

## **Exod 03-05-18a**

Continue our worship this morning by taking a moment at this point to clear our minds and prepare our hearts and seek the ministry of God's spirit so that we can look at the truth of God's word in a way that is beneficial. The thing that always cautions me is having gone to seminary as a place where it is possible to be exposed to a lot of biblical truth and yet not have it sink in. It's like water that hits a waterproof surface and just runs off.

There's a lot of it around and it's visible and in evidence but it's not really soaking in. I think that that is a challenge for academic students of the word of God. It was a challenge for me in going through my courses and writing my papers to make sure that the word of God was speaking to my soul and not just to my brain.

The only way we can ensure that we are susceptible to the power of God's word and its transforming influence is to make sure that it is firmly in the hands of the Holy Spirit. He is the only one that can use God's word to change us, to enable us and empower us and to give us a clear view of what we are doing and where we are. We've talked recently in both of our studies, our Old Testament and New Testament studies and our fundamental study, about the idea of this life being sort of total immersion training for us to get ready for the kingdom and for eternity.

If we do not remind ourselves of the reality that surrounds this life, the reality that goes on beyond this life, we will get caught up in the details of this life and will miss what God has for us. So there is no more important time that we spend than when we go before God's throne and acknowledge the presence and the ministry of His Spirit to us. Shall we pray? Father, we thank you for another day.

We thank you for the mercies that you have renewed once again to us. We are alive. We are still line items in the inventory of earthly progress and in the forward movement of your plan.

We still have a place and a purpose and an opportunity to fulfill our calling. We have gathered ourselves this morning to be nurtured and to receive the ministry of your Spirit. As we study your word, we ask that it will be impressed upon us in a way that will recall it to mind in the days ahead as we make our decisions and set our priorities and assign values to different things that we encounter.

We pray that we will not be distracted or deflected. We pray that the fiery darts of the wicked one will not land, will not make their mark upon us, but that the full armor that you have given us will be effective and that we will wield it as we should. We pray for our President.

We thank you for our country and the structure that continues to sustain it even as some of its values and fabric seem to deteriorate under the weight of moral decline. We thank you that we have freedom. We thank you that we have good leadership.

We thank you that there are those who do stand for morality and a biblical view of nationhood and of divine institutions. We ask that you will continue to bless them and their efforts so that we may continue to have freedom and opportunity to live and grow in grace. We thank you again for your word and for the Lord Jesus Christ who inspires it and who fills its pages.

We pray that our study this morning will glorify Him. We pray it in Jesus' name, Amen. is located here.

Both of them are relatively long psalms. I want to focus this morning on the section that deals with the plagues which we're studying. The psalm in the first 30-odd verses, Psalm 78, talks about this cycle of failure and discipline followed by repentance and restoration and renewal followed by apathy and indifference leading to failure which leads to discipline which leads to change of mind which leads to repentance and renewal and prosperity and blessing followed by apathy and indifference and they just keep going through this cycle and God says, how long, how long are you going to keep fading in the stretch? When the pressure is on, you realize you ought to be doing something different and you do but as soon as things ease up, why your momentum and your forward progress seems to slow.

Well let's resume here in verse 34, when he slew them, then they saw him. This is actually members of the nation of Israel reaching the point of the sin unto death. They have become so corrupt and so engaged in abominations of various kinds that God has to start taking them out, much as he did in the wilderness with the serpents and with the ground opening up and so forth.

Military defeat. Then they returned and sought earnestly for God. One of the major goals of our life ought to be to not follow this pattern, to not have to wait until we're at the point of serious bodily harm before we begin to pay attention to what God says.

There are some children, you see them in public school, you see them in families that it just seems like it takes a concussion to get them to pay attention. You just have to hit them in the head so hard that you're in fear of killing them to get them to wake up. We don't want to be that way spiritually.

We don't want to be hard of hearing or hard of heart. It's so much more rewarding to receive instruction and to follow it. But after great grievous bodily harm, they returned and sought earnestly for God.

