
Church in Campbell Weekly News

December 18, 2011 Issue 11- 49

Life-Study of Psalms - 35

THE SAINTS' DEEPER EXPERIENCE OF GOD IN THE IDENTIFICATION WITH CHRIST

The Psalms, the most difficult book in the Bible to read and understand, is divided into five books. Book 1 is composed of Psalms 1 through 41; Book 2, of Psalms 42 through 72; Book 3, of Psalms 73 through 89; Book 4, of Psalms 90 through 106; and Book 5, of Psalms 107 through 150. The division of the Psalms into these five books is not according to chronological order, that is, it is not according to the time of writing. Neither is the arrangement of the books according to the nature of the teaching found in these books. In each book there are psalms that are a mixture of the revelation concerning Christ and the complex sentiments of the psalmists, sentiments that are according to the writers' thought regarding good and evil.

It is hard to say how the Psalms were divided into five books, but we can be sure that this arrangement was not made by the human mind. Of course, certain persons made the arrangement, but the Spirit was also involved. As the Lord showed us during our study of the Psalms in 1969, the five books of the Psalms were divided by the Spirit according to four crucial words: Christ, house, city, earth....

I. PSALMS BOOK 4 UNVEILING THE SAINTS' DEEPER EXPERIENCE OF GOD IN THE IDENTIFICATION WITH CHRIST AND GOD'S RECOVERY OF HIS TITLE AND RIGHT OVER THE EARTH

Psalms Book 4 unveils the saints' deeper experience of God in the identification with Christ and God's recovery of His title and right over the earth. This indicates that our experience of dwelling in God paves the way for Christ to come to possess the earth that God may recover His title and right over the earth. Title refers to ownership, and right refers to all God's rights over the earth. Without the saints' deeper experience of God, God has no way to recover this title and right. This means that if we drink Christ, eat Christ, and breathe Christ without taking Christ as our habitation, God has no way to recover the earth.

This thought is found in John 15. In John 14:2 the Lord Jesus said, "In My Father's house are many abodes...I go to prepare a place for you." These abodes are not rooms in a heavenly mansion, as commonly supposed, but places in the Father's house. In 15:4 the Lord went on to say, "Abide in Me." This reveals that Christ is not only the way to the house—He is the house itself. To abide in Christ is to dwell in Him. By our dwelling in Him Christ has a way to recover the earth.

A. Psalms Book 1 Unveiling Christ, and Books 2 and 3 Unveiling Christ with the House and the City of God

Psalms Book 1 unveils Christ, and Books 2 and 3 unveil Christ with the house and the city of God.

B. Books 2 and 3 Ending with the Extension of God's Kingdom to the Whole Earth

Both Books 2 and 3 end with the extension of God's kingdom to the whole earth (Psa. 72:8, 11, 19; 89:25, 27).

II. THE SAINTS' DEEPER EXPERIENCE OF GOD IN THE IDENTIFICATION WITH CHRIST

A. The Saints' Deeper Experience of God

Psalms 90 unveils the saints' deeper experience of God.

1. *Taking God from Eternity to Eternity as Their Dwelling Place*

As we have pointed out, verses 1 and 2 speak of the saints' taking God from eternity to eternity as their dwelling place. He has been our dwelling place in all generations. From eternity to eternity He is God.

2. *Realizing the Short Span of Human Life and Its Sins and Afflictions*

If you take God as your dwelling place, you will realize that the span of your life on earth is short (vv. 3-11). In verse 10 Moses said, "The days of our years are in sum seventy years, /Or, if because of strength, eighty years; /But their pride is labor and sorrow, /For it is soon gone, and we fly away." With the Lord, however, a thousand years are "like yesterday when it passes by /And like a watch in the night" (v. 4). According to the Bible, the person who lived the longest was Methuselah; he lived nine hundred sixty-nine years. In the sight of God, however, this was less than a day.

The short span of our life is full of sins and afflictions. If one has such a realization, he must be one who takes God as his dwelling place. I want to dwell in God, living in Him every minute, for outside of Him there are sins and afflictions.

3. *Asking God to Teach Them to Number Their Days*

Moses, writing according to the realization that comes from dwelling in God, prayed, "Teach us then to number our days /That we may gain a heart of wisdom" (v. 12). Gaining a heart of wisdom enables us to live a glad and rejoicing life (vv. 13-17). Moses had the deep feeling that he needed to learn how to number his days so that he could live a happy life. As we look back upon yesterday, we may feel shameful. This indicates that we need to let God teach us how to number our days. Young

people may not understand the meaning of this, but as an elderly person I can testify that I do know how to number my days. I number every day.

