

Psalms 18-06-07

This is Thursday, it is the 7th of June 2018 and I Very Cleverly arranged it to where on the 7th. We are studying the 7th Psalm. We're in Psalm chapter 7 we did the 6th Psalm last week and Causing our bed to swim and so forth But a little bit more of a militant note in tonight's psalm It has been said that while Psalm 6 is something of a plaintive flute call to God for assistance Psalm 7 is more of a trumpet blare David is pretty motivated and Fairly excited about this particular Problem that he is facing and enemy that he is facing so we're going to delve into this tonight and take a look at the Meaning and application that it has for us let's take a moment as is our custom to ask God's blessing on our study and on our time of Meditation and reflection on his word and then we'll begin father how thankful we are for the Preservation of your word down through centuries and millennia and It speaks as powerfully to us today as it did in its earliest times and its earliest forms we thank you that these thoughts are from you and are enabled and empowered by your Holy Spirit and that they enable and empower us and give us strength and vision and guidance direction and purpose and And Provide us with the strength that we need to live the life to which we have been called.

We know that in our flesh we are weak and Unable but by your grace, we are strong and able we thank you for that truth. We thank you for the understanding From your word that undergirds it and helps us know how to access that strength and how to live the life to which we've been called and we pray that as we Study this portion of your word tonight that your Holy Spirit will be our teacher and help us to Grasp its meaning and see its significance in our individual hearts and lives. We pray it in Jesus name.

Amen Well, there are times when we're not real sure what the situation is that may have prompted One or another of the Psalms. We don't know if it comes from David or another psalmist. We don't know what the situation might have been this song Even though it's a bit cryptic in the inscription by the time we finish tonight You will be convinced as I am that you know exactly when and where and how David wrote this song it is so powerfully connected with a certain portion of The narrative of David's life that has come down to us in the book of Samuel You know in Hebrew just one book.

There's one book of Samuel one book of Kings one book of Chronicles But because we're short attention span we have to divide them all into two. So where they've got three we've got six but in the book of Samuel we have a Very graphic description of the situation that prompted this psalm and it is going to greatly help us understand its Significance and why it says what it says and how it says it So let's begin by reading the psalm you would think well now this is kind of a long psalm. It's got 17 verses plus a superscription and the superscription in Hebrew is verse one So after I got finished with my notes tonight I had to go back and renumber them all you can see my scribbling there because in Hebrew There's 18 verses and I realized that you're not going to be looking at a Hebrew text and when I give you a verse number It's going to be all confusing So I've I went back and went over them with a different color pen to be sure I say the

right one So in Hebrew, there's 18 verses in English 17 and the superscription So let's read this you think it's long, but we're going to finish it tonight and you're going to be happy we did Here's how it goes psalm 7 in your New King James it has a an additional superscription prayer and praise for deliverance from enemies and That's a fair description.

I wouldn't necessarily argue with that Then in my Bible it goes on to say David prays against the malice of his enemies professing his innocence By faith he sees his defense and ridicules their vain enterprises So that's pretty much all we need we don't even have to go to the psalm now. We've pretty well got the whole story but when you get to the actual text, it's in small type here and it says a Meditation of David which he's saying to the Lord concerning the words of Cush the Benjamite Cush Benjamini Now I've heard of Cush and I've heard of Benjamin, but I haven't heard of Cush the Benjamite So I don't yet know who that is But after that Introduction here is what David says. Oh Lord my God in you I put my trust Save me from all those who persecute me and deliver me Lest they tear me like a lion rending me in pieces while there is none to deliver.

Oh Lord my God if I have done this if there is iniquity in my hands if I have repaid evil to him who was at Peace with me or have plundered my enemy without cause let the enemy pursue me and overtake me Yes, let him trample my life to the earth and lay my honor in the dust Sila Oh Musical interlude while we think about that first stanza Verse six arise Oh Lord in your anger lift yourself up because of the rage of my enemies Rise up for me to the judgment you have commanded So the congregation of the peoples shall surround you for their sakes therefore return on high The Lord shall judge the people's judge me Oh Lord according to my righteousness and according to my integrity within me Oh Let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end But establish the just for the righteous God tests the hearts and minds My defense is of God who saves the upright in heart God is a just judge and God is angry with the wicked every day if he does not turn back He will sharpen his sword. He bends his bow and makes it ready. He also prepares for himself instruments of death He makes his arrows into fiery shafts Behold the wicked brings forth iniquity.

