

PSALMS: DIARIES OF GODLY OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS

Psalm One Hundred And Eight - Encouragement From Recalling Experiences When God Kept His Word To Us (Psalm 108:1-13)

I. Introduction

- A. God wants us to trust Him, for without faith it we cannot please Him and receive reward, Hebrews 11:6.
- B. To the end of seeing our faith built up, king David **combined** parts of two different psalms in an effort to show how faith can be **built** so that we please God, leading to His reward to the faithful. Psalm 108:1-13 is that combined psalm, and it reveals a key step toward building a strong faith for current needs:

II. Encouragement From Recalling Experiences When God Kept His Word To Us, Ps. 108:1-13.

- A. Psalm 108:1-5 is almost identical with Ps. 57:7-11 where Psalm 108:6-13 practically mimics Ps. 60:5-12.
- B. If we note the **background** of Psalms 57 and 60 respectively, we note a clear, intentional thrust by David that shows us **how** to have our faith **edified** in current times of need as follows:
 1. Psalm 57:7-11 is a strong expression of personal trust in God that David expressed as he hid in a cave while Saul looked for him to end his life. We know this from the introductory remarks to the psalm. As such, it was a testimonial to an **early** cry of faith by a **desperate, younger** David who looked to God's personal promises to make him a king as hope for deliverance from Saul's intended bloodshed!
 2. On the other hand, Psalm 60:5-12 enumerates Scripture promises God had given the **nation**, Israel as hope that they would conquer the Arameans who, at the **time** of the psalm, seemed to be **winning!** (See Ps. 60:1-4 and Allan Ross' comments in Bible Knowledge Commentary, Old Testament, p. 838 that "Israel was championing God's cause, but God was letting them get defeated.")
 3. Thus, **both** segments arise out of **dire** situations of the **PAST**, one having to do with a **former personal** crisis and another having to do with a **former national** crisis.
 4. On the one hand, David's Psalm 57 crisis served as a **testimony** by way of **experience** that God had shown He would help David in accord with His promises to make him king after Saul, cf. 1 Samuel 16:12-13. On the other hand, the nation's Psalm 60 crisis served as a **testimony** by way of **experience** as to God's willingness to fulfill Scriptural promises that Israel would conquer specific nations like the Arameans, cf. Ps. 108:7-9 and Ps. 60:5-9.
 5. **Thus, David combined passages that utilized (a) the TESTIMONY of EXPERIENCES recalled, BOTH on a PERSONAL level and on the GROUP level that (b) verified the validity of God's Scriptural promises to the individual and the nation (c) as a means of building faith for CURRENT crises that might arise!**
 6. Accordingly, David combined the two segments of Psalm 57:7-11 and Psalm 60:5-12 into forming Psalm 108:1-13 to teach that (a) combining **testimonials** of God's (b) **keeping** His promises, (c) both for individuals and groups of individuals, whether it is a single party or a family, or state or nation, faith can be built to face **present era** crises at any level for God's blessing!

Lesson: God wants us to (1) recall personal and/or group **EVENTS** wherein He came to our aid in accord with His Word, and (2) **COMBINE** these memories with Scripture promises we see we need for **CURRENT** crises in order to find the will to **BELIEVE** His currently-needed Scripture promises for blessing! (3) This is because **PAST** spiritual triumphs are but stepping stones and markers for where God wants us to head in the **PRESENT!**

Application: Like David did, it is profitable for us to take stock of **PAST** spiritual battles and their **TRIUMPHS** or even defeats, and **COMBINE** the lessons learned to see the **PATTERN** God has in working with us so that **WHEN** we need faith to trust **NEW** promises in His Word for **CURRENT** issues of concern, we aren't left floundering with a lot of questions and worry. We **KNOW** how God has helped us in the **PAST** as a **PRECEDENT** for how He intends to direct us **NOW**, and we can face new experiences with confidence by looking at those "markers" of the past!