B. In the Identification with Christ

The matter of the identification with Christ is unveiled in Psalm 91.

1. Making Jehovah the Most High Their Habitation, Dwelling in the Secret Place and Abiding in His Shadow under His Wings

In the identification with Christ, the saints make Jehovah the Most High their habitation, dwelling in His secret place and abiding in His shadow under His wings (vv. 1-9). We all need to dwell in God by dwelling in the secret place (v. 1). This is the real oneness with God. Here God becomes us; we are constituted with Him; and we and God live together as one.

2. Being under the Keeping Care of the Angels and Treading upon the Enemy Satan

In the identification with Christ, we are under the keeping care of the angels, and we tread upon the enemy Satan (vv. 11-13; Matt. 4:6). Psalm 91:13 says, "You will tread upon the lion and the cobra; You will trample the young lion and the serpent." Here Satan is likened to a lion that devours God's people and to a serpent that poisons God's people. In Matthew 4 we see that while the Lord Jesus was living a human life on earth, He was under the care of the angels, who protected Him from Satan and the evil spirits. Matthew 4:11 says that angels came and ministered to Him. The angels are also protecting and safeguarding us today, as indicated by Hebrews 1.

3. Setting Their Love upon God, Being Set on High by Him, and Seeing His Salvation in the Extension of Their Days

In the identification with Christ, the saints set their love upon God; they are set on high by Him; and they see His salvation in the extension of their days (Psa. 91:14-16). These verses are a prophecy referring to Christ. Christ set His love upon God the Father. Christ has been exalted to the highest place in the heavens, and He is now seeing God's salvation in the extension of His days in resurrection. Christ died, but in resurrection He will live forever. Therefore, He could say, "I became dead, and behold, I am living forever and ever" (Rev. 1:18a). This is the extension of His days in resurrection for the carrying out of His salvation prophesied not only in Psalm 91 but also in Isaiah 53. In all these matters we should be identified with Christ. If we are identified with Christ, we too will take God as our habitation. We will be one with Christ in His crucifixion, in His resurrection, in His ascension, and in His taking God as His habitation. Then we will live with Him and set our love upon God. Thus, we will be exalted, and we will see God's salvation in the extension of our days.

C. The Issue

Psalm 92 shows us the issue of the deeper experience of God in the identification with Christ.

1. Rejoicing in the Great Works of Jehovah

First, the issue is that the saints rejoice in the great works of Jehovah (vv. 1-9). If we do not dwell in God, not taking God as our habitation, we may see many things, but these things will be insignificant. But when we dwell in God, taking Him as our habitation, we see His great works. For example, as I dwell in God today, I can see the spreading of His recovery to Russia and to Poland. Surely this is a great work of God. By dwelling in God we will see His great works and rejoice in them.

2. Their Horns Being Exalted by Jehovah, and They Being Mingled with Fresh Oil

In verse 10 the psalmist says, "You have exalted my horn like that of a wild ox; I am anointed with fresh oil." The Hebrew word translated "anointed" here (the same word used in Leviticus 2:4) can also be rendered "mingled." The fresh oil is the consummated Spirit, who is fresh and present. I can testify that in the last five years I have enjoyed being mingled with fresh oil more than ever, and I have been full of joy in the Lord.

3. Flourishing like the Palm Tree and Growing like a Cedar in Lebanon

Psalm 92:12 through 14 says, "The righteous man will flourish like the palm tree; He will grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Planted in the house of Jehovah, They will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bring forth fruit in old age; They will be full of sap and green." The poetry here is a picture of those who experience God in a deeper way by dwelling in Him, taking Him as everything in their living in the house of God.

Burdens for Church Prayers

- Pray for winter training that the Lord release His speaking to water the whole earth.
- Pray for the 5-day and 5th term GOWT that the Lord continue to train us with His grace.
- Pray for YP that they will experience Christ in their spirit as the reality of all the sacrifices and the offerings for building up of God's dwelling place.
- Pray for the growth of the feeling of the Body of Christ.
- Pray for spreading to nearby cities
- For daily exercise in GOW training: prophesying on Lord's day by daily enjoying His word and pursue the truth and attend Lord's day meeting on time.
- For gospel preaching on West Valley College campus, as well as for English-speaking testimony in Campbell.

Announcement

- Morning Revival on Psalms: 75 ~ 106 (book 3). Life Study: 34 ~ 37, every day 3 or 4 psalms.
- YP Bible reading: John chapter 8.
- Prayer meeting Tuesday (12/20) at meeting hall.