

PSALM 17; June 21; A Righteous Man's Prayer for Protection

ANALYSIS:

1. When the LORD examined David, what did he find? _____
2. What did David use to deliver himself from the paths of the destroyer?

3. What two word pictures in this chapter illustrate David's expectation of God's care of His people? _____
4. In this psalm who does the psalmist say is the sword and hand of the LORD? _____
5. What treasure and substance was the psalmist looking for? _____

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT:

This Psalm describes the wicked of this world as the sword and hand of the LORD. And indeed they are. The LORD uses the wicked to accomplish his own purposes even though the wicked do not realize that they are but puppets on strings in the LORD's scheme of things.

Remember the Assyrian king of Isaiah 10? Although he was a great king by earthly standards, the LORD God of heaven considered him merely an axe and a saw that he was using to accomplish his purpose in judging backslidden Israel. When the LORD was finished using the Assyrians, he destroyed them just like he had destroyed Israel. The LORD our God is a Great King! He is able to use any man or nation to exactly accomplish his perfect will. Trust him today! Humble yourself and obey him today!

What satisfaction are you looking for in life? What are your chief joys? What are your goals in life? David's goal was to behold the face of the LORD in righteousness. David wanted to awake with the likeness of the LORD himself. Is your gaze upward toward the LORD and heaven, or is it horizontal, toward the things of this world? Let's be like David today, and focus our heart and eyes on God's righteousness and his kingdom.

HELP:

1. The LORD would find nothing wrong or sinful; David had purposed that his mouth would not transgress (v 3).
2. David used the words of God, the Scriptures, to deliver himself from the paths of the destroyer (v 4). (Ps 119:9)
3. David wanted the LORD to look upon him with great favor and delight, "as the apple of the eye" (v 8). He also wanted the LORD to shelter him and protect him, "under the shadow of the LORD's wings" (v 8).
4. The wicked are the sword and the hand of the LORD (vs 13-14).
5. The psalmist was looking for the face and righteousness of the LORD and to have the LORD's likeness (v 15).