

Date:1-6-2021-Wednesday- (Online service)

Preached again: 7-3-2022 AM

Church: Safe Harbor Baptist Church

Text: Psalm 11:3

Title: "What can the righteous do?"

Introduction:

Historical Background:

Bible commentators state that David wrote this Psalm just after the victory that God gave him and the nation of Israel over Goliath.

It was at this time that David was married to Saul's daughter, Michal; that Saul's son Jonathan became his firm friend; and when the nation cheered louder for David than it did for the king. All these things increased Saul's suspicions and spite. More than once he threw a javelin at David in a fit of demonic hate.

But it is also during this time when the emotions and feelings of Saul toward David were ever changing, thus we could say that David was living in "Uncertain days".

It was during this dangerous, nerve-racking period in his life that David wrote Psalm 11. It is an appropriate psalm for those who are facing some great crisis in life and who may be tempted simply to run away and hide

Thought: I am interested in this little phrase that we find in Psalm 11:3 "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" David cried. The word "foundations" comes from a Hebrew word meaning "the settled order of things." David likened society to a building. The foundation of society is law and order, justice and truth. If law and order, justice and truth are undermined in a society then what can the righteous do? In the original text the form of the question is such that David can find no answer."

Dr. John Phillips Exploring Psalms.

I do not have to bore you to make the point that the "foundations of this nation" are not presently crumbling, they have crumbled to the ground and they are completely destroyed.

The Foundation of the Home is under attack.

The Foundation of the Country is under attack.

Even the Foundation of the Church is under attack!

But I do want to focus in on this question that David asked in the latter part of Vs 3 "["What can the righteous do?"](#)"

1. **Keep Preaching the Scriptures.**
2. **Keep Praying in the Spirit.**
3. **Keep Praising the Saviour.**
4. **Keep Pursuing Sinners.**
5. **Keep Practicing Sanctification.**
6. **Keep Promoting Separation.**
7. **Keep being Present in the Sanctuary.**

I could preach on these things all night, but I want to focus in on this Psalm and highlight 3 things that we can do when the foundations are destroyed.

End of Introduction:

I. There is a Trust we must Exemplify. Vs 1-2

Exemplify- To show or illustrate by example.

If the events of recent months have taught us anything, it has taught us that we need to reevaluate where and who we are putting our trust in.

1. The Region of this Trust. Vs 1

“In the LORD put I my trust”

David is a young man when he writes this Psalm, but even as a young man David was already learning the importance of putting his trust in the LORD.

John Butler stated in his commentary on Psalms: When traveling years ago we saw a sign in a store which read, “In God we trust, all others pay cash” The sign was saying that men cannot be trusted like God could be trusted.

What are you trusting in, in these days?

- Government or God
- Check or Christ
- President or the King of Kings
- Constitution or the Canon of the Scriptures.

Jeremiah 17:5-8 Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord. 6 For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited. 7 Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. 8 For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

2. The Rejection in this Trust. Vs 1

“how say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain?”

During this time in David’s life it would have been very easy to have run away and hide and never come back.

This was an attack on David’s faith.

“When Satan cannot overthrow us by presumption, how craftily will he seek to ruin us by distrust!”

Charles Haddon Spurgeon. Treasury of David.

But the application I want to make here is this: David did not quit; David did not stop living for God when things got difficult!

So many people quit on God when hard times come into their life, don’t jump ship!

“You have not come this far, to come this far”

3. The Reason for this Trust. Vs 2

“For, lo, the wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart.”

In this verse David describes the enemy that he was facing.

A. Their Attributes. “For lo the Wicked”

I believe that Saul was a saved man but he definitely lived wickedly when he allowed envy and jealousy to rule his life,

B. Their Aggression. “bend their bow”

They had an extreme hatred for David, and were making preparations to destroy him.

C. Their Arrow. “they make ready their arrow upon the string”

The Arrow in Bible days was the sniper’s bullet of our day.

D. Their Approach. “that they may privily shoot”

They wanted to do it, without anyone knowing that they were the attackers.

E. Their Aim. “at the upright in heart”

The wicked blame the righteous for all the trouble in the world

4. The Reliability of this Trust. Vs 1

“The LORD”

The word for LORD here is for Jehovah- The Self existing one!

This reminds us that God is God all by himself, he exist in his own power and ability!

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Psalms 118:8-9 It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. 9 It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes.

II. There is a Throne that we must Examine. Vs 4

In Vs 3 David is showing us the crumbling foundations of this world, but in **Vs 4 he elevates our eyes to the Glory world and reminds that that God is still on his throne!**

1. The Occupant of this Throne.

“The Lord is in his holy temple, the Lord's throne is in heaven:”

Often times when troubles come people will say “Where is God in all of this?”

He is exactly where he has always been, in heaven and on the throne!

Psalms 45:6 Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre.

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Psalms 47:8 God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.

Now what does a Throne represent?

A. Position-This speaks of the **Height** of God’s throne!

Isaiah 6:1 In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

Isaiah 66:1 Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool:

B. Prominence -This speaks of the **Holiness** of God’s throne!

Isaiah 6:2-3 Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. 3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

C. Power-This speaks of the **Help** that is at God's throne!

One that sits on a throne contains power and authority, in other words, he can do something about it!

2. The **Operations** of this Throne.

"his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men."

God is not surprised by what is going on, he knows, he understands and he comprehends!

3. The **Opportunity** at this Throne.

Hebrews 10:11-12 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

Hebrews 4:14-16 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

III. There is **Truth that we must Embrace**. Vs 5-7

In a day of lies and falsehood there are some truths that we need to embrace as the people of God.

1. The **Execution of Judgement** Vs 5-6

The LORD will execute judgement upon all this wickedness that goes on in this world

Genesis 18:25 Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

God will do right by every aborted baby, every time innocent blood was shed, God will do right.

Vs 6 is a reference to the judgement of God during the tribulation period.

2. The **Eyes beholding the Just**. Vs 7

But through all these things, God has his eye on us!

The word countenance means face!

I Peter 3:12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

3. The **Encouragement from Jesus**.

Matthew 7:24-29

Luke 6:47-48 Whosoever cometh to me, and **heareth my sayings, and **doeth** them, I will shew you to whom he is like: 48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.**

You build on life on the word of God, remove all the world that is between you and the rock and your foundation will never crumble!

II Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

Conclusion:

What can the Righteous do?

- We could be Sacred.
- We could be Shaken.
- We could be Silly.
- But we should be Stirred and Scriptural!

The Solid Rock

1. My hope is built on nothing less, Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.

I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain: On Christ, the solid Rock I stand, All other ground is sinking sand; All other ground is sinking sand.

2. When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace.

In every high and stormy gale, My anchor holds within the veil.(Refrain)

3. His oath, His covenant, His blood, Support me in the whelming flood.

When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.(Refrain)

4. When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh may I then in Him be found.

Dressed in His righteousness alone, Faultless to stand before the throne.