Then they remembered that God was their rock and the most high God, their Redeemer. He never stopped being their rock and never stopped being their Redeemer. What was the problem? They didn't remember it.

It was not a factor in their daily thinking. This is the thing that afflicts us, isn't it? It is hard to remember. I've done all of this stuff, been to seminary and studied the Word of God and so on, but I still, and I say still, always, I think all of us get caught up in our day and caught up in the

details of our lives.

It is embarrassing to pull up at some late point in the day and say, you know, I haven't really thought about my spiritual identity at all today. We don't have to be thinking verses and praying and watching for angels all day long, but we do need to have an awareness that our thought life is being monitored, that our decisions and actions are being weighed in the balance and are being recorded and will come up at the judgment and that we are missing opportunities if we don't remember who we are and why we are here. We have opportunities to glorify God.

We have opportunities to put into practice what He has taught us. To do that, we have to remember that God is our rock. What does it mean for something to be our rock? It's our foundation, isn't it? It's the immovable object that marks the landscape.

A rock is a landmark. A rock is a foundation. A rock is something that does not change.

God is our rock. The Most High God, our Redeemer. Nevertheless, they flattered Him with their mouth, and they lied to Him with their tongue.

For their heart was not steadfast with Him. You will notice that the sins of the tongue that come out here and this false worship. He says in another place, this people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.

They flattered Him with their mouth, and they lied to Him with their tongue, because their heart was not steadfast. There's another good verse, Ezekiel 33, 31, it says, They come to you as people come and sit before you as my people and hear your words, but they do not do them. For they do the lustful desires expressed by their mouth, and their heart goes after their gain.

Their heart was not steadfast. It's a heart problem before it's a tongue problem. They were not faithful in His covenant, but He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity and did not destroy them.

Yes, many a time He turned His anger away and did not stir up all His wrath, for He remembered that they were but flesh, a breath that passes away and does not come again. And it puts us in mind of David saying he remembers that we are dust. He knows that we're afflicted with the results of our corruption, and we are a stem of grass that grows up in the morning and then fades away.

Why are we going through this before we talk about the plagues? Well, that's what happens in this psalm. He's going to work his way down in verse 43, 44 and following to talking about the plagues. But these are people who had already seen those at first hand, who lived through them.

You would think, well, if God ever worked a miracle in my presence, an actual physical manifestation of divine power, that would last me the rest of my life. I would never even think

about being distracted or forget who I was, because if I saw a mighty work, if I went to Grandma's funeral and God raised her from the dead right there out of the coffin, or if stones turned to bread, or if great mighty works of miraculous power were done in my hearing and in my sight, why, I would be good to go for life. The thing that's hard about my faith is I just haven't seen anything.

All I see is the normal laws of physics, and I've never seen anything supernatural by way of physical miracles. So I have to take all of this on faith, and that's why it's so hard for me to remember that I'm a Christian and ought to be living as I should. Well, this is a fallacious line of thinking, because people that did see physical miracles on a grand scale, people who saw the dead raised, people who saw God do all of these things, did not.

Let's continue our worship this morning by taking a moment at this point to clear our minds and prepare our hearts and seek the ministry of God's Spirit so that we can look at the truth of God's Word in a way that is beneficial. The thing that always cautions me is having gone to seminary as a place where it is possible to be exposed to a lot of biblical truth and yet not have it sink in. It's like water that hits a waterproof surface and just runs off.

There's a lot of it around, and it's visible and in evidence, but it's not really soaking in. I think that that is a challenge for academic students of the Word of God. It was a challenge for me in going through my courses and writing my papers to make sure that the Word of God was speaking to my soul and not just to my brain.

The only way we can ensure that we are susceptible to the power of God's Word and its transforming influence is to make sure that it is firmly in the hands of the Holy Spirit. He is the only one that can use God's Word to change us, to enable us and empower us and to give us a clear view of what we're doing and where we are. We've talked recently in both of our studies, our Old Testament and New Testament studies and our fundamental study, about the idea of this life being sort of total immersion training for us to get ready for the kingdom and for eternity.

