

All Ye Stars of Light

Psalms 144:1 – 150:6

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~ Our Spiritual Safari joyfully arrives at our destination, in the sanctuary, in the temple, in Jerusalem, in this report. As we disembark from traversing this wonderful Book of Psalms, and leave the blossoming desert of truth and wisdom contained therein, I trust we're all singing a new song today. We have crossed several milestones in our safari through Psalms: the longest book of the Bible, the physical middle of the Bible, and a little more than the halfway point in our expedition through the entire Word of God. Living-center of the Bible was chapter one hundred nineteen; which is all about the Word of God. The Word of God exalts the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ; the Word that became flesh. The Man in the Glory. That's what this so-called safari is all about – Him. As we have seen, Psalms is a hymn book — but we spelled it *H-I-M* — because it is all about Him.

If you are reading this report, we have a lot to be thankful for, friend. All we have done in Psalms is praise God; which is fitting — because there have been several times that I wasn't sure this expedition would be able to continue. So, if you enjoy these safari reports, then you'll want to thank the Lord for seeing us through the first time; and ask Him to provide for this second half of the Bible on our second missionary journey, and we will conclude with Revelation, God willing. As far as I know, no one has ever completed such an undertaking before, and I thank God to be the first; not because I desire to be first in Heaven — but because I love Him — and, also, like Paul, I run to win — second place is unacceptable....

CXLXX

This is another familiar Psalm of David. It is similar to Psalm eighteen; and we emphasized that Psalm when we considered it. David began with, “.... *I will love Thee, oh, Lord, my strength....*” — and goes on to say that, in his distress, he called on the Name of the Lord, and God delivered him from them all. That particular time was when David had been delivered from the satanic hand of King Saul. As we have stressed over and over again, these

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experiences of David are prophecies that look forward to the time when the Godly remnant of the nation Israel will be in testing and trials during the Great Tribulation period. That will be another time of tremendous suffering for them; and a test of endurance as they experience distress as they never have before. *In that day*, Israel will accept Jesus as Messiah, and turn to the True and Living God Almighty in prayer.

Most people jump at verse one of this Psalm and point their fingers at God while accusing Him of being a war-like God in the Old Testament. Well, if you had been around in the time in which we are studying, you would have been comforted to feel some protection from the enemies that would have surrounded you. Protecting yourself would have been top priority in David's day. The assertion that Jesus was some sort of peaceful pacifist is a preposterous perspective. Of course, Jesus is the Prince of peace, and *only* He can bring peace to the lives of believers, but Jesus Himself said, "*.... a strong man armed keepeth his house.*" See, in the Great Tribulation period, the nation Israel is going to need protection.

One of the main reasons we live so comfortably in this country is because of the size of our military arsenal. At least, we're told we have great capabilities; I cannot vouch for that personally, but I sure trust in them. I also know the size of our army isn't any guarantee of protection but, at the same time, I don't think throwing it away like some nut-job fanatic who thinks we can depend on the goodness of human nature to work it all out peacefully is very smart, either! Yes, God protects us — and that's number one — but He also expects a nation to have a little good old-fashioned horse sense, too. No one can sustain an argument from Scripture that we are to simply roll over and allow ourselves to become victimized; that's pure foolishness, friends. The Bible does not teach that.

David goes on to ask why God even thinks about man. Why does the Lord even want to speak to us? David knew man is a desperate war-like creature. David also knew that life was meaningless without God. There was a man who went to his pastor and pulled out a gun in the church study and said, "*.... if you don't give me one reason to live, I'm going to kill myself.*" The pastor replied, "*well, that sure puts me on the spot because, quite frankly, I can't think of one.*" Well, friends, suicide doesn't solve the

problem; what it *will* do is remove you and the problem to a realm where there isn't a solution. Here and now we make a decision for God. Nothing else brings purpose to this life. If more people would sincerely be converted, and genuinely saved, then they wouldn't be in such a hurry to leave this life, and they sure wouldn't constantly be asking for Jesus to return, and all of that stuff.

