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Psalm 17

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Psalm 17.

Topics.

- You have tried my heart, you have tested me, and you will find nothing.
- Wondrously show your steadfast love, O Saviour.
- Wondrously show your steadfast love, O Saviour.
- Christ's blood flows back to the foundation of the earth.
- The wicked close their hearts to pity and speak arrogantly.
- When I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION

Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they consist of five books covering the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

1

BOOK ONE (PSALM 1-41)

PSALM 17:1-3

A Prayer of David.

You have tried my Heart and Tested Me, and You will Find Nothing.

- **Psalm 17:1-3:** Hear a just cause, O LORD; attend to my cry! Give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit! ²From your presence let my vindication come! Let your eyes behold the right! ³You have tried my heart, you have visited me by night, you have tested me, and you will find nothing; I have purposed that my mouth will not transgress.

Prior to this Psalm there are Psalm that speak of:

- David lying on his bed at night in sweat and great pain because of some kind of sickness so bad he felt he was going to die.
- David being surrounded by kings and their mighty armies who he thought would kill him and destroy his kingdom.
- David being in great depression and despair, because of the pain brought about by sickness, or because close friends had betrayed him or because his kingdom was surround by fierce armies wanting to destroy him.

But in all these trials and testing David did not speak against God. It mattered not to David what his circumstance were (good or bad) God was always the praise of His heart and God's Spirit and love was what sustained Him and what he most sought after. David's was a king who had abundant riches and wealth, a harem of the most beautiful women and was a mighty warrior, a man full of courage who faced the most

horrific bloodthirsty battles and yet within was not only a humble man before God whose greatest treasure was God's love dwelling within his heart and mind, but also a man who was deeply hurt and remorseful when convicted of any sin he had committed before God. Whether David was in despair or depression or surrounded by his enemies or lying on his bed suffering the pain of sickness or facing death he always spoke honestly to God of how he felt, but his Psalms, his prayers and his petitions always end with praising the name of the LORD, the Most High God. The following words of Peter show us that no matter how faithful a man or women is toward God there will be moments of troubles, hardships and sorrows.

- By God's power you are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:5-7).

Having faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is not a guarantee that the saved person will have a trouble-free life, but it does guarantee they will be raised to eternal life and everlasting glory.

PSALM 17:4-7

Wondrously show your Steadfast Love, O Saviour.

- **Psalm 17:4-7:** With regard to the works of man, by the word of your lips I have avoided the ways of the violent. ⁵My steps have held fast to your paths; my feet have not slipped. ⁶I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me; hear my words. ⁷Wondrously show your steadfast love, O Savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand.

David's statement, "I have avoided the ways of the violent," (v4) means that David has not used any form of violence for his own personal gain the statement would also embrace lying, deceiving and betraying others for one's own advantage.

Wondrously show your steadfast love, O Saviour: (v7) because all Christian's know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour traditional Christianity reasons that Jesus must be God because their can only be one Saviour, but this reasoning is flawed for the following reason. God is the Saviour in that before the world began, he planned and purposed in His eternal mind that His Son would be the eternal Saviour of the world, so in this sense God is the Saviour, but without Jesus God's plan would be left bankrupt. Both God and Jesus are our Saviours, but in different ways, without God's eternal plan Jesus the Son of God would not exist, but without Jesus God's plan could never fulfil its eternal purpose.

Christ's blood flows back to the foundation of the earth: some may think that Christ blood cleanses only those who are saved after Christ's death and resurrection, but this is not so. Though Old Testament Israel offered animal sacrifices to God they were not saved by them, they were a type and shadow of Christ the Lamb of God without blemish the Saviour to come and it is his blood that cleanses them. This is because the power of Christ's cleansing blood flows back to the foundation of the earth so that the faithful of the Old and New Testament are saved by the same Saviour and the same Redeemer. In the book of Revelation, it is written:

- All that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (Rev. 13:8).

And Peter wrote:

- You were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot foreordained before the foundation of the world and manifest in these last times for you. (1 Peter 1:18-20).

These verses shine a brilliant spotlight on the truth that Jesus was not only the central focus of God's eternal mind and of His eternal plans and purposes for mankind's salvation and for eternity, but also the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. The cleansing power of Jesus blood shed on the cross of Calvary doesn't just cover and cleanse only those who have come to the Lord after his death and resurrection, but flows all the way back to the foundations of the earth to Adam and Eve like a spiritual invisible river cleansing all the faithful of the Old Testament from the fall of Adam onward who by faith looked to the appearing of the promised Messiah the Christ. The faithful of the Old Testament were saved by their faith that the blood of their sin sacrifices (shadows of Christ) covered their sin and by their faith in the promised seed of the woman spoken of in (Genesis 3:15), in the prophet Moses said was to come like him, in God's promise to Abraham that from his seed a deliver would come and by their faith in the promised seed of David the Messiah and Saviour.

