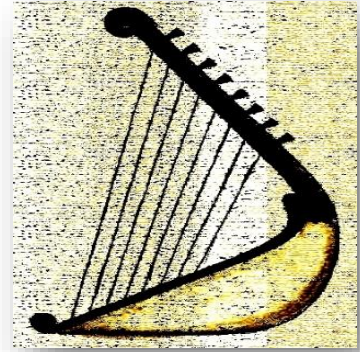


PSALM 34 vs 1

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Title and Subject: A Psalm of David, when he changed his behavior. Of this transaction we have a brief account in 1 Samuel 21. David played the fool with singular dexterity; but he was not so real a fool as to sing of his own exploits of folly. In the original, the title does not teach us that the Psalmist composed this poem at the time of his escape from the king of Gath; but it was intended to commemorate that event. This is the second alphabet Psalm, the twenty-fifth being the first.



Divisions: the Psalm is split into two great divisions. The first 10 verses are **A HYMN**; and the last 12 verses are **A SERMON**. First, David vows to bend his knee to the Lord (1-3); next he relates his experience (4-7); and then urges the godly to constancy of faith (8-10); he gives direct urging (11-14); and follows with didactic teaching (15-22) – Charles Spurgeon.

A Psalm of David, when he changed his behavior

before Abimelech, who drove him away, and he departed

¹ I bend my knee to the LORD at all times: continually His praise is on my lips.

² In the LORD, my soul boasts; the humble hear it, and are glad.

³ O make bigger the LORD with me, and let us lift up His Name together.

Think about it: David says, let others do as they may, he knows to whom the praise is due; and what else is due. In this case David had to feign a crazy person and escaped from Gath; the home of the infamous Goliath, whom years earlier, he slew with a sling and a stone. Now he invites his fellow citizens to help make the Lord's fame greater among the sons of Adam. The Lord already is infinitely great; so cannot be made greater; but His Name grows in manifest glory as He is made known to His creatures, and thus He is said to be magnified – Charles Spurgeon. The prophet tells us: from the rising to the setting of the sun, His Name will be great throughout the earth.

⁴ I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and from all my fears delivered me.

⁵ Those who look to Him were radiant: and their faces were not ashamed.

⁶ This poor man cried out, and the LORD heard him, and from all his distress saved him.

⁷ The angel of the LORD encamps around all who fear Him, and delivers them.

Think about it: David was in an extremely tight spot, and said, "I sought the Lord" and what came to his mind? God has a sense of humor; and David pretended to be mad, and behaved like a lunatic! And the king was convinced that was not the David he had heard so much about; and to David's surprise he was let go!



PSALM 34 vs 1

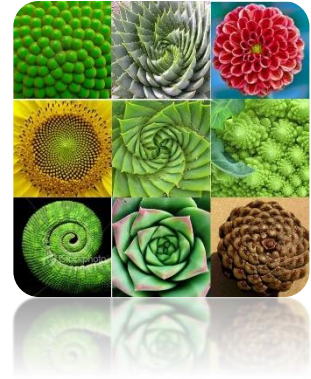
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⁸ O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the strong man who runs to Him.

⁹ O fear the LORD, you faithful: for there is no shortage to those who fear Him.

¹⁰ The young lions lack and are hungry: but those seeking the LORD will not lack any good thing.



Think about it: It is not enough for you to have it and not to taste it. The people of God are not to go into the vineyard to see the vines; but also go into the wine cellar and taste it. The Lord answered David's simple prayer; where he was, in the urgency of the moment; can you imagine the smile that lit up David's face, as he turned from being in the presence of the king of Gath? What a moment to recall the rest of his life. How many times did "this poor man" reenact that event among his friends; always ending with the biggest smile and a thankful heart to God. This seasoned warrior knew to run to his great Deliverer, "to taste and see the Lord is good".

¹¹ Come children, Listen to me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

¹² Who is the one who desires life, and loving many days, that he may see good?

¹³ Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit.

¹⁴ Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

Think about it: Though a warrior-king, the Psalmist was not too busy to teach children. He knew, heaven will not be populated with earth's trailer trash. So far as they can be taught by word of mouth, or learn by hearing of the ear, we are to communicate the faith and fear for our great God. Dr. Dallas Willard of USC often reminded us: God is powerful, and if His power is anything like electricity, then He is also dangerous, and we better learn how to approach Him correctly. In the world today, over 6,000,000,000 say they believe in God; it is the small-minded fool [who says in his heart there is no God](#).

¹⁵ The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous, and His ears are toward their cry.

¹⁶ The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to erase from the earth their memory.

¹⁷ The right cry out and the LORD hears, and from all their troubles delivers them.

¹⁸ The LORD is near the broken heart; and saves the contrite spirit.

¹⁹ Many are the afflictions of the right ones: but from them all the LORD delivers.

²⁰ He keeps all his bones: not one of them is broken.

²¹ Evil kills the wrongdoer: and those who hate the right ones will be condemned.

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22 The LORD redeems the soul of His servants: and none who run to Him will be condemned.

Think about it: If it is to be had, the old lions will have it for themselves. "The eyes of the Lord are toward those who do right"; "The face of the Lord is against those who do wrong;" and men cannot spit forth poison, without feeling some of the venom burning their own flesh. "The Lord is near the broken heart; and saves the contrite spirit" ... in both words the hammer is necessarily implied; in breaking to pieces the ore, and then hammering the metal separated from the ore. The Lord is near the one being hammered. Where we go one, we go all -- wwg1wga.



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