

Through the Bible

PSALMS - 1

Zac Poonen



Illustrations by Vinay Kuruville

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PSALMS

BOOK

1



THE BOOK OF **PSALMS** IS DIVIDED INTO **FIVE** SECTIONS, EACH CLOSING WITH A **BENEDICTION**.

- BOOK 1 -- PSALMS 1--41
- BOOK 2 -- PSALMS 42--72
- BOOK 3 -- PSALMS 73--89
- BOOK 4 -- PSALMS 90--106
- BOOK 5 -- PSALMS 107--150

MORE THAN 70 OF THE PSALMS WERE WRITTEN BY **DAVID**, SOME WERE WRITTEN BY **ASAPH**, SOME BY THE **SONS OF KORAH**, TWO BY **SOLOMON**, ONE BY **MOSES**, ONE BY **HEMAN**, AND ONE BY **ETHAN**. THE OTHER AUTHORS ARE **UNKNOWN**.

MANY OF THE PSALMS **CONTRAST** THE LOT OF THE **RIGHTEOUS** WITH THAT OF THE **WICKED**. A THEME THAT IS FOUND FREQUENTLY IN MANY OF THE PSALMS IS ASKING **GOD** FOR **DELIVERANCE** FROM ONE'S **ENEMIES**.



Like a tree
planted by
waters...

PSALM 1 IS AN INTRODUCTION TO THE WHOLE BOOK OF PSALMS. THIS PSALM DESCRIBES THE **BLESSED** MAN WHO AVOIDS SINFUL PATHS AND **MEDITATES** ON GOD'S WORD. IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO AVOID EVIL. THE HEART THAT HAS BEEN CLEANSED OF EVIL MUST BE **FILLED** WITH GOD'S WORD. TO **MEDITATE** ON GOD'S WORD DAY AND NIGHT MEANS TO THINK FREQUENTLY OF THE WORD THAT WE HAVE READ AND TO LET IT **SINK** INTO OUR HEARTS -- JUST LIKE THE **FOOD** WE EAT IS DIGESTED OVER A PERIOD OF MANY HOURS AND CONVERTED INTO BLOOD, FLESH AND BONES. WE SPEND VERY LITTLE TIME ACTUALLY EATING. IT IS THE DIGESTION PROCESS THAT GOES ON FOR HOURS. SO WE MAY SPEND ONLY A SHORT WHILE READING GOD'S WORD. BUT MEDITATION ON IT IS IMPORTANT. IF WE DO THAT, WE WILL BE LIKE **TREES** PLANTED BY A RIVER THAT ARE ALWAYS **FRUITFUL** AND WHATEVER WE DO WILL PROSPER.

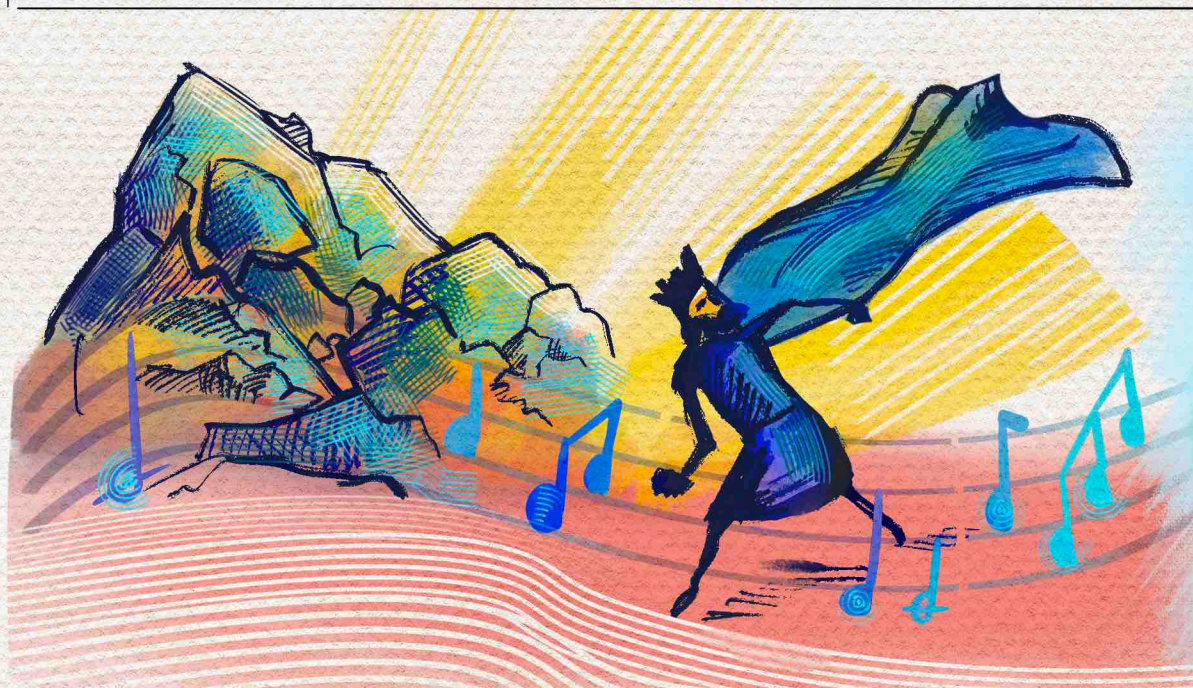
PSALM 2 IS A **MESSIANIC** PSALM THAT SPEAKS OF THE **REIGN OF CHRIST**. THERE ARE AT LEAST **18** PROPHECIES ABOUT THE MESSIAH (CHRIST) IN **13** OF THE PSALMS. THIS ONE IS ABOUT **MESSIAH RULING** AS THE **KING**.



THE KING IS **REJECTED** BY THE **WORLD** (VERSES 1 TO 3 -- PETER QUOTES THESE VERSES IN ACTS 4:25, 26). BUT "HE WHO SITS IN THE HEAVENS WILL LAUGH" (VERSE 4). AND GOD SAYS, "THOU ART MY SON. ASK OF ME AND I WILL GIVE YOU THE HEATHEN FOR YOUR **INHERITANCE**, THE UTMOST PARTS OF THE **EARTH** FOR YOUR **POSSESSION**. YOU SHALL BREAK THEM WITH A ROD OF **IRON**" (VERSES 7--9). ONE DAY, JESUS WILL **RULE** OVER THE EARTH. WE ARE **URGED** TO "KISS THE SON" **BEFORE** THAT DAY.

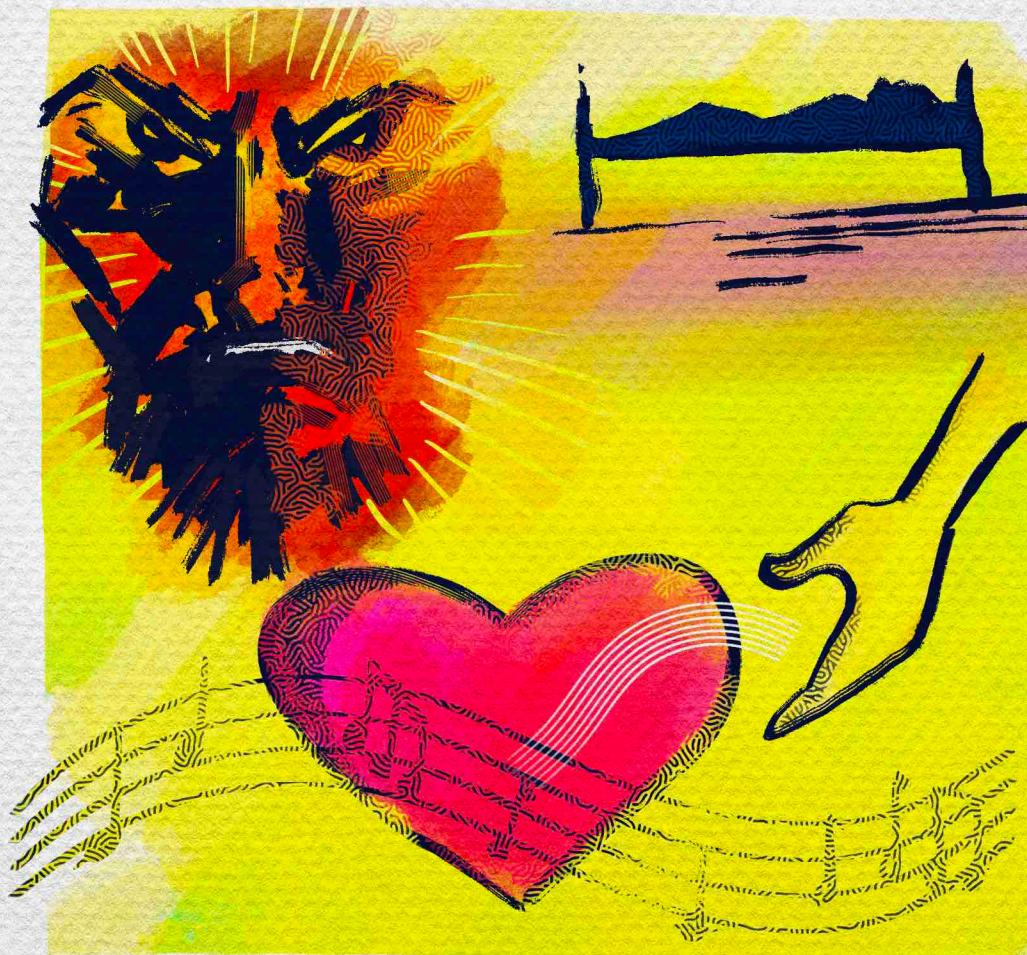
PSALM 3 WAS WRITTEN BY **DAVID** WHEN HE WAS OUSTED BY HIS SON **ABSALOM** AND HAD TO **ESCAPE** FROM JERUSALEM. HE EXPRESSES HIS TRUST IN GOD HERE. HE SAYS, "LORD, YOU ARE MY GLORY AND THE LIFTER OF MY HEAD" (VERSE 3). WE USUALLY SING THAT VERSE IN A **COMFORTABLE** BUILDING ON A SUNDAY MORNING. DAVID SANG IT WHILE HE WAS **ESCAPING** FOR HIS **LIFE** FROM **ABSALOM!!** MANY OF THESE PSALMS WERE WRITTEN BY DAVID, NOT WHEN HE WAS IN HIS PALACE, BUT WHEN HE WAS UNDER **PRESSURE**, RUNNING FROM CAVE TO CAVE.