Yes, he conceives trouble and brings forth falsehood He made a pit dug it out and has fallen into the ditch Which he made his trouble shall return upon his own head and his violent dealing shall come down on his own crown. I Will praise the Lord according to his righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High well, that's quite a bit to cover, but we're going to find that it is Easier to digest and to manage and to understand and apply than it might at first appear so first of all, let me say that There has been wild speculate wide speculation About who is Cush the Benjamite and They thought well he could be some unknown Man in the tribe of Benjamin. He could be doe egg the Edomite.

He could be any one of a number of different people But here's what I am virtually certain of As you know people are fond of wordplay in Hebrew the Lord is fond of wordplay David loves to do wordplay and You know how it is sometimes when you have a nemesis or somebody that you're having a hard time with and you develop a Nickname for them or a way of referring to

them among your friends that reflects some aspect of their character or their demeanor or the way they've been acting or or whatever and it's shouldn't ever be done in an unkind way, but sometimes there is a shorthand that that people use Well, this psalm comes from a period in David's life where he is not the king Saul is the king Now, what do you know about Saul? What what what are his antecedents? How is he introduced back in? The middle teen chapters of 1st Samuel Saul is looking for donkeys that belong to his father and what's his father's name? quiche not qui ch It's Actually qysh in Hebrew or qish It starts with a kof as a yod and then a sheen. So it's quiche we Usually transliterate Because we like the you after a queue and so on and we don't want to call him quiche So we use a K and so it's kish when you transliterate. It's all son of quiche well People are often characterized by being the son of something that such as a son of Belial or You're of your father the devil He was a liar from the beginning and so on.

Well as David is hiding out in the wilderness having been driven from the royal palace and the royal environs by his father-in-law and his best friend's father he Is on the run and is in fear for his life And we're going to see we're going to be looking at two chapters in 1st Samuel tonight to confirm this 1st Samuel chapter 22 and 1st Samuel chapter 24 But I would suggest to you that there is a very short distance and it's a fun wordplay in Hebrew to go from quiche Which oddly enough means darkness? so if the king is evil and is hounding you and trying to take your life and you think he's a son of darkness then Instead of being the son of quiche. He's the son of Cush And he is the Benjamin II's the Benjamite So this to me is a clear reference to King Saul at the same time It is obscure enough. You remember how respectful David was when Saul and his sons were slain on the slopes of Mount Gilboa and While David is going to talk about his enemy and the one who is seeking his life.

He's going to do it obliquely He's not just going to say Well, this is when that mean evil King Saul so he masks it You have to you have to know the story and you have to be sort of On the inside in the inner circle to know who he's actually talking about. So this is is a form of being respectful and Indirect in what could be construed as a criticism and we're going to see that this is David's consistent attitude now that's Observation one we are talking about David fleeing from the persecution of King Saul Saul son of quiche. He is Cush the Benjamite Secondly this is a Shig I own it's a Shig I own as you can see in your New King James they translate this meditation.

It has been suggested that it might mean owed But the Hebrew word from which this comes means something that is stirred up or agitated or emotionally wrought or fraught or overwrought it has the idea of instability and Whatever this is it is probably another musical term. It could be a Particular tune it could be an instrument that has more of a of a jangling nature If you want to amuse yourself Musically for a while study temperaments and the Philosophy behind tuning instruments say in the 17th century or the 18th century Why Bach chose to write? the well-tempered clavier Which is itself a play on words because the well temperament is a particular way of tuning a pianoforte or a Stringed instrument keyboard instrument in Bach's day and He composed a piece in every different key C C sharp D D sharp E F all the way up the scale and Because the well temperament Makes some keys sound very

melodious. I'll just give you a 30-second description of what a temperament is. The frequencies that make up an octave do not divide Equally by 12, which is the number of notes. You have 11 notes, and then you repeat in an octave you've got. You know you've got basically seven white keys and five black keys in an octave and that's your 12 notes. And then you're you're back on an octave.

