

Through the Bible

PSALMS - 2

Zac Poonen



Illustrations by Vinay Kuruville

COPYRIGHT : ZAC POONEN AND VINAY KURUVILLA

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

**69 PARADISE ENCLAVE, BELAHALLI
KANNUR POST, BANGALORE - 562 149
INDIA**

PSALMS



BOOK

3

PSALMS 73 TO 83 WERE WRITTEN BY **ASAPH**, ONE OF DAVID'S SINGERS (WHO WROTE PSALM 50 TOO).

PSALM **73** DEALS WITH A QUESTION THAT MANY PEOPLE HAVE ASKED THROUGH THE CENTURIES: "**WHY DO THE WICKED PROSPER, AND WHY DO THE RIGHTEOUS SUFFER?**" ASAPH SAYS QUITE HONESTLY THAT HE ALMOST SLIPPED INTO **DOUBTING** GOD, WHEN HE SAW THE **PROSPERITY** OF THE **WICKED** (VERSES 2, 3). THIS LED HIM TO WONDER WHETHER IT WAS **WORTH** LIVING A **HOLY** LIFE.

BUT HE NEVER SHARED THESE THOUGHTS WITH OTHERS, LEST HE CAUSE THEM TO STUMBLE. HE FINALLY FOUND THE ANSWER WHEN HE WENT INTO GOD'S PRESENCE AND SAW THAT THE WICKED STAND ON VERY **SLIPPERY** GROUND AND ARE SOON IN **HELL**. VERSE 25 IS PERHAPS THE **FINEST** VERSE IN THE WHOLE **BIBLE** THAT DESCRIBES WHAT TRUE **CONSECRATION** REALLY MEANS: "**WHOM HAVE I IN HEAVEN BUT THEE. THERE IS NO ONE AND NOTHING ON EARTH I DESIRE BESIDE THEE.**" IF WE CAN SAY THAT IN ALL **SINCERITY** ALL THROUGH OUR EARTHLY LIVES, WE WILL BE TRUE WORSHIPPERS AND USEFUL SERVANTS OF GOD.

VERSE 26: "MY HEART MAY FAIL, BUT GOD IS THE STRENGTH OF MY HEART" IS A GOOD VERSE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE HEART-PROBLEMS!



PSALM 79 IS A PRAYER OF CONCERN FOR THE **RUIN** OF JERUSALEM (THE CHURCH).

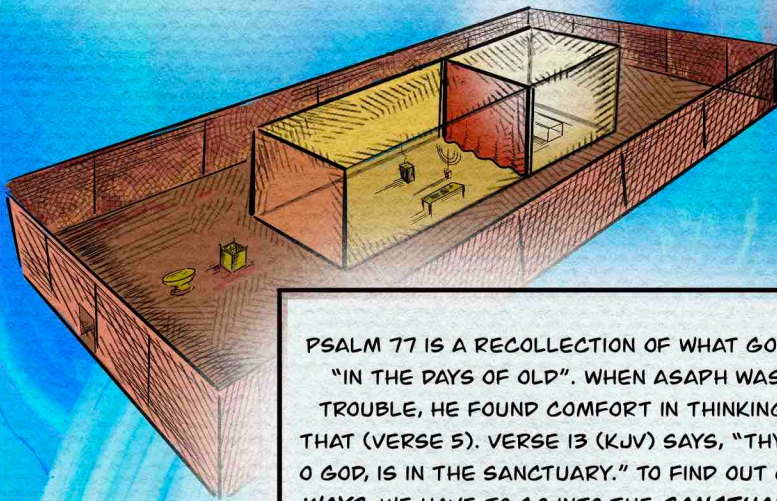


PSALM 74 IS A CRY OF **CONCERN** ABOUT THE RUINED CONDITION OF GOD'S PEOPLE.

IF GOD IS NOT ANSWERING PRAYERS IN A CHURCH OR DOES NOT SEND **PROPHETS** TO THAT CHURCH, THAT WOULD BE AN INDICATION THAT HE HAS GIVEN UP ON THAT CHURCH. WE CAN EXPECT TO FIND BOTH **MIRACLES** AND **PROPHETS** IN A SPIRIT-FILLED CHURCH.

PSALM 75: THE THEME HERE IS THAT GOD **HUMBLES** THE PROUD BUT EXALTS THE HUMBLE. WE MUST NOT EXPECT TO BE PROMOTED BY MAN (VERSE 6). **PROMOTION** COMES FROM **GOD** (VERSE 7).

PSALM 76 DESCRIBES THE MIGHTY **SOVEREIGN** POWER OF GOD THAT CAN MAKE EVEN THE ANGRY ACTIONS OF MEN TO FULFIL HIS PURPOSES, RESULTING IN PRAISE TO HIM (VERSE 10).



PSALM 77 IS A RECOLLECTION OF WHAT GOD DID "IN THE DAYS OF OLD". WHEN ASAPH WAS IN TROUBLE, HE FOUND COMFORT IN THINKING OF THAT (VERSE 5). VERSE 13 (KJV) SAYS, "THY WAY, O GOD, IS IN THE SANCTUARY." TO FIND OUT GOD'S **WAYS**, WE HAVE TO GO INTO THE **SANCTUARY** -- THE MOST HOLY PLACE. WE CAN'T FIND THEM IN THE "OUTER COURT".

MOST BELIEVERS KNOW ONLY THE FORGIVENESS OF THEIR SINS. LET US SEEK **FELLOWSHIP** WITH "THOSE WHO CALL ON THE LORD WITH A PURE HEART" (2 TIMOTHY 2:22).



PSALM 78 IS A HISTORICAL PSALM THAT LOOKS BACK AT THE WAY GOD LED THE ISRAELITES FROM THE TIME OF THEIR DELIVERANCE FROM **EGYPT**. BUT THEY **IGNORED** GOD AND SOUGHT HIM ONLY WHEN HE SLEW THEM (VERSE 34). THEY FLATTERED HIM WITH THEIR MOUTHS AND TOLD HIM LIES (VERSE 36). BUT GOD BEING COMPASSIONATE, **FORGAVE** THEM REPEATEDLY (VERSE 38).

PSALM 80 IS A PRAYER ASKING GOD TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR PROBLEMS. VERSE 17 IS MESSIANIC: "LET YOUR **HAND** BE UPON THE MAN OF YOUR RIGHT HAND, UPON THE SON OF MAN WHOM YOU HAVE MADE STRONG FOR YOURSELF."

PSALM 81 PROCLAIMS GOD'S GOODNESS AND ISRAEL'S DISOBEDIENCES. VERSE 10 HAS A LOVELY PROMISE: "OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDE, AND I WILL FILL IT." VERY OFTEN, WE DO NOT HAVE BECAUSE **WE DO NOT ASK**. THE LORD SAYS WITH A SIGH IN VERSES 13 & 14, "O THAT MY PEOPLE WOULD LISTEN TO ME! I WOULD QUICKLY SUBDUE THEIR ENEMIES." GOD WOULD HAVE SOLVED OUR PROBLEMS AND DELIVERED US **LONG** AGO, IF ONLY WE HAD **LISTENED** TO HIM AND **TRUSTED** HIM!



