

A Child of the King 352

If we are children, then we are . . . heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ. Rom. 8:17

CCF Study Notes Tuesday 7 AM Study 30 January 2007 Psalms 1-7

1. My Fa - ther is rich in hous - es and lands, He hold - eth the
2. My Fa - ther's own Son, the Sav - ior of men, Once wan - dered on
3. I once was an out - cast stran - ger on earth, A sin - ner by
4. A tent or a cot - tage, why should I care? They're build - ing a

wealth of the world in His hands! Of ru - bies and dia - monds, of
earth as the poor - est of them; But now He is reign - ing for -
choice, and an al - ien by birth; But I've been a - dopt - ed, my
pal - ace for me o - ver there; Though ex - iled from home, yet

sil - ver and gold, His cof - fers are full, He has rich - es un - told.
ev - er on high, And will give me a home in heav'n by and by.
name's writ - ten down, An heir to a man - sion, a robe, and a crown.
still I may sing; All glo - ry to God, I'm a child of the King.

Refrain
I'm a child of the King, A child of the King:

With Je - sus my Sav - ior, I'm a child of the King.

TEXT: Harriet E. Buell
MUSIC: John B. Sumner

BINGHAMTON
10.11.11.11. with Refrain

Before beginning to read from the Psalms, let us spend time in prayer, considering our walk with God. Let us ask God to help us do the following:

1. **Walk** in the way of the righteous and not the way of the unjust,
2. **Keep** God's ultimate authority in perspective, as exercised through Christ,
3. **Cry** out to God, trusting in His salvation,
4. **Rest** in God's faithfulness toward us,
5. **Meditate** on the goodness of God toward those who love and trust Him,
6. **Seek** God's mercy and deliverance when we have fallen, and
7. **Dwell** in God's righteousness and not in deception.

(Psalm 1) There are only two paths we can travel along in life: the way of the righteous, and the way of the ungodly. A person is not righteous if they reject God's righteousness. Our happiness and blessedness comes from refusing to remain in ungodly paths, i.e. through repentance. The ungodly offer us advice and direction. We choose God's word instead. Sinners desire that we should join in their deeds. We choose instead the obedience that comes from faith. The scornful exalt themselves at God's expense. We humbly submit to the Lordship of Christ.

If the kingdom of God, his rule in our life, is all our delight and the focus of all our thoughts, then we are indeed blessed. We are planted firmly, never withering, producing fruit and prospering in Christ. The lives of the ungodly stand in marked contrast. They are of no lasting significance, disappearing like chaff before the wind. At the end, when judgment comes, the ungodly will not stand. God knows the way of the righteous; He is with us in it! The way of the ungodly has no lasting place in the grand scheme of things.

This first Psalm is an introduction to the entire work of the Psalms. These songs are part of the wisdom literature, describing how we can live skilfully. God is consistently exalted and praised in the Psalms. This exemplifies the kind of life which the Psalms press on us: a life of faith, lived under the Lordship of Christ. The worldview and wisdom of the Psalms stands in marked contrast to the wisdom and philosophy of the ungodly world. We need this wisdom now more than ever!

(Psalm 2) Here we look at the world of politics and military power. As always, nations and military powers seek to overthrow the rule of God. When we play "king of the hill" we do so forgetting that God already occupies that position!

God laughs at the empires of men. From the beginning God always planned to put all things under the authority of Christ. From God's perspective outside time, the eventual establishment

of His kingdom on earth is a thing already accomplished. So every petit dictator must eventually fall.

More than that, we see that Jesus Christ is the very Son of God. As such He is the rightful heir to all authority. Notice that the authority is given to Christ after His death and resurrection, as if to be the seal of approval on His sacrifice. So what should rulers do? They are to be wise and they are to be instructed by God's law. They are to serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling. They are to put their trust in Jesus Christ.

(Psalm 3) David was often in trouble. David cried out to God in his distress. David remembered how God always took care of him and trusted God to continue to do the same.

The word says, "There is no help for him in God." We say with David, "I cried to the Lord with my voice, and He heard me!" If God hears us then we know He will act on our behalf.

The bottom line is simple yet incredibly profound: Salvation comes from the Lord. Here we see this poetic term, "Selah". Scholars differ as to its meaning, but it seems to direct us to stop for a moment and meditate on what has just been said. Surely God's salvation is worth meditating on awhile!

(Psalm 4) How do we become righteous? How can we stand faultless before God? We might think a man like David, great and righteous as he was, could stand before God in his own righteousness. No! David stands in God's righteousness alone – as also we must stand. We call out for God's mercy, not God's approval.

The world honors men who are worthless liars, mere hypocrites or brutal strongmen. The glory of God is turned to shame when men are honored above God. Men speak disparagingly of those who trust in God. But God sets such people apart as His own, for His protection.

Our anger will not win the day. We must carefully control our desire to avenge ourselves on others. Instead, we must offer the sacrifice of a pure and contrite heart to God. We must trust God alone.

Those who do not believe in God cannot see God at work. Those who look steadily in God's face are filled with the joy and peace that only He can bring. They live in ultimate safety.

(Psalm 5) When we rejoice and give praise and thanks to God we demonstrate our trust. Those who take pleasure in God experience the benefits of His grace. God takes no pleasure in those who take no pleasure in God. They exalt themselves. God brings them down.

Evil cannot dwell with God. We need to understand this well, since many seem to teach that God has gone soft on sin. Not so! God has provided a means of escape from sin by cleansing us with His own blood. He took the penalty!

The eighth verse is a verse that is well worth memorizing. "Lead me, O Lord in Your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before my face." This is the prayer of every believer. This is wisdom, or skillful living. We confess our need for God's leading, our readiness to follow Christ. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life! He is our Righteousness!

The wicked fall because they are unfaithful and untruthful. They deceive one another. They deceive themselves. Those who trust in God hear His words and rejoice. We cause much of our own sadness! God wants to give us His grace, if we will only trust in Him.

(Psalm 6) We hear the cry of a repentant heart and see the bitterness of guilt before God. Yet David comes to God and pleads for mercy, grieving for and turning from sin. Who are the enemies David speaks of? Who are our enemies? Those who led David into temptation and those who lead us into temptation are our enemies.

Notice the argument David uses in dealing with God. It is a good argument. Often we make rash promises to God in an attempt to escape our own guilt. David's cry is simple and without any rash promises: "Save me for Your mercies' sake!" Death and destruction bring no glory to God, so we plead with God to save us so that He might be glorified in our lives.

Putting sin behind us sometimes requires putting old friendships behind us as well. This is what David does in the sixth psalm. Many of David's men brought trouble and guilt on David. David steps back from such men.

(Psalm 7) We must learn to dwell in God's righteousness and not our own. The world is quick to judge us. Sometimes we are quick to judge ourselves. We are torn apart by such judgments. Yet there is only One Judge before whom all men must answer! God is a just judge! In fact, He is the only just judge. And God will punish wickedness.

In the midst of lies and slander, we must praise God because of His righteousness. I often fail. God never fails. God is the "Most High", the ruler over all things. He has perfect understanding and perspective concerning all things.

P.S. Recordings and notes for these studies are available at <http://www.jstoker.name>. A podcast is available at <http://feeds.feedburner.com/CCF-T-Podcast>.