

Seeing Thou Hatest Instruction

Psalms Forty-Nine and Fifty

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~ Many people play the lottery in America; hoping that a minuscule investment will yield enough money to last them the remainder of their natural lives. It's a mindset that blatantly exposes man's profoundly carnal attitude towards obtaining wealth and material gain – and the same applies to fame. Now, I'll be honest, because I always am honest with you readers, I have purchased lottery tickets; and my reasoning was that, if the Lord desired to bless me, then I wanted to give Him every opportunity in the world to do so. Well, this report from our Spiritual Safari is going to bring some sobering words for that philosophy; irrespective of our current monetary net worth. And, for the rich man, they're going to receive instruction regarding the use of money, in general; money that you have been given by the Lord, I might add. If you have found my last several reports offensive, and harshly worded, then my best advice is to stop reading right here and move on; because you are not going to appreciate this report.

Psalms forty-nine concludes a cluster of Psalms that began in Psalm forty-two; when we began examining the Exodus section of this Book of Psalms. These are eight Psalms that belong together. They constitute vindication of the righteous man by God from the wicked, as well as comfort, protection and provision from this present wicked world. These Psalms reveal how the Lord leads His people — the nation Israel — who are out of the Promised Land during the Great Tribulation period; and how He intends to bring them back, and keep them, as they face the worst time of trouble they have ever experienced since the days they left the hardships of Egyptian slavery in the book of Exodus. I trust these reports are a *tremendous* blessing to all of you who actually take the time and effort to read them.

Psalms forty-nine is a profoundly wonderful Psalm. I know I say that about every Psalm we have considered – because they are! Here, however, we have a Psalm designed to contrast the ways of the wicked and the

righteous. We're not going to philosophize the inherent uncertainty of riches, or the shortness of life, or any of that sort of thing. This isn't going to be some small-minded dissertation that bids us bear-up bravely through our perils and sufferings by advising virtue is its own reward, and that we'll triumph at the end. No, my friends, that's not the thought here in any way, shape or form. We're going to see the stark reality of the vanity of riches and the ugly end of those who boast themselves in said riches. I'm sure my interpretation of this Psalm will sound revolutionary, according to most people's modern thinking. However, there are some things that need to be said in this dreadfully dark and dreary hour in which we find ourselves living and, apparently, God thinks I am just the man to say them....

XLIX ~ (To the chief Musician, A Psalm for the sons of Korah)

1 Hear this, all ye people; give ear, all ye inhabitants of the age:

2 Both low and high, rich and poor, alike.

3 My mouth shall speak wisdom; and the meditation of my heart is instruction and understanding.

4 I will incline mine ear to a parable: I will open my riddle upon the harp.

~ Most people know the harp Andrew C. Hunt plays on has but one string! That single note is called *BIBLE STUDY*. It's one note that encompasses every tonic, dominant and subdominant melody and sound under the sun – and some sounds that have never been heard before, too! God is instructing you to hear today, friends. When we undertook Deuteronomy in this Spiritual Safari, we saw how God, when He was ready to place His people – the nation Israel - in the land, called Heaven and earth to witness to what He was doing. We also carefully considered the conditions on which they entered, and remained in, the Promised Land. That was also given in the form of a song. Deuteronomy chapter thirty-two says, “.... *give ear, oh, ye Heavens and I will speak; and hear, Oh, earth, the words of My mouth.*”

Then, we move down in history approximately eight hundred years from that time in Deuteronomy, and we see God is going to put them out of the land! That's where Isaiah comes in, and says that God said, "*.... I want Heaven and earth to hear what I am doing and that I am just and righteous for doing this thing.*" Then, the northern kingdom of Israel was taken into Syrian captivity, and the southern kingdom of Judah went into Babylonian captivity shortly thereafter. So, Y-O-U, my friends, are hereby called to hear something I am sure is troubling many of us right *now* as I type and as you read....

5 Wherefore should I fear in the days of evil, when the iniquity of my heels shall compass me about?

~ This question kicks off an interesting section of this Psalm; but are the sons of Korah asking the question? Or is this the question of a self-deceived, self-sufficient, and erroneously arrogant rich man? Perhaps this was a question asked by a righteous man suffering unjustly at the hands of the wicked? Let's just keep this real: there are many Godly and God-fearing men attempting to serve Him with every fiber of their lives, but are oppressed by the hypocrisy of ungodly rich men; and some of those rich men are as religious as the Pope in Rome!