Overall, life down here is empty and wholly without purpose; irrespective of our circumstances. Even billionaires and movie stars commit suicide regularly. Without the Lord Jesus Christ to bring meaning to our existence then, as Solomon will say later in our safari, everything under the sun is vanity – all of it – empty and vain. Solomon had it all, my beloved: riches, women, houses, the temple, a palace, horses – you name it – Solomon had it times ten. Only when God breaks into our human events and intrudes in human history can we have a reason to live, friends. Do you really want true joy and happiness? Serving the Lord Jesus Christ is the only thing that can provide that – there's no other way – you can just write that down.

When the Lord Jesus returns to establish His Kingdom, He is coming in *judgment*. There's nothing wrong with the imprecatory verses, verses five, six and seven of this Psalm; in fact, the whole tenor and tone of the Old and the New Testament is that Christ will be returning in judgment. That's how peace will be established; and it's the only way peace *CAN* be established. Chapter nineteen of Revelation exposes this reality more dramatically than anywhere else in Scripture. John says Christ is “.... *coming forth conquering and to conquer*.” I know many people don't like the picture the Word of God presents in this connection – and those are usually the ones who say they believe the Bible cover to cover — but they can't — because they are totally and completely ignorant of the truth between the covers — and, when confronted, they *INSIST* on their ignorance. That's what's real, friends; and that's the way it's going to work out as we move along. *In that day*, we're *ALL* going to sing a new song....

CXLV

~ This is the last Psalm to specifically attribute authorship to David. It is another tremendous Psalm of praise to God. David may or may not have

written some of the other Psalms, such as the orphanic Psalms – and I think he probably did – but these, with his name in the inscription, we can be sure of; because the inscriptions are part of the inspired text. This is another acrostic Psalm; but twenty-two Hebrew letters — and only twenty-one verses! Well, I don't think the scribe fell asleep and just forgot a verse; no, I understand the reason to be very definite, very meaningful — and profoundly deep. You'll have to really stay with me now to get the answer as we close out our safari commentary on Psalms.

This is the introduction to the remaining final cluster Psalms – which are all halleluiah Psalms. From here to the end is an ever-increasing crescendo. The Hebrew letter that was excluded is “Nun” – interestingly enough, “Nun” is represented in verses one hundred five through one hundred twelve of Psalm one hundred nineteen. What that tells us is that our praise down here is imperfect. You and I do not have the fullest possible program of praise on this planet. See, this Psalm, and the remainder of Psalms, comprise six; but, in the Book of Revelation, there are *seven* halleluiah songs sung! In chapter nineteen of Revelation we read, “.... and I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.” Well, that's the seventh “halleluiah,” my friends — and that's what is missing from this Psalm! See, when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, peace did not come to this earth. Man has never been able to sing the complete halleluiah chorus in perfection – yet! That makes this an extremely interesting and important Psalm to understand.

David continues and says *EVERY* day will he bless the Lord; not just the Sabbath Day or Sunday. I don't know about you, but there are days when I don't feel like blessing God. Even some Sundays in church, I don't really feel like being there. Do you know anything about that? Well, even when we don't feel very good, the Lord is still righteous in all His ways, and holy in all His works. We can thank God He never gets tired of us as we often times grow tired of Him. The Lord will stay near *ALWAYS* to those who call upon Him in truth. See, I'm just being truthful. I don't know who you are reading this report, and I don't know how you are, where you are, or even when you are – but what I do know is: if you mean business with God, and if you

will be honest and truthful with Him in prayer, then you can get right into the presence of the Father in Heaven. But it must begin with truth.

Most people stiff-arm the Lord as they push forward in their own offensive will. They only want Jesus around when they need Him to do something for them. Any other time, He needs to get out of their way. That's the reason for all the empty and vain rituals of utterly dead and meaningless religion. Frankly, the best way to get very far away from God is to worship Him half-heartedly while harboring lies in our lives. One of the great doctrines the reformation revived is the royal priesthood of believers. That means we can have direct and unfettered access to God Almighty – but you're going to have to be pure to do that – which means cleansed by the Blood of Christ, and washed daily in the water of the Word of God. There's no other way. Remember, will-worship didn't work out well for Nadab and Abihu. How wonderful this little Psalm really is! If you are not saved, then Jesus is inviting you to turn to Him right *NOW* for salvation! God is certainly available to anyone through grace and faith – and truth – but no other way. Spirit and in *truth*.

