

Eleutheros Newsletter

March 2021

News of Interest

Eleutheros Books is happy to announce that [19th Century Influences on 21st Century Christianity](#) is now available. There were many factors at work in those days that still have impact today; it is important that God's people be aware of how today's Church got to where it is and where it is headed! Check this book out on the website: www.eleutherosbooks.com

God willing, Eleutheros Books will be working together with other ministries to make Bible courses available online. Soon there will be an offering of

Soteriology (salvation)
I and II Corinthians
Life of Christ

An Elementary New Testament Greek class is underway.

Thoughts from the Psalms

[Psalm 42](#)

In this great Psalm David admits his heartfelt need to be close to God.

1 As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God.

A "hart" is a small deer. Try to imagine that beautiful creature, having run quite a distance (it is panting and thirsty!), finally reaching a source of water that will supply its great need! God surely does that when we come to Him with our need (see [Psalm 119:131](#))! Jesus offered even more than water that would quench the physical thirst of the Samaritan woman at the well (see [John 4:13-14](#)).

2 My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I appear before God?

The need was to enjoy the presence of *the living God*. Israel was surrounded by tribes that worshipped man-made religions and idols made of rocks and metals. David, however, knew there is only ONE God, the eternal ONE Who had revealed Himself to Abraham over a thousand years previous and had blessed him so many times! Jesus, of course, explained to Thomas (in the presence of the other disciples) that He is the way, the truth, and the *life* ([John 14:6](#)).

3 My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God?

These first three verses describe David's anguish as *panting, thirsting, and all-day tears*. The emotions were sincere (*my soul*). Nothing other than close fellowship with God would suffice (*Where is thy God?*)!

4 *When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday.*

One way God provides the closeness to Him that we need is through sincere worship, especially with others of like precious faith (*with the multitude*). There is something very refreshing also to be in *the house of God* and to vocalize *the voice of joy and praise*! This particularly true of worship on the *holy day*.

5 *Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted in me? Hope thou in God: for I will yet praise Him for the help of His countenance.*

When believers begin to praise God the circumstances of this world do not appear so troublesome! A hymn writer expresses this sentiment quite well:

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace!*

Helen H. Lemmel

6 *O my God, my soul is cast down within me: therefore, will I remember Thee from the land of Jordan, and of the Hermonites, from the hill Mizar.*

It is the spirit which, as the stronger and more valiant part of the man, speaks to the natural man; the spiritual man soothes the natural man.

Remembering God's goodness is always a good thing!

7 *Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of Thy waterspouts: all Thy waves and Thy billows are gone over me.*

David recognizes that he is weak, but God is strong. The poet understands he is overwhelmed at times and therefore is compelled to trust in God's power to help him.

8 *Yet the Lord will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life.*

David also knew that nothing could separate him from God's love (see also Romans 8:35-39) and that he could have fellowship with Him in prayer at any time! This alleviates the distress that sometimes seems to dominate our lives!

9 I will say unto God my rock, Why has Thou forgotten me? Why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?

David reached the awareness that God would seem to forget him or not offer help when he had a need, but God is his rock, a place of safety and security. He is honest enough to express these feelings to God!

10 As with a sword in my bones, mine enemies reproach me; while they say daily unto me, Where is thy God?

David faced many enemies, having been a man of war. There were times when the enemies offered insults to him and his God, even questioning His presence in this world. David again expresses his grief and need to remain close to his God!

11 Why art thou cast down O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise Him, Who is the health of my countenance, and my God.

Having honestly expressed his needs, his fears, and his own inadequacy, David returns to the thoughts of verse 5.

It is important from time to time to repeat the very truth that we know in our minds. They need to be the conclusion to the issues we face every day!

David concluded on a good note because He returned to thoughts of praise for God and His provision in his life every day.

God is always God, and He does the same for us when we turn to Him!

We will look at another Psalm in next month's newsletter.