I grew up a poor boy; and the only thing that has changed is that now I am a poor man. I have always viewed the rich suspiciously. I question their motives; particularly when they make a point of telling me about the so-called missionary efforts they support, but which said missionary efforts have absolutely no evidence of actually doing anything for the cause of Christ. That hurts, doesn't it? Well, we're going to get down to the nitty-gritty of this matter. My question is: why does God permit the wholly Biblically unlearned and utterly unproductive religious racketeer to get away with so much fraud and theft? And that's exactly what it is, too – theft. Fraud. When you support someone or something that does absolutely nothing, but don't support the man who is teaching sound doctrine from the entire Word of God to the entire world, then you are strong-arm robbing God. Don't like that talk? Take your complaint up with the Lord — not me.

Well, religious racketeers and self-proclaimed “prophets” run in a clique that makes God sick, friends. What you can count on is a soon coming time of sickness, disease, generally unwell health, family problems, and everything else that goes along with hoarding riches to your hurt. You may not lose the riches — but they’re going to lose you, soon enough. Quite frankly, I am not praying for your health or that your family problems are going to be solved. I am praying that God will choose you for salvation. I love you and I pray for you – but not like you may think or want me to.

If you are reading this report, but have never prayed about how the Lord might want you to support His work – the Lord is going to avenge me of you. I *NEVER* ask people to support this missionary ministry, but I do expect you to pray for and about it. Now, those of you who are just curiosity seekers who stumbled across our safari: I know the Lord will avenge me of you, too; because God says He is going to. Many patronize me; but they’re really chasing a hidden agenda. If you have actually read this far, you are likely one in my circle of readers who wonder why God is not doing anything about these types of problems but, rather, seems to be permitting the religious racketeer to get by with so much today. So, for that answer, continue reading....

6 They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches;

7 None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him:

8 (For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever)

9 That he should still live for ever, and not see corruption.

~ Money cannot buy salvation. Most people say they know that, but they *don’t* know it. We go to the same counter, and we pay the same prices for salvation, friends – *NOTHING*. Salvation is to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him Who justifies the ungodly; his faith is counted for righteousness. Riches can deceive us and exclude us from redemption; because it fools many into thinking they can buy it. Doing something or

giving something just isn't part of our salvation equation. Verse eight means we don't have enough money to buy salvation. I am almost sure this Psalm is the basis on which Jesus gave the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, who died at the rich man's front gate. There's a spiritual perspective that many cannot receive – and that's unfortunate....

10 For he seeth that wise men die, likewise the fool and the stupid person perish, and leave their wealth to others.

~ It doesn't matter who you are or what you have, you're going to leave it behind someday. You can take everything you have and place it in a safety deposit box, in the deepest vault in the earth, or the strongest safe money can buy, and you can say, "... *this is all mine, and nobody can take it away from me.*" And that may be true, but, there is Someone Who can take you away from it; and He is going to do just that someday. One day soon, death will knock on the bedroom door and, when that happens, you're going to be just as poor as I am today. There are no pockets in a burial shroud, my friends. A very rich man died recently, and the poorer members of the family waited for the lawyer to come out of the hospital room. When the lawyer finally came out, they asked him, "... *how much did he leave?*" The lawyer replied, "... *he left it all!*"

Further, money won't extend life five seconds; and hard secular work won't mean anything to God in Heaven. Whatever we have that we do not give to Christian work, or whatever we leave behind that is not *for* Christian work, is going to be counted as loss — to our hurt. Don't think so? Try it. If you aren't somehow supporting the Word of God going out to the entire world, you are supporting the devil. I don't care what mission you give to – if they are not *actively* producing evidence of sound doctrine being taught from the Scriptures, I have one word for you: Satanic. How important that is to realize! There are a whole bunch of so-called missionary's that couldn't produce one shred of tangible evidence that they work for the Lord. I cannot overstate or overly stress how critical this is; because some will be in the presence of the Lord *much* sooner than you would like to think you will be....

11 Their inward thought is, that their houses shall continue for ever, and their dwelling places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names.

12 Nevertheless man being in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish.

13 This their way is their folly: yet their posterity approve their sayings. Selah.

~ I find it laughable how men attempt to perpetuate their names by having a building, or a library, or something like that, named after them. Some men have their names on buildings all over the world. We might or might not say that particular individual was generous; but, either way, it's cheap – and one day that building is coming down, too. Maybe you can pay enough to have your name engraved in the marble of Carnegie Hall – but it won't perpetuate your name. Most people will still never know who in the world you were. Once you go down into the grave, your name will be about as remembered as the dirt around you; *UNLESS* you have actually done something to perpetuate the work of the Lord....

14 Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling.

~ Here is one extremely interesting expression in verse fourteen. It literally means that death is their shepherd. David said, "... *the Lord is my Shepherd.*" Christ is life, of course. He that hath the Son hath life. The false shepherd is Satan, and he *is* death; and he will feed on those who trust in riches. A true Shepherd feeds the sheep, but the devil eats his sheep. Those who trust in riches spend literal fortunes in beauty parlors; and they dress in the best clothes money can buy, and bathe in every lotion, powder, and crème under the sun. Well, take a look in their grave about a year after they die, and it won't be a pretty sight. Death is not a beautiful thing. We do well to think over this matter that only the truth of God can redeem our soul from....

