

The Desires of the Wicked

Psalms 140:1 – 143:12

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~ Our Spiritual Safari camel train will complete the crossing of this blossoming desert Book of Psalms in our next report. We will have traversed the entire Book of Psalms — every chapter and every verse — visiting each oasis and cluster of Psalms with a comprehensive explanation via a Spirit-led and Spirit-filled commentary. I hope these reports have enabled you to understand the Scriptures better, and how to apply them in a more practical way to your day to day, minute-by-minute life. If you will pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment, and then read the designated text in your own Bible — and then read these reports — and then read the text again afterwards — then you will be well on your way to earning a doctorate degree in the Word of God from an accredited university: God's University.

Yes, it actually takes time, effort, prayer, meditation on truth — and a whole bunch of Bible reading to understand Holy Writ. A fractured verse here from a disconnected passage there will never, ever — *NEVER* — bring you to the place of proper understanding in all sixty-six books of the Bible — because that would be impossible. Further, it takes years — not months, not weeks, not days — it takes *years* and *decades* to fully grasp the content of the Bible; particularly eschatology; and actually, we will *never* learn it completely — because there are always new truths revealed each time we approach God in an educated, sincere, systematic, daily, and structured manner. The erroneous idea that one can somehow learn the Bible in a few courses is foolishness; and it leads to the garbage we see in today's religious world. More importantly, some people read the Bible for a long, long time before they make a decision to accept Christ as their Savior; and those are good reasons I teach the Word of God the way I do.

After our next report, we'll catch up with the apostle Paul once again as he pens his epistle to the Ephesians. We have had solemn truths presented in Psalms; and we have sung many songs to spectacular music as we traversed this desert; and you can thank the Lord it wasn't me who was appointed as

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the praise team leader. Well, there will be more music in Ephesians; which will carry us out of this desert — and into the Heavenlies!

As we have traveled along in Psalms, we have moved in clusters — from one oasis to another; that is, groups of Psalms belonging together as they form a theme. The Psalms are arranged much like a hymn book in the church is arranged; where a group of songs concerning redemption are placed and then a group of songs about the grace of God — and so on. However, this first Psalm in this report — Psalm one hundred forty — is a lonely, single Psalm set in solitude. It doesn't belong with the others; although it is another prophetic Psalm setting before us the Godly remnant of the nation Israel as they face the antichrist — the false Messiah and the man of sin — during the Great Tribulation period. But Psalm one hundred forty is a prayer of David; requesting protection from evil and desperately wicked men of violence that surrounded him. David is under extraordinary pressure from the madman King Saul at the time this Psalm was written. Even so, the prophetic vision looks to one in the future who is even worse — *MUCH* worse — than Saul was — if that could be possible — and it is possible. Of course, there is a highly relevant application for you and me today, too; I think there are many people who could pray this prayer right now....

CXL ~ (To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David)

1 Deliver me, O LORD, from the evil man: preserve me from the violent man;

2 Which imagine mischiefs in their heart; continually are they gathered together for war.

3 They have sharpened their tongues like a serpent; adders' poison is under their lips. Selah.

4 Keep me, O LORD, from the hands of the wicked; preserve me from the violent man; who have purposed to overthrow my goings.

5 The proud have hid a snare for me, and cords; they have spread a net by the wayside; they have set gins for me. Selah.

6 I said unto the LORD, Thou art my God: hear the voice of my supplications, O LORD.

7 O GOD the Lord, the strength of my salvation, thou hast covered my head in the day of battle.

8 Grant not, O LORD, the desires of the wicked: further not his wicked device; lest they exalt themselves. Selah.

9 As for the head of those that compass me about, let the mischief of their own lips cover them.

10 Let burning coals fall upon them: let them be cast into the fire; into deep pits, that they rise not up again.

11 Let not an evil speaker be established in the earth: evil shall hunt the violent man to overthrow him.

12 I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and the right of the poor.

13 Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name: the upright shall dwell in thy presence.

~ The “evil man” in verse one is the designation for antichrist. Antichrist is also referred to as the “violent man” in Scripture. Even so, John says “.... it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.” That’s first John chapter two verse eighteen. Apparently, we’ve been in the “last times” for a LONG time; and many of us today have come into contact with evil and violent men. Antichrist is before our eyes. Satan roams up and down the earth, devouring whom he may. You might want to pray the Lord will set His impenetrable hedge around you today.

Well, my prayer has always been for God to deliver me and preserve me in His ministry; preserve me from the influence and power of other men. It is

dangerous when a preacher falls under the influence of any one man, church clique, organized religious committee, or begins walking with one foot in the world to support a ministry; in fact, it means certain death – every time. David goes on to describe what men like this do in verse two and three. Remember, Paul speaks of the entire human race this same way, too. The tongue you and I have is not good, friends; it can hurt another as much as a bullet. Many men’s reputations have been ruined by lying and gossiping tongues; irrespective of whether said innuendo was true or not. Sometimes, allegations alone are fatal. Verse four makes no mistake about the intent of men like that.

