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**BIBLE STUDY**

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**THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE**

**Psalms 36:1-12**

**{To the chief Musician, [A Psalm] of David the servant of the LORD.}**

***Psalms 36:1 “The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, [that there is] no fear of God before his eyes."***

David is described here as the servant of the LORD (a description also applied to him only in the heading of Psalm 18). We should, also, realize our position with God. We are servants of the most High God. Each one of us preach a sermon to the world, each day of our lives, by the way we conduct our lives.

***2 Corinthians 3:1-3***

***1 Do we begin again to commend ourselves? or need we, as some others, epistles of commendation to you, or letters of commendation from you?
2 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:
3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.***

The core and heart of the ungodly is rejection of the Lord. There is no fear of God before his eyes. To the ungodly, transgression serves as the authoritative guide in all aspects of life. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. The wicked are very foolish because they do not fear God.

***Psalm 14:1 “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. “***

***Proverbs 12:15 “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.”***

***Proverbs 23:9 “Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words.”***

***Proverbs 26:10 “The great God that formed all things both rewardeth the fool, and rewardeth transgressors.”***

Notice, that it is to David's heart the sins of these wicked are speaking. He knows in his heart that there is no fear of God within them, or they would not be committing these sins {transgressions}. These transgressors have sent a very bad message out to those who look on. Those who love and fear God try to live as near like Jesus as they can. Just the way we conduct our lives should win others to Christ.

***Psalms 36:2 "For he flattereth himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful."***

David points to two reasons why the wicked person turns to ungodliness: Dread of God has no effect on him, and he has a flattering opinion of himself. In other words, he has a low view of God and a high view of self. We see a man full of conceit. He is great in his own sight. The world sees him with totally different eyes. His sin will find him out. Those who he sinned against will hate him. All of the smooth talking in the world will not fool God. Look at the fate of the proud man in the next verse.

***Proverbs 16:5 "Every one [that is] proud in heart [is] an abomination to the LORD: [though] hand [join] in hand, he shall not be unpunished."***

***1 Peter 5:5 “Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.”***

***Psalms 36:3 "The words of his mouth [are] iniquity and deceit: he hath left off to be wise, [and] to do good."***

This man is conceited and proud in his heart. He continuously commits sin, and his conscience does not trouble him. He boldly speaks evil and plans evil. The words that come from our mouth will match the thoughts we have in our heart. This man uses his evil tongue to cheat and deceive. His every thought is how to get the best of someone else. It really doesn't matter to him, what is right to do. He does only the things that will benefit him. He will lie or cheat to get the best of all the deals he is in.

***Psalms 36:4 "He deviseth mischief upon his bed; he setteth himself in a way [that is] not good; he abhorreth not evil."***

Even when he is supposedly resting in bed, his evil mind and heart are plotting his moves for the next day. This man does not hate evil, in fact, nothing is too bad for him to do, if he thinks it will benefit him. This is what is described of wicked men in Genesis and of the man who had the leprosy down under the skin of his head in Leviticus. The evil had penetrated their mind. They are “sick in the head.”

***Leviticus 13:3 “And the priest shall look on the plague in the skin of the flesh: and when the hair in the plague is turned white, and the plague in sight be deeper than the skin of his flesh, it is a plague of leprosy: and the priest shall look on him, and pronounce him unclean.”***

***Genesis 6:5 “And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”***

***Psalms 36:5-7***

***5 "Thy mercy, O LORD, [is] in the heavens; [and] thy faithfulness [reacheth] unto the clouds."***

***6 "Thy righteousness [is] like the great mountains; thy judgments [are] a great deep: O LORD, thou preservest man and beast."***

***7 "How excellent [is] thy lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings."***

In God, lovingkindness receives its fullest expression and stands as the enduring model for us to follow. Where does David turn to find relief from the wickedness that surrounds him? He meditates on God, comparing his faithful love. There is a drastic change from the evil man to a Good God! As the king of Israel, David was a wealthy man. But the most priceless treasure to which he had access was the faithful love of God. The one who benefits from it is like a chick protected under the wings of a mother hen. David underscored the endless supply of God’s lovingkindness that extends to the heavens is inexhaustible.

