

Teen Titans: David
Selected Psalms September 1-2, 2018

Introduction

- **Psalm 23 PP**

- The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- He makes me lie down in green pastures.
- He leads me beside still waters.
- He restores my soul.
- He leads me in paths of righteousness
- for his name's sake.
- Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
- I will fear no evil,
- for you are with me;
- your rod and your staff,
- they comfort me.
- You prepare a table before me
- in the presence of my enemies;
- you anoint my head with oil;
- my cup overflows.
- Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
- all the days of my life,
- and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
- forever.

- These are the words of a young shepherd, reflecting on the goodness of his God...perhaps writing them while tending to his own sheep. He knew what it meant to be a devoted shepherd of a flock of helpless sheep, and he recognized how gracious and faithful his God was to him as his own good shepherd.
- Today, we take a look at our final teen titan, a young shepherd poet who would go on to become one of the most famous people in scripture. That young man is, of course, David.
 - You can read his story in 1 and 2 Samuel, the early years of his life appearing in **1 Samuel 16 – 20**
 - But we're not going to go through the narrative section of David's story today in detail. As I prayed on how to tackle the life of this amazing teen titan, I was moved to dive into some of the psalms that he likely wrote as a young man during this time. So you can open with me to the beginning of the book of psalms as we read through several of the powerful songs of worship penned by our teen titan.
- As you turn to psalms, I'm going to pray.

- Now we know from **2 Samuel 5:4** that **PP** David was 30 years old when he began to reign as King in Israel. But we have no idea how old he was during any of the events prior to that.
 - Most scholars believe David was in his teens when we first read about him in **1 Samuel 16**. **PP** We know that he was the youngest of eight sons (**1 Sam. 16:10**), that he was the shepherd of the flocks of his family (**1 Sam. 16:11**) and that his family was likely not very wealthy because, as a shepherd, he was doing the job that a servant would have done. Scripture tells us that he had beautiful eyes and was a handsome young man (**1 Sam. 16:12**).
 - We also know that **PP** David was a powerful warrior, even at a young age, as he killed lions and bears while shepherding his flock (**1 Sam. 17:36**). We also know that he was a renowned poet and songwriter (**1 Sam. 16:18**), having a reputation that allowed him to be summoned to king Saul to play and sing for him to soothe him in his affliction.
 - His father is Jesse who is the grandson of Boaz and Ruth; Ruth, you may recall is one of the wonder women we studied earlier this summer. Well, despite all of David's many gifts and talents, Jesse gives a rather dismissive response to the prophet Samuel when Samuel comes to anoint David, showing that Jesse didn't seem to hold his youngest son in very high esteem.
 - But Samuel comes and anoints David to be the King of Israel. We don't know if David knew what the anointing meant, but we know that David was chosen because of what the Lord saw in his heart.
 - When selecting which of Jesse's sons to anoint, the Lord reminded Samuel, **1 Samuel 16:7 PP** "...For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."
- What did the Lord see when He looked upon David's heart? I would submit to you that the Lord saw David's humble heart of worship; he saw a young man who was in awe of the holiness and majesty of our God, who trusted Him no matter what.
 - Why do I think that? Well, if we read through what many scholars believe are the earliest psalms of David, we'll get to see what comes out of his heart.
 - We already read through **Psalms 23** where we see the amazing trust and dependence that David had for in God as the good shepherd.
 - The rest of our time together I want to look briefly at 3 other psalms that will show us a glimpse into the young heart of our teen titan. We're not going to dive too deeply into these Psalms, I just want to read through them, let the power of their words touch our hearts, and then we'll pull out the main essence of what each of them reveals to us about the type of heart that catches the Lord's attention.

- Now, as I've said before, we don't really know how old David was when the events in his early life transpired. Nor can we say with certainty that these next couple of Psalms were written in those early years. But many scholars believe they were written while David was a young shepherd because they lack the distress, angst, and hurt of the Psalms that he wrote in later years.
- These Psalms depict the heart of a young man who has yet to experience deep grief or sorrow, extended fear or pain, a young man who didn't know the weight of the cares of this world.
 - But they show us the core of David and what allowed him to get through the trials he faced throughout his life when he did encounter all of those things. And again, I would suggest that the core of David's heart that is expressed so beautifully in these early Psalms is a heart of worship for our mighty God...and this heart of worship is what kept him constantly pursuing the Lord throughout all the ups and downs of his storied life.
- So we turn to Psalm 19 **PP** as we see David was a Worshipper by Day.

