

Psalm 7-8

Ps 7 has been referred to as the psalm of the slandered saint. Because in it we find David crying out to the Lord regarding something that someone (namely a Benjamite by the name of “Cush”) has been saying about him that is untrue. He’s been slandering him, maligning him and seeking to bring ruin to him. The bible says, “Whoever hides hatred has lying lips, And whoever spreads slander is a fool.” Prov 10:18 Over and over again we find the bible warning against and finding fault with the one who would be a gossip, or spread rumors, or slander another person. and You know we’re not too far from that even if we’re not the one initiating it or spreading it, but we’re simply receiving something about someone that’s completely unchecked or unverified. There’s just something about the wicked nature of man that loves to hear, loves to wallow and revel in some dirty little secret about someone else. Again the proverbs tell us, “The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, And they go down into the inmost body.” Prov 18:8 Our flesh just loves that stuff, tabloids make millions off of feeding people’s flesh, spreading slander and gossip. Yet the bible says that those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh along with its passions and desires (Gal 5:24). We read in Prov 26:20 “Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; And where there is no talebearer, strife ceases.” Receiving a rumor, spreading slander, it’s like throwing fuel on a fire, refusing to receive it, rebuking the one bringing it, is like taking out the extinguisher and snuffing it out.

We don’t know a single thing about this particular “Cush” outside of what we have here in Ps 7, he spoke “words” against David. and He was a Benjamite, meaning he was of the tribe of Benjamin from which came Israel’s 1st king; Saul. So it’s probable (since it mentions his tribe) that he didn’t like the fact that David was to ascend to the throne (if this is prior to David’s ascension when Saul was hunting him, which some believe); or that he was on the throne (if this is after David was the king and so he was slandering him to somehow hope to wound him and take his integrity from before the eyes of the people.)

The bottom line is that lies (lying), spreading rumors or slander, gossiping about someone or something of which we know nothing about is a horrible, horrible thing to do, it’s sinful and God will hold us accountable for it. It can reap brutal ramifications in someone’s life who’s done nothing to deserve it, just stay away from it, don’t be apart of it, and refuse to engage in it. Now let’s say you’re the one being slandered, the rumors are flying and they’re about you, what do you do?

Vs1-2

Do you run out and call a press report and look to set the record straight? Do you fight fire with fire and start the cycle rolling in the other direction? No, the bible says, “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” Rom 12:21 Don’t forget David was a man of war; he was a man who was well with in his ability to do something about this situation. Yet he didn’t resort to taking matters into his own hands he simply cried out to and placed his trust in the Lord.

So to with you and so to with me, we're to trust in the Lord, He's the One who is a shield about us, our rock, our refuge, our strong tower in which we abide, He's the defender and the avenger of the weak. We're not to rush out there and try and vindicate ourselves, trust the Lord to do the right thing with the situation. Now I'm not saying that, that's an easy thing to do, that it's not trying and testing to our faith, because we want results immediately, we want to clear the air instantaneously, but God has a plan that will work out perfectly if we'll only wait on Him and trust in Him.

Of course to broaden the application such is to be the role of the believer in every sphere or arena of life. He didn't place his trust in the economy or in any powers politically, or even militarily.

Now obviously we thank God when any or all of those things are healthy and strong, but our hope does not lie in those things; we trust in the Lord. He's the One who saves us, who delivers us from the enemy; the one's who persecute you or me.

Notice what he likens the slanderer and the gossiper to; a "lion" who would "rend him to pieces." Now the bible says, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." 1 Peter 5:8 What does that tell you, what's that say to me? That slander and gossip, tale bearing and lies are weapons in our enemy's arsenal. and When you are, or I am the instrument of slander, we're being wielded in the hands of the enemy. The bible also calls him the "accuser" of the brethren. Don't be ignorant of your enemy's devices and don't play into his hands to be an instrument of division, dissension or contention, but rather be an instrument in the hands of the Lord who's used to put an end to it, to quench it and call it out for what it is.