PSALM 82 IS A PSALM THAT REBUKES THE **UNJUST** JUDGES OF ISRAEL AND URGES GOD TO COME DOWN AND JUDGE THE EARTH.

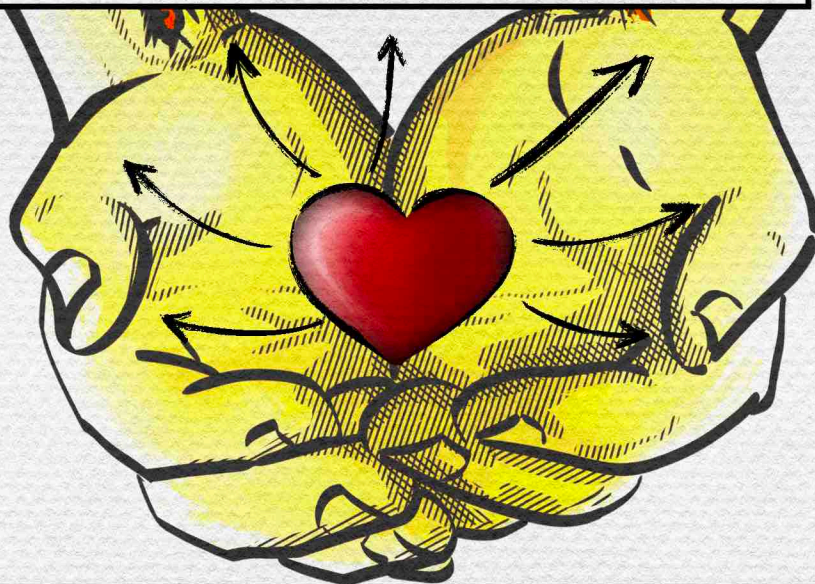
PSALM 84 EXPRESSES A **LONGING** TO WORSHIP GOD IN HIS TEMPLE.



PSALM 83 ASKS GOD TO JUDGE THE ENEMIES WHO SEEK TO DESTROY ISRAEL. MANY NATIONS HAVE TRIED TO DESTROY ISRAEL THROUGH THE CENTURIES. BUT THEY HAVE NEVER SUCCEEDED. PEOPLE HAVE TRIED TO **WIPE OUT** THE CHURCH ALSO. THEY TOO HAVE **NEVER SUCCEEDED**.



VERSE 10 BECOMES MEANINGFUL, WHEN WE REALISE THAT THIS PSALM WAS WRITTEN BY THE SONS OF KORAH: "A DAY IN YOUR COURTS (STANDING WITH MOSES) IS BETTER THAN A THOUSAND OUTSIDE. I WOULD **RATHER** STAND AT THE THRESHOLD OF GOD'S HOUSE (WITH MOSES) THAN DWELL IN THE TENTS OF WICKEDNESS (WITH OUR FATHER KORAH)."



PSALM 86 IS ANOTHER PRAYER FOR **HELP** AND **GUIDANCE**. "TEACH ME THY WAY, O LORD, AND I WILL WALK IN THY TRUTH. UNITE MY HEART TO FEAR YOUR NAME" (VERSE 11). DAVID'S PRAYER IS THAT HIS **HEART** (THAT IS BEING **PULLED** IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS) WILL BE **UNITED** TO FEAR GOD.



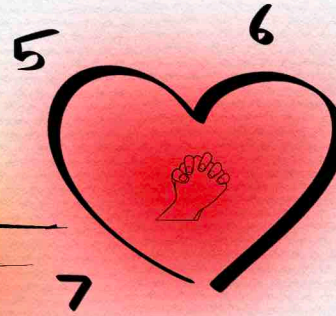
PSALM 89'S TONE IS THE VERY **OPPOSITE** OF PSALM 88. THIS PSALM WAS WRITTEN BY ANOTHER EZRAHITE -- ETHAN. BUT HE HAS EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE OUTLOOK OF HIS BROTHER, HEMAN, WHO WROTE PSALM 88.

PSALM 87 THIS SPEAKS OF THE GREAT JOY THAT A **CHILD OF GOD** FINDS IN BEING A PART OF THE **CHURCH**

PSALM 85 IS A PRAYER FOR GOD TO VISIT HIS PEOPLE. WHAT DID THE LORD SAY? THAT "**MERCY** AND **TRUTH** ARE MET TOGETHER" AND THAT "**RIGHTEOUSNESS** AND **PEACE** HAVE KISSED EACH OTHER" (VERSE 10). THE DEMANDS OF GOD'S **TRUTH** (LAW) AND HIS **MERCY** MET AT **CALVARY**.

BOOK 4

PSALMS



PSALM 90 DEALS WITH THE ETERNITY OF GOD AND THE TEMPORARY NATURE OF MAN. IN VERSE 12, MOSES PRAYS, "TEACH US TO NUMBER OUR DAYS TO KNOW HOW FEW THEY ARE, SO THAT WE CAN SPEND OUR DAYS ACQUIRING WISDOM" -- A VERY GOOD PRAYER FOR ALL OF US TO PRAY.

PSALM 91 PROCLAIMS THE BLESSEDNESS AND **SECURITY** OF THE ONE WHO LIVES IN "THE SECRET PLACE OF THE MOST HIGH". THE SAFEST PLACE IN THE WHOLE WORLD IS THE CENTRE OF **GOD'S PERFECT WILL**. THE LORD PROMISES TO DELIVER US FROM BOTH OUR ENEMIES -- SATAN (THE TRAPPER) AND SIN (DEADLY DISEASE) (VERSE 3). HE WILL SAVE US FROM **OBVIOUS** SINS (DAYTIME DANGERS) AND FROM SUBTLE, **DECEPTIVE** SINS (NIGHT-TIME DANGERS) (VERSES 5, 6).

PSALM 92 PRAISES THE LORD FOR HIS GOODNESS TO HIM. "THEY WILL STILL **YIELD** FRUIT IN **OLD** AGE; THEY SHALL BE FULL OF SAP AND VERY GREEN" (VERSE 14). THAT MEANS THEY WILL BE FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT'S ANOINTING EVEN WHEN THEY ARE OLD.



PSALM 93 SPEAKS OF THE MIGHT AND **MAJESTY** OF THE LORD. "HOLINESS BEFITS YOUR HOUSE, O LORD" (VERSE 5).

PSALM 94 SPEAKS OF GOD WHO CHASTENS HIS PEOPLE BUT DESTROYS THE WICKED.

