

Psalm 34:19-20

Faithfulness of God

Text: Psalm 34

Introduction:

1. God had promised that the seed of woman would crush the head of the serpent and the enemy of man would be defeated (Genesis 3:15).
2. He showed that this victory would include blessedness for all through the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).
3. This Victor would be a mediator (Job 19:23-27), a ruler (Genesis 49:10), a star (Numbers 24:17), a prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15-19), a priest (1 Samuel 2:35), and a king (1 Samuel 2:10) - ruling from the throne of David (1 Chronicles 17:11-14).
4. During the time of David, the "sweet psalmist of Israel" (2 Samuel 23:1) recorded many prophecies of Jesus in the Psalms.
5. Psalm 34 reveals the faithfulness of God, even toward the Messiah...

I. THE SETTING OF THE PSALM

- A. This psalm is identified as "a psalm of David."
- B. It is said to have been written concerning an event in which David pretended to be insane to escape from the king of Gath (cf. 1 Samuel 21).
- C. Obviously, it was not written to honor David's deception.
- D. Rather, it was written to honor God for delivering David despite his fear and dishonesty.
- E. Spurgeon wrote: "*David played the fool with singular dexterity, but he was not so real a fool as to sing of his own exploits of folly. ...It is well to mark our mercies with well carved memorials. God deserves our best handiwork.*"
- F. This is an alphabetical psalm - each verse begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet except for the sixth, *vav* (cf. Psalm 25).

II. THE STUDY OF THE PSALM (PSALM 34)

- A. David's Longing to Praise God - Psalm 34:1-3
- B. David's Learning about Fear - Psalm 34:4-10
 1. The text of 1 Samuel 21 states that David was motivated by "fear of Saul" and that he was "sore afraid" of the king of Gath (vs. 10, 12).
 2. Yet God was teaching David to depend fully upon Him - showing him how faith would conquer fear.
 3. Thus, when David cried to the Lord, God heard him and delivered him.
 4. As a result, David learned to fear God and not man.
 5. He invites all to put God to the same test - "Taste and see that the Lord is good!"
- C. David's Lesson about Faith - Psalm 34:11-22
 1. David concludes this song with a sermon: What does it mean to fear God?
 2. First, one must keep himself from evil.
 3. Next, one must practice that which is good.
 4. Then, one must cry out to God in prayer.
 5. Finally, one must maintain a humble heart before the Lord.

Prophecy of Jesus

- III. THE SAVIOR IN THE PSALM (PSALM 34:19-20)
- A. Verse 20 is a promise that God will protect His people and “not one of them [his bones] is broken.”
 - B. While this statement applies spiritually to the children of God, it cannot be said to apply literally – for many of God’s saints have suffered broken bones.
 - C. However, it does apply specifically to the Messiah – for God promised that none of His bones would be broken.
 - 1. In Psalm 22:14, Jesus’ bones are prophesied to be “out of joint” – revealing the pain He would suffer on the cross.
 - 2. However, there is a specific and important reason that not one bone would be broken.
 - 3. Jesus was the fulfillment of the Passover Lamb (cf. John 1:29, 36).
 - 4. It was commanded that no bone was to be broken when the Passover Lamb was offered (Exodus 12:46; Numbers 9:12).
 - 5. John’s account of the Gospel clearly shows that the death of Jesus coincided with the offering of the Passover Lamb.
 - 6. In fact, Paul stated explicitly that Jesus is the Christian’s Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7; cf. 1 Peter 1:19-20; Revelation 5:6-9, 12).
 - 7. This relationship had been established in Old Testament prophecy (cf. Isaiah 53:7-8; Acts 8:32-35).
 - 8. Thus, when the soldiers came to break the legs of the on the crosses, they did not break the legs of Jesus, unknowingly fulfilling this prophecy (John 19:31-37).
 - D. Truly, Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!