MANY OF THESE INSPIRED PSALMS WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN WRITTEN IF DAVID HAD NOT FACED **PRESSURE**. SOME OF THE GREATEST **LESSONS GOD** TEACHES US ARE IN TIMES OF **PRESSURE**. IT IS THROUGH PRESSURE THAT GOD MAKES US A **BLESSING** TO OTHERS. IT IS WHEN A TUBE OF TOOTHPASTE IS SQUEEZED THAT THE PASTE COMES OUT. GOD ALSO SQUEEZES US THROUGH OUR ENEMIES, SO THAT HIS **WORD** COMES FORTH FROM US.



"I
cried
unto
the
Lord"

THE MORE THE PRESSURE, THE **RICHER** OUR MINISTRY BECOMES.



PSALM 4 IS AN EVENING PRAYER (4:8). THE PREVIOUS PSALM WAS A MORNING PRAYER (3:5). BOTH EXPRESS FAITH IN GOD'S **PROTECTING** POWER. "THE LORD HAS SET APART THE GODLY FOR HIMSELF" (VERSE 3). WE HAVE BEEN TAKEN OUT OF THE WORLD AND SET APART BY GOD TO BE EXCLUSIVELY HIS.

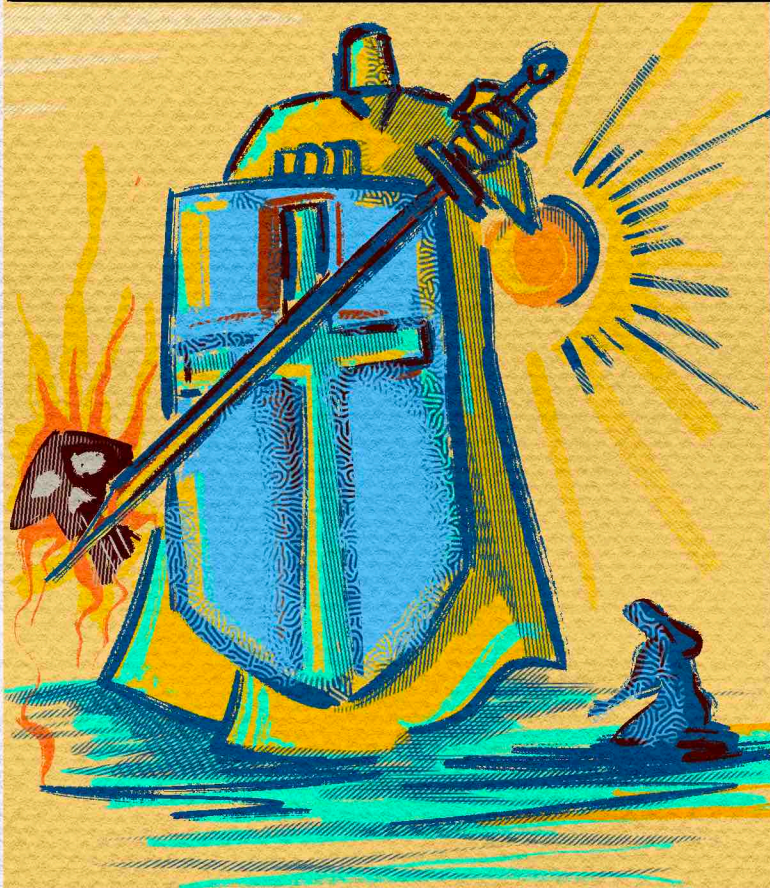
THEN WE ARE WARNED AGAINST THE SIN OF **ANGER**: "TREMBLE (WITH ANGER) BUT DON'T SIN," (VERSE 4 - NASB MARGIN). THEN IT GOES ON TO SAY, "**MEDITATE** IN YOUR HEART UPON YOUR BED AND BE STILL". UNDER THE OLD COVENANT, THEY **COULD NOT OVERCOME ANGER**.

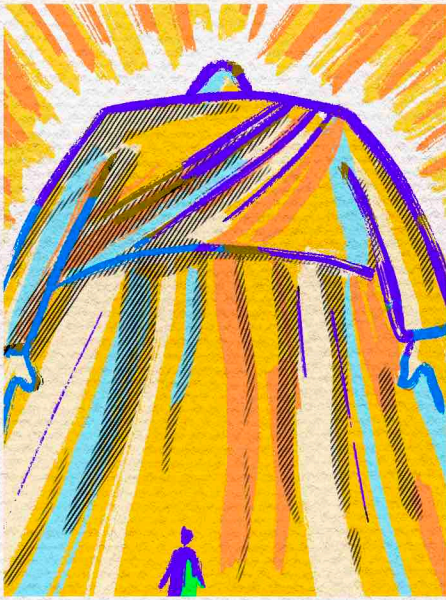
SO THEY WERE URGED TO **LIE DOWN ON THEIR BEDS** UNTIL THEY CALMED DOWN. AND ON THEIR BEDS, THEY WERE TO "**OFFER THE SACRIFICES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS** TO THE LORD" (VERSE 5) -- AND TO GET UP ONLY WHEN THEIR ANGER HAD BEEN REPLACED WITH GLADNESS, AND THEY COULD SAY "LORD, YOU HAVE PUT **GLADNESS** IN MY **HEART**" (VERSE 7).

THAT IS GOOD **PRACTICAL** ADVICE FOR CHRISTIANS ALSO, WHO HAVE NOT YET OVERCOME ANGER. IN THE NEW COVENANT, THAT VERSE IS QUOTED IN EPHESIANS 4:26 THUS, "BE ANGRY BUT DO NOT SIN". BUT THEN WE ARE EXHORTED TO "PUT AWAY ALL ANGER" (EPHESIANS 4:31). THIS IS OUR **PRIVILEGE** UNDER THE **NEW COVENANT**.

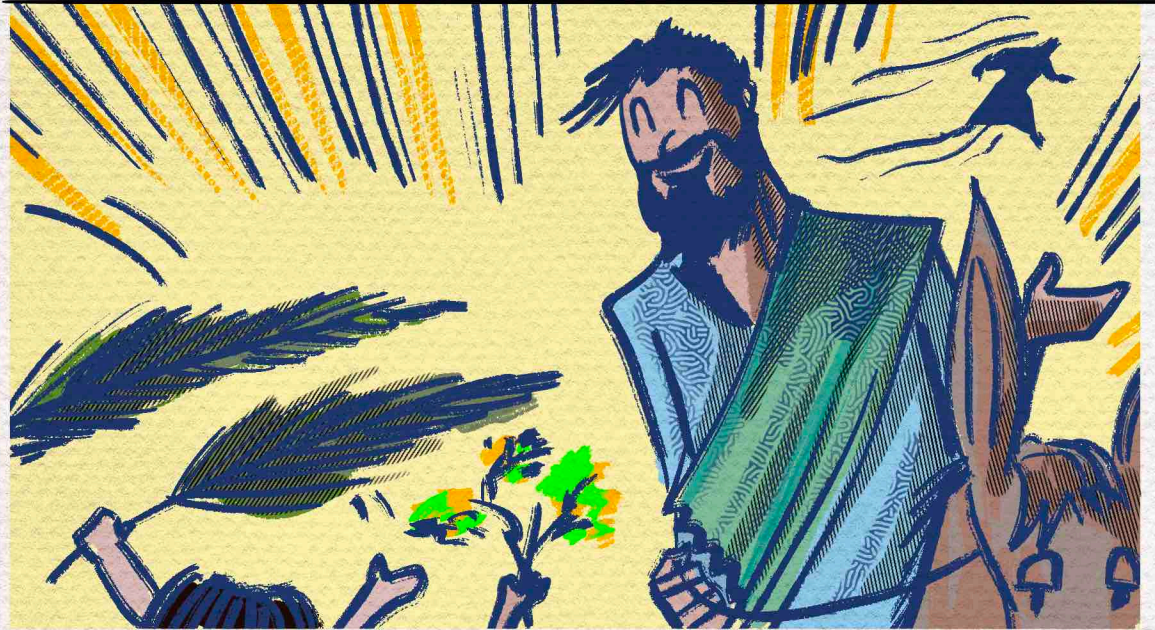
PSALM 5 IS A PRAYER FOR **PROTECTION** FROM ENEMIES. "IN THE **MORNING** O LORD THOU WILT HEAR MY VOICE. IN THE MORNING I WILL ORDER MY PRAYER TO THEE" (VERSE 3) -- A GOOD WAY TO BEGIN EVERY MORNING. "LET THOSE WHO PUT THEIR TRUST IN THEE **REJOICE** BECAUSE THOU **DEFENDEST** THEM" (VERSE 11). PSALM 6 IS A PRAYER FOR GOD'S **MERCY**. "ALL MY ENEMIES SHALL BE ASHAMED AND GREATLY DISMAYED" (VERSE 10)

