

PSALM 21

To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.

THE king shall joy in thy strength, O LORD; and in thy salvation how greatly shall he rejoice!

2 Thou hast given him his heart's desire, and hast not withholden the request of his lips. Selah.

3 For thou preventest him with the blessings of goodness: thou settest a crown of pure gold on his head.

4 He asked life of thee, *and* thou gavest *it* him, *even* length of days for ever and ever.

5 His glory *is* great in thy salvation: honour and majesty hast thou laid upon him.

6 For thou hast made him most blessed for ever: thou hast made him exceeding glad with thy countenance.

7. For the king trusteth in the LORD, and through the mercy of the most High he shall not be moved.

8 Thine hand shall find out all thine enemies: thy right hand shall find out those that hate thee.

9 Thou shalt make them as a fiery oven in the time of thine anger: the LORD shall swallow them up in his wrath, and the fire shall devour them.

10 Their fruit shalt thou destroy from the earth, and their seed from among the children of men.

11 For they intended evil against thee: they imagined a mischievous device, *which* they are not able *to perform*.

12 Therefore shalt thou make them turn their back, *when* thou shalt make ready *thine arrows* upon thy strings against the face of them.

13 Be thou exalted, LORD, in thine own strength: *so* will we sing and praise thy power.

PSALM 22

To the chief Musician upon Aijeleth Shahar,
A Psalm of David.

MY God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? *why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?*

2 O my God, I cry in the day-time, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not

silent.

3 But thou *art* holy, *O thou* that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

4 Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them.

5 They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded.

6 But I *am* a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.

7 All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, *saying*,

8 He trusted on the LORD *that* he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.

9 But thou *art* he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope *when I was* upon my mother's breasts.

10 I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou *art* my God from my mother's belly.

11. Be not far from me; for trouble *is* near; for *there is* none to help.

12 Many bulls have compassed me: strong *bulls* of Bashan have beset me round.

13 They gaped upon me *with* their mouths, *as* a ravening and a roaring lion.

14 I am poured out like water,

and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels.

15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.

16 For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.

17 I may tell all my bones: they look *and* stare upon me.

18 They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.

19 But be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thee to help me.

20 Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog.

21 Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns.

22. I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.

23 Ye that fear the LORD, praise him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; and fear him, all ye the seed of Israel.

24 For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflict-

ed; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard.

25 My praise *shall be* of thee in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before them that fear him.

26 The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live for ever.

27 All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.

28 For the kingdom *is* the LORD'S: and he *is* the governor among the nations.

29 All *they that be* fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him: and none can keep alive his own soul.

30 A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation.

31 They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done *this*.

PSALM 23

A Psalm of David.

THE LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in

green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

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

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

PSALM 24

A Psalm of David.

THE earth *is* the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

2 For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

3. Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?

4 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

5 He shall receive the blessing

from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

6 This *is* the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah.

7. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

8 Who *is* this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

9 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift *them* up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

10 Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he *is* the King of glory. Selah.

PSALM 25

A Psalm of David.

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.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

After the battle referred to in Psalm 20, David now gives thanks to God for victory in that battle. Though the Psalm seems to refer to David, it also seems to have a Messianic hint in its reference to the eternal feature of the King's reign.

Psalm 22 seems like a cry of anguish from David. Though written a thousand years before the days of Jesus, it is so vivid a description of the crucifixion of Jesus that one would think the writer to have personally been present at the cross. This Psalm refers to Jesus' dying words (verse 1); the sneers from his enemies (verses 7 and 8); the piercing of His hands and feet (verse 16); and the parting of His garments (verse 18). Some of the statements are not even applicable to David; nor to any known event in history except the crucifixion of Jesus.

The "good" Shepherd of Psalm 22 becomes the "great" Shepherd of Psalm 23. This Psalm is the best-loved chapter in the Old Testament. Beecher said something like this: "This Psalm has flown like a bird up and down the earth, singing the sweetest song ever heard. It has charmed more griefs to rest than all the philosophies of the world. It will go on singing to your children, and to my children, and to their children, till the end of time. And when its work is done, it will fly back to the bosom of God, fold its wings, and sing on forever in the happy chorus of those it had helped to bring there."

The theme of Psalm 23 is "I shall not want." Because Jesus is the Great Shepherd, the Great High Priest, "I shall not want" for rest and refreshment, for restoration and righteousness, for protection in trouble, for provision in the wilderness, and for a home to go to at the end of the day.

