling motivation, pressed upon all, who are given the privilege of hearing and tasting David's testimony here, given in this Psalm?"

I. Bringing it all Together

Did you ever have one of those moments, when a particular realization about God comes to mind, and it lifts you up, to the point that you are compelled to blare forth outbursts of praise toward God? Maybe you are reading the Word of God, and as you are reading, something just jumps off the page, as it were, addressing you in a very timely and relevant way. And it brings a big picture reality, into the life of your small picture problems, and the big picture reality overwhelms you with praise.

Well here, David has a responsive moment, like that. He has made great claims about God, and as he has sought to confirm those realities, by describing general ways, in which, God has protected, prospered and delivered him, he is compelled to blurt forth an outburst of praise. In other words, these truths are not mere historical realities to David; they are not interesting "text book" facts; no, they are real, tangible realities, which have touched his own heart and life. And so, a passionate response is not only justified; it is compelled, as it were. As heat brings the water to boil, such meditations cause David's heart to fill with joy and gratefulness, and it springs out of him, in the form of simple, and yet, powerful praise! Notice, the heart of David, bursting aflame here, as it were:

"The Lord lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let God be exalted, the Rock of my salvation" (vs. 47)! The first part of this outburst seems so obvious, and perhaps even unnecessary, at the surface level, doesn't it? We might say, "Of course, the Lord lives, David! Isn't that obvious? Is that the kind of thing that comes out of your heart, when reflecting upon all He has done in your life?" And yet, it is beyond appropriate and most comforting, brethren, because the reality of the ever present existence, of a God, whom we cannot see; and whose being is beyond the reach of our physical senses, is something, with which our fallen nature, constantly contends. We are beyond elated just to recognize the real presence of the One, who has created us and all things for His glory! And everything around us; and even the fallen nature, which we still bear, along with the aid of a large company of demonic beings, constantly seek to flush that reality out of our minds. The fact that we still worry, become anxious and depressed and doubt, all indicate that our grasp of His reality is inconsistent, at best. And so, when a fresh

revelation and sense of His presence, hits us, through His Word, it leads us to say, what would otherwise seem obvious, "The Lord lives! The Lord lives!"

And so, David seeks to express what ought to be beyond obvious, and yet, what is sadly denied by most in the world, because of the blindness of sin, and the hardness of the human heart, namely, that YHWH; that this particular God; the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, actually lives! And if He lives, then it is very refreshing to know, that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him! What are the chances? That a tiny speck in the world; a dust particle, named David, actually has contact and fellowship with the living God, when the entire world is in rebellion, worshiping and serving dead idols, and going to hell in a hand basket? And so, David says, "It is true! Look over here! Come and taste for yourselves!"

"Blessed be my Rock!" "The one, who upholds me, in accordance with His rich and abundant mercy, is blessed and ought to be blessed forever! Let Him be exalted! Let Him be lifted up among the nations; indeed, among all of creation, as the One, to whom, all things were made and belong! He is a Savior, like no other! He is the Rock of my salvation, who has preserved me, prospered me, delivered me, and exalted me among the nations!" You see, recognizing the profoundly gracious providence of God, forever working in David's favor, leads David to all the more, covet the exaltation of God. He wants people to know and see what he knows and sees. He can't just receive grace and keep quiet about it! He must speak up! The grace of God compels him to do this, and to long for the universal exaltation and recognition of this God, among all peoples!

And so, unlike most kings, who have ever existed or will exist, David violently, zealously, passionately affirms, that every ounce of safety and deliverance, which he has experienced throughout the course of his life and reign, is entirely attributed to YHWH, and to YHWH alone. Notice in verses 48-49, "It is God who avenges me, and subdues the peoples under me; He delivers me from my enemies," and then, not uncommon for the beloved Psalmist, he moves from speaking of God in the third person, to speaking directly to God in the second person, "*You* also lift me up above those who rise against me; *you* have delivered me from the violent man."

And "therefore," vs. 50; in light of these most certain realities, I must and will respond... I can't just receive and quietly lay dormant, "Therefore I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the Gentiles, and sing praises to Your Name!"

What was the proper duty of the Jews, as the chosen people of God? What ought to have been the natural desire of the Jews, had they kept themselves pure unto YHWH? They were to be a light to the rest of the world! They were to say, by word and by living example, "Hey, look over here! YHWH is the true and living God, Creator of heaven and earth and all peoples! Come, worship Him with us! Cast away your idols, wash yourselves and be clean, and worship before His holy presence! Of course, the Jews (as a whole) had failed in this regard, over and over again. But here, it is noteworthy, that David expresses his desire and design to do that very thing. God has made him a ruler over the nations, and rather than exalt himself, David would exalt and glorify the God who has exalted him over the nations. He would be that "light," to those who were within the sphere of his influence. [Compare to Nebuchadnezzar at the first]

He would proclaim that David is not the one to be remembered for his prosperity and for all of his amazing victories, but rather, vs. 51, "God is the tower of salvation to His king, and shows mercy to His anointed, to David and his descendants forevermore!" David wished the neon banner of his life, to be fully lit with the words, "My God reigns! It's all about Him! Every deliverance, which I have experienced; every iota of prosperity, is to be attributed to His power and His grace *alone!*" And that is the other bookend to this Psalm, which reiterates all that was affirmed in the introduction!

II. Closing Thoughts and Applications

Having worked through the entirety of this Psalm then, brethren, let us close this portion of our series out, by considering a few, relevant, closing thoughts and applications:

1) We must come back to the question, which is begged throughout this Psalm: What do we do with all of this? What ultimate, practical response, ought such truths to compel out of us? Well, David gives us the answer to these questions in verse 50, does he not?

