

David's Message of Thanksgiving

Psalm 34

Historical Context: 1 Samuel 21:10-22:2

Inscription: *A Psalm* of David, when he changed his behaviour before Abimelech; who drove him away, and he departed.

Poetic Structure: Alphabetic Acrostic

Verse 1	Begins with Aleph	Verse 12	Begins with Lamed
Verse 2	Begins with Beth	Verse 13	Begins with Mem
Verse 3	Begins with Gimmel	Verse 14	Begins with Nun
Verse 4	Begins with Daleth	Verse 15	Begins with Samech
Verse 5	Begins with He	Verse 16	Begins with Tsade
Verse 6	Begins with Waw	Verse 17	Begins with Ayn
Verse 7	Begins with Zayn	Verse 18	Begins with Pe
Verse 8	Begins with Cheth	Verse 19	Begins with Qof
Verse 9	Begins with Teth	Verse 20	Begins with Resh
Verse 10	Begins with Yod	Verse 21	Begins with Shin
Verse 11	Begins with Kaph	Verse 22	Begins with Taw

Poetical Layout

- 1) I will bless the Lord at all times:
His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
- 2) My soul shall make her boast in the Lord:
The humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.
- 3) O magnify the Lord with me,
And let us exalt his name together.
- 4) I sought the Lord, and he heard me,
And delivered me from all my fears.
- 5) They looked unto him, and were lightened:
And their faces were not ashamed.
- 6) This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him,
And saved him out of all his troubles.
- 7) The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them
that fear him,
and delivereth them.
- 8) O taste and see that the Lord is good:
Blessed is the man that trusteth in him.
- 9) O fear the Lord, ye his saints:
For there is no want to them that fear him.
- 10) The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger:
But they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing.
- 11) Come, ye children, hearken unto me:
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
- 12) What man is he that desireth life,
And loveth many days, that he may see good?
- 13) Keep thy tongue from evil,
And thy lips from speaking guile.

- 14) Depart from evil, and do good;
Seek peace, and pursue it.
- 15) The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous,
And his ears are open unto their cry.
- 16) The face of the Lord is against them that do evil,
To cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.
- 17) The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth,
And delivereth them out of all their troubles.
- 18) The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart;
And saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.
- 19) Many are the afflictions of the righteous:
But the Lord delivereth him out of them all.
- 20) He keepeth all his bones:
Not one of them is broken.
- 21) Evil shall slay the wicked:
And they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.
- 22) The Lord redeemeth the soul of his servants:
And none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.

Outline

- I. David's Devotional Song (v. 1-10)
 - A. His Personal Praise (v. 1-2)
 - B. His Social Call to Praise (v. 3)
 - C. His Personal Protection (v. 4-7)
 1. He was lost (v. 4)
 2. He looked (v. 5)
 3. He was liberated (v. 6-7)
 - D. His Social Call to Remember (v. 8-9)
 - E. His Personal Provision (v. 10)
- II. David's Doctrinal Sermon (v. 11-22)
 - A. His Summon (v. 11)
 - B. The Subject (v. 12)
 - C. The Substance (v. 13-16)
 1. Be Careful of Our Words (v. 13)
 2. Be Careful of Our Walk (v. 14)
 3. Be Careful of Our Works (v. 15)
 - D. The Sample (v. 17-20)
 - E. The Summary (v. 21-22)

Definitions

Continually - earliest, of going on without interruption

Magnify - to make great or powerful

Sought - to seek, consult, inquire of

Lightened - to flow or stream

Taste - to perceive

Keep - to keep watch, to protect, preserve

Depart - to turn aside, out of one's course, from following

Seek - to seek to find and secure

Pursue - to pursue in order to overtake

Delivereth - to take away or snatch away

Desolate - to be held guilty, bear punishment

Meditation Guide

1. What does it mean to "bless the Lord at all times" as stated in Psalm 34:1? How can we cultivate a consistent attitude of praise in our lives?
2. Reflecting on Psalm 34:4, have you ever experienced a time of distress or desperation where you cried out to God? How did He intervene in your situation?
3. In Psalm 34:8, the psalmist invites us to "taste and see that the Lord is good." How can we personally experience and encounter God's goodness in our lives?
4. According to Psalm 34:14, what does it mean to "turn away from evil and do good"? How can we actively pursue righteousness in our daily lives?
5. The psalmist acknowledges in Psalm 34:18 that "the Lord is near to the brokenhearted." How does this truth offer comfort and hope to those who are going through difficult times?
6. Reflecting on Psalm 34:19, how do you understand the concept of the righteous facing many afflictions? How can we find strength and perseverance during times of adversity?
7. In Psalm 34:22, the psalmist declares that "none of those who take refuge in [God] will be condemned." How does this verse speak to the assurance of salvation and God's faithfulness?

8. How can we apply the instruction given in Psalm 34:13 to "keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit"? What impact can our words have on others and our own spiritual well-being?

9. According to Psalm 34:15, what role does God's eyes and ears play in relation to the righteous? How does this truth shape our understanding of God's attentiveness and care?

10. In Psalm 34:22, the psalmist encourages the readers to "bless the Lord." How can we develop a heart of gratitude and praise, even in the midst of challenging circumstances?