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## Psalm 28

(2019)

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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 28.

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### Topics.

- You, O LORD, I call; my rock, I lift my hands toward your sanctuary.
- Do not drag me off with the wicked, who speak peace.
- The LORD is my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped.
- The LORD is the strength of his people; the refuge of his anointed.

**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.

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### INTRODUCTION

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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)

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### PSALM 28:1-2

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1

A Psalm of David.

#### **You, O LORD, I call; my Rock.**

- **Psalm 28:1-2:** To you, O LORD, I call; my rock, be not deaf to me, lest, if you be silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit. <sup>2</sup>Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to you for help, when I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctuary.

David's words, "To you, O LORD, I call; my rock," immediately take the mind of the ardent Bible student to the following words of Jesus:

- Jesus said to his disciples, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (Matt. 16:1-28).

The rock in this context is Jesus the Son of God this is the revelation Jesus is building his global church on. Though Christ did not appear during the Old Testament age, David had by faith Christ's Spirit dwelling within and was saved by faith in him, because he by faith looked:

- Toward the promised seed of the woman spoken of in Genesis (Genesis. 3:15).
- Toward the promised seed of Abraham. (Gen. 26:4) (Gal. 3:16).
- Toward the prophet Moses said was to come like him. (Deut. 18:15) (Acts 3:22) (Acts 7:37).
- Toward the Holy One to come (whose body God will not let see corruption in death) (Psalm 16:9-11).

- Toward the promised seed of David. (Psalm 89:4) (Psalm 132:11) (Jer. 23:5) (Matthew 1:1).
- Toward the Messiah the Christ all the Old Testament prophets and the Scriptures speak of such as (Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53).

The Lord Jesus himself said, "I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book (Heb. 10:7) (the scroll of the book refers to the Scriptures). Added to this even 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 an invisible spiritual 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.

**Be not silent** (v1) for us today we have the written words of Jesus, the only way God will be silent to anyone in the global body of Christ today is for them to stop reading the words of Christ, the messages of the apostles and the prophets and looking at the lifestyle of Jesus and learning from him. We have all the words of the Messiah the Christ David so longed to hear in written form today. We understand God's enormous love and grace and His plan of salvation by looking to the bloodstained cross of Calvary. David, though a king and prophet only saw what we clearly understand today in shadows. Certainly, there are times when the still small voice of God will guide and speak to the mind and heart of the faithful, but mostly he speaks and guides us today through his word.

**The pit:** (v1) in its widest sense refers to the grave, but carries the idea of a mass grave, such as use in times of plaques and wars where there is not enough man power to dig individual graves for every decaying body lying on the surface of the ground, so to prevent disease spreading a mass grave is dug (i.e., a pit or massive hole in the ground) and the dead are buried tother in it.

**Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy** (v2) David's heart was one that always sought the LORD and desired above all things His steadfast love. Though he like all of us was fully aware that he was not perfect before God he had a heart of integrity and desired above all thing to bring honour to God. This is why he prays that God would help him when he lifts up his hands toward the LORD'S most holy sanctuary.

John in his letters wrote:

- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (1 John 1:8-10)

This is not something new David's Psalms and prayers clearly show that he understood the principle of repentance and of acknowledging and confessing sin. Some might say, "If David can sin and repent and be forgiven why not do as we please since repentance covers." The answer to this is simple, we may fool man, but we cannot fool God, he perceives the honest motivation of the heart and will judge accordingly. It is almost certain those who deliberately use God's grace as an excuse to sin will find themselves standing in the group Jesus speaks of in the following verses:

- Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." (Matt. 7:21).
- Why do you call me "Lord, Lord," and not do what I tell you? (Luke 6:46).

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### PSALM 28:3-5

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#### **Do not Drag me Off with the Wicked, who Speak Peace.**

- **Psalm 28:3-5:** Do not drag me off with the wicked, with the workers of evil, who speak peace with their neighbours while evil is in their hearts. <sup>4</sup>Give to them according to their work and according to the evil of their deeds; give to them according to the work of their hands; render them their due reward. <sup>5</sup>Because they do not regard the works of the LORD or the work of his hands, he will tear them down and build them up no more.

David is very aware that there is a judgment for the righteous to eternal rewards and a judgment to the wicked to eternal death (i.e., utter and total extinction). Knowing the sinful dysfunctions and aberrations that dwell within the corrupted human fallen body he prays the following two prays:

1. That the LORD would keep him from being judged with the wicked.
2. That the LORD would render the due reward to the wicked and those who speak peace while strife, division and war is in their heart and judge them according to their deception and lies, because they do not regard the LORD'S ways.

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### PSALM 28:6-7

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#### **The LORD is My Shield; in Him My Heart Trusts, and I am Helped.**

- **Psalm 28:6-7:** Blessed be the LORD! for he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy. <sup>7</sup>The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.

In almost all David's prayers he expresses his honest heartfelt feelings and emotions before God good and bad and then ends his prayers in exultation praise and worship of God in a tone of triumphant victory, thankfulness and gratitude. This Psalm is no different David knows the LORD has heard his prayer for mercy, he declares it is only in the LORD he trusts and that He is his strength, protector and his refuge and will carry him forever.

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### PSALM 28:8-9

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#### **The LORD is the Strength and Refuge of His Anointed.**

- **Psalm 28:8-9:** The LORD is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed. <sup>9</sup>Oh, save your people and bless your heritage! Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

The word anointed in this verse comes from the Hebrew word (*mashiyach*) and means consecrated (set apart) (as a king, priest, or as God's people) it especially applies to the Messiah. In this context it applies to Israel God's heritage, but it can apply to all who believe in God and the Messiah the Christ the Son of God. David's cry, "Oh, save your people," (v10) expresses his great heartfelt love for the nation Israel. As the reader travels through the Psalms it becomes very clear that David cared about others especially those who belonged to God's Kingdom and the poor. This no doubt is one of the reasons God said:

- He has sought out David a man after his own heart, and commanded him to be prince over his people. (1 Sam. 13:14).
- The LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart. (1 Sam. 16:7).
- Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed David in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. (1 Sam. 16:13).

Paul after the reading from the Law and the Prophets said:

- God raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, "I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will." <sup>23</sup>Of this man's offspring God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus, as he promised. (Acts 13:22-23).

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*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.*