Clips from Psalms

Psalms 108:10-13

God praised and supplicated to give victory

"Who will bring me into the fortified city? Who has led me unto Edom? Have not you cast us off, O God? And you go not forth, O God, with our hosts. Give us help against the adversary; for vain is the help of man. Through God we shall do valiantly: for he is that will tread down our adversaries."

Floral Heights Church of Christ
1814 Buchanan, Wichita Falls, Texas 76309

14 September 2014
Volume 14; Issue 37

In This Issue:
Asaph .................... 1-2
Local News .............. 2
The Book of Psalms - Back Cover

Preacher
John Robertson

ASAPH

Asaph is the author of twelve Psalms (Psalms 50 and 73-83). It may be argued that not all twelve of these Psalms were written by the same Asaph. Some argue that the name Asaph was common and likely passed down from generation to generation making it impossible to determine who is who. Others argue that the dates of the twelve Psalms span too great a time to be from the pen of one man. It may be equally argued; however, that these twelve Psalms were written by the same man. Each Psalm bears the same name. The time frame of the considered Psalms can in no way be determined with exactness. This article shall approach the character of Asaph from the view that one man wrote all twelve of the Psalms that bear his name in the superscriptions.

Asaph was a man of many hats in society. The scriptures tell us that he was a Levite (1 Chronicles 6:39), prophet (Matthew 13:35), poet (2 Chronicles 29:30 and Nehemiah 12:46) and musician (Nehemiah 12:46). Asaph lived during the days of King David and was very trusted. Nehemiah writes, "46 for in the days of David and Asaph of old there was a chief of the singers, and songs of praise and thanksgiving unto God" (Nehemiah 12:46). David appointed Asaph, along with Heman and Ethan, to preside over the singing and music during worship (1 Chronicles 15:16-19). Asaph’s sons all followed in their father’s footsteps as musicians in the worship of God (1 Chronicles 25:1-2 and 2 Chronicles 20:14). The sons of Korah and the sons of Asaph and Jeduth were Levites whose official duty was to sing songs of praise to God (see 2 Chronicles 5:12 and Nehemiah 7:44).

We get to know Asaph by studying his twelve Psalms. There are a few obvious characteristics of Asaph that are brought out in his writing. First, Asaph was a man that paid careful attention to his surroundings. Asaph was very concerned about the spiritual welfare of not only his own person but others too. Asaph exposed insincere worship by his fellow Jews at Psalms 50. The prophet took note of the people’s mishandling of God’s laws at Psalms 82.
Local News
Welcome to all Our Visitors. It is our prayer that you will be edified by our worship service today. If you have any questions regarding what we teach or practice please be our friend and talk with us.

Wanda Cox was admitted to United Regional Hospital last Wednesday and as of the time of this writing she remains in room 518. Wanda received an encouraging report that her arthritis meds were the cause of a lot of her recent troubles. This is the last Sunday for Paul J. and Sara McBroom. They are moving to Pennsylvania Monday. Please do keep them in your prayers.

Stella Davidson remains under home hospice care and continues to do well even though she is confined to a wheel chair. Stella is now living with her daughter.

Rather than using God's laws to be the standard book to make their judgments they showed partiality to the rich and masters of their society. Asaph took note and wrote about the worldliness of riches at chapter 73. The prophet argued that God's people, if not careful, may come to be envious of the rich to the point of giving up their spiritual pursuits to attain the wealth of this world.

Asaph also took note of his fellow man's suffering for their sins. Israel was God's "treasured people" yet they were not without chastisement for their errors (Psalms 83:3). Psalms 74, 78, 79 and 80 examine Israel's days of great distress at the hands of enemies due to their sins. Asaph calls for man's conviction and faith to be better developed by looking into the errors of their forefathers at Psalms 78. The prophet explains that those who choose a life of sin will live lives of great trouble and heartache (Psalms 79 and 81). Those who live lives of obedience will have great joy in this life (Psalms 81). Asaph warns that God has an appointed day of judgment and all men's actions will be weighed alongside the word of God (Psalms 75).

A second characteristic of Asaph was meekness. People display a spirit of meekness when they have the desire or passion to comply with God's laws. When God's expectations are not met the meek are bothered, ashamed, and moved to repentance. Asaph, on more than one occasion, not only admits his personal sins but prays to God fervently about them (see Psalms 73:3). God, in his anger against Asaph, struck the prophet with a life long tribulation due to his sins and would not relieve him (Psalms 77). The prophet of God knew; however, that God was omnipotent and would protect his beloved people throughout the ages (Psalms 76). Asaph, like Habakkuk, believed by faith that he would "walk upon the high places of God" one day (see Habakkuk 3:19).

To study the life of Asaph is to study a man whose life revolved around pleasing God. Asaph held positions in the kingdom of God that manifest a spirit of godliness. Asaph's personal evaluation and determination to live more godly reveals a man filled with the Spirit of God. Asaph's observations of God's love and man's responsibilities illustrated a heart that truly loved the Lord. Asaph's watchful eye on the world he lived in showed a man who was concerned about not only his own soul but the souls of others. Asaph is no different than any man or woman today who truly professes to be a Christian. Such a person will live Godly in the eye of man and in the privacy of their home. Such a person's prayers to God will be spiritual and genuine.

John E Robertson

Psalms 84

"1 How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! 2 My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and flesh sing for joy to the living God. 3 Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God. 4 Blessed are those who dwell in your house, ever singing your praise! Selah 5 Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. 6 As they go through the Valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. 7 They go from strength to strength; each one appears before God in Zion. 8 O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah 9 Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed! 10 For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. 11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly. 12 O LORD of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!"