"Therefore (these things being the case) I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the Gentiles, and sing praises to Your Name!"

We see here, brethren, that such glory; that such wonder; that such a tremendous display of God's loving grace, boundless mercy and focused protection, ought to compel us to:

a: Give Thanks to God- Brethren, this may sound so simple and obvious, but how often do we fall short in this regard. All that God has done for us, ought to make us the most thankful people in all the world! In fact, it would be; indeed, it is, criminal to neglect to thank God for His constant kindness and His tender mercies. One of the reasons for God's wrath, which hangs over the head of, and meets mankind, is the fact that man is not thankful to God, for creating and providing for him. How much more, brethren, ought we to be thankful, who have not only been granted the blessedness of existence, who have not only been daily provided for, but furthermore, who have been brought out of the darkness of our natural condition in Adam, and have been transferred into the beloved kingdom and light of God's Son, Jesus Christ! Is there a single day, within which, we ought to find ourselves empty of grateful, thankful praise to God? No matter how we feel; no matter what we suffer, we ought to be a thankful people; the most thankful people in existence!

b: Among the Gentiles- Among those, who yet, remain outside of Jesus Christ! Indeed, it is a responsibility; it ought to be a pleased and privileged responsibility to give thanks to God among the unsaved... not as a means of boasting against them, but as a means of proclaiming the glory and goodness of Christ, before them! How will they believe, if what they see, when they stare at us, is the same hopeless sense, which exists within them? If we are frustrated and worried and anxious about temporal things, rather than thankful toward and confident in our God, how will they believe the message of our Christianity?

Brethren, God has redeemed you! He delivers, shields and protects you! He works all things; indeed, all of your sufferings and hardships, for your good and His glory! Nothing can ever separate you from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, your Lord... nothing! The pot of eternal gold, is just at the end of the rainbow of tears... live in its light, now, in the present, such that others can get a tangible sense of the hope that lies within you!

At the end of the day, do people look at us, brethren, and see that, "The Lord lives!" Or, by our frustrations, our sulking, or our fleshly handling of matters of conflict, do our lives and our witness, tell a different story? Do our lives say, "The Lord is sleeping, at best," or "The Lord

lives in my profession alone," or "The Lord lives, and my unwavering commitment to remain steadfast and to trust Him, and to keep His ways, confirms this!"

Sadly, we've all fallen short in these regards, have we not? But, it doesn't have to be the end of the story! God can highlight your faithfulness, yet! He can restore what was broken and repair what is damaged! His Holy Spirit can yet work in, by and through us!

c: And Sing Praises to Your Name- It is also a befitting response to sing praises to God, for His tender mercies toward us. What is the quality of our hymn singing, here in the church. Not, how well do you sing? There are a variety of gifts in the church, but not all of us have vocal eloquence. Rather, is the heart engaged? Are we concentrating on the words, attempting to engage God with them? Or, half the times (or more), do we find ourselves merely parroting the words, while our minds are adrift somewhere else?

Some of us would rather not sing any hymns at all, not because of a lack of love for God, but we just might not enjoy singing. We enjoy hearing others sing, but not singing ourselves. But, we know that it is right and proper and God honoring. It is a good and proper means of thanking and glorifying God with our lips, as an expression of our hearts. Again, it is not "how well" you sing, but how sincere you express your love to God, in song. I believe that some of the most beautiful singing in the sight of God, probably comes from the vocally challenged, who yet, possess a high degree of sincerity. And I believe that some of the most atrocious singing, in the sight of God, comes from vocal chords that are built like harps, because there is no sincerity. It is all performance based and motivated by a personal desire for praise.

What of the lost art of hymn singing in the home? A brother recently approached me, expressing how blessed he has been to be engaged in singing hymns with another Christian, in her home.

Giving thanks, among the Gentiles, singing praises to God, are all good and proper responses to His constant providential care for us. All in all, let us live lives of eternal praise, before the watching world, declaring with our words and our lives, that "Our God lives and He reigns!"

Brethren, we have enjoyed many years of coveted freedom in our country. I keep praying, "Lord, you have given me over forty years, where not a single day has passed, where I

have had to beg for a piece of bread. You have abundantly provided for me. And I have never deserved even the least of Your mercies, the whole way. There are people, who have only known suffering and starvation and poverty, for the whole of their lives. I can never, ever complain, no matter what happens in the times ahead. Please, keep me praising You, no matter what."

Brethren, we are on the threshold of a major, major, financial/economical collapse in our country. This is not "conspiracy theory" rhetoric. This is mathematical fact. Life will eventually be... perhaps, sooner than we realize, life will never be the same for us, and it may be far worse than we could even imagine. Considering the utter moral degradation and breakdown of our country, we cannot but expect worse. No matter how you slice it, we are in for some very, very difficult times, up ahead. The plane is going down and it will hit hard. Our government is doing all kinds of things to delay or prolong the crash, but it will and must happen.

What do we look like on the other side of this? What do you and I look like, when the pandemonium hits? Will our faith in Christ; will our "amens" to Scripture, remain secure and steadfast, when the floorboard is removed, and there is nothing "visibly" present, to secure us? Will we be able to say during those times; when we are like the Israelites in the wilderness, truly depending upon God, for each days sustenance and blessings, will we be able to say, "The Lord lives?" When banks close, the stock market tanks, unemployment skyrockets, riots ensue, and freedom sours, what will our faith look like? God help us, brethren! God help us to trust that the One, who enlisted the ravens to care for Elijah, will care for us. And God help us to stand in the midst of the whirlwind of terror and anxiety, which will paralyze the world around us; God help us to give thanks to God, and to sing His praises among the Gentiles!

To the unsaved, are you ready for that day?

AMEN!!!

Benediction: Jude 1:24-25