

Saturday, May 30, 2020

Turn off the outside “noise” for a couple of minutes and consider this message from God’s Word.
I am praying that it calms your spirit and encourages your heart.

PSALM 36 (NIV)

⁵ **Your love, Lord,** reaches to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the skies.

⁶ **Your righteousness** is like the highest mountains,
your justice like the great deep.
YOU, LORD, PRESERVE BOTH PEOPLE AND ANIMALS.

⁷ **How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!**
People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

⁸ **They feast on the abundance of your house;**
you give them drink from your river of delights.

⁹ **For with you is the fountain of life;**
IN YOUR LIGHT WE SEE LIGHT.

— PART 5 —

*I found that when a passage of Scripture has been very familiar to me for a long time — such as this passage! — if I will simply **slow down** . . . take my time . . . and read thoughtfully and reflectively, it can become alive to me in new and fresh ways.*

Verses 7-9 provide the third stanza of the Psalm. And it is all about God’s *hesed* — that beautiful Hebrew word for God’s “steadfast love,” “loyal love,” “covenant love.”

“How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!” —

*“The Lord’s *hesed* furnishes the unifying theme of the poem. . . . In stanza 3, the psalmist intensifies this praise by focusing more tightly on God’s *hesed*. [Here] the poet offers praise for the Lord’s *hesed*, specifically for the *hesed* that is made known and available to humanity in and through the temple. **The temple is the place where heaven and earth intersect.** As Clifford has put it, “the Temple, like any ancient Near Eastern temple, had cosmic significance. The temple represents the *god’s heavenly palace*. . . . The Temple is **the place where the Lord’s steadfast love is experienced directly.**”*

NANCY L. DECLAISSE-WALFORD, ROLF A. JACOBSON, & BETH LANEEL TANNER, *The Book of Psalms* (NICOT).

The temple was **“God’s heavenly palace”**; **“the place where heaven and earth intersect”**; **the place God resides**. ***When we come into God’s home and God’s presence, that’s “the place where the Lord’s steadfast love is experienced directly”!***

There is nowhere we would rather be right now!

“People take refuge in the shadow of your wings” — having described the staggering majesty of creation and how it reflects the character of God in vv. 5-6, the Psalmist now shares a much more intimate and personal glimpse of God.

“The “refuge” in verse 7 (NIV) is probably the Holy of Holies in the sanctuary of the Lord, for he mentions God’s house in verse 8. ***If so, then the “wings” are those of the cherubim on the mercy seat of the ark*** (Ex. 37:9). (See 57:1; 61:4; 63:7; Ruth 2:12.) God’s “shadow” offers us better protection than the world’s armies! In 91:4, ***the image is that of the mother hen protecting her young with her outspread wings***. (See Matt. 23:37; Luke 13:34.) ”

WARREN W. WIERSBE, *Be Worshipful (Psalms 1-89): Glorifying God for Who He Is*.

*“They feast on the abundance of your house; you give them drink from your river of delights” — “Yhwh is not only powerful protector but also **generous host** (cf. Ps. 23).”*

JOHN GOLDINGAY, *Psalms, Volume 1* (Baker Commentary on the Old Testament Wisdom & Psalms): Psalms 1-41.

And what a host he is! Just look at the refreshing feast that is provided! “David sees all of God’s people enjoying a feast in God’s house where there is **an abundance of food and water** (63:1–5; 65:4). ***The image of the Lord’s satisfying river is found often in Scripture***: 46:4; Isaiah 8:5–8; Jeremiah 2:13–19; Ezekiel 47; John 4:1–15; 7:37–39; and Revelation 22:1. **The word pleasures (delights) in verse 8 comes from the same Hebrew root as “Eden” in Genesis 2 and 3, and it means “delight.”** Man sinned and was cast out of Eden, but through faith in Christ, we have access into God’s presence and can delight in His blessings. ***The river in verse 8 reminds us of the rivers in Eden (Gen. 2:8–14).***”

WARREN W. WIERSBE, *Be Worshipful (Psalms 1-89): Glorifying God for Who He Is*.

GENESIS 2:10 (NIV)

A river watering the garden flowed from Eden...

And today — one day before **THE DAY OF PENTECOST!** — that river also reminds us of the river that flows from God’s presence to fill us with gladness:

PSALM 46 (NIV)

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,**
the holy place where the Most High ***dwells***.

⁵ God is ***within*** her, she will not fall;
God will ***help*** her at break of day.

And it reminds us of the life-giving river that flows in the unimaginable future that God is preparing for us:

REVELATION 22:1-2 (NIV)

Then the angel showed me **the river of the water of life,**
as clear as crystal,

flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb
down the middle of the great street of the city.

On each side of the river stood the tree of life,

bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month.
And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

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So we cry out, with Pentecostal anticipation: ***“Father, pour out your river!
Lord Jesus, pour out your life!
Holy Spirit, pour out your water!
Flood the nations with your healing power!”***

Pastor Doug