

They Hate Me with Cruel Hatred

Psalm 25:1 – 27:1

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~ Why does God love you? Why does God forgive us of our sins? What is the basis for the pardon we receive from our commission of iniquity? Does God see something in us that compels Him to forgive us? Why would the Lord Jesus Christ leave His glory in Heaven and come to this filthy earth to suffer and die a horrendous death in order to redeem a bunch of lousy sinners like *Y-O-U* – and me? Well, our Spiritual Safari camel train continues across this beautiful blossoming desert called the Book of Psalms in this report; and we're going to get the answers to all of those questions as we continue our expedition through the entire Word of God.

This section of Psalms — which include the next fifteen Psalms — marks another new section in a rightly-divided consideration of this book; and it may seem to be somewhat of a let-down for many people. Our last several reports have been dramatic, thrilling, sensational and spectacular. Here, we come to that which is quite personal, quiet and intimate; so, if we pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment, then this series of Psalms can speak to our hearts in a way that we have never been spoken to before. May Christ be glorified.

David wrote each of the following fifteen Psalms — except one; and David is speaking out of his own personal experiences for our literal interpretation. Our spiritual application, which is the remnant of the nation Israel in their time of future distress during the Great Tribulation period – is our eschatological perspective. So, this looks back literally to the past, and it gathers up prophecy for the future, but it has a truly impacting message for our lives *today*, too. A very clear application for the past, present and future makes these Psalms most remarkable; at least, in my judgment, it does.

These Psalms are Psalms that most people are not well-acquainted with. Yes, a few verses here and there will sound familiar; but, overall, this is a largely neglected section of Scripture. Well, in times of trouble, these

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Psalms can be most comforting and helpful. When you're laying there sleepless and lonely in the dark — perhaps in a strange place away from home — or your heart is deeply disturbed, these are the Psalms you will want to turn to. These truths are so real because they came from the experience of a man enduring many tragedies and troubles....

XXV ~ (A Psalm of David)

1 Unto thee, O LORD, do I lift up my soul.

2 O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me.

3 Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed: let them be ashamed which transgress without cause.

4 Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths.

5 Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.

6 Remember, O LORD, thy tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses; for they have been ever of old.

7 Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD.

8 Good and upright is the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way.

9 The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.

10 All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.

11 For thy name's sake, O LORD, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great.

12 What man is he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose.

13 His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth.

14 The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

15 Mine eyes are ever toward the LORD; for he shall pluck my feet out of the net.

16 Turn thee unto me, and have mercy upon me; for I am desolate and afflicted.

17 The troubles of my heart are enlarged: O bring thou me out of my distresses.

18 Look upon mine affliction and my pain; and forgive all my sins.

19 Consider mine enemies; for they are many; and they hate me with cruel hatred.

20 O keep my soul, and deliver me: let me not be ashamed; for I put my trust in thee.

21 Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee.

22 Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.

~ Learning the Bible properly, correctly and completely involves a whole lot of reading, a whole lot of prayer, even more meditation on the things we have learned — and very little talking. Most people around this forum on which I teach have that exactly backwards — or jumbled; they talk *ALL* the time, they likely never pray, and the only reading of the Word of God they do is while they cut and paste fractured and disconnected verses that are meaningless to them. Frankly, that's tragic; and it is why we have so many fanatical and absurd Christian Tragedies running around Christian circles.

Well, this Psalm is a prayer revealing the total and complete dependence David had upon God. There is coming a day, for the remnant of the nation Israel, when they will find themselves with *nothing* whatsoever to fall back on – except the True and Living God! As you know, the nation Israel rejects the Lord Jesus Christ as Messiah today, and their worship doesn't even *mention* God in *ANY* terms. No, they worship science and education; and that will ultimately lead to a crushing and humiliating defeat for them in the future. You can write that down — but God already has.

This is a profound lesson for us to learn; and we do well to thoroughly consider the implications of this Psalm. In previous Psalms, David lifted up his voice – but here, he is lifting up his soul! That's getting down to business, friends. Have you ever been in a place where it seemed like the only thing that ever happened to you was failure? Have you ever been in a place where you didn't want to go down in crushing defeat? Maybe your personal life knows something about this – maybe your business is having problems; or maybe your home life is a disaster? Perhaps it is your ministry that is a real problem? Well, this is the prayer for you.

Notice the pleading by David with God in verses four and five. When life's catastrophes occur – and they *WILL* occur, if they haven't already – there are two ways a man can go. We can go God's way, or we can go our own way. Every one of us will come to that fork in the road in our lives — and we choose the path. Either way we go, we may be sure of one thing: those paths never cross again. There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the ends thereof are death. It is a glorious privilege that we can call out to God to lead us. It's even more amazing that He will and does. When was the last time you called out to God in prayer to show you the way and teach you His ways? It's pretty important, friends.

David speaks of the “*lovingkindnesses*” of God; and that's just a little bit more than *love* or *kindness*! When my church provided me a place to write these reports for you — that's kindness; when they also ask me to eat dinner with them because I had no food — that was lovingkindness — and it makes all the difference in the world. This Psalm is a wonderful prayer of

David — in a time of very real trouble; but it can also speak to our hearts today.

I'm not sure how so many people can read the Psalms and not understand that God has a future plan and purpose for the nation Israel. God isn't through with His people, and He isn't through with that volatile little piece of real estate, either. It is impossible to understand Romans, for example, and come to the conclusion that God is finished with Israel. Tragically, many *do* read Romans and Psalms; and erroneously conclude Israel has no portion in the future on this earth with God. Well, if you meet a person who professes such, you can know very definitely that they have utterly no understanding of the Lord Jesus Christ, and are Biblically illiterate.

