

About Psalm 25

- No historical information. The first Psalm which is alphabetical or acrostic.

1 To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. 2 O my God, I trust in You; let me not be ashamed; let not my enemies triumph over me. 3 Indeed, let no one who waits on You be ashamed; let those be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause.

- The simplest definition of prayer that we can find in the Scriptures: lifting up your soul to God... lifting up to God whatever our souls contain at that moment.
- The honesty of King David's praying.
- Also, a simple prayer that David would not be ashamed before his enemies.

4 Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths. 5 Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day.

- David had the virtue of humility. How many truly pray, "God, show me Your ways, teach me what to do?"

6 Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindnesses, for they are from of old. 7 Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; according to Your mercy remember me, for Your goodness' sake, O Lord.

- David makes effective intercession not just by appealing to God's clear promises, but by appealing to God's time-proven character. Remember his formula of faith: look back to God's record of faithfulness; look today to God's character; and, look ahead to God's promises.
- We are not always in God's mercy protected from the *consequences* of past sins.
- He asks God to remember him for the sake of God's goodness.

8 Good and upright is the Lord; therefore He teaches sinners in the way. 9 The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way. 10 All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, to such as keep His covenant and His testimonies. 11 For Your name's sake, O Lord, pardon my iniquity, for it is great.

- The Lord is so kind He even teaches sinners. God is always reaching out even to those who are against Him, working to teach them the path of righteousness.
- In verse 9, we see that the “meek man” is again admired. We see that those who are humble can be assured of being guided, as well as taught, by God.
- Finally, in verse 11, he asks God to pardon his iniquity, and again he asks this for the sake of God’s Name. So we always see in David this appeal to God’s reputation: if David is ruined, then God’s Name is ruined as well.

12 Who is the man that fears the Lord? Him shall He teach in the way He chooses. 13 He himself shall dwell in prosperity, and his descendants shall inherit the earth. 14 The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him, and He will show them His covenant.

- More about the rewards God will give to the meek.
- The word **secret** in verse 14 [Hebrew *sode*] does not really mean what the English word “secret” means. It refers to the council of leaders who would surround a ruler and with whom he would consult. It also refers to the decisions which come out of such a council meeting.
- In the writings of the prophets, this word was used for meetings of the heavenly council – the council of God and His rulers. God has met in a heavenly session to come up with a plan to bless David, then announce a decree in his favor.
- God will then show that man His covenant. Who benefits from this? The answer is found in verse 14: *the secret of the Lord is with those **who fear Him.***

15 My eyes are ever toward the Lord, for He shall pluck my feet out of the net. 16 Turn Yourself to me, and have mercy on me, for I am desolate and afflicted. 17 The troubles of my heart have enlarged; bring me out of my distresses! 18 Look on my affliction and my pain, and forgive all my sins. 19 Consider my enemies, for they are many; and they hate me with cruel hatred.

- God has a special concern on His heart for those who are alone and in Ps. 68:6 it says He sets the “solitary” (same word) in families.
- The word “pain” here means worn out.

20 Keep my soul, and deliver me; let me not be ashamed, for I put my trust in You. 21 Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for You. 22 Redeem Israel, O God, out of all their troubles!

- He expects that as he waits upon the Lord he will be preserved by being innocent [**integrity**] and by doing what is right [**uprightness**].
- The final prayer is a prayer which makes intercession for the nation as a whole.
- The Jewish people pray for Israel’s redemption every day, three times a day. As believers we, like they, should always pray for the needs of the whole believing community.

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