

PSALM 34

The LORD, a Provider and Deliverer.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Roy H. Enoch (3-30-94). A Psalm of David when he pretended madness before Abimelech, who drove him away, and he departed.
- B. "Thanksgiving to God for Deliverance"
- C. The literary form of this psalm is an imperfect acrostic, omitting the sixth letter and adding another letter at the last, very similar in this particular to Psalm 25.
- D. Some commentators think they find a contradiction between the superscription which names the king Abimelech, and 1Sam. 21:11-15 where the king is "Achish, king of Gath." But Abimelech was the title of the Philistine kings, as Pharaoh was the title of the Egyptians kings and Caesar was the title of the Roman rulers.
- E. Albert Barnes uses the following paragraphing:
 1. Thanksgiving for Deliverance (1-6).
 2. Based on His Experience, He Invites Others to Join in Praise (7-10).
 3. Special Instructions and Exhortations for the Young to Trust In God (11-14).
 4. A General Summary of the Security, Joys, and Protection for Those Who Truly Rely on God (15-22).

THE TEXT.

- 34:1** I will bless the LORD at all times;
His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
- 2** My soul will make its boast in the LORD;
The humble will hear it and rejoice.
- 3** O magnify the LORD with me,
And let us exalt His name together.
- 4** I sought the LORD, and He answered me,
And delivered me from all my fears.
- 5** They looked to Him and were radiant,
And their faces will never be ashamed.
- 6** This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him
And saved him out of all his troubles.
- 7** The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him,
And rescues them.
- 8** O taste and see that the LORD is good;
How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!
- 9** O fear the LORD, you His saints;
For to those who fear Him there is no want.
- 10** The young lions do lack and suffer hunger;
But they who seek the LORD shall not be in want of any good thing.
- 11** Come, you children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
- 12** Who is the man who desires life
And loves *length of 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.
- 15** The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous
And His ears are *open* to their cry.
- 16** The face of the LORD is against evildoers,
To cut off the memory of them from the earth.
- 17** *The righteous* cry, and the LORD hears
And delivers them out of all their troubles.

- 18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted
And saves those who are crushed in spirit.
- 19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
But the LORD delivers him out of them all.
- 20 He keeps all his bones,
Not one of them is broken.
- 21 Evil shall slay the wicked,
And those who hate the righteous will be condemned.
- 22 The LORD redeems the soul of His servants,
And none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.

COMMENTS.

- A. Thanksgiving for Deliverance (34:1-5).
[v1] "I will bless the Lord at all times;...continually..." (1). Xians are to praise God continually. See Eph. 5:20; 1Th. 5:17,18.
 "My soul shall make its boast in the Lord;" We should never boast in ourselves or our possessions, but in what the Lord has done.
 "Oh, magnify the Lord with me..." This is a value of congregational worship: We encourage each other as we glorify God to each other.
[v6] "This poor man cried out and the Lord heard him..." Who is the poor man in this psalm?
- B. From his experience, David invites others to praise God (34:7-10).
[v7] "The angel of the Lord..." Who is this "angel of the Lord" that is so frequently referred to in the Scriptures? It seems to be the Lord Himself. See Ex. 3:2-4 when the "Angel of the Lord" appeared to Moses in the burning bush, (2), He is referred to as "the Lord" in (4).
[v8] "Oh taste and see that the Lord is good..." The Lord gives us such assurances that we can know that God is good and will bless us (Heb. 6:5; 1Pet. 2:3).
[v9] "Oh, fear the Lord..." Those with a reverent fear of God will always be blessed by Him, though they will also have trials.
[v10] "The young lions lack and suffer hunger..." This is in contrast w/9. The Lord can bless the weak, and cause the strong (young lions) to be in want.
- C. David gives special instructions and exhortations (34:11-14).
[v11] "...I will teach you the fear of the Lord." David had many skills, with musical instruments, with weapons of war, with poetry and literature. But what he wants to teach the young is more important than any of these. In our schools today, the most important is neglected and the focus is on athletics, what they want, and how they feel.
[v12] "Who is the man who desires life..." David's teaching method is the classical dialectical style where a question is pondered and then answered.
 1. "Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit."
 2. "Depart from evil and do good."
 3. "Seek peace and pursue it."
- D. A summary of blessings from relying on God (34:15-22).
 These are easy to understand, but it is beneficial to look at the kinds of repetition and to apply them to our own lives.