Well, the difficulty is that if you evenly split that which is what we do today with a 440 and an even temperament. Then anytime you play a fourth or a fifth for you people that have a little piano. That would be a C and an F or C and a G. They're going to beat there they're not going to ring true and be perfectly harmonious. There's going to be a beat in there because the frequencies don't add up properly in an octave. What they did in Bach's day for a temperament is that because they didn't have computers. They didn't know the frequencies and couldn't measure megahertz. They tuned by ear and so they would pick a key like a and they would tune that key. So that the fourth and the fifth did not beat. Well, that's great when you're playing in the key of a but if you shift to a different key. And now you're playing other notes that are fourths and fifths. They're going to beat like train wrecks. They're going to sound like the thing is just horribly out of tune. This is the reason that composers from the 16th and 17th and even 18th centuries. Typically favored certain keys. Beethoven liked a in a minor. Because that's the way his piano sounded best and he remembered it even after he was deaf. Long story short. In the ancient world as in the early modern world. There were some keys that sounded very euphonious and harmonious and if you listen to a piece and you can go on YouTube and find these find a piece that's played in the standard tuning of today the typical temperament that guys like me will put on a piano and then that same instrument or that same orchestra will play with all of the instruments tuned to the well temperament or one of the other temperaments that is more suited to that particular key and if you've got any kind of a sensitive ear, you will hear the difference. The notes just sound so pure and so colorful if there are colors and their composers used to talk about how different keys with different colors some of them would be green or blue meaning that they were harmonious and others would be red and orange and very harsh. Shig I own my long way around the Shig I own here was something jangling something dissonant. Something that that had a sharp note to it and created urgency. Excitement and even instability and it seems to have reflected David's impression of Saul's mind. Saul was manic.

He was manic depressive. He was Irrational as we'll see and so this particular psalm is not set in an ironic beautiful string accompanied setting like we saw in psalm 6 and some of the earlier psalms. This one is a little bit discordant. That's what Shig I own is the only other place you find a related word is in Habakkuk. I think it's 3:2 maybe where where Habakkuk writes on Shiggy enough, which is multiple ones of these and read that chapter in Habakkuk and it's got the same urgency and dissonance and Clanging this to it.

So that's our second observation. What's the first observation? We know this is David fleeing from Saul son of Kish secondly, we know that this is set to music and is and even the the type of poetry that it is is the the beats don't meet evenly in Hebrew these lines are of unequal length

the the Emphasis isn't on the right syllables for poetry. It jangles especially at the beginning thirdly This psalm it's long but it breaks nicely into four parts so what we're going to do is look at the first part which is verses 1 through 5 and Then as we go through the rest of the psalm, we're going to see that verses 6 through 9 Match 1 through 5 they they correspond 1 for 1 so verse 6 is Is a companion to verse 1 verse 7 is a companion to verse 2 verse 8 is a companion to 3 9 Is a companion to 5 actually there we'll get into that then when we get to the third part of the psalm It's going to also go back and follow that same pattern and then just when you think it's going to really Cinch the end of the third pattern it's going to break.

You remember in the book of Job we had the pattern of dialogues and there's there's Job speaks and then the three friends and there's a pattern and then Job speaks and then the three friends and there's a pattern and Then Job speaks and just when you think they're going to finish that pattern it breaks and there's there's something new David does the very same thing in this song and just when you think you've got the fat pattern figured out he changes it and That's where the emphasis is in a chiasm the emphasis is in the middle here when you establish a pattern and you've got everybody It's like when you have everybody clapping along in a song and then you suddenly stop and they keep clapping and it's oh no You're supposed to stop that this this is a new thing. That's what he does so In verse 1 he says O Lord my God in you I put my trust Save me from all those who persecute me and deliver me Verse 2 lest they tear me like a lion rending me in pieces while there is none to deliver there is a mismatch in those two verses It's a number mismatch. Do you see it? Who is David asking God to save him from is it an individual? All those who persecute me this this is a group right? This is this is a band.

It's a horde. It's a bunch He says lest they plural tear me like a lion Why Why wouldn't they tear him like lions like a pride of lions if you've seen the Nature videos where lions go after the slowest gazelle and they all get in the act, right? Why does David? Talk about plural enemies, but then characterize them as a single lion What is the universal symbol for monarchy throughout history a Lion right? These are the forces of the king He is the head. He is he is the lion and these are all of his troops now We find a very graphic description of this situation back in first Samuel to which turn first Samuel chapter 22 First Samuel chapter 22 So you remember when when Saul is slain his thousands David is ten thousand Saul gets angry David flees his wife puts a statue in the bed He leaves he goes to knob in chapter 21 They give him some of the bread Jesus is going to refer back to that in the New Testament then in verse 10 of chapter 21, he flees to gath and They quote that song again Saul is slain his thousands David is ten thousands So David is afraid of a kish king of gath so he changed his behavior he drools He lets a spit run down his beard and it's you know, kind of an embarrassing thing This isn't the picture David wants next to his press release You know how they do with if you don't like the president you find the most distorted picture of his face you can and that's The one you put on you know the news But then in chapter 22 David departed for there and escaped to the cave of a dullum His brothers in his father's house heard it they went down there to him Everyone who was in distress everyone who was in debt everyone who was discontented gathered to him So he became captain over them and there were about 400 men with him now look at verse 3 of