Vs3-5

Here's something else that I think is important, David is willing to stand up and be accountable, to receive appropriate consequences regarding any wrong he may've done. You recall when Saul was pursuing him that David had several opportunities to take Saul's life. But he refused, God had placed Saul on the throne, and it would be God who would remove him, not David. Now Saul tried to kill him over and over again, sought to pin David against the wall multiple times with his spear, he wanted to make sure David got his point. But David never retaliated, never fired or fought back, he just left the spear where it landed and removed himself from the situation. and So he's saying, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting." He's saying, "I'm a man of integrity, I'll take my medicine if what's being purported is even remotely true, but it's not, and God You know that." It's important that we be men and women of integrity, who are willing to stand up if we've done any wrong and do what it takes to make it right (to the best of our ability).

We have a tendency to want to escape the consequences of our actions (assuming a wrong course of action), but David here is saying, “If I’ve wronged anyone, even my enemy, if I’ve unnecessarily gone out against him, or done damage to him, then may it come back on me utterly, but the reality is that I’ve walked in my integrity.”

Vs6-8

I think we do well to realize that this statement in Vs 8 is to be taken with in the context of this isolated incident in which David is being wrongfully accused. He’s not asking God to judge him ultimately on the basis of his own righteousness, but rather in the light of this one incident specifically for which he’s being accused. He’s saying, “God You know I’m innocent, you know my integrity in this situation, so let the balance be weighed accordingly.” Over and over again throughout the psalms David beckons the Lord for mercy, he’s not deceived as to who he is and/or what he’s done, he’s just saying he’s innocent of this accusation in the deepest recess of his being.

Vs9

Something else we need to pause to draw attention to here real quick and that is this; the righteous God tests the hearts and minds. He’s searching our inward man, the motives, the agenda behind the scenes, why it is that we do what we do. The bible tells us that God knows the “secrets of the heart.” As a general rule we can put on a pretty good game face for others and sometimes we can even fool ourselves, but God is searching the deep recess of our heart. We read in the Proverbs, “The spirit of a man is the lamp of the Lord, Searching all the inner depths of his heart.” Prov 20:27

Vs10

and Really this is the whole key, putting the problem in God’s hands, He is our defense, the Savior of the upright. Maybe not immediately, or in the timing we’d like to see personally, but ultimately He’s the One who will vindicate His own.

Vs11-13

Or to understand all that another way, “Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord.” Rom 12:19

Vs14-16

Of course the world would call this, “Karma” “what goes around comes around.” The bible however identifies this as the spiritual law of sowing and reaping. and The one who sows to the wind will reap of the whirlwind...and It just seems to be a “proverb” kinda night but we read there, “Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, And he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him.” Prov 26:27 You recall Saul after all those yrs of seeking to kill David and pin him to the wall with his spear wound up falling on his own spear.

Pharaoh, after commanding the babies of Israel to be drowned in the Nile had his own army drown in the Red Sea, and Haman who had gallows built for Mordecai wound up swinging on them himself. “His trouble shall return upon his own head, And his violent dealing shall come down on his own crown.”

Vs17

I think it's great how that in the midst of such despair, and seeming despondency David can still find it with in himself to praise the Lord. and Listen, this is important; we need to see why it is that David is able to worship the Lord, to praise the Lord even in the midst of such trying and tough times. He says, “I will praise the Lord, (notice) according to His righteousness.” The standard of praise isn't predicated upon how I feel personally or what's happening to me or around me circumstantially. But rather praise is based upon who He is specifically, He's righteous, He's worthy, He's the Lord Most High. That's how we can praise the Lord so consistently, because it has nothing to do with me it has everything to do with Him and who He is, holy, high and lifted up, the righteous One worthy of all that we are and so much more.

Psalm 8

The 8th Ps, “To the Chief musician. On the instrument of Gath. A Psalm of David.” Now what exactly the instrument of Gath was we don't know, whether it was an instrument that David invented while he was in Gath or one he picked up once he was there and used to worship the Lord through, we're not sure. There's uncertainty regarding this Ps as well as for when it was written and what the circumstances were that surround it. There are some who think that perhaps he wrote it after he killed Goliath. and Certainly as you read it you can see how a young shepherd boy laying out in the fields at night after such an overwhelming victory over such an overwhelming foe looking up at the vast expanse of the stars and the various constellations could just be overwhelmed at the power and majesty of God.

