

Psalm 17

17:1 A Prayer of David.

Hear the right, O LORD, attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer, that goeth not out of feigned lips. 2 Let my sentence come forth from thy presence; let thine eyes behold the things that are equal. 3 Thou hast proved mine heart; thou hast visited me in the night; thou hast tried me, and shalt find nothing; I am purposed that my mouth shall not transgress. 4 Concerning the works of men, by the word of thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer. 5 Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not. 6 I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God: incline thine ear unto me, and hear my speech. 7 Shew thy marvellous lovingkindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust in thee from those that rise up against them.

8 Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings, 9 From the wicked that oppress me, from my deadly enemies, who compass me about. 10 They are inclosed in their own fat: with their mouth they speak proudly. 11 They have now compassed us in our steps: they have set their eyes bowing down to the earth; 12 Like as a lion that is greedy of his prey, and as it were a young lion lurking in secret places. 13 Arise, O LORD, disappoint him, cast him down: deliver my soul from the wicked, which is thy sword: 14 From men which are thy hand, O LORD, from men of the world, which have their portion in this life, and whose belly thou fillest with thy hid treasure: they are full of children, and leave the rest of their substance to their babes. 15 As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

Introduction notes:

1. "A Prayer" (*tephillah*) one of five Psalms that has this inspired heading. (Pss. 86, 90, 102, and 142).
2. David presents three prayer appeals to the LORD for deliverance.
3. He reduced his encompassing enemies (vv.11) to one like a lion (v.12), the wicked (v.13) (perhaps King Saul, 1 Sam. 23:25-26).

Outline:

- A. The Prayer of David (vv.1-5)
 - B. The Pray for Deliverance (vv.6-9)
 - C. The Impending Threat of the Wicked (vv. 10-12)
 - C.' The Impending Threat of the Wicked (v.14)
 - B.' The Prayer for Deliverance (v.13)
- A.' The Satisfaction of David (v.15)

Observations:

1. David classifies himself as "the right" meaning the righteous one. He was made righteous by faith in the same way Abraham was made righteous (Gen. 15:6; Rom. 4:1-5). Paul uses David as an example of imputed righteousness (Rom. 4:6; Ps. 32:1-2).
2. David's positional righteousness was seen in practical righteousness: his lips (v.1), his heart and his mouth (v.3), his works (v.4).
3. David's three-fold prayer requests:
 - A. Hear
 - B. Attend
 - C. Give ear
4. God "visited him in the night" – to try him, to see if he was just against Saul (1 Sam. 26:7-11).
5. The "word of thy lips" – God's words kept David from sin. (Ps. 119:11)
6. God's "marvellous lovingkindness" – His Covenantal Love or his mercy.
7. Two Hebrew idiomatic expressions:
 - A. "The apple of the eye" – Hebrew idiomatic – as precious as a baby boy is to his mother. – Love and favor. (The believer in the place of worship)
 - B. "under the shadow of thy wings" – Protection and care.
8. David's four quick prayer requests: Arise, disappoint, cast him down, and deliver (v.13).
9. Saul's men were well off (natural but temporal) but David has God for an inheritance (spiritual but eternal). (v.14)
10. David satisfaction was waking up in glory and being like God – glorified! (Job 14:12; Isa. 26:19; Dan. 12:2; Jn. 11:11; Rom. 8:29; 1 Jn. 3:2)

Lesson: Awakening from death in the resurrection is our glorious future and our present satisfaction and assurance.