If we do not remind ourselves of the reality that surrounds this life, the reality that goes on beyond this life, we will get caught up in the details of this life and we'll miss what God has for us. There is no more important time that we spend than when we go before God's throne and acknowledge the presence and the ministry of His Spirit to us. Shall we pray? Father, we thank you for another day.

We thank you for the mercies that you have renewed once again to us. We are alive. We are still line items in the inventory of earthly progress and in the forward movement of your plan.

We still have a place and a purpose and an opportunity to fulfill our calling. We have gathered ourselves this morning to be nurtured and to receive the ministry of your Spirit as we study your Word. We ask that it will be impressed upon us in a way that will recall it to mind in the days ahead as we make our decisions and set our priorities and assign values to different

things that we encounter.

We pray that we will not be distracted or deflected. We pray that the fiery darts of the Wicked One will not land, will not make their mark upon us, but that the full armor that you have given us will be effective and that we will wield it as we should. We pray for our President.

We thank you for our country and the structure that continues to sustain it even as some of its values and fabric seem to deteriorate under the weight of moral decline. We thank you that we have freedom. We thank you that we have good leadership.

We thank you that there are those who do stand for morality and a biblical view of nationhood and of divine institutions. We ask that you will continue to bless them and their efforts so that we may continue to have freedom and opportunity to live and grow in grace. We thank you again for your word and for the Lord Jesus Christ who inspires it and who fills its pages.

We pray that our study this morning will glorify him. We pray it in Jesus' name, Amen. For our scripture reading this morning, turn with me once again to Psalm 78.

We have two Psalms, Psalm 78 and Psalm 105, that are recountings or rehearsals or reviews perhaps of the episode we are studying in Exodus. To a greater or lesser extent, some of the entire content of the book of Exodus is located here. Both of them are relatively long Psalms.

I want to focus this morning on the section that deals with the plagues which we are studying. The Psalm in the first 30-odd verses, Psalm 78, talks about this cycle of failure and discipline followed by repentance and restoration and renewal followed by apathy and indifference leading to failure which leads to discipline which leads to change of mind which leads to repentance and renewal and prosperity and blessing followed by apathy and indifference and they just keep going through this cycle and God says, how long, how long are you going to keep fading in the stretch when the pressure is on, you realize you ought to be doing something different and you do but as soon as things ease up, why your momentum and your forward progress seems to slow. Well let's resume here in verse 34.

When he slew them, then they saw him. This is actually members of the nation of Israel reaching the point of the sin unto death. They have become so corrupt and so engaged in abominations of various kinds that God has to start taking them out much as he did in the wilderness with the serpents and with the ground opening up and so forth, military defeat.

Then they returned and sought earnestly for God. One of the major goals of our life ought to be to not follow this pattern, to not have to wait until we're at the point of serious bodily harm before we begin to pay attention to what God says. There are some children, you see them in public school, you see them in families that it just seems like it takes a concussion to get them to pay attention.

You just have to hit them in the head so hard that you're in fear of killing them to get them to wake up. We don't want to be that way spiritually. We don't want to be hard of hearing or hard

of heart.

It's so much more rewarding to receive instruction and to follow it. But after great grievous bodily harm, they returned and sought earnestly for God. Then they remembered that God was their rock and the most high God, their Redeemer.

He never stopped being their rock and never stopped being their Redeemer. What was the problem? They didn't remember it. It was not a factor in their daily thinking.

This is the thing that afflicts us, isn't it? It is hard to remember. I've done all of this stuff, been to seminary and studied the Word of God and so on, but I still, and I say still, always, I think all of us get caught up in our day and caught up in the details of our lives. It is embarrassing to pull up at some late point in the day and say, you know, I haven't really thought about my spiritual identity at all today.

