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Psalm 27

(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 27.

Topics.

- The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- He will hide me in his shelter and cover me in the day of trouble.
- My father and mother have forsaken me, but the LORD will take me in.
- False witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence.
- I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

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 cover 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.

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BOOK ONE (PSALM 1-41)

PSALM 27:1-4

A Psalm of David.

The LORD is the Stronghold of my Life; of whom shall I be Afraid?

- **Psalm 27:1-4:** The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? ²When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall. ³Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident. ⁴One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

David says he will not fear because when his enemies rise up in war against him and even if they destroy his flesh (kill him), his heart will not fear, because he trusts in the LORD. These verses show that David walked, lived and went to battle with an eternal view of God. Certainly David believed God was with him when he went to battle, but these verses show that his lack of fear was not because he believed God would deliver him from the battle, but because he believed that should he be killed he would be raised to be with the LORD in an immortal state in eternity and to be with the LORD in His eternal House forever was his greatest passion.

This is what David means when he says, "The LORD is the stronghold of my life," David's faith was such that he knew life would not always favour him, and that death would come one-day, but regardless what perils, hardships and troubles came the LORD was his strength, because he was fully assured he would not perish forever. Added to this David values and

loves the LORD far above his own life and is fully confident that the LORD will exalt him above his enemies. The LORD did this for David in his mortal life on earth during his reign as king over Israel, but the following verses show that the greater picture David may have in mind is the resurrection.

PSALM 27:5-6

He will Hide Me in His Shelter and Cover Me in the Day of trouble.

- **Psalm 27:5-6:** For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock. ⁶And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

In verse four David says, "The one thing he has asked the LORD is that he may dwell in His House to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD." His greatest desire in life was to seek the LORD'S face (presence), to inquire in his Temple and gaze upon His beauty all the days of his life. There is no doubt God was the strength of David's mind and heart and kept him in his love and presence all the days of his life, but contained within the language of these verses is an allusion to the resurrection of all the faithful.

David always saw the Lord before him: even though David was a mighty King and warrior the strength in his life that stopped him falling apart was his faith and his hope, he not only always saw by faith the Lord before him, but saw him at his right hand meaning by faith he trusted in Gods promise that in the Christ to come he would be saved to eternal life and that God would not forget him in the grave, but raise him to eternal glory so that he would see the eternal royal King the Holy One God had promised would come from his descendants. David knowing, he would die and decay in the grave in contrast to the Holy One was confident that when he was raised to eternal life just being in the presence of Christ would overwhelm him with happiness, gladness and joy (Acts 2:25-32).

David's faith was in the resurrection of God's Holy One: David understood God's eternal plan of salvation was to establish an everlasting Kingdom with a Holy One as King reigning over it. Though David could not have known the name of the future King being a prophet he foresaw that this King called the Holy One would be killed, but before his body could decay in the grave God would raise him to eternal glory. David trusted in Gods promise that He would raise up from one of his descendants a King to reign in Gods eternal Kingdom forever and had no doubt that God would not forget his body in the grave but resurrect him to eternal life and eternal glory. He held these promises ever before him meaning he kept them as the central and dominant thought of his mind and it was this hope that kept him joyful (Acts 2:25-32).

PSALM 27:7-10

My Father and Mother Forsook Me, but the LORD Will Take Me In.

- **Psalm 27:7-10:** Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me! ⁸You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, LORD, do I seek." ⁹Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation! ¹⁰For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the LORD will take me in.

The word face comes from the Hebrew word (*paniym*) and is used in a great variety of applications, but in this context it carries the idea of seeking God's favour and God's presence, by extension it could also carry the idea of seeking God's will His love, His plans and His purposes. David longs to be in fellowship and communion with the LORD. Notice David

says, my heart says to you, "Your face, LORD, do I seek." This can be seen as a prayer David is speaking or as the silent prayers that flows out from our hearts toward the LORD. Many unspoken prayers arise to the throne of God from the silent self-talk of the thoughts of the mind and the heartfelt cry of the heart.

When my father and mother have forsaken me: (v10) these words most likely mean, "When my father and mother die." With these words David is magnifying God's love toward him which will continue to comfort him even when those who he loves most are taken by death. His words also shine a light on the truth that the love of God is stronger and more certain than even that of a father or mother, since God's love is eternal and He will never forsake those who faithfully follow him. In contrast to every other love that binds heart to heart coming to an end, God's love will remain in this present world and in the world to come.

Then the Lord will take me up: carry two ideas, firstly, the Lord will comfort him in his grief and sorrow when those he most loves are taken, and secondly, the LORD will gather him up at the resurrection to eternal life and everlasting happiness and joy.

PSALM 27:11-12

False Witnesses Have Risen against Me, in Violence.

- **Psalm 27:11-12:** Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. ¹²Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence.

Here we see that the wicked refers to false witnesses, those who tell lies, the deceitful and those who speak words of violence. David prays that these enemies will not overpower him and entice him to lead them in the way they want to take.

Remember David was king of Israel, he had close friends and counsellors in his government advising him, there were times in David's kingship when friends betrayed him and his right hand men wanted to take the kingdom in a different direction (perhaps compromise God's laws and maybe embrace some pagan practises which Solomon his son eventually did). David is asking God to keep him on the right path so that he will not be influenced by his adversaries.

PSALM 27:13-14

I shall Look upon the Goodness of the LORD in the Land.

- **Psalm 27:13-14:** I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! ¹⁴Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

The following verses of David show that he was fully aware that he would be resurrected from the grave.

- I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. ⁹Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. ¹⁰For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. (Psalm 16:8-10).

The word Sheol comes from the Hebrew word (sh^e'owl) and means the grave.

You will not abandon my soul to Sheol: means God will not leave David in the grave forever he will be resurrected at the right time.

You will not let your holy one see corruption: means God will not let the body of Jesus decay in the grave (tomb) contrasting David's body which will decay in the grave and remain there until the glorious day of the resurrection. David encourages all the faithful with the words, "Let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD (Psalm 27:14)." Paul made a similar statement, saying, encourage one another with the following words:

- 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. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words. (1 Thess. 4:15-18).

The faith that supported David was that he should see the goodness of the Lord. There is nothing like the believing hope of eternal life and having a glimpse of that glory to keep us from fainting under the calamities of life. Let us encourage each other to wait on the Lord, with patient expectation, and fervent prayer.

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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