

PSALM 101

The Psalmist's Profession of Uprightness.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. From Roy H. Enoch (3-13-96).
- B. A Psalm of David.
- C. "Resolutions of David Ascending the Throne"
- D. Only this psalm and the 103rd are attributed to David in Book IV by the Hebrew superscription. This psalm seems to be resolutions of conduct that David promised when he became king. It is still an excellent model leaders of government, companies, churches and homes. Each of us have some influence on the lives of others by the way we live. "We act the way we do because that is the kind of person we are. The way to become a better person is to act the way we would like to be." These resolutions certainly reflect "a man after God's own heart."
- E. This psalm naturally divides into two parts:
 - I. The King's Resolutions For His Own Conduct (101:1-4).
 - II. Guidelines For Administering the Government (101:5-8).

THE TEXT.

101:1 I will sing of lovingkindness and justice,
To You, O LORD, I will sing praises.

2 I will give heed to the blameless way.
When will You come to me?
I will walk within my house in the integrity of my heart.

3 I will set no worthless thing before my eyes;
I hate the work of those who fall away;
It shall not fasten its grip on me.

4 A perverse heart shall depart from me;
I will know no evil.

5 Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy;
No one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure.

6 My eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me;
He who walks in a blameless way is the one who will minister to me.

7 He who practices deceit shall not dwell within my house;
He who speaks falsehood shall not maintain his position before me.

8 Every morning I will destroy all the wicked of the land,
So as to cut off from the city of the LORD all those who do iniquity.

COMMENTS.

- A. The King's Resolutions for His own Conduct.

[v1] "I will sing of mercy and justice..." This seems to refer to David praising God for HIS mercy and justice. This is the beginning of better conduct for ourselves, is to recognize and appreciate it in others.

[v2] "I will behave myself wisely in a PERFECT way." Vine's Expository Dictionary defines this word, *tamin*, (Heb.) as, "perfect; blameless; sincerity; entire; whole; complete; full.... *Tamin* means 'complete,' in the sense of the entire or whole thing." The only "complete or entire" way to live is in God's word. "I will walk within my house with a PERFECT heart." This word for perfect is the Hebrew word "tom" which means "completeness" in the sense of "fullness; innocence or simplicity; and integrity." (Vine's Dictionary.)
David's heart would be innocent and honest.

[v3] "I will set nothing wicked before my eyes..." See Prov. 4:23. "I hate the work of those who fall away..." We are to hate the sin and love the sinner, but sometimes we get this reversed and love and condone sin, but shun and despise the sinner.

[v4] A “perverse heart shall depart from me...” The word “perverse” here means different, separate or sever, and probably refers to a heart that is different or separate from God.

B. Guidelines for Administering the Government.

It has been said that no king ever entered his reign with better intentions than David had when he penned this psalm. It seems that his early years were more successful in keeping them than the last.

[v5] “Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor...” Slander is false and is the opposite from those who serve the Lord. “...the one who has a haughty look and a proud heart...” See Prv. 6:16-19.

[v6] “My eyes shall be on the faithful... he who walks in a perfect way...” Here is the opposite person from the one in the previous verse. David promises to protect the faithful, loyal and upright.

[v7] “He who works deceit... he who tells lies...” Here again, we have the negative of the previous verse.

[v8] “Early I will destroy all the wicked of the land...” Some translations say, “Morning by morning” or “Every morning.” The meaning seems to be, “every day” or “constantly” he would judge fairly and give the people justice.