

Review of Psalms 69

In chapter sixty-nine, part 1, we learned that David wrote this Psalm when he was being wrongfully persecuted. Though he was not without sin, people hated him due to lies and rumors that were untrue and that likely was due to Saul's false claims that David was a traitor and a rebel. We also learned that, when this Psalm was written, David had been persecuted for quite a while. And he had also been crying out to God to help him for some time. So, by now he felt pretty overwhelmed by the persecutions. So much so that he felt like he was sinking into deep mud he couldn't get out of and being drown with waters that would not stop gushing at him. He also felt like those who hated him 'without a cause' were more than the hairs on his head. Which was also what happened to Jesus Christ (which is why Jesus quoted verse 4), as well as the apostles, and truly will happen to all those who love and serve Jesus Christ. In fact, *all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution* (2 Tim 3:12), as Jesus warned us in John 15:20. But, David provided an excellent example for what we are to do in times like this. We must continue to take our troubles to our Heavenly Father in prayer, no matter how long it takes to get an answer. Jesus also taught us a parable about how we should *not* faint in prayer, in Luke 18. And sometimes, having to endure hard times, for a long time, is needed to help us grow spiritually stronger *and* more mature, as well as to purify our inner man. David's many years of hardship are what made him such a good king of Israel. And likewise, our hard times help to prepare us to serve Jesus Christ in the Millennium. So, while it's good to pour out our heart to God, like David did in this prayer, we should always remember that *the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever* (1 John 2:17).

In part 2 we learned (again) how, even though David was not without sin, he was being persecuted *wrongfully*. Those who hated him, did so 'without a cause', just as happened to Jesus Christ. And David showed how much he cared about others by asking that God would not allow anyone who 'waits' on Him (seeks God sincerely) to be ashamed, disappointed or hurt, especially for helping him. And he then went on to explain that he well knew what it was like to be reproached, which means to be spoken badly of, insulted, slandered, lied about and so forth. Even some of David's own family (siblings) didn't want to have anything to do with him, likely because the king of Israel (Saul at that time) considered David a traitor. And all this happened to David because we're in a *spiritual* war. And he, being an anointed servant (the next king of Israel) was thus targeted for persecution by Satan. That's why evil spirits caused Saul to hate David *so much* that he tried to *kill* David *for years*. Saul only stopped chasing after David *when he died*. So, because David was anointed by God, he did suffer reproach and was even 'eaten up' with zeal (jealously) for the Lord *because* he was a faithful servant who *truly* loved God. It angered him there were so many people who didn't worship the Lord (YHVH). Their idolatry, after all, is what caused them to do wicked things, like persecuting the righteous (as David was). And likewise (but with total perfection) Jesus Christ also suffered reproach because He (who was without sin) paid for our sins when He died for us. In other words, He died so we could have our

sins atoned, which shows us truly how much our Heavenly Father loves us. And Jesus was also ‘eaten up’ with zeal (jealously) for the Lord, which He showed when chasing out (*with a whip*) the crooked money changers and those who sold substandard animals in the Temple. Further, all those who truly serve Jesus Christ (have His Holy Spirit within them and are loyally following Him) *will* also suffer reproach, for the sake of following Jesus Christ. But, just as God helped David, Jesus, the apostles (and so many more) through the hard times, so too will he help us through whatever hard times come our way.

In part 3 we learned more about the terribly difficult times David was going through when he wrote this Psalm. Even when he humbled himself sincerely, people still made fun of, and slandered, him. And his ‘good name’ was ruined (thanks to lies and gossip) *so badly* that his name even became a figure of speech for something very bad and was even used in songs by drunks who were making fun of him. Even those who were supposed to be respectable leaders in Israel made fun of and slandered him. And all because of lies and gossip. But, even with all this reproach, David still never let his heart turn away from God, as many people do when they let bitterness in their heart from hard times and being mocked and slandered. Instead, David continued to seek God and pray to Him for help, even though help had not been coming. He continued to humble himself (repenting for any sins he saw) and asked for God’s mercy (over and over again) so that God would hear His prayer and finally help him. David well knew that God is truly the *only* one who can save us out of *any* situation, no matter how dire it is. And David then again explained the severity of his situation by using analogies he used earlier in the Psalm. He truly felt as though he was sinking into a mud pit he couldn’t get out of; and that he was being overwhelmed by a strong flood of waters (which are symbolic of lies); and that he was slipping down into a slippery pit he couldn’t get out of and that the earth would soon swallow him up.

