

The Sorrows of Hell

Psalms 17:1 – 18:50

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~ When we consider a teaching ministry, our first observation should be close attention to how the personal pronouns “I,” “me,” and “my” are used by the teacher — and the frequency with which they are used. When I see those words used more times in a “testimony” than “Jesus,” “God,” “the Word of God” or “the Holy Spirit” — I know immediately I am looking at a carnal, counterfeit, or cosmetic “Christian” — and one very selfish human being. Oh, yes, friends, I can spot them a mile away — and I am always right — you might want to make a note about that.

To be fair, when we use personal pronouns in connection with the Lord Jesus Christ, it can be meaningful. Can you say, “... the Lord is “MY” God; or: the Lord is “MY” Shepherd? It’s one thing to say, “God is a great God;” it is something altogether different to say, “I have a God Who is a Great God!” Anyone can say, “Jesus is a Great Shepherd” — because He is — but David said, “the Lord is “my” Shepherd!” We’re going to dissect that critical distinction in this report from our Spiritual Safari.

The seventeenth Psalm is a prayer of David that came out of the wilderness experience he had — specifically, when Saul and his men were closing in on him. This Psalm reveals the same level of trust David had for God in the last Psalm. As we have seen since we embarked on this leg of our expedition through Psalms, these Psalms speak primarily of the Lord Jesus Christ as a result of the experiences David had in many different trials and troubles. This particular Psalm can also be a prayer for many of us today; because I know some of us find ourselves in similar situations of distress, disappointment, discouragement, dismay, discontentment, debt, and danger. Well, David is going to say what he is really thinking in this section of Scripture. There is no “put on” — no “feigned lips” — no insincerity or hypocrisy in this prayer, friends. No, David is clearly expressing his deepest personal thoughts and feelings to the Lord in honesty and sincerity. As a result, we’re going to find the eschatological Lord Jesus appear in these next eight Psalms....

Psalms 17:1 – 18:50

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✠ ~ (A Prayer of David)

1 Hear the right, O LORD, attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer, that goeth not out of feigned lips.

2 Let my sentence come forth from thy presence; let thine eyes behold the things that are equal.

3 Thou hast proved mine heart; thou hast visited me in the night; thou hast tried me, and shalt find nothing; I am purposed that my mouth shall not transgress.

4 Concerning the works of men, by the word of thy lips I have kept me from the paths of Satan the destroyer.

~ David is asking for justice from God, friends. He is in enemy territory, hiding from evil men that would kill him in a heartbeat if they caught him. David desperately needs the Lord to measure this rightly! Interestingly, God *did* try David; and God *did* find something. See, many years after this was written, David committed two egregious sins in the case of Uriah and Bathsheba. When God tested Andrew C. Hunt, He found something, too; and that something wasn't good! For example, I have said some things to some people that I wish I hadn't said. I have a feeling when God tested Y-O-U, He also found things that were very dark and ugly? Well, okay, maybe not you; but, definitely me.

See, we can know verse three speaks of Christ. That's a perfect picture of our perfect Lord — not you or me. Jesus spoke many words; and everyone marveled at His words. Jesus never said or did *ANYTHING* deceitful or regrettable. Well, you and I live in a world where the presence of Satan is very real, my friends. We need to be acutely alert because we are in enemy territory down here — in this present wicked world; and we *MUST* be knowledgeable of the Word of God. Otherwise, we can *NEVER* discern the lies of the devil. Satan transforms himself into an angel of light — make no mistake about that. If you do not know the Scriptures properly, correctly and completely, you're going to get suckered with lies every single time.

You won't get taken away in Satan's trap once in a while – you'll get taken *EVERY* time; that's something else you may want to write down.

Remember, Jesus said that Satan's headquarters was in Pergamum in Jesus' day. Some people believe the devils current command post is right where they live. Well, Peter said, *".... Jesus did no sin neither was their guile found in His mouth."* When Jesus was reviled, He reviled not again. When Jesus suffered, He threatened not, but, rather, committed Himself to our Father Who judgeth righteously. David and Jesus were both willing to allow God to balance the scales of justice. I don't know about you, but I am not asking for justice from God; no, what I need is *mercy*. Perhaps that's what you need, too? ~

5 Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not.

6 I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God: incline thine ear unto me, and hear my speech.

7 Shew thy marvellous lovingkindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust in thee from those that rise up against them.

