

Psalm 4

Theme: “Hear me oh God.” This petition is the first thing communicated, then repeated.

Authorship: A Psalm of David to be accompanied on “Neginoth” (to strike) - a stringed instrument. This is the first mention of the “Chief Musician.”

Background: This Psalm is connected to Psalm 3, when David fled from Absalom. Psalm 3 was a morning psalm, this is an evening psalm.

V: 1 **1st petition:** Hear me 2 X's: David's plea is to be heard, to know that he is not forsaken and alone.

- David refers to the Lord as “*the God of my righteousness*” - God is his righteousness, he / we have no other righteousness.

Isaiah 64:6 “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”

Romans 7:18 “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.”

- When was David enlarged? When he was in distress. Sometimes our greatest times of spiritual growth / enlargement is during times of trial and difficulty.

James 1:2-4 “²My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. ⁴But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”

- God you have helped me in the past when I was in trouble; we have history.
- God you have been faithful in the past, don't fail me now!

1 Corinthians 1:9 “God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Revelation 19:11 “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war.”

- Be merciful to me and hear my prayer.

- It is an act of mercy that God hears our prayers! We don't deserve, we're not qualified to have an audience with God - He is holy and righteous and we're lowly sinners.
- We know that like David when we have a relationship with God, He does in fact hear our prayers.

Psalm 34:15, 17 ¹⁵"The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry." - ¹⁷"The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles."

V: 2 David cries out to God in verse 1, in verses 2-5 God answers. As with many of the Psalms, the Psalmist make his declarations then God responds.

- How long will we turn God's glory into shame? How long will you love foolishness and pursue after sin? Kind of like "I'm waiting for you..."

1 John 2:15-17 ¹⁵"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

- Perhaps the honest answer should be something like - "Lord, don't hold your breath..." Paul described back then, the world we live in today.

Romans 1:18-23 ¹⁸"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all un-godliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in un-righteousness; ¹⁹Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. ²⁰For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse. ²¹Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²²Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, ²³and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four footed beasts, and creeping things."

- David is pleading with God to be heard; and it seems that God is pleading with man for the same thing - hear me!
- God knows what will happen to men if they don't hear Him, and He doesn't want that to happen.

2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is.... not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

V: 3 God knows the difference and makes a distinction between the Godly and the ungodly. The Godly belong to the Lord.

Psalm 1:6 “For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.”

- David is confidently saying that since he belongs to the Lord, the Lord will hear him. Which is true.
- Previously we referred to a couple of scriptures that bear this out - that His ears are open to the cry of the righteous.
- In the same sense His ears are closed to those who are in rebellion to Him.

Isaiah 59:1-2 “¹Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear: ²But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that He will not hear.”

Romans 8:7-8 “⁷Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. ⁸So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”

V: 4 Stand in awe! Realize or recognize who you stand before - which should compel us not to sin.

- When you’re laying there in bed just thinking and considering - consider these things!

Isaiah 1:18 “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

V: 5 After you’ve thought this through - here’s the conclusion you should come to:

- This is offered in contrast to what Absalom had been doing.

2 Samuel 15:12 “And Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David’s counsellor, from his city, even from Giloh, while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong; for the people increased continually with Absalom.”

- Absalom offered insincere sacrifices mostly for a show or false pretense for the masses.
- Offer genuine sacrifices, sacrifices of righteousness and put your hope in God.

Psalm 116:12-17 “¹²What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me? ¹³I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. ¹⁴I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all His people. ¹⁵Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints. ¹⁶O Lord, truly I am thy servant; I am thy servant, and the son of thine handmaid: thou hast loosed my bonds. ¹⁷I will offer to thee the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord.”

- Absalom was trusting his leadership, his army his clever strategy, and his popularity with the people, but he wasn't trusting the Lord; his plans were destined to fail.

V: 6 These are the words of a cynic; those who are disappointed about the past and see no real hope for the future.

Psalm 119:114 “Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.”

- Lord; let your light and your countenance shine upon us!

Numbers 6:24-26 “²⁴The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: ²⁵The Lord make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee. ²⁶The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.”

V: 7 God is the giver of true hope, God is the one who makes us joyful and gives gladness of heart - more than worldly things.

Isaiah 61:3 “To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified.”

V: 8 I can lay down and rest, be at peace because the Lord is my God.

Deuteronomy 33:12 “... The beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by Him; and the Lord shall cover him all the day long, and he shall dwell between His shoulders.”

Psalm 23:5 “Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.”

Matthew 11: 28-30 “²⁸Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. ³⁰For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.”