

A Survey of the Psalms - 1

Psalm 10

Perceptions

Focus Verse: Psalm 150:6

Lesson Verse: **Ps 10:1**

I. Introduction to the Book of Psalms

- A. The Book of Psalms in the Old Testament is God's answer to the headaches and heartaches of life. Without it the Bible would not be complete - as a matter of fact, next to the Gospels, Psalms is probably the most read part of the Bible because of the reality and the promises found there!
- B. Psalms is David's search for answers to his struggles, and trials. David did not have the benefit of a New Testament, nor of knowing the Messiah, and the extant of God's promises coming true so perfectly every time. He did have enough of a track-record, that his faith was stronger than most of ours - if we would be honest.
- C. But David did have a time with "perceptions."
- D. Things didn't always "seem" to be under God's control.
- E. So he sets down and pens this Psalm.

II. Background

- A. Perceptions aren't always real - they "seem" very real, but can cause a person to arrive at totally false conclusions
- B. Christians are not immune to wrong perceptions - especially when it comes to God and His handling of life's situations
- C. David is having one of those days where he is getting overwhelmed by God's "silence" about certain issues both he and many others were facing.
- D. So David goes to prayer - and through his prayer, he works through his questions and obtains two fundamental answers to life's problems
 1. That God is silent *on purpose* - His purpose
 2. That God WILL make everything right - in His time

III. Message - Perceptions (Psalm 10)

A. The Silence of God (Ps 10:1-11)

1. David's Struggle With Silence.
 - a) Job asked "Why?" so many times in the Book of Job (Job 23:1-10), but in the end God told him there is no way to even try and explain His silence about some things. Job had to learn, as we all have to, to trust that God knows what He is doing, and that He is working things out right!
 - b) Jesus asked "Why?" in Matthew 27:46 - and God never answers!
 - c) Yet, we learn God never sleeps (Ps 121:1-4), nor is distant from a situation unless it is because we have driven Him away (1Thes 5:19; Rev 3:20) - THAT may be true!
 - d) God just has His reasons for being quiet sometimes (Isa 55:8) - not overpowering, but persistent and consistent.
 - 1) Yes it is frustrating - as it was for David
 - 2) But it seems to be to force us to mature - grow up
 - (a) Get us praying more
 - (b) Get us pondering more
 - (c) Get us persistent as believers - growing in faith, especially when there are no "miracles"
 - e) We do well to at least take note of when God is near, or far away and discover why so we can get back close again
 - f) So, Why does God become silent? Why God seems to allow injustices - not seeming to protect the poor and destitute?
 - 1) To let patience have her perfect work
 - 2) To let TROUBLES work on us
 - 3) To mature us - get us praying, pondering and persistent more as believers
 - 4) Because of sin in our lives
2. David's Struggle With the Enemy! The enemy seems to be able to get away with so many things!
 - a) Notice the enemy - the wicked (1Pet 5:8)
 - b) Not just the devil, but also literal, and physical enemies who hate you and are out to destroy you
 - c) David, like we all are, gets worried when God is silent (Ps 28:1; 83:1)

- 1) Like in wars - devastation and the ruining of a generation
 - 2) Like in homes - abuses, and ruined lives
 - 3) Like in societal problems
 - (a) Why is God silent about abortion?
 - (b) Why is God silent about homosexuality becoming more and more a protected lifestyle?
 - (c) Why are Christians the only minority group that are fair game in persecution?
 - 4) Let me tell you something - God expects us sometimes to sleep in the bed we have made for ourselves as a people. Quit griping, and start taking responsibility – it is not wrong to get into politics to make up for the silent voice of believers! But only after Christians make a priority of prayer
3. The Characteristics of the wicked
- a) Boasting - of all he is going to do (Hab 2:5; Lk 12:16-20)
 - 1) Full of pride
 - 2) Full of plans for persecuting God's people
 - b) Blessing the covetous (1Tim 6:1-7)
 - c) Ignoring God (10:4; Rom 1:21,28)
 - d) Grieving both God and everyone else around them (Cf Gen 6)
 - e) Thinking he is unstoppable (1Thes 5:3) - arrogance
 - f) Speaking vile things (10:7) – filthy mouths – you can tell a lot about a person by the words they say (God, Damn, Hell, Shite, etc)
 - g) Loving the darkness (10:8; Jn 3:18)
 - h) Living like a lion - just following their "father" (Jn 8:38,41,44)
 - 1) Luring people into traps
 - 2) Murdering
 - i) Imagining that God doesn't care - Deceiving themselves (10:11)
 - j) These are all characteristics of the antichrist
 - 1) No fear of God – no fear at all
 - 2) Delighted with all his power and authority (10:6; Isa 14:13) – bragging about it
 - 3) A liar (Jn 8:44)
 - 4) Constantly cursing, damning, hating God and everything good
 - k) AND, these are all the characteristics of our modern, wealthy, educated, advanced 21st century westerner!
4. Who is going to take care of such an enemy? We will see the answer in a few moments!
5. Let's go back and see how it all BEGAN (10:4)
- a) The wicked live a life that won't seek God
 - 1) They don't pray
 - 2) They don't ask God for wisdom
 - 3) They don't ask for help in decisions!
 - 4) They are not thankful to God (Rom 1:21)
 - 5) It is beneath them!
 - b) So look at the fruit of living without God...
 - 1) It is the list you just read
 - 2) You see, YOU thought only "wicked" people lived that way
 - 3) If you have no time for God, THAT is the direction you are heading! THAT'S what you will be like in a few years – guaranteed!
 - 4) The person who seeks God (Mt 6:33) does not do any of that – not for very long!
- B. The Promise of God** (Ps 10:12-18) – these are things you just have to trust!
1. That He sees it all - fully aware of it (Cf Ex 3:7; Prov 15:3) even though He allows 400 years to pass before doing something about it
 2. That He will *requite* it - avenge it - make it right (Rom 8:28)
 - a) He will judge those who are wicked
 - b) AND, thankfully, he will judge the antichrist – AMEN!
 3. That He does help the oppressed - has never left them "on their own" (Ps 37:25) even though it may SEEM like it
 4. That He WILL reign (Cf Isa 14)

5. That God WILL get rid of the oppressor (Cf Ex 14:13) – one day get rid of your worst enemy!
 - a) Out of HIS land – out of GOD’S land – Palestine
 - b) And out of your life – if you will let Him, and start wrestling, instead of giving in!

IV. Conclusion and Study Questions

- A. What are four main reasons why God goes silent?
 1. To let patience have her perfect work
 2. To let TROUBLES work on us
 3. To mature us - get us praying, pondering and persistent more as believers
 4. Because of sin in our lives
- B. When things are bad around us, it is EVER God’s fault?
 1. No
- C. How does a wicked life BEGIN?
 1. By not seeking God
- D. What should a Christian do when things are bad?
 1. Get busy getting right first!
 2. Believe that God is working all things out for Good
 3. Get busy serving the Lord anyway
 4. Get involved in making things back right again!