Majesty

Today, if you hear HIS voice..

PSALM 95 INVITES US TO WORSHIP THE LORD AND WARNS US AGAINST BEING HARDENED. VERSES 7 AND 8 -- "TODAY IF YOU WOULD HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS" -- ARE QUOTED IN HEBREWS 3:7, 8. HEBREWS GOES ON TO SAY THAT WE NEED TO BE **EXHORTED** AND **ENCOURAGED** EVERY DAY IF WE ARE TO AVOID BEING **HARDENED** (HEBREWS 3:13).



PSALM 96 IS YET ANOTHER INVITATION TO WORSHIP THE LORD WHO IS COMING SOON. THE LORD IS COMING TO **JUDGE** THE EARTH



PSALM 97 DESCRIBES THE POWER OF GOD. VERSE 10 SAYS, "YOU WHO LOVE THE LORD, **HATE** EVIL." WE CANNOT SAY WE LOVE THE LORD IF WE DON'T HATE EVIL. THERE IS A LOT OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AVOIDING EVIL AND HATING EVIL. THE WAY TO OVERCOME SIN IS TO HATE IT. HATE IS EQUAL TO MURDER. WHEN WE HATE SIN WE WILL **KILL** IT.

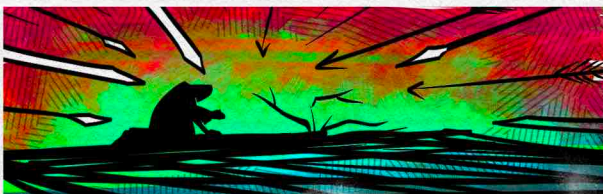


PSALM 98 INVITES US TO SING PRAISES TO THE LORD.
PSALM 99 IS ANOTHER CALL TO **PRAISE** THE LORD.

PSALM 100 IS YET ANOTHER INVITATION TO PRAISE THE LORD AND TO SERVE HIM. WE ARE TO "SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS" (VERSE 2). I HAVE MET PEOPLE WHO SAY THEY ARE SERVING THE LORD, BUT WHO ARE COMPLAINING ABOUT SOMETHING OR THE OTHER MOST OF THE TIME. GOD DOESN'T WANT ANYONE TO SERVE HIM WHO DOESN'T SERVE HIM **JOYFULLY**.



PSALM 101: HERE DAVID SAYS " I WILL WALK WITHIN MY HOUSE IN THE INTEGRITY OF MY HEART" (VERSE 2). EVERY ONE OF US MUST BE ABLE TO SAY THAT. IT IS IN OUR **HOME** THAT WE MUST WALK BLAMELESSLY FIRST OF ALL.. IT MEANS THAT WHEN WE FAIL, WE APOLOGISE AND SET THE MATTER RIGHT. WE MUST BE BLAMELESS IN OUR FINANCIAL DEALINGS TOO.



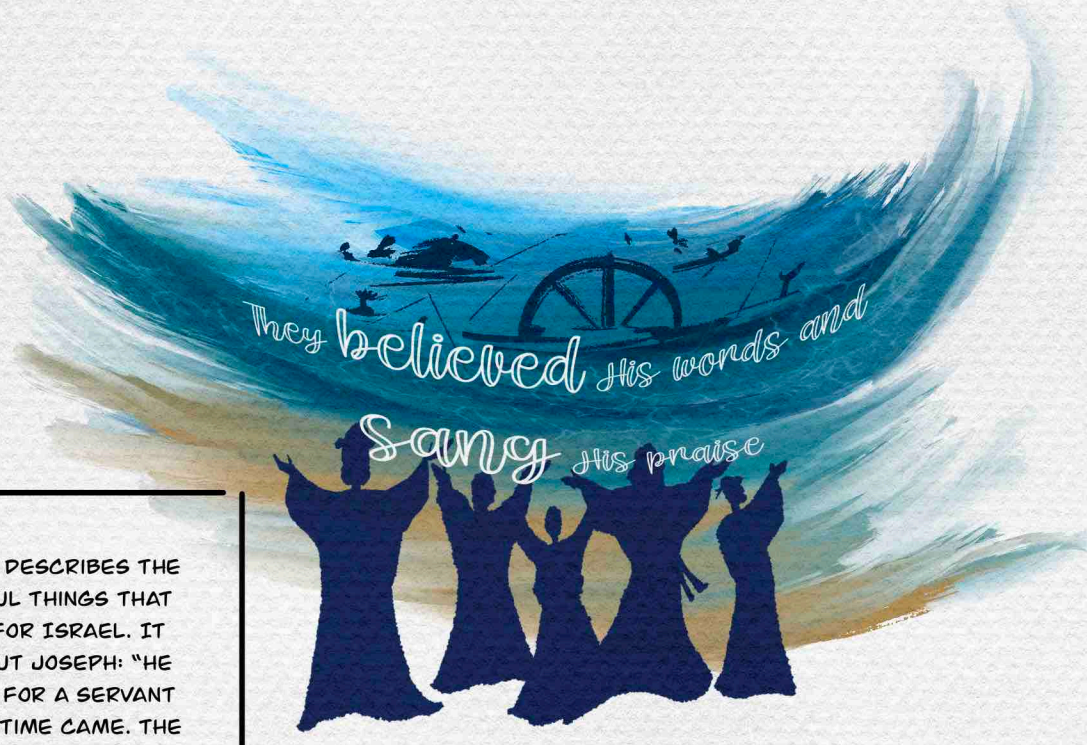
PSALM 102 IS THE PRAYER OF A SUFFERING MAN FOR **HELP**. HE CONCLUDES EXPRESSING HIS FAITH THAT GOD WILL ANSWER AND THAT HIS CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN TOO WILL FOLLOW THE LORD



PSALM 103 SPEAKS OF THE NUMEROUS BLESSINGS DAVID HAD RECEIVED FROM THE LORD -- ALL HIS SINS FORGIVEN, ALL HIS DISEASES HEALED, SALVATION FROM THE PIT (OF HELL), AND MATERIAL BLESSINGS ("GOOD THINGS"). DAVID RECEIVED ALL THIS UNDER THE OLD COVENANT. WHAT THEN IS THE NEW COVENANT GOSPEL? IT IS THIS: JESUS CAN GIVE YOU **VICTORY** OVER SIN (ROMANS 6:14). HE CAN MAKE YOU PARTAKE OF GOD'S **NATURE** (2 PETER 1:3, 4). HE CAN ENABLE YOU TO HAVE THE **DEVIL** UNDER YOUR FEET (ROMANS 16:20). HE CAN ENABLE YOU TO BUILD THE **CHURCH** AS THE BODY OF CHRIST (EPHESIANS 4).



PSALM 104 DESCRIBES GOD'S WONDERFUL WORKS IN CREATION. "GOD MAKES HIS SERVANTS A **FLAMING** FIRE" (VERSE 4). WE MUST BAPTISED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE.



