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Psalm 86

(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.



Learn the
Bible
at Home

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 86.

Topics.

- Be gracious to me, O LORD, to you I cry all day, O LORD.
- Listen to my plea O LORD, there is none like you among the gods.
- All nations shall worship before you, O LORD, and glorify your name.
- LORD my God, with my whole heart I will glorify your name forever.
- You have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.
- O God, insolent and ruthless men seek my life.
- Show me a sign that you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

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 THREE (PSALM 73-89)

PSALM 86:1-4

A Prayer of David.

Be Gracious to Me, O Lord, to You I Cry all Day, I Lift up My Soul.

- **Psalm 86:1-4:** Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. ²Preserve my life, for I am godly; save your servant, who trusts in you—you are my God. ³Be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all the day. ⁴Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

A band of ruthless and insolent men who hate David and who do not consider God are seeking to kill him (v10). David feels powerless and that God has removed His favour from him and in grief and sorrow is praying all day before God to restore his steadfast love and joy to his heart.

PSALM 86:5-8

Listen to My Plea O LORD, there is None like You Among the gods.

- **Psalm 86:5-8:** For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you. ⁶Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; listen to my plea for grace. ⁷In the day of my trouble I call upon you, for you answer me. ⁸There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours.

David is perfect evidence that the faithful of the Old Testament though under the law and considered it of the utmost importance before God to adhered to the Levitical ceremonial rites and holy days their faith was not limited to keeping such laws. We do them a great injustice if we think their entire faith solely existed in adhering to outward laws. Here (and in many other Psalms) it is very clear that David had a very real intimate relationship with God as did many other prophets, and faithful men and women of the Old Testament.

David speaks of God being:

- Good.
- Forgiving.
- Abounding in steadfast love.
- Listen to my plea for grace.

These are all attitudes that dwell in the heart and cannot be known with simply by strictly adhering to outward religious laws and customs.

There is none like you among the gods, O Lord: (v8) this does not mean that God sits amongst a council of gods, the other gods are gods that are gods that are created by the imagination in the mind by a strong belief in them. The human nervous system does not have a mind of its own and therefore automatically responds to whatever is pictured on the imagination whether it is real or false. The stronger the belief the greater effect the mental image on the imagination of the mind will have on the human nervous system. This is why deception is so deceptive. It matters not if the god people believe in is real or not the nervous system responds accordingly. If the god a person believes in is a wrathful, vengeful and judgmental god they will feel emotions of guilt and fear in contrast to this if the god a person believes in is a god of love and compassion, they we feel emotions of love and comfort. This is why faith should be based upon the Scriptures of the Bible and never upon on emotions. This does not mean emotions should be denied, God gave them to us to enjoy (especially in worship and praise) it just means that they should not be the foundation of our faith and what we believe. It is through reading the Bible that we learn who the one and only immortal, invisible, eternal God is and His eternal will, plans and purposes for the world, the earth and for eternity. For further information see:

- Demons in, Satan and his Family.

PSALM 86:9-10

Nations shall Worship Before you, O LORD, and Glorify Your Name.

- **Psalm 86:9-10:** All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name. ¹⁰For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.

These verses will be perfectly fulfilled when the Lord Jesus Christ returns in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to destroy the antichrist and his kingdom and establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign. The dead in Christ (Old and New Testament) and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth. Jesus will do justice to the poor and

oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

In Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

The great prophet Isaiah wrote:

- They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory.

For further information see titles:

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

PSALM 86:11-13

O Lord My God, with My whole Heart I will Glorify your Name.