***Lamentations 3:22-23***

***22 It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.***

***23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.***

We, now, see David expressing the mercy and faithfulness of the LORD. The true mercy seat, that the one in the tabernacle was patterned from, is in heaven where God dwells. We have no mercy to bestow on God. Mercy belongs to God. God is faithful, and He is absolute Truth. He will do everything He has promised to do. God can bestow mercy on whomever He chooses to.

***Romans 9:15-16***

***15 "For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."***

***16 "So then [it is] not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy."***

***Romans 9:18 "Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will [have mercy], and whom he will he hardeneth."***

***Isaiah 25:1 "O LORD, thou [art] my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful [things; thy] counsels of old [are] faithfulness [and] truth."***

The righteousness of God is unshakeable. It is higher than we can imagine. It is not possible for mortal man to fathom the judgments of God. Life itself, whether life of man, or life of beast is in the hands of God. Man and beast are creations of God. The Creator has control of His creation. We live or die at the command of God. The lovingkindness of God is what sent His only son Jesus Christ to the earth and eventually to the cross to save each one of us.

***John 15:13 "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."***

The love of God for sinful man has always been a mystery to me. The wings of God are not literal but are real. It is as if we are under a great canopy that shades us from the terrible heat of the sun. Christians put their trust in God. That trust is the protection through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***Psalms 36:8 "They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures."***

Those who look to God as their source will experience the abundance of his provision and be satisfied. The fatness of the house of God is the tree of life which bears twelve fruit. This river, also, that we are to drink from, is the river that flows from the throne of God. Jesus told the woman at the well, if she drank of this water, she would never thirst again. This tree and river are both in heaven, as we read in the next 2 verses.

***Revelation 22:1-2***

***1 "And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb."***

***2 "In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, [was there] the tree of life, which bare twelve [manner of] fruits, [and] yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree [were] for the healing of the nations."***

***Psalms 36:9 "For with thee [is] the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light."***

The fountain of life is the same as the river. If we look at all the elements mentioned in the last few verses in this lesson from Psalms, we will see that all of them are symbolic of Jesus. For humanity, God is the only source of light, which in the Bible is employed as a symbol of life and salvation, whether physical or spiritual. The tree spoken of, here, is the same as the food that Jesus called Himself, the Bread. Jesus is the tree of life. The river that flows is the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. Jesus is, also, the light of the world. If we have Jesus in us, we have life and Light.

***Revelation 21:23 "And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb [is] the light thereof."***

***Revelation 22:5 "And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever."***

***Psalms 36:10-12***

***10 "O continue thy lovingkindness unto them that know thee; and thy righteousness to the upright in heart."***

***11 "Let not the foot of pride come against me, and let not the hand of the wicked remove me."***

***12 "There are the workers of iniquity fallen: they are cast down, and shall not be able to rise."***

David concludes his prayer with a request that God would provide his protective love for those who know him in intimate fellowship. He asks that the wicked would not prevail but be defeated by divine judgment. We see in this, a plea from David that God will continue on in the same way He has been in the past. This recognizes again the lovingkindness God shows to those in right standing with Him. David's sons had not been exempt from the very pride that David is asking God not to allow to come against him. David knows for sure that he is where he is because God has preserved him. We see one more plea that God will keep him safe from the wicked who desire to kill David. This Psalm ends with a positive note of confidence from David. He says, my enemies who were workers of iniquity have fallen, and they will not be able to come against me again. This is David's way of thanking God for the defeat of the evil ones.

**Questions**

1. Who does David call himself in verse 1?
2. The fear of God is the beginning of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. The wicked are speaking to \_\_\_\_\_\_ heart in verse 1?
4. What are transgressions?
5. What kind of a man is verse 2 describing?
6. In verse 3, the words of the evil man are what 2 things?
7. Thy mercy, O LORD is in the\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
8. Where is the true mercy seat?
9. Who does mercy belong to?
10. Who preserves man and beast?
11. It is not possible for mortal man to fathom the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of God.
12. We live or die at the command of \_\_\_\_\_.
13. What actually sent the Son of God to the cross?
14. What does verse 8 mean by the fatness of thy house?
15. What is the river that is spoken of here?
16. Who is Life?
17. Who is the Light?
18. Who is the Tree of Life?
19. Who is the River of Life?
20. What is the confident statement David ends this Psalm with?