

SEEK YE THE LORD

– the name given to special sessions of Meditations from the Scriptures, expounding vital teaching and doctrine for a local church to prepare the Body of Christ to fulfil its function on earth and live with God for Eternity. They were given from various locations within and beyond London from 1973 to 1981

The Topics concentrated upon were on The Church, The Blood of Christ, The Revelation of Jesus Christ in both the Book of Revelation and the Psalms, all focusing on the Unique Person of Jesus Christ and His Unlimited Capacity to do the Will of God. This particular series is on the Book of Psalms, seeing Jesus Christ as the One every one will meet personally at some time, as He is Judge as well as Saviour

PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD

1974

Studies in the Psalms
Seeing the God you are preparing to meet



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Seeing the God you are preparing to meet

Week 1: Monday, Day 1

Psalm 37:1 - 11, 18 - 25, 30 - 40

v1 **“Fret not thyself because of evil doers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.”**

To fret means to burn, to burn with anger, to be incensed, because I haven't got what I want. We are told to “fret not”, therefore to burn not, to not be incensed, but to have a heart at peace.

We have come to meet God. Every one of us will meet Jesus Christ in the flesh at some time, some day, some place, some where. We must take that thought with us throughout these studies - I have to meet Jesus Christ in the flesh at some day to give an account of my life here - not my life There - here. Christ Himself has sworn that such a meeting will take place. Jesus Christ has sworn, not just said.

Isaiah 45:18 - 25

“For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the earth and made it; He hath established it, - this is Jesus Christ speaking as you will find out - He created it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else. 19. I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye Me in vain: I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.

20. Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye that are escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god that cannot save. 21. Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside Me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside Me. – all that is said, building up to what He wants them to do. This is the reason why He has told them that; to come to Him – 22. “Look unto Me, and be ye saved, – this is why God speaks to us, that we may be saved from our sins, now and eternally – *be ye saved, all the ends of the earth*: – which simply proves that it is only on this earth that God finds those He wants to save; “*all the ends of the earth*”; if it went beyond this earth, He’d have said, the moon and the stars and other planets . . .

‘Look unto Me, the just God and the Saviour and’ *be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else*. – that is, you can’t find God the Father unless you first come to Christ. You’ve got to be saved by Jesus Christ to have anything to do with God at all. 23. *I have sworn by Myself*, – He has definitely determined that this shall be with God’s, not only approval but God’s great Desire that this should be so that Jesus Christ should be honoured, exalted above every other name, above every other title, above every other personality, person, love and loyalty – *I have sworn by Myself, the word is gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return*, – that’s obvious; when God’s Word goes out of His mouth, it goes out in righteousness; there’s nothing wrong about it.

That is why it’s such a heinous crime for men to turn away from God’s Word, not understanding it is no reason; we may get the understanding; not knowing exactly how to apply it to my life, that’s no excuse; someone will teach me by God’s Spirit, in the Name of Jesus. But there it is, ‘it’s gone out of My mouth in righteousness and shall not return’ – *That unto Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear*. – this is what Jesus Christ has sworn, that every man will meet Him, and we read that in the Church Epistles: It’s no good trying to judge your brother, or to estimate my position before the Lord, we shall every man give account of himself to God; it’s been sworn by God, we’ve just read, *unto Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear*.

Paul also wrote to the Church “*Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord we persuade men*” [2 Corinthians 5:11] “*That unto Me every knee shall bow*” – that is a terrifying thought, especially when you take into account the appearance of the Man you’re going to meet if you are not meeting Him prepared – ‘**Prepare to meet thy God**’ – 24. *Surely, shall one say, in the LORD have I righteousness and strength: even to Him shall men come; and all that are incensed against Him shall be ashamed*. 25. *In the LORD shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory.*”

Christ has sworn that such a meeting, surely, will take place. In the *Psalms* it is written,

Psalm 9:16a **“The LORD is known by the judgment which He executeth: ... the wicked is snared in the works of his own hands. Higgsion. Selah.”**

No one but Christ can promise a definite time beyond death and a definite place outside this world when and where every man born into this world must give an account to the same Christ of his life on earth. That’s what that Psalm means, **“The LORD is known by the judgment which He executeth:”** The more convinced a man is of his Salvation, the more sure he is of the Blood of Christ operating in his life, the more sure he is that CHRIST is going to Judge the world. The less particular Christians are with their lives, the less zealous are they to obey a Holy God, so, in proportion, they won’t think too much about Christ coming to judge the world.

That is why, certainly in the past, it has been said that the Book of Revelation is not the Book for the Church! because it speaks of God raining Judgments down upon a Godless, Christ-rejecting world. But it is just The Book for the Church, because it tells you that God is Holy. If God is Holy, then He must Save and He must Judge. He can’t do one and not the other. He can’t only judge, for then He wouldn’t be Holy. The Holiness of God has procured Salvation, but He’s also promised Judgment.

“The LORD is known by the judgment which He executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands.”

John 5:25 - 30 Jesus said, while on this earth, in the form of a Man, speaking to men in that day ...“*Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.* - **“The LORD is known by the judgment which He executeth:** He identifies Himself as the Son of man being the Judge of the whole earth. And as Christians, we must take this first message of the *Psalms* to heart. *Psalm 9* is meant for your special meditation. At the end of the *Psalm* you see the word, **Higgsion**. It simply indicates that this *Psalm* is where Christ is speaking after very deep pre-meditation, meditating on the whole matter contained in this *Psalm*, and afterwards spoken aloud - you can meditate aloud, but you might not have given it much thought - but this *Psalm* is indicated as being one which Christ first thought out what He should utter aloud.

So it is a *Psalm* commended to the child of God for particular, thoughtful, careful, heart-searching reading. He mused about it first before He mused about it aloud. He meditated on it first, whatever the facts, He thought them out and then felt it necessary to speak it out ... to meditate aloud on matters already decided on in His heart ... what it would be like ... what He would do ... what wouldn’t be done ... whatever the case may be ... the Subject Matter of the Psalm is that which Jesus mused on in His heart, and then expressed to God from Calvary.

In this case the whole *Psalm* could be given like this : The Judgment of God, foretold in the Scriptures, that’s coming for everyone will reveal who Christ really is.

This Fact was of great concern to Jesus Christ. He was very intent, urgent, on God that men would know who He was, and why He was doing this thing of hanging on a Cross for men's Salvation. They would understand exactly the import of the Two tremendous eternity-shaking Facts, that the Person who was hanging there, and the Reason for His being there. The Judgment foretold in the Scriptures as coming for everyone will reveal who Christ really is.

Don't you see the important of that? I repeat : The more convinced you are, as you should be convinced, of the Blood of the Cross making you God's child and enabling you to guarantee to your own heart the Promises of God, that should make you aware of the fact that you have got to give an account to the Man who's given you your life, to live for Him. You're not called into this Christian commitment, into God's world to live for yourself. No one in God's world lives for himself! Nobody! This is a good and pointed Message to all of us, but especially perhaps to younger ones, that being self-centred, and only thinking of your own conveniences, your own desires, your own ambitions, and your own ways of living, you can't really meet Christ in a favourable position should He come. We must understand that you are called into this Christian life to live for Someone else! That is the Hallmark of a Christian life - the Christian does not live for himself; he lives for God, and if he lives for God, others in the world - for as long as he's in this world - must be blessed; that you may be sure of!

So Christ is insistent that this thing should be known, who really is doing the judging, none less than the Man who hung on the Cross. He wants God to make it clear to everybody, that it is the same Person to all doubters, to all dissatisfied, discontents, to all those disobedient and rebellious - the "lawless", they are called in the *Psalms* - this is the content of *Psalm 9* : a *Psalm* expressed in words by the Lord Jesus Christ, after careful meditation on what He should say, for the simple reason that it should be recorded. And God did record it for our own learning. Now there are another two *Psalms* which are included with this one - *Psalm 19* and *Psalm 92* as being in that same category, called a soliloquy - a word for meditation, a deep meditation. These Truths - as always uttered by Christ and by God - meditated on before uttered in words that can be heard.

[26. For as the Father hath life in Himself; so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself; 27. And hath given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of man. 28. Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, 29. And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. 30. I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and My judgment is just; because I seek not Mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent Me."]

[Psalm 9, v16b "the wicked is snared in the works of his own hands. Higgsion. Selah." - Higgsion.]

Psalm 19 and *Psalm 92* – having a plain sound; having “*a solemn sound*”; something requiring specifically, serious, attention. In *Psalm 19:14* it gives us the gist of what Christ uttered after careful, calculated, meditation of what He should say. He intended to say something, but He felt it necessary to consider the matter carefully before He spoke to God. The words He spoke to God and meditated on beforehand; mused upon beforehand, carefully thought out beforehand in His own heart, those words in *Psalm 19* are those which God wants to hear concerning His Salvation for men.

***Psalm 19:14* “Let the words of My mouth, and the meditation of My heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, O LORD, My strength, and My redeemer.”**

But first, *vs 1-6*... Christ states briefly that God’s Creation, the heavens, the firmament, the day, the night, the sun and its circuit, its goings and comings, all declare – tell us – about the Glory of God. They don’t tell you about God Himself; they don’t tell you about His Salvation, but they tell you about His Glory; they declare and indicate something of His Mind, something of what He is like – “*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handiwork.* – It doesn’t show God; it shows His handiwork; not the Person, but His handiwork, the output of His own lovely mind. – 2. *Day unto day uttereth speech*, – regarding His glory.

Earlier today we read that in *Romans 1* which says that, that men mixed up God’s handiwork with God. Well, if you do, you begin to think that God was like a tree or God is like a mountain, but He isn’t; that’s only His handiwork. God isn’t like a river, He’s not like the oceans, He’s not like the beauty you see around you; He’s different. This is His handiwork. And men get involved with that, and then idolatry is the next stage, and then disaster follows. – *and night unto night sheweth knowledge*. 3. *There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.* – it means simply this, that God made His Creation for man, and Creation has a Message for men only, for mankind. ‘See here, is My handiwork for you’, God is saying. ‘Here you can see My Glory. You can’t see Me, but that’s My Glory’. He did all this for man, that man should have dominion and enjoy it, before he fell. 4. *Their line is gone out through all the earth*, – that’s where man lives. The communicating sense of the Creation of God is directed Earthwards, where men are found – *and their words to the ends of the world. In them hath He set a tabernacle for the sun*, – you can read in Genesis 1 where it shows that they’re for signs and symbols. It’s for men to understand there is a God and by seeing His handiwork, they get a good idea of His control.

He must have control. Everything is worked by God’s discipline... “*upholding all things by the word of His power*” [*Hebrews 1:3*]. There’s perfect harmony in the Universe; only man brought in sin, and broke that up a bit. But God has advertised His type of life, an orderly life, where men do what God says. There is no restriction in that! To do what God says means you’re limitless in your power to love!

There's no law against Love. But men don't want to be limited, by God even, because they don't want to love, and Love is the most disciplined power there is. The less you want to obey God's Word, the less you love God; the less you love man, and the less you love those you should love... Only Love can really be disciplined, and the heavens reveal that, that God is disciplined. The seas keep their place, and the mountains keep their place, the rivers and the oceans ... all for man, to live at peace, to be without any thought of danger. That's was God's idea - without one tremor in his heart, 'I wonder if I have to guard my house against a flood.' Before sin, he didn't need to think like that, because God had it all under His control, and gave it to man to order and run for God - but under God's control.

We read of the "*angels which kept not their first estate*" [Jude v6] - that's indiscipline, that's rebellion; that's why they're waiting in "*chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day*". because they did not stay in the place God had placed them in originally; and this is the Message of the Book of Psalms!

Christ wants you to know that the same Person who hung on a Cross, is the same Person who is intent that every man, like every other part of His Creation, shall live an orderly life without fear. Don't you see, if I'm not going to obey some law, I am a danger to you in some way, and a menace to God's order, whether to the physical creation, or man or beast; I'm a menace to the Society of God - I'm not speaking about man at all; it's God we're concerned with. So I find I am a misfit - causing trouble, we say - awkward, then going on down the stages, rebellion, lawbreaking and so on ... It all springs from the root idea that I can do what I like independent of God, and I can't. I must have God's decision, God's direction. And in the *Psalms* Christ speaks this out, again and again.

vs5 & 6 then, speaks of the sun; it goes according to God's way - "*Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race*". I suppose that means it is the centre of attraction. The sun is a great attraction, but it doesn't reveal God to you. It's the sun! It can't. It hasn't got a heart; it can't love! It's got heat and can burn, but only God is the One who can control it, so God is the One who loves, not the sun! "*6. His going forth is from the end of heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: - you know, it's all for this world; it's all for this earth. It was made to go on its course, its circuit, for man; not just to give God a happy time, or to please Him! But it was for you and for me. - and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.*" - Thank God for that!

