

Sunday Night Message

July 28, 2013

Psalm 34

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 34

Introduction

This psalm is a Hebrew acrostic, like Psalm 25.

The context of this Psalm revolves around a story in 1 Samuel 21:10 – 22:1

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

Note – Psalm 34 uses the title Abimelech to refer to Achish. Philistine kings had the title Abimelech. Egyptian kings had the title Pharaoh.

I David's Praise for the Lord's Deliverance (vs. 1 – 7)

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.

Notice the words of praise – bless, praise, boast, magnify, exalt

"But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel." (Psalms 22:3)

"I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving." (Psalms 69:30)

"Exalt ye the LORD our God, and worship at his footstool; for he is holy." (Psalms 99:5)

"Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy." (Psalms 99:9)

"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations." (Psalms 100:1-5)

"Thou art my God, and I will praise thee: thou art my God, I will exalt thee." (Psalms 118:28)

"Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely." (Psalms 147:1)

Notice David's praise was not just words that were part of a religious ritual. This was genuine, heartfelt praise for God's deliverance. He knew it was God that saved him; and he was sincerely appreciative of what the Lord had done for him.

What has the Lord done for you? You can think of plenty of things that you can praise the Lord for.

Notice in v. 4 – "I sought the Lord"

*"Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground:
for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you."
(Hosea 10:12)*

Notice in 7 – the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him. That is a wonderful promise from God. (See Genesis 32:1 – 2; 2 Kings 6:13 – 18; Hebrew 1:14)

II David's Petition for Dependence Upon the Lord (vs. 8 – 14)

*⁸ O taste and see that the LORD is good:
Blessed is the man that trusteth in him.*

Quoted by Peter in 1 Peter 2:3

*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.*

Notice in v. 8 – David invites us to “taste and see”

Notice v. 9 – the O. T. equivalent to Matthew 6:33

God gives some conditional promises in vs. 13 – 14.

III David's Promise for the Lord's Deliverance (vs. 15 – 22)

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.

Vs. 12 – 16 are quoted Peter in 1Peter 3:10 - 12

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.

Quoted by John in reference to Jesus in John 19:36

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.

These verses are not teaching that a righteous man will have a trouble free life, but it is teaching that God will bring His child through the troubles; and God will ultimately protect us as we fulfill His will. David told Solomon that he was invincible until he had finished the work that the Lord had called him to do.

"And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, even my God, will be with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD." (1 Chronicles 28:20)