Vs1

So right out of the shoot David begins extolling and exalting the name of God. and You'll notice that the 1st word “LORD” is in all capital letters and the 2nd word “Lord” isn't completely capitalized. That's because the 1st word “LORD” is the ancient Hebrew name for God, that name that is so holy that they wouldn't even pronounce it out loud they would just say, “The name.” and When they were writing it they would leave out the vowels so that no one else would pronounce it. So consequently no one knows exactly how to pronounce, it's simply “YHVH” and whether that was Yahweh, or Jehovah, no one really knows.

The 2nd rendering speaks more of a title as Lord and/or Master. So in essence he's saying, “O God my Master, how excellent is Your name in all the earth.” And Of course that word, “Excellent” could be rendered “Majestic.” and As you all know when we get to the NT the Holy Spirit ministering through Paul regarding Jesus when writing to the Philippians said, “And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,” Phil 2:8-9 The only name under heaven given among men by which mankind must be saved, “How excellent is His name in all the earth.”

and Notice His glory has been set “above” the heavens. Now you can’t read that with out gathering a few statistics for the sake of getting even a glimpse of what’s in view here. If you were to take the distance from the earth to the sun (approx 93 million miles) and represent that distance by the thickness of a single sheet of paper, to get from the earth to the nearest known star, “Alpha Centauri” you would need a stack of paper about 71’ high, each one of those peaces of paper representing the distance of 93 million miles. If you were to travel to the edge of the Milky Way Galaxy from the earth it would have to be represented by a stack of paper 310 miles high. (Now understand that a Jet generally flies around 30-35,000’ which is only about 5-6 miles). However that stack would be nothing compared to the stack measuring 30 million miles high to reach the edge of the known universe, these are #'s beyond our comprehension. But there’s something above and beyond even that, beyond the heavens, above the heavens, and it’s the glory of God. He has set His glory even beyond the heavens.

Vs2

Of course if this was in the wake of slaying Goliath, this massive 10’ tall giant of a man. You could see how David would feel this way, “I’m just a kid, just a babe and yet You’ve ordained strength, that You may silence the enemy and the avenger.” Paul echoed this thought in 1st Cor when he spoke of God using the weak things of the world to confound the strong, the foolish to confound the wise. God will not share His glory with another, it will be profoundly clear that He’s the One who gains victory, the One who delivers His own for His name’s sake.

Now Jesus referred to this when the Pharisees were harassing Him for allowing the children to praise Him after He’d cleansed the temple. and There were all, “Don’t you hear what they’re saying,” because they were all, “Hosanna to the Son of David.” and We read, “And Jesus said to them, ‘Yes. Have you never read, ‘Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise?’” Matt 21:16 and So this also qualifies as a Messianic Ps because it spoke of and pointed to an incident in the life of Christ.

Vs3-5

I find this to be for so many such a familiar passage of scripture yet one that never loses its awe and appeal. “When I consider, when I meditate on, and give attention to Your heavens, the moon and the stars which You have ordained, the work of Your fingers.” Couple things here #1 I’d have you notice that David was not confused when it came to creation, it pointed him to the Creator. Paul wrote in the book of Romans, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,” Rom 1:18-20 Or to understand that another way; the world around us is like a giant flashing neon arrow that points straight to the fact that there is a Creator God, all powerful and eternal, mankind is with out excuse in denying His existence. Creation testifies of the creator.

It blows my mind how no intelligent human being would ever say that something as simple as a wrist watch happened by chance. By its very design it points to a creator, testifies of a designer, an engineer. Yet some of these same people will stand up and quite dogmatically state that something as complex as the human body happened by random chance and natural selection as the result of millions or billions of yrs. and That out of chaos came order when the world was formed from this massive explosion. Talk about a person of faith...