The Worshipper by Day (Psalm 19)

- I want you to picture a young teenage shepherd boy sitting down on a low hill overlooking his small herd of sheep early in the morning. There's a sling and a staff set down next to him. A small scroll with a portion of Deuteronomy written in it that he'd been meditating upon the night before. His lyre sits at his feet as he periodically plucks at the strings, coming up with new melodies to put to words.
 - He has a small journal he's presently writing his latest song of worship in as he's been inspired by the beautiful colors of the rising sun and the majesty of the rolling hills around him, and these are the words he writes in Psalm 19 **PP**:

• Psalm 19

- The heavens declare the glory of God,
- and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
- Day to day pours out speech,
- and night to night reveals knowledge.
- There is no speech, nor are there words,
- whose voice is not heard.
- Their voice goes out through all the earth,
- and their words to the end of the world.
- In them he has set a tent for the sun,
- which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
- and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.
- Its rising is from the end of the heavens,

- and its circuit to the end of them,
- and there is nothing hidden from its heat. **PP**
- The law of the Lord is perfect,
- reviving the soul;
- the testimony of the Lord is sure,
- making wise the simple;
- the precepts of the Lord are right,
- rejoicing the heart;
- the commandment of the Lord is pure,
- enlightening the eyes;
- the fear of the Lord is clean,
- enduring forever;
- the rules of the Lord are true,
- and righteous altogether.
- More to be desired are they than gold,
- even much fine gold;
- sweeter also than honey
- and drippings of the honeycomb.
- Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
- in keeping them there is great reward. **PP**
- Who can discern his errors?
- Declare me innocent from hidden faults.
- Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins;
- let them not have dominion over me!
- Then I shall be blameless,
- and innocent of great transgression.
- Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
- be acceptable in your sight,
- O Lord, my rock and my redeemer

- The young poet is marveling over the glory of God's creation, his thoughts captured in the beauty of the rising sun. He recognizes that the beauty of creation testifies and speaks forth the glory of its creator and writes about how powerful this voice is to those who would pay attention to it.

- **Romans 1:19-20 PP** "For what can be known about God is plain to [everyone], because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse."

- David's reflection on the glory of God on display in the beauty of the voice of creation moves him to reflect on the glory of God on display in the beauty of His word. Thus, David's begins to extol all the virtues that scripture has for those of us who value the word of God and seek to submit to its truth.
 - David concludes by asking the Lord to help keep his own words and the thoughts of his heart fixed on the things of God.
- So what did the Lord see through this Psalm of David worshipping the Lord by day that we can seek to emulate? **PP**
 - 1) David recognized the beauty and majesty of our God and that His creation constantly testifies to His glory.
 - How many of you can really connect with God in nature? David certainly could and that's a beautiful thing. But recognize that David's connection with the voice of God didn't end in nature.
 - 2) David loved the word of God.
 - David allowed the voice of God through nature to move him to the voice of God in scripture and he recognized how healthy and profitable it was for him as he learned to submit to its truth
 - 3) So much so that he actively prayed for the voice of God to transform his own inner and outer voice. Let this be our own prayer as we get to know the voice of God more deeply. That we wouldn't just know it intellectually, but that we would be transformed by it.
- Like David, let us be worshippers by Day who are constantly seeking to be in tune with the voice of our God.

The Worshipper by Night (Psalm 8)

- But David was also a worshipper by night. **PP** This time, I want us to picture our young teen titan laying down in the low grass at the top of one of the rolling hills after the sun has long set. His sheep are nestled in around him preparing to sleep for the night.
- As David lies there, he looks up at the beautiful cloudless sky. There's no light pollution to obscure his view, only the piercing brilliance of thousands of stars, and the looming presence of the full moon glowing in dazzling white as it reflects the glow of the sun.
- As he gazes up at the night sky he is overcome with how small he is in the scheme of creation. Yet, he remembers how much his God loves him, and he's moved to write the following in Psalm 8:

• Psalm 8

- O Lord, our Lord,
- how majestic is your name in all the earth!
- You have set your glory above the heavens.