Even our language we fall far short of reality! We say the sun gone in, when really it hasn't, it's only covered by clouds, obscured from our human vision! The sun will do what God says it's going to do; it will follow its circuit as He originally planned! Now, this is why the Holy Spirit has revealed that *Psalms 19* is a *Psalm* which reveals Christ's utterance after deep meditation : He specifically wanted it understood this way, so He spoke it this way :

The heavens and the firmament, and the sun, and the day and the night, show us, declare, the Glory of God and show the handiwork of God but the Word of God shows you God Himself.

v7a **“The law of the LORD is perfect,** – That’s God speaking. The law of the LORD reveals God, directly, personally, intimately that why it converts the soul. – **converting the soul:**” – It has that potential, and it has that performance, if you wish it so...

v7b **“the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.”** The testimony is sure – the Witness – of Christ, in other words, the Witness of God through Christ, is the revelation of who God is, what He is like; how He thinks, what He does, and where He is in relationship to you and to me. “... **sure, making wise the simple**”- giving us the Answers. We need the Answers. Ever since Adam thought he had an answer and was led to believe by the liar from the beginning that he had an answer outside God, from that moment onwards, we’ve been looking for Answers. And a lot of us are still looking for Answers. Don’t look anymore for answers – you look for Christ. Christ gives the Answers. Perhaps you know that in your mind; we must take it in our hearts... **“the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.”**

v8a **“The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart:”** Statutes are those rules which are written down in a book for the guidance of a community, a society. We have in England the Statute Book; and the law, having been made, is then written in that book that we may follow it, that the government may order this land by the Statute. And God has Statutes. **“The statutes of the LORD are right.”** Every statute made by man is not necessarily right, but God’s are.

“The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart:” You can rely upon them; you can govern your life with them. You can commend them to some other man to govern his life. You can govern your household; you can govern your community. If you have a position in an organisation, in a job or work, or a firm or a school, you can safely apply the statutes of the LORD. They’re Right because they tell you how God lives, how He behaves, how He governs His Kingdom – exactly by the same statutes that you’d find He’d want you to govern your life. That’s what we’re praying for, aren’t we, in these dark days, in our church we pray that God shall raise up men to govern this land according to His Statutes. Surely, then we would be safely governed, properly guided...

v8b **“the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.”** The commandment is a very personal statement; an individual matter; principles for an individual life. Yes, you may speak it out to a dozen of us, but you really mean that commandment for every one person you speak to, so that everyone should take it personally when you are telling him, ‘This is the commandment of the LORD your God’.

It's a personal matter which affects my relationship personally to God and personally to man. That's why it's pure! That's why it enlightens the eyes! It shows me how to live a personally, proper, life in God's sight. And in man's sight too, for if you're living God's life, man has every right to see it; he has to see it in you.

v9a **"The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever:"** The fear of the LORD is defined in *Proverbs 8:13* as "*to hate evil*". If you have a hatred of anything that is not of God, that is evil, then your heart will be really clean. It's a "**clean**" hate. It cleans you up because you avoid touching the unclean thing. You'll hate it; like we rightly hate poison, as we say...

v9b **"the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether."** Jesus Christ is quite right to be both Saviour and Judge! It is fair and just, and God has made it so. And so it should satisfy you as a Christian that your Judge is your Saviour. The Man that people are fearing to meet, they need not fear if they make Him their Saviour, but He's still the Judge.

And you can encourage men; not say, It's all right, you can do as you like, Jesus died, some day He'll save you. That's not what you mean! What you mean is, He is the Judge; every man will have to give an account, but if you can be saved, if you take His Work, if you take His Life into your heart, then you'll give a proper account to Him. You can't trust your Judgment to someone else, can you?! That's what He means! You live your life here in this world, you dare not ask someone else to estimate whether you should enter Eternity or not, no one is capable of that, except the Man who is God, and the God who became Man for your sins and mine. **"the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether."**

v10a **"More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb."** Both things indicate the kind of ways we go. The gold, the great covetousness that grips us. It is the love of money which is the root of all evil, [*1 Timothy 6:10*] for it spells a covetous heart. Covetousness has no place with God. It means you're dissatisfied; a covetous man will never be satisfied, never, never. He's like the grave, which *Proverbs* says is always open to receive more and more dead; never full [*Proverbs 30:16; 27:20*]. And so, a covetous man will never be satisfied; in other words, a dissatisfied man hasn't got Christ in his life.

"sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb." There is nothing that can really satisfy or give you pleasure, shall I say, even, in this life, or in any life, without Christ!

vs11-13 **"Moreover by them is Thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward. 12. Who can understand his errors? cleanse Thou Me - this is Christ speaking - from secret faults. 13. Keep back Thy servant also from presumptuous sins;"**

Christ could presume by doing what He wanted, No man can do what he wants. Once Christ became a Man, He was committed to doing exactly what God said. That's why He truly Man - He's shown us that man's life is committed to obedience to God. I want you young ones to get this into your hearts today. Obedience is a very unpopular word, not only in worldly circles, but in Christian circles; absolute, unwavering, unquestioning obedience. It's often made out to be a form of misery, or of lack, but that's not so. Obedience has obtained you your Salvation, and Obedience will take you to meet your Salvation.

Keep back Thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over Me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. - of not doing what You want ...

and this is the verse I told you about :

v14 "Let the words of My mouth, and the meditation of My heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, My strength, and My redeemer."

Psalm 92:1-3 A word of help here, in counsel - as you read the *Psalms*, you've got to see that Christ here has identified Himself completely with man, and yet He speaks as the Saviour of the world, which He is, but He's also Man, truly Man...

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto Thy name, O most High: 2. To shew forth Thy lovingkindness in the morning, and Thy faithfulness every night, 3. Upon an instrument of ten strings, and upon the psaltery; upon the harp with a solemn sound" - that has the same meaning as the words we've thought on - **Higgaion**. Meditation; deep, deep musings, thinking on what He said before He said it.

v4 "For Thou, LORD, hast made Me glad through Thy work: - the work of Calvary - I will triumph in the works of Thy hands."

v5 "O LORD, how great are thy works! - we've just read in *Psalm 19* that the heavens declared His Glory and the firmament showed His handiwork, but Christ is The Work of God, which reveals God Himself - and Thy thoughts are very deep."

v6 "A brutish man knoweth not; neither doth a fool understand this." - it is foolishness to the natural man. This is only understood by the Spirit of God, Paul writes...

v7 "When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; it is that they shall be destroyed for ever:"

The same thought through all the three *Psalms* - One Person is Saviour, and One Person is Judge; one and the same Man will Judge all things, on behalf of God.

vs8-9 **“But Thou, LORD, art most high for evermore. 9. For, lo, Thine enemies, O LORD, for, lo, Thine enemies shall perish; all the workers of iniquity shall be scattered.”**

The Judgment will be thorough; minute, precise, very fair and without recompense. There's no turning back; there's no remission of sentence, as we have in human law, because it will be Fair and Final.

vs10-11 **“But My horn shalt thou exalt like the horn of an unicorn: I shall be anointed with fresh oil. 11. Mine eye also shall see My desire on Mine enemies, and Mine ears shall hear My desire of the wicked that rise up against Me.”**

You can hear – see the picture – if you consider it of Christ speaking from Calvary, it begins to make sense. You can see He's always got before Him the Hope, that in the middle of all that shame, in the midst of all that untold, unspeakable anguish, always there is that knowledge that God is in control. And whatever God does, must be the Best; it shall produce a good result.

vs12-15 **“The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. 13. Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing; 15. To shew that the LORD is upright: - this is it, the results of Calvary will show that God is upright. There's nothing wrong in what God has done. – He is My rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.”**

I'd like us, please, to go back to *Psalm 9*... We'll take that in detail.

Psalm 9:1-2 This Psalm which was uttered after careful pre-meditation, by Christ. Verses one and two express complete satisfaction with God, with His Works and the Way He does them.

“I will praise Thee, O LORD, with My whole heart; I will shew forth all Thy marvellous works. – verse 2 adds a bit to that; complete satisfaction; sincere, unmixed, unaffected, enthusiastic, exuberant Joy at seeing and knowing God, for the kind of Person He is. All those words are fitting; ‘if I found more in my heart, I'd have put them down’. I will be glad and rejoice in Thee: I will sing praise to Thy name, O Thou most High.”

Christian songs if they are of the heart, if they are intended as worship for God, are not entertainment. It's God that's supposed to be entertained by the worship that's ascending directly to Him, expressing who He is and what He has done for you. Throughout the Psalms you'll see that. You'll go away, and when you sing, you'll sing with real meaning, not just to entertain and to have rhythm, and that sort of thing; nothing to do with it. It's your eyes on God and what He's done, and that's how Christ has revealed it.

“I will be glad and rejoice in Thee: I will sing praise to Thy name, O Thou most High.”

This is One who is equal with God speaking – sincere, unmixed, unaffected, enthusiastic, exuberant Joy at seeing and knowing God, for the kind of Person He is! The *Psalms* reveal again and again the Beauty of God, how lovely He is.

Lots of our thinking, as we concentrate on Christ we, somehow God, in your language and life, seems a colourless shadow in the background, but if you truly see Christ, if you truly love Christ, God the Father becomes more and more real; and more and more a Person who is the Author, who is the Planner of your Salvation.

v3 “When Mine enemies are turned back, they shall fall and perish at Thy presence.

God will see to it that all those who refuse Christ’s Word, those are His enemies, reject His way, those are His enemies, rebel against His will, those are His enemies. They shall be punished as they deserve. It’s a very lovely study the Psalms are, from that point only –gives you a healthy view of what sin really is. I say healthy because then you know that it all stems from disobedience. Every separate, several, sin is really classified generally under disobedience. It’s one form or another of disobedience. It may be rebellion, it may be rejection, but it all stems from that one source and Christ reveals this again and again and again.

John 12:44 – 50

“47. And if any man hear My words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. 48. He that rejecteth Me, and receiveth not My words, hath one that judgeth him; the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. Now we’ve read those Scriptures again and again but I want you to read the others that follow ... 49. For I have not spoken of Myself; but the Father which sent Me, He gave Me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. What Jesus Christ is trying to say is that God is really basically the Judge, and His judgment is influenced by how people are to Me, Christ is saying, and how they are not to Me, but God really wants it so – that’s what He’s trying to say, 50. And I know that His commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, - when He was in this world – even as the Father said unto Me, so I speak.”

What Christ is emphasising is that it is God that has decided that Judgment and Salvation will take place entirely according to our relationship to Jesus Christ and Him crucified. And *verse 4* in *Psalms 9* confirms that :

v4 “For Thou hast maintained My right and My cause; it didn’t look like that – “We did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God and afflicted” [Isaiah 53:4]. ‘Oh, said they, ‘If God delighted in Him, let Him deliver Him, if He does delight in Him’; ‘If You be the Son of God, You come down from the Cross’ [Matthew 27:40] – all this has to be accounted for.

And God, basically, back of it all, is the Just Judge and demands that; and Christ knows that, and it is on this basis that He speaks these words carefully, that men shall be clear when He judges, and know that they were not left in any doubt as to who really wanted Christ to be the Saviour of the world, who but God, not you, and not me, but God!

“For Thou hast maintained My right and My cause; Thou satest in the throne judging right.”

In other words, Christ reveals God exactly as He is. A Person, who – of course, you know, who can't stand sin, but what I'm going to say makes it more practical. He is not going to have anything to do except Judgment with those who will not have His Son. They're out of God's reckonings for Favour; only Judgment can be expected.

If you, through these studies, see God as Christ reveals Him in the *Psalms*, from the Cross, then you will treat people as God would have you to treat them. That doesn't mean badly! God doesn't treat me badly now because He's telling me He's the Judge, but you will understand that I am God's enemy if I do not accept Christ, and I am not in favour with God, if Christ is not my life. Until that happens, I am already doomed, a total loss already. Jesus said, *“he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God”*. [John 3:18b]

I say this to you with one special point; most of us fail with our own relatives because we are partial to our own flesh and blood and we do not really consider that they are as unregenerate as another unregenerate man, another unregenerate woman. But if my mother was unregenerate, then she would be as equally unregenerate as someone else's mother, not less unregenerate, not less hateful to God until she came to Christ.

This is the Judgment : 'What do you think of My Son?' And if someone doesn't want Jesus Christ, he should be the same to you as anyone else who doesn't want Jesus Christ. In other words, someone you must preach to; you must persuade to be born-again, with impartiality, complete impartiality.

Christ is your Objective for them; not your church, not your religion, not your way of thinking – Jesus Christ! and God, behind it all. This is very helpful as we study the Psalms. You see, that means you are healing up your weaknesses, because if you preach in one way to one sinner, and another way to another sinner, according to their relationship to you, then you are setting yourself up as a judge and that is dangerous.

There is only One Judge. God, and Christ will execute the Judgment for Him, because He is the only One capable. But you and I are in no position to judge anyone. Our position is to preach Christ, with equal impartiality.

As you persuade your friends and office and factory to come to Christ, you must persuade your brothers and sisters with the same intensity and with the same compassion and with the same desire that they should also be born-again. As you preach to all the men in your office and factory, so you must preach to your father.

As you preach to all the ladies you meet outside, so you must preach to your mother in the same way, to your brothers, your sisters. I'm only mentioning that because there is a weakness in that, if you're partial in your preaching, then you are a judge, so you're already condemned.

'Who made you to be a judge?' is the word that comes. [*Exodus 2:14*]. No, God made us to be preachers; we can't judge, we can't afford to be; we've just been saved from Judgment! But we can tell people; you can tell me, 'You've got to be saved', with equal enthusiasm as you tell someone else. Now, you'll find, if you do that, your homes will be better places, if you have got unregenerate parents or brothers or sisters, you'll feel more free there, because they are your brothers and sisters, they know you, so you ought to be able to use language you may not find easy to use at once with strangers, but the preaching is the same, 'Come to Christ; without Christ, you're lost, mum, dad, uncle, aunt, grandma, grandpa, brother, sister, child, son, daughter'. You're all the same - Christ makes you different! No one else makes you different! And this is Jesus' teaching in the *Psalms*.