We don't have to be thinking verses and praying and watching for angels and stuff all day long. But we do need to have an awareness that our thought life is being monitored, that our decisions and actions are being weighed in the balance and are being recorded and will come up at the judgment and that we are missing opportunities if we don't remember who we are and why we are here. We have opportunities to glorify God.

We have opportunities to put into practice what He has taught us. To do that, we have to remember that God is our rock. What does it mean for something to be our rock? It's our foundation, isn't it? It's the immovable object that marks the landscape.

A rock is a landmark. A rock is a foundation. A rock is something that does not change.

God is our rock, the Most High God, our Redeemer. Nevertheless, they flattered Him with their mouth and they lied to Him with their tongue, for their heart was not steadfast with Him. You will notice that the sins of the tongue that come out here and this false worship.

He says in another place, this people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. They flattered Him with their mouth and they lied to Him with their tongue because their heart was not steadfast. There's another good verse, Ezekiel 33, 31, says they come to you as people come and sit before you as my people and hear your words, but they do not do them.

For they do the lustful desires expressed by their mouth and their heart goes after their gain. Their heart was not steadfast. It's a heart problem before it's a tongue problem.

They were not faithful in His covenant, but He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity and did not destroy them. Yes, many a time He turned His anger away and did not stir up all His wrath, for He remembered that they were but flesh, a breath that passes away and does not come again. It puts us in mind of David saying he remembers that we are dust.

He knows that we're afflicted with the results of our corruption. We are a stem of grass that

grows up in the morning and then fades away. Why are we going through this before we talk about the plagues? That's what happens in this psalm.

He's going to work his way down in verse 43, 44 and following to talking about the plagues. But these are people who had already seen those at first hand, who lived through them. You would think, well, if God ever worked a miracle in my presence, an actual physical manifestation of divine power, that would last me the rest of my life.

I would never even think about being distracted or forget who I was, because if I saw a mighty work, if I went to Grandma's funeral and God raised her from the dead right there out of the coffin, or if stones turned to bread, or if great mighty works of miraculous power were done in my hearing and in my sight, why, I would be good to go for life. The thing that's hard about my faith is I just haven't seen anything. All I see is the normal laws of physics and I've never seen anything supernatural by way of physical miracles.

So I have to take all of this on faith and that's why it's so hard for me to remember that I'm a Christian and ought to be living as I should. Well, this is a fallacious line of thinking, because people that did see physical miracles on a grand scale, people who saw the dead raised, people who saw God do all of these things, did not. Let's continue our worship this morning by taking a moment at this point to clear our minds and prepare our hearts and seek the ministry of God's Spirit, so that we can look at the truth of God's Word in a way that is beneficial.

The thing that always cautions me is having gone to seminary as a place where it is possible to be exposed to a lot of biblical truth and yet not have it sink in. It's like water that hits a waterproof surface and just runs off. There's a lot of it around and it's visible and in evidence, but it's not really soaking in.

I think that that is a challenge for academic students of the Word of God. It was a challenge for me in going through my courses and writing my papers to make sure that the Word of God was speaking to my soul and not just to my brain. The only way we can ensure that we are susceptible to the power of God's Word and its transforming influence is to make sure that it is firmly in the hands of the Holy Spirit.

He is the only one that can use God's Word to change us, to enable us and empower us and to give us a clear view of what we're doing and where we are. We've talked recently in both of our studies, our Old Testament and New Testament studies and our fundamental study, about the idea of this life being sort of total immersion training for us to get ready for the kingdom and for eternity. If we do not remind ourselves of the reality that surrounds this life, the reality that goes on beyond this life, we will get caught up in the details of this life and we'll miss what God has for us.

There is no more important time that we spend than when we go before God's throne and acknowledge the presence and the ministry of His Spirit to us. Shall we pray? Father, we thank you for another day. We thank you for the mercies that you have renewed once again to us.

We are alive. We are still line items in the inventory of earthly progress and in the forward movement of your plan. We still have a place and a purpose and an opportunity to fulfill our calling.