CHLTD

~ This Psalm and the remainder of them begin and end with “.... *praise ye the Lord.*” That means, “*halleluiah!*” Well, we have already examined the fatality of lip service in Psalm one hundred thirty-eight; but now we're talking about genuine praise and worship of God. Verse three is very interesting; as Dr. A.C. Gaebelien tells the story about a visit he had from a Jewish friend so many years ago. This friend said he had found a warning in this Psalm *against* the Lord Jesus Christ. Well, verse three clearly says not to place our trust in the “*son of Man*” – which is one of Christ's titles, as you know. The explanation is that if Jesus was *ONLY* the “*son of Man*,” then I would agree; but Jesus is much more than the son of Man – He is the Son of God. Jesus is also “*Emmanuel*” – meaning “*God with us*” – and many other designations; and that's the only reason they could call Him “*Jesus*” – because He was able to save His people from their sins. I think that's also rather important to understand. See, if anyone's eyes are going to be opened to the Word of God, the Lord Jesus Christ is going to be the One

Who opens them, my friends. I can't do it. You can't. Only He can. Pray for those you want to see chosen for salvation....

CXΛVDD

~ This Psalm is another prophetic Psalm that will have a purely future fulfillment. Verses one through three haven't happened yet. This earth has not known the full judgment of God and the severity that will accompany that day. Israel is unique in that they are the only ones ever to be called God's chosen people; and they are the only ones who have ever been designated custodians of revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ! That, by de facto, means there is an eternal plan and purpose for the nation Israel in the future by God Almighty. That's what the Psalmist is praising God for in this Psalm; and we are to praise God for peace in Jerusalem and the entire nation of Israel – although they do not have peace today. Remember, Paul tells us to pray and thank God for answering our prayer *before* it is answered — as if it were already answered. We can be sure God is going to fulfill His promises to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the nation Israel – and to us, too. Psalms becomes sweeter and sweeter as we draw nearer our destination....

CXΛVDD

~ Now we find the Psalmist praising God in the heights — on into the Heavens — and beyond. That's certainly for you and me and the church today. We're moving towards a time when everyone and everything in Heaven and in earth is going to praise God with pure rejoicing and happiness. The planets, plants, animals, fish in the sea, elements of nature, land, trees, insects – you name it – it will bow down and praise the Lord Jesus Christ *in that day*. Only His Name is excellent in this earth; only His Name is glorious, friends. Paul tells us whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things be of virtue — and the only thing that encompasses all of those things is Christ! Consider Him. When we praise Him properly, according to Scriptural instruction, then He is going to praise us as His people. Israel is going to accept Him as their Messiah *in that day*; and all of His people are going to be drawn very near to Him. What a wonderful day that will be ~

CXLIX

1 Praise ye the LORD. Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints.

2 Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

3 Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp.

4 For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.

5 Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds.

6 Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two edged sword in their hand;

7 To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people;

8 To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron;

9 To execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all his saints. Praise ye the LORD.

CXL

1 Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.

2 Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.

3 Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.

4 Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

5 Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.

6 Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.

~ So, our Spiritual Safari concludes commentary of the Book of Psalms having pulled out all the stops, so-to-speak. Notice verse one of this last Psalm lands us right back in the sanctuary, again! We're really going out with some fantastic closing music. In our next report, we will travel forward in time and join Paul in the Italian Carcere Mamertino — a prison in ancient Comitium Rome — as he writes to the church at Ephesus. Although the setting may be dismal — we're taking these Psalms with us to sing there — with Paul; and we'll bring Paul into our safari space program as we blast-off, out of the prison, and into the Heavenlies. Once we get into the orbit of the Ephesians, we'll rest in the Heavenlies enjoying a wonderful view of the universe; a view that will take us into the springtime of our lives and loving. I can't think of a better place to be than that ~

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