

Psalm 034 - Learning About God's Deliverance

Psalm 34

[A Psalm of David, when he changed his behavior before Abimelech, who drove him away, and he departed]

God's Goodness to His People

- 1 I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually **be in my mouth**.
1 I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
1 I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise will be in my mouth continuously.
1 I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
- "...be in my mouth" - verbal praise with the mouth, not just private praise in the mind

- 2 My soul will make its boast in the LORD; The humble will hear it and rejoice.
2 My soul will make its boast in the LORD; The humble will hear it and rejoice.
2 My soul will glorify the LORD; the humble will hear about it and rejoice.
2 My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.

- 3 Exalt the LORD with me, And let's exalt His name together.
3 O magnify the LORD with me, And let us exalt His name together.
3 Magnify the LORD with me! Let us lift up his name together!
3 O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.
- David calls on everyone who has ever been afflicted to "exalt His name with me"

- 4 I sought the LORD and He answered me, And rescued me from all my fears.
4 I sought the LORD, and He answered me, And delivered me from all my fears.
4 I sought the LORD and he answered me; he delivered me from all of my fears.
4 I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

- 5 They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces will never be ashamed.
5 They looked to Him and were radiant, And their faces will never be ashamed.
5 Look to him and be radiant; and you will not be ashamed.

5 They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed.

6 This wretched man cried out, and the LORD heard him, And saved him out of all his troubles.

6 This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him And saved him out of all his troubles.

6 This poor man cried out, and the LORD heard and delivered him from all of his distress.

6 This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

7 The **angel of the LORD** encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them.

7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them.

7 The angel of the LORD surrounds those who fear him, and he delivers them.

7 The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

- "...angel of the LORD" - a reference to the pre-incarnate Christ (Cf. Gen 16:13; 22:11-12; 31:11,13; 48:16; Judges 6:11,16,22; 13:22-23; Zech 3:1-2)
- David saw Christ, with the eyes of faith, surrounding and protecting His trusting people
- Appears only 3x in the Psalms (here and in 35:5-6)
- In Heb 13:5 the Lord Jesus says, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."
- In Matt 28:20 the Lord says, "...lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."
- Though David's actions at Gath (1 Sam 21:10-15) may not draw admiration, God's strong presence guarded and delivered him

God's Blessing of the Righteous

8 Taste and see that the LORD is **good**; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

8 O taste and see that the LORD is good; How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

8 Taste and see that the LORD is good! How blessed is the person who trusts in him!

8 O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

- Quoted in 1 Peter 2:3 (Cf. John 7:17,37)
- "Taste" - the Bible assumes that it is self-evident that men can know God with at least the same immediacy as they know any other person or thing

- David urges people to experience the LORD's goodness personally by relying on Him in their times of distress
- He assures that if they do, He would not disappoint them
- "...good" - used 4x (v8,10,12,14)

9 Fear the LORD, you His saints; For to those who fear Him there is no lack of anything.

9 O fear the LORD, you His saints; For to those who fear Him there is no want.

9 Fear the LORD, you holy ones of his; for those who fear him lack nothing.

9 O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.

10 The young lions do without and suffer hunger; But they who seek the LORD will not lack any good thing.

10 The young lions do lack and suffer hunger; But they who seek the LORD shall not be in want of any good thing.

10 Young lions lack and go hungry, but those who seek the LORD will never lack any good thing.

10 The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.

- Young, self-reliant lions sometimes cannot provide for their own needs adequately, but people who trust in the LORD are never in such a position (Cf. Matt 6:33)

11 Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

11 Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

11 Come, children, listen to me, and I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

11 Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

- David addressed his readers like a parent instructs children...

— He promised wise counsel on the subject of trusting God

12 Who is the person who desires life And loves length of days, that he may see good?

12 Who is the man who desires life And loves *length of* days that he may see good?

12 Who among you desires life, and wants long life in order to see good?

12 What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good?

- God promised long life to the godly in Israel as a reward for righteous behavior (Ex 20:12; Deut 5:33)

13 Keep your tongue from evil And your lips from speaking deceit.
13 Keep your tongue from evil And your lips from speaking deceit.
13 Then keep your tongue from doing evil and your lips from spreading lies.
13 Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.

14 Turn from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.
14 Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.
14 Avoid evil and do good! Seek peace and pursue it!
14 Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

15 The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous, And His ears are toward their cry for help.
15 The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous And His ears are *open* to their cry.
15 The LORD looks on the righteous, and he listens to their cries.
15 The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.
- The righteous can look forward to the LORD's favor and His awareness of their needs...

16 The face of the LORD is against evildoers, To eliminate the memory of them from the earth.
16 The face of the LORD is against evildoers, To cut off the memory of them from the earth.
16 The face of the LORD is set against those who do evil, and he will remove people's recollection of them from the earth.
16 The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.
- Quoted in 1 Peter 3:10-12: Desire what is good, speak what is true, pursue what is right, and expect what is best
— However, Peter leaves out the last half of v16 - "...to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth."
— This phrase will not be completed in this age; See [Dispensational Gaps](#).

17 The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears And rescues them from all their troubles.
17 *The righteous* cry, and the LORD hears And delivers them out of all their troubles.

17 The LORD hears those who cry out, and he delivers them from all their distress.

17 The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

- God grants the petitions of the righteous when they pray for deliverance out of broken hearts

18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted And saves those who are crushed in spirit.

18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted And saves those who are crushed in spirit.

18 The LORD is close to the brokenhearted, and he delivers those whose spirit has been crushed.

18 The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

- Nowhere does David suggest that the life of faith is exempt from troubles; rather, if we trust Him and call upon Him, the Lord will see us through our troubles and make them a blessing to us and others.

19 The afflictions of the righteous are many, But the LORD rescues him from them all.

19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of them all.

19 A righteous person will have many troubles, but the LORD will deliver him from them all.

19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

20 He protects all his bones, Not one of them is broken.

20 He keeps all his bones, Not one of them is broken.

20 God protects all his bones; not one of them will be broken.

20 He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.

- Keeping bones from breaking expresses complete protection in spite of cruel opposition

— John quoted this verse (John 19:36) to describe God's care for His Son during His crucifixion

21 Evil will bring death to the wicked, And those who hate the righteous will suffer for their guilt.

21 Evil shall slay the wicked, And those who hate the righteous will be condemned.

21 Evil will kill the wicked; those who hate the righteous will be held guilty.

21 Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.

22 The LORD redeems the souls of His servants, And none of those who take refuge in Him will suffer for their guilt.

22 The LORD redeems the soul of His servants, And none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.

22 The LORD redeems the lives of his servants; and none of those who trust in him will be held guilty.

22 The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.

- This verse summarizes the reasons the godly should praise the LORD