The faithful of the New Testament are saved by their faith in looking back to the bloodstained cross of Calvary and by looking forward to the glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ. This shines a glorious spotlight on the truth that whether a man or woman is of the Old or New Testament we are all saved by the same cleansing power, the same cleansing blood and the same Deliverer, King and Saviour. This is because God in his eternal mind planned and purposed before time began that His Son the Lord Jesus Christ would be the Saviour of all mankind for all eternity. Truly, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. (Heb. 9:22).

Words of comfort and encouragement: since the teaching that Jesus is God has such a strong hold on much of traditional Christianity the following will encourage and comfort faithful brothers and sisters in Christ who maybe in some doubt and unsure of what to believe concerning the Father and the Son. The Bible very clearly shows that even if Jesus was God no one has to know this to be saved to eternal life since there is not one verse in the entire Bible that states:

- We must believe that Jesus is God to be saved.

Nor is there one verse from Genesis to Revelations that says:

- Whoever believes that Jesus is God will be saved.

In total contrast to this silence there are literally multitudes of Scriptures throughout the pages of the New Testament that very clearly proclaim:

- We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved.

And that say:

- Whoever believes that Jesus is the Son of God will be saved.

Surely if it was important to believe that Jesus was actually God to be saved to eternal life Jesus, the apostles and Paul would have told us at least once in all their teaching concerning salvation, but all we hear from Paul, the apostles and Jesus himself is them saying that we must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved to eternal life. Jesus himself said, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3). For further information see the title:

- Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity) in Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The Wicked Close their Hearts to Pity and Speak Arrogantly.

- **Psalm 17:8-12:** Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings,
⁹from the wicked who do me violence, my deadly enemies who surround me. ¹⁰They close their hearts to pity; with their mouths they speak arrogantly. ¹¹They have now surrounded our steps; they set their eyes to cast us to the ground. ¹²He is like a lion eager to tear, as a young lion lurking in ambush.

Here we see that the wicked are violent, have no pity toward others and speak arrogantly meaning they are conceited proud and full of self-importance. Throughout the Psalms there are many verses that speak of the character and attitudes of the wicked, if we were to list them all it would be a very long list indeed, but we would see that they all have the following two things in common:

1. They deny the existence of God.
2. They deliberately inflict some type of harm and hurt upon others (i.e., physically, financially, emotionally, sexually, mentally, verbally and spiritually) for their own gain, and advantage.

This is totally contrary to Jesus command, "Love your neighbour as yourself," (Mark 12:31) meaning do-good to others and not harm and totally contrary to the law of love. For further information concerning Jesus command, see the title: "Love your neighbour as yourself and the Fruits of the Spirit" in Articles (ON WEBSITE MENU).

PSALM 17:13-15

When I Awake, I shall be Satisfied with your Likeness.

- **Psalm 17:13-15:** Arise, O LORD! Confront him, subdue him! Deliver my soul from the wicked by your sword, ¹⁴from men by your hand, O LORD, from men of the world whose portion is in this life. You fill their womb with treasure; they are satisfied with children, and they leave their abundance to their infants. ¹⁵As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.

Deliver my soul from the wicked by your sword: (v13) certain prophets picture God as a mighty warrior riding a chariot upon the wind. By your sword means by your power and mostly refers to battles and war. To answer David's prayer God may use powerful nations to align with David's armies, He may confound David's enemy with confusion or he could use natural disasters (i.e., hail, earthquakes and storms etc.).

Their portion is in this life: (v14) even though men and women deny God have no pity on the poor and helpless and use others for their own gain the LORD fills their lives with children that they are satisfied with, and prospers them so much that they have an abundance of wealth to leave to their offspring. This is because this is all they have in this mortal world. This world and the darkness of death is their portion and inheritance, in contrast to this David will be resurrected to eternal life and everlasting glory and behold the Lord's face.

When I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness: (v15) these words of David shine a brilliant spotlight on the truth David knew he would be resurrected from the grave and that he knew he would see the Messiah the Christ.

This Psalm is a great encouragement: to the faithful who feel that their life is falling apart and they look around and see unbelievers prospering while they are struggling with life. It is an encouragement because it shows that difficulties and hardships in life do not mean that God has abandoned them nor does it mean that God does not love them. When life hits you in the face with all its difficulties and you have no control over the circumstances do what David did and focus on the overwhelming and breathtaking day of the resurrection and the abundant joy that will be heard amongst all the faithful when they see the Lord face to face.

I shall be satisfied with your likeness: (v15) the word satisfied comes from the Hebrew word (saba`) and means to be fully filled up to overflowing it carries the idea that one is so full they feel as if they have overindulged. David is saying, "When he sees the Lord his mind, heart and his whole being will be completely filled to overflowing with joy and gladness. Paul told faithful believers to encourage each other with the following words:

- **1 Thess. 4:14-18:** since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸*Therefore encourage one another with these words.*

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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