David wants God to remember him, but David also wants God to forget his sins. David has already called for goodness and mercy to follow him; and, here we are again. Thank God He is rich in mercy. I don't know about you, but *mercy* is what I need the most; and I need a whole bunch of it. I would like an abundance of goodness, too — of course; but goodness will have to follow the mercy. The expressions in this Psalm bring me great confidence. I wish I could go into detail regarding the '*teaching of sinners*' and the '*guiding of the meek in His way*' — but if I did that, we would have ten thousand reports on those two truths alone! Selah ~

See, God only loves us, and He only forgives us for the Lord Jesus Christ's Names sake! There is *no other reason* under the sun that you and I have redemption, friends; you may want to write that down, too. It is not for our sakes, because we do not merit *ANYTHING* except death. I'm sure some of you reject that teaching; but you're not rejecting me — because I'm just telling you what God says. You can believe it, or not believe it; that's your problem — not mine. What we know for sure is that God forgave David; and if God can forgive David, then *MAYBE* He can forgive you and me, too. That should be a wonderful comfort to you. When is the last time you thanked God for that reality? When is the last time you told God you love Him?

So many people are really just a huge question mark as far as their Christian life is concerned. They never come to understand certain precepts and tenets, and they cannot come to terms with why God does this or that. I

see many people who are constantly in a questioning state of mind – even as they post endless Bible verses mixed together with certain psychological sayings on social media. They're so confused, they don't even know they're confused; and they never understand the secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him. When we are truly walking with God, we will discover we don't really need to ask many questions. We need to take His Hand and walk, in trust.

Today, the child of God who sincerely trusts and obeys the Lord Jesus Christ — and is making an honest attempt to learn the Word of God — can just place their hand in His Hand and walk along together with Him. When I used to walk with my children, when they were very young, they were real question machines. They asked about everything: what, when, where, how and why – mostly why. Then they would get tired, and I would pick them up and they would just lay their head on my shoulder and go to sleep; no more questions — they just trusted and accepted everything at that point. There are a whole lot of us today who need to forget most of our questions and just lay our heads on His shoulders and rest as He carries us. That's when you and I are apt to confess our sins to Him, too, by the way....

XXV ~ (A Psalm of David)

1 Judge me, O LORD; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the LORD; therefore I shall not slide.

2 Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.

3 For thy lovingkindness is before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth.

4 I have not sat with vain persons, neither will I go in with dissemblers.

5 I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked.

6 I will wash mine hands in innocency: so will I compass thine altar, O LORD:

~ David may have been confessing his sins in the last Psalm, but here he is talking about his righteousness. Well, David had some righteousness – and we have some today, too – even a perfect righteousness; *BUT* – it’s not Andrew C. Hunt’s righteousness. Yes, the Lord Jesus Christ has been made unto me righteousness, as well as redemption – but not for my sake – only for *HIS* Names sake. I cannot stress how important that is to understand. Christ is all I have on the plus side of my ledger. He’s the *ONLY* way I stand complete and accepted in the Beloved; and to pray in Christ’s Name means to present His work – not mine – which is what this Spiritual Safari does, my friends. And that’s all our safari does, too, by the way. This is all about the merits of Christ — and Who He is — period. Until we can grasp these truths, our feet are on a very slippery slope....

7 That I may publish with the voice of thanksgiving, and tell of all thy wondrous works.

8 LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth.

9 Gather not my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloody men:

10 In whose hands is mischief, and their right hand is full of bribes.

11 But as for me, I will walk in mine integrity: redeem me, and be merciful unto me.

~ David committed an unspeakable sin, but David didn’t live in sin. David was appalled and haunted by his sin. In Babylon, murder and adultery were business as usual. The king of Babylon committed those sins every day. David committed them one time and hated himself. The murder of Uriah and adultery with Bathsheba stand out like a black ink stain on a white linen tablecloth; but Nebuchadnezzar’s sins dyed his entire wardrobe red! Every king of Judah was judged by David’s standard, too; they either walked in the ways of David their father, or they didn’t. If they did, they were a good king who did right in the eyes of the Lord; if they didn’t, they were a bad

king, who did evil in the sight of the Lord. No third way — because David knew when he trusted and obeyed God, then God would sustain him.

Now, we must add this critical caveat: our life is going to have to back up our faith; because holiness demands a life that witnesses to faith. Without that in place, you won't find any comfort or rest here. I'm sure that's why this section of Scripture isn't very popular. Well, either way, until you can grasp, and correctly process these truths, your feet will *NEVER* stand on an even place. Until we are established in this truth, we can never be established. Many Christians are standing on a very slippery slope. They flirt and play with sin and evil; and they get very close to both every day. You'll never rest in Christ in that condition, my friends. Many people are inside a burning building, but they won't jump out the window to save their lives....

12 My foot standeth in an even place: in the congregations will I bless the LORD.

XXVDD ~ (A Psalm of David)

1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

~ Our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition with just one verse of a *deeply* spiritual Psalm; and this particular verse is likely familiar to many. The Lord Jesus is the One Who loves me – and He is the One Who loves you, too. Love provided us with a Savior. We're not saved by love, but it was His love that made a way by which we could receive salvation. John said, "... *God is light, God is love, and God is life;*" and here, it is altogether in one verse. If God is truly all those things to you, then who should you be afraid of? Luther said, "... *one with God is a majority.*" If you fear God, you have no one else to fear. Many people have replaced the word "*fear*" with "*reverential trust*" — which is good — but, let me just tell you this: it's still fear! Alright, our expedition through the entire Word of God is going to spend a little time on this beautiful spiritual oasis of the choicest expressions of faith and truthful reassurance in Psalm twenty-seven in our next report. I hope you can continue along with us ~

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