

May 1

Scriptures: Read Psalms 35 & 36

Key Verse: “For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.” (Psalm 36:9)

Overview

In Psalm 35 the psalmist pictures God as not only a supreme judge but a strong warrior who stands in defense of the helpless (35:1-3, 10; cf. Exodus 15:3; Deuteronomy 32:41). David had felt defenseless before a group of men who were once his friends but were now maliciously slandering him. They had even hired false witnesses to testify against him, just as the strong political/religious party had done to Jesus (Mark 14:57-48). In both cases, it was without just cause or provocation that they rose up against the innocent man, and as the psalmist expressed, “they reward me evil for good” (35:12; John 10:32).

David repeatedly appealed to the Lord to deliver, rescue, and vindicate him from the vicious lions that attacked him and wanted to eat him (35:15-17, 25). He asked that God not only defend him but also pursue his enemies, that they might be brought to justice and be caught in their own nets (35:8). David had faith that God would indeed save his life, preserve his honour, and repay his adversaries with the same dishonour and shame as they had given him. David knew that God had seen all that was done against him (35:17, 22), and according to His righteousness (35:24), He would bring judgment on the wicked. Therefore, with faith he exclaimed that when he was delivered, he would rejoice in the Lord’s salvation (35:9), give Him public credit, thanks, and praise (35:18); and he would continually speak of His righteousness and praise (35:28).

In Psalm 36 the Lord’s gracious loving-kindness is beautifully expressed and stands in sharp contrast to the evils of the wicked. In describing his wicked enemy, David points out that his most blatant transgression is in not fearing God. David uses him as a prime example of the wicked who take pleasure in iniquity and hate. Since the wicked man has no fear of God, he ceases doing good and does not reject evil, for he thinks he is not accountable to anyone (36:3-4). He is the total opposite to the one David had previously described in Psalm 34 as the type of person who does fear God and who is blessed with a long happy life (34:11-14).

With beautiful words of adoration to the Lord, the psalmist likens several attributes of God to the different wonders of nature. He describes the mercy, faithfulness, righteousness, and judgments of the Lord which are so great and awesome that they are incomprehensible to the finite mind of man. He concludes that the God who is so great is truly the preserver of both man and beast. In Him all things have their being. He sustains all of His creation.

The attributes of God most precious to man is His loving kindness (36:7). The Hebrew word *hesed*, translated as loving kindness, is pregnant with meaning. It is a steadfast love which is based upon the grace and mercy of God, and because of it, David thanked the Lord, saying: “Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings” (36:7). As well as providing protection for those who trust in Him, the Lord has given general grace to all mankind by providing them with food and water from His plentiful earth (36:8). Those who seek Him, however, find that within Him is the fountain of life (36:9), not only because he is the

ultimate source of all natural life, but because He provides the water of life through Jesus Christ who came to give true life and life everlasting (cf. John 4:10, 14) — a spiritual life wherein we have been called out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9) so we might enjoy life to its fullest. It is in Jesus, the Light of the world, that mankind receives the light of life (cf. John 1:4-5, 9; 1 John 1:5-7; 2 Corinthians 4:6).

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the Light of the world, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who came that we might have life, and have it more abundantly. May Your light shine through us today to a darkened world.