Verse 4 ... As I've said, God always has upheld, revealed, Christ as the only righteous holy One. That is what Jesus is saying.

v4 **"For Thou hast maintained My right and My cause;** as the One who died for man's sins at God's request, of course, solely to provide God with an Obedient Man.

That is what God wanted. He wanted an obedient man through whom He could work Salvation effectively, and through whom He could judge man effectively. God cannot actually execute Judgment. He can't sit and judge. He is the Judge because He knows what's right and wrong, but He's committed the Judgment to His Son because His Son was truly a Man; His Son knows whether a man can obey with the help God has given him. God can't know that so well, but Jesus Christ knows it because He is a Man.

"Which of you convinceth Me of sin?" [*John 8:46*] He had kept God's Laws and man's laws, He met every requirement, the Son of man did. So you have a Marvellous, a Marvellous Salvation! God is very wise. So it will be Christ that men will face as Judge and you must tell them so, and reveal and explain to them why it is so necessary then to know that. You know, it's more frightening if you have to contend with a person who knows exactly what you ought to do and who knows exactly whether you can do it or not than with someone who doesn't.

You might have an idea that perhaps I can get by, perhaps the sympathy of someone who doesn't know what I should do and how I should do it, maybe they'll sympathise, but if you're confronting an employer who knows exactly how you should do it, and knows that you could do it, you'll have very little hope in your heart of escaping his condemnation if you haven't done it! Isn't that so?!

And so Christ is the Judge. He knows exactly how you can do everything that God asks you to do in His Word, and He is willing to enable you to do it, what's more! So really, the Judgment will be very Just, and very Fair, and the Judge is a good and right Choice of God's. So you have a number of Scriptures; perhaps you can write them down for the moment...

Isaiah 42:1-13 "Behold My servant, whom I uphold; Mine elect, in whom My soul delighteth; He was satisfied with the Man He'd got, of the Person as a Saviour and a Judge...

Zechariah 6:12-13 where Christ is spoken of as "My Servant", "The Branch" who has grown up out of His place, that is, He is part of God, but He grew up as a Man. This is not His place; this is not His country; He comes from Eternity. That's why we are expecting to go to His Country; we belong to God. But He came out of His Place to die for my sins and yours. "... Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and He shall grow up out of His place, and He shall build the temple of the LORD:" (v12b)

Jeremiah 23:5-8

"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth..."

And 33:14-16

"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. 15. In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land. 16. In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness."

v5 **"Thou hast rebuked the heathen, Thou hast destroyed the wicked, Thou hast put out their name for ever and ever."** He's saying this, and God hasn't yet done that, but what Christ is meaning is, Calvary is in effect that Action. Through the Cross, the Result of the Cross, the Cross reveals that the wicked shall be destroyed, their name will be put out for ever and ever, that is, in respect to the Cross, any man not having Christ Crucified in his life, he is doomed already, but the Cross only can make you say that.

"Thou hast rebuked the heathen" – all unbelief has been rebuked by Calvary. If you're not believing today, the Cross is a rebuke.

As I stated last night, in the five different offerings which under the Law of Moses, the Nation of Israel had to offer, in the sin and trespass offerings, all the blood was poured out at the bottom of the altar, meaning that God has dealt totally with all man's sin. So the rebuke is against unbelief. The heathen is a man who doesn't believe in the Christ of God. And I am not expected to not believe.

This is your rebuke to me; 'Christ died. You've got to believe - I mean, you can't force me, but you must tell me, 'You've got no alternative, friend, except of course, the Lake of Fire, but you ought to believe, when I'm speaking to you, you ought to believe, whether you're older than me or younger, that's not the point, it is Christ we preach, Crucified for the sin of the world!

vs6-7 "O thou enemy, destructions are come to a perpetual end: and thou hast destroyed cities; their memorial is perished with them. 7. But the LORD shall endure for ever: He hath prepared His throne for judgment."

Again, the same Principle, speaking from the Cross, and talking with the Cross in view, also, the Final Judgment of Satan by God through Christ is inevitable.

"O thou enemy, destructions are come to a perpetual end:"

Jesus said, "*the prince of this world is judged*" [John 16:11b]. He actually, physically, at that point had not been put into the Lake of Fire, he has not yet, but that finished him. The Cross has doomed all wrong doing, it's stated the case there, the Cross foretells the certain doom of those who won't have Christ in their lives. And Satan is on the list. You find a lot about him in the *Psalms* he is principle in this matter -

"O thou enemy," - yes, he is Christ's personal enemy, that is why we're asked, not to love this world [1 John 2:15], for Satan is the god of this world, and he is the enemy of Jesus Christ. We find that in the *Psalms* in many places, but I'll give you a specific *Psalms*, *Psalms 35*. There in various verses, if not the whole *Psalms*, the deadly purpose of God, respecting Satan. And there is no cover up of it, it's revealed clearly, for all to read...

v8 "And He shall judge the world in righteousness, He shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness."

This is Christ speaking of God - and you can add, 'by Me', that is, by Christ **"And He shall judge the world in righteousness [by Me], He shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness [by Me]."** Paul said, in Acts, ...

"Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device -

Meaning, you oughtn't to think you can do as you like, and leave God to help you when you feel like it and to take you into His Kingdom because you'd like to go; 'No', He said.

30. And the times of this ignorance God winked at; – He's overlooked all that now, but – but now commandeth all men every where to repent: 31. Because He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man – speaking from the Cross, as we are reading in the Psalms! – whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead." Acts 17:29–31.

"And He shall judge the world in righteousness [by Me], He shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness."

Judgment of all people by Christ is absolutely sure. *Psalm 98 vs 8–9* confirm that.

[*Psalm 98:8–9*

"Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together 9. Before the LORD; for He cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall He judge the world, and the people with equity."]

vs9–12 "The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. 10. And they that know Thy name will put their trust in Thee: for Thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek Thee. 11. Sing praises to the LORD, which dwell in Zion: declare among the people His doings. 12. When He maketh inquisition for blood, He remembereth them: He forgetteth not the cry of the humble."

Those verses indicate this, that those Jews clinging to God by faith will be saved alive by Christ during the awful reign on this Earth of the Satan-possessed and controlled Antichrist, and rescued from his terror when Christ returns to this earth. You find that in *Revelation 7 [vs1–8]* those 144,000 people sealed. In *Daniel 11 [v41]* you actually read of the places where they shall be kept. [*"but these shall escape out of his [the Antichrist's] hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon"*]

God will keep them, because they are looking for God. They are not looking for Christ, as we know Him, but they are not going to submit to anti-Christian religion, because they say, 'There is One God', and they're looking for that God, the Messiah, to come. And God will miraculously keep them – they're sealed off miraculously from physical hurt and worse, by the Antichrist's Terror; the "beast", he's called, and I'm going to refer to him in future studies as 'the wild beast', for that's what it all means. There are lots of references :

Psalm 44:1–8; Revelation 7:1–8; Revelation 12:6, 14; Daniel 11:41, 44; Isaiah 64:1; Isaiah 25 (many verses in that Chapter); Zechariah 12:10, and other verses; Revelation 1:7 – "Behold, He com-eth with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all kind-reds of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen"; Matthew 24:15–16; Psalm 79.

At this point, I want to fill in some details about those days of Terror, and of God's Judgments raining down on this world.

Revelation 6 – this, what I'm going to say, is necessary to fill in the story. You ought to know what God is doing for the Remnant. You ought to know God will have a Nation. God has said it, and He's going to have it, and Christ will see to it. We ought to know these things.

We ought to know the faithfulness of God, we ought to know His absolute Integrity. We ought to know His deep, abiding Love. These things are necessary. We ought to know His Hatred, physical Hatred of Evil and we ought to see the monstrosities that evil can produce when men give themselves over to unbelief and to disobedience to God.

These notes are concerning "*the dragon*", called Satan, and the wild beast who is known to us as the Antichrist, "*the man of sin*" and "*the son of perdition*", the descriptions used in the Church teachings of this monstrous figure, this dreadful person – an ordinary man, mind you, but this is what becomes of him. [2 *Thessalonians* 2:3].

Revelation 6:1–2 is where the wild beast begins his reign of terror – you can read and make your own studies of them; I'm just giving you a brief picture.

Revelation 11:7 “And when they shall have finished their testimony, - that is, the two witnesses of Christ – *the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.*”

This is the understanding of it – the dragon, because only Satan comes out of the bottomless pit to have another go at Christ; that is Satan, identified as the one who comes out of the bottomless pit finally, to launch his final act of rebellion against Christ and His Church and His people, now operating through the person of the Antichrist, "*the man of sin*", called by Paul "*that Wicked*" [2 *Thessalonians* 2:8]. Often you read in the *Psalms*, "*the wicked*", and you think it's plural, then the next verse says, "*he*". There is personal animosity against Christ. Satan hates Christ personally, and this man lends himself to Satan's hatred. *Psalms* 10 will tell you lots about the man of sin...

So that's what that verse means : There is Satan operating through that beast, and Satan is identified because it says, "*that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit*". The Antichrist is never put into the bottomless pit; he's put into the Lake of fire, out of which he never comes again – no one does, once they go in there.

Revelation 12, v3 Here we have "*the dragon*" The dragon is a beast, it's an animal, it's representing all that Satan is. He's a wild beast in his intense hatred.

v3b “... and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.” ...“the great red dragon”; “that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan” [v9].

You can become a wild beast, if you let yourself go; if you let Satan have his way with you, if you let hatred and malice and envy and all those things that come out of that awful person, get a hold on you, you can be like that.

(Satan) The originator and the power – that’s what those seven heads are about – the power of the seven kingdoms which affected Israel most, in their order, Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome – that’s six, but the seventh, now, as in *Revelation*, of the wild beast; that’s the seventh attempt.

The monarchies, or dynasties, or rulers of these powers, exhibit characteristics of the dragon, and that is why they all figure in this last Book and in the book of *Daniel*. It’s necessary for you to know these things to make sense of this, exactly what evil is like.

You don’t want to know the history of Egypt, or the history of Assyria, but you do want to know who Christ’s enemy is and what he’s like, because you only know what Satan’s like through people, through men, through happenings. That’s why it’s all put down. You’re not expected by God to go away and study the history of Assyria, but so many well-meaning Christians study the history of Assyria to find this out. But you don’t need to. You only need to know that Satan was back of those Kingdoms. That’s why they treated God’s people so ruthlessly and mercilessly. Satan’s hatred is venomous, unrelenting, fierce, hatred – it’s like a wild beast directly against no other person than Jesus Christ!

Go from this, grasping these things in their entirety, saying, ‘I’ll never hate anything again except evil’; we can’t afford to. They’re depicted as wild beasts, but the wild beasts we know of, have no sin; that’s their nature, but these people know, and they’ve made it their nature, to tear and rend and devour; they’re not made like that...

So those seven heads are the seven Kingdoms which Satan instigated. They contain the characteristics of the Devil, and now as in *Revelation*, here, the Kingdom of the wild beast, Satan’s last great attempt to establish World Dictatorship. It’s a Dictatorship of Hate; hatred of Christ and everything pertaining to Him, be you Jew or Gentile, if you want Christ, you’re a target for Satan and he would like to have a World Dictatorship which would wipe it all out; wipe out every proof of God’s claim to love you and to save you and to keep you; every proof of God’s Faithfulness to man. He wants to establish a world where the most hateful person will have the most power ... to establish World Dictatorship through a man; he’s not seeking it through a demon. God has sought to save you through a Man; Satan seeks to destroy you through a man.

So he sought to destroy the people of what is called the "*pleasant land*" [Psalm 106:24] – it's Christ's country, that what He chose for His people. All this is against Satan's target. You ought to know these things in principle. You don't have to know all the details of the human historical facts, but these Facts you ought to know, to understand them, so you will understand the Love of God and what He's sent His Son to die to save us from. God saves any of you and me from being in this world when the Church has gone and the Antichrist, the wild beast, is let loose. God will let him loose; Christ is controlling it. Satan, even then, couldn't do it except Christ took His Church away... but then He will do it, because it's according to God's Counsel.

And Ezekiel [38 v4] puts it very well – 'I'll put hooks into your jaws, and I'll draw you on and on and on and on to the place where I'll destroy you, so that even the wicked men may know that I am God, and there is none else'.

You see, God is very faithful to you, so that even the wicked who reject Him will know at the end that the man who deceived them didn't have any power except God allowed him a section of time.

May that help you to repent, repent of your natures; repent of anything in your lives – impatience, pride, all this – this is what these men stink of. Satan stinks of it. In the Lake of Fire, there's the stench, the real stench of corrupting death. It says, "*Where their worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched*" [Mark 9:44,46,48], because it stinks; pride stinks in God's nostrils. It has the stench of a living death; we must avoid all that. You must really crucify the flesh...

The force and the power also of the ten Kingdoms, that's what those ten horns represent, which we read of. ... those ten kingdoms surrounding this little country. You can see them on a map; they'll all be used as dupes, because God wants to get them there and destroy forever the hatred of His Son.