PSALM 7 IS A PRAYER FOR GOD TO **VINDICATE**. DAVID HAS A CLEAR CONSCIENCE: "LORD, IF THERE IS INJUSTICE IN MY HANDS, IF I HAVE REWARDED **EVIL** TO THOSE WHO WERE AT **PEACE** WITH ME, THEN LET MY ENEMY PERSECUTE ME." (VERSES 3--5). IT IS A VERY SERIOUS THING TO DO **EVIL** TO **OTHERS**. THERE ARE **TWO** TYPES OF SINS -- SINS WHERE YOU **HARM YOURSELF** AND **SINS** WHERE YOU HARM **OTHERS**. DRUG- ADDICTION AND SMOKING ARE SINS BY WHICH ONE HARMS ONESELF. **GOSSIPING**, HOWEVER, DESTROYS THE **REPUTATION** OF OTHERS. SO GOSSIPING IS MORE SERIOUS. "GOD IS ANGRY WITH SUCH WICKED PEOPLE EVERY DAY" (VERSE 11). BUT HOW MANY CHRISTIANS **BELIEVE** THAT?





PSALM 8 COMPARES THE LITTLENES OF MAN WITH THE GREATNESS OF GOD. THIS IS YET ANOTHER MESSIANIC PSALM.



JESUS QUOTED FROM IT WHEN THE CHILDREN WERE PRAISING HIM IN THE TEMPLE AND THE PHARISEES WERE **UPSET** WITH THEIR **NOISY** PRAISE, : "OUT OF THE MOUTH OF INFANTS AND NURSING BABES THOU HAST PREPARED PRAISE FOR THYSELF" (MATTHEW 21:16). THE PURPOSE OF THIS IS SAID TO BE "TO SILENCE THE **ENEMY**" (VERSE 2). BY PRAISING GOD, WE BECOME STRONG TO **SHUT** SATAN'S MOUTH. **SINCERE** PRAISE THAT COMES FROM THE HEART IS WHAT THE DEVIL **HATES**.

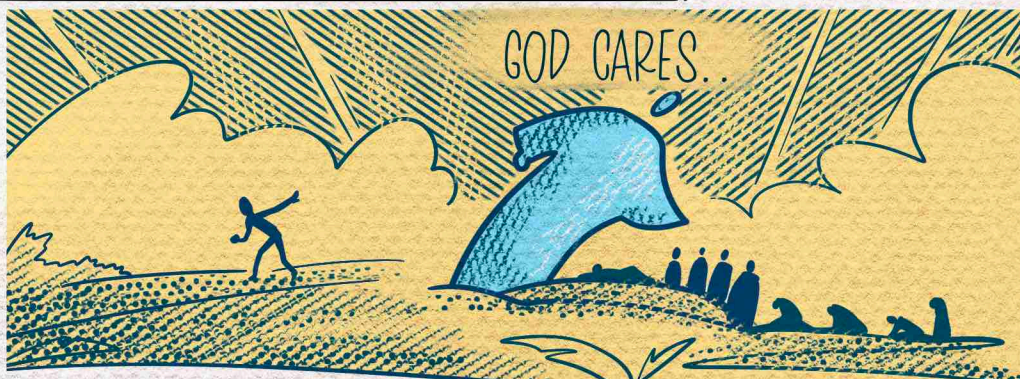


VERSE 4: "WHAT IS MAN THAT THOU ARE MINDFUL OF HIM? THOU HAST MADE HIM A LITTLE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS" IS QUOTED IN HEBREWS 2:6--8 -- A REFERENCE TO JESUS HAVING TAKEN A PLACE **LOWER** THAN ANGELS FOR A WHILE -- BECAUSE HE DIED, WHEREAS ANGELS DON'T DIE. BUT **NOW** JESUS HAS BEEN **CROWNED** WITH **GLORY** AND HONOUR, AND ALL THINGS ARE **UNDER HIS FEET**. AND SINCE WE ARE HIS BODY, **EVERYTHING** IS UNDER **OUR FEET** TOO.



PSALM 9 IS A PRAYER OF **THANKSGIVING** TO GOD FOR PUNISHING HIS ENEMIES. "THOSE WHO KNOW THY NAME (THE NAME OF JESUS) WILL PUT THEIR TRUST IN THEE BECAUSE THOU HAS **NOT FORSAKEN** THEM." (VERSE 10).

GOD IS THE GOD OF **RESURRECTION**: "THOU WHO DOST **LIFT** ME UP FROM THE GATES OF **DEATH**" (VERSE 13).



PSALM 10 IS A PRAYER ASKING GOD TO DESTROY THE WICKED. "THE WICKED ONE THROUGH THE **PRIDE** OF HIS FACE WILL **NOT SEEK** AFTER GOD. BUT GOD IS THE ONE WHO CARES FOR THE **FATHERLESS** AND THE **OPPRESSED** PEOPLE OF THE EARTH SO THAT THE **EVIL** MEN OF THE WORLD MAY **NOT OPPRESS** OR **TERRIFY** THEM ANY MORE" (VERSES 4, 18).



the WORD tests ...

PSALM 11 IS ABOUT THE LORD PROTECTING THE RIGHTEOUS. IT SAYS HERE THAT GOD **TESTS BOTH** THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED (VERSE 5). AND HE HATES THE ONE WHO SEEKS TO HARM OTHERS. WHEN GOD TESTS US, HE SEEKS TO PROMOTE US TO A HIGHER CLASS -- JUST AS A STUDENT WRITES AN **EXAMINATION** IN ORDER TO BE **PROMOTED**.



PSALM 12 IS A PSALM ABOUT THE USE OF THE **TONGUE**. IT BEGINS BY SAYING THAT FAITHFUL, GODLY PEOPLE ARE BECOMING FEWER AND FEWER. AND THEN IT GOES ON IN THE NEXT THREE VERSES TO SPEAK ABOUT THE TONGUE -- **FALSEHOOD, FLATTERY, INSINCERITY AND ARROGANCE** ARE EXPRESSED THROUGH THE TONGUE. A GODLY MAN RECOGNISES THAT "THE WORDS OF THE LORD ARE **PURE** WORDS, LIKE SILVER TESTED IN A **FURNACE SEVEN** TIMES" (VERSE 6). SO BEFORE HE SPEAKS, HE THINKS ABOUT WHAT HE IS GOING TO SAY. IF HE IS IN DOUBT, HE THROWS THE WORDS HE IS PLANNING TO SPEAK, INTO THE **FURNACE** OF HIS HEART AND ASKS HIMSELF A FEW QUESTIONS: "IS IT **NECESSARY** FOR ME TO SAY THIS? CAN I PUT IT IN A **GENTLER** WAY? AM I SPEAKING THE **TRUTH**? AM I SPEAKING IN **LOVE**?" ETC. THEN HE DECIDES WHAT TO SAY AND HOW TO SAY IT. IF HE IS WRITING A LETTER TO CORRECT SOMEONE, HE WILL **REWRITE** IT **SEVEN** TIMES IF **NECESSARY**, BEFORE SENDING IT.



PSALM 13 IS A PRAYER ASKING THE LORD FOR **HELP** IN TROUBLE. IT CONCLUDES WITH, "I WILL **SING** TO THE LORD BECAUSE HE HAS DEALT BOUNTIFULLY WITH ME."



PSALM 14 DESCRIBES THE **WICKED** MAN. EVERY **ATHEIST** IS A **FOOL** (VERSE 1). VERSES 2 AND 3 DESCRIBE THE CONDITION OF FALLEN MAN AND ARE QUOTED IN ROMANS 3:10--12.



PSALM 15 DESCRIBES THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR A MAN TO LIVE IN GOD'S PRESENCE. HE MUST SPEAK THE **TRUTH** IN HIS HEART. HE MUST HONOUR THOSE WHO FEAR GOD. IT SAYS THAT THOSE WHO LIVE LIKE THIS "WILL NEVER BE **SHAKEN**" (VERSE 5). MANY THINGS ARE GOING TO BE **SHAKEN** IN THE WORLD SOON. BUT THIS MAN WILL **NEVER** BE SHAKEN.



PSALM 16 IS ANOTHER MESSIANIC PSALM WHERE DAVID SAYS THAT THE LORD AND THE SAINTS ARE ALL THAT HE WANTS. VERSE 8, "I HAVE SET THE LORD ALWAYS BEFORE ME. BECAUSE HE IS AT MY **RIGHT** HAND, I WILL **NEVER** BE **MOVED**", IN GOD'S PRESENCE, THERE IS "**FULLNESS OF JOY**", AND AT HIS **RIGHT** HAND THERE ARE **ETERNAL PLEASURES** (VERSE 11). JOY AND PLEASURE ARE FOUND IN THEIR PUREST FORM **ONLY** IN GOD'S PRESENCE WHERE THEY ARE ETERNAL. **EARTHLY** JOYS AND PLEASURES ARE **SHALLOW** AND **SHORT-LIVED**.