- **Psalm 86:11-13:** each me your way, O LORD, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name. ¹²I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever. ¹³For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

Here the greatest desire of David's heart is manifested; he longs to deeply know the way of the LORD. This deep desire has nothing to do with the Levitical Law, ceremonial rites, feast days and sacrifices it is about knowing how to live his daily life in a manner that honours God and delights His heart. The words, "With my whole heart I will glorify your name forever," does not just mean that he will verbally praise God with his mouth, but that with his words of praise and his life, actions and behaviour he will praise God. Words of praise sung amongst the assembly, is worshipping God, but it is not worshipping God with a whole heart if the worshippers' daily lifestyle is not in harmony with the ways and will of

God. It matters not how beautiful the music and songs of praise maybe on the Sabbath Day or a Holy Day or a Sunday if those worshipping life a lifestyle that brings dishonour to God and shame to the name of Jesus all their worship counts for nothing.

You have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol (v13) many times God delivered David from death, sometime when facing death on his sickbed and at other times on the battle field now in this Psalm David is praying that God would deliver him from the insolent proud and ruthless men who are seeking to kill him (v14).

PSALM 86:14-16

O God, Insolent and Ruthless Men Seek My Life.

- **Psalm 86:14-16:** O God, insolent men (proud men in KJV) have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men seek my life, and they do not set you before them. ¹⁵But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. ¹⁶Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant, and save the son of your maidservant.

The words, "Insolent men have risen up against me," (v14) can apply to any of the following:

- Strangers of another nation or land that David did not know who were ruthless and oppressive and had set themselves against God and were seeking to kill David.
- Israelites that had grossly degenerated from the ways of God and so deserved the name insolent proud and ruthless men.
- Proud men of Judah who had refused to follow God's ways and were full of ingratitude and malice and had treacherously betrayed David.
- King Saul who sought to take David's life and his army.
- Doeg the Edomite or the heathen soldiers that Saul had hired and taken into his army who as strangers of the commonwealth of Israel; rose up against David.
- The Ziphites, who though they were Israelites were called strangers because of their disloyal, deceitful and treacherous attitude towards David and because they treated him as the heathen nations would have done and by this ungodly behaviour showed themselves to be estranged from God and from the commonwealth of Israel.

It matters not who these enemies were since David's prayer can apply to any ruthless and proud enemy of Israel who came against David or to anyone who denies God and aggressively acts against God, against His word and His ways and are violent persecutors of His people and act against what is good, just and right. These are those who do not consider themselves as being under the omniscient eye of God and therefore do not set his word before them. They have no fear in their heart of God or of any impending judgment or any concern for God's honour and His glory. They do not live as in the presence of God or under His authority, but live as a law unto themselves acting ruthlessly and violently (i.e., war) and lying, deceiving and oppressing those under their authority to achieve their own ends and selfish ambitions without any fear of God.

PSALM 86:17

Show Me a Sign LORD, that You have Helped and Comforted Me.

- **Psalm 86:17:** Show me a sign of your favor, that those who hate me may see and be put to shame because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

The King James Bible says:

- **Psalm 86:17:** Shew me a token for good; that they which hate me may see *it*, and be ashamed: because thou, LORD, hast holpen me, and comforted me.

The words, "Show me a token for good," should not be supposed to mean that David was asking for a miracle such as a plague of Egypt, the Red Sea or the River Jordan parting which would save him from the hands of his enemies and be so evident that his enemies would be put to shame and no one could doubt that David was the friend of God. In the original Hebrew language, the expression, "Show me a token for good" means, "Make me a sign for good;" meaning, "Do for me in my trouble what will be an evidence to my enemies, that you O God favour me and will save me. David is praying that God would give him such a manifest sign on his behalf that others will see it and be convinced that God is the Almighty God of Israel and the protector and friend of those who put their trust in Him. It means that God would show David some kind of sign that he would know that his sins were forgiven and that he would be accepted and saved and it would be so visible to his enemies that they would know that God was on his side. Some say that the sign God showed him that clearly displayed God's goodness to him, and that he had a delight in him, and meant to do him good was him being raised to the throne of Israel.

NOTICE: David feels powerless, is suffering and praying God will deliver him from those seeking to kill him, but he spends even more time telling God how wonderful He is and how much he loves and trusts God and asking Him to help him change his character so that he is a better testimony to the LORD.

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.