PSALM 105 DESCRIBES THE WONDERFUL THINGS THAT GOD DID FOR ISRAEL. IT SAYS ABOUT JOSEPH: "HE WAS SOLD FOR A SERVANT UNTIL THE TIME CAME. THE WORD OF THE LORD TESTED HIM AND IRON ENTERED INTO HIS SOUL" (VERSES 17 - MARGIN, 18, 19). GOD ALLOWED JOSEPH TO BE PUT INTO PRISON, SO THAT HE MIGHT BECOME AS STRONG AS IRON -- SO THAT "IRON MIGHT ENTER HIS SOUL". THERE WAS AN APPOINTED TIME FOR JOSEPH TO BE RELEASED. GOD IS ALWAYS ON TIME.

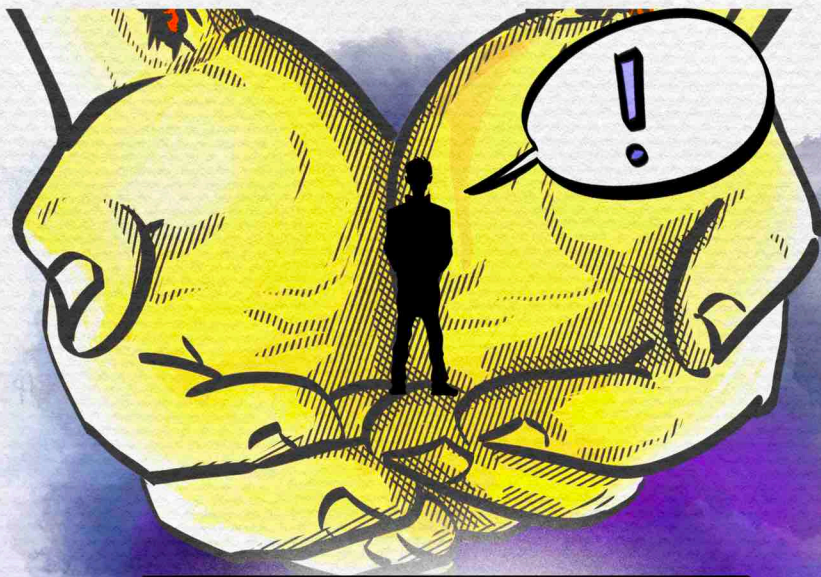
PSALM 106 CONTINUES WITH THE HISTORY OF GOD'S GOODNESS TO ISRAEL. IN VERSES 11, 12 WE READ, "WHEN THE WATERS COVERED THEIR ENEMIES THEN THEY **BELIEVED** HIS WORDS AND SANG HIS **PRAISE**." THERE ARE TWO THINGS WE SEE THERE. FIRSTLY, THE **EVIDENCE OF FAITH IS PRAISE**. TODAY, WE CAN PRAISE GOD, EVEN **BEFORE** OUR ENEMIES ARE DEFEATED. THAT IS TO WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT.



PS 105 VERSE 39 TELLS US WHY GOD GAVE THE ISRAELITES A PILLAR OF CLOUD AND FIRE. THE CLOUD WAS TO COVER THEM FROM THE **HEAT** OF THE SUN DURING THE DAY, AND THE **FIRE** WAS TO GIVE THEM **LIGHT** AT NIGHT.

PSALMS

BOOK 5



PSALM 107 DESCRIBES THE MANY WAYS IN WHICH THE LORD DELIVERS PEOPLE OUT OF **DIFFICULT** SITUATIONS. AND SO IT SAYS IN VERSE 2, "LET THOSE WHO ARE REDEEMED BY THE LORD **SAY** SO." WE MUST NOT BE SILENT WHEN THE LORD HAS DONE SOMETHING FOR US

*I will
awaken the
dawn*

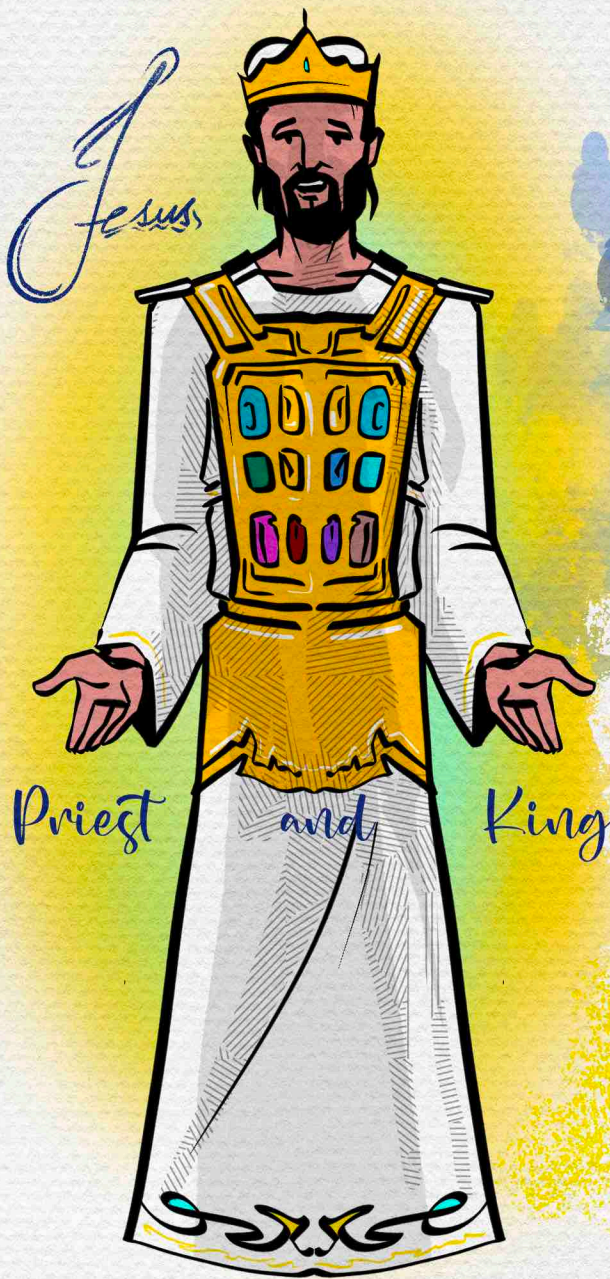


PSALM 108 SAYS, "MY HEART IS STEADFAST, O GOD, I WILL SING, I WILL SING PRAISES. I WILL AWAKEN THE DAWN" (VERSES 1, 2). HE WAS DETERMINED TO WAKE UP BEFORE DAWN EVERY DAY AND PRAISE THE LORD FIRST OF ALL -- A GOOD HABIT FOR ALL OF US TO FOLLOW.