chapter 22 Then David went from there to Mizpah of Moab and he said to the king of Moab Please let my father and mother come here with you until I know what God will do for me So he brought them before the king of Moab and they dwelt with him all the time that David was in the stronghold the cave of a dullum Why? What what book did we recently study? About a gal Who got married got widowed and came to Israel? married Boaz and Became David's great-grandmother Ruth is Jesse's grandmother, right Boaz Salmon, I'm sorry Boaz Obed Jesse Salmon was Boaz's father.

So it's Boaz Obed Jesse Jesse's grandmother is a Moabite. So when Jesse needs a place to hide Legitimately this time they go to Moab So When Saul heard the David and his men had been discovered Saul was in Gibeah near Ramah Saul says here now you Benjamites verse 7 Will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards and make you all captains of thousands and captains of hundreds? All of you have conspired against me and there's no one who reveals to me that my son has made a covenant with the son of Jesse there's not one of you who is sorry for me or reveals to me that my son has stirred up my servant against me To lie in wait as it is this day So Saul is Manic at this point Everybody's out to get him. Everybody is his enemy.

Everybody is in a conspiracy, right? this is why this is a Shigeon this is why we have this jangling meter in the psalm. It's reflecting the nature of the enemy. He's just rabid So then you have the introduction of Doeg the Edomite and In the remainder of that you have them going to knob Interrogating the priests and ultimately killing them all none of the men of Saul will kill the priest but Doeg the Edomite does and then he goes on to attack the city and He struck with the edge of the sword men women and children nursing infants oxen and donkeys and sheep and Only a BFR escapes Then skip over to chapter 24 Now it happened when Saul had returned from following the Philistines That it was told him saying take note.

David is in the wilderness of En Gedi Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and went to seek David and his men on the rocks of the wild goats So he came to the sheepfolds by the road where there was a cave Saul went in to attend to his needs This is nicer than the King James a little bit more more Intelligible than to cover his feet or uncover his feet David and his men were staying in the recesses of the cave and so Saul decides to use David's hiding place for a bathroom and he that's where he goes. He goes in there and you know this story The men are all encouraging David this is your chance the Lord has delivered him into your hand and David says the Lord in verse 6 the Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my master the Lord's Anointed to stretch out my hand against him seeing he is the anointed of the Lord when David looks at Saul he doesn't see the grievances he doesn't see the Opportunities for revenge or payback or a convenient way to solve all of his problems with one stroke when he looks at Saul He sees the Lord's anointed Now, why would this be? Significant to David that Saul is the Lord's anointed What does that mean how did he get that title what happened to Saul that he is now called the Lord's anointed you remember Samuel went to him Samuel found him. He was out chasing his father's lost donkeys, right and The people said give us a king Saul was head and shoulders above everybody else and Samuel saw him and said there's there's a good-looking strapping tall man He's the kind of leader that people are looking for Samuel pours the horn of

anointing oil on to Saul and He becomes the king, right? Had that ever happened before in Israel Had it ever happened afterward in Israel Careful now pop quiz trick question had it ever happened after Saul Yes Same guy with the same horn and the same oil has anointed who else David You want there to be a tradition of respect for the Lord's anointed when you are the Lord's anointed You're the next one coming up and so not all but part of David's motivation is recognizing that this is a divinely Given office and the office should be respected regardless of the individual who holds it Good bad ugly evil the office has Divinely ordained authority.

