

Praising God for His Deliverances, Part VI

Call to Worship: Psalm 119:137-144

1st Scripture: 2 Samuel 22:1-43

2nd Scripture: 2 Samuel 22:44-46

Hymn Insert- *Blessed Be Your Name*

Hymn Insert- *Better is One Day*

Hymn #186- *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

Introduction:

For the last five weeks, we have been carefully seeking to work through this lengthy and precious Psalm, written by King David. And, in all that we have considered thus far, we have found David putting forth a great emphasis on highlighting the fact that God has been a faithful defense and deliverer for David. David has often fought against enemies that were naturally far stronger, more in number, and further advanced than he and his people. And he wants us to know, in no uncertain terms, that all of the prosperity, which he has enjoyed, is to be attributed wholly and completely to his God. And the obvious charge that erupts out of all of this is, "Listener/reader; all who hear the words of this Psalm, put your trust and confidence in this God, and you will inherit the same blessings, which have come upon David." YHWH exists, and He is a rewarder of those, who diligently seek Him!

We have just finished considering six, critical resources, which God has continually provided for David, leading David to utterly crush and destroy his enemies. This morning then, we move on to the first of our last two sermons, which will be dedicated to this lengthy Psalm, as we now seek to work through verses 44 - 46. And I want to primarily highlight these three verses, in their Messianic context. That is to say, that the emphasis here, given in these verses, is placed most specifically on the regal position of David, which very clearly and powerfully, translates into the eternal reign of David's greater Son, namely, the Lord Jesus Christ!

I. David's Exalted Position

"You have also delivered me from the strivings of my people..." (vs. 44a).

Here, we find that David's problems did not only exist outside of his kingdom. No, indeed, he faced great challenges, even within the nation, over which he had reigned. In fact, one might legitimately argue that David had faced his greatest challenges, in dealing with the

strivings of his own people. Not only did David have to deal with the strivings of King Saul, who reigned just before David, and which, added ongoing tension between Saul's house and David, but David had to deal with the rebellion of his own son, Absalom, and the multitude of traitors, who had joined Absalom's conspiracy, both from Judah, and the other eleven tribes.

And so, in a very real sense, we could say that David's life was probably most threatened by the strivings of his own people and subjects! Factor in the insubordinate acts of Joab and Abishai, and you can see how the problem only grows multifold. But, here again, David acknowledges, that God has also intervened to these ends, as well. It was God who had preserved and shielded David, even from the strivings of his own people in Israel.

And so, in spite of the inward turmoil, and the severe outward threat, David can say to his God, "You have kept me as the head of the nations" (vs. 44b). We have seen in the past that the land of Israel; the Promised Land, has expanded its borders to its greatest lengths, under the reign of David. Not only did David conquer many of the heathen in the land, such as the Philistines, but furthermore, he conquered beyond the boundaries of Israel, utterly destroying foreign nations, or causing several of them to submit to his reign, being forced to pay tribute and serve his cause. In the face of great opposition from within and without; contending with enemies far greater in number and natural power than him, David, with the essential help of God, became the head of the surrounding nations... to the extent that he could now say, "A people I have not known shall serve me. The foreigners submit to me; as soon as they hear, they obey me" (vs. 44c - 45).

Moabites, Zobaites, Syrians, Ammonites and Edomites became servants of David. Foreigners and their offspring; a people not naturally known by David, became his servants, being forced to pay tribute to him. All of this, in accordance with the whole purpose of this Psalm, was God's doing, and David wanted to ensure that everyone understood this, in the clearest of terms, before he took his last breath on this earth.

And finally, in verse 46, David adds, "The foreigners fade away, and come frightened from their hideouts." Where did it all begin? David's enemies, who were far stronger than David, sought to destroy him, while he was at his weakest points. And he cried out to God, and God heard Him, and God jealously acted on His behalf, providing him with every resource he

needed to utterly destroy his enemies. And here, again, we find that superlative type of language, showing the quality of victory that David has obtained over his enemies. His enemies, who once were so emboldened to come after David, are now so afraid of David, that they come out of the hideouts, within which, he had chased them. Their hiding places don't even provide them with a sense of security and safety from David. And so, they come out, frightened and terrified, ready to surrender, hoping that in some way, David might spare them. Those foreigners, who submit to him, become his servants. Those who don't, "fade away." At the end of the day, God draws the line. They are either with His anointed king and servant, or they are against him, and will be destroyed.

All in all, brethren, we find here that God has preserved David on every side, from within and from without, exalting him as His chosen king, to reign over the nations! And David glorifies God for accomplishing all of this, on his behalf!

Next week, Lord willing, we will work through the conclusion of this Psalm; the book end, which reaffirms that which was stated in the introduction.