In part 4 we learned how David *continued* to plead with God for help. He asked that God would hear (and answer) his prayers and show him mercy, grace as well as redeem his life from destruction. He also asked for comfort from the many reproaches that broke his heart; for the gossip and slander pained him so much his heart was very heavy. And this was a type for what Jesus Christ went through, for our sake – so He could redeem our soul from spiritual death. And also, just as David felt like there was no one who cared about his dire situation, so too did even Jesus’ closest friends flee when He was arrested. Peter even denied Him *three* times. But, just as God did not forsake David, neither did He forsake Jesus Christ. For God raised Jesus Christ from the dead and that’s what gave us the blessed Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, that comforts our heart and mind when we’re having troubles; even ones that are so bad as what David has been writing about. And so, even though we will be greatly persecuted for serving Jesus Christ, our Heavenly Father will *always* help us through anything that comes and give comfort to our inner man (heart and mind), just as He did for so many other faithful servants of His throughout the years. So long as we don’t forsake Him, God won’t forsake us!

In part 5 we learned how David spoke of his enemies giving him gall (poison) to eat and vinegar to drink; and this was an analogy to explain how they lied, slandered and gossiped about him. And we learned too that Jesus Christ literally fulfilled this verse (both parts of it) when He hung on the cross. And David, therefore, asked that God would let their ‘table’ be a trap (snare) to his enemies. Essentially, he asked that their lies would come back to trouble them and not do them any good. David also asked that their eyes would be darkened so they couldn’t see the truth of how they were only digging their own grave, so that they would be surprised when God’s wrath finally fell upon them. And that’s why he also asked that their loins would shake continually when God did punish them. And Paul quoted from verses 22-23 to explain how Israel refused to believe that Jesus Christ was the Messiah and how that actually worked to the benefit of all mankind, even the Gentiles. For, Jesus Christ *had* to die on the cross to pay for the sins of *all* the world, not just those of Israel. And therefore, anyone who refused Jesus Christ does have their eyes darkened and their belief in lies *will* be a snare to them. For anyone who believes in Satan’s lies, especially when he comes to earth pretending to be God, our ‘Savior’ – and worships him and his wicked ‘beast’ governing system – will indeed be taken in their own snares and traps when God’s wrath is poured out upon them. They *will* be punished according to their own wicked words and works. But those who remain faithful servants to Jesus Christ will be *greatly* rewarded when Jesus Christ returns, just as David was rewarded for his loyalty to God.

In part 6 we learned what the ‘rewards’ of the wicked (and workers of iniquity) will be; and it is not good! David was so convinced that the people oppressing him were *incorrigibly* corrupt that He asked God would pour out His righteous indignation upon them, so that they would be unable to harm anyone anymore. For, even though David was without sin, he knew these wicked ones were oppressing him *far more* than God’s chastisements required. And he even asked that they be ‘blotted out’ of God’s ‘book of the living’, which actually means being *blotted out of existence* and *ceasing to exist in any form anymore*; it’s *spiritual* death. And truly, that will only happen after the Millenium; after God is done fully testing children, and giving them all the opportunities possible to help them repent and turn back to Him, through believing in (and obeying) Jesus Christ. But after that, the incorrigible wicked ones (including Satan, who is *already* sentenced to spiritual death) will *finally* be ‘blotted out’ of existence, so the rest of us can live in peace with our Heavenly Father, *forever more*.

In part 7 we learned how, even though David was afflicted and deeply pained inside his heart and mind, he still praised God and magnified (honored) His name. In fact, nearly every (if not all) of David’s Psalms had praise and thanksgiving in them. And David did this because He knew that sincere (heartfelt) praise, honor and thanksgiving is more pleasing to our Heavenly Father than sacrificing clean animals who are of the proper age. And of course, for us living today, our Heavenly Father does *not ever* want animal sacrifices because His Son, Jesus Christ has *already* paid for our sins by dying on the cross; and that fulfilled *all* animals sacrifices *for all times* (Heb

10:10). And David also knew that anyone who seeks God sincerely will be given eternal life, so long as they remain faithful to Him. And this is because our Heavenly Father is truly very gracious, loving, merciful and compassionate to all those who love, revere and serve (obey) our Him *regardless* of their status, or situation in life. David also called all of God's creation to praise Him; and ultimately, it will when it *flourishes* at Christ's return. For, when Jesus Christ returns, He will save Zion from Satan's desolating it (by his evil presence and lies) when he comes to earth (before the *real* Jesus Christ) and rules from Jerusalem. Satan's pretending to be God, and ruling the world with his wicked 'beast' governmental system, IS what desolates Jerusalem; and that's why even Zion (as well as those faithful to Jesus Christ) needs to be saved. And thus, when Jesus does return, all those who have remained faithful to Him will indeed dwell with Jesus Christ, in the holy city of Jerusalem and serve Him forevermore.

So, this beautiful Psalm – which presents Jesus Christ as the 'trespass offering' - not only spoke of a very difficult time in David's life, but it also *prophesied* of Jesus' sufferings. And it also spoke of things that *will* happen to the wicked, and the workers of iniquity, as well as the blessings that those who serve Jesus Christ will receive for remaining *faithful* to Him, as well as the blessing of the earth flourishing too. And this therefore serves as a good reminder for us that, even when times are tough, our Heavenly Father still deserves our praise, honor, love and gratitude for all He has done, *and* all that He will do, for us, His holy city and the earth itself.

AMEN.