

Eleutheros Newsletter

April 2021

News of Interest

Feel free to check out the website to check out the book offerings of Eleutheros Books:

www.eleutherosbooks.com

[*The Ramifications of Our Salvation*](#) explains what happens when a believer is saved by God's grace.

[*Bible Translations: A Closer Look*](#) defends the inspiration of the Scriptures, explains the nature of modern Bible translation theory, and offers practical suggestions for serious Bible study.

[*Spiritual Gifts Verse by Verse: A Commentary on I Corinthians 12-14*](#) gives a thoroughly Biblical look at an issue that has been debated in the Church for about 100 years.

[*A Portrait of Jesus*](#) contains 37 short chapters about our Savior in 5 sections: Jesus before time existed, Jesus in Old Testament times, what Jesus did on this earth, what Jesus is doing now, and what Jesus will do when we get to heaven.

[*The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ*](#) explains the historical evidence for His resurrection and offers commentary on every New Testament verse that mentions the greatest event in all of history.

[*19th Century Influences on 21st Century Christianity*](#) deals with the major trends and personalities of past days and how they are impacting the Church today.

Thoughts from the Psalms

[Psalm 54](#)

1 Save me, O God, by Thy name, and judge me by Thy strength.

In writing this Psalm David recognized his own inadequacy to solve his problems and pleads with God for help. "Save me" indicates that his problem was serious. He wrote about God's saving power in other Psalms ([3:8](#); [19:14](#); [25:5](#); [27:1](#); [28:8](#); [33:19](#); numerous other verses) and appeals to His *name* and His *strength*. Of course, God is rightly known by many names which are indicative of His nature: His accessibility ([Psalm 145:18](#)), His glory ([Psalm 19:1](#)), His sovereignty ([Psalm 89:11](#)), His eternity ([Psalm 90:2](#)), His holiness ([Psalm 33:4](#)), His faithfulness ([Psalm 89:1](#)), His omniscience ([Psalm 44:21](#)), His grace ([Psalm 84:11](#)), and many other eternal, yet unchanging, attributes.

David expresses *confidence* in God because of His great “strength.”

2 Hear my prayer, O God, give ear to the words of my mouth.

Prayer can be expressed in many ways, but in this Psalm, David is praying vocally. In his mind he certainly understands that God *can* hear his verbiage, but perhaps he is struggling to believe that God *will* actually listen to it.

No doubt many of us have experienced the same feeling at times! In many respects we have a certain amount of faith, but our circumstances overwhelm us at times, and, even though we know God loves us, we fear He may not be listening. David cries out, “Hear my prayer, O God.” It is also possible that David was concerned about unconfessed sin’s negative effects on his payers: *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me* ([Psalm 66:18](#)).

3 For strangers are risen up against me, and oppressors seek after my soul: they have not set God before them. Selah.

David tells God exactly what his problem is: *strangers* and *oppressors* who have *not set God before them*. He knew that God wanted to hear what David had to say! God also knows what we have to say! God wants us to have a close relationship with Him, and expressing our needs, our circumstances, and our shortcomings is important to Him!

4 Behold, God is mine helper: the Lord is with them that uphold my soul.

In this verse David expresses the certainty of being heard and rejoices in God’s help. He does not mean to imply that God is one out of many who upheld his threatened life; but rather that He comes within the category of such, and fills it up in Himself alone.

5 He shall reward evil unto mine enemies: cut them off in Thy truth.

David not only appreciates God’s help for His own people; he also appreciates and prays for God’s justice to be doled out to his (and God’s) enemies. He expressed similarly in [Psalm 58:6](#): *Break their teeth, O God, in their mouth....* In other words, David understood that the victory would come from God, not himself or his armies.

6 I will freely sacrifice unto Thee: I will praise Thy name, O Lord; for it is good.

Convinced that God was about to answer his prayer, David was committed to offer a sacrifice “freely” unto God. Sacrifices are a form of worship that involve generous giving back to God for all He has done for us.

Such sacrificial worship should be done in a spirit of “praise”; because such is “good.”

7 For He hath delivered me out of all trouble: and mine eye hath seen His desire ("judgment") upon mine enemies.

Not only did David appreciate the power, love, and awareness of God; He also remembers how God had *delivered* him so many times before he offered this prayer to his Lord!

He had nothing to fear; and neither do we!

Lessons from this Psalm: 1. We should recognize that God knows how to solve our problems far better than we can. 2. It is perfectly acceptable to express our feelings to God even though those feelings may involve a complaint or a lack of faith. 3. We surely should understand that God blesses His own and punishes those who are strangers to His grace. 4. What God does is always done righteously ("in Thy truth," verse 5). 5. It is right to make sacrifices of praise and worship to our God! 6. We do well to remember how God has helped us so many times in past days!

We will continue thoughts from the Psalms in next month's newsletter.