Hey, the heavens, the moon, the stars, they're the work of His fingers. Now, check this out. The sun is big enough to house 1.3 million earths if it were to be hollowed out. But the star Antares could hold 64 million suns (containing 1.3 million earths), but that's not really anything considering that the star Hercules (hollowed out) could hold 100 million Antares, and Epsilon could hold about 3 million Hercules. I mean think of all that, it baffles and boggles our minds, we spoke of the expanse of the universe, it's beyond our ability to conceive. Scientists have discover a gigantic black spot in space that doesn't have any stars, black holes, galaxies or anything and it's 1 billion light yrs across. Now light travels at 186,000 miles per second, it would take a billion yrs to journey across that simple black space if you could travel 186,000 miles per second. What kind of power does it take to set the universe in motion? It's beyond comprehension, yet David declares that for God it was finger play, the works of His fingers.

It wasn't until the work of the cross that His work involved His arms as they were being pinned to the cross. You might think of it like this, as great as is the work of creation, it was finger play for God compared to the work of our redemption, that's how great the work of redemption is on your behalf and my behalf.

But as David lays there pondering the magnitude of the universe he feels so small, and rightly so. We're so small, a spec of dust on a spec of dust. What is man that God is mindful of him? That phrase in and of itself when thought through and focused on blows me away, God is actually mindful of me...of you...You are on God's mind all the time, and He's not thinking about how hard He can make it on you, how close to the edge He can take you. His thoughts are good. Jer 29:11, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." In Ps 40 David declared, "...Your thoughts toward us Cannot be recounted to You in order; If I would declare and speak of them, They are more than can be numbered." Ps 40:5 Hard to believe isn't it, that God would actually even think of you, or think of me, and then that He would think good thoughts toward me, and then that the thoughts He thinks aren't only good, but they're beyond man's ability to number...

What is man? A question that man has been probing the heart of man for millenniums. The problem is that man starts from the wrong place, he starts from himself, or still worse from the animal kingdom. and So he sees himself as not much more than an animal, and thus you have him acting out and behaving not too unlike a mere animal himself. There's no true perspective, but when you start with God you get a proper perspective of man, and far from being degraded God has given dignity to man. Has made him (that is created him) a little lower than the angels, what's the order of creation? Well you have the Creator (God), then the angelic hosts, then man (though one day we'll be exalted over them in some way judging them the bible says) but then you have the animal kingdom, then of course plant life and all the rest.

But not only is God mindful of man, not only has He dignified man, He's also visited man. and Again the NT draws attention to this Psalm in the book of Heb Ch 2 in regards to the incarnation of Christ, being made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death. Because here in Vs 5 and following where it says.

Vs5-8

We realize that it was that way with Adam, then Adam forfeited his position of dominion through sin. But the bible refers to Christ as the last Adam, and when He was on the earth He demonstrated dominion over the beasts of the earth, over the fish of the sea, over the wind and the waves. and So when the author of Hebrews was commenting on this section of this Ps he said of mankind, "...But now we do not yet see all things put under him." (That is under mankind) "But, (he said) we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor." So again these things were foreshadowing, and pointing out the person of Christ 1,000 yrs before He would be on the scene in the flesh.

As a little side note here in Vs 8 is was this Vs that inspired the father of oceanography and the "pathfinder of the seas" Matthew Fontaine Maury to seek out and study the ocean currents, charting them, actually showing the fact that the sea has paths that it follows. and His discovery led to millions in saved fuel and saved countless hours, days, weeks and even months in shipping because ships began to route there way through these currents and paths instead of just however, or even against them unknowingly. It's amazing how helpful the word of God is to man even on a practical level. God's word declared paths of the seas, they were searched out and jotted down and all of mankind benefited accordingly.

Vs9

As it begins, so it ends. Magnifying, glorifying, extolling and exalting the name that is above every name, "Oh LORD God our Master, how excellent is Your name in all the earth!"

Prayer Points:

Father You are great and greatly to be praised. We're both blessed and blown away by Your Word, Your goodness, and Your grace toward us.

God we don't understand why You're mindful of us, but we're so thankful that You are... and We pray that as You search our hearts You'd find integrity and truth, for You know the secrets of the heart, there's nothing that we can keep from You, may we walk in Your ways, bringing glory to Your name.