8 Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings,

~ This is quite a prayer of pleading, friends. David has a real need; and you will have to have a real need to pray a prayer like this, too. In Scripture, the nation Israel is the *"apple of God's eye."* David knew that God was going to preserve His nation; what David questioned was whether or not God was going to preserve David! That's a fair question, too, by the way; even as David knew the Lord heard him when he cried to Him. Are you absolutely *SURE* the Lord is going to hide you under the shadow of His wings? We can always be sure God hears us and answers our prayers when we are in trouble. Remember, God said, *"you have seen what I did to the Egyptians; how I bore you on eagles wings and brought you to Myself."* Jesus said, *"Oh, Israel, how many times I would have gathered you under My wings as*

a mother hen gathers her little chicks – but you would not.” That’s quite a glorious, frightful, comforting, and contrasting picture all at once....

9 From the wicked that oppress me, from my deadly enemies, who compass me about.

10 They are inclosed in their own fat: with their mouth they speak proudly.

11 They have now compassed us in our steps: they have set their eyes bowing down to the earth;

12 Like as a lion that is greedy of his prey, and as it were a young lion lurking in secret places.

13 Arise, O LORD, disappoint him, cast him down: deliver my soul from the wicked, which is thy sword:

14 From men which are thy hand, O LORD, from men of the world, which have their portion in this life, and whose belly thou fillest with thy hid treasure: they are full of children, and leave the rest of their substance to their babes.

15 As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

~ This Psalm was written by a man hiding in a cave in the wilderness whom the king of the country was hunting like an animal. David was sure of his deliverance, and that he would someday go into the presence of the Lord – but David didn’t want to go into His presence just yet! The enemy was very strong and all-powerful. King Saul was a formidable foe. You and I, as children of God, are living in a world that is utterly against us and wholeheartedly hates us. Our only resource or recourse is a total dependence on God — with Whom nothing is impossible. That dependence is what Jesus relied upon when He was here on earth. That’s what David did when he was in very real and present danger. We have enemies in this

world if we stand for God, friends. I hope these Psalms are as much of a comfort for you as they are for me....

XVDDD ~ (To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, the servant of the LORD, who spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul: And he said)....

1 I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.

~ The liberal expositor cannot find any depth of truth in this Psalm — or any Psalms — so, they relegate this to a simple life-experience David had. All the liberal can glean from this Psalm is a local and, perhaps, a contemporary interpretation — but it is simple-minded and shallow. I have seen and read some seemingly wonderful and flowery prose written by the liberal regarding this Psalm, but it evaporates into meaninglessness in the end. This is so much more than figures of speech; these utterances speak of the Son of God, Christ our Savior — and, specifically, in His sufferings for us. This Psalm takes us from the jaws of death to the sorrows of hell to the Throne of Jehovah.

Many people cannot find love in the Old Testament; because these Psalms, and Christ as a Person, mean absolutely nothing to them. They have no relationship with either. When is the last time you told God you loved Him? Why don't you try it? You'll discover that is one of the most difficult and wonderful things you can say in prayer — "... Lord, I love you." Our praise for God *only* begins with a realization that He loves us, and because He has provided salvation. God says He loves you, friends; but I have a question for you: why do you think God loves you? God said, "*Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.*" I can understand why God hates Esau; but why God loves Jacob is a mystery. And, I'll be honest with you readers — because I am always honest with you — I don't see any good reason for God to love Andrew C. Hunt. Now, I'm sure you know of several very good reasons God loves *YOU*, and God probably couldn't run this universe without you; and the earth probably isn't even complete without your wisdom; which shall surely die with you. I get it; but, I don't see any good reason for God to love me.

This Psalm is a duplication of second Samuel chapter twenty-two; and when our safari traveled through second Samuel, I bi-passed that chapter *almost* completely; but I promised you readers that when we got to this Psalm, we would deal with it in depth. Frankly, this is another section of Scripture that we could easily become completely bogged-down in, and compose ten thousand reports on, if not more. The bold poetic figures in this Psalm have a depth that I'm not capable of fully descending to. So, let's read this carefully before proceeding. Pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment from the Holy Spirit before we move along....

2 The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

3 I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

4 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.

5 The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me.

6 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.

7 Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth.

8 There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it.

9 He bowed the heavens also, and came down: and darkness was under his feet.

10 And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind.

11 He made darkness his secret place; his pavilion round about him were dark waters and thick clouds of the skies.

12 At the brightness that was before him his thick clouds passed, hail stones and coals of fire.

13 The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hail stones and coals of fire.

14 Yea, he sent out his arrows, and scattered them; and he shot out lightnings, and discomfited them.

15 Then the channels of waters were seen, and the foundations of the world were discovered at thy rebuke, O LORD, at the blast of the breath of thy nostrils.