Revelation 13:1 the wild beast emerges – John saw him rising, through Satan's agency, from amongst the mass of ordinary folk, that is "*out of the sea*" – just an ordinary man, to exercise the combined power and influence and skill in government of Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece and Rome, and of course the beast in his own empire. He too has got seven heads and ten horns. So you see the dragon is duplicated in the beast.

The beast really reveals some awful sign of Satanic power in his life, seen in all the descriptions ... with the assistance of the ten powers surrounding Palestine, and then in the beast's reign, fully committed to the beast's anti-Jewish campaign – ten horns, "*and on his horns ten crowns*" – and this beast openly reveals his intense Satanic-originated hatred for God and for His Christ, because it says, "*and upon his heads the name of blasphemy*".

He's allowed by God to do it; evil is give its reign so that it can really do its worst, and then find the grip of God, Christ's Judgment, coming down upon it, inevitably and terribly.

v2 we see the wild beast exhibiting all the characteristics of three Empires, wicked – leopard, bear, a lion – the savagery of the leopard, the ruthless ferocity of the bear, and the terrible fierceness, savagery and might of the lion. All these are exhibited in a man taken over by Satan :

“And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. 2. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.”

As we close, have your attention drawn to the Fact, as revealed in this *Psalm (Psalm 9)* and in all the *Psalms*, that Christ has promised A JUDGMENT and Christ has promised SALVATION, and this will surely take place.

We are preparing to meet God; we've seen God in some aspect; we've seen His Justice, and His Love. You've seen in some way His terrible hatred of all sin, and all those personalities in whom that sin is found – **the sin of not wanting Jesus Christ in the life.** That is the sin, upon which all men shall be judged.

Philippians 2:5-11 Let this be our prayer

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6. Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7. But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8. And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: 10. That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, –

Whoever you may be ... here is your answer; you must have the Mind of Jesus, in one word, a Mind that is humble. Unless you have that humble mind, you are wide open to Satan's inducements, to pride, to self, to covetousness, to envy to boastings, to lust.

This world is governed by lust, not by Jesus Christ. But if you have the Mind of Christ then you will be of no reputation! You will have that form of a servant, ready to do what He wants His servants to do, and in the likeness of men; that's what you are, of flesh and blood; you will live fully the Life of God, here in this world, till Christ calls you Home...

[of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11. And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”]

Psalm 9:13-16 "Have mercy upon Me, O LORD; consider My trouble which I suffer of them that hate Me, Thou that liftest Me up from the gates of death: 14. That I may shew forth all Thy praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion: I will rejoice in Thy salvation. 15. The heathen are sunk down in the pit that they made: in the net which they hid is their own foot taken. 16. The LORD is known by the judgment which He executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hand. Higgsaion. Selah."

PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD

Seeing the God you are preparing to meet

Week 1: Tuesday, Day 2

Psalm 22:1-6

“My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me? why art Thou so far from helping Me, and from the words of My roaring? 2. O My God, I cry in the daytime, but Thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent. 3. But Thou art holy, O Thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel. 4. Our fathers trusted in Thee: they trusted, and Thou didst deliver them. 5. They cried unto Thee, and were delivered: they trusted in Thee, and were not confounded. 6. But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.”

The words of Jesus Christ from the Cross. We are to truly know the God we are prepared to meet.

Psalm 9:16 **“The LORD is known by the judgment which He executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Higgsion. Selah.”**

His statements of what is to come are unwavering. *“Higgsion”* He spoke out what He thought was necessary to say to God. Jesus Christ is meek; He refers everything to God. Moses said a Prophet will come, *“like unto me”* [Numbers 12:3; Deuteronomy 18:15; Acts 3:22]

v13 **Have mercy upon Me, O LORD; consider My trouble which I suffer of them that hate Me, Thou that liftest Me up from the gates of death.”**

He appeals to God to take careful note of what men have done to His face and body, before He will be raised from the dead. He cried out on the Cross, *“It is finished”*.

Yes, men were waiting for Him to die, but God had also finished with Him, His Obedient Servant. Jesus Christ the Man is God's Work of Salvation.

***Psalm 6:6-10* "I am weary with My groaning; all the night make I My bed to swim; I water My couch with My tears. 7. Mine eye is consumed because of grief; it waxeth old because of all Mine enemies. 8. Depart from Me, all ye workers of iniquity; for the LORD hath heard the voice of My weeping. 9. The LORD hath heard My supplication; the LORD will receive My prayer. 10. Let all Mine enemies be ashamed and sore vexed: let them return and be ashamed suddenly."**

His words express the same picture of His sufferings on the Cross. *v6*. This was His reality. He was wet through with sweat and blood and tears. *v7*. His eyes were failing such is the destruction of crucifixion. He was there as a Sacrifice – the Lamb of God, and truly, no lamb could have been so meek.

Hebrews 9:14

"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

Hebrews 5:7

"Who in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him that was able to save Him from death, and was heard in that He feared."

It was a great Cost to Him. It is good for me to know, to realise, to understand that a sacrifice cannot be helped; sacrifices are not to be helped.

***vs8-9* "Depart from Me, all ye workers of iniquity; for the LORD hath heard the voice of My weeping. 9. The LORD hath heard My supplication; the LORD will receive My prayer."**

Here is the expression of His Deathless Faith. There is no resentment in Him against His enemies. Faith in God only springs from true humility. It is ready to wait on God at all times, as *v3* endorses that, **"My soul is also sore vexed: but Thou, O LORD, how long?"**

"sore vexed" means His body was inwardly trembling.

***v10* "Let all Mine enemies be ashamed and sore vexed: let them return and be ashamed suddenly."**

Because of their hatred of Him, God will make sure that they experience the same. In *Mark's* Calvary record, Jesus, in the Garden of Gethsemane told His disciples that His soul was exceeding sorrowful, for, it says, He began to be sore amazed [*Mark 14:33-34*]. He was poised in the Balance, facing Eternity and what was to come to His rejecters, so He said, 'Let My enemies also know what I suffered for them.'

v13b “consider My trouble which I suffer of them that hate Me, Thou that liftest Me up from the gates of death.”

These words in *Psalms 9* are also echoed in *John 20* and *Luke 24*, where He is showing His apostles all His wounds [*John 20:20; Luke 24:39–40*]. It was very important to Christ that they should recognise what was done to Him. I should know how much He suffered. We say freely to Him, ‘You are my Friend’, so I should fully know that it was for me.

v14 “That I may shew forth all Thy praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion: I will rejoice in Thy salvation.” This is what He would do after the Cross.

He always looked beyond His present situation of suffering to the end result. Christ called God, “The God of Glory”; He gave Him all the credit for what was being achieved by His Sufferings and Death.

Psalms 100:5 “For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting; and His truth endureth to all generations.”

The LORD’s Mercy is Forever! It comes only from God! We must go right past our limitations!

1 Peter 5:10 “But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.” “The God of all grace” – Peter is referring to God the Father

Psalms 29 “**v1b**, give unto the LORD glory and strength; **v2**, Give unto the LORD the glory due unto His name; **v3**, “The voice of the LORD is upon the waters: the God of glory thundereth: the LORD is upon many waters.”

“upon the waters”, He is above the Firmament, and Christ knew that His God was There. “In the gates of the daughter of Zion” [*Psalms 9:14*] – He went through those gates of the City of God. *Hebrews 11:8–10* says that Abraham sojourned here, but knew it was not permanent, and that he would live with God, so he looked for a City.

In the *Psalms*, we see Christ living in an earthly body and hanging on a Cross here. Men’s attention should be drawn to the Security we have in God Himself and in His Home, the Eternal City.

John 14:1–6 “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in Me. 2. In My Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. 4. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. 5. Thomas saith unto Him, Lord, we know not whither Thou goest; and how can we know the way? 6. Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.”

John 14:1-6 expresses the same attitude as Abraham, but we are coming after Calvary, when we know that the Work has been completed. Strivings are so unnecessary.

v14 “That I may shew forth all Thy praise in the gates of the daughter of Zion: I will rejoice in Thy salvation.”

Psalm 24:7,9 “Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. 9. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.”

These verses show His going in through those gates of the Holy City!

v16 “. . .(Higgaion.) **Selah**” – pause at these things, and think seriously about them – they have Eternal Consequences; they are for eternity...

v15 “The heathen are sunk down in the pit that they made: in the net which they hid is their own foot taken.”

The ‘wild beast’, the man, the Antichrist, and the false prophet, and the “dragon”, Satan, are all cast alive into the Lake of Fire – the place which they caused God to make because of their wicked rebellion.

Revelation 13:2 “And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.”

This is the description of lawless-ness; doing just what they like. Satan is lawless, therefore those under his control could do just what they liked.

Daniel 7:1-6 “In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters. 2. Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. 3. And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another. 4. The first was like a lion, and had eagle’s wings: I beheld till the wings therefore were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man’s heart was given to it. 5. And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh. 6. After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and domination was given to it.”

Hideous, relentless cruelty. The leopard represents Greece, a ferocious nation at that time; Persia, the bear, depicting mammoth power, bullying, crushing, rolling over every country it desired, by its sheer weight of numbers. And Babylon, the lion, ruling with an iron-like dictatorship; there was no opposition to it.

These characteristics will all be in the “beast”, the Antichrist, completely possessed by Satan who gives him his authority over the world.

v3 “And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.”

This verse in *Revelation 13* echoes what is said in *Genesis 3*, when the LORD God confronts Satan and foretells His own suffering on the Cross...

vs14-15 “And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life. 15. And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel.”

“bruise thy head; bruise His heel”; bruising which resulting in a fatal wound. Satan has been fatally wounded through the Cross and the Church is continually assaulting the powers of darkness, in this Age of Grace, but now – in the context of the prophecy – his ambition is realised because the Church and the Holy Spirit have gone...

Satan has TWO ambitions :

To get rid of the Jews

To get rid of the Church’s Message of Salvation in Jesus Christ

In other words, to get rid of all trace of God’s Grace, through the Work of the Cross.

v4 “And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?”

In his person, the ‘wild beast’ reveals some devilish evidence of Satan, and the people loved it, and they also worshipped the “dragon”, Satan.

vs12, 14 “And he exciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. 14. And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.”

See the dreadful evidence of Satan in this man called “the beast” ...

v10 “He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.”

The end of the ‘wild beast’ foretold.

Revelation 17:3 “So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.”

vs7-8 *"And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns. 8. The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is."*

John couldn't see how objectionable Jerusalem was to God. We must see the Truth! In *v8*, we see Satan operating through the beast. The "beast" is not the "dragon"; he operates through the "beast". That's why he is often spoken of as being one with Satan; Satan is a beast! And the comparison is also true – I shouldn't be seen as anything different from Jesus Christ!

In the Cross, we see the great weight of responsibility which Christ took on. We see God's hatred for sin, and we see how we can live a holy life.

***Psalm 9:16* "The LORD is known by the judgment which He executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Higgsion. Selah."**

All will know clearly that the Judge is none other than that Man who hung on a Cross. "**The LORD is known**" – in other words, Christ was saying, 'God is known through Me – the Lamb'!

"the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Higgsion. Selah."

Men will see after all is finished, that very thing is used against them – they had rejected the Work of the Cross. Satan, "*the wicked*" will see the very work he was permitted to do, that of getting men to crucify Christ, has given God the justification for punishing him in the Lake of Fire.

Mankind has been freed from the consequences of his sin by what happened to Christ on the Cross. So man is only punished for rejecting the Work, the Results of the Work of the Cross.

v17 **"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."**
I must look on everyone in the light of the Cross; their relationship to Jesus Christ. We should be either calling them to repentance, or rejoicing with them in our fellowship in Christ.

v18 **"For the needy shall not alway be forgotten: the expectation of the poor shall not perish for ever."**

1 Corinthians 10:13 *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."*

The “**needy**” – *Psalm 9 v18* – is one who knows his need from God, and who waits for God to meet it.

Hebrews 10:35–39

“Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. 36. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. 37. For yet a little while, and He that shall come will come, and will not tarry. 38. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, My soul shall have no pleasure in him. 39. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.”

Habakkuk- “I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what He will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reprov’d. 2. And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. 3. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. 4. Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by His faith.”

These two passages reflect Christ’s Demand of God at Calvary. He said, in effect, ‘You cannot fail; I am doing Your will – **“For the needy shall not always be forgotten: the expectation of the poor shall not perish for ever.”** (*v18, Psalm 9*)

Habakkuk 2, verses 1 to 3 reveals the effect of the Vision as seen at the end. In *Hebrews 10 v37*, the “*it*” in *Habakkuk* is replaced by the Spirit with “*He*”! *Habakkuk* was given a Vision of a Person. The LORD spoke through the prophet *Isaiah*, in *Chapter 55*, “*Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto Me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.*” [*v2*] We are to be satisfied with Jesus Christ!

v19 **“Arise, O LORD; let not man prevail: let the heathen be judged in Thy sight.”** “O LORD” – His Name *JEHOVAH*. Christ was calling upon God by His Name *Jehovah* at this point, after saying, ‘You must save’; ‘You must do it’. The “**man**” He is referring to is the “*man of sin*”.

God’s Name “*Jehovah*” means always is; the immutable, unchanging God; always full of Blessings; ever to come – the breath-taking Life in Eternity!!