The Great Shepherd is now revealed as the Chief Shepherd in Psalm 24; the King of glory appearing to acknowledge and reward His sheep; the return of the

King to Zion! This present earth is under the sway of sin and Satan, and though it is the Lord's by creation and redemption, it has not yet been delivered from bondage. But, thank God, one day Jesus will return to the earth to claim His inheritance! Then the earth will be filled with the glory of the Lord!

If Christ is your *Good Shepherd*, and you have received Him as your Saviour, then let Him be your *Great Shepherd* to guide and bless your life. Then, when He returns as the *Chief Shepherd*, you will be ready to meet Him.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife" (Proverbs 15:18).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 20: For today's memory verses, follow instructions on page 8.

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

FLAG DAY.

Today is Flag Day. Display a flag today in honor of your nation. Salute the flag and sing "America."

AMERICA

*My country, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing: Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrim's pride, From every mountain side
Let freedom ring!*

*My native country thee, Land of the noble free,
Thy name I love: I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills; My heart with rapture
thrills
Like that above.*

Let music swell the breeze, And ring from all the trees

*Sweet freedom's song: Let mortal tongues awake;
Let all that breathe partake; Let rocks their silence
break,
The sound prolong.*

*Our fathers' God, to Thee, Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing: Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light; Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King!*

On this date in 1777 the stars and stripes flag was adopted by the United States. The thirteen stripes represent the original thirteen colonies, and the fifty stars, of course, represent the fifty states of the union today. Pray today for your nation. Pray for its freedom. Pray for safety from aggression. Pray that we will be morally right in our relationships with other nations. Pray as you have never prayed before for your country.

**1910
THE BIRTHDAY OF EVANGELIST J. HAROLD
SMITH.**

J. Harold Smith, of the Radio Bible Hour and for-

mer pastor of the First Baptist Church, Fort Smith, Arkansas, for many years a well-known evangelist, gives as his favorite passage Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Oh, let's live by this verse—put Jesus first and trust Him for our clothing, our food, and our necessities. He promises it, does He not? He reminds us that He feeds the sparrows and that He clothes the lilies of the field. Can He not provide for us? Oh, yes, He can. With childlike faith, let us look to Him for these provisions.

**ON THIS DATE IN
AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY**

**1971
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FILED SUIT AGAINST
THE ST. LOUIS SUBURB OF BLACK JACK,
CHARGING THE COMMUNITY WITH ILLEGAL-
LY USING MUNICIPAL PROCEDURES TO
BLOCK AN INTEGRATED HOUSING DEVELOP-
MENT.**

The Story of the Psalms

PSALMS 50

AUTHOR: Asaph

Asaph was the choir leader of Israel during David's reign. He could be called David's song leader. He was a chief of the Levites. Song was a very important thing in the life of God's people. Song has a great place in the Bible. Ephesians 5:18 reminds us that we are to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and immediately singing follows. Heartfelt singing is always a part of any great revival and is a vital part in the life of the spiritual Christian or nation. When the Israelites crossed the Red Sea they sang a song. When God gave the victory to Deborah and Barak, it was followed by a song. The Psalms themselves were Israel's songbook. Our Lord Jesus sang a song after the last supper before going out to the mount of Olives. Practically every great event and every great victory in the Bible was accompanied by singing.

THE STORY BEHIND THE PSALM:

Asaph is reproving the wicked for their sinful lives and is pronouncing judgment on them. He also praises the righteous for their righteous lives and pronounces the ultimate victory for them. It appears that perhaps Asaph in Psalm 50 is carrying out the theme of Psalm 49 and assuring justice. In verses 1-7 of Psalm 50, he pronounces vindication upon evildoers. He will not see to that vindication, but he reminds us that God will.

THE WAY IT WAS USED BY GOD'S PEOPLE:

This Psalm was used after vindication. When God vindicated His people for a stand or for a position they would sing Psalm 50.

Treasure Path to Soul-Winning

MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:

DIFFICULT PROBLEMS SOLVED: "I MAY LOSE MY JOB AND POSITION"

(Assignment 20)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for the next seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see "The Treasure Path to Soul Winning," page xiii near the front of this book.)

() Mark 8:36

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

() Matthew 6:33

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

() Philippians 4:19

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

() Psalms 37:25

I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

() Psalms 84:11

For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.