II. Conclusive Thoughts and Applications

Brethren, having worked through our designated portion of this Psalm for this morning, let us now conclude our time, by considering a few closing thoughts and applications:

1) Recognize how this Psalm finds its ultimate culmination in the universal exaltation, reign and dominion of the Lord Jesus Christ. As we approach the conclusion of this Psalm, brethren, we find that David's praise to God for His deliverances, culminates in the ultimate destruction of his enemies, and the expanded reign of David over all nations. Only, we know that with respect to David, his dominion was not literally over all the nations, but, at best, over those nations, which were in very close proximity to the Promised Land. However, what is pictured on a smaller scale with David here, is very much, intentionally reflective of the grand scale of Christ's reign and dominion.

As with the case of David, Christ's dominion erupted out of small, lowly and humble beginnings, was it not? But, the zeal of the Lord of hosts, has brought about a tremendous

expansion from that small seed. Indeed, the seed became an oak, with large, billowing branches, upon which the birds rest and nurse their young.

Consider again then, the words of verses 44-46, but in a Christ focused way:

"You have also delivered Me from the strivings (contentions) of My people..."

And were not Christ's greatest enemies, found within the nation of Israel, itself? He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him, did they? Indeed, they rejected Him, and ultimately delivered Him over to the Romans to be crucified. And though He died on the cross, was He not raised victoriously, three days later? Did God not, therefore, ultimately deliver Him from the strivings of His own people? Did He not raise Him up and exalt Him to the highest position, in heaven and on earth, such that He bears the Name, which is above every name; that Name, to which, all knees will bow?

It is so fitting that David states next, "You have kept Me as the head of the nations." Jew and Gentile alike have persecuted and put the Son of God to death, but He was raised up, to reign over all nations and people and powers, in heaven, on earth and under the earth! In Psalm 2:7-8, it is stated of Christ, "I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.'" David's words in our main text are fully realized and fulfilled in the Lord Jesus Christ! He has been kept as the head of the nations! Though, many have tried to prevent Him; though many have attempted to contend with the eternal, unchangeable purposes of the living and true God, God has laughed at them, as it were! Even death itself could not change this plan! Indeed, the paradox is that Christ's death actually fulfills and secures it! It is by His death, that He reigns over His people, and utterly defeats His enemies! Who can know the mind of God? Man attempts to destroy the Christ, only to exalt the Christ; only to usher Him to His throne, in the very process of murdering Him!

And because of this, our Lord can say, what David states in verse 44c, "A people I have not known shall serve Me." Indeed, generations to follow; generations of outcast, heathen gentiles (people like you and me, some 2000 years later even) are incorporated into the family of God, by way of the cross! Enemies of God; the unclean, in every sense of the Word, are made

clean; their hearts are changed, their eyes are opened, and they come to now serve the risen and reigning, Lord Jesus Christ! Hallelujah!

"The foreigners submit to Me; as soon as they hear, they obey Me" (vs. 45).

Such is the power of the Gospel! In John's Gospel, the Lord stated, "If I am lifted up, then I will draw all men unto Myself." Heathen of the most lost and idol worshiping kind, hear the Gospel; they hear of God's salvation, provided in Christ, and they turn away from their idols, and they submit themselves to Him. They are turned from worshipers of demons to worshipers of the true and living God in Christ! And as their hearts are changed by the Gospel, their lives are changed as well. Heathen, lust driven, idolators begin to obey God, pursuing righteous living, in accordance with His Word, and His Law. As soon as they hear, they obey Christ! They obey their true Shepherd, who calls them out of darkness and into His marvelous light!

The opposition against the will of God; the rebellion of mankind is quelled, more and more, as the Gospel spreads. Those who obey, submit to His authority! Those who continue on in their sin and rebellion are eventually destroyed. In the end, they have no place to hide. They come out of their hiding places, terrified, pleading with the rocks and hills to fall upon them, so that they might somehow avoid the wrath of the Lamb. But they are unsuccessful. They are eternally condemned!

All in all, the complete exaltation and glorification of Christ is a most certain reality! And there is no middle ground. You are either with Him or against Him! And this then brings us to our second main point of application.

2) Friends, where do you stand, in relation to this most certain reality? Where do you stand in relation to the living Christ, who has died and was risen again, and who presently sits at the right hand of the Father, until He puts all of His enemies under His feet! Every tributary of living history is spilling into this oceanic reality! Are you in Christ; are you united to Him by faith; are you forgiven for all of your sins and reconciled to God through Christ, or are you still in rebellion against Him? Again, there is no neutral ground! If you are not consciously subject to Him, then you are against Him! You are contending with the living God, who has created you and all things, for His own glory! Repent and kiss the Son, now, before He returns in anger, and you perish in the way! [Bold now, but will wish to hide from His face, later... and can't]

3) Finally, brethren, rejoice in the rightful exaltation of Christ, depicted here in David's Psalm. What was pictured in David, is fulfilled in Christ, at the global level. And as we continue to witness the wickedness and corruption, which still permeates this earth; and as we continue to war against remaining sin, we ought to long for the return of Christ, when righteousness will wholly reign, His enemies are defeated, and the true and unadulterated knowledge of God will fill the earth! And on that day, we will revel in His glory and in His beauty!

Amen!

Benediction: Ephesians 3:14-21