This is why I don't care who the president is. You should prefix his name with Mr. Bush, mr. Obama, mr. Trump the office carries The need for respect because if you're going to tear down the office because you don't like who's occupying it you tear down the institution itself and we've lost that sensitivity in this nation and It's a sad thing So David in verse 7 here of 1st Samuel 24 Restrained his servants with these words and did not allow them to rise against Saul Saul got up from the cave and went his way David also rose afterward and called out to Saul saying my lord the king Notice my lord the king my authority Saul looked behind him David stooped with his face to the earth and bowed down David said to Saul why do you listen to the words of men who say indeed David seeks your harm? Look this day your eyes have seen that the Lord delivered you today Into my hand in the cave and someone urged me to kill you But my eyes spared you and I said I will not stretch out my hand against my lord Because he is the Lord's anointed This goes for all divinely Constituted and approved authority this means that women shouldn't tell tales on their husband employees shouldn't tell tales on their boss Except with Care and respect there's a time to speak up if things are happening that should not happen if there is abuse if there is crime if there Is something that is a breach of authority, but you look at how badly Saul treated David and David does not React he does not justify his own Evil or his own sin or his own crime in Regicide he doesn't assassinate the king of Israel just because the king of Israel is a rascal who is trying to assassinate him The it is so easy for sin and especially for evil to Cluster and to beget more of itself. It's malignant it multiplies it spreads so In verse 11 he says moreover my father see I've got the corner of your robe in my hand I cut it off and did not kill you no one see there is neither evil nor rebellion in my hand And I have not sinned against you now What is the context for something being a sin? Let me put it this way.

What's the context for something being a crime? How do we how do we define crime? Crime is something that breaks the laws of the land the laws of the community, right? How do we define sin whose law gets broken? It's God's law right that we wouldn't even have a word sin if it weren't for God sin is violating God's law and David is careful to say That I have not sinned against you David and looking at Saul doesn't forget about God People are rationalizing saying God delivered him into your hand well But God would not deliver him so that I could commit a sin And it would be a sin to murder the man just because I have the opportunity as Look at verse 13 well verse 12 let the Lord's judge between you and me and let the Lord avenge me on you But my hand shall not be against you if there's any venging to be done Let the Lord do it David says my hand is not going to be in it as the proverb of the ancients says wickedness

proceeds from the wicked But my hand shall not be against you Verse 15 therefore let the Lord be judge and judge between you and me and see and plead my case and deliver me out of your hand Let the Lord judge and let him deliver me out of your hand Now turn back to Psalm 7. Oh Deliver me from all those who persecute me and deliver me lest they tear me like a lion Tearing me in pieces with none to deliver. Oh Lord my God if I have done this if there is iniquity in my hands If I have repaid evil to him who was at peace with me or have plundered my enemy without a cause Then let the enemy pursue me and overtake me let him trample my life to the earth and lay my honor in the dust Selah Comports very well with what we just saw in 1st Samuel 24, doesn't it? This is basically the same thing that David is going to say to Saul himself Now you remember in verse 1 we're gonna start doing our parallels here we're breaking our psalm into four parts This is part 2 now beginning at verse 6 David is first of all talking to God and in these first five verses. Who is he primarily talking about? David is talking to God about whom? What are the most personal pronouns their first second or third person Oh Lord my God in you I put my trust save me from those who persecute me and deliver me lest they tear me like a Lion rending me in pieces with none to deliver This first section is David bringing himself in his case before the Lord.

Oh Lord my God if I have done this if there's iniquity in me This is first of all and this is a great principle when we come before God To to bring before him a problem an issue a threat and this is a real Clear and present danger to David's life. They are trying to kill him Saul has put a bounty on his head But when David comes before the Lord, he doesn't say Oh Lord. Can you see this rascal King? That's after me and look at what he's done.

Look at what he did to the priesthood knob Look at what he's he's harboring this doing the Edomite and look at Saul Saul Saul Saul Saul. What does David say? Lord my deliverance is in you Look at me Judge me if I if there is iniquity in me Then let this all just come to pass if there is iniquity if I have plundered Without a cause then I've got no case If I cannot come before you purged and cleansed and innocent of wrongdoing then I've got no case. Let him come But this is David's presentation of his Being able to stand before God on the premise that he is not guilty So to pray for deliverance in a time of great Crisis, it's handy to not be guilty You've got a powerful case you can bring like David does to God first and then to Saul Look, I am innocent if he starts picking off Saul's men if he picks off Saul himself and Jonathan comes to the throne or some other Saulide Descendant, how is he going to justify himself? Are they going to be friends as David gonna be able to go and say? Well, hello Jonathan.

