

THE REVELATION OF GOD IN THREE PSALMS

(2 Pet. 3:14-18)

Introduction:

1. The Bible is filled with summary verses, passages, chapters and even books. These summations are especially delightful to those who know the Bible best because they encapsulate so many things we know into smaller, more manageable units of study.
2. The book of Psalms is a treasure trove for God's people, and not only with regards to the proper expression of emotions. It is also filled with doctrinal narratives expressed in poetic form.
3. Let us this morning consider the first three Psalms, and note how they express the entire revelation of God (both Old and New Testaments) to man. We will notice that the first three Psalms present the contrast, the conflict, and the consolation.

Discussion:

I. Psalm 1 = The Contrast.

- A. The psalms begin by contrasting the lives and fates of the godly versus the ungodly.
 1. The godly do not associate with the ungodly (v1) and they meditate on God's word day and night (v2).
 2. The ungodly pursue sin and scoff at God's word (v1).
 3. The godly prosper in life (v3) and stand with the righteous (v5), they shall even stand at judgment (v5).
 4. The ungodly do not prosper (v4), nor can they stand with the righteous (v5). At judgment they will not stand but will be burned up (perish-v6) like the chaff (v4).
- B. The contrasts are clear: pursuing God versus pursuing sin; prospering versus perishing.
- C. This psalm is ultimately about having the proper relationship with God (v6; cp. Amos 5:4; Matt. 11:28-30).

II. Psalm 2 = The Conflict.

- A. The next Psalm presents the conflict that exists because men rebel against their creator.
 1. People (individually and assembled in nations under kings) seek to rebel and free themselves from God's sovereignty (vv 1-3), but this is obviously impossible (a vain thing).
 2. God laughs at their foolishness (v4) but will punish their sin (v5).
 3. Despite of (and in a sense because of) their rebellion, God's will/plan will move forward and all will be judged by the Son (vv 6-9).
 4. Since this is so, it would be wise to submit to the Lordship of the Son and trust in God (vv 10-12). Destruction is the only other option.
- B. The message is clear, not only is it foolish to rebel against God it is self-defeating. God is God and He is to be revered/feared/served. Those are simply the facts of the matter.
- C. God has provided a means of reconciliation via His Son, it would be wise to take advantage of those means (cp. Matt. 7:24-27).

III. Psalm 3 = The Consolation (comfort received by a person after a loss or disappointment).

- A. Our last Psalm contrasts the fate of God's people and the ungodly that afflict them.
 1. The ungodly taunt God's people and are numerous (vv 1, 2).
 2. God has not only promised to hear and to save but he actually does (vv 3-6; cp. Dan. 3:29)! The result is that God's people can face the attacks of the ungodly without fear (cp. V5, 6 and Ps. 23; and cp. Rom. 8:31-39).
 3. A good definition of "calling on the name of the Lord" in vv 7, 8 (cp. Acts 22:16; Rom. 10:13).
- B. Even though God's people may find themselves surrounded by the ungodly and taunted/oppressed; they have great consolation in God's promises (Heb. 6:13-20; 1 Cor. 10:13 + Rev. 2:10b).

Conclusion:

1. What a gift from God! We see the reality of existence and the way to an abundant and eternal life. We see the truth of evil in the world, but the ultimate foolishness of it (what a lesson against engaging in it!). And we see the tender loving kindness of God for His people contrasted with the fiery indignation for His enemies.
2. Consider again 2 Pet. 3:14-18, and choose wisely!
3. Invitation.

PRAYER LIST FOR WEEK STARTING NOV. 26TH

Those with long term issues

Louise Williams, Cliff and Rachel Greenawalt and their family, Ruth Vaughn as she lives with diabetes, and Harrison Waldron.

Those with short term issues

- ▶ Darrell McKee as he continues his recovery from an infection.
- ▶ Frances Davis as she struggles with some health issues, and is in the process of moving.
- ▶ Our members who are struggling with sickness/colds/injuries.
- ▶ Our members who are traveling (Lauryn Corbelli coming home this week!).
- ▶ Our college students who are away from us in body, but not in spirit.
- ▶ Our leadership in the church; that they might be faithful, strong, and bold.
- ▶ Our community; that they may seek the Lord and we might be able to guide them into the truth.