

Sunday Night Message

January 26, 2014

Psalm 53

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 53

Introduction

Psalm 53 is almost identical to Psalm 14. I have included Psalm 14 here with **Psalm 53** for the purpose of comparison. It is possible that Psalm 53 was a later re-make of Psalm 14 that represents another occasion. Wiersbie states that this psalm may have been a celebration of the defeat of the Assyrian army. Even if it isn't it does paint a picture of the ultimate destruction of the lost world at the time of the return of Christ.

"To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good." (Psalms 14:1)

"To the chief Musician upon Mahalath, Maschil, A Psalm of David. The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good." (Psalms 53:1)

Notice that this psalm is "upon Mahalath", which possibly means a stringed instrument. Some think that it represents a particular tune.

57 Psalms are addressed to "the chief musician", which indicates that these psalms were not intended for private use, but rather they were to be sung in a great assembly.

Today, many believers are content to keep to themselves – not to gather together in local assemblies – ekklesias – churches.

"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but

*exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." -
(Hebrews 10:24-25)*

Not all of these Psalms are Psalms or songs of praise, either. Just as today, not all of the spiritual songs and hymns are to be praise songs. Our songs could be songs of lament, as well; and songs that teach doctrine.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." - (Colossians 3:16)

"The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God." (Psalms 14:2)

"God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God." (Psalms 53:2)

"They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one." (Psalms 14:3)

"Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." (Psalms 53:3)

"Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD." (Psalms 14:4)

"Have the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread: they have not called upon God." (Psalms 53:4)

"There were they in great fear: for God is in the generation of the righteous." (Psalms 14:5)

"Ye have shamed the counsel of the poor, because the LORD is his refuge." (Psalms 14:6)

"There were they in great fear, where no fear was: for God hath scattered the bones of him that encampeth against thee: thou hast put them to shame, because God hath despised them." (Psalms 53:5)

This is where the great differences are in these two psalms.

"Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! when the LORD bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad." (Psalms 14:7)

"Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! When God bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad." (Psalms 53:6)

Besides the surface differences between these two psalms, there are a few hidden differences. In Psalm 14, the word Jehovah (translated the LORD) is used 4 times, and the word Elohim (translated God) is used 3. In Psalm 53, the word Elohim is used for God all 7 times.

J. Vernon McGee attributes the differences in the names of God to the fact that Elohim is the name used for the God of Creation. The atheist certainly does like to attack the account of Creation.

This Psalm is about the fool – the atheist – the man without God. The atheist makes his claim that God doesn't exist, because if God did exist, he would have to submit himself to Him, which he refuses to do.

"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." - (John 3:19)

All men are sinners and completely hopeless without God. The atheist refuses to call upon God for forgiveness. Similar Passages – Romans 3:9 – 18

I His Animosity for God (vs. 1 – 3)

Vs. 1 – the word for fool is “nabal” – remember Nabal

Notice that the fool starts this process in his heart.

"And Jesus said, Are ye also yet without understanding? Do not ye yet understand, that whatsoever entereth in at the mouth goeth into the belly, and is cast out into the draught? But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:" - (Matthew 15:16-19)

"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh." - (Luke 6:45)

By the way, since it is a heart issue, the best way to deal with it is at an heart level; not a head level.

"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." - (1 Corinthians 1:18)

"For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. (1 Corinthians 1:21)

No sane man is ever an atheist. The sane man will remain undecided until he considers all of the facts. He may state that he is not sure, but to come to a dogmatic conclusion is simply not rational.

No – the atheist is really a believer that hates God, and is on a campaign against Him.

See Romans 1:18 – 32

Vs. 2 – “God looked down from Heaven ... to see”

"The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth." - (Genesis 6:11-13)

See Genesis 18:16 – 21

Vs. 3 – notice the fourfold negative – every one; all together; none; no not one

II His Assault Against God’s People (vs. 4 – 5)

Vs. 4 – People who hate God hate the people of God, because they cannot get to God directly.

Vs. 5 – “there were they in great fear” - The “atheist” does not like to be around the generation of the righteous.

Pilate feared Jesus

Herod feared John the Baptist

Haman hated and feared Mordecai

III His Ultimate Annihilation (v. 6)

The day will come when God will deliver his people from the counsel and the attacks of God’s enemies.

See Revelation 19:11 – 16; 20:11 – 15

Preaching Point – This psalm is about the atheist – the fool who rejects the belief in God, but what about believers who reject God in their behavior.

You believe that there is a God, but you behave like there isn’t.

You believe there is coming a day when God will judge your life, but you behave like that day will never come.

You believe that the lost people around you will die and go to Hell, but you behave like Hell isn’t real.

You believe that God will bless those who put Him first, but you behave like God is not in the blessing business.

You believe that God sees and hears everything, but you behave like he can’t see or hear a thing.

You really don’t believe do you? Because if you really believed, it would change the way you behave.