

WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

May 31, 2020

Worship, as God intended, is a supernatural event. As we enter into this service of worship, we cross the threshold of the secular to the sacred, from the common to the uncommon, from the profane to the holy. Prepare yourself therefore for this most holy convocation!

Prelude

Worship Theme

God is our Helper

Psalm 54:4, 6-7: "Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the sustainer of my soul... Willingly I will sacrifice to Thee; I will give thanks to Thy name, O Lord, for it is good. For He has delivered me from all trouble; and my eye has looked *with satisfaction* upon my enemies."

God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross Ps. 147:1-3

+We Adore Him

Hymn #76, "Praise, My Soul"

From Psalm 103

We Confess Our Sin

Almighty and most merciful Father; we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us.

But, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent; according to Your promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake; that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life; to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #188, "Jesus, I Am Resting"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication Ps. 147:10-11

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #691, "When Peace, Like A River"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship Ps. 147:12, 19

We Read His Word

Sermon

Hymn #654, "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

God Blesses us in the Benediction

Welcome and Announcements

Postlude

(Containers have been placed at the front for communion cups and small trash)

+You are invited to raise your hands during the prayer of adoration.

The Glory of God's Grace: God's Condescending Care

Psalm 113

Study Notes for May 31, 2020

I. Introduction

Pharisee and Tax Collector (Lk. 18:11-13)

The Problem: Many in Christ never get beyond the "Tax Collector" in their walks!

II. The Glory of God's Grace: God's Condescending Care, Psalm 113.

A. Introduction to the Psalter and this Psalm, Select.

A book which took many life-times to write!

Overview of the Book (taken from Robert Godfrey's work on the Psalms)

Book One (Pss. 1-41) focusses on the Care of God. As such, the psalms in this "book" tend to be personal, reflecting some level of distress that quickly resolves into confidence in God. They were written in the context of conflict, oppression, sickness, and suffering which makes them quite approachable and easy to understand.

Book Two (Pss. 42-72) focusses on our subsequent Commitment to God and His Kingdom. As such, the Psalms in "Book Two" are less personal and more community oriented. They take into consideration the whole people of God and how God provides for them as a people.

Book Three (Pss. 73-89) addresses those times in our lives as Christians when it seems as though God has NOT kept His promises! They represent Crisis in the life of the Psalmist on account of doubt or disillusionment when it comes to the promises of God. As such, this section is the emotional heart of the Psalter!

Book Four (Pss. 90-106) is all about Comfort, specifically on account of the faithfulness of God! They reflect on God's work in creation and His covenant with Abraham. As such, they answer the cry of "Book Three" by demonstrating the faithfulness of God to His promises regardless of present circumstances!!!

Book Five (Pss. 107-150) transitions into 44 Psalms which Celebrate God and the salvation He gives to His people! As such, many contain a review of Israel's history and show that God has had a plan through it all, even amidst the exile!

...Godfrey made the observation that the Psalter parrots or reflects the maturation of faith that occurs throughout a Christian's life...

Words of Advice when it Comes to Studying the Psalter...

Be Mindful of the Psalm's Genre

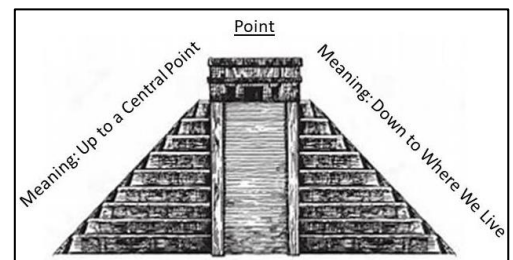
Be Mindful of the Structure of Many of the Psalms

The Center Verse

A Brief Introduction to Psalm 113

A "Key" when it comes to the Psalter (and the rest of God's word)

The Center Verse, v. 5a.



B. The Psalm Before Us, Ps. 113.

1. The Call, vv. 1-3.

V. 1

The Focus of this Psalm: Praise!

The Focus of this Psalm: The Character/Name of God

1. The names used to describe God in the Bible tell us something about what God does!...
2. The only name used of God in the Bible which describes God in His essence is “Yahweh” (cf. Ex. 3:13-14)...

Yahweh and the “to be” Verb (“I Am” [אֲנִי אֵלֹהִים] (*hayah*))

The Progressive Parallelism of this Verse

Vv. 2-3

2. The Basis, vv. 4-9a.

a. God is to be Praised on account of His Character, vv. 4-6.

V. 4: The Transcendancy of God

When we think about God- let’s talk about God the Father- I think most even in the church don’t think of Him as a Person...

But then secondly, this Person is unlike anything or anyone you could ever know...

...we are dealing with a Being here who is so awesome we will spend eternity growing in our understanding and knowledge of Him, yet we will never arrive at a point of completion! Having been in glory a trillion years, we will have just begun!

V.5

Our Tendency as Sinners: To _____ to our own _____!

V. 6

God’s Transcendancy Seen in What He Must do in order to View Creation!

Consider: The Greatness of God Revealed in the Stars

***Point:** With a little higher view of God, let’s consider the final section of this psalm... truths which floored the Psalmist: What does this God do? What is it that catches His notice when it comes to the Universe?

b. God is to be Praised on account of His Condescending Grace, vv. 7-9a.

The Psalmist here is describing an essential act of God! This is not what God does when He is bored and has nothing else to do. This is the result of His Nature!

Daniel Estes wrote of this, "Although the Lord is great, he is not distant or detached from the needs of his people, so when he looks down on earth, it is not to acquire knowledge but to intervene in deliverance (cf. Pss 33:13-19; 106:44; 138:6)... The Lord's people do not need to choose between a God who is powerful and one who is personal because the Lord is both great and good in perfect combination." (*Psalms 73-150*, NAC, pp. 361-362)

Consider the scene described by this Psalm...

H. C. Leupold wrote, "He has done two things, each of which seems to make the other impossible. He has taken his seat so high that no one can match him, yet he has regard for the lowliest of the low in that he 'looks down so far.'" (*Exposition of the Psalms*, p. 791)

Jack Miller, speaking of this Psalm, said, "What we might expect is for the psalm to progress to a glorious vision of the Almighty. But instead we see God visiting the trash heap on the outskirts of town. He visits the destitute- the poorest of the poor, the utterly cast down." (Taken from his sermon on Ps. 113)

Craig Broyles wrote, "This is the kind of kingship that Yahweh exercises. His exaltedness over earth and heaven does not make him aloof from human affairs; on the contrary, it makes him involved." (*Psalms*, UTBCS, p. 425)

C. The Application, Select.

Psalm 113-118 is that part of the Psalter which is known as the Egyptian Hallel.

Psalm 113 was the first Psalm sung. As such, what was its purpose?

Its purpose was to _____ the _____ and so the _____ for all participating in Passover lest any miss the meal!!

Accordingly, this Psalm brought with it an important assurance...

What religious activity on the part of the sinner was needed in order for God to welcome them at His table?

*Note: This is why this Psalm is "the key" to the entire Psalter and the Christian life!!

What activity/mind-set must we therefore abandoned in our walks with God?

C. H. Spurgeon said, "Such verses as these should give great encouragement to those who are lowest in their own esteem. The Lord poureth contempt upon princes; but as for those who are in the dust and on the dunghill, he looks upon them with compassion, acts towards them in grace, and in their case displays the riches of his glory by Christ Jesus." (*The Treasury of David: Psalms 111-119*, Vol. 5, p. 31)

Listen to or watch this or any Bethel sermon at our web page at www.bethelpreschurch.org.