16 He sent from above, he took me, he drew me out of many waters.

17 He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me: for they were too strong for me.

18 They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the LORD was my stay.

19 He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

20 The LORD rewarded me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands hath he recompensed me.

21 For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God.

22 For all his judgments were before me, and I did not put away his statutes from me.

23 I was also upright before him, and I kept myself from mine iniquity.

24 Therefore hath the LORD recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his eyesight.

25 With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful; with an upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright;

26 With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself froward.

27 For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down high looks.

28 For thou wilt light my candle: the LORD my God will enlighten my darkness.

29 For by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall.

30 As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him.

31 For who is God save the LORD? or who is a rock save our God?

32 It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect.

33 He maketh my feet like hinds' feet, and setteth me upon my high places.

34 He teacheth my hands to war, so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms.

35 Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great.

36 Thou hast enlarged my steps under me, that my feet did not slip.

37 I have pursued mine enemies, and overtaken them: neither did I turn again till they were consumed.

38 I have wounded them that they were not able to rise: they are fallen under my feet.

39 For thou hast girded me with strength unto the battle: thou hast subdued under me those that rose up against me.

40 Thou hast also given me the necks of mine enemies; that I might destroy them that hate me.

41 They cried, but there was none to save them: even unto the LORD, but he answered them not.

42 Then did I beat them small as the dust before the wind: I did cast them out as the dirt in the streets.

43 Thou hast delivered me from the strivings of the people; and thou hast made me the head of the heathen: a people whom I have not known shall serve me.

44 As soon as they hear of me, they shall obey me: the strangers shall submit themselves unto me.

45 The strangers shall fade away, and be afraid out of their close places.

46 The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted.

47 It is God that avengeth me, and subdueth the people under me.

48 He delivereth me from mine enemies: yea, thou liftest me up above those that rise up against me: thou hast delivered me from the violent man.

49 Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name.

50 Great deliverance giveth he to his king; and sheweth mercy to his anointed, to David, and to his seed for evermore.

~ David says the Lord is *MY* Strength and the Lord is *MY* Rock and *MY* Deliverer – *MY* Fortress – *MY* Buckler and *MY* Salvation. That means God was David's Savior! This means the Lord is David's *power*. David says the Lord is *MY* High Tower; and that High Tower is the only place you're going to get a proper perspective of life. Many of us need to go up to that High Tower – and I don't mean some magazine, either – I'm talking about the Word of God. Those are all wonderful names, to be sure; but that personal pronoun "*my*" makes this incredibly interesting to me.

Is God *YOUR* strength? Is He really? Or are *YOU* really your own strength? It's great to talk about the attributes of God and say He is omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient; oh, my, how those are big words that make us sound dignified and learned, aren't they? David could have even said, "*... the Lord is OUR Shepherd,*" – but he didn't say that. The Lord is *MY* Shepherd, friends – believe that. I don't know if He is your Shepherd; but I know He is *MINE*. How different the two phrases really are. I used to watch a crowd of kids at my children's school at the end of the day. I was watching for my own children. The multitude of others who would come out didn't mean anything to me. But, then came along two who were altogether different – because they were mine. It makes all the difference in the world.

When you worship God, is He truly worthy to be praised by you? Do you *TRUTHFULLY* call upon Him? Do you ever go to church to worship God? I know there are many problems in the modern day church, but maybe the real problem is *YOU*? Worship is only extended to the One Who is worthy; and if you don't find Him worthy to be praised with a group of like-minded

individuals, then you aren't apt to attend church — and, I have some bad news for you: you may not be saved. In fact, if that is all true, then I doubt you are saved. God is worthy of my praise. The other people in my church aren't worthy to be praised — and neither am I — only *MY* Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, is worthy. That's why I go where they worship Him. That's the place I go with the Word of God, and reach out to touch the hem of His garment. How about you? We're examining the life of the Lord Jesus Christ now through David's life. That's what Scriptural prophecy is, my beloved.

We *ALL* need this vital relationship with the Lord Jesus today. We desperately need to come to grips with learning the Word of God and what it really means for our lives. Christ took *ME* and delivered *ME* from the many waters. Christ delivered *ME* from *MY* strong enemy. Christ delivered *ME* from the violent man. Those enemies are Satan, by the way! Do you need help today? I do. Christ will never leave you nor forsake you — you can trust and obey Him with confidence. Christ is with you until the end. You may desert me, but God never will. That's the reason I depend on Him — and not on you, my friends. I put no confidence whatsoever in men — nor in myself. When you finally put your complete trust in Christ, there will be proper praise in your mouth for Him ~

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