

## WEEK TWENTY INTRODUCTION

Chapter 20's readings bring us to the end of King David's earthly life. The Chronicler states succinctly in 1 Chronicles 29:28, *He died at a good old age, full of days, riches, and honor, and his son Solomon became king in his place.* The fullness of the Lord's blessings on David shine in just this one verse. The latter life of David cannot be glossed over as altogether easy, however. After the devastating betrayal by Absalom and subsequent rebellion led by Sheba son of Bichri, David sins in ordering an unnecessary, pride-driven census of Israel. Enemies without do not quieten the enemy within. Regardless, David's poetic output remains high in this season of his life. Psalms 97-99 herald the Kingship of the Lord and His worthiness of worship. Some Psalms this week proclaim gratitude for God's faithfulness, while others yearn for the deliverance and justice of God to come. The Psalms once again prove to be a ready-made repository for the whole spectrum of human life and emotion. Wherever you are and whatever you are going through there's a Psalm that will deepen your prayer life and walk with Christ Jesus. Take up and read!

## KEY SCRIPTURE

*Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground! For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life! In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble.*

– Psalm 143:10-11

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**2 Samuel 24:1 and 1 Chronicles 21:1 contain what *seems* like a contradiction. Was it the Lord who incited David or was it Satan? Read Genesis 50:20; Job 1-2; Acts 2:22-24; Romans 8:28; 2 Corinthians 12:7. As Graeme Goldsworthy states, "Suffice to say that God is in charge, and the forces for evil can act only as far as God allows. God can, and does, use the agents of evil, both man and devil, as his instruments for good." How does your understanding of God's sovereignty, even through the evils of this world, shape your life and faith? How do you respond to suffering and affliction in this light?**

Psalm 97:7 proclaims in the ESV, *All worshipers of images are put to shame, who make their boast in worthless idols; worship him, all you gods!* Read 1 Corinthians 8:4-5. Are there actually other “gods”? If not, as 1 Cor. 8:4 states, who are the *gods* to which Psalm 97:7 refers? Most likely these are angelic beings who are members of the Divine Council. The created order of angelic beings (angels and demons, including Satan) are addressed in Philippians 2:9-11, *Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Psalm 30:11 announces, *You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness.* C.H. Spurgeon says of this verse, “This might be true of David, delivered from his calamity; it was true of Christ, arising from the tomb, to die no more; it is true of the penitent, exchanging his sackcloth for the garments of salvation; and it will be verified in us all, at the last day, when we shall put off the dishonors of the grave, to shine in glory everlasting.” Take heart! If today is marked by mourning and grief or affliction and sorrow, know God is bringing you through it to everlasting gladness. How does this verse and truth encourage you today? Who might need to hear it as well?

Who does David organize beginning in 1 Chronicles 23:2? For what are they organized? Each had a role to play. How does David’s organizing and delegating foreshadow the church of Christ under the new covenant? As 1 Corinthians 12:7 reminds us, *To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.* God gifts believers in Jesus through the Holy Spirit for the good of one another. He has gifted you, Christian, to represent Jesus. One way you represent Christ is living out the Spirit’s gifting. Be honest with yourself (and your group, if applicable), how would you grade yourself on representing Jesus through the Spirit’s gifting? If you graded yourself low, what’s holding you back? Pray and ask for God’s help.

Psalm 138:3 CSB reads, *On the day I called, you answered me; you increased strength within me.* How does prayer strengthen us? Have you a testimony of God's strengthening through prayer? Who needs to hear of what God has done in your life?

Psalm 139 articulates attributes of God such as *omnipresence* and *omniscience*. Related to God's omnipresence is the idea of God's *immensity*. "Immensity" when referring to God means that God is literally without measure. Immensity refers to God alone in Himself apart from creation. As Herman Bavinck states God "transcends all space and location." "Omnipresence" according to Stephen Wellum "communicates God's relation to the world he created." God is fully and completely in every place. "Omniscience" according to Wellum "means that God knows everything that is possible to know." God knows past, present, and future *timelessly*. As Sam Storms notes, "But from God's perspective there is neither 'before' nor 'after.' God apprehends and knows all things (things which from our point of view may be past, present, and future) in one simultaneous act of cognition." There is no other being that is omnipresence or omniscient.

How do God's attributes of omnipresence and omniscience shape how you understand Him and His presence in your life? What comforts you about these attributes of God? What troubles you?

In 1 Chronicles 29:14-16, David attributes the capacity for generosity to the blessing of the Lord. How does giving generously shape David's worship in this passage? How can generosity with this attitude fuel your own worship? Have you considered your giving as an overflow and extension of your worship of the Lord. As David says to the Lord in 1 Chronicles 29:16, *everything belongs to you.*

**BE A DOER OF THE WORD**

“LORD, my heart is not proud; my eyes are not haughty. I do not get involved with things too great or too wondrous for me. Instead, I have calmed and quieted my soul like a weaned child with its mother; my soul is like a weaned child.” -**Psalm 131:1-2 CSB**

**Does your soul display the peace and rest of a weaned child, who is able to rest with its mother? Or, is your soul anxious and troubled? Perhaps, as this Psalm diagnoses, your spiritual sickness is taking on things that are too large for you. Psalm 131 ends with the invitation, *put your hope in the LORD*. What occupies your heart and mind that is better left at the feet of Jesus? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you leave your burdens and to experience the peace of His presence.**