

Psalm 28

Title: Answered Prayer

Author and Date: David

Key Verses: Psalm 28:2, 6

Outline

- A. Requesting: the petition for answered prayer (verses 1-5).
- B. Rejoicing: the praise for answered prayer (verses 6-9).

Notes

Title: "A Psalm of David." See the notes on Psalm 3.

Verse 1: The description of the Lord as a "rock" (unmovable, strong defense, help, and refuge) is common in the psalms (18:2, 31, 46; 19:14; 27:5; etc.). The psalmist has confidence in prayer because the Lord is a "rock". The reference to "the pit" is symbolic of a place of death; Sheol, the place of the dead (Psa. 30:3, 9).

Verse 2: Note that the psalmist's prayer (supplication) was a "cry". He did not casually pray to God. He strongly cried out for help. The lifting up of the hands (palms up) is an act of worship and praise (Psa. 63:4; 119:48; 134:2; 141:2; Lam. 2:19; 1 Tim. 2:8). It was a common prayer posture of the Israelites in Bible times. The "holy oracle" is a reference to the most holy place in the tabernacle (and later in the temple) where the Ark of the Covenant was housed (1 K. 6:5-31; 8:6).

Verse 4: "Their desert" (KJV, ASV) is what the wicked deserve to get as a result of their actions; "their due reward" (ESV) or "their recompense" (NASV). The psalmist is not hostile and vindictive. He is not craving personal revenge. He simply wants the Lord to bring a righteous and retributive judgment upon the wicked (see Psa. 5:10; 7:11-16; etc.). These words against the wicked are called "imprecatory" statements. Compare the psalmist's words here with the following verses: Psa. 62:12; Prov. 24:12, 29; Jer. 25:14; 32:19; 50:29; and Lam. 3:64.

Verse 5: These wicked people are atheists in practice if not in profession. They ignore the Lord and act like he does not exist. Note the contrast between verse 4 and verse 5. The wicked are so involved with their "work" and the "operation of their hands" (verse 4) that they ignore the Lord's "works" and the "operation of his hands" (verse 5).

Verse 7: The description of the Lord as "my strength and my shield" is common in the psalms (18:1; 27:1; etc.)

Verse 8: The psalmist is praying for Israel in verses 8-9. This is intercessory prayer. “His anointed” can be a reference to King David (Psa. 18:50; 89:20; 132:10, 17) or to the people of Israel as a whole (Psa. 105:15).

Verse 9: The Lord is like a “shepherd” over Israel, guiding her and feeding her (Psa. 23:1; 80:1).

Questions

1. Who does the psalmist call upon and how does he describe him (verse 1)?
2. What does the psalmist believe he will become if the Lord does not answer him (verse 1)?
3. What request does the psalmist have (verse 2)?
4. Who does the psalmist not want to be drawn away with (verse 3)?
5. How do the workers of iniquity speak (verse 3)?
6. What does the psalmist want the workers of iniquity to be given (verse 4)?
7. What do the workers of iniquity not regard or consider (verse 5)?
8. Why does the psalmist bless the Lord (verse 6)?
9. How does the psalmist describe the Lord (verse 7)?
10. How does the psalmist react to his answered prayer (verse 7)?

11. What is the Lord to his people (verse 8)?

12. What prayer request does the psalmist have for his people (verse 9)?

Applications for Today

1. The psalmist asked for help (verse 2) and he got it (verses 6-7). What does Jesus (Mt. 7:7) and James say about asking (Jas. 4:2)? What kind of person will the Lord answer (1 Pet. 3:8-12)?

2. Some people speak well with their mouth, but have an evil heart (verse 3). What kind of person is discussed in the following scriptures: Psalm 55:21; Isaiah 29:13; and Jeremiah 9:8?

3. The Lord will give sinners what they rightly deserve (verse 4). How will each one be judged in the judgment day (Rom. 2:6; 14:12; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:12-13)? What did Paul say Alexander the coppersmith would receive from the Lord (2 Tim. 4:14)? What related principle does Paul state in Galatians 6:7-8? What related principle does Peter state in 1 Peter 1:17?

4. We need to have full assurance that God will answer us when we petition him (verse 6). What attitude do we need to have before, during, and after prayer (Heb. 4:16; 1 Jn. 5:14-15)?

5. Requesting leads to rejoicing. Dependence leads to delight. Don't forget to praise God and thank God for your answered prayers (verse 6). What promise is given to God's people in Isaiah 65:24?

6. We praise the Lord in song (verse 7). What is the purpose of congregational singing according to Ephesians 5:19 and Colossians 3:16? What do we offer according to Hebrews 13:15?

7. Don't forget to pray for your brethren after you pray for yourself (verses 8-9). What prayer habit did Paul have regarding his brethren (Rom. 1:9; Col. 1:3; 1 Thess. 1:2; 2 Thess. 1:11; Philemon 4)? What kind of prayers are we to offer up for others (1 Tim. 2:1)?