

Bible Study ~ June 2022

**PSALMS: The Character of GOD**

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**GOD'S Character** is known by *Providence*, **GOD** seeing before...

*Providence* is **GOD'S** ability to see beforehand... **GOD** knows (**OMINSCIENCIENT**) and is able to see all that is going to happen and beforehand has determined how it will be used for **HIS purpose** and **Glory**.

(Romans 8: 28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love **GOD**, to them who are the called according to **HIS** purpose.")

Tonight, we begin Chapter 4 of our Book, Psalm 73-83 page 47-58; the title...

**"GOD Goodness Can Be Seen in HIS JUST-ice and Mercy"**

**Psalm 73** dealt with a "*personal crisis*," the Age-Old problem?

WHY do the *righteous* suffer while the *ungodly* seem to prosper?

**Psalm 74** deals with a "*national crisis*" focusing on the destruction of The Temple in Jerusalem... destroyed by the Babylonians in 587-86 B C. (Psalm 74 associates with Psalm 79)

Outline: \*74: 1-11, The Sanctuary: The LORD Has Rejected Us!

[Why did **GOD** permit a pagan nation to defeat the Jews and destroy their Holy City and sacred Temple, and why was **HE** doing nothing about it?]

\*74: 12-17, The LORD Reigns!

[Asaph lifts his eyes by faith from the burning ruins to **The Holy Throne of GOD** in the heavens and received a *new perspective* on the situation.]

\*74: 18-23, The Covenant: (Unconditional) The LORD Remembers Us!

[The nation had been ravaged, the City of Jerusalem had been wrecked, and The Temple had been destroyed and burned—BUT the essentials had not been touched by the enemy! The nation still had **JEHOVAH GOD** as their **GOD**, **HIS WORD** and **HIS Covenant** had not changed! **JEHOVAH** was at work in the *world* and not just their (our) *worries*!

Note also,

--*Afflictions*—when the enemies are working havoc

--*Apathy*—you feel **GOD** does not seem to *care*; **HE'S indifferent** and does not *help*.

--*You are Asking*— "How long?" (v. 10)

--*You Attest*—the times **GOD** delivered in the past.

--*Appeal*—for **GOD** to help.

**Psalm 75** deals with “The Promise of Judgment.” **GOD’S Judgment** against “boasting” by the Assyrian invaders during King Hezekiah reign in Jerusalem.

(This Psalm is also associated with Psalm 76, 77 and 78.)

Outline: Asaph says, “Let’s Go to the *Worship Service.*”

\*75: 1, Begin with an Invocation of Praise!

[The *Worship* centers on **The LORD** and not on us, our personal problems, or our “felt needs.” Though **GOD** want us to bring our burdens to **HIM** and seek **HIS** help, *Worship* begins with getting our eyes of *Faith* off the circumstances of life and focusing them on **The LORD GOD Almighty!**]

\*75: 2-5, Hear **The LORD’S Message!**

[If we expect to **The LORD** to *receive* our words of *praise*, we must pay attention to **HIS WORD of Truth** as it is *read* and *preached.*]

\*75: 6-8, Apply **GOD’S Message Personally!**

[How easy it is to hear **GOD’S Message**, leave the *Worship*, and then *forget* to obey what we heard! The Blessing doesn’t come in the hearing *only*, but in the doing of **GOD’S WORD** (James 1: 22-25).]

\*75: 9-10, Close *Worship* with *Praise* and The Fear of **The LORD!**

Note also,

--**GOD will** return to Judge (v. 2)

--**GOD will** Judge righteously

--**GOD will** judge the wicked

--**GOD will** demote evil and exalt good

--**GOD will** rain down wrath upon the wicked

Correlating **SCRIPTURES** to these Psalms are found in the Books of Jeremiah and Lamentations (Lamentations 2: 2-9 and Jeremiah 10: 25, 23: 1)

Point: Though knee deep in the worst situations imaginable, “Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The *unfailing love* of **The LORD** never ends! By **HIS mercies** we have been kept from complete destruction. Great is **HIS Faithfulness**; **HIS mercies** begin afresh each day.” (Lamentation 3: 21-23)

Jeremiah “*refocused*” on **The LORD’S ‘mercy,’ ‘COMpassion,’** and ‘*Faithfulness.*’

Nugget...

“Hope begins with a change of focus!”

Though surrounded by dark, oppressive, frightening situations, consider these Key Verses:

--Romans 15: 13 – **The GOD of Hope**

--2 Corinthians 1: 3 – **The FATHER of Mercies and GOD of all Comfort**

--Psalm 147: 5 – **GOD is Mighty and Wise Beyond Measure**

--2 Corinthians 4: 16-18 – **GOD through JESUS is LORD over Time and Eternity**

--Exodus 15: 26 and Mark 2: 17 – **GOD is The Great Healer and Physician**

--Luke 1: 37 – **With GOD nothing will be Impossible**

--Psalm 7: 1 and Psalm 20: 7 – **Trust GOD!**