I kind of regret that I had to kill your dad But you know, he was really after me that there's no there's no good outcome for that David knows this but The thing that guides David first and foremost is he comes before God and he wants to be purged and cleansed remember Psalm 51 Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean wash me and I shall be whiter than snow Examine me search me and know my heart try me and see if there be any wicked way in me show me my hidden faults David does this on a regular basis. Remember the Adullam days are when David is spiritually the strongest He has a few weak moments the spit on the beard thing and gath isn't one of his You know, I don't think you would put that on his resume if he was applying to be

king, but he is really strong he's going to meet the Abigail the wife of Nabal and he's going to spare Nabal's life and God's going to deal with the ball He's he writes a lot of his great psalms during this period so part of being able to pray this prayer and claim these kinds of promises is Being qualified and we sometimes forget that you can't just unconditionally go to God and say well I know I'm a rascal, but I saved me saved me now It is the obedient To whom God will listen Remember your iniquities have separated between you and your God and your sins have hid his face from you so that he will not hear The Lord's Arm is not shortened that it cannot save his ear is not heavy that he cannot hear it's You know if there's a separation, it's you that moved So David is ready for this and he says if there is any iniquity if I've repaid evil or a plundered let the enemy pursue me and take me let him trample my life to the earth and life here is nefesh my soul and Lay my honor in the dust Selah David says I'm I'm ready to take a break here and stand on that why? Because he knows he can lay claim to God's gracious provision and deliverance because he is innocent He has maintained his integrity. He has been obedient and he's claimed God's cleansing grace when he did foul up So now six through nine is going to parallel this in it, but but it's going to add to it This is what you might call In a way these are synthetic dis stitches, but they're not sequential.

They're not next to each other So six is going to parallel and add to verse one arise Oh Lord in your anger lift yourself up because of the rage of my enemies rise up for me to the judgment you have ordained The judgment you have ordained and That parallels verse one because David says he is going to take shelter He's trusting God for shelter shelter me from those who persecute me and deliver me and He says when you when you take shelter you typically get under something You know they say a tornado is coming take cover you want to be covered with something and so He says arise Lord lift yourself up because the rage of my enemies rise up For me To the judgment you have commanded to that you have ordained Then he says in verse 7 the nations and the peoples have gathered they are Surrounding God for their sake return on high There these hordes that you saw in in Verse 2 that we're going to surround David and tear him like a lion So you get the idea that that David is surrounded by these hordes and like a lion like the lion who is leading them They are going to tear him in pieces David says Lord you rise up the nations will surround you and instead of them tearing you you're going to judge them so If you notice in this section here What is the dominant pronoun? Arise, oh Lord in your anger lift yourself up because the rage of my enemies you rise up for me to the judgment You have ordained the congregation the the crowds of people the throngs will surround you So you return on high So This second section David first of all brings himself before God and makes his case. I Am innocent if I'm not let the axe fall Then he says Lord you are the one who can and will deal with these hordes these nations these peoples judge them and Grant me justice a good verse 8 the Lord will judge them judge me Lord according to my righteousness and according to my integrity within me God is going to rise up and judge everyone and David Claims his righteousness and his integrity now. This is a man who has made and is going to make a lot of mistakes How can he claim to be righteous and have integrity? How can he do that? Well He had the Old Testament version of first John 1 9 He went before God.

He prayed Psalm 51 and other Psalms of confession and penitence and request for forgiveness Purge me. I will be clean if you wash me I'll be whiter than snow and David says I haven't been perfect, but I am washed I am cleansed you and I do the same you cannot Hesitate to go to the Lord and say well, he's not gonna heed my prayer Well, this is old chickens coming home to roost because I I'm gonna have a lot of chicken analogies from now on you better Just get used to it now that I'm a chicken farmer But this is my old sins coming home to roost something, you know God never did really forgive me for that peccadillo in the past that bad thing. I did that mistake I made that that failure on my part and now it's I'm gonna pay the piper for that No It is a sinful conclusion to draw that when you acknowledge your sins and confess them before God that he did not adequately forgiven cleanse We are the ones who are imperfect not God God's cleansing is perfect His forgiveness is perfect his forgetting and separating our sins as far as the East is from the West is perfect The only way your sins come back into the picture is if we drag them back in we dig them up like an old bone We make an issue out of them.

We start to worry we start to to regurgitate and relive old failures God is The God of Paul who says forgetting those things which are behind I press toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus I'm heading on the upward way I'm looking for those new heights to gain every day onward forward upward not backward downward and The depressing God knew we were going to sin and he still had us be born He knew we were gonna fail and he still saved us He knew that we weren't perfect and that we're made of remember David says in a place He remembers that we are dust. He knows our frame. We're made out of mud.