Revelation 1:4 “... Grace be unto you, and peace, from Him which is, and which was, and which is to come;”

“*which is, and which was, and which is to come*” – a continuous stream of Blessing! As *Lamentations* says of God’s mercies and compassions, that they are “*new every morning*” – and that is for ever! [*Lamentations 3:23*]

Hebrews 13:8 *“Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.”* Christ is of the same quality as God, as described as *“which is, and which was, and which is to come”*.

Revelation 1:18 *“I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen;”* Christ said, *“I am He that liveth”* – He, like God, always was. He is the same type of Person. So, He called upon God as “Jehovah”. He was claiming all this from this kind of Person, saying, ‘As I call You ‘JEHOVAH’ – do all this’.

Genesis 21:33 *“And Abraham planted a grove in Beer-sheba, and called there on the name of the LORD, the everlasting God.”*

As Abraham called on the Name of the LORD, so Christ addressed God most often as JEHOVAH in the Psalms. The Name of JESUS must move me; He is my Saviour. It must move me because He drew great comfort from who He was – Ever-living, for in being such, He is not able to fail, He cannot fail. He is never weary of man’s cries for help. He is not able to withhold giving the help which He alone can give.

At Calvary, I must be born-again; Calvary means, God must answer my prayer.

“Have faith in God”, Jesus said, Mark 11:22, why? Because having faith in God is knowing who God is.

Romans 10:17 *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*

1 Corinthians 2:9–10 *“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. 10. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.”*

It’s by His Spirit that God reveals the deep things of God, which are resident in the Lamb, so that we can act upon the revelation.

Hebrews 11:1 *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”*

So faith is fully enjoying something I haven’t yet got – because I have the Lamb! Christ’s cries at Calvary carry authority! Faith is revelling in the lasting reality of what I have not as yet seen with my physical eyes. A Spirit-filled Christian is constantly uplifted and encouraged by the Lamb.

v19 “Arise, O LORD; let not man prevail: let the heathen be judged in Thy sight.”

Christ from the Cross is saying to God, ‘You have got to stop the wickedness of the man of sin. He will give him seven years to reign, then down comes The Lamb! The Psalms are written so that man should know how God feels.

Carnality in the life hardens the heart.

v20 "Put them in fear, O LORD: that the nations may know themselves to be but men. Selah."

Only Christ is my estimate of what a man is. I must not put men or personalities before Jesus Christ. Satan's deception is to make me think I have time, but no man has time at his disposal. And God doesn't need to apologise for taking a man.

Hebrews 2:1-4 "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. 2. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; 3. How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him; 4. God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to His own will."

The chapters in *Revelation*, from 7 to 11, describe to us the end judgments.

(v20) "Selah". God has got to give Christ His ear! And God has got to give Christ time to work out my Salvation.

It is Christ Himself speaking in *Isaiah 48* : v12,

"Hearken unto Me, O Jacob and Israel, My called; I am He; I am the first, I also am the last. v13, Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and My right hand hath spanned the heavens: when I call unto them, they stand up together. v16, Come ye near unto Me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord GOD, and His Spirit, hath sent Me. v17, Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go."

"thy Redeemer" - there is no one else like Christ in His appearance. Calvary is the Assurance of God working for me.

There are certain 'MUST's which we have to attend to because of Calvary, and because Jesus Christ is the Lamb :

YOU must do it for them - Christ speaking to God from the Cross.

I must be born again.

I must meet HIM one day.

Therefore, is it not wise - as the scriptures would say - for me, and proper, to prepare for That Meeting . . . NOW?!

Psalm 2:7-12 "I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto Me, Thou art My Son; this day have I begotten Thee. 8. Ask of Me, and I shall give Thee the heathen for Thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for Thy possession. 9. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. 10. Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.

11. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 12. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and ye perish from the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him."

vs8-9 "Ask of Me, and I shall give Thee the heathen for Thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for Thy possession. 9. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

I must take God's Promises; "Ask".

v11 "Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling."

I must serve Him with fear and rejoice with trembling; it shows I am ashamed of evil.

v12 "Kiss the Son, lest He be angry"

"Kiss". I must get close to Him. I must tell Him I love Him. He is the One I am preparing to meet one day.

PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD

Seeing the God you are preparing to meet

Week 1: Wednesday, Day 3

We are going to see again in the *Psalms* the God whom we must meet. This is the Central Message of the *Psalms*. The kind of God you must be prepared to see, and to give an account of your life lived on this earth, that the account may be given with peace and not with grief, that you with joy may meet this God. That is the intent in the *Psalms*.

Psalm 76:1 **“In Judah is God known...”** This is Christ speaking. God is known in Judah because He is known through Christ. We read, *“Judah is My lawgiver”* [*Psalm 60:7*]. Out of Judah came the Giver of the Law, God’s Laws, God’s Giver, so Christ is speaking for God, showing who He is in God’s Salvation. **In Judah is God known** because Christ has made Him known. **“... His name is great in Israel”** because it has been made great by the Holy One of Israel, their King.

v2 **“In Salem also is His tabernacle, ...”**

Salem means “peace”, and Jesus Christ is called *“the Prince of Peace”* [*Isaiah 9:6*]. He has shown us God in His peaceable approach *“through the Blood of His Cross”* [*Colossians 1:20*].

“ ... and His dwelling place in Zion.” Zion, *“the city of the great King”* [*Psalm 48:2*]. He is the One God has appointed King over all the earth. In every case you find Christ showing God through Himself or through His appointments by God, or through His Work given to Him by God to perform.

v3 “There brake He the arrows of the bow, the shield, and the sword, and the battle. Selah.”

This refers to the Future, there at Jerusalem, where the Battle of Armageddon will be fought – that is part of the area where Christ is going to destroy the armies of the Anti-God, but here He says, **“There brake He”**, speaking of God; through Christ, God will destroy His foes.

v4 “Thou art more glorious and excellent – excellent means glorifying – than the mountains of prey.”

“more glorious”; most worthy! He is more worthy than anyone else. In *Ezekiel’s* account, and *Revelation’s*, of the Battle, you will find it is on the mountains of Judah that the Slaughter will remain; all those bodies of those immense armies – and here Christ is saying that the object of the triumph is not the Slaughter, but God! God is the One who is to be praised and worshipped, not so much that Christ was able to slaughter thousands of people, which He is able to do, but that God should be justified; that God is found to be just and really a Holy Person after all, because He cannot stand sin and wickedness.

In every case of Judgment, it is not a gloating over the judged or over the sentenced, but it is a glorifying of the immaculate Justice of God. ... **“more glorious and excellent than the mountains of prey.”** Truly, on those mountains, those hills of Judea, there will be much slaughter and many slaughtered will be found. Seven months, *Ezekiel* writes [39:12] will it take to clear up all that mess.

v5 “The stouthearted are spoiled, they have slept their sleep: and none of the men of might have found their hands.”

This is a picture of the defeated armies of sin.

v6 “At Thy rebuke, O God of Jacob, both the chariot and horse are cast into a dead sleep.”

“Thy rebuke, O God”; God’s rebuke, through Christ. It is a reminder of the Victory of God in overwhelming Pharaoh and his armies when they were pursuing God’s people, as well as reminding us here of the Song to be sung on the crystal sea of glass [*Revelation 15:2–4*] – the Song of Moses and the Song of the Lamb, but always a Song of Victory; Victory unto God. God is ultimately the One to whom the victory is ascribed, and here, is One hanging on the Cross who is the same as God! He is Equal with God, but He is acknowledging God as the One who will get the credit for all that has come to pass, even through His Son.

v7 “Thou, even Thou, art to be feared: and who may stand in Thy sight when once Thou art angry?”

Always, if you are truly a follower of Jesus Christ, you will have a great fear of offending God. No one who really loves Christ will ignore God the Father.

At all times you will be conscious, you will be very aware of the sense of the Presence of God's Holiness. Christ stresses it in His Word, and emphasises it in His Life and Actions. The Cross is an Outstanding and a Relentless Testimony to God's unchanging Holiness. If you come to God, you must come fearing to offend Him; fearing to appear in His Presence other than as He would have you to be.

Even from the Cross, Christ was reminding God that He was dying on that Cross that men should be holy, not just to show that He was holy, but that all who would come through that Cross, as promised to Him by God before He came, would be holy too, and God would accept them as God-fearing people.

v8 **"Thou didst cause judgment to be heard from heaven; - 'through Me', you may add - **the earth feared, and was still,**"**

This could be a prophetic picture of those last days judgment on earth when the mountains and the hills will slip away, and men will call out to an already moving heaven and earth to save them from the Judge! [*Revelation 6:12-17*] In those passages in *Revelation*, it is very remarkable to see that they don't ask to be spared the punishment! The terror they feel is in the Personal Meeting with Christ, and with God! "*Hide us from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb*" [v16].

It is a most remarkable picture of guilt, and a certain knowledge that they, after all, had made a fatal mistake. Not once do you hear mentioned the actual sentence of Eternal Fire, but in each case, it is in some way, nature, if possible, to help them escape the inevitable Meeting with "*the Judge of all the earth*" [*Genesis 18:25*] - and these are the Reminders of that from the Cross... Christ is reminding God that hanging on the Cross there, He is the Judge of all the earth; He is telling God that! He is declaring it to God, and God is glad to be reminded. He is glad to see that lovely loyalty and holiness from His Son, just as a man would give it, but it is given in such incredible circumstances. **"the earth feared, and was still,"**

v9 **"When God arose to judgment, to save all the meek of the earth. Selah."**
"Selah" - 'Pause; You give it some thought, O LORD. All that I am saying to You is right, is it not? It's perfectly accurate; it is what You said', that could be a way of seeing Christ's words to God. **"When God arose to judgment, to save all the meek of the earth."** The Judgment of God at Armageddon in the reign of incredible Punishments rained down upon the earth, during the period of the Antichrist's government and rule, and the Lake of Fire finally, is all to save the meek of the earth. You must be saved from the proud, the oppressor, the vile, the self-centred, the ruthless, and the vicious and the envious. The meek have to be saved from all that! The Judgments on all that I've just described, are part of your Salvation. It is not right to say the Judgments of God have nothing to do with the Church, or with the redeemed. It has a lot to do with you - it's part of your Final Salvation that you know there is no opportunity for wicked men to deceive even the just, even the elect.

That is why we read in *Revelation* [6:10] of men crying out, 'How long, O Lord, how long, before You settle this matter for the good of all?' So we see *vs 9 & 10* connected with the word "**Selah**" :

v9 **"When God arose to judgment, to save all the meek of the earth. Selah."**

v10 **"Surely the wrath of man shall praise Thee"** That is literally fulfilled in the account in the Book of *Revelation*, 11:13, after the Two Witnesses of Christ were taken back to Heaven : *"And the same hour there was a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven"* **"The wrath of man shall praise Thee"** .

Yes, they will have to say, 'God is greater than I am; God is, after all, in control, and I cannot do what I like.' You can see from what we're just reading in this Psalm, about what takes place as prophetically revealed in the Book of Revelation of Jesus Christ, that the attitude of men there is utterly unrepentant. They acknowledge God as being in control, they *"gave glory to the God of heaven"*. In other words, they said, 'Yes, You have done it'. They are terribly afraid, but we read in *Chapters Nine and Sixteen* of the Book of *Revelation*, that they repent not; they blaspheme that same God of Heaven.

"Surely the wrath of man shall praise Thee" and in praising God they will have to acknowledge Christ as the direct Author of all their punishment. If you praise God, you must praise Christ! If you love Christ, you must fear God and worship Him! You can't be involved with One and not the Other, and God would have it so. So He says to His Father and your Father, 'Pause, and think on that; this is what You promised; this is what I am dying for. This is what I am suffering this incredible anguish for, that in due time the meek of the earth shall be saved from every possibility of hurt or injury, or ill effects from any evil.' **"Surely the wrath of man shall praise Thee: the remainder of wrath shalt Thou restrain."**

That second part refers to what we read in *v3*. ... It is the rest of the people when they shall be destroyed at Armageddon, and afterwards in the Lake of Fire. **"the remainder of wrath..."** They are still children of wrath. You were a child of wrath - God's Wrath. A child of the devil is a child of the wrath of God.

Paul said, *"And you hath He quickened who were dead in your trespasses and sins;"* [*Ephesians 2:1*] You were dead in your trespasses and sins; you were children of wrath, but now God has quickened you in Christ, and raised you up with Christ, and made you sit together in heavenly places in Jesus.

Almost every sentence of Christ's uttered out of this stricken heart - because it was broken, with grief, with woe, with physical pressure and strain - out of those parched lips, almost every sentence and word links all the Bible together! It covers Eternity to Eternity!

It covers the whole History of God, with man, and you may safely take a sentence at a time and make a deep study throughout the Bible, of who God is in Christ!

So we see that in *Revelation 20* – the Great Judgment, and in *Revelation 19*, the Great Slaughter; the fury at Armageddon, the intense hatred of God poured out through Christ upon wicked men.

v11 “**Vow, and pay unto the LORD your God: let all that be round about Him bring presents unto Him that ought to be feared.**”

Always, it is to Christ you come, when you are coming to God. “**Vow**” – you vow to Christ; “**pay unto the LORD your God**” – you pay unto Christ. “**let all that be round about Him bring presents unto Him that ought to be feared.**” If you are doing this to Christ, you are doing this to God. There were men who traversed a large part of the earth ... “*And when they were come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down, and worshipped Him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.*” [Matthew 2:11] Christ took the worship of men as also directed towards God. In all His thinking, expressed in His words out of His own heart of love and peace, joy and truth, came so many revelations of how God had planned all this, and how His Son had executed it for God.

v12 “**He shall cut off the spirit of princes: He is terrible to the kings of the earth.**” That’s what we read in the second *Psalms* ... “*Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.*” [v10]. Men in high positions having great authority are inclined to feel that they are outside the run of common men, even in their relationship to God; and this is where it is important to recognise and appreciate God’s direct references to such.

