

If The Foundations Are Destroyed (Psalm 11)

- A. This Psalm is ascribed to the pen of David; it's content gives us insight into the situation

- B. David is surrounded by Saul & his troops, & David's friends & advisors are encouraging his retreat.

- C. But he rejected their advice & stated emphatically that his confidence was in the LORD.

- D. This is a poem of encouragement when surrendering to evil seems the only way.

[For us, it is a reminder that we must trust the Lord Jesus when it looks like the forces of evil will prevail to take the reins of our nation – as David, we will be tempted to just go along quietly with their evil agenda.]

I. DO NOT SURRENDER TO EVIL (11:1-3)

A. Saul Pursues David (1 Sam 21:1-9; 22:6-23 – read 20-23)

1. David's friends (advisors) were concerned for his physical safety.

2. They trusted David—while David trusted Jehovah.

3. And yet it appeared that he was doomed.
 - a. Though anointed by Samuel – young – handsome – slew a giant – played beautiful music – became a great warrior – people sang praises to his name.

 - b. David's success & widespread acceptance stirred jealousy in the heart of Saul.

Prov 27:3-4 – A stone is heavy & sand is weighty, but a fool's wrath is heavier than both of them. 4 ***Wrath is cruel & anger a torrent, but who is able to stand before jealousy?***

B. **David** Chides His Advisors, “How can you say...Flee as a bird to your mountain (when) the wicked bend their bow?”

1. They thought there was no escape this time.
2. They had more confidence in David (a man) than God.
 - a. When that happens, bad advice is always given.

C. **David's** Advisors Argue, “If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?”

1. “Saul is not playing by the rules anymore.”

2. “He no longer respects God & His Law of truth & justice.”
3. “He has been perverted by prestige, power & wealth.”
4. “So David, just get out of his way—he’s more powerful than God!”
5. David answered, “In the Lord I put my trust!”
(Vs. 1)

[Application:

When men do not respect the truth of God’s word,

When justice is perverted by money & position,

When deception & violence are commonplace,

When the majority is in the wrong,

When honesty & virtue are laughed at,

When a person’s character doesn’t seem to matter —

IF THOSE FOUNDATIONS OF A CIVILIZED SOCIETY ARE DESTROYED, WHAT CAN THE RIGHTEOUS DO?!?

THEY CAN PUT THEIR TRUST IN THE NEVER CHANGING CHARACTER OF THE LORD TO SUSTAIN THEM! AND, BY ALL MEANS, THE RIGHTEOUS MUST NOT ALTER THEIR CHARACTER (Rom 12:1-2).]

II. THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE (11:4-6)

A. David Reminds Advisors.

1. God's throne is above us; His eyes behold us; His eyelids test us.

a. And David's advisors were not testing out very well.

B. Habakkuk Faced A Similar Situation.

1. Psalm 11:4 is very similar to (Habakkuk 2:20).
2. He had questions for God (Hab 1:2-3, 12-13).
3. God answered the prophet's questions (2:1-4), & instructed him to "live by faith".
4. You see, just before Babylonian captivity, Judah became increasingly wicked.
 - a. Pride, drunkenness, greed, oppression, violence, lust, idolatry.
 - b. They began playing by the rules of the enemy.
 - c. They lost all trust & confidence in God (Hab 2:1-19).

5. Habakkuk answered the noise of their ungodly lifestyle, their complaints against God, & their lack of confidence in Him by saying,

Hab 2:14, 20 – For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea...20 The LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him."

6. Because of God's holiness & power, & His High vantage point, He will uphold & sustain the righteous.

2 Chr 16:7-10 – And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, & said to him: "Because you have relied on the king of Syria, & have not relied on the LORD your God, therefore the army of the king of Syria has escaped from your hand. 8 Were the Ethiopians (and the Lubim) not a huge army with very many chariots & horsemen? Yet, because you relied on the LORD, He delivered them into your hand. 9 ***For the eyes of the LORD run to & fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.*** In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars." 10 Then Asa was angry with the seer, & put him in prison, for he was enraged at him because of this. And Asa oppressed some of the people at that time.

[The Lord is in His Holy Temple—He is among His people @ all times.

DO NOT SURRENDER TO EVIL.

Though the hand of God, as Creator, has been idle since the 6th day of creation, His scepter of authority, truth & justice have been active ever since.]

III. THE LORD IS RIGHTEOUS (11:7)

A. David Concludes His Defense.

1. His confidence in the LORD is based on His character of always being righteous.
2. David stated confidently that God loves those who are righteous.
3. It is as if David is saying, "So where do you want to stand my friends?"

a. “Do you want to turn & run, or do you want to stand for principle—and stand with the Lord?”

4. “His countenance beholds the upright.” –
“Upright men will see his face.” (NIV)

[The lesson for us:

Those who refuse to succumb to the pressures of an evil society, which has cast aside truth, justice & righteousness;

Those who refuse to surrender, when the devil seems to have the upper hand;

Those who decline to imitate evil, when everyone else is doing it—

THESE WILL BE LOVED BY GOD & THEY WILL SEE HIS FACE!]

Peter said the same— And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled." 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, & always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness & fear; 16having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. 17 For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. 18 For **Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God...** (1 Pet 3:13-18)

CLOSING

As David, we can be confident in the power of God to uphold & protect His children (the church) even in the face of insurmountable odds.