PSALM 109: HERE DAVID ASKS GOD TO WREAK VENGEANCE ON HIS ENEMIES. VERSE 8 IS QUOTED BY PETER IN ACTS 1 REFERRING TO JUDAS ISCARIOT: "LET ANOTHER TAKE HIS OFFICE".



JUDAS WAS CALLED BY GOD, BUT HE **LISTENED** TO **SATAN** WHO STOOD AT HIS **RIGHT** HAND (VERSE 6). INSTEAD OF HAVING **GOD** AT HIS RIGHT HAND, HE CHOSE SATAN. IT IS MOST LIKELY THAT THE MINISTRY THAT GOD HAD PLANNED FOR JUDAS WAS GIVEN TO THE APOSTLE **PAUL**. IF WE ARE **UNFAITHFUL**, ANOTHER CAN TAKE OUR MINISTRY.



PSALM III IS ANOTHER PSALM PRAISING GOD FOR HIS **GOODNESS**. THE EARLIER PSALMS WERE GENERALLY CRIES FOR HELP. BUT AS WE COME TO THE END OF THE PSALMS, WE FIND THAT THERE ARE MANY MORE PSALMS OF **PRAISE**. THAT'S HOW OUR LIVES SHOULD BE TOO. OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE USUALLY BEGINS WITH **CRIES** FOR HELP. AS WE GROW OLDER, OUR LIVES SHOULD BE FILLED WITH **PRAISE** MORE AND MORE.

PSALM 110 IS A MESSIANIC PSALM THAT REFERS TO JESUS AS **KING** AND **PRIEST** ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK (VERSE 4). THIS IS QUOTED IN HEBREWS 7.



PSALM 112 IS A BEAUTIFUL PSALM AND ONE OF MY FAVOURITE PSALMS. IT DESCRIBES THE BLESSEDNESS OF ONE WHO **FEARS** THE LORD. SUCH A MAN'S CHILDREN WILL BE BLESSED AND HE WILL PROSPER. "GOD'S CONSTANT CARE OF HIM WILL MAKE A DEEP IMPRESSION ON ALL WHO SEE IT" (VERSE 6 - LIVING). THAT'S HOW IT SHOULD BE IN OUR LIVES. PEOPLE AROUND US SHOULD BE DEEPLY **IMPRESSED** WHEN THEY SEE HOW GOD HAS **BLESSED** US.



PSALM 113 PRAISES THE LORD WHO EXALTS THE POOR AND NEEDY. GOD IS SO **GREAT** THAT IT IS BECAUSE OF HIS **HUMILITY** THAT HE EVEN LOOKS AT WHAT HAPPENS IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH (VERSES 5, 6).



PSALM 114 SPEAKS ABOUT ISRAEL'S COMING OUT OF EGYPT AND ENTERING CANAAN.

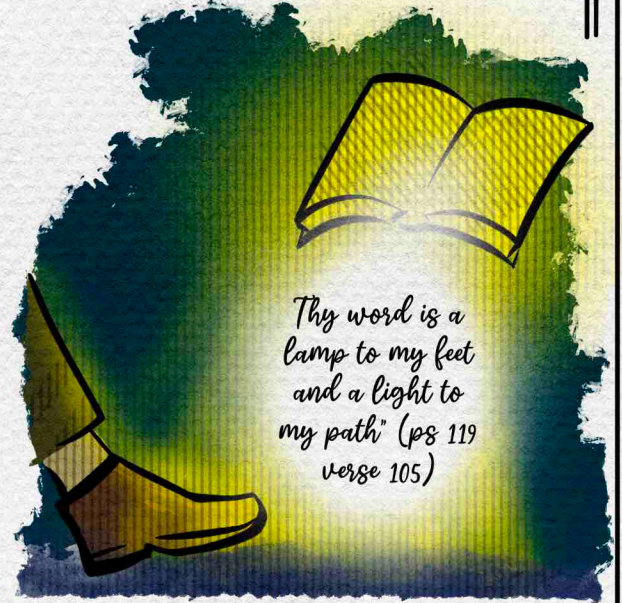


PSALM 116: HERE THE PSALMIST THANKS THE LORD FOR SAVING HIM FROM DEATH. "WHAT SHALL I RENDER TO THE LORD FOR ALL THE WONDERFUL THINGS HE HAS DONE FOR ME?" (VERSE 12). THAT IS A GOOD QUESTION.

PSALM 115 CONTRASTS GOD WITH IDOLS. "NOT TO US, O LORD, NOT TO US, BUT TO THY NAME GIVE GLORY" (VERSE 1). "THE DEAD DO NOT PRAISE THE LORD" (VERSE 17). SO WE SHOULD PRAISE THE LORD AS LONG AS WE ARE ALIVE.



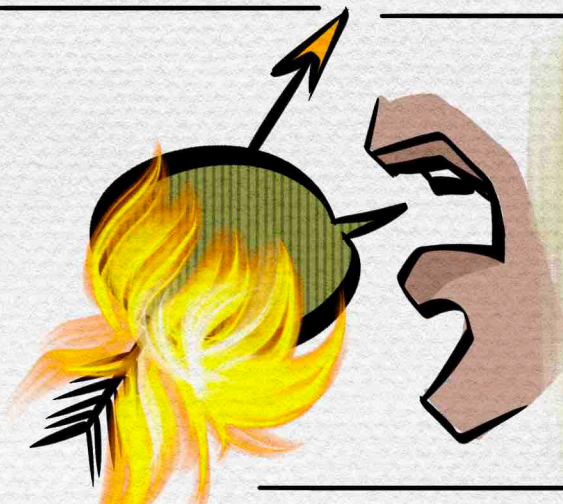
PSALM 117 IS THE SHORTEST CHAPTER IN THE BIBLE -- TWO VERSES OF PRAISE.



Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (ps 119 verse 105)

PSALM 118 IS A PSALM OF THANKSGIVING FOR DELIVERANCE. "THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED HAS BECOME THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE" (VERSE 22). THE PHARISEES REJECTED JESUS. BUT HE IS THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE OF THE CHURCH TODAY. PEOPLE MAY REJECT US TOO. BUT GOD WILL EXALT US. "O LORD, DO SAVE (HOSANNA)" (VERSE 25) WAS THE CRY WITH WHICH THEY WAVED PALMS WHEN JESUS CAME TO JERUSALEM

119: THIS DESCRIBES THE BLESSEDNESS OF THE LAW OF GOD. IT IS THE LONGEST CHAPTER IN THE BIBLE AND EACH OF ITS 176 VERSES REFERS IN SOME WAY TO GOD'S WORD. IT IS AN ALPHABETICAL PSALM.