We have gathered ourselves this morning to be nurtured and to receive the ministry of your Spirit as we study your word. We ask that it will be impressed upon us in a way that will recall it to mind in the days ahead as we make our decisions and set our priorities and assign values to different things that we encounter. We pray that we will not be distracted or deflected.

We pray that the fiery darts of the wicked one will not land, will not make their mark upon us, but that the full armor that you have given us will be effective and that we will wield it as we should. We pray for our President. We thank you for our country and the structure that continues to sustain it even as some of its values and fabric seem to deteriorate under the weight of moral decline.

We thank you that we have freedom. We thank you that we have good leadership. We thank you that there are those who do stand for morality and a biblical view of nationhood and of divine institutions.

We ask that you will continue to bless them and their efforts so that we may continue to have freedom and opportunity to live and grow in grace. We thank you again for your word and for the Lord Jesus Christ who inspires it and who fills its pages. We pray that our study this morning will glorify him.

We pray it in Jesus' name, amen. For our scripture reading this morning, turn with me once again to Psalm 78. We have two Psalms, Psalm 78 and Psalm 105, that are recountings or rehearsals or reviews perhaps of the episode we are studying in Exodus.

To a greater or lesser extent, some of the entire content of the book of Exodus is located here. Both of them are relatively long Psalms. I want to focus this morning on the section that deals with the plagues which we are studying.

The Psalm in the first 30 odd verses, Psalm 78, talks about this cycle of failure and discipline followed by repentance and restoration and renewal followed by apathy and indifference leading to failure which leads to discipline which leads to change of mind which leads to repentance and renewal and prosperity and blessing followed by apathy and indifference. They just keep going through this cycle and God says, how long, how long are you going to keep fading in the stretch? When the pressure is on, you realize you ought to be doing something different and you do but as soon as things ease up, why your momentum and your forward progress seems to slow. Well, let's resume here in verse 34.

When he slew them, then they saw him. This is actually members of the nation of Israel reaching the point of the sin unto death. They have become so corrupt and so engaged in abominations of various kinds that God has to start taking them out much as he did in the

wilderness with the serpents and with the ground opening up and so forth, military defeat.

Then they returned and sought earnestly for God. One of the major goals of our life ought to be to not follow this pattern, to not have to wait until we're at the point of serious bodily harm before we begin to pay attention to what God says. There are some children, you see them in public school, you see them in families that it just seems like it takes a concussion to get them to pay attention.

You just have to hit them in the head so hard that you're in fear of killing them to get them to wake up. We don't want to be that way spiritually. We don't want to be hard of hearing or hard of heart.

It's so much more rewarding to receive instruction and to follow him. But after great grievous bodily harm, they returned and sought earnestly for God. Then they remembered that God was their rock and the most high God, their Redeemer.

He never stopped being their rock and never stopped being their Redeemer. What was the problem? They didn't remember it. It was not a factor in their daily thinking.

This is the thing that afflicts us, isn't it? It is hard to remember. I've done all of this stuff, been to seminary and studied the Word of God and so on, but I still, and I say still, always, I think all of us get caught up in our day and caught up in the details of our lives. It is embarrassing to pull up at some late point in the day and say, you know, I haven't really thought about my spiritual identity at all today.

We don't have to be thinking verses and praying and watching for angels and stuff all day long. But we do need to have an awareness that our thought life is being monitored, that our decisions and actions are being weighed into balance and are being recorded and will come up at the judgment and that we are missing opportunities if we don't remember who we are and why we are here. We have opportunities to glorify God.

We have opportunities to put into practice what He has taught us. To do that, we have to remember that God is our rock. What does it mean for something to be our rock? It's our foundation, isn't it? It's the immovable object that marks the landscape.

A rock is a landmark. A rock is a foundation. A rock is something that does not change.

God is our rock, the Most High God, our Redeemer. Nevertheless, they flattered Him with their mouth and they lied to Him with their tongue, for their heart was not steadfast with Him. You will notice that the sins of the tongue that come out here and this false worship.