We also have included in this Psalm another imprecatory prayer; which means a request for the vengeance and judgment of God upon the enemy. Many people do not think this is a prayer for Christians to pray today, because we are clearly instructed to love our enemy and pray for those who spitefully use us. When we pray for another person to be chosen for salvation, we are actually already praying for divine judgment on that person. I understand we are not to avenge ourselves or try to get even with others; but, asking God to avenge us, I don’t see anything wrong with that. In fact, I do it all the time. Since vengeance is God’s, He can tell me no; He tells me ‘no’ in many prayers.

See, when God commands us to feed our enemies and give them water and, by doing so, heap coals of fire upon their heads — that means give them the Living Bread and the Living Water of the Word of God. It places the genuine saint in a peculiar position — and I have no problem doing that. Remember, David said, in the last Psalm we studied, “... *I hate them with a perfect hatred.*” Well, that’s the only right way to hate your enemy, friends. Let’s not become bitter and carried away — and we won’t be overcome with evil. Only *then* can we begin to overcome evil with good. Either way, this is also a prophetic Psalm and, when the nation Israel is in the Great Tribulation period, and they are back under law, it will be appropriate. David is praying against antichrist....

CXLII ~ (A Psalm of David)

1 LORD, I cry unto thee: make haste unto me; give ear unto my voice, when I cry unto thee.

2 Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

3 Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.

4 Incline not my heart to any evil thing, to practise wicked works with men that work iniquity: and let me not eat of their dainties.

5 Let the righteous smite me; it shall be a kindness: and let him reprove me; it shall be an excellent oil, which shall not break my head: for yet my prayer also shall be in their calamities.

6 When their judges are overthrown in stony places, they shall hear my words; for they are sweet.

7 Our bones are scattered at the grave's mouth, as when one cutteth and cleaveth wood upon the earth.

8 But mine eyes are unto thee, O GOD the Lord: in thee is my trust; leave not my soul destitute.

9 Keep me from the snares which they have laid for me, and the gins of the workers of iniquity.

10 Let the wicked fall into their own nets, whilst that I withal escape.

~ This is another Psalm from the personal history of David. We may or may not be able to fit this Psalm into the time when he was fleeing from King Saul; it could be during the rebellion of Absalom. What we know for sure is that this is another prophetic Psalm; looking forward to the time when the Godly remnant of the nation Israel is tested with trials during the Great Tribulation period. During that time, Israel will struggle against the evil man of sin. As with all the others, this Psalm has a timely message for us to consider in prayer. One thing is obvious to me: David was in love with

prayer. Prayers are sweet incense to the Lord, friends. When you and I pray, and properly praise the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are offering on the altar of incense. Remember, the sweet smell went up and out of the tabernacle all day and all night. Our prayers ascend that way when we perform the ritual correctly.

Be that as it may, our prayers *MUST* be backed-up by a life that is well-pleasing to God. If we expect God to hear and answer our prayers, obedience and trust are required. The error that one can live any way they desire, and yet expect the Lord to hear and answer their prayers is a huge mistake. Yes, Jesus said, “.... *if you shall ask anything in my Name, I will do it*” – but – He didn’t stop there. He also said, “*if you love Me keep My commands.*” Remember, David has already said in chapter sixty-six verse eighteen, “.... *if I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.*” That means unconfessed sins in our lives disconnects us from fellowship with God the Father, my beloved. David realized that truth by bitter experience.

Many people’s lives and lips constantly contradict each other. They pray one thing on Sunday, but live a life altogether different the rest of the week. If you are living like a child of the devil, and winking at the world’s sinful dainties throughout the remainder of the week, then you can forget about being heard in prayer, quite frankly. God never promised to hear the prayers of the wicked man. Only the effectual and fervent prayer of the *righteous* man availeth anything. John said, “.... *whatsoever we ask we receiveth because we keep His commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.*” That’s first John chapter three verse twenty-two. We’re all required to work and function in this evil world, I realize that. We rub elbows with profound corruption and wickedness every day. Well, our boat is in the ocean, but the ocean shouldn’t get in our boat; because that’s when it sinks.

When was the last time you prayed that the Lord would keep you from falling into the traps of the devil? That’s what David is asking God for. Satan is forever trying to trip us up and make us fall down; and he has all manner of tricks and devices that are extremely effective in accomplishing his goals. Unfortunately, most people aren’t even as wise as the carnal Christians in

Corinth were. Paul told that crowd, “.... we’re not ignorant of the devils devices,” — but some today seem to be woefully ignorant of them. Asking to be delivered from evil is an extremely potent prayer, friends. I can only suggest you try it sometime....

CXLDD ~ (Maschil of David; A Prayer when he was in the cave)

1 I cried unto the LORD with my voice; with my voice unto the LORD did I make my supplication.

2 I poured out my complaint before him; I shewed before him my trouble.

3 When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then thou knewest my path. In the way wherein I walked have they privily laid a snare for me.

