

Psalm 11

- A Psalm of David. This is thought to have been written either when David was fleeing from Saul, or perhaps when he was fleeing from his son Absalom during his rebellion and attempt to take over the kingdom.

V: 1 David declares that he's put his trust in the Lord; when we do that it should dictate our actions and responses to things, this is perhaps the decision that David is facing, the conflict in his heart. Do I stand my ground? Or do I move?

- He's questioning the counsel of those who would tell him to flee, as though he were being hunted like a bird by the huntsman.

Psalm 27:1 "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?"

- It comes down to "Lord are you telling me to stay or to go?"

V: 2 David relates to what he is seeing, or to what he's being told: the enemy is preparing to strike, they've notched their arrow, their bending their bow - that arrow could be released at any moment.

- They are privily, secretly, from within the darkness trying to kill the upright.

David expressed a similar thought in another Psalm:

Psalm 64:3-4 "3Who whet their tongue like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words: 4That they may shoot in secret at the perfect: suddenly do they shoot at him, and fear not."

V: 3 If the foundational things are destroyed, then there won't be anything we can do!

- The most basic foundation is truth, like in a nation's justice system. Or the foundations upon which our faith is based, like the Word of God itself, without it there is no basis for our existence.

V: 4 Bad things are happening, the whole world is crashing down around us - but God is still on His throne in Heaven, He still reigns. God see's all the things that are taking place.

- His eyelids judge or try the children of men; He see's right through us, our actions, our motives. He knows all things, He is omniscient.

Proverbs 15:3 "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."

Psalm 147:5 “Great is our Lord, and of great power: His understanding is infinite.”

V: 5-6 “The Lord trieth the righteous:...”

- Trieth: (H974) Bahan; to examine, to try, to prove, as in a test.
- There is that distinction, the Lord tests and proves the righteous, but the wicked, those that love violence, God hates and will deal violently with them, they love violence He'll give them plenty of it.

Romans 12:19 “Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”

V: 7 The righteous Lord loves righteousness, imagine that! It's all part of His character, it's who He is, He is righteous.

Psalm 89:14 “Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.”

- If we love Him, then we too love righteousness and hate evil.

Proverbs 8:13 “The fear of the Lord is to hate evil:...”

2 Corinthians 5:21 “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

- One of the reasons that God loves us is that because of Jesus, we remind Him of Himself! (Happy thought!)

Psalm 12

- This Psalm seems to have been written at about the same time as Psalm 11.

V: 1 Help Lord, it doesn't seem like there are any Godly people left!

[Isaiah laments the same thing:](#)

Isaiah 57:1 “The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away, none considering that the righteous is taken away from the evil to come.”

- Have you ever felt like a diminishing minority? A vanishing breed?

[Elijah sure did:](#)

1 Kings 19:14 “And he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.”

V: 2-4 Speaking of the wicked, they speak foolishness, flattering lips - trying to manipulate - all with a double heart, double purpose, double talk.

- Saying one thing meaning, intending another - a lie.
- A divided heart is always problematic:

James 1:8 “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

David later prays:

Psalm 86:11 “Teach me thy way, O Lord; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.”

- Take my divided heart and unite it to worship you!

“*³The Lord will cut off the flattering lips, and the tongue that speaks proud things!*” God will judge, God will deal with these things harshly.

- Speaking of the wicked who have said: we will prevail, we can talk our way out of it - no body can control me!

V: 5 The Lord responds; there are many times when David is praying, crying out - and in the midst of that God’s response is recorded.

“... *I will arise, saith the Lord;...*”

- God will protect his children and deal with these blow hards! Those that “puffeth” or threaten.

Revelation 12:10-11 “¹⁰And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. ¹¹And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.”

V: 6 The comparison, the contrast: God’s Word’s are pure, holy, like purified silver.

Psalm 19:7-8 “⁷The Law of the Lord is perfect....” - “⁸... the Commandment of the Lord is pure...”

V: 7 “*Thou shalt keep them...*” I think this can be taken two ways.

- Thou shalt keep them, meaning the righteous, the faithful, those in need, the oppressed.
- Thou shalt keep them, meaning the last thing spoken of which was the “⁶*words of the Lord...*” it could be referring to the fact that God will indeed keep His Word, He always does!

Psalm 138:2 “*I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.*”

- I think we’re good to go on both counts!

V: 8 When vile men are exalted, then the wicked take over.

Proverbs 29:16 “*When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth: but the righteous shall see their fall.*”

- People boast about things they ought to be ashamed of: (Iran nuclear deal)

Philippians 3:18-19 “¹⁸*For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.*”

- No matter what wicked men do or say; they will fade away, but the Word of God will stand.

Isaiah 40:8 “*The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.*”

Psalm 13

- This is a Psalm that we can all relate to, probably written while fleeing from Saul.

David confessed during that time:

1 Samuel 20:3 “... *there is but a step between me and death.*”

V: 1-2 How long Lord! (4X's) What is taking so long? Where are you?

- We’ve all been in that desperate place of crying out to God and wondering if He’s hearing us.

Psalm 34:15 “The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.”

V: 3-4 “*Consider and hear me...*” We know as the previous reference states, he does!

Psalm 34:17 “The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.”

“*O Lord my God...*” David is identifying with his God, claiming his God, proclaiming his God - the Lord is still his God, even in the midst of all his troubles.