DELIVER ME FROM LYING LIPS

PSALM 120 IS A CRY FOR PROTECTION FROM FALSE ACCUSERS. WE COULD APPLY VERSES 2 TO 4 TO TAKING A RADICAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS CONTROLLING OUR OWN TONGUE: "DELIVER ME, O LORD, FROM LYING LIPS AND A DECEITFUL TONGUE. WHAT SHALL I GIVE YOU, O FALSE TONGUE? I'LL SHOOT YOU WITH ARROWS AND BURN YOU UP"



PSALM 121 CELEBRATES THE LORD AS OUR KEEPER. "WHERE WILL MY HELP COME FROM? WILL IT COME FROM THE EGYPTIANS OR THE ASSYRIANS BEYOND THE MOUNTAINS? NO. MY HELP COMES FROM THE LORD WHO MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH.



PSALM 122 IS A PRAYER FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM (THE **CHURCH**). "I WAS GLAD WHEN THEY SAID UNTO ME, 'LET US GO TO THE CHURCH-MEETING. MY HOME IS IN THE CHURCH, IN THE MIDST OF GOD'S PEOPLE.'" A TRUE DISCIPLE OF JESUS WILL VALUE THE **FELLOWSHIP** OF GOD'S PEOPLE.

Lord, my eyes look to YOU ..

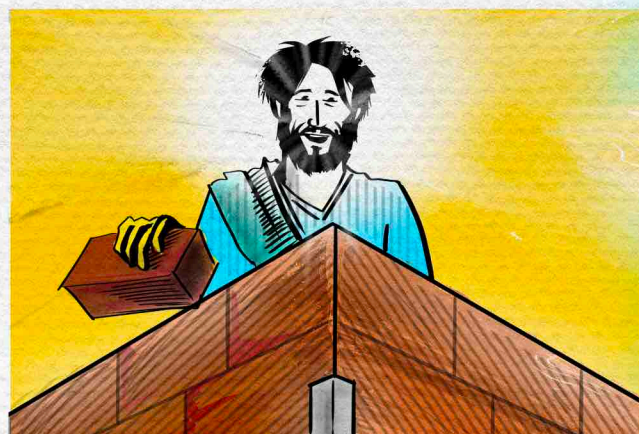


PSALM 123 IS ANOTHER PRAYER FOR PROTECTION FROM THE ARROGANT. "LORD, MY EYES ARE LOOKING UP TO YOU JUST LIKE THE EYES OF A **SERVANT** LOOKS TO HIS **MASTER**" (VERSE 2). OUR CALLING IS TO **WAIT** ON THE LORD LIKE THAT AND NOT TO RUN AROUND DOING "SOMETHING FOR THE LORD", ACCORDING TO OUR **OWN** IDEAS. PSALM 124 PRAISES THE LORD FOR SAVING HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR ENEMIES.

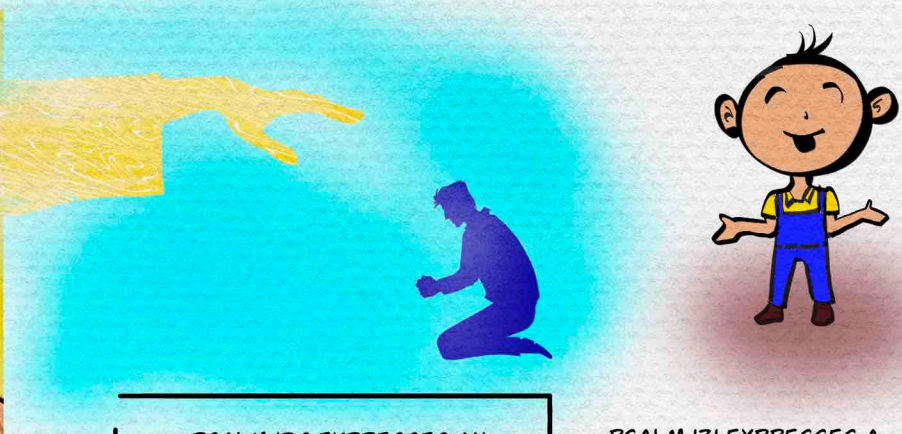


PSALM 125 SPEAKS OF THE SOLID **SECURITY** OF GOD'S PEOPLE. "THOSE WHO TRUST IN THE LORD WILL BE LIKE A MOUNTAIN THAT CANNOT BE SHAKEN. THE LORD SURROUNDS HIS PEOPLE" (VERSES 1, 2).

PSALM 126 CELEBRATES THE RETURN FROM THE **CAPTIVITY** IN **BABYLON**. THEY HAD SOWN IN **TEARS** IN BABYLON AND NOW REAP IN **JOY** IN JERUSALEM. TO BUILD THE CHURCH, WE NEED TO SOW IN TEARS EVEN TODAY.



PSALM 127 IS A PSALM ABOUT BUILDING THE HOME. THE PSALM SAYS, "UNLESS THE **LORD** BUILDS THE HOUSE, THEY LABOUR IN **VAIN** WHO BUILD IT. PSALM 128 IS ANOTHER PSALM ABOUT THE BLESSED HOME LIFE OF A MAN WHO FEARS THE LORD! PSALM 129 IS ANOTHER MESSIANIC PSALM. THE PSALMIST PRAYS THAT ALL WHO HATE ZION (THE CHURCH) BE PUT TO SHAME.



PSALM 130 EXPRESSES AN EAGER LONGING AFTER THE LORD. "THERE IS FORGIVENESS WITH THE LORD THAT HE MAY BE FEARED" (VERSE 4). GOD FORGIVES US SO THAT WE FEAR HIM AND DON'T SIN AGAIN.

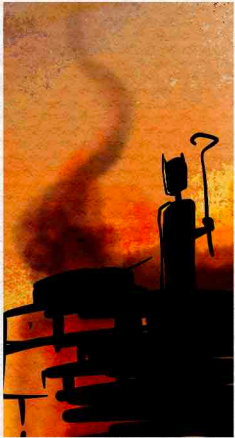
PSALM 131 EXPRESSES A SIMPLE CHILDLIKE TRUST IN THE LORD AND NOT TO INVOLVE OURSELVES IN MATTERS THAT WE HAVE NO EXPERIENCE IN AND THAT ARE OUTSIDE OUR ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND.



PSALM 132 SPEAKS OF DAVID'S GREAT PASSION TO BUILD A HOUSE FOR GOD (VERSES 4, 5). BUT HE WAS NOT GIVEN THAT PRIVILEGE. WE MUST HAVE A SIMILAR **PASSION** TO BUILD THE CHURCH.