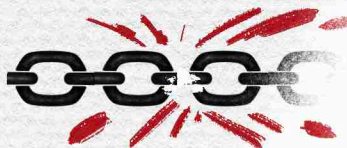
As for me, I shall behold
your face in righteousness
and I will be satisfied
with your likeness, when I
awake



PSALM 17 IS ANOTHER PSALM WHERE DAVID ASKS FOR **PROTECTION** FROM HIS OPPRESSORS. VERSE 15 SPEAKS OF THE RESURRECTION MORNING, WHEN WE WILL "BEHOLD THE LORD'S FACE IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND BE **SATISFIED** WITH HIS **LIKENESS**." THAT CAN MEAN TWO THINGS: THAT WE WILL BE **SATISFIED** WHEN WE SEE HIM AND ALSO THAT WE WILL BE **SATISFIED** WHEN WE ARE **LIKE** HIM. OUR **BLESSED** HOPE IS **DUAL** -- TO **SEE** HIM AND **BE** LIKE HIM (1 JOHN 3:2).



PSALM 18 IS ANOTHER PSALM OF **DELIVERANCE**. VERSES 16 TO 19 ARE A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE OF OUR SALVATION. "**HE** WILL **ENLIGHTEN** OUR **DARKNESS** AND MAKE OUR WAY **PERFECT**" (VERSES 28, 32). THIS PSALM IS QUOTED FULLY IN 2 SAMUEL 22.

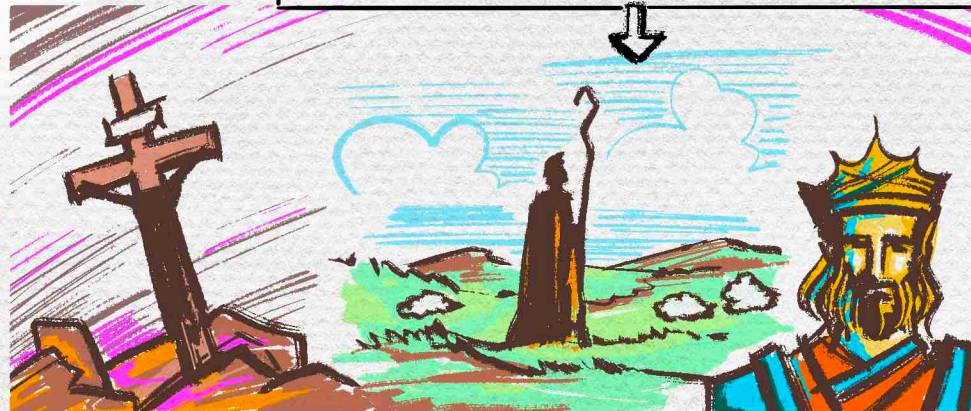


PSALM 19 SPEAKS OF THE **WORKS** OF GOD AND THE **WORD** OF GOD. THERE ARE **TWO** TESTIMONIES TO GOD ON EARTH. ONE IS THE HEAVENS (VERSES 1--5), AND THE OTHER IS HIS WRITTEN **WORD** (VERSES 7--11). .. "LORD, LET THE **WORDS** OF MY MOUTH AND THE MEDITATION OF MY HEART BE **ACCEPTABLE** IN YOUR SIGHT" (VERSE 14).

PSALM 20 IS A PRAYER FOR **VICTORY** OVER ONE'S ENEMIES. DAVID'S CONFIDENCE IS IN GOD ALONE: "SOME **TRUST** IN **CHARIOTS** AND SOME IN **HORSES** (TODAY, SOME TRUST IN **MONEY** AND SOME IN **MAN'S** HELP) BUT WE WILL **TRUST** IN THE **NAME** OF THE LORD." (VERSE 7).

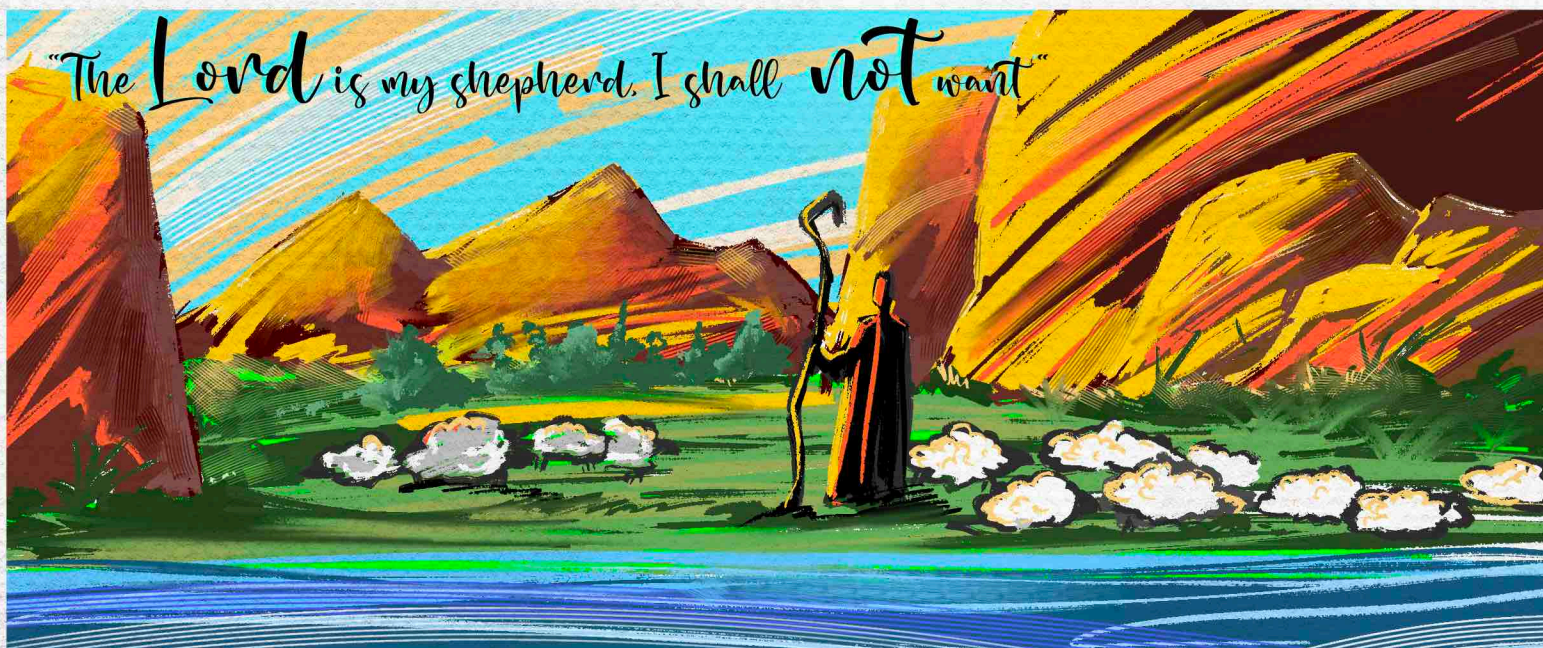


PSALM 22 IS ANOTHER **MESSIANIC** PSALM WITH PRAYER AND PRAISE. THIS PSALM AND THE NEXT TWO ARE "SHEPHERD" PSALMS. PSALM 22 SPEAKS ABOUT THE **PAST** (THE CROSS), PSALM 23 SPEAKS ABOUT THE **PRESENT** (THE LORD AS OUR SHEPHERD NOW) AND PSALM 24 SPEAKS ABOUT THE **FUTURE** (WHEN JESUS WILL **REIGN** AS THE **KING** OF GLORY). VERSE 1 HERE IS WHAT JESUS SAID ON THE **CROSS**: "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?"



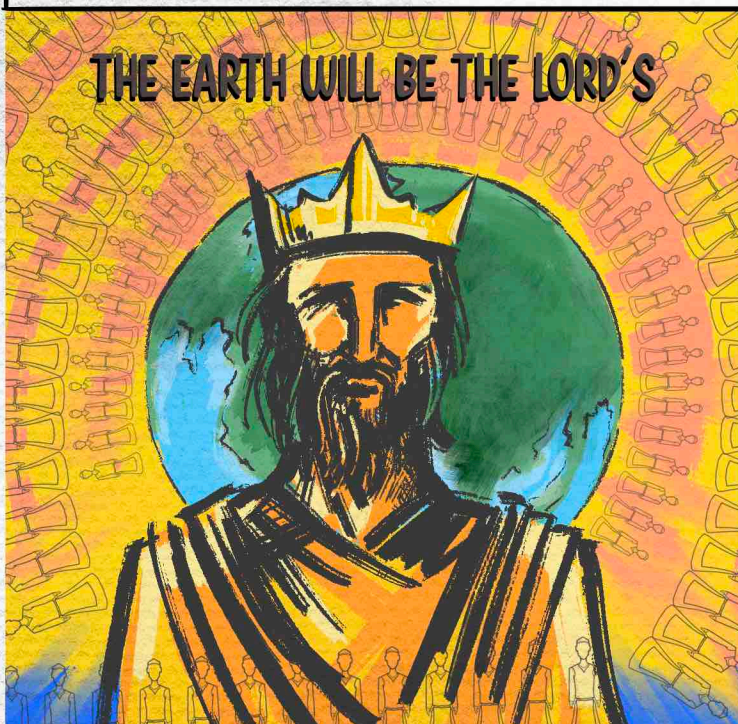
PSALM 21 IS A PSALM OF **PRAISE** TO GOD FOR GRANTING **DELIVERANCE**. "THOU HAST GIVEN HIM HIS HEART'S DESIRE AND NOT WITHHELD THE REQUEST OF HIS LIPS. HE ASKED LIFE OF THEE, AND YOU GAVE HIM **ETERNAL** LIFE" (VERSES 2, 4).