- Lighten, or enlighten my eyes, open my eyes to see your help lest I die!
- Don't let the enemy have a victory! For your own reputation's sake...

V: 5-6 Statement of faith in the face of adversity: I have trusted in your mercy - I rejoice in thy salvation - you've already saved me!

- Because of that / response: I will sing praises unto the Lord because He hath dealt bountifully with me! As He has with all of us!
- This Psalm begins with a desperate prayer, a desperate plea - but it ends with rejoicing.
- The power of prayer demonstrated, how prayer can change our whole attitude about our situation and about God.

Isaiah 26:3 “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed upon thee: because he trusteth in thee.”

- You've no doubt heard how “prayer changes things” - well it does, but it doesn't change God, it changes us, our attitude, our understanding, our perspectives. We come to a greater understanding and appreciation of God, we see Him in the right perspective, that God truly is bigger than any of our problems.

Psalm 14

V: 1 The fool has said in his heart there is no God; which is indeed a foolish thought.

- In the original text the words “there is” isn't there, in my Bible it's in italics to indicate that it's not part of the original text - so it would read:

“The fool hath said in his heart, no God.”

- That's the real issue. The person who claims to be an atheist or an agnostic doesn't do that because of some intellectual struggle, it's rebellion pure and simple - not wanting God to rule over him.
- They develop foolish theories to rid themselves of their accountability to God.

Romans 1:22–25 describes those who profess themselves to be wise who have suppressed the truth, meaning they know the truth, but have willingly exchanged it for a lie.

- There are three words in the Hebrew language for fool:
 1. Kesyl: The dull, stupid, fool.
 2. Ewiy: The unreasonable and perverted fool.
 3. Nabal: The brutish person who is like a stubborn animal.
- Fool (H5036) **nābāl**: An arrogant bore, dense morally, intellectually, and spiritually. As an adjective or noun, it means foolish, a fool.
- David is saying that is the kind of person that denies the existence of God.
- David might well have been thinking of someone in particular:

1 Samuel 25 describes the man and the events. David had long been on the run from Saul, but in the process had blessed and protected Nabal's shepherds and flocks. When the time for shearing came, like the time of harvest David sent some of his men to receive from Nabal some food and sustenance, but Nabal refused and insulted David in the process. He is described as both "**churlish**" and the "**son of Belial**"

- To be churlish is to be rude in a mean spirited and surly way; the son of Belial is like saying he's the son of the Devil.
- Nabal fools are self-righteous and don't need or want God, they want to live their lives on their own terms, no accountability to anyone or anything.
- People that take the stand that there is no God have to face certain inevitable conclusions in their lives. If there is no God, then there is no real or objective standard for good and evil, right and wrong, everything becomes relative. They determine for themselves what is right and wrong, they become their own god, and as such they eventually find out that they can't even help themselves.
- They become corrupt and eventually die only to discover the truth in eternity.

V: 2-4 Paul captures the same sentiment:

Romans 3:10 "As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one."

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”

V: 5-7 David is looking for the Redeemer of Israel. Dual fulfillment, near term vs: long term. The nation is suffering under Saul's leadership. Also speaking prophetically of the future redemption of the nation, describing that things will go from bad to very good.

- Speaking prophetically of the redemption of mankind.
- Sadly those who reject Jesus Christ will spend eternity apart from the Lord and will honestly be able to say in hell, “There is no God, here!” Eternally separated.

Psalm 15

- Psalm 14 informs us that there are two groups of people: the workers of iniquity and the generation of the righteous.
- The first group forsook the law, but the latter group was a believing remnant that kept the faith, the church today is part of that generation of the righteous.
- Psalm 15 describes this second group of people, the believing remnant, the righteous.

V: 1 Who will abide in the Tabernacle of the Lord? Who will dwell in His Holy hill? Who will live forever with the Lord? Who gets to go to heaven?

V: 2-5 The answer: 11 attributes or behaviours listed.

David's desire was to be with the Lord:

Psalm 27:4 “One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.”

- Psalm 15 is not a prescription for being saved, it's a description of how saved people live if they want to please God.

V: 2 Do you want to abide in His Tabernacle? Do you want to dwell in His Holy Hill?

- Then we need to walk uprightly, to do righteousness, and to speak truth in our hearts.

Psalm 51:6 “Behold, thou desireth truth in the inward parts...”

V: 3-4 He that isn't a gossip or a murmurer, a backbiter, he that treats his neighbors well, doesn't do evil to them, who doesn't take up or receive a reproach concerning his neighbor (gossiping) that's the man who will abide in the Lord's presence.

- The man who recognizes the difference between good and evil, and values righteousness and those that fear the Lord, the man that keeps his Word, even to his own hurt.

V: 5 The man that doesn't take advantage of the needy by charging them interest, who doesn't take bribes against the innocent.

- The man that does these things shall never be moved.

Psalm 119:165 “Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.”

- David just boiled all of the 613 Old Testament laws down to 11 basic things.

Isaiah boils it down to 6 things:

Isaiah 13:15-16a “¹⁵He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil. ¹⁶He shall dwell on high:...”

Micah takes it a little lower, 3 things:

Micah 6:8 “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.”

Jesus gets it down to two:

Matthew 22:37, 39-40 “³⁷... thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.” - “³⁹And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

“^{5b}... *He that doeth these things shall never be moved.*”

1 John 2:17 “... but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

- AKA won't be moved.