

Monday, 23 September 2019 Psalm 68:1-3

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. A Song. God shall arise, his enemies shall be scattered, and those who hate him shall flee before him! As smoke is driven away, so you shall drive them away; as wax melts before fire, so the wicked shall perish before God! But the righteous shall be glad; they shall exult before God; they shall be jubilant with joy!

Lord, one of my big problems is remembering that You are in charge as the turmoil appears to be on the increase. There seems to be no slacking of the bad news, even a hint of good news is tainted by uncertainty. How can I keep my eyes on You when so many assaults my eyes and ears? The answer is to let Your praises fill my mouth, and You will provide a two-edged sword in my hands for protection. Let Your praises be so loud in my mouth; my ears cannot hear the wails and laments of a dying world. Let my eyes be so filled with Your glory and blessings that I cannot see the sin and decay that are destroying the world around me.

Tuesday, 24 September 2019 Psalm 68:4-14

Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts; his name is the LORD; exult before him! Father of the fatherless and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. God settles the solitary in a home; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious dwell in a parched land. O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, Selah, the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain, before God, the One of Sinai, before God, the God of Israel. Rain in abundance, O God, you shed abroad; you restored your inheritance as it languished; your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy. The Lord gives the word; the women who announce the news are a great host: "The kings of the armies--they flee, they flee!" The women at home divide the spoil--though you men lie among the sheepfolds-- the wings of a dove covered with silver, its pinions with shimmering gold. When the Almighty scatters kings there, let snow fall on Zalmon.

LORD, You in Your wisdom and goodness, provided for the ultimate in cleansing and restoration. You, from before the Beginning, chose Your son as the necessary and sufficient sacrifice for all sin. You sent Him to live among us, to teach us Kingdom living, to make the final sacrifice that set us free and then sent the Comforter to live within us. The precious Comforter. Who guides us into all truth, who sets us free and who reminds us of all that You said to us.

Wednesday, 25 September 2019 Psalm 68:15-20

O mountain of God, mountain of Bashan; O many-peaked mountain, mountain of Bashan! Why do you look with hatred, O many-peaked mountain, at the mount that God desired for his abode, yes, where the LORD will dwell forever? The chariots of God are twice ten thousand,

thousands upon thousands; the Lord is among them; Sinai is now in the sanctuary. You ascended on high, leading a host of captives in your train and receiving gifts among men, even among the rebellious, that the LORD God may dwell there. Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. Selah Our God is a God of salvation, and to GOD, the Lord, belong deliverances from death.

You, my God, are a God of vast richness, Your blessings pour out on Your people as an endless torrent of goodness and richness. It is indescribable in its variety, in its beauty, in its creativity, in its scope. It is healing and restoring; it is reconciling, it is uniting, it is joy and peace forevermore

Thursday, 26 September 2019 Psalm 68:21-31

But God will strike the heads of his enemies, the hairy crown of him who walks in his guilty ways. The Lord said, "I will bring them back from Bashan, I will bring them back from the depths of the sea, that you may strike your feet in their blood, that the tongues of your dogs may have their portion from the foe." Your procession is seen, O God, the procession of my God, my King, into the sanctuary--the singers in front, the musicians last, between them virgins playing tambourines: "Bless God in the great congregation, the LORD, O you who are of Israel's fountain!" There is Benjamin, the least of them, in the lead, the princes of Judah in their throng, the princes of Zebulun, the princes of Naphtali. Summon your power, O God, the power, O God, by which you have worked for us. Because of your temple at Jerusalem, kings shall bear gifts to you. Rebuke the beasts that dwell among the reeds, the herd of bulls with the calves of the peoples. Trample underfoot those who lust after tribute; scatter the peoples who delight in war. Nobles shall come from Egypt; Cush shall hasten to stretch out her hands to God.

The Day of the Lord is coming; the Day when all Your enemies become Your footstool; the Day when all shall bow before You, and all voices declare that Jesus Christ is Lord; the Day when Shalom is restored, and your people are called to their place at Your right hand to rule and administer Your Kingdom in all its perfection.

Friday, 27 September 2019 Psalm 68:32-35

O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God; sing praises to the Lord, Selah to him who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; behold, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice. Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel, and whose power is in the skies. Awesome is God from his sanctuary; the God of Israel--he is the one who gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!

To You, O LORD is all glory and honor and power and dominion and majesty and exultation and goodness and righteousness and joy and peace and justice and mercy and light and love. In You dwells all that is Good and Right. You are blessed and do bless.

Saturday, 28 September 2019 Psalm 119:70-71

Before I was afflicted, I went astray, but now I keep your word. It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.

I was lost, Lord, wandering far from You and You afflicted me with the consequences of my sin and convicted me of my need for You. You showed me the mountain that I could not climb and lifted me over it by Your grace and love. Now you lay out before me all the wonders and majesty of a life lived in concert with You. A magnificent panorama lies before me, the grand sweep of the abundant life in Your Kingdom; this limitless valley of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit that is mine to dwell in for the rest of my days.

Praise You, my Lord, Master, and Savior.

Lord's Day, 29 September 2019, Exodus 20:1-2, 13

And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ... You shall not murder."

Lord Jesus, how well you knew those pitfalls of this commandment when you counseled me against hating my brother. You knew that anger and hatred in my heart led to spiritual murder, that I cannot truly love my brother when I am angry with him; that I have committed symbolic murder of our relationship and that in turn, sours my relationship with You. Lord, heal me of anger and hatred; fill me with Your compassion and love for those who offend me.

Voices Together is available as two annual volumes of meditations based on Psalm 1 through 75 and Psalm 76 through 150. A companion book, *The Love Story*, is a 22 week series of meditations based on Psalm 119. They are available through the Fellowship of Ailbe book store at www.ailbe.org/bookstore/christian-discipline

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



September 23-29, 2019

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: Ephesians 6:19-20

Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Brothers and sisters, let us make a special vow before the LORD, God, the Almighty to pray that we will each fearlessly make known the mystery of the Gospel, not just this week, but every week. Let us pray that our congregation will be known for the boldness of the members in proclaiming that message of repentance that leads to life in the Kingdom and the life of righteousness, peace and joy that is its defining nature. *Amen*

To fear or not to fear, that is the question.

The fear of the Lord, an expression that occurs many times in Scripture, 142 in the ESV in various forms, is not well understood in the Church today. For many, the phrase represents a weak and flabby description of an overly saccharine spiritual being of some sort. It certainly does not include the concept of the LORD, God the Almighty who spoke all things into being and who controls all things.

Join with me in examining the fear of the LORD and seeking an understanding of life in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now as guided by that fear.

Voices Together is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, www.ailbe.org; along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ. All Scripture is from the ESV unless otherwise noted. These messages can also be received as daily emails or in a monthly printed version by sending a request to:

Pastor John Nunnikhoven, The Church at Prison, Inc.

PO Box 8318, Essex Junction, VT 05452 or to prior@ailbe.org

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