ON THE CROSS, JESUS WAS LIKE A **WORM** AND **POURED OUT** LIKE WATER (VERSES 6, 14). DOGS SURROUNDED HIM AND THEY DIVIDED HIS GARMENTS (VERSES 16, 18). BUT IN VERSE 22, WE COME TO THE RESURRECTION: "I WILL DECLARE YOUR NAME TO MY **BROTHERS**." JESUS CALLED HIS **DISCIPLES** HIS **BROTHERS** DIRECTLY FOR THE **FIRST** TIME ON THE DAY OF HIS **RESURRECTION** (JOHN 20:17).



"The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want"

PSALM 23 IS THE **SHEPHERD** PSALM. WHEN THE LORD IS OUR **SHEPHERD**, WE WILL LACK **NOTHING** (VERSE 1). HE MAKES US TO LIE DOWN. HE LEADS US. HE RESTORES US. HE GUIDES US. VERY OFTEN WE THINK ABOUT WHAT **WE** HAVE TO DO FOR THE LORD. **BUT** HERE THE **EMPHASIS** IS ON WHAT THE **LORD** DOES FOR US. WE CAN BE EFFECTIVE FOR GOD ONLY AS WE ALLOW **HIM FIRST** TO DO A **WORK** IN US. WE FEAR NO EVIL, BECAUSE **HE** IS WITH US. HE PREPARES A TABLE FOR US AND HE ANOINTS OUR HEAD WITH OIL. THEN OUR CUPS BEGIN TO RUN OVER AND GOODNESS AND MERCY FOLLOW US EVERYWHERE UNTIL WE REACH OUR ETERNAL HOME.



THE EARTH WILL BE THE LORD'S

PSALM 24 IS A **PROPHETIC** PSALM REFERRING TO THE TIME WHEN JESUS WILL **REIGN** ON **EARTH** AS **KING** AND "THE **EARTH** WILL BE THE **LORD'S**".



"Lord, show me your ways"

PSALM 25 IS A PSALM ABOUT **GUIDANCE** AND PROTECTION. DAVID'S PRAYER IS, "LORD, **SHOW** ME YOUR WAYS. TEACH ME YOUR PATHS" (VERSE 4). GUIDANCE IS **PROMISED** TO THOSE WHO **ACKNOWLEDGE** THAT THEY ARE **SINNERS** (VERSE 8), WHO **HUMBLE** THEMSELVES (VERSE 9), WHO **OBEY** HIS **TESTIMONIES** (VERSE 10), WHO **FEAR** HIM (VERSE 12), AND WHO **LOOK** TO HIM (VERSE 15). GOD REVEALS HIS **SECRETS** TO THOSE WHO **REVERENCE** HIM (VERSE 14).



PSALM 26: HERE DAVID **PROCLAIMS** HIS **INTEGRITY** TO THE LORD AND ASKS FOR **PROTECTION** FROM HIS **ENEMIES**. WHEN OUR **CONSCIENCE** IS **CLEAR**, WE CAN **BOLDLY** ASK GOD TO **DEFEND** US.



PSALM 28 IS A PRAYER FOR GOD'S **HELP** FOLLOWED BY **PRAISE** FOR HIS **QUICK** ANSWER. THE LORD IS DAVID'S **STRENGTH** AND **SHIELD** (VERSE 7).

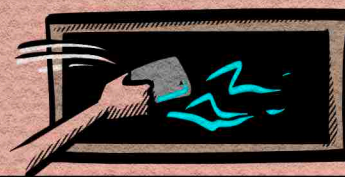
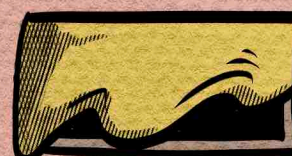
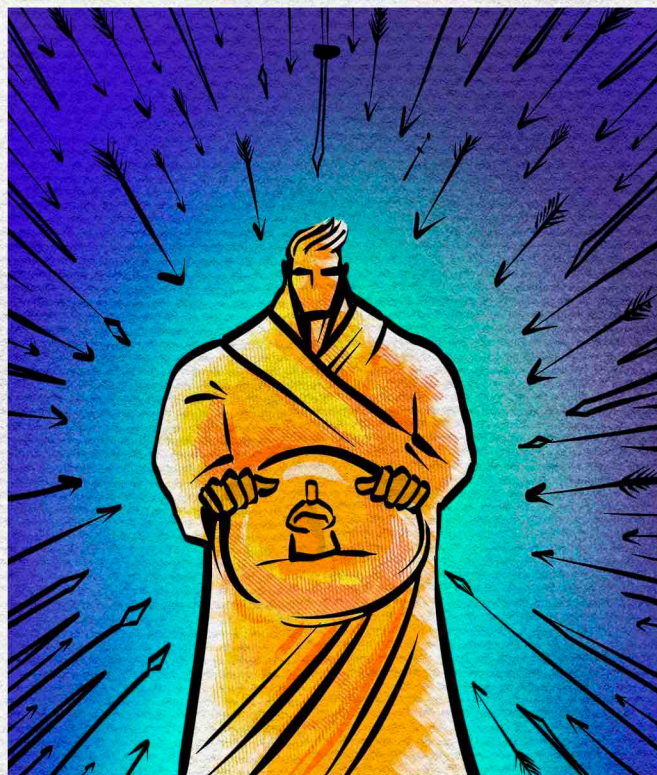


PSALM 27 IS A PSALM OF **FEARLESS** TRUST IN GOD. HERE DAVID PROCLAIMS THAT HE WILL NOT FEAR, "EVEN IF A HOST ENCAMPS AROUND HIM", BECAUSE THE LORD IS HIS DEFENCE (VERSES 1--3). DAVID DESIRED ONLY **ONE** THING FROM THE LORD -- TO SEE THE **BEAUTY** OF THE LORD AND TO DWELL IN GOD'S TEMPLE AT ALL TIMES (VERSE 4). THIS SHOULD BE THE ONLY THING THAT WE **DESIRE** TOO.



PSALM 29 IS ABOUT THE **VOICE** OF THE LORD. IT IS MENTIONED **SEVEN** TIMES.

PSALM 30 IS A PSALM OF **THANKSGIVING** FOR BEING SAVED FROM DEATH. "THOU HAST TURNED MY MOURNING INTO DANCING FOR ME THAT MY TONGUE MAY SING PRAISE TO YOU AND NEVER BE SILENT." (VERSES 11, 12). WE SHOULD **NEVER STOP PRAISING** GOD



PSALM 32 SPEAKS OF THE BLESSEDNESS OF BEING **FORGIVEN** AND HAVING ONE'S SIN **COVERED**. THAT IS BLESSED INDEED, BUT NOT AS BLESSED AS IT IS FOR US UNDER THE NEW COVENANT WHERE OUR SINS ARE **CLEANSED**. THERE WAS NO CLEANSING OF SIN UNDER THE OLD COVENANT. THE BLOOD OF BULLS AND GOATS COULD **ONLY COVER** SIN, WHEREAS THE **BLOOD OF JESUS** CLEANSSES US. SIN BEING COVERED CAN BE PICTURED THUS: OUR SINS ARE ALL WRITTEN ON A BLACKBOARD AND THEN **COVERED** WITH A SHEET. BUT IF YOU LIFT THE SHEET, THE SINS CAN STILL BE SEEN. CLEANSING, HOWEVER, IS LIKE **WIPING** THEM ALL OUT WITH A **WET SPONGE!**

PSALM 31 - GOD HIDES THOSE WHO **CRY** TO HIM FOR **HELP**, IN THE **SECRET** PLACE OF HIS **PRESENCE** FROM THE **CONSPIRACIES** OF MEN. GOD WILL KEEP THEM **SECRETLY** IN A SHELTER FROM THE **STRIFE** OF **TONGUES**" (VERSES 19--20). THAT IS THE **BEST** PLACE FOR US TO HIDE OURSELVES -- IN HIS **PRESENCE** -- FROM ALL THE WAGGING **TONGUES** OF OUR **ENEMIES** AROUND US.



PSALM 33 PROCLAIMS THE LORD ALONE AS THE HELP OF HIS PEOPLE. "THE **EYE** OF THE LORD IS CONSTANTLY ON THOSE WHO **FEAR** HIM TO DELIVER THEM AND KEEP THEM ALIVE EVEN IN TIMES OF FAMINE" (VERSES 18, 19). PSALM 34 DESCRIBES THE LORD AS THE **HELPER** OF THE RIGHTEOUS. DAVID ALSO SAW THAT "THE **EYES** OF THE LORD ARE UPON THE RIGHTEOUS AND HIS EARS ARE ALWAYS OPEN TO THEIR CRY", AND "THE LORD IS NEAR THE **BROKENHEARTED**". HE DELIVERS THE RIGHTEOUS OUT OF MANY AFFLICTIONS.



PSALM 35 TELLS OF **MALICIOUS** WITNESSES WHO HAD RISEN UP AGAINST DAVID, EVEN THOUGH HE HAD BEEN GOOD TO THEM THIS WAS THE EXPERIENCE OF **JESUS** TOO, WHO HAD BEEN GOOD TO **JUDAS** ISCARIOT.



