

THE PRAISE OF JEHOWAH

Psalm 34:1-3

Intro: There are two unique things about Psalm 34:

(1) It is one of nine alphabetical Psalms. In Lange's commentary (Vol. 5, p. 26) it is noted that "an alphabet is formed by the initial letters of the lines (in) Pss. cxii. cxiii., by double lined strophes in Pss. xxv. xxiv. cxlv., by four lines strophes in Pss. ix. x. xxxvii., by the longer strophes of Ps. cxix., in which every two lined verse begins with the same letter, which is eight times repeated." (It seems very doubtful to me that 9 and 10 should be included, but 25, 34, 37, 101, 102, 119, and 145 are certain.)

(2) It is one of eight Psalms assigned to the time of David's flight from Saul (7, 34, 52, 54, 56, 57, 59, 142).

According to the superscription, the historical background of Psalm 34 is given in 1 Sam. 21:10-22:1.

Abimelech is a title like Pharaoh; Achish was the king's name. Gath was "one of the five chief cities of the Philis" (ISBE, II, 1177).

DAVID'S BEHAVIOR AT THIS TIME WAS NO CREDIT TO HIM. However, he is not parading his sin (an important point for us to keep in mind), but he is giving testimony to the faithfulness of God in delivering him in spite of what he did. (Note: It is good to keep a record of God's faithful dealings with us for our own encouragement as well as the blessing of others.")

The Psalm has two main divisions:

- (1) Vv. 1-10.
- (2) Vv. 11-22.

Spurgeon called the first part a hymn; the second, a sermon (Treasury, I, 122).

A. G. Clarke (pp. 95, 96) calls them devotional and doctrinal.

In the first part he is worshipping; in the second, teaching.

The first three verses are given over exclusively to praise without a single reason given for it. (The first reason comes in v. 4.)

So the emphasis from the very first is that praise should be offered to God continuously without any reason whatsoever except that God is worthy of it, and it is pleasing to Him.

In the three verses we have:

- I. The Constancy of Praise (v. 1).
 - II. The Consequence of Praise (v. 2).
 - III. The Concert of Praise (v. 3).
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- I. The Constancy of Praise (v. 1).