

Psalm Twenty-Seven, One

Intro: There are several verses in this Psalm which we might list among the great verses of Scripture. Cf. vv. 4, 5, 8, 10, 13, 14.

So it is a great Psalm with many great verses.

All we really know about the Psalm is that it was written by David. When he wrote it, we do not know. One thing we certainly do know is that it was written during a time of great trouble for David. He seems (1) to have been unable to get to the temple, according to v. 4. Also (2) it seems that his parents were unable to help him, as seen in v. 10. He faced overwhelming opposition from his enemies, and from a human point-of-view there seems to be but little hope of deliverance.

The Psalm really has two divisions:

- 1) In vv. 1-6 we see his confident hope.
- 2) In vv. 7-14 we see his deep concern, his heart-cry to God because of his troubles, and because he seems to have been cut off from all human help.

I have been reading the story of David in 1 and 2 Samuel, and in 1 Chronicles. What a story of conflict, danger, and difficulty it is! Some of his troubles came to him before he became king. But others followed after he ascended the throne. And even more tragic difficulties came as a result of his sin with Bathsheba!

Where Psalm 27 fits in, as I have said, we do not know. But it could have been written (at least most of it) many times over during his life. IT IS IMPORTANT TO SEE THE ORDER IN WHICH HE WROTE, AND, FOR THIS SERVICE TONIGHT, IT IS INTERESTING TO SEE WHERE HE BEGAN!

In the Hebrew this verse has just 10 words:

- 1) Two of them are the name, Jehovah.
- 2) Four others give us terms which serve as other names for God:
 - a) "My light."
 - b) "My salvation."
 - c) "The strength of my life."
- 3) The other four speak of the results of these truths--deliverance from fear.

So he is gathering together certain things which he knows about the Lord, and these form the foundation of his praise and his prayer (which begins with v. 7).

Let us look at the verse in detail.

Undoubtedly David is gathering together truth which he knows about the Lord, truth which he has known and experienced in the past, to strengthen him in this time of need.

I. THE NAME HE USES FOR GOD: "THE LORD," i.e., JEHOVAH.

- A. This was the name which God brought into prominence in the days of Moses. It is a name which was to remind the children of Israel of God's purposes for His people Israel--all that was given to Abraham, renewed to Moses, and then revealed so wonderfully to David.

IT WAS A NAME WHICH WOULD FOCUS HIS ATTENTION UPON THE WORD OF GOD.

- B. But also in that name is the truth that God is! He is a living God--One who sees and hears and knows. One who loves and helps and delivers.
- C. And then it also is a name which is so designed that it tells us that God is always the same. He never will cease to exist, nor will He ever change!

David biography is very wearying. He was living in circumstances which were constantly changing, and he was dealing with people who were changing. No one was more changing than was Saul. David never knew when things would be different there. BUT APPARENTLY THIS ALL DROVE HIM MORE AND MORE TO THE GOD WHO NEVER DOES CHANGE!

These are truths which are worthy of our closest attention and our strongest faith.

II. WHAT GOD WAS TO DAVID. There are, as we have already seen, three names which David gives to the Lord here: "my light . . . my salvation . . . the strength of my life."

- A. "Salvation" here means deliverance. He is not talking primarily about salvation from sin, but about salvation from trouble. This word is translated in the OT with such words as defend, deliver, preserve, avenge, save, help, get the victory.

DAVID WRITES ABOUT THIS IN 2 SAMUEL 22, WHICH IS PRACTICALLY THE SAME AS PSALM 18. ^

Cf. v. 9; 25:5. God was his deliverer from any and everything that might oppress him.

- B. As David's strength, the Lord was a fortress to David.

It is related to salvation because in Psa. 37:39 David wrote:

"But the salvation of the righteous is of the Lord; he is their strength in the time of trouble."

Cf. Prov. 18:10,

"The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runneth into it, and is safe."

- C. But, let us go back to the first expression. I have purposely left it to the last. "The Lord is my light." What did he mean by this?

There are at least three truths here:

- 1) First, the thought that when things were the darkest, the light which David enjoyed was the light of the presence of God in his life. Cf. Psa. 23:4.

The experience of God's presence is always the proof of God's favor. Cf. Psa. 4:6-8.

- 2) Secondly, it speaks of the knowledge which God gives in times of trouble. Cf. Psa. 119:130, "The entrance of thy word giveth light . . ."
- Also, Isa. 2:5, "O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord."

- 3) Thirdly, light means guidance. Psa. 119:105, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light . . ."

In Psa. 78:14 we read, "In the daytime also he led them with a cloud, and all the night with a light of fire."

What more could we want than these?

But will you notice one part of this expression which we have in this verse. It is the little word, "my," found 3 times. It is one thing to be able to say, "God is light" (1 John 1:5); it is quite another thing to be able to say, "The Lord is MY light and MY salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of MY life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

III. WHAT GOD DID FOR DAVID. It is expressed in the questions which follow each statement:

- 1) Lit., from whom shall I fear?
- 2) Lit., from whom shall I be afraid?

This did not mean that David would not be tested. One writer has suggested that verses 7 through 14 might have been written by someone beside David because they are so different from the first 6 verses! But this is not

the case. What David knew did not mean he would have no trouble; IT DID MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT HE KNEW WHERE TO FIND PEACE WHEN TROUBLE DID COME!

Concl: As I close tonight, may I point out to you that David did not wait for trouble to come before he sought the Lord and before he opened his heart to the truth. WHEN TROUBLE CAME, HE HAD SPIRITUAL RESOURCES THAT HE COULD DRAW FROM--TRUTHS WHICH SERVED HIM WITH STRENGTH AND CONFIDENCE IN JEHOVAH WHO WAS . . .

--his light
 --his salvation, and
 --the strength of his life.

It is very easy for us to memorize a verse like this, BUT CAN WE REALLY SAY THAT THE LORD, JEHOVAH, IS TO US WHAT HE WAS TO DAVID?

He ought to be this--and even more because we have all of the Word now whereas he had but a small part! These are days when we ought to be taking time for the Word of God as we never have before--reading it, praying over it, obeying it, understanding it.