

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown

Bible Study Notes Book of Psalms

7-13-11

PSALM 91

The Story Behind the Psalms: The Israelites were in the wilderness for 40 years. They had crossed the Red Sea. They had marched toward the land of promise. They had come to the very door and sent out twelve spies. These spies came back with glowing reports about the land, but negative reports concerning their power to conquer it. The people were frightened because of the spies reporting that there were giants in the land, and they chose not to enter into the land of promise. Because of this they were cast into the wilderness for 40 years. Sometime during that 40-year period, Moses wrote these two Psalms. Notice that they start basically the same way, dealing with God being their habitation. They had no permanent place to live; they lived in tents and were tossed to and fro and wandered from place to place. Hence, God was their home. His presence was their habitation. Not only did they live because of Him and by Him and through Him, they lived with Him. Then he is called the "Almighty." This means He does everything and can prepare the way for His people while in the wilderness.

The Way They Were Used by God's People: These Psalms were used when the Jews were in trouble, especially in times of war. They were also very popular Psalms while the Jews were in captivity in Babylon, for in some sense the Jews were in captivity in the wilderness. They were not held there by a heathen nation or a king such as Nebuchadnezzar, but they were held there by God Himself as chastening for their lack of faith in entering into the promised land.

Theme: God's protection in the midst of danger. God doesn't promise a world free from danger, but he does promise his help whenever we face danger.

Author: Anonymous

PSALM 91:1-6

God is a shelter, a refuge when we are afraid. The writer's faith in almighty God as protector would carry him through all the dangers and fears of life. This should be a picture of our trust—trading all our fears for faith in him, no matter how intense our fears. To do this we must "live" and "rest" with him (91:1). By entrusting ourselves to his protection and pledging our daily devotion to him, we will be kept safe.

PSALM 91:11

One of the functions of angels is to watch over believers (Hebrews 1:14). There are examples of guardian angels in Scripture (1 Kings 19:5; Daniel 6:22; Matthew 18:10; Luke 16:22; Acts 12:7), although there is no indication that one angel is assigned to each believer. Angels can also be God's messengers (Matthew 2:13; Acts 27:23, 24). Angels are not visible, except on special occasions (Numbers 22:31; Luke 2:9). Verses 11 and 12 were quoted by Satan when he tempted Jesus (Matthew 4:6; Luke 4:10, 11). It is comforting to know that God watches over us even in times of great stress and fear.

PSALM 92

The Story Behind the Psalm - The story is unknown.

The Way It Was Used by God's People

This was a Psalm that was read every Sabbath day at home by every devout Jewish family. It was also popular in the homes of devout Jews, and it was read every morning and evening.

It was also read on the second day of the feast of tabernacles. This Psalm is what was often called a daily Psalm or a family Psalm. It was not one to be used as much at the house of God as it was at the family circle. Perhaps the key verse would be verse 2, "To shew forth Thy lovingkindness in the morning, and Thy faithfulness every night." This could be a theme Psalm for family altar or even for private devotion. It is a good Psalm with which to start the day or end the day. It is a very durable one in that it wears well and is always blessed.

Verse 10 is noteworthy. David says, "I shall be anointed with fresh oil." Of course, this anointing is symbolic of the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Daily we should seek this fresh oil. This endowment of power comes only from God, and without it we are powerless, fruitless and barren.

Theme: Be thankful and faithful every day. This psalm was used in Temple services on the Sabbath.

Author: Anonymous

A psalm to be sung on the LORD's Day. A song

PSALM 92:1, 2

During the Thanksgiving holiday, we focus on our blessings and express our gratitude to God for them. But thanks should be on our lips every day. We can never say thank you enough to parents, friends, leaders, and especially to God. When thanksgiving becomes an integral part of your life, you will find that your attitude toward life will change. You will become more positive, gracious, loving, and humble.

PSALM 92:12, 13

Palm trees are known for their long life. To flourish like palm trees means to stand tall and to live long. The cedars of Lebanon grew to 120 feet in height and up to 30 feet in circumference; thus, they were solid, strong, and immovable. The psalmist saw believers as upright, strong, and unmoved by the winds of circumstance. Those who place their faith firmly in God can have this strength and vitality.

PSALM 92:14

Honoring God is not limited to young people who seem to have unlimited strength and energy. Even in old age, devout believers can produce spiritual fruit. There are many faithful older people who continue to have a fresh outlook and can teach us from a lifetime of experience of serving God. Seek out an elderly friend or relative who can tell you about his or her experiences with the Lord and challenge you to new heights of spiritual growth.