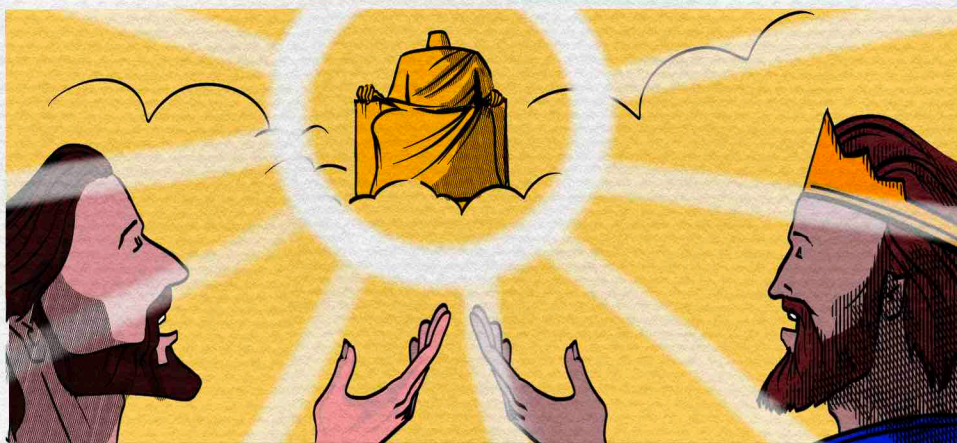
PSALM 36 VERSE 9 IS A VERY **IMPORTANT** VERSE: "IN **THY** LIGHT WE SEE LIGHT." THIS TEACHES THAT WE SHOULD **NEVER** LOOK **INSIDE OURSELVES**, BECAUSE THAT ONLY LEADS TO **CONDEMNATION**. ONLY AS WE COME INTO **GOD'S** LIGHT CAN WE REALLY SEE OUR **TRUE** CONDITION **WITHOUT** CONDEMNATION



PSALM 37 DEALS WITH THE BLESSEDNESS OF THE **RIGHTEOUS**. THE **STEPS** OF SUCH A MAN ARE **ORDERED** BY THE LORD. AND AS HAS BEEN SAID, "THE **STOPS** OF A GOOD MAN ARE ALSO ORDERED BY THE LORD." GOD LEADS HIS PEOPLE FORWARD **STEP BY STEP** AND AT TIMES TELLS THEM TO STOP. WHEN SUCH A MAN FALLS, IT WON'T BE SERIOUS, BECAUSE THE **LORD** HOLDS HIS HAND



PSALM 38: HERE DAVID ASKS THE LORD TO HURRY UP AND **HELP** HIM, BECAUSE HE IS **SICK** AND ALSO BEING **ATTACKED** BY HIS ENEMIES.



PSALM 39 SPEAKS ABOUT THE SHORTNESS OF LIFE AND ENDS WITH A PRAYER FOR **MERCY**. PSALM 40 IS YET ANOTHER **MESSIANIC** PSALM. VERSES 6 TO 8 ARE QUOTED IN HEBREWS 10:5--7. BUT NOTICE ONE **BIG** DIFFERENCE. DAVID COULD ONLY SAY, "I **DELIGHT** TO DO THY WILL, O GOD". JESUS WENT FURTHER AND SAID, "I HAVE COME TO **DO** THY WILL O GOD." THIS IS THE **DIFFERENCE** BETWEEN WHAT PEOPLE UNDER THE OLD COVENANT AND THOSE IN THE NEW COVENANT. THOSE SAINTS COULD ONLY **DELIGHT** IN GOD'S WILL. WE CAN **ACTUALLY** DO IT.

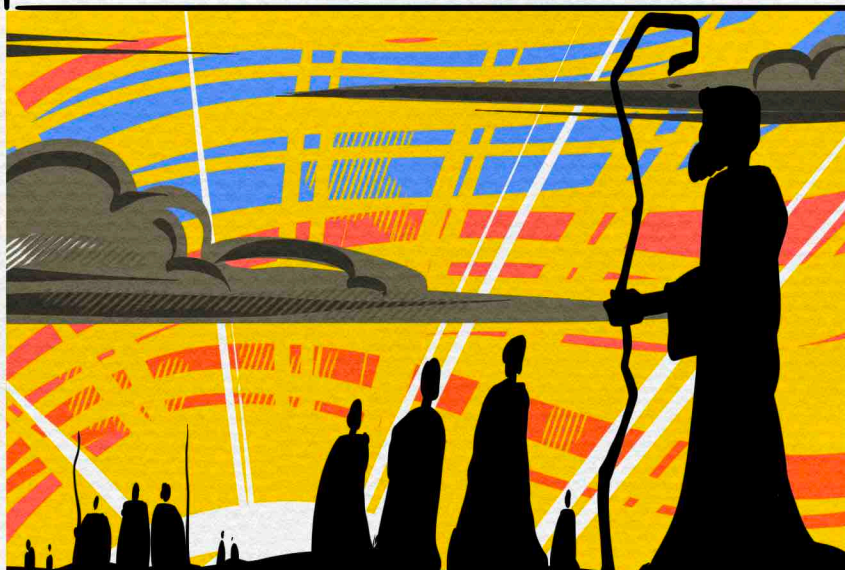


PSALM 41 ASKS FOR HEALING AND VICTORY OVER ONE'S ENEMIES. THE LORD BLESSES ANYONE WHO CARES FOR **POOR** PEOPLE -- BOTH THE **FINANCIALLY** POOR (WHO NEED MONEY) AND THE **SPIRITUALLY** POOR (WHO NEED THE GOSPEL).

PSALMS

BOOK 2

THE FIRST EIGHT PSALMS IN THIS BOOK (PSALMS 42 TO 49) WERE WRITTEN BY THE SONS OF **KORAH** WHO ESCAPED DEATH BY LEAVING THEIR **FATHER KORAH'S** SIDE, WHEN HE **REBELLED** AGAINST **MOSES** IN THE **WILDERNESS** (NUMBERS 26:9--11).



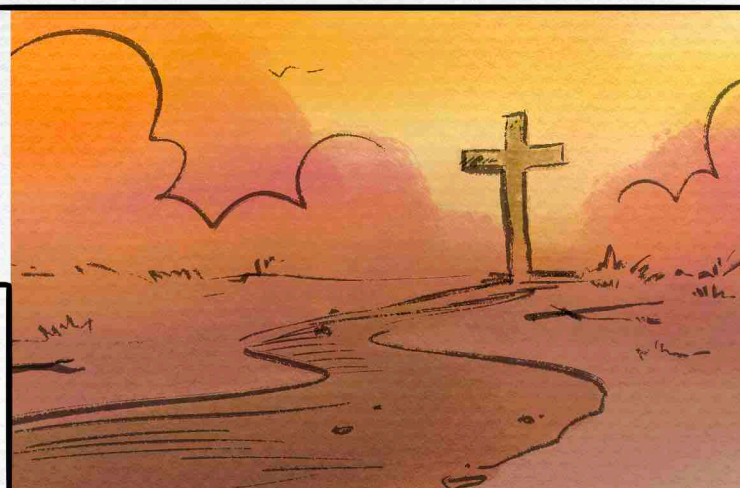
"As the deer pants after water..."

WHETHER WRITTEN BY THE **FIRST** GENERATION OR A **LATER** GENERATION OF **KORAH'S** SONS, **NONE** OF THESE PSALMS WOULD HAVE BEEN WRITTEN, IF **KORAH'S** SONS HAD NOT STOOD **AGAINST** THEIR FATHER IN HIS REBELLION.

PSALM 42 IS ABOUT A SOUL **THIRSTING** AFTER GOD "AS THE **DEER PANTS** AFTER WATER" (VERSE 1). WHEN YOU HAVE THAT TYPE OF LONGING AFTER GOD, YOU CAN BE CERTAIN THAT GOD WILL ANSWER VERY QUICKLY. "**DEEP CALLS UNTO DEEP**" (VERSE 7). THAT REFERS TO SOMETHING DEEP IN **OUR** HEART REACHING OUT TO THE DEPTHS OF **GOD'S** HEART. AND IF WE ARE LIKE THAT, THEN EVEN IF PEOPLE AROUND US SAY, "WHERE IS YOUR GOD?" (VERSE 10), WE CAN STILL **TRUST** GOD, **PRAISE** HIM AND **OVERCOME DISCOURAGEMENT** (VERSE 11).



PSALM 43 IS A PRAYER FOR **GUIDANCE** AND DELIVERANCE. "LORD, SEND OUT YOUR **LIGHT** AND YOUR **TRUTH**. LET THEM TOGETHER LEAD ME TO YOUR **HOLY HILL**" (VERSE 3). THE PSALMIST IS ASKING FOR **LIGHT (REVELATION)** AND NOT JUST **KNOWLEDGE** OF THE TRUTH. ONLY THE **LIGHT OF GOD** ON HIS **TRUTH** WILL SHOW US THE **WAY** INTO HIS **PRESENCE**.