Psalms 2:10 “*Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.*”. God is no respecter of persons. And in *Psalms 76*, this is what the Lord Jesus Christ is saying - “**He shall cut off the spirit of princes:**” No man shall escape. It is not really right for any man to assume from his position in this world of any kind, be it religious, Christian, worldly, educational, governmental, or whatever it be, that he is entitled to better treatment from God because of his position. There is only one position recognised; the Position of Christ.

If you can come to the position of the Cross, that is all right, but we all must come. Everybody must come to that position, the position of extreme humility, where He could end up that terrible crying out to God in *Psalms 22*, [v4] by saying, ‘Yes, You heard when people cried, and You delivered them. The record showed that, ‘Our fathers trusted in You and they were not ashamed nor confounded, because You did do it – but I am a worm and no man.’ And the actual inference from the Hebrew word is ‘maggot’ – something really that must be put out of sight. No one has maggots around, you destroy them!

And He said, 'I am only fit to be destroyed, because You are so Holy'. All the sin of the world He was responsible for. He wasn't touched by the sin; He was crucified for it. He wasn't infected with it; He was our cleansing for it.

All that Blood that poured out of His Body was pure Blood, sinless Blood. The Body that was so marred, was a sinless Body. The heart that was broken was perfectly clean, but He did say, "I am a worm" 'like an offensive noisome maggot that must be destroyed so that men may be saved'. And so you see that the *Psalms* are a great revelation of our position. 'Without humility, no man shall see the LORD' ... Yes, I know, in the bible, it says, 'without holiness' ["... and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:", *Hebrews 12:14*], but I don't think you can find Holiness without Humility, or Humility without Holiness - I'm speaking of God's Holiness, and God's Humility.

Such Humility as we read spoken from that Cross can only come out of a Holy Life, where there is absolutely no resentment; just fairness, absolute Truth and Justice - no partiality. The kings of the earth, to whom He's going to be terrible, are those who have joined themselves to the Antichrist, or like men now, who have set themselves up in a position and say, 'Who is God?' [*v12, "He shall cut off the spirit of princes: He is terrible to the kings of the earth."*]

In all the nations of the world today, I can't readily remember one where in the highest circles, the reigning monarchs, or in the governments or in the republics, men are there who fear God and demand of their people a similar fear. So, He is terrible to them because that is the end of all those who would flaunt themselves in God's face. "**terrible**"; terrible, that's what the end is; terrible.

Psalm 2:10 "Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth."
If you could take this to people in high position and proclaim it by the Holy Ghost, you might start something in countries. Men might really think on these things, because men in high positions are usually very intelligent - usually - very thoughtful - usually; I don't know about nowadays, but they used to be - and because they have such a responsibility, some Word from God might help them. "*Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.*" What are they to do then? :

Psalm 2:11 "Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 12. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry" ...

It's a message today for the governments of every land to turn to Jesus Christ and start ruling by acknowledging Him as the One who should be their Pattern for a Government. "**He shall cut off the spirit of princes: He is terrible to the kings of the earth.**" The God we are prepared, or are preparing, or are ready to meet; Jesus Christ alone, is Judge.

Psalm 50:1-3 **"The mighty God, even the LORD, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof. 2. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined - in and through Christ - 3. Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence - again you see Christ identifying Himself with men - Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: ...**

Christ is, of course, the One who is coming, but when He says, "Our God", He means that He will come, we will come, it is because of our God that He shall come to deliver the earth.

"... a fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about Him. 4. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that He may judge His people."

It is very important to see that, hanging on the Cross, Christ has His mind on the Final Settlement of all things, because the Cross is the beginning of it all. The Cross begins the Final Settlement. It was the end of the world, we read in *Hebrews* [9:26], when Christ died, to God. "...but now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself." And you could say, reading the Psalms, that a new world has started, with a new Judge and a new King; One Judge of all the earth; One King over all the earth. One Saviour; One Lord.

There's a New World, truly, that started then, and Calvary was the Beginning of it, so it is possibly very logical that Christ should be looking to the Ultimate Results of that for which He was dying. It meant a lot to Him to die. It meant a lot to hang on that Cross. You can see that from the Psalms; you can see that from what He is saying, how much it meant to Him, that He should be reminding God that these are the things; 'These are the Results of this death of Mine. Remember Lord, a New World.' **"God shall come, and shall not keep silence:"**

All these centuries they haven't seen God, and they haven't heard God, but God shall come, and Christ shall, in a sense, usher Him in. He will come and settle the whole earth for our God, and then when Satan makes his last desperate onslaught - evil is insane, is it not - his last desperate attempt to literally wrest the Government of the world from Jesus Christ when he comes out of the bottomless pit, though He know it is Christ that has released him from the bottomless pit, yet dislike of Grace cannot be remedied. That is why it is written in *Hebrews*, [6:4-6] if you once fall away, you cannot be renewed again to repentance, because, if you can't stand the Grace of God, what is there left? What is there left to a man to enjoy?

v4 **"He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that He may judge His people." - here you see a picture of the Judgment - 5. Gather My saints together unto Me; those that have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice."**

Christ is telling God what should be done – **Gather My saints together unto Me** – Of course, God has given Him the Church, but you see He’s stating now His Claim; He’s hanging on the Cross and He’s making His Claims to His Father – **‘Gather My saints together unto Me; those that have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice.** – This sacrifice; My Sacrifice – Me, Your Lamb. Remember, Lord, You proclaimed it through John the Baptist, *“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world”* [John 1:29], here I am doing it, so gather My saints unto Me.’

It’s lovely to know that you are a saint, a saint of Christ’s; **“My saints”**. A saint is one who is called out by God, and who accepts the Call. Separated from everything God has called him out from. *“My saints”, ‘My called ones; those I have called with Your complete Approval, and with Your Planning and Purpose.’* **“those that have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice.”**

So may the Lord bless us to be able to show people these things that they may belong very exclusively to Jesus Christ. Exclusively does not mean excluding other people, but it means excluding other people to possess you! Exclusively the possession of Jesus Christ, but not excluding other people from joining you in that group who are possessed by Him!

v6 **“And the heavens shall declare His righteousness: for God is judge Himself. Selah.”**

Christ alone is the Judge, God having appointed Him to Judge. **“And the heavens shall declare His righteousness:”** – out from Heaven, not from any other place shall come the Judge of all the earth. It’s all very pointed and specific. You can locate at the moment where your Salvation is. You can identify exactly where your Judge is sitting, at this very moment, and this is very important to Jesus Christ. He wants you to know where He is; He wants you to know where He will be. He wants you to know how He is coming out from Heaven.

“And the heavens shall declare His righteousness: for God is judge Himself. Selah. 7. Hear, O My people,” – ‘O God, please think of that! Remember that I am to come out’ ... And John *“saw heaven opened”* [Revelation 19:11] and he saw *“a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True ... [v12] His eyes were as a flame of fire...”* – **“the heavens shall declare His righteousness”**. Out of Heaven shall Christ come in such a way that no man shall misunderstand the Character of God!

They shall see Holiness and Righteousness – *“every eye shall see Him”* [Revelation 1:7]. That’s why the tribes of the earth shall mourn and wail because of Him, though He is coming as their Deliverer, because they shall see the Glory of that Righteousness [Zechariah 12:9 – 14]. How right He was to die! How right He was to tell them that He had to die; that He couldn’t stop to be their King according to their way of thinking!

He had a Work to do for God, and He had been on His Way, and they hadn't believed Him, and they hadn't wanted it that Way, so they turned against Him and they said, 'This isn't the type of king we want' and so they hanged Him on a tree. Still they fulfilled God's lovely Righteous Plan ...

So out comes the King who had been hanging on a tree some time before! Now He was riding on a white horse, leading the armies of Heaven to deliver the descendants of the people who crucified Him to a Cross, because He had claimed this very thing : 'I am your King'!

The ways of wickedness are very strange, but the Ways of God are past finding out! How infinite is His Mercy! Just fancy remembering to come out, and telling God, 'This is the Job; You promised that to Me, did You not, that I would come out to deliver My people'. Then He said, "**for God is judge Himself**" [v6b]. 'I am going to do this. You have declared it.' "**Selah**"!

v7 "**Hear, O My people, and I will speak; O Israel, and I will testify against thee:** - yes, surely He will - I am God, even thy God."

vs8-13 "**I will not reprove thee for thy sacrifices or thy burnt offerings, to have been continually before Me. 9. I will take no bullock out of thy house, nor he goat out of thy folds. 10. For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. 11. I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are Mine. 12. If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is Mine, and the fullness thereof. 13. Will I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats?"**

Now, He said all that, and here is what He wants :

v14 "**Offer unto God thanksgiving;** - He said, 'All this other stuff you did was rubbish! You did all these sacrifices, but you really didn't give God your hearts. You were not grateful to God; you didn't own God as the Provider of all that you had -

Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High:"

You find two aspects of a Christian life described here: of the life of one who really approaches God as Christ approached Him, full of gratitude for what God does; God is always right. He was full of gratitude for hanging on the Cross, because it was right in God's sight that He should hang, that, this very moment you could ask God for something, and get it at once. So He thanked God in His pain and in His agony. This is a characteristic of a child of God to say, 'Thank you, Lord', all the time.

So all that religious ritual, all those sacrifices which were by the law didn't amount to much. They had no gratitude to God in their hearts, in fact, they said, 'Yes, He made the water come out of the rock, but can God provide a table in the wilderness?

Can He? Is it possible?' [*Psalm 78:19; Exodus 16:3*], limiting His Grace; limiting the Holy One of Israel with their ignorant unbelief; and perhaps their wilful unbelief, as suggested here...

Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High:"

Did you all know that when you held up your hand and said, 'I want Christ as my Saviour', you really vowed to God that day, that Christ was your life? No one forced you, but people presented Christ to you as your Saviour ... and that's what Jesus means here: **"and pay thy vows unto the most High:"** - 'Continue to follow Me.'

That is what He meant when He said to Peter and the others, *"If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me"* [Luke 9:23]

That is like vowing once for all that your life is a total loss, therefore you just get rid of it, and take on the New Life **and pay thy vows unto the most High'**.

Christians should be the most punctilious in their observance of all Christ's words; very careful to see that they do what they are saying they are committed to doing - living a Christian life as God wants it. And this honours God. This is what Christ is after. If you do what Christ says, you're giving God the highest honour, even though you say, 'I'm doing it for Christ's sake'. If you say that, it's very well in God's sight, very well, because then you're doing it because He wants it done!

If you honour Christ you have the whole of God's approval, because it's Christ that He has given, and Christ must get the credit for it all, in God's sight. It must be made up to Him... all that suffering...

v15 "And call upon Me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me."

If there was any man round that Cross who really had faith in Christ as his Saviour, that day Christ was dying, it might have been possible - I don't know if God would have intended it so - for him to hear something of what Christ was saying. But as far as we read from the record, all that has been recorded what men heard was, *"My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?"*; *"Into Thy hands I commend My spirit"*. But here are all the words of God from the Cross. **"Call upon Me in the day of trouble"** - just fancy asking someone else to call upon Him in the day of trouble, when He is in that great trouble Himself! - **"I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify Me."**

vs16-17"But unto the wicked God saith, What hast thou to do to declare My statutes, or that thou shouldest take My covenant in thy mouth? 17. Seeing thou hatest instruction, and castest My words behind thee."

All this has to do with the wickedness that contributed to the crucifying of Christ...

v18 "When thou sawest a thief, then thou consentedst with him, and hast been partaker with adulterers."

The Jewish leaders planning with Judas, who was a thief [John 12:6], to capture Christ in the Garden.

vs19-21 "Thou givest thy mouth to evil, and thy tongue framest deceit. 20. Thou sittest and speakest against thy brother; thou slenderest thine own mother's son. 21. These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes."

Jesus Christ said when He was alive on the earth before crucifixion, 'I have not come to judge you or to condemn you; I have come to save you. So if you reject My words, that is well now; afterwards is the Judgment' – and here it is: **"but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes."**

We must realise that the Cross of Christ is very imperious in its demand for an immediate decision in a man's life; an immediate decision to do what God says. The doing of it will unfold obviously, you will have to teach me how to do it, but the decision should be made at once! The Cross of Christ is an imperative 'YES' or a 'MUST'.

vs22-23 "Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver. 23. Whoso offereth praise – to God – glorifieth Me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God."