He says in another place, this people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. They flattered Him with their mouth and they lied to Him with their tongue, because their heart was not steadfast. There's another good verse, Ezekiel 33, verse 31, it says, They come to you as people come and sit before you as My people and hear your words, but they do not do them,

for they do the lustful desires expressed by their mouth, and their heart goes after their gain.

Their heart was not steadfast. It's a heart problem before it's a tongue problem. And they were not faithful in His covenant, but He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity and did not destroy them.

Yes, many a time He turned His anger away and did not stir up all His wrath, for He remembered that they were but flesh, a breath that passes away and does not come again. And it puts us in mind of David saying he remembers that we are dust. He knows that we're afflicted with the results of our corruption, and we are a stem of grass that grows up in the morning and then fades away.

Why are we going through this before we talk about the plagues? Well that's what happens in this psalm. He's going to work his way down in verse 43, 44 and following to talking about the plagues. But these are people who had already seen those at first hand, who lived through them.

You would think, well, if God ever worked a miracle in my presence, an actual physical manifestation of divine power, that would last me the rest of my life. I would never even think about being distracted or forget who I was, because if I saw a mighty work, if I went to Grandma's funeral and God raised her from the dead right there out of the coffin, or if stones turned to bread, or if great mighty works of miraculous power were done in my hearing and in my sight, why, I would be good to go for life. The thing that's hard about my faith is I just haven't seen anything.

All I see is the normal laws of physics, and I've never seen anything supernatural by way of physical miracles. So I have to take all of this on faith, and that's why it's so hard for me to remember that I'm a Christian and ought to be living as I should. Well, this is a fallacious line of thinking, because people that did see physical miracles on a grand scale, people who saw the dead raised, people who saw God do all of these things, did not.

Let's continue our worship this morning by taking a moment at this point to clear our minds and prepare our hearts and seek the ministry of God's Spirit, so that we can look at the truth of God's Word in a way that is beneficial. The thing that always cautions me is having gone to seminary as a place where it is possible to be exposed to a lot of biblical truth and yet not have it sink in. It's like water that hits a waterproof surface and just runs off.

There's a lot of it around, and it's visible and in evidence, but it's not really soaking in. I think that that is a challenge for academic students of the Word of God. It was a challenge for me in going through my courses and writing my papers to make sure that the Word of God was speaking to my soul and not just to my brain.

The only way we can ensure that we are susceptible to the power of God's Word and its transforming influence is to make sure that it is firmly in the hands of the Holy Spirit. He is the

only one that can use God's Word to change us, to enable us and empower us and to give us a clear view of what we're doing and where we are. We've talked recently in both of our studies, our Old Testament and New Testament studies and our fundamental study about the idea of this life being sort of total immersion training for us to get ready for the kingdom and for eternity.

If we do not remind ourselves of the reality that surrounds this life, the reality that goes on beyond this life, we will get caught up in the details of this life and we'll miss what God has for us. There is no more important time that we spend than when we go before God's throne and acknowledge the presence and the ministry of His Spirit to us. Shall we pray? Father, we thank you for another day.

We thank you for the mercies that you have renewed once again to us. We are alive. We are still line items in the inventory of earthly progress and in the forward movement of your plan.

We still have a place and a purpose and an opportunity to fulfill our calling. We have gathered ourselves this morning to be nurtured and to receive the ministry of your Spirit as we study your Word. We ask that it will be impressed upon us in a way that we'll recall it to mind in the days ahead as we make our decisions and set our priorities and assign values to different things that we encounter.

We pray that we will not be distracted or deflected. We pray that the fiery darts of the wicked one will not land, will not make their mark upon us, but that the full armor that you have given us will be effective and that we will wield it as we should. We pray for our President.

We thank you for our country and the structure that continues to sustain it even as some of its values and fabric seem to deteriorate under the weight of moral decline. We thank you that we have freedom. We thank you that we have good leadership.