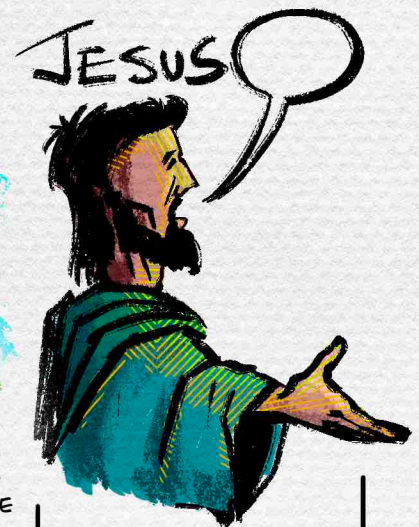
PSALM 133 HAS **UNITY** AS ITS SUBJECT. UNITY IS A FUNDAMENTAL REQUIREMENT FOR BUILDING ZION (THE CHURCH), BECAUSE THE ANOINTING AND THE BLESSING OF GOD FLOWS IN ITS FULLNESS ONLY WHERE THERE IS SUCH UNITY (VERSES 2, 3). THE HOLY SPIRIT FELL UPON THAT FIRST GROUP OF 120 MEN AND WOMEN BECAUSE THEY WERE "OF **ONE MIND**" (ACTS 1:14).



PSALM 135 **CONTRASTS** THE GREATNESS OF THE LORD WITH THE IMPOTENCE OF IDOLS. "THOSE WHO MAKE IDOLS WILL BE LIKE THEM" (VERSE 18). WE BECOME LIKE THE GOD WE WORSHIP. IF WE WORSHIP A **LOVING** HEAVENLY FATHER WHO IS MERCIFUL AND COMPASSIONATE, THEN WE WILL BE LIKE HIM TO **OTHERS** TOO.



PSALM 137 IS A PSALM ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE OF THE ISRAELITES WHEN THEY WERE CAPTIVES IN **BABYLON**. THERE THEY LEARNT TO VALUE JERUSALEM ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE. WE TOO NEED TO VALUE THE CHURCH MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE ON EARTH. THE HATRED EXPRESSED FOR BABYLON IN VERSES 7 TO 9 SHOULD BE THE HATRED WE HAVE FOR A RELIGIOUS SYSTEM BUILT IN CHRISTENDOM BY THE TRADITIONS OF MEN THAT DISHONOURS GOD -- A HATRED, **NOT** FOR THE PEOPLE IN THE SYSTEM, BUT FOR THE **SYSTEM** ITSELF.



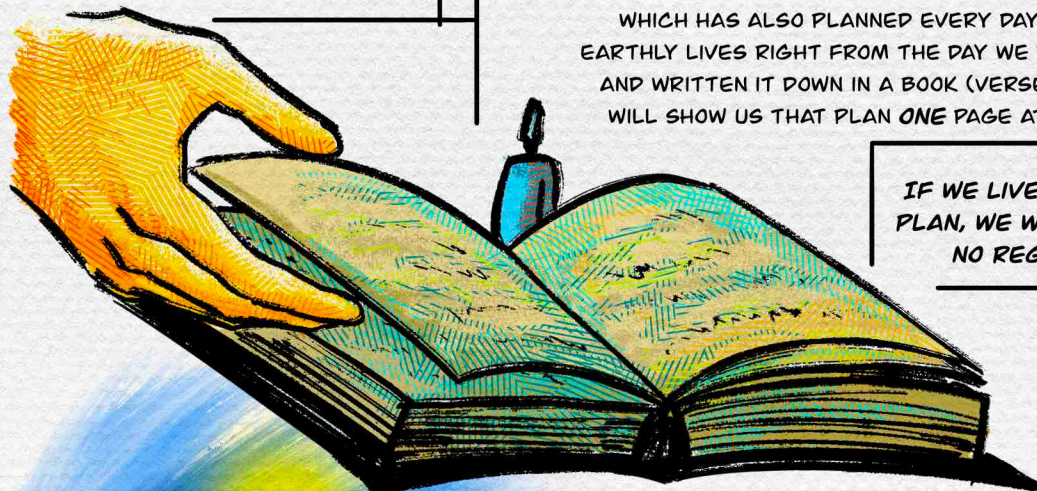
PSALM 138 SAYS "THOU HAST MAGNIFIED THY WORD ACCORDING TO ALL THY NAME" (VERSE 2). GOD'S WORD IS AS **EXALTED** AS HIS NAME. TO DISHONOUR HIS **WORD** BY **DISOBEYING** IT IS AS **SERIOUS** AS DISHONOURING THE NAME OF JESUS!

PSALM 139 DESCRIBES GOD'S **FOREKNOWLEDGE** WHICH HAS ALSO PLANNED EVERY DAY OF OUR EARTHLY LIVES RIGHT FROM THE DAY WE WERE BORN AND WRITTEN IT DOWN IN A BOOK (VERSE 16). GOD WILL SHOW US THAT PLAN **ONE PAGE** AT A TIME.

IF WE LIVE IN THAT PLAN, WE WILL HAVE NO REGRET

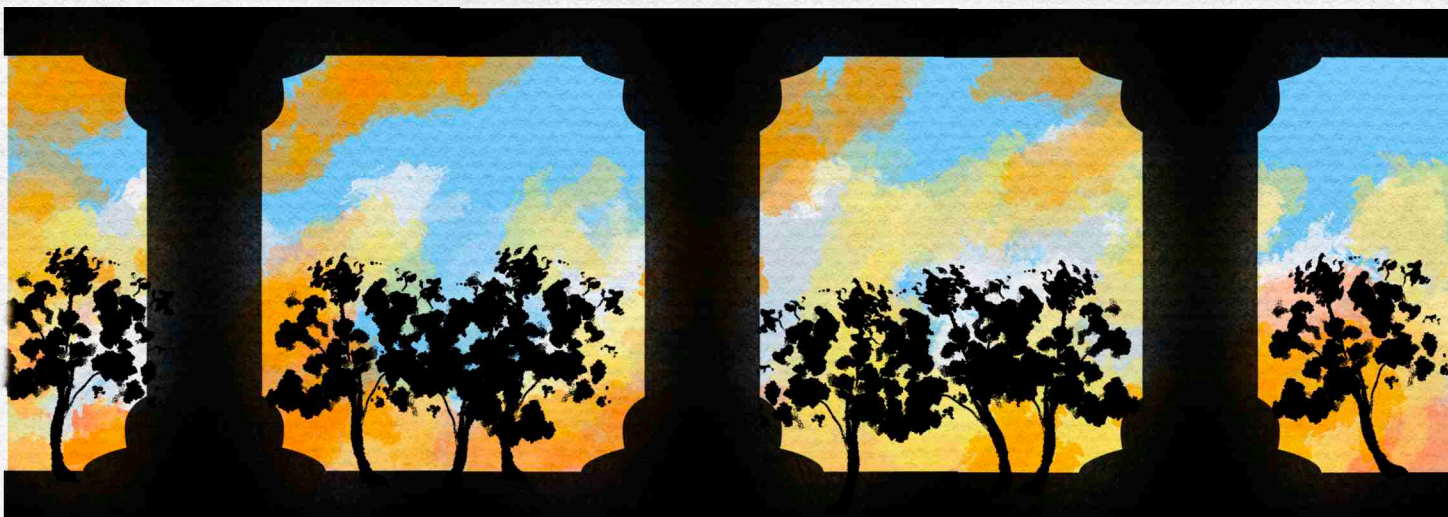


PSALMS 134 AND 136 ARE PSALMS OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING



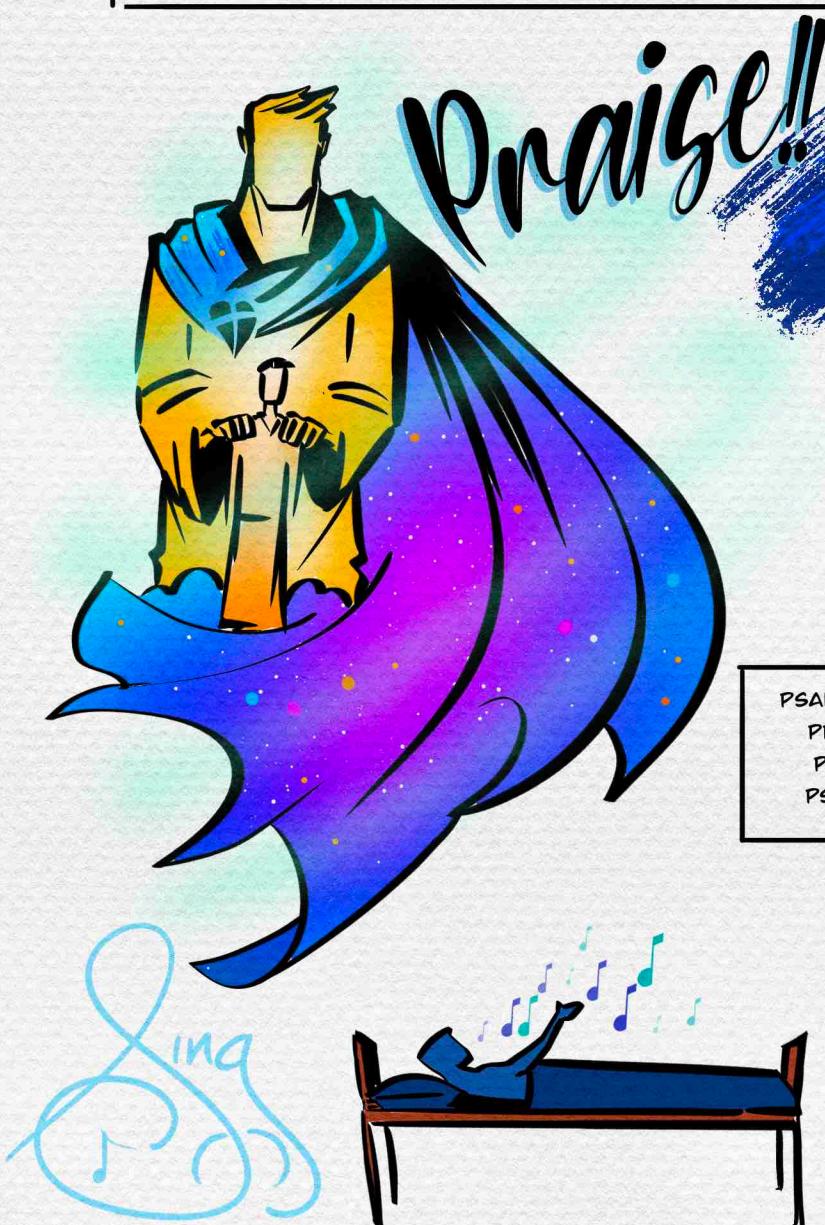
PSALM 139 VERSE 24 (LIVING) IS A GOOD PRAYER THAT WE SHOULD PRAY FREQUENTLY: "LORD, **POINT** OUT ANYTHING YOU FIND IN ME THAT MAKES YOU **SAD**."

PSALM 143 IS A PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE AND DELIVERANCE. "TEACH ME TO DO THY WILL. LET THY **GOOD SPIRIT** LEAD ME ON TO **LEVEL GROUND**" (VERSE 10). LEVEL GROUND IS ONE WHERE WE **PROGRESS STEADILY** AND DON'T HAVE UP-AND-DOWN EXPERIENCES.



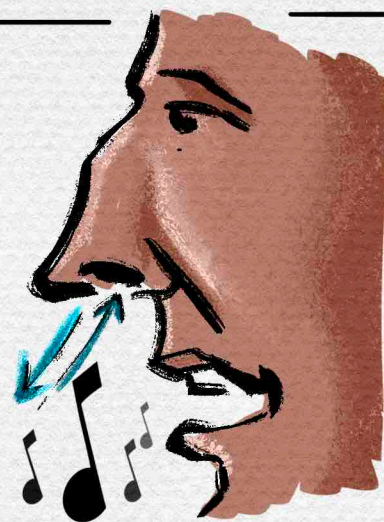
PSALM 144 IS A PRAYER FOR DELIVERANCE AND FOR BLESSING ON DAVID'S CHILDREN. HE WANTS HIS SONS TO GROW UP LIKE STRONG SOLID **TREES** AND HIS DAUGHTERS TO BE AS STRONG AS THE **PILLARS** OF A PALACE (VERSE 12).

PSALM 145 IS A PSALM OF **PRAISE** TO THE LORD FOR HIS GREATNESS. "THE LORD IS **NEAR** TO ALL WHO CALL UPON HIM. HE WILL FULFIL THE DESIRE OF THOSE WHO FEAR HIM" (VERSES 18, 19).



PSALM 146: THE LAST FIVE PSALMS ARE PSALMS OF **PRAISE**. THIS ONE PRAISES THE LORD FOR HIS CREATIVE POWER AND HIS GOODNESS .
PSALM 147 ALSO PRAISES THE LORD FOR HIS WORKS IN CREATION.
PSALM 148: HERE ALL OF CREATION IS URGED TO PRAISE THE LORD.

PSALM 150: THIS IS THE GRAND FINALE.
THIRTEEN TIMES WE READ THE WORD "PRAISE" IN THIS PSALM, CONCLUDING WITH "LET EVERYTHING THAT HAS BREATH PRAISE THE LORD" (VERSE 6). THERE IS ONLY ONE TYPE OF PERSON WHO DOES **NOT** HAVE TO PRAISE GOD -- THE ONE WHO CANNOT BREATHE, THE **DEAD**.



PSALM 149 : WE ARE CALLED TO **SING** FOR JOY EVEN ON OUR **BEDS** AND TO HAVE THE HIGH **PRAISES** OF GOD ALWAYS IN OUR MOUTH AND THE WORD OF GOD IN OUR HANDS TO BIND THE POWER AND ACTIVITIES OF SATAN AND HIS DEMONS (VERSES 5--8).