

THE TESTIMONY OF TRAGEDY

Psalm 57

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INTRODUCTION: THE NECESSITY OF KNOWING GOD

Our ability to survive a tragedy is directly connected to what we know about God.

It is crucial that we know who God is before tragedy occurs so that our knowledge of God will inform our tragedy rather than letting our tragedy inform what we think about God.

? Have you known someone who turned their back on God or changed the way their theology after going through a tragedy?

David gives us a different example in Psalm 57.

Three participles divide this psalm.

Participle

a word formed from a verb and used as an adjective

These participles describe what David knew about God, his enemy and finally how what he knew about God affected him.

Proposition: God works so that greedy people fail, God's people are joyful and steady, and He is exalted in all of creation.

I. GOD MOST HIGH WHO ACCOMPLISHES FOR ME, VV.

1-3

The participle describing God is found in verse 2. David knew God as the one who accomplishes things for his people.

Psalm 138:8

The Lord will accomplish what concerns me; Your lovingkindness, O Lord, is everlasting; Do not forsake the works of Your hands.

Romans 8:28

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

God the worker is described as:

A. GOD MOST HIGH

B. GOD WHO SENDS FROM HEAVEN

He isn't merely a God who is above it all. He is a God who can work within creation.

? Why would David be tempted to turn his back on such a God?

II. THE GREEDY WHO TRAMPLE, VV. 4-6

The second participle is introduced in verse 3, but developed in verses 4-6.

Saul and his soldiers are described as:

A. LIONS WHO BREATHS FIRE

1. Men Whose Teeth Are Spears And Arrows
2. Men Whose Tongues Are A Sharp Sword

B. SCHEMERS

1. Who Prepare A Net
2. Who Bow His Soul
3. Who Prepare Traps (That They Themselves Fall Into!)

III. THE HEART WHO IS STEADY, VV. 7-11

The third participle is found in verse 7 and it describes David, or rather his heart.

? How does this steady heart respond to God in His tragedy?

A. HIS HEART AWAKING SINGS!

Awake my glory.

Glory

The attributes or qualities of someone or something.

David says, "I am going to sing with all that I am, my whole being."

B. HE MAKES MUSIC

C. HE GIVES THANKS AMONG THE PEOPLES

This third term of praise means to "throw out" or "cast out."

? Why is David obsessed with height in this psalm?

David sings to God with all that he is proclaiming all that God is. He does this so all that God is can be seen by all that there is in all of creation.

CONCLUSION: THE TESTIMONY OF TRAGEDY

Job and his wife may have lost more than anyone else in history. They lost property, wealth, health, all of their children, even their reputation.

Consider how Job and his wife responded to tragedy:

Job 1:20-22; 2:9, 10

? Will your testimony be an occasion to sing, an occasion for God to be exalted in all the earth?

APPLICATION:

? Someday, you will go through something that you don't want to face at all. Are you ready?

Jeremiah 9:23, 24

Thus says the Lord, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the Lord.