It's like 16 tons Right the old the old Travis Merle Travis song Some people say man's made out of blood mud poor man's made out of muscle blood, but That comes from David David says he knows our frame. He remembers that we're just dirt We're just a clump of dirt. He's God's expectations are not too high.

He knows we're going to fail Where his expectation is high is that where his grace is Available grace greater than all our sin where sin abounded grace did much more abound if you don't let God's Grace abound in cleansing and forgiveness. You can't pray these prayers God wants that gone and he wants us to trust him in the present and You don't have to hang your old sins around your neck like a dead chicken So arise o Lord in your anger lift yourself up because of the rage of my enemies you saw the rage of Saul where he's Saying do you think David's going to reward you and give you what I can give you you're all against me You're all conspiring. You're all refusing to slay the priests which they were wise to do The Lord will judge judge me o Lord according to my righteousness according to my integrity within me Where does your righteousness come from? If you're gonna go before God and his throne and plead righteousness, where are you going to get it? What righteousness are you going to claim the Lord Jesus Christ? Not by works of righteousness, which we have done all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags So if we're gonna go before God and say Lord judge me according to my righteousness and my integrity Whose righteousness and integrity are we claiming? If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation old things are passed away All things are become new not

most things not a few kind of good things.

All things are new It is the righteousness of Christ. We don't have a righteousness of our own. We have the imputed righteousness It comes by faith.

It comes by trust and we can go before God and say Lord I plead the blood of Christ that cleansed me from my sins and Makes me righteous in your sight I have integrity because I have claimed your grace in cleansing and forgiveness and I stand before you as a blood-washed sinner Ready to receive your deliverance in my time of need because the Lord Jesus bought it for me. It is not our merit and David in a sense is Standing in for the son of David David's greater son when he prays this prayer in some ways Just like in in some of the later Psalms when we get to the early 20s of the Psalms my God my God Why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me and David is writing that psalm, but these are the words of the Lord Jesus This is the righteousness in the integrity of Christ and we need to have confidence in it and claim it It's our birthright and our heritage and if you give it up you waste the work of the Lord Jesus Christ And it's silly to be self-conscious and subjective There's actually a form of arrogance that says my sins are so big and so bad and so powerful They can mess up the entire plan of God and they can diminish the grace of God and they can they can Weaken the power of the blood of Christ Nonsense your sins are not that great. I don't care what they are your sins cannot overpower the Lord Jesus So pray this prayer, but in order to pray it we've got to Be in a position to pray it and that means first John 1 9 That means walking in the light.

That means being someone who can say when I was tested I passed and When I didn't pass I Confessed it and I'm ready to do better this time According to my integrity within me let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end. This is verse 9 and By the way verse 8 there parallels 4 and 5 up above if I've repaid evil to him Who was at peace with me if I plundered my enemy without a cause? Let the consequences fall upon me But what does he say down in verse 8 judge me according to my righteousness and according to my integrity see how they match four and five are kind of a unit there and Let the wickedness first nine of the wicked come to an end but establish the just for the righteous God tests the hearts and minds My defense is of God who saves the upright in heart So David doesn't seriously think that he has repaid evil to those who were at peace or has plundered his enemy without a cause and So he is confident verse 11. God is a just judge God is angry with the wicked every day and When it says in verse 10 my defense is of God this is really the word for shield My shield is God and it it goes back 10 Parallels verse 6 which parallels verse 1 I put my trust in you save me from those who persecute me was verse 1 Lift yourself up and rise up for me was in verse 6 verse verse 10 My shield is God.

He will deliver the upright of heart upright of heart doesn't mean you have a spotless record, but your heart is Moving forward Now verse 11 is going to parallel verse 7 which paralleled verse 2 God is a just judge and God is angry with the wicked every day The wicked were angry and they want to tear David apart like a lion in verse 2 But those are going to surround God and God is going to judge them instead in verse 7 and That's reflected in verse 11. God is going to is

a just judge. He's going to judge everyone and these Crowds that were trying to surround David are now surrounding the Lord Because he has called them to the day of judgment and he is going to judge them in verse 12 If he the wicked does not turn back He God will sharpen his sword.