15 But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah.

16 Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased;

17 For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him.

18 Though while he lived he blessed his soul: and men will praise thee, when thou doest well to thyself.

19 He shall go to the generation of his fathers; they shall never see light.

20 Man that is in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish.

~ Unbelievers incessantly theorize about evolution. Generally, it is the rich man who adopts one of the myriad evolutionary philosophies. They're searching for an excuse to live like an animal. Well, the Bible teaches the opposite; because God says He created man upright and in His image. Man has fallen, and man is capable of living far from God — like animals. Man is *NOT* evolving, though; man is *de-volving*! To say man goes onward and upward is an idiot's dream. Downward progression is the natural development of anything in this life. Everything we see around us in the world totally and completely contradicts evolution. *NOTHING* goes up naturally; gravitation of all things, both physical and spiritual, pulls everything to the bottom. We also have a natural moral gravitation — that towards immorality.

So, the rich will mock the poor; but don't let that disturb you. I don't let them disturb me — and those who mock me are everywhere; some even deign say they are my friends who care about me. They always tell me I should stop teaching the Bible and get a secular job to support my family — or support them! They have *NO IDEA* what they are saying, my friends. I know the rich man seems to get away with all manner of deceitful tricks and treachery imaginable. The super-rich get elected to public office; and

they have great financial supporters that *LOVE – LOVE – LOVE* to perpetuate their false theories – but don't let them discourage you.

The poor man does not get a fair deal in this world. That's the way it is, and that's the way it is going to be. The world is not prepared to render a just verdict to the Godly poor. Let's not beat around the bush: the world *HATES* the Godly poor man who is actually making a difference for the Lord Jesus Christ; and they would just as soon that man not even be given dirt to eat! See, one of the main reasons I have cast my lot with the Lord Jesus is because the Word of God tells me that, one day, He is going to judge the poor in righteousness. I'm going to get a fair deal at that time; and those who have robbed God and oppressed me are going to have the fact that I will be ruling and reigning with Christ to look forward to. Oh, how I love this Psalm....

℟ ~ (A Psalm of Asaph)

1 The mighty God, even the LORD, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof.

2 Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined.

3 Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him.

4 He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people.

5 Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice.

6 And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God is judge himself. Selah.

7 Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, and I will testify against thee: I am God, even thy God.

8 I will not reprove thee for thy sacrifices or thy burnt offerings, to have been continually before me.

9 I will take no bullock out of thy house, nor he goats out of thy folds.

10 For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.

11 I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine.

12 If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof.

13 Will I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats?

14 Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High:

15 And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

16 But unto the wicked God saith, What hast thou to do to declare my statutes, or that thou shouldest take my covenant in thy mouth?

17 Seeing thou hatest instruction, and castest my words behind thee.

18 When thou sawest a thief, then thou consentedst with him, and hast been partaker with adulterers.

19 Thou givest thy mouth to evil, and thy tongue frameth deceit.

20 Thou sittest and speakest against thy brother; thou slanderest thine own mother's son.

21 These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes.

22 Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver.

23 Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God.

~ So, our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition through the desert of Psalms with Psalm fifty. That brings us exactly one third of the way through this book of the Bible. I realize this was a very harsh report, but someone needs to say the things that I am saying; and I just happen to be the one who doesn't mind saying them! My theology has led to pastors asking me to leave churches before – it could happen again, I suppose – I hope not. I truly love the church as a body, and I particularly love my present church; but we cannot look to the church for direction. We must look to the Word of God taught in sound doctrine.

Well, Asaph was one of the three great song leaders in the temple during the time in which we are studying; and David was blessed by him. Psalm fifty is a Psalm of judgment; as we see Christ coming in righteousness to judge His people. Of course, this is yet another great and wonderful – and *powerful* – Psalm! God Almighty is going to return to this earth and establish His Kingdom, friends. I have to tell you: I am anxiously working towards and anticipating that day. We shall see the Lord Jesus Christ someday. What a glorious prospect that is for the born again child of God.

Now, if you had been in Jerusalem at the time in which we are studying, you would have likely had some very real questions for the Lord. The people were coming to the temple, and bringing sacrifices, and praying, and they were as busy as termites serving all the time in temple work. Unfortunately, they were *very* far from God in their hearts! Those of you who do not seem to think your works are going to be judged are in for a rude awakening. I think that's all I have to say at this time in this report; perhaps you think I have said too much already? I don't think so. I could say a whole lot more; I'm just being nice. Continue with us, if you dare ~

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