Clips from Psalms

Psalms 106:6-8
Israel’s Rebelliousness and God’s Deliverance

"We have sinned with our fathers, we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly. Our fathers understood not your wonders in Egypt; they remembered not the multitude of your loving kindnesses, but were rebellious at the sea, even at the Red Sea. Nevertheless he saved them for his name's sake."

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The Floral Heights Informer
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PSALMS CHAPTER 57

Prayer for Rescue from Persecutors
For the Chief Musician; set to Al-tashheth
A Psalm of David
Michtam; when he fled from Saul in the cave

Synopsis

This psalm was written for the Chief Musician (see notes at Psalms 4). The song was to be "set to Al-tashheth" which is a Hebrew word meaning "destroy not." The Hebrew word Al-tashheth is likely a musical expression that denoted a popular tune of David's day. Today, most everyone knows the tune that goes with "Amazing Grace." David intended the psalm to be sung to this popular tune as the worship and praise God. Psalms 57 is also identified as a "michtam" which illustrates the precious nature of its content (see notes at Psalms 16).

Psalms 57 was written by David at a time in his life when he was fleeing from Saul. This particular song was written as David flees to a cave for safety. There are two recorded occasions of David fleeing from Saul to a cave. First, David flees to the cave of Adullam where four hundred men become loyal to him (see 1 Samuel 22:1-2). A second time David flees from Saul to a cave for safety was at Engedi. Saul had been warring with the Philistines and breaks from them to pursue David with three thousand men. The king of Israel goes into a cave where David is secretly hiding to "relieve himself" (ESV 1 Samuel 24:3). David could have killed his enemy Saul yet he knew that the king was God's anointed and would do no such thing against his Lord. It is most likely that this song was composed after the events at the cave in Engedi.

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Schedule of Services
Sunday Worship:
9:30 AM Bible Study
10:30 AM Worship
6:00 PM Worship

Wednesday:
7:30 PM Bible Study
Once again we study a Psalm about David's enemies. Twenty nine of the first 57 Psalms have dealt exclusively with enemies. While such repetition may appear redundant they are actually very significant. God would not have devoted so much divine text to a singular subject if it were not of utmost significance in our lives. We have learned something different in each of the twenty eight previous Psalms that dealing with enemies as their primary objective. We learned from Psalms 56 to keep a spirit of joy and happiness when pursued and persecuted by our enemies. We have learned that our enemies have souls too and we ought pray in ways that they too may be saved. Jesus said, “But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Matthew 5:44). As we study Psalms about David’s enemies we gain greater incite into God’s love, mercy, and care for his beloved saints. When pursued and persecuted by the enemy we learn to trust in God as our rock and place of refuge. We also learn about the final outcome of those who set themselves against God and his elect. God’s wrath will be poured out upon the ungodly of every generation (see 2 Peter 2:4-6). There is never a dull moment as we study these Psalms that, on the surface, appear to be redundant.

Psalms 57 teaches us more aspects of Christian character as we suffer through persecution at the hands of enemies. First, we learn the value of having a proper view of God. David saw God as the “Most High” (Psalms 57:2) that is exalted above the heavens (Psalms 57:5) and whose glory fills the entire earth (Psalms 57:11). None of us will have a proper view of our enemies until we have a proper view of God. The Lord occupies the greatest position of sovereignty and power among mankind. There is no other to turn to than God for help at times when we are persecuted. Secondly, we learn that we must never quit on God, his church, our spouses, our children, or anyone else just because we are suffering at the hands of the ungodly. David said, “My heart is steadfast” even though that same heart was broken due to haters relentlessly pursuing him (see Psalms 57:7). Thirdly, we learn that a big reason that David kept pressing forward in this life and never giving up was that he understood God’s purpose for him (Psalms 57:2). David knew that he would be the person that the promises of God, regarding a savior and kingdom, would come through (see 1 Samuel 16:13-18 and 2 Samuel 7:12-17). A fourth lesson learned about facing and dealing with enemies who pursue and persecute us is that if we pray and keep our mind focused on our duties we will get through them. David prayed every morning to God (Psalms 57:8). Athletes are motivated for an upcoming competition by listening to certain songs and watching certain movies. Likewise God’s saints are motivated to keep pressing in life by the word of God.

"Do you indeed decree what is right, you gods? Do you judge the children of man uprightly? 2 No, in your hearts you devise wrongs; your hands deal out violence on earth. 3 The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray from birth, speaking lies. 4 They have venom like the venom of a serpent, like the deaf adder that stops its ear, 5 so that it does not hear the voice of charmers or of the cunning enchanter. 6 O God, break the teeth in their mouths; tear out the fangs of the young lions, O LORD! 7 Let them vanish like water that runs away; when he aims his arrows, let them be blunted. 8 Let them be like the snail that dissolves into slime, like the stillborn child who never sees the sun. 9 Sooner than your pots can feel the heat of thorns, whether green or ablaze, may he sweep them away! 10 The righteous will rejoice when he sees the vengeance; he will bathe his feet in the blood of the wicked. 11 Mankind will say, 'Surely there is a reward for the righteous; surely there is a God who judges on earth.'"