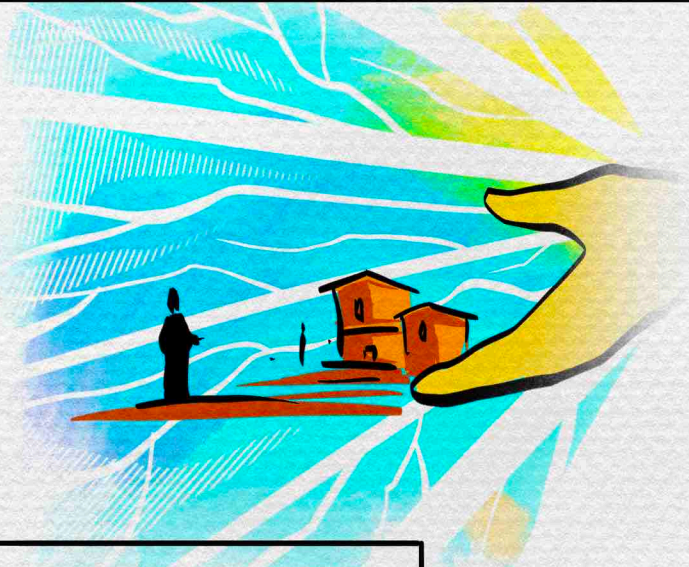
PSALM 44 IS A PRAYER TO GOD TO WORK NOW AS HE DID IN FORMER TIMES. VERSE 22 -- "FOR YOUR **SAKE** WE ARE KILLED ALL DAY LONG; WE ARE CONSIDERED AS **SHEEP** TO BE SLAUGHTERED" -- IS A **PROPHETIC** REFERENCE TO THE **WAY OF THE CROSS** THAT WE HAVE TO **WALK TODAY** AND IS **QUOTED** BY **PAUL** IN ROMANS 8:36, 37.



PSALM 45 IS ANOTHER MESSIANIC PSALM THAT SPEAKS ABOUT THE **MARRIAGE** OF THE **LAMB** AND DESCRIBES THE BRIDE AND THE BRIDEGROOM. THE BRIDE IS DESCRIBED AS BEING GLORIOUS **WITHIN** (VERSE 13) -- ON THE INSIDE. THAT IS WHERE WE SHOULD BE GLORIOUS. AND IN VERSE 10, WE HAVE A WORD FROM GOD TO ALL BRIDES AS TO WHAT TO DO AFTER MARRIAGE. "FORGET YOUR PEOPLE AND YOUR FATHER'S HOUSE" -- AND CLEAVE TO YOUR HUSBAND! THIS IS TO **BALANCE** WHAT GOD SAYS TO HUSBANDS IN GENESIS 2:24.



PSALM 46 DESCRIBES GOD AS THE **REFUGE** OF HIS PEOPLE. IT IS INTERESTING TO READ THIS IN THE CONTEXT OF WHAT KORAH AND HIS FELLOW-REBELS EXPERIENCED. KORAH'S **SONS** NOW SING THAT THEY WILL NOT BE AFRAID EVEN IF THE EARTH OPENS UP AND SWALLOWS UP THEIR PARENTS, AND THE MOUNTAINS ARE CARRIED INTO THE DEPTHS. THEY WILL BE AT **REST** KNOWING THAT GOD IS ON THE THRONE RULING OVER ALL (VERSE 10).



PSALM 47 IS A SONG OF PRAISE FOR THE **SOVEREIGNTY** OF GOD. VERSE 4 IS A WONDERFUL VERSE: "GOD WILL **CHOOSE** MY INHERITANCE FOR ME." THAT IS WHAT A TRUE **DISCIPLE** SAYS: GOD WILL CHOOSE MY WIFE FOR ME. HE WILL CHOOSE MY MINISTRY FOR ME. HE WILL CHOOSE THE TYPE OF HOUSE I LIVE IN AND EVERYTHING ELSE. I AM **NOT GOING TO CHOOSE ANYTHING.**



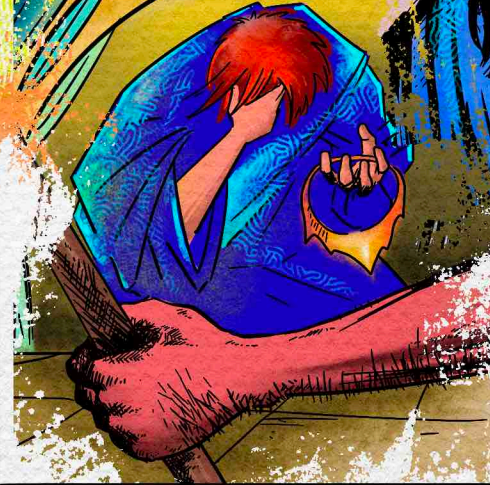
PSALM 49 DESCRIBES THE **FOOLISHNESS** OF TRUSTING IN EARTHLY **RICHS.**



PSALM 48 SPEAKS ABOUT THE GLORY OF ZION, A PICTURE OF THE **CHURCH**. A TRUE DISCIPLE OF JESUS WILL NOT ONLY APPRECIATE THE LORD HIMSELF BUT ALSO HIS BODY, THE CHURCH, THE LORD'S PEOPLE, AS WE SEE IN VERSE 1: "GREAT IS THE LORD AND GREATLY TO BE PRAISED. BEAUTIFUL AND THE JOY OF THE WHOLE EARTH IS MOUNT ZION." THE CHURCH IS THE MOST **BEAUTIFUL** THING ON EARTH. "THIS GOD IS OUR GOD AND HE WILL BE OUR GUIDE UNTO DEATH" (VERSE 14).



PSALM 50 WAS WRITTEN BY ASAPH THE LORD GIVES US A WONDERFUL PROMISE IN VERSE 15: "**CALL UPON ME IN THE DAY OF TROUBLE AND I WILL *DELIVER* YOU**". IN VERSES 19 AND 20, GOD WARNS US AGAINST THE SIN OF SPEAKING EVIL OF OUR BROTHERS. BECAUSE HE IS PATIENT WITH **GOSSIPERS**, THEY MAY **IMAGINE** THAT THEIR SIN IS **NOT** SERIOUS. " FINALLY, A WONDERFUL PROMISE IS FOUND IN VERSE 23, FOR THOSE WHO INSTEAD OF USING THEIR TONGUES TO GOSSIP, USE THEM TO **PRAISE** THE LORD



PSALM 51 IS THE PRAYER OF A REPENTANT SINNER ASKING FOR GOD'S MERCY. **DAVID** WROTE THIS PSALM, AFTER HE WAS CONVICTED OF HIS **SINS** OF ADULTERY AND MURDER.



PSALM 52 **CONTRASTS** THE END OF THE **WICKED** MAN WITH THAT OF THE **GODLY** MAN.

DAVID KNEW THE VALUE OF BEING **ANointed**, AND HOW **SIN** COULD MAKE HIM **LOSE** THE ANointING.

PSALM 53 IS ALMOST A WORD-FOR-WORD REPETITION OF PSALM 14, ABOUT THE **WICKEDNESS** OF **MAN**.



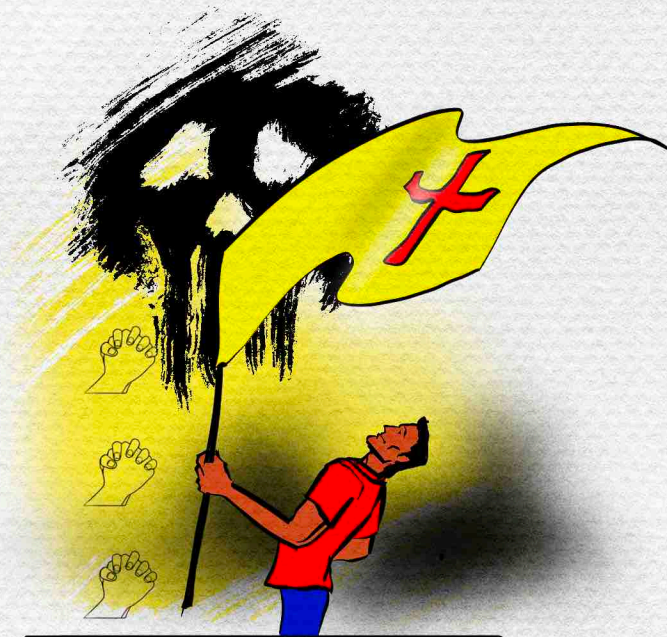
PSALM 54 IS A PRAYER FOR **HELP**, **DELIVERANCE** AND **VINDICATION**.
PSALM 57 IS ANOTHER **CONFIDENT** PRAYER TO GOD FOR **HELP** FROM THE **ENEMY**.



PSALM 55 IS AGAIN A PRAYER FOR **PROTECTION** FROM THE **ENEMY**. THIS **ENEMY** HAD ONCE BEEN A CLOSE FRIEND -- LIKE **JUDAS**.. VERSE 22 IS ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PROMISES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: "**CAST YOUR *BURDEN* UPON THE LORD AND HE WILL SUSTAIN YOU. HE WILL **NEVER** ALLOW THE **RIGHTEOUS** TO BE SHAKEN.**"
PSALM 56 IS YET ANOTHER PSALM OF TRUST IN GOD THAT DELIVERS US FROM THE FEAR OF MEN WHO TRY TO HARM US
VERSE 11 SAYS "IN **GOD** I HAVE PUT MY TRUST. I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT CAN MAN DO TO ME?"

PSALM 58 SAYS HUMAN BEINGS BEGIN TO TELL **LIES** RIGHT FROM THE TIME THEY ARE **BORN**. FOR EXAMPLE, BABIES CRY, **PRETENDING** THAT IT IS IN PAIN, WHEN ALL THEY **WANT** IS TO BE JUST PICKED UP AND **CARRIED** !!





