



COMING UP ... DEC 22, 29 NO CLASS (Christmas) JAN 2 Sam 20-23 2 Sam 24 1 Kings 2-4 1 Kings 5-9

PSALMS DURING 2 SAMUEL 15-19

When David was squeezed by the powerful "hand" of agonizing circumstances, what was released and revealed was the heart of God
How do we pray in times of pain or agony?
How do we pray when God seems distant?
How do we pray when the bottom seems to have dropped out?
We can pray as David prayed ...

LESSON THEME: Praying in the midst of pain

Psalms material has been adapted from Dr. Allen Ross, "Psalms," OT Bible Knowledge Commentary

Psalm 3

Setting: Perhaps the evening song of the first day David fled Jerusalem from Absalom

Outline:

Surrounded by enemies (vv. 1-2)
Sustained by God (vv. 3-6)
Saved by God (vv. 7-8)

Lesson: Those who're in the midst of danger should trust the Lord for protection, enabling them to rest in sleep.

Psalm 4

Setting: Perhaps the morning song from the next day on the run from Jerusalem/Absalom

Outline:

A call to God (v. 1)
A warning to enemies (vv. 2-5)
A joyous peace in God (vv. 6-8)

Lesson: True joy and peace don't depend on circumstances but on God's faithful protection and provision. Trust Him.

Psalm 6

Setting: Written during a time when David is suffering from an almost fatal disease

Outline:

Prayer for relief from suffering (vv. 1-3)
Prayer for deliverance (vv. 4-5)
Lament over illness (vv. 6-7)
Assurance of restoration (vv. 8-10)

Lesson: In the midst of agony and suffering, God hears weeping hearts ... and answers.

Psalm 41

Setting: Written after an event of betrayal and treachery, probably Ahithophel's

Outline:

The merciful obtain mercy (vv. 1-3)
Vengeance for treachery (vv. 4-10)
Deliverance for those with integrity (vv. 11-13)

Lesson: Those who aid the needy in their time of distress will themselves receive deliverance; on the other hand those who take advantage of the weak are ripe for vengeance.

Psalm 55

Setting: Written in light of Ahithophel's betrayal and treachery

Outline:

- Terrifying oppression (vv. 1-8)
- Painful betrayal (vv. 9-15)
- Personal confidence (vv. 16-23)

Lesson: Those who've been betrayed should call confidently on their redeeming God so they're enabled by Him to see it through.

Psalm 61 (part 1 of 3)

Setting: Written in a time of David's narrow escape in the wilderness (Saul or Absalom)

Outline:

- Lead me to the rock (vv. 1-2)
- I long to dwell in Your tent (vv. 3-7)
- Then I will sing Your praises (v. 8)

Lesson: Those faint and weary from being "on the run" can find assurance in the strength of the Rock and be encouraged by His Word.

Psalm 62 (part 2 of 3)

Setting: Written when David was waiting on God's deliverance (Saul or Absalom)

Outline:

- Rest in God when enemies assault (vv. 1-4)
- Trust in God at all times (vv. 5-8)
- God will reward each person (vv. 9-12)

Lesson: Find rest in your all-powerful God rather than in human schemes or plans ... and wait on Him in trust.

Psalm 63 (part 3 of 3)

Setting: Written at a time when David was separated from the Ark (Saul or Absalom)

Outline:

- Thirsting for God (vv. 1-2)
- Satisfying the soul with praise (vv. 3-8)
- Rejoicing in victory (vv. 9-11)

Lesson: Even in the midst of distress, satisfy the longing of your soul through worship ... by praising God for His loyal love.

Faith Review

- Psalm 3 – trust in His protection ... and sleep
- Psalm 4 – you're safe in His protective care
- Psalm 6 – He hears and answers weeping hearts
- Psalm 41 – integrity seeks mercy not revenge
- Psalm 55 – lean your full weight on Him
- Psalm 61 – seek His strength & encouragement
- Psalm 62 – wait securely for His deliverance
- Psalm 63 – worship Him to nourish your soul

Summary Observations

Believers can confidently approach God expecting that He will hear and answer

Believers must trust God and His Word despite circumstances, feelings or past experiences

Believers need communion with God through prayer to renew and nourish their souls

Believers must linger with the Lord ... until they've heard from Him

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AUDIO PODCASTS (no handouts) ON iTUNES:

search "Christ Chapel Bible Church Old Testament 2018"

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