He bends his bow and makes it ready. He also prepares for himself tools of death Instruments is really the word tools. He makes his arrows into fiery shafts He makes these fiery arrows and that of course 12 and 13 there reflect verse 8 Lord will judge the people's he will judge David according to his righteousness who will judge us according to his righteousness those who are not in David's position of integrity and righteousness are going to Be under the tools of death and the arrows are going to fly from the bow Then in verse 14 Now we're starting yet another section.

So section 1 was verses 1 through 5. The next section was Verses 6 through 9. The third section was verses 10 through 13 Now in verse 14, we have the fourth section So first section David was talking about himself second section. David was talking about the enemy That is going to be judged by God it's First first section is David and God the second section is the enemies and God The third section is God all by himself. God is a shield.

God is angry with the wicked God sharpens his sword bends his bow prepares instruments or tools of death and makes these fiery arrows now in verse 14 The final section is going to focus on the enemies The wicked bring forth iniquity he conceives trouble and brings forth falsehood That's a great verse by the way never in the New Testament forget the reference But when lust has conceived to bring it forth sin you and I learned that together But when lust hath conceived it bring it forth sin and sin when it is finished When it's come to term brings forth death, so there's conception there's Gestation and then there's birth right lust conceives it it Brings forth sin, which which is the gestational period and sin when it comes to term Births death that's you have to look that one up. I don't remember that reference. Well same thing here the wicked Brings forth iniquity he births iniquity now David's going to He says he conceives trouble and brings forth falsehood but The way this actually is I saw it translated it might have been altar.

It's he spawns He spawns Iniquity, but it's it's conceives the wicked conceives iniquity He gestates trouble and he births lies falsehood so it's that same picture of Something that's almost unstoppable it starts with the conception if you internalize iniquity and it germinates these things almost inevitably follow the Trouble is going to swell and grow and it's ultimately going to come out as deception Lies, that's verse 14 Verse 15 and remember I said he's going to break the pattern because if you look at the previous ones verse 1 through 5 and verse 6 through 9 and then you go 10 through 13 and you would expect well, there's where's the parallel for verse 5 and and verse 9 We only got to verse 8 and verse 3 and 4 and in the third set talking about God There's no there's no parallel for verse 5 and verse 9 It doesn't it doesn't flow instead you have this excursus on the wicked that starts in verse 14 He made a pit so and as these figures David says, you know what he's like somebody that that Had a bad Period of promiscuity and has gotten pregnant with something awful and now it's going to be born And

it's his own fault Then the second figures in verse 15. He made a pit and dug it out Kind of like when Haman created the gallows and then he ended up he was going to try to hang Mordecai And he got hung on the gallows Well, this guy is digging a pit for David to fall into but then he trips and falls into his own pit He's fallen into the ditch which he made his trouble shall return upon his own head Remember what David shouts out to Saul with the piece of his robe in his hand and he says the Lord Judge between you and me. I my hand is not going to be involved.

Your trouble is going to return on your own head His violent dealing will come down on his own crown Then 17 is the is the coda it's the summation I will praise the Lord according to his righteousness and I will sing to the name of the Lord Most High David claims righteousness before the Lord, but what he praises and sings about at the end is That that righteousness came from God in the same way that that sin is defined as breaking God's law Righteousness is God's reward for faith Abraham believed God and it was credited to him for righteousness David believes God David trusts God David shields himself and Shelters himself in God's care and God grants him righteousness and David claims that righteousness when he comes before God Asking for deliverance looky there. We got through the whole psalm and I didn't run terribly late But it's it's wonderful Always be sure and put a note of 1st Samuel 22 and 24 out next to psalm 7 because that you can see it is Absolutely what he's talking about and it each one illuminates the other but it's a wonderful promise to us It's a wonderful opportunity We have to be qualified to pray that kind of prayer and sing that kind of song and celebrate that kind of righteousness that comes from God and is in Our lives and hopefully is a light that shines to others and draws them to the Lord as well Let's close here in a word of prayer father. Thank you for the truth of your word Thank you for how powerfully it speaks and how strongly it motivates and how greatly it encourages us in the hands of your Holy Spirit to live the life to which we've been called to Live in a way that others can see your son the Lord Jesus Christ in us and be drawn to him and through him to You we pray that as we reflect on these things.

It will make a difference in our lives that as we face our challenges whether they are people or The Circumstances that can be characterized as enemies that surround us That will be reminded of your grace and the opportunity to shelter ourselves under your wings. We pray these things in Jesus name. Amen