4 I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul.

5 I cried unto thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.

6 Attend unto my cry; for I am brought very low: deliver me from my persecutors; for they are stronger than I.

7 Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise thy name: the righteous shall compass me about; for thou shalt deal bountifully with me.

~ Here is another “Maschil” Psalm — and that means *instruction*; and we have had much instruction in this Book of Psalms. Well, we’re going to get more instruction now. This is another great prayer of David in “*the cave*,” but, again, we’re not told if that is the caves of Engedi, mentioned in first Samuel chapter twenty-four — or the cave of Adullam — or when he ran from Absalom. Personally, because of verse two, I tend to believe this was the cave of Adullam where David went the first time; and to which those men who were in distress, in debt and discontented came to join him. Either way, this is more great structure to base our prayer lives on today.

Many pray while avoiding certain inconvenient facts and distasteful things happening in their life and, as a result, they begin to rationalize their prayers. Very few people get down to business by spelling out the nitty-gritty of temptation and sin in their hearts; and that brings us back to God not hearing prayer. Tell God all that is in your heart, as you would tell your best friend your problems. God will comfort your troubles, and sober your joys. Tell God what you like, and dislike — and He will temper and conquer them for you.

Show God the wounds in your heart and He will heal them. Talk to Him about your indifference towards hurting people, and your depraved coldness towards the evil that abounds all around you. Confess how self-love makes you unjust to others; and how vanity tempts you to be insincere. Admit to the Lord that your pride disguises your true self to other people. Ask Him to create your countenance amongst men. If you will pour out your weaknesses to the Lord, and humble yourself before Him, you will never lack of anything to pray for. Keeping secrets from God will never help your relationship with Jesus — you can write that down. David had a wonderful and meaningful relationship with God — and you can have it, too; by praying these types of prayers as we have considered them — all the way through the Book of Psalms....

CXLDDD ~ (A Psalm of David)

1 Hear my prayer, O LORD, give ear to my supplications: in thy faithfulness answer me, and in thy righteousness.

2 And enter not into judgment with thy servant: for in thy sight shall no man living be justified.

3 For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath smitten my life down to the ground; he hath made me to dwell in darkness, as those that have been long dead.

4 Therefore is my spirit overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is desolate.

5 I remember the days of old; I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands.

6 I stretch forth my hands unto thee: my soul thirsteth after thee, as a thirsty land. Selah.

7 Hear me speedily, O LORD: my spirit faileth: hide not thy face from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit.

8 Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee.

9 Deliver me, O LORD, from mine enemies: I flee unto thee to hide me.

10 Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.

11 Quicken me, O LORD, for thy name's sake: for thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.

12 And of thy mercy cut off mine enemies, and destroy all them that afflict my soul: for I am thy servant.

~ Alright, our Spiritual Safari concludes this leg of our expedition with just one more report remaining in Psalms. David was anointed king of Israel at a very young age. King Saul, a madman, threw a javelin at David while David was playing the songs that made the evil spirit depart from Saul. When David fled for his life, he prayed these prayers. I think David had every right to complain to God, friends. Some very reputable scholars agree that David may have been running from Saul and hiding in caves for as long as ten years! If Saul would have caught him, Saul would have killed him. That's a long time to continually open your heart and pour yourself out in trust to God. David was overwhelmed with what was happening in his life. No man cared for David's soul. That's a bad condition to be in. Even so, through it all, God was guiding David — and David believed God.

Psalm one hundred forty-three is an urgent appeal for help by David to God for God's faithfulness and righteousness. You and I need to learn that type of uninhibited prayer, too. John said, *".... if we confess our sins, then Christ is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* John speaks to the church in present tense for you and me, by the way. These are prayers that can fit into all of our experiences right now. You and I can rest upon the faithfulness and righteousness of God. The nation Israel rested on His promises. Micah said, *".... thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, and the mercy to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old."* That's Micah chapter seven verse twenty. I would like to see those of you who believe God is through with the nation Israel explain what Micah meant, by the way.

Exodus 2:24 *And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. 25 And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them ~*

Romans 10: 3 *For Israel, being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God ~*

That all speaks of the nation Israel, friend; and that's their problem to this very day — and it is the problem of the Gentile, too. They're all trying to work a dead religion that means absolutely nothing to them into something meaningful. It's never going to happen. Trying to please God when He has already done everything for us is polluting salvation. The only way we can please God is to accept the finished work of redemption that Christ wrought on the cross, in faith, and allow the Holy Spirit to live through us. Paul said, *".... for Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth."* David asks for a speedy answer because his spirit was failing him. God was his only hope for help. David said his soul was like a thirsty land and, if you have ever seen the rain on the desert, you'll know the sand drinks it up as fast as it can fall. What beautiful pictures God has painted for us in His Word ~

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