

A Midnight Praise & Worship Meeting

Text: Psalms 119:62-65 At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments. 63 I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts. 64 The earth, O LORD, is full of thy mercy: teach me thy statutes. 65 Thou hast dealt well with thy servant, O LORD, according unto thy word.

Introduction: Background INFO on Psalms 119 - It is the longest chapter in the bible (176 verses). It was written under the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit by King David (a few scholars say Ezra?). Originally, it was set to music and used in temple worship in Jerusalem.

(ref. Wikipedia) Psalms 119 was likely sung in the temple during morning sacrifice, as it is part of the daily morning practices, The Psalms were sung by Levites, who were responsible for the music and rituals in the temple, and they included Psalms 119 among their morning & evening sacrifices, This reflects the importance of the Psalms in ancient Jewish worship and their significance in the daily temple service.

I Chronicles 23:3-5 Now the Levites were numbered from the age of thirty years and upward: and their number by their polls, man by man, was thirty and eight thousand. Of which, twenty and four thousand were to set forward the work of the house of the LORD; and six thousand were officers and judges: Moreover four thousand were porters; and four thousand praised the LORD with the instruments which I made, said David, to praise therewith. --- (temple worship instruments: harps, lyres, trumpets, psalteries, cymbals, tambourines – Ref. Google AI)

Psalms 119 - in its original Hebrew language, is classified as an acrostic poem. An acrostic poem is writing in which a particular set of letters—typically the first letter of each line —spells out a word or phrase. Psalm 119 consists of 22 stanzas, each corresponding to a letter of the Hebrew alphabet (from Aleph to Tav). Each stanza contains eight verses, and every verse within a stanza begins with the same letter.

The “acrostic” classification is lost in its translation from Hebrew to English but each section of the chapter bears one of the 22 Hebrew Alphabet Letters in its sectional heading.

Due to its gigantic size, it is seldom read, studied, or used in preaching. Yet, it is filled with some of the most familiar and powerful verses in the entire bible. Examples such as the seven verses listed below:

- **Psalms 119:9** *Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.*
- **Psalms 119:10** *With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.*
- **Psalms 119:11** *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*
- **Psalms 119:67** *Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.*
- **Psalms 119:89** *For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.*
- **Psalms 119:90** *Thy faithfulness is unto all generations: thou hast established the earth, and it abideth.*
- **Psalms 119:105** *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

I want to focus today's sermon on four chosen scriptures from Psalms 119 and title this sermon, “A MIDNIGHT PRAISE & WORSHIP MEETING.”

Let us Breakdown and Examine Closely each of the four scriptures of our TEXT which reveals to us a Private Praise and Worship Meeting late one night between King David and God!

I. Psalms 119:62 At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments.

❖ At Midnight – The Bible has many examples of God and his people working at midnight:

- (1). **Exodus 12:29-30** And it came to pass, that at midnight the LORD smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sat on his throne unto the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon; and all the firstborn of cattle. And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he, and all his servants, and all the Egyptians; and there was a great cry in Egypt; for there was not a house where there was not one dead.

- (2). **Matthew 25:1&5-6** Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.
- (3). **Acts 16:25** And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.
- (4). **Acts 20:7** And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.
- (5). **Mark warns us to watch for the Lord's Coming at all times (including midnight)**
Mark 13:35-36 Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.

❖ **I will rise to give thanks unto thee – DAVID'S DESIRE TO GIVE THANKS DEMONSTRATED:**

- (1). *His Love for God overpowered his Flesh* – he was willing to sacrifice sleep to meet with God
- (2). *He recognized the Power of Private and Personal Worship* – **Luke 17:7-9** But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not.
- (3). *He would not allow the moment to pass* – **Hebrews 3:15** While it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. THEY OBEYED LATER BUT IT WAS TOO LATE!
- (4). *His PRIVATE thoughts were upon God not the affairs of his kingdom* – A THANKFUL HEART THINKS UPON GOD & HIS GOODNESS NOT UPON HIS PROBLEMS & TROUBLES!
 - *If we will only THINK, we shall begin to THANK* – Charles Spurgeon

❖ **WHY DAVID GAVE THANKS AT MIDNIGHT ---- because of thy Righteous Judgments of God:**
The Righteous Judgements of God:

Romans 2:1-11 Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? But after **thy hardness and impenitent heart treasures up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God. Who will render to every man according to his deeds:** ***To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: ***But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:

David's thoughts were upon God's Uncompromising Nature which caused David to give THANKS:

- (1). *Truthfulness* – **GOD'S JUDGMENT** is based solely upon truth -- not falsehood or deception
- (2). *Impartiality* – **GOD'S JUDGMENT** is not biased of race, position in society, or favoritism
- (3). *Holiness* – **GOD'S JUDGMENT** is pure and untainted by sin, reflecting His holy nature
- (4). *Omniscience* – **GOD'S JUDGMENT** is based upon a complete knowledge of all facts - nothing can be hidden or covered
- (5). *Final* – once **GOD'S JUDGMENT** is given, it cannot be altered, appealed, or overturned

Romans 11:33-36 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! **how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!** For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory forever.

II. 2nd Scripture from Psalms 119:63 *I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts.*

David did not seek to fellowship with his elite and wealthy court subjects. David sought the fellowship of the PEOPLE of GOD!

❖ *I am a companion of all them that fear thee...*

- God doesn't want HIS PEOPLE TO ASSOCIATE WITH A CORRUPT & FALLEN WORLD!
- God doesn't want HIS PEOPLE TO BE ISOLATIONIST EITHER!
- THAT'S WHY CHRISTIANS SHOULD FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER!

Psalms 133:1-3 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

John 13:34-35 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

❖ *I am a companion... of them that keep thy precepts...* David desired to Fellowship with TRUE BELIEVERS – sincere & obedient CHRISTIANS! FRIENDS who TRULLY LOVED GOD!

Proverbs 27:17 Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

I Corinthians 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

II Corinthians 6:14-15 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness

III. 3rd Scripture from Psalms 119:64 *The earth, O LORD, is full of thy mercy: teach me thy statutes.* *Can we not see the MERCY OF GOD EVERYWHERE IN OUR WORLD TODAY?*

❖ **God's Mercy is seen by His Continuous Favor and Blessings upon a Rebellious World:**
Matthew 5:45 ...for he (God) maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

❖ **God's Mercy is seen in His Allowance of Evil & Sin to continue and even worsen each year:**
Lamentations 3:22-23 It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

❖ **God's Mercy is seen upon His People:**

Psalms 103:11-17 For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitith his children, so the LORD pitith them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust. As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. **But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him**, and his righteousness unto children's children;

Psalms 119:64 - Matthew Henry Commentary - *as the heaven is full of God's glory, so the earth is full of his mercy.* full of the instances of his pity and bounty. Not only the land of Canaan, where God is known and worshipped, but the whole earth, in many parts of which he has no homage paid him, is full of his mercy. Not only the children of men upon the earth, but even the inferior creatures, taste of God's goodness. *His tender mercies are over all his works.* He feeds the young ravens that cry, with food proper for them; and will he not feed me with spiritual food, the bread of life, which my soul needs and craves, and cannot subsist without? *The earth is full of thy mercy;* and is not heaven too? Will He not then give me spiritual blessings in heavenly places?? Surely he that will not let his birds be unfed will not let his children be untaught.

IV. CLOSING – 4th Scripture from Psalms 119:65 *Thou hast dealt well with thy servant, O LORD, according unto thy word.*

Two things to consider in this verse of scripture:

(1). Thou hast dealt well with thy servant...

David Recognized - God's People are Well Cared for: God is Our Good Shepherd!

I Peter 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

John 10:11-14 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. **I am the good shepherd,** and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

Psalms 23 - The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

(2). according unto thy word ... GOD IS FAITHFUL TO KEEP HIS PROMISES IN THE BIBLE!
David Recognized - God is a Covenant Making God that will ALWAYS Keep His Word:

Numbers 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Psalms 138:1-7 *I will praise thee with my whole heart: before the gods will I sing praise unto thee. I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name. In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul. All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O LORD, when they hear the words of thy mouth. Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the LORD: for great is the glory of the LORD. Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me: thou shalt stretch forth thine hand against the wrath of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save me.*