PSALM 59 IS A CONFIDENT PRAYER FOR GOD'S HELP AGAINST THE ENEMIES. PSALM 60 SAYS - "THOU HAST GIVEN A BANNER TO THOSE WHO FEAR THEE THAT IT MAY BE DISPLAYED BECAUSE OF THE TRUTH" (VERSE 4). GOD HAS GIVEN US THE NAME OF JESUS AS A **BANNER**. WE ARE NOT ASHAMED TO DISPLAY IT WHEREVER WE GO.

PSALM 61 IS A CONFESSION OF DAVID'S FAITH THAT GOD WILL PROTECT HIM AND PROLONG HIS LIFE. HIS PRAYER IS "LEAD ME TO THE **ROCK** THAT IS HIGHER THAN I" (VERSE 2). THAT ROCK IS **CHRIST**.

PSALM 62 ALSO EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE IN GOD AS A REFUGE THAT CAN BE TRUSTED. "MY SOUL, WAIT IN SILENCE FOR **GOD ONLY**, FOR MY HOPE IS FROM HIM" (VERSE 5). MANY ARE DISAPPOINTED BECAUSE THEIR **EXPECTATION** IS FROM MAN. THOSE WHO TRUST IN GOD WILL NEVER BE DISAPPOINTED.



PSALM 63 EXPRESSES DAVID'S TOTAL **SATISFACTION** WITH GOD, EVEN THOUGH HE WAS IN THE **WILDERNESS** AT THAT TIME. PSALM 64 AGAIN EXPRESSES THE **CONFIDENCE** THAT DAVID HAS THAT GOD WILL DESTROY HIS ENEMIES.

Praise is waiting for you in Zion



PSALM 65 PRAISES GOD FOR HIS **GOODNESS**. VERSE 1 (KJV) SAYS, "LORD, PRAISE IS WAITING FOR YOU IN ZION (THE CHURCH)." OUR **CHURCHES** SHOULD BE PLACES WHERE PRAISE IS ALWAYS WAITING FOR GOD.



PSALM 66: THE PSALMIST PRAISES GOD HERE FOR BRINGING HIM INTO A PLACE OF **BLESSEDNESS**. BUT THIS WAS THROUGH MANY TRIALS. IN VERSES 10 TO 12, WE READ THAT GOD TOOK THE PSALMIST THROUGH SICKNESS, FIRE AND WATER AND HUMAN OPPRESSION **BEFORE** BRINGING HIM TO A PLACE OF SPIRITUAL PROSPERITY. VERSE 18 IS ANOTHER IMPORTANT VERSE: "IF I REGARD SIN IN MY HEART, THE LORD WILL NOT HEAR ME." PRAYER IS LIKE HAVING A PHONE CONVERSATION WITH GOD. BUT IF WE HAVE **UNCONFESSSED** SIN IN OUR HEARTS, THEN GOD WILL NOT EVEN PICK UP THE PHONE TO LISTEN TO OUR PRAYERS.



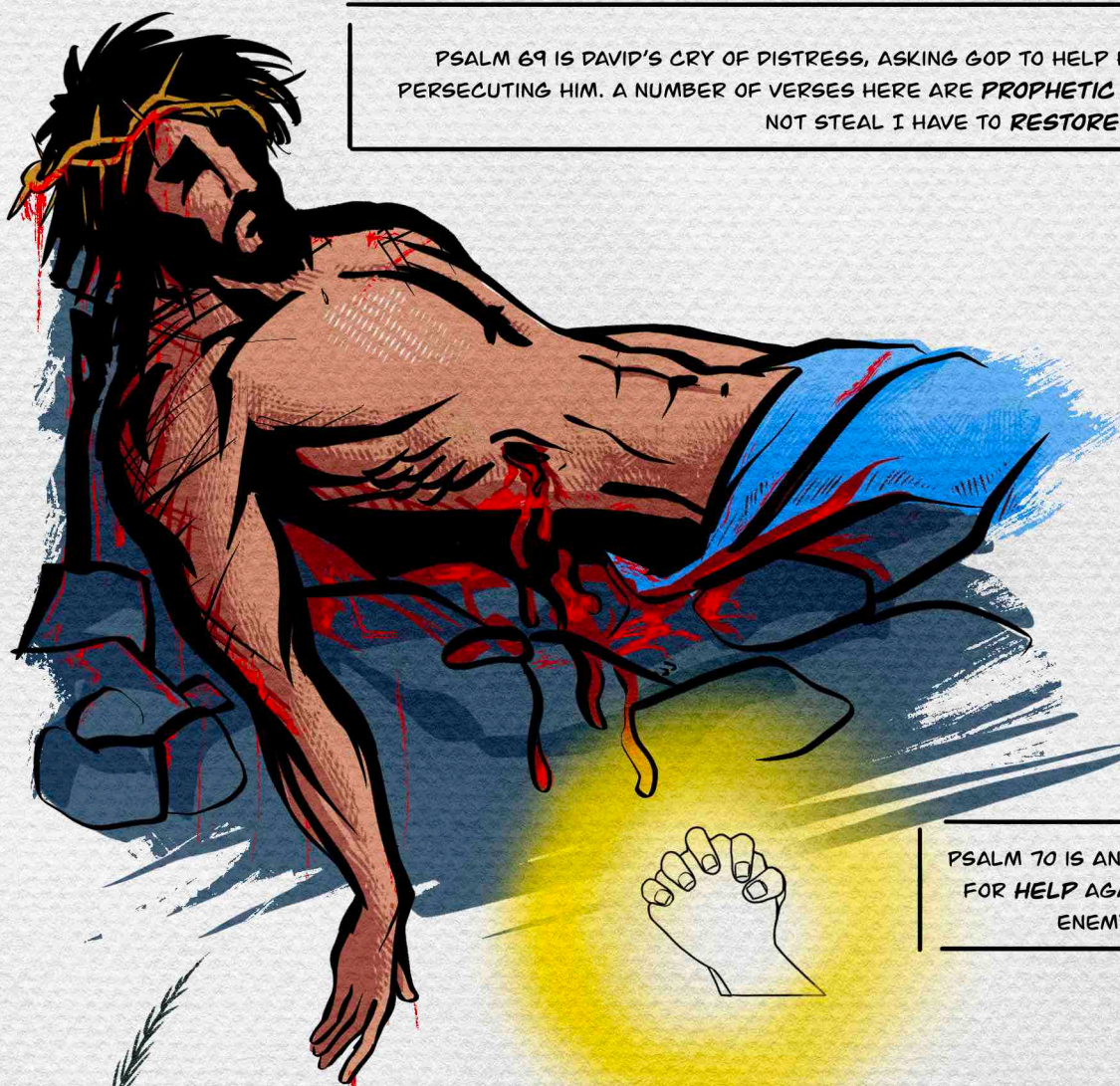
.. All over the world

PSALM 67 EXHORTS ALL THE PEOPLE ON EARTH TO PRAISE GOD. THIS IS AN **EVANGELISTIC** PSALM WHERE THE PSALMIST LONGS THAT GOD'S WAY AND HIS SALVATION WILL BE KNOWN ALL OVER THE WORLD (VERSE 2).

PSALM 68 IS A SONG OF PRAISE TO GOD FOR HIS WONDERS. VERSE 6 IS A PROMISE FOR BACHELORS AND SPINSTERS: "GOD MAKE A HOME FOR THE LONELY."



PSALM 69 IS DAVID'S CRY OF DISTRESS, ASKING GOD TO HELP HIM AGAINST THOSE WHO WERE PERSECUTING HIM. A NUMBER OF VERSES HERE ARE **PROPHETIC** ABOUT THE MESSIAH: "WHAT I DID NOT STEAL I HAVE TO **RESTORE**"



(VERSE 4) IS A REFERENCE TO JESUS PAYING FOR OUR SINS ON THE CROSS. "**REPROACH** HAS BROKEN MY HEART" (VERSE 20) REFERS TO THE FACT THAT JESUS DIED OF A **PHYSICALLY** BROKEN HEART. BLOOD AND WATER POURED OUT WHEN JESUS' SIDE WAS PIERCED. DOCTORS HAVE SAID THAT THAT COULD HAPPEN ONLY IF HIS **HEART** WAS PHYSICALLY **BROKEN**. VERSE 29 IS A PROPHETIC REFERENCE TO THE RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION.

PSALM 70 IS ANOTHER CRY FOR **HELP** AGAINST THE ENEMY.



PSALM 71 IS A PRAYER FOR DELIVERANCE BY THE PSALMIST IN HIS OLD AGE. HIS DAYS ARE STILL SPENT IN **PRAISING** THE LORD (VERSE 8). AND ALTHOUGH HE IS NOW OLD AND **GRAY-HEADED**, HE LONGS TO PROCLAIM GOD'S POWER TO THE NEW GENERATION



PSALM 72 IS A PSALM THAT DAVID WROTE FOR **SOLOMON** HIS SON, AS THE FIRST VERSE MAKES CLEAR. IN IT, HE DESCRIBES HOW A KING SHOULD BE AND WHAT HE SHOULD DO. UNFORTUNATELY, SOLOMON DID **NOT** BECOME THE TYPE OF KING AS DESCRIBED HERE. THAT IS A **WARNING** FOR US. IT IS POSSIBLE FOR US TOO, TO **STUDY** ALL THESE **WONDERFUL** THINGS IN THESE PSALMS AND PRACTICE **NONE** OF THEM!