We thank you that there are those who do stand for morality and a biblical view of nationhood and of divine institutions. We ask that you'll continue to bless them and their efforts so that we may continue to have freedom and opportunity to live and grow in grace. We thank you again for your Word and for the Lord Jesus Christ who inspires it and who fills its pages.

We pray that our study this morning will glorify Him. We pray it in Jesus' name, Amen. This is located here.

Both of them are relatively long Psalms. I want to focus this morning on the section that deals with the plagues which we're studying. The Psalm in the first 30-odd verses, Psalm 78, talks about this cycle of failure and discipline followed by repentance and restoration and renewal followed by apathy and indifference leading to failure which leads to discipline which leads to change of mind which leads to repentance and renewal and prosperity and blessing followed by apathy and indifference.

They just keep going through this cycle and God says, how long are you going to keep fading in

the stretch? When the pressure is on you realize you ought to be doing something different and you do but as soon as things ease up, why your momentum and your forward progress seems to slow. Well let's resume here in verse 34, when He slew them then they saw Him. This is actually members of the nation of Israel reaching the point of the sin unto death.

They have become so corrupt and so engaged in abominations of various kinds that God has to start taking them out. Much as He did in the wilderness with the serpents and with the ground opening up and so forth. Military defeat.

Then they returned and sought earnestly for God. One of the major goals of our life ought to be to not follow this pattern, to not have to wait until we're at the point of serious bodily harm before we begin to pay attention to what God says. There are some children, you see them in public school, you see them in families that it just seems like it takes a concussion to get them to pay attention.

You just have to hit them in the head so hard that you're in fear of killing them to get them to wake up. We don't want to be that way spiritually, we don't want to be hard of hearing or hard of heart. It's so much more rewarding to receive instruction and to follow it.

But after great, grievous bodily harm, they returned and sought earnestly for God. Then they remembered that God was their rock and the most high God, their Redeemer. He never stopped being their rock and never stopped being their Redeemer.

What was the problem? They didn't remember it. It was not a factor in their daily thinking. This is the thing that afflicts us, isn't it? It is hard to remember.

I've done all of this stuff, been to seminary and studied the Word of God and so on, but I still, and I say still, always, I think all of us get caught up in our day and caught up in the details of our lives. It is embarrassing to pull up at some late point in the day and say, you know, I haven't really thought about my spiritual identity at all today. We don't have to be thinking verses and praying and watching for angels and stuff all day long.

But we do need to have an awareness that our thought life is being monitored, that our decisions and actions are being weighed in the balance and are being recorded and will come up at the judgment and that we're missing opportunities if we don't remember who we are and why we're here. We have opportunities to glorify God. We have opportunities to put into practice what He has taught us.

To do that, we have to remember that God is our rock. What does it mean for something to be our rock? It's our foundation, isn't it? It's the immovable object that marks the landscape. A rock is a landmark.

A rock is a foundation. A rock is something that does not change. God is our rock, the Most High God, our Redeemer.

Nevertheless, they flattered Him with their mouth and they lied to Him with their tongue, for their heart was not steadfast with Him. You will notice that the sins of the tongue that come out here and this false worship, He says in another place, these people honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. They flattered Him with their mouth and they lied to Him with their tongue, because their heart was not steadfast.

There's another good verse, Ezekiel 33, 31, says they come to you as people come and sit before you as My people and hear your words, but they do not do them, for they do the lustful desires expressed by their mouth, and their heart goes after their gain. Their heart was not steadfast. It's a heart problem before it's a tongue problem.

They were not faithful in His covenant, but He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity and did not destroy them. Yes, many a time He turned His anger away and did not stir up all His wrath, for He remembered that they were but flesh, a breath that passes away and does not come again. It puts us in mind of David saying he remembers that we are dust, he knows that we're afflicted with the results of our corruption, and we are a stem of grass that grows up in the morning and then fades away.

Why are we going through this before we talk about the plagues? Well, that's what happens in this psalm. He's going to work his way down in verse 43, 44 and following to talking about the plagues, but these are people who had already seen those at first hand, who lived through them.