

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 GOLINGAY, *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)

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

<sup>5</sup> 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