

Psalms 28:0 ¶ *A Psalm of David.*

Another prayer of David expressed in song.

Spurgeon: "The thorn at the breast of the nightingale was said by the old naturalists to make it sing: David's griefs made him eloquent in holy psalmody."

Psalms 28:1 ¶ *Unto thee will I cry, O LORD my rock; be not silent to me: lest, if thou be silent to me, I become like them that go down into the pit.*

Psalms 28:2 *Hear the voice of my supplications, when I cry unto thee, when I lift up my hands toward thy holy oracle.*

This psalm opens with David crying out to the LORD and pleading with Him to listen to him. He identifies the LORD as his rock, the source of his strength (both spiritually and physically). He laments that if the LORD does not answer him, he will die; he is desperate.

Verse 2 is basically an exclamation point to verse 1. He paints a picture of lifting up his hands in prayer toward the tabernacle.

Spurgeon: "Uplifted hands have ever been a form of devout posture, and are intended to signify a reaching upward towards God, a readiness, an eagerness to receive the blessing sought after. We stretch out empty hands, for we are beggars; we lift them up, for we seek heavenly supplies; we lift them towards the mercy seat of Jesus, for there our expectation dwells."

Psalms 28:3 *Draw me not away with the wicked, and with the workers of iniquity, which speak peace to their neighbours, but mischief is in their hearts.*

David begs the LORD not to let him die among the wicked; he doesn't want to be associated with wicked men even in death. In this instance, he identifies the wicked as those that are hypocrites. It would seem that he has found out that some who appeared to be his friends have plotted against him.

Psalms 28:4 *Give them according to their deeds, and according to the wickedness of their endeavours: give them after the work of their hands; render to them their desert.*

Psalms 28:5 *Because they regard not the works of the LORD, nor the operation of his hands, he shall destroy them, and not build them up.*

David asks the LORD to judge these wicked men relative to their evil actions. I liked the way the NLT phrased it: "Give them the punishment they so richly deserve! Measure it out in proportion to their wickedness. Pay them back for all their evil deeds! Give them a taste of what they have done to others."

David is confident that the LORD will destroy these evil men because they have rejected God as their LORD and disregarded all His works, and they will never be allowed to recover.

It's not hard to believe that God will judge the wicked. I think the harder part sometimes is knowing that the LORD will judge in what He deems to be the appropriate time, and for some that will be at the great white throne judgment. In our flesh, we want immediate judgment.

These verses bring to mind the words of Paul to the Romans.

Romans 1:18–19 “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.”

Psalms 28:6 ¶ Blessed be the LORD, because he hath heard the voice of my supplications.

Psalms 28:7 The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

David begins to praise the LORD for answering his prayers. Again, he declares that the LORD is his strength, adding that He is also his protector. The king confidently declares that the LORD helps him because he trusts Him as his LORD. That is the reason his heart rejoices and he is motivated to sing this song of praise.

Another Spurgeon gem: “They who pray well, will soon praise well: prayer and praise are the two lips of the soul; two bells to ring out sweet and acceptable music in the ears of God.... A song is the soul's fittest method of giving vent to its happiness, it were well if we were more like the singing lark, and less like the croaking raven.”

Psalms 28:8 The LORD is their strength, and he is the saving strength of his anointed.

Psalms 28:9 Save thy people, and bless thine inheritance: feed them also, and lift them up for ever.

After speaking of his personal relationship with the LORD, David declares that the LORD is the strength of His people Israel as well as the One that gives the king, His anointed, victory. He asks the LORD to save His people and bless them by providing for their needs. His desire is for the people of Israel to be in a blessed position before the LORD forever.