In this *Psalm 50* and in *Psalm 76* we see clearly the Two Great Decisions that the Cross has forced upon men; Salvation or Damnation. The Cross forces it upon men. It doesn't just offer Christ, but in offering Christ Crucified as your Saviour or as your Judge, God, because of the Cross, forces man to decide. It is brought out by Paul saying [Acts 17:22–31], 'Well, I see you are worshipping an unknown God, but all that is all over now; *the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth – forces men, orders men, personally; a command is a personal instruction from one person to another, demanding attention – all men everywhere to repent: [v30] repent or else, Because He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that Man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance – He has given assurance, He has given an earnest, a proof, a positive token that this is coming to pass – unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead [v31].*

So the Risen Christ, in that marred Body, marred Face and wounded Body, is the Proof that God forces upon you a decision. It is not the force of arrogance, it is the force of Love; Love for you! It is a very Violent Love God has for you! It is not a kind of love that is so gentle that it does nothing about you. God wants you to love Him, because He loves you with an everlasting Love, and He doesn't make any secret of it!

"..." [John 3:16] is blazoned over all the ages. Every Age since Christ died we've heard this Scripture, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son..." So God's Love is definite, positive, forceful, violent, imperative. As a Christian, your love must be like that. "If a man love Me, he will keep My words" [John 14:23]. It is not an indication of a mild and passive sort of state. To fulfil that kind of attitude you have to be very violent in your decisions, because the world is ardent in its pressure upon you, its insistence that you should go your way, and not the Way of God.

"Whoso offereth praise glorifieth Me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God."

I'd like you to see the importance of saying the right thing. To say the right thing means to say the thing God approves of : **Whoso offereth praise** – that is, utters it, expresses it outwardly with his mouth, with his tongue – **glorifieth Me**: To praise God with your lips, to tell Him how wonderful He is, really acknowledges Christ, because it is through Christ that a man can truly praise God.

Without Christ Crucified you can't praise God in any way at all. You may think you are, but you can't! It is only what you know of Christ that causes to rise out of your heart a real, pure, word of praise that really suits God.

A lot of the praises of men are not acceptable to God, because they do not come out of hearts completely devoted to Jesus Christ. In modern Christian worship, how many of those hearts singing so lustily, really are Christ's? This is what we must see in the *Psalms*. Not that we shouldn't sing lustily and shout Hallelujahs, but it must be from a heart which itself is always absorbed with Jesus Christ, not an emotional outburst, or something brought on by seeing someone else in such a case.

The Cross speaks of reality. You cannot be unreal when you are hanging in desperate agony. It is very real! Pain is real. Sorrow is very real. These are the real things. We laugh at a few tribulations, but if you have a deep sorrow in your life, no man can say to you, 'Don't worry about it'. It is there. It is real to you. A heartache is real to the person who is having the heartache. Pain is real.

If you're feeling a pain in your back, or in your head, it is real! And God sent Jesus Christ to get rid of it, so that the reality of His Love – some Other Real Thing – takes its place! All these things are worked out for us and God shows them on Calvary. Christ is real there! He is really in pain! He is really alone! He is really left! Man did his worst and hung Him on a tree, and left Him and mocked Him. God forsook Him so that He could be the Sacrifice. The priest didn't put the sacrifice on the altar and then ease its position. It was put there and it was burnt; and so with Christ! He was put on the tree, and there He died – I'm saying it as bluntly as that – and so it was real to Him.

Your pain is real to you, and in that reality, out of that time, that period, we see the secrets of Christ's heart here written in these *Psalms*.

How reverent we should be in our approach these days... We are reading of the heart of a Man. His appearance has been made known; how awful He looks. That has become no secret, and here we are reading of His heart; His heart of Love.

It is awful to think that we should not be reverent or holy. If you were by the side of someone suffering great grief, you would, in that sense, in your attitude, be walking very softly. You would listen very carefully to what the person said. You would have every respect for the words coming out of much grief and much torment and sorrow.

So today, give this much respect. As you read, say, 'This is You speaking to me, O Lord. May I remember to give You all the glory, that the words out of my mouth shall be acceptable in Your sight, my God and my Redeemer' [Psalm 19:14].

The Lord Jesus then, is the Only One in all Eternity who is altogether God, and altogether Man.

Matthew 22:41–46. There is a similar passage in Mark (12:35–37) and in Luke (20:41–44) It is an important passage . . .

"While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 42. Saying, What think ye of Christ? – This is the Vital Question. This is what we're reading in the Psalms [110:1]. This is the Christ who you're to think of what is your opinion of this Person? So He asked them that – whose son is He? They say unto Him, The Son of David. 43. He saith unto them, How then doth David in Spirit call Him Lord, saying, 44. The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit Thou on My right hand, till I make Thine enemies Thy footstool? 45. If David then call Him Lord, how is He His son? 46. And no man was able to answer Him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask Him any more questions."

Here we have perhaps, the original thought to show us why Christ is called the Son of God. In Luke 1:34, Gabriel said to Mary, when she said, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" he said, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee, shall be called the Son of God." So His coming in the flesh indicated that He was to be the Son of God, and they knew that. They knew the Deliverer would come as a Man. They said, 'He is the son of David', because He was of the House of David, but they were not prepared to acknowledge that This Man who was of the House of David was also the Lord whom David had referred to when he said, "**The LORD said unto my Lord, sit Thou on My right hand**", so the very Fact that Christ is the Son of God shows that He is Equal with God, because His Son-ship stems from His being made flesh and blood to die for our sins.

Psalm 110:1 "The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit Thou at My right hand, . . ."
Christ quoted from this *Psalm*... David here, by the Spirit, used the word Jehovah:

"The LORD said unto my Lord" and Christ is referred to here as 'Master, Owner and Proprietor of everything'. That is why they wouldn't answer Him. They knew that David's Lord who was their Messiah to come in human form owned everything, was Master of everything, was a Proprietor by right of God!

"Sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool."

Again and again, we see in the *Psalms* Christ's emphasis on the Fact that God will have to justify Him. God will have to deal with His enemies. God will make the Plans and Christ will execute them, but God must take an active part in it. This is the sense of the whole Book of *Psalms*. God is going to take an active part. He is not just sitting back and saying, 'You make the Plans, and You do it'. No, He makes the Plans. He demands that Christ should be riding at the head of the armies of Heaven to destroy the Antichrist and his followers personally. It is before the Lamb that those who worship the Antichrist are tormented day and night for ever and ever [Revelation 14:10 & 20:10]. **"... until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool."**

v2 **"The LORD shall send the rod of Thy strength out of Zion: rule Thou in the midst of Thine enemies."**

"the rod of Thy strength" – This is a reference to Revelation 19:11–15 : The Word of God operating in Christ to destroy, to judge, to punish.

v3 **"Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: Thou hast the dew of Thy youth."**

"Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thy power,"; *"Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him."* [Revelation 1:7] **"Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thy power,"** when they shall see Jesus Christ in Person!

"in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning:"

That simply means in that day when they, that is God's people, shall see the beauties of Christ's Holiness, all those marks of His Obedience. **"from the womb of the morning:"** that is, to come forth from the Origin and Source of all Light, which is God.

All this is carefully put together, that you may know who God is and who it is that is coming out. It is not just a man who has been transferred to Heaven because God would like it so and He has done a good job for God. It is God's Equal who has taken His place as a Man; *"the Firstborn"* of every man *"of every creature"* [Colossians 1:15], but taken upon Himself willingly the role of being subject to God.

"Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thy power," – 'willing to follow You; willing to obey You when You arrive with that marred Face and wounded Body; when they see You coming forth **"from the womb of the morning"**.'

There will be much of the Glory of Heaven attached to that Arrival, because John saw Heaven opened to allow the Exit of the King with His armies. It is a triumphant Procession. It is not like in earthly battles where there is a certain grimness about it; and uncertainty as to whether they will win or not. But this is a triumphal Finish to the whole thing – Christ emerges! Christ rides out from Heaven on a horse accompanied by the armies of Heaven on horses. It is a divinely triumphant Procession, and it is put here so beautifully... ‘In the day when they shall see the beauties of Your Holiness, coming forth from God, from that Place where God is; from the Origin – the womb, the Source of all Light.’

1 John 1:5 *“This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness.”*

Surely the Christ who comes out is a Proof that there is no darkness in God! He comes from God, The Source of all Light of that Endless Day.

“Thou hast the dew of Thy youth.”

The dew is evidence of the night. That is why it goes away with the early morning. When the warmth comes up, the dew vanishes away, and so He has the Evidence of His youth, of His time as a Man of flesh and blood in this earth. All the deep details are given of Christ riding out. It does not give all these details in the nineteenth chapter of *Revelation*; that is concerned with God’s Vengeance. But here, are all these lovely details of the Personal Appearance and the Power and Prestige of such a Person as Jesus Christ.

v4 “The LORD - that’s God, of course – hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.”

*Hebrews “For this Melchisedek, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met
7:1-4 Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; 2. To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; 3. Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually. 4. Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.”*

“Without father” – He took God as His Father when He became the Son, but He is without a father; He is without a mother – He is Equal with God. He is Everlasting. From Everlasting Jesus Christ is the same. That’s why I wanted to read this regarding His Priesthood – “Without descent” – Though there is a chronological tree given of His human ancestry, Christ is without descent. God never descended from anyone! God is for ever and ever! Can you take that in today, that your Saviour, your Lord, the One who is going to be the First of that human Family in Heaven has never had a beginning until He was born of Mary! God would have you know that! It says, **“The LORD hath sworn,”** and when God swears, something must be done about it.

“and will not repent,” It has added that... He is not going to alter one jot or tittle of the whole matter. The human race, if they want it so; men who want it so, have a High Priest who is actually just as God is, but in human form.

This is truly so that Jesus Christ is altogether God and altogether Man. There is no part of Him that isn't God, and there is no part of Him that isn't Man. He is truly God and Man. The prophet *Isaiah's* whole Message is that. The whole of this Message centres around the Fact that a Person who is altogether God and yet was altogether Man, is the One we call Jesus Christ. So we cannot afford to be careless in our relationship to Him. *“Without father, without mother, without descent”* – having no one to dictate to Him, what to do, and yet becoming subject to the Father. *“having neither beginning of days, nor end of life;”* That is how the Early Church believed, so when they demanded the exit of a demon from a human body, they couldn't expect anything else but the exit of a demon from a human body! They were speaking in this Name, the Name of the Everlasting God who is Jesus Christ. They couldn't expect anything but an obedience to their word. The Word of God is the Word of God! Jesus Christ said, *“I have given them Thy word”* [John 17:14], and that is the Word we speak – the Word of This Man; this God of yours.

v3 *“Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.”* Because of His obedience as a Man, when He arose from the dead, He was then qualified to be the Priest of God.

v4 *“Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.”* In *Genesis 14* we see Christ in complete control of everything, doing what He was free to do. He suddenly appeared and met Abraham, and Abraham was all flushed with his victory, and feeling very good. He had got all he wanted. He was very brave, and against overwhelming odds, because he believed God, he went for them and achieved victory, the slaughter of the king. He rescued all his property, his people, his goods and said grandly to the king of Sodom to whom he had been a benefactor, [vs 22 – 24] ‘I will touch nothing of yours. Everything comes from God, the Most High’, and that God met him there just at that point, and he gave God a tenth of all he had. God blessed him, and *“the less was blessed of the Better”* [v7 (*Hebrews 7*)].

Christ is quite an extraordinary Person! He is free to move wherever He wants to. Now that Calvary is over, He is again in full control of His own liberty, and that is your High Priest, and that is your God, and that is your Perfect Man, made like unto the Son of God, that is, as a Man.

v5 **“The Lord at Thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of His wrath.”**

This refers to Christ, and He will do that. The ten kings who give their support willingly to the Beast are completely destroyed at Armageddon!

v6 **“He shall judge among the heathen, – to judge means to sentence to death and carry out the sentence – He shall fill the places with the dead bodies; He shall wound the heads over many countries.”**

Yes, many leaders will be destroyed in that Battle.

v7 **“He shall drink of the brook in the way: therefore shall He lift up the head.”**

This would indicate a reference to Calvary. He said, ‘Take this cup from Me; it is rather distasteful’, but He drank of that cup, the Cross. **“therefore shall He lift up the head.”** That is when He is raised from the dead. This phrase comes into the *Psalms* more than once – *“the lifter up of Mine head” Psalm 3:3.*

It is a reminder of the Fact that He Himself gave up the ghost. He died, He bowed His head and gave up the ghost, and to say that God is the lifter up of His head means that He is raised again from the dead, in all the Full Glory of His Person, His Power and His Possession!

Psalm 3:1-3 **“LORD, how are they increased that trouble Me! many are they that rise up against Me. – This is in His agony on the Cross – 2. Many there be which say of My soul, There is no help for Him in God. Selah. – ‘Consider that, LORD! Pause and think about it.’ – 3. But Thou, O LORD, art a shield for Me; My glory, and the lifter up of Mine head.”**

Yes, I will rise from the dead. Here I am in agony; unspeakable agony. I am a dead Man, like someone who is going down to the pit,’ **“But Thou, O LORD, art a shield for Me; My glory, and the lifter up of Mine head.”**

“When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, It is finished: and He bowed His head, and gave up the ghost” [John 19:30] Every thing must have its consequences correspondingly. Everything Christ suffered must be recompensed.

If you accept that Suffering as the Penalty for your sin, and then take His Life upon you, you will be saved a Terrible Judgment! Every sorrow He has endured; all the pain, anguish and woe, will have to be accounted for.

Psalm 27:4-6 **“One thing have I desired of the LORD, – Christ speaking from Calvary - “One thing”, He said. – that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of My life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple. –**

He is expressing here, what He told men should be their aim: to concentrate on God. That it was God they should know. *“And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God” [John 17:3a]* How could you know Him?

