

THE "HE-ME" PSALM
Psalm 118: 16-19

Intro: The importance of this Psalm is indicated by the fact that it is found twice in the Bible: here, and in 2 Sam. 22.

2 Sam. 22:22 is historical; Psalm 118 is the Psalm as David set it to music (which accounts for the slight variations).

The background of the Psalm (see superscription).

The arrangement of the Psalm:

- I. Intro: Praise (vv. 1-3).
- II. Prayer (vv. 4-6). F. B. Meyer said (p. 9), "The voice is thin and solitary, but the answer shakes creation."
- III. The Divine Appearance (vv. 7-15), or Interposition.
- IV. The Answer (vv. 16-19), with which I want to deal specifically. Same in 2 S. 22:17-20.
- V. Explanations (vv. 20-36).
- VI. Experiences (vv. 37-45).
- VII. Concl: Praise (vv. 46-50).

The fact that two verses from this Psalm (vv. 2, 49) are quoted in the N.T. (Heb. 2:13; Rom. 15:9) as words of the Lord Jesus

suggests immediately that the spirit of God intended this Psalm to have meaning far beyond the experiences of David.

This is what makes THE ANSWER to David's prayer so interesting and significant.

You can see from vv. 16-19 why it is called the HE-ME Psalm!

"He" is found 7x.
"me" " " " 9x.

And Graham Scroggie who uses this title says that you cannot change a "me" to an "he", or an "I" to a "we", nor a "my" to an "our". These are personal matters. The application is not for groups, but for each of us individually.

Now, the point that I want to make is that in this answer we have a beautiful statement of the work of God in an individual life through the gospel.

The prayer of David represents the cry of the human heart when he discovers what his true spiritual condition is.

What is the answer?

- I. Note, its HEAVENLY ORIGIN: "He sent from above." There was no help on earth, but there was adequate help from above.

4x in the Gospel of John Jesus Christ is referred to as One sent, sent by the Father.

- 3x in 1 John John uses this "sent" - that we might live (4:9).
- "sent" - to be the propitiation for our sins (4:10).
- "sent" - to be the Savior of the world (4:14).

"From above" - 2x in the Gospel of John of Christ (John 3:31; 8:23).

What a statement of the advent of Christ into the world!

- II. The DIVINE INITIATIVE: "He took me".

To take means to take possession of, or to take from one place to another.

- Cf. John 15:16; Eph. 1:4. What grace!

- III. The MIRACULOUS DELIVERANCE. Notice it is both from "out of", "from", and "into".

A. "Out of many waters".

The only other time this expression is used is in Ex. 2:10 of Moses. Thus, it signifies deliverance from death. Why was Moses spared & from what was he spared? By Pharaoh's daughter from death.

And this is typical of our deliverance: "from death unto life" (Jn. 5:24).

B. "From my enemy" - personal

1. He is strong -- "too strong for me".
2. He hates me. And never forget this about Satan. It is evident from Gen 3 on.
3. He prevents, or detains, surprises (JFB) us.

Cf. Heb. 2:14,15 -

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

"The Lord was my stay." This is

- one who takes a stand,
- one who puts himself in a

position and remains there,
- one who is there to stop
anyone who comes along.

What an image of this
we have in 2 Tim 4:16,17.

"At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.

Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion."

This also is involved in
Eph. 6:10 ff.

c. "Into a large place"

"often ~~saw~~ metaph. of freedom and deliverance, opp. to straitsness, straits" (Gesenius, p. 617).

Used in this same sense in
Psa. 31:9

"And hast not shut me up into the hand of the enemy: thou has set my feet in a large room."

Also Psa. 118:35,6

"I called upon the Lord in distress: the Lord answered me, and set me in a large place. The Lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?"

What place do we have in Christ? Cf. Eph. 2:6,7 "And hath raised us up...that in the ages to come...."

Could John 14:2 b apply?
"I go to prepare a place for you."

IV. The UNBELIEVABLE EXPLANATION:

"He believed me, because he
delighted in me."

To delight in someone is to love them.

"I stand amazed in the presence
of Jesus the Nazarene
and wonder how He could love
me -- a sinner, condemned, unclean."

Concl: Would you like to experience
a deliverance like this: from
death, from the devil, from
bondage — unto life, and
liberty.

Then come to the Lord and
do what David did. Cf. V. 6.

"The same Lord over all is
near unto all that call upon
Him. For whosoever shall call
upon the name of the Lord
shall be saved" (Rom. 10:12 b, 13).