How will you enjoy that knowledge except by dwelling in the house of the LORD all the days of your life, beholding the beauty of the LORD and to enquire in His Temple?! God, too, has a beauty. The beauties of Holiness are differently expressed in the Person of Christ, and in the Person of God, but you are going to enjoy God your Father and God the Son.

v5 **“For in the time of trouble He shall hide Me in His pavilion: – His Place of Rest – in the secret of His tabernacle shall He hide Me; He shall set Me up upon a rock. – it’s all an expression of Confidence in God, not in Himself.**

So many times in our trials and tribulations, you, we, find nothing in yourself – you never will! It is God you are dependent on, and Christ has shown that that is man’s chief trouble. He will not depend on God. He must try to find it in himself, or some other man, some anchorage, some support. You won’t find it; only in God. Christ brings this out.

Today is the Age of Man; worship of man. Never have we seen men’s and women’s bodies so exposed as they are now. They think their bodies are beautiful to be exposed. They think they’re wonderful! There is no other creation like them! Let us not be like that! Let us not be silly!

Today as never before, there is a great advertisement for Exercise and Athletics and Games. Everyone is trying to vie with the other to be outstanding in all these physical pursuits, but what does it all amount to when you stand before God?! What does it amount to? Will you be any better than a reedy type of man with all your physique, or with all your beauty, than an ugly woman?!! It doesn’t matter, it really doesn’t matter to God! It’s this that matters; how you are with CHRIST!

Again and again, the Cross brings that out. It really levels you out. It puts a confidence into you, and it gives you the ability; the strength, and the ability to do things which you don’t really expect from the sort of person you are, if you really trust God!

And it’s true, very true, today, more than ever, in the midst of all this vaunting of physical strength and health, what God wrote is very true: *“Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength”* [Isaiah 40:30–31] I see that all the time. The staying power is to them that have Christ. Today, the day of physical prowess is much sought after, with great Schools in all the countries and the big cities, like London, which amounts to Nothing. Nothing! You just live a healthy Christian life and you will have all the energy of the world to do what no one else can do.

So, please believe God, and remember, there, hung on the Cross, not a judo expert, or the boxing champion of the world, or a great athlete, but an ordinary Man filled with Love for you, and with Obedience to God! He wasn’t indestructible as a Man because He was God, but just because He was an Obedient Man.

That is why He had all that health. The virtue flowed out of Him because He was obeying God. His Body need not have been corresponding to God if He wasn't going to obey God. He didn't have a wonderful Body because He was God, but He kept it so, "*and being made perfect*" [Hebrews 5:9] ... He was made perfect on that Cross. He was not a Perfect Man until then, so you have got a way to go! Perfection in that Obedience. Remember that!

We all have a wonderful heritage. We don't owe anybody anything. We don't have to go out and say, 'I am too tired, too old, or too young, or not strong enough'. Don't say all those things! If God wants you to do something, anyone here could do it, if God wants you to do it, and you feel that you should do it for God. There's nothing you cannot do if God wants you to do it, and those are the hardest things for men to do. What God demands of you, puts a greater demand on you than anything else, because it calls forth your whole life. Your physical life must be up to God's par.

Your mental life, yes, you needn't be a brilliant mathematician, but you must have a clear vision of Christ. Your mind must be clear, no darkness in it. My! the things you'll do for God, and the things you'll say for God! And of course your spirit, your heart, must not be diseased; it must be whole and healthy! What else do you want? All you want is to say, 'I'll do it for You, because I love You, and You love me'. This is the Work of Calvary which God would have you to see in these days...

v6 "And now shall Mine head be lifted up above Mine enemies round about Me: therefore will I offer in His tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD."

Again and again you see in the *Psalms*, Christ's consciousness of the hatred of evil men, Satan, and all those whom he seduces to his point of view against Him. It is all against Him, because it is really because of envy. Christ has everything to do with Humility and Holiness. He has Power and is very humble; very lowly.

He has everything; He can do everything! He can move mountains, and He can comfort your heart. You don't find many people being able to do that - to create everything and then comfort one single heart! We can't do those things. We leave so many people comfortless, I know I do ... But He is marvellous! He has got all that Energy. He created everything; He hung on a Cross, but He will comfort you! He did - he comforted a man here, and a man there. He even comforted a man on the cross itself! He said, 'Today you will be with Me in Paradise' [Luke 23:43].

That's what you can be. You can have the time and the energy. This is what we're up against, isn't it? Today, in the pressurised hour of this Age, people say, 'I'll see you, but I haven't got time. I would love to come and help you, but I can't make it', because we can't in our own physical strength. In your own mental capacity, you can't give too much thought to too many problems or your mind might break down, but you can in Christ. You can in the Power of the Spirit.

You can meet every demand made upon you, and still come up for more, and still be found by me available to help me! You may have just been doing things for other people, not just physical labour, but available to God to serve man because you are serving God – available, not because you are stronger or more intelligent than anyone else, but because Christ is in you! You are unbeatable like that!!

v6 "And now shall Mine head be lifted up above Mine enemies round about Me: therefore will I offer in His tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD."

Christ was always quite specific in the Fact that God is the ultimate Receiver of all worship and of all praise. When we gather together, we should really gather together to say, 'Thank You, Thank You, Thank You'. In every one of our hearts, there should be only 'Thank You, Thank You, Thank You' because You have done it; You sent Your Son'. This is what worship should be. **"therefore will I offer in His tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD."**

***Psalm 98:1* "O sing unto the LORD a new song; for He hath done marvellous things: His right hand, and His holy arm, hath gotten Him the victory."**

In many places Christ refers to Himself, and is referred to as, "*the arm of the LORD*". *Isaiah 53:1*, for instance, "*and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?*" It is just to emphasise the Fact that He is a part of God; altogether God, and altogether Man. And in the *Psalm 62:1-12*, we find that what God is to Christ as a Man, Christ is to all men as God is. Christ is God to all men. In this Book of *Psalms*, we see Christ on the Cross, as revealed nowhere else in God's Holy Scripture, both as God's Sacrifice for your sin, as well as God's Salvation for you as a forgiven sinner. The Book of *Psalms* presents Christ on the Cross as such... as does *Psalm 31:1-24* – the whole Psalm; it is a *Psalm* from the Cross.

***Psalm 31:1* - "In Thee, O LORD, do I put My trust – This is always the Cry from Calvary, from the Cross itself – let Me never be ashamed: deliver Me in Thy righteousness. 2. Bow down Thine ear to Me; deliver Me speedily: be Thou My strong rock, for an house of defence to save Me... 4. Pull Me out of the net that they have laid privily for Me: for Thou art My strength."**

v5 "Into Thy hand I commit My spirit: Thou hast redeemed Me, O LORD God of truth."

Here you see that it is Christ literally speaking from the Cross. All that men heard was, as recorded in *Luke 23:46*, "*Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit*", but all this was said also.

v6 "I have hated them that regard lying vanities: but I trust in the LORD."

v9 **“Have mercy upon Me, O LORD, for I am in trouble: Mine eye is consumed with grief, yea, My soul and My belly.”**

This word **“trouble”** doesn’t mean in the same way as we mean it. We speak very lightly often of being ‘in trouble’. But This is really **“trouble”** – hanging on a Cross; for the Son of God to hang on a Cross when He didn’t need to! This is trouble, to consider Himself like a maggot taking the sin of all mankind. Sin is an obnoxious thing – that is **“trouble”**. Sin is the **“trouble”** – nothing else. *“In the world ye shall have tribulation”* [John 16:33b], because that is all the world can serve up, even to its own residents, and also to God’s people. But this is **“trouble”**! **“Mine eye is consumed with grief, yea, My soul and My belly.”**

v10 **“For My life is spent with grief, and My years with sighing: My strength faileth because of Mine iniquity, and My bones are consumed.”**

His life was now coming to an end. It had been spent, and the grief is hastening to its conclusion.

“and My years with sighing: My strength faileth because of Mine iniquity, and My bones are consumed.” – it must have been very hard for Him in all

His physical Manhood, which was perfectly healthy; no sin, no sickness, full of Divine Energy; not particularly huge in stature, physically, but full of Divine Energy, it must have meant much to Him to find Himself hanging of the Cross, nailed there by men.

He could have done so much with men. He could have commanded and led them. He could have toppled over kingdoms, established rules and governments, but He came to die. So all that lovely Life and all that glorious Mind, all that beauty of intellect and spirit, He gave over to God, and to man, and they just put Him upon a Cross.

You should be ready for God to use you the way He wants, and the more you have to give to God, the less should you value it for yourself ... and so He said, that:

“My life is spent with grief”. What a thing to have to say! He who was happy in Eternity, who is full of Joy, **“and My years with sighing: My strength faileth because of Mine iniquity,”** – that is, the iniquity laid upon Him – your iniquity, and mine – **“and My bones are consumed.”** Every part of Him physically was in trouble.

v11 **“I was a reproach among all Mine enemies,** – because they said, *“If Thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross”* [Matthew 27:40] and O the tragedy of it! He could have, because He was the Son of God; He had come from God; He was God manifest in the flesh, which is what ‘The Son of God’ means. He could have come down. *“If He be the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him”* [Matthew 27:42]. He is the King of Israel, but He didn’t descend from the Cross.

but especially among My neighbours, – Those that were around Him especially reproached Him hanging there – **and a fear to Mine acquaintance:** – They fled away. Peter stayed afar off. They didn't want to have a lot to do with this terrible sight. They couldn't understand it. They had no faith really at that time, no belief.

“they that did see Me without fled from Me.” And you know the story: *“Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled” [Matthew 26:56], “But Peter followed Him afar off...” [Matthew 26:58].* Only John and the women were found at the Cross [John 19:25–27].

v12 “I am forgotten as a dead man out of mind: I am like a broken vessel.”
This is Christ speaking from the Cross. Really, we ought to say, ‘This is for me. This is God speaking to me personally. Never mind anyone else around. Personally, God is calling me and asking me quite candidly, ‘What about it? Do you love Me?’

v13 “For I have heard the slander of many: fear was on every side –
they were afraid of Him, remember they assembled together, the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people [Matthew 26:3], then it says, *“And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtilty, and kill Him. But they said, Not on the feast day, lest there be an uproar among the people” [v5].* But they still took Him and crucified Him.

while they took counsel together against Me, they devised to take My life.”

The Message of the Book of Psalms is all about Christ from the Cross. He was there as God's Sacrifice and as God's Salvation for man. *John 1:29, “Behold the Lam of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”*

Psalm 32 – this is all about showing us that God's Salvation is a Crucified Man. It is a great Cry to believe. We can compare **v1** to those verses in *Hebrews 2:8–12*

v1 “Blessed is he who transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.”

Hebrews 2: 8–12 “Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. 9. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man. 10. For it became Him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11. For both He that sanctifieth and they that are sanctified are all of one: for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brethren, 12. Saying, I will declare Thy name unto My brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto Thee.”

vs1-2 “Blessed is he who transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.”

See where true Joy is! And see what I am before God because of all that Christ has been through.

v3 “When I kept silence, My bones waxed old through My roaring all the day long.”

Christ kept talking to God to relieve His agonising pain. I do need to say, ‘I really do love You’.

v4 “For day and night Thy hand was heavy upon Me: My moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.”

His body was giving out; it was drying up, grossly dehydrated through loss of blood and fluids.

v5 “I acknowledged My sin unto Thee, and Mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess My transgressions unto the LORD; and Thou forgavest the iniquity of My sin. Selah.”

This is what Isaiah said, *“He was bruised for our iniquities ... and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all. ... for the transgression of my people was He stricken. ... for He shall bear their iniquities.”* [53:5, 6, 8, 11]. They were all our transgressions, and our iniquities.

v5b “I said, I will confess My transgressions unto the LORD;

v5c “and Thou forgavest the iniquity of My sin. Selah.”

Christ said, **“I said”**, and God did according to His confession, God forgave! What a Sacrifice! I must never forget that we are His sins; we are His transgressions.

v6 “For this shall every one that is godly pray unto Thee in a time when Thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.”

The **“godly”** are the forgiven; they know that God will keep them safe unto Eternity.

v7 “Thou art My hiding place; Thou shalt preserve Me from trouble; Thou shalt compass Me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.”

Now, after all that Suffering and pain, comes a Song of Salvation. He is referring to what we read in *Hebrews 2:12*, *“I will declare Thy name unto My brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto Thee.”* Christ wants all His Church around Him when He praises God, and here, He is looking forward to having His praising redeemed saints around Him.

vs8-9 “I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with Mine eye. 9. Be not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee.”

Obedience to God is voluntary. God doesn't force me to obey Him; He wants me to love Him! We must not be stubborn, but desire to obey Him from a loving heart. Remember what it says about stubbornness? "*stubbornness is as iniquity*" [1 Samuel 15:23, "*For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is a iniquity and idolatry.*"]

At the time of trial and hardship, when things get tough, or you're overwhelmed, talk to God! We are not animals, like horses or mules; we're God's children, bought with the Blood of the Lamb! So make it your habit to talk to God, to tell Him all about what is bothering you.

vs10-11 "Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about. 11. Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart."

At God's Appointed Time, there His Church will be, around that Throne of Glory, forming a great company of praise, compassing the redeemed about with God's Mercy; the Mercy that gave you the Lamb. Together with Him, your wounded Saviour, the God of mercy will be praised!