- Out of the mouth of babies and infants,
- you have established strength because of your foes,
- to still the enemy and the avenger. **PP**
- When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
- the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
- what is man that you are mindful of him,
- and the son of man that you care for him?
- Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
- and crowned him with glory and honor. **PP**
- You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;
- you have put all things under his feet,
- all sheep and oxen,
- and also the beasts of the field,
- the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
- whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
- O Lord, our Lord,
- how majestic is your name in all the earth!

- This time our young poet is overcome by how big our God is and how small we are. He's in awe of the reality that our God has created the entirety of the universe, the stars and the planets and everything in between. Our God is a mighty and overwhelming figure when we think of the massiveness of His creation.
- And then when we consider ourselves next to Him, we can't help but be faced with our insignificance. How many of us have been attacked by the enemy with feelings of insignificance, purposelessness, and inferiority? How could a God like that care about little old me?
 - Yet, our teen titan doesn't dwell on these lies of the enemy. He recognizes that even though our God is more powerful and significant than we can understand, He loves us, He knows each one of us individually, and has called each of us to a special purpose and place in His kingdom.
 - Another of David's songs, **Psalms 139**, captures this truth. I would encourage you to go and read it if you are struggling with the enemy's lies.
 - Church, our God is bigger than we could possibly imagine, and we are as nothing compared to Him. But praise God that He loves us more than we can possibly imagine! He sent His Son to die for us so that we could be cleansed of our sin and have the freedom through faith to walk in daily relationship with Him. That's part of the overwhelming truth of the gospel; that even though we are so small compared to Him, He still loved us enough to die for us so that we can have life!

- Let me echo Paul's prayer in **Ephesians 3:14-19 PP** "For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

- Like David, let's be worshippers of God by night, recognizing how big our God is, but also recognizing how much He loves us and how great a gift we have in Jesus.

The Worshipper in the Storm (Psalm 29)

- Our final vignette of our teen titan is a picture of David as a worshipper in the storm. **PP** In this scene, let's imagine our young poet watching the horizon as a powerful thunderstorm gathers over the waters of the Mediterranean to the West.
- The sky slowly darkens around him as the wind whips up and the smell of rain fills the air. As small raindrops begin to fall, slow at first but with ever increasing force, our poet looks out in awe as the storm overtakes him with flashes of lightning and booming thunder all around. He stills his flock of sheep and keeps them from fleeing in fear.
- As the storm rages around him for a while he sits still and waits, remembering who is in control until the tempest travels past him and on into the distance. He continues to watch the flashes of lightning and hears the echoing thunder in the distance as he takes out his journal and begins to write the words of Psalm 29:

• **Psalm 29**

- Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
- ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
- Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
- worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.
- The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
- the God of glory thunders,
- the Lord, over many waters.
- The voice of the Lord is powerful;
- the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. **PP**
- The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;
- the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
- He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf,
- and Sirion like a young wild ox.

- The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.
- The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
- the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- The voice of the Lord makes the deer give birth
- and strips the forests bare,
- and in his temple all cry, “Glory!” PP
- The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
- the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.
- May the Lord give strength to his people!
- May the Lord bless his people with peace!
- How many of you know that the journey of faith is one that takes us through many storms?
 - **John 16:33 PP** “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”
 - There are two ways we can respond in those storms: 1) with despair and hopelessness as we see the crashing lightning, hear the roaring thunder, and are overwhelmed by the driving winds and rains; or 2) with a settled confidence trusting that our God is in control.
- David looked to the Lord every time he heard the crashing around him. If I were you I’d circle the 7 times you see the “voice of the Lord” repeated in the Psalm...each one of those are echoing thunder in the midst of the storm.
 - And what did David do every time the strength of the storm manifested itself? He looked to God and drew strength and confidence as he worshipped our mighty King.
 - The heart of the worshipper knows that its going to go through storms, and it may even experience fear in the midst of that storm. That’s ok, for a time. The key is that we don’t allow that fear to overtake us and turn to a despairing hopelessness.
 - Let the storm drive us to seek the Lord so that, just like David, we can find Him in the midst of the storm and be filled with courage, as we call out to Him to give us strength and peace through the storm.
- David worshipped the Lord through the storms and sought his refuge and his strength in God alone.
- **Isaiah 66:2 PP** “But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.”
 - Let’s be people like David who are worshippers of God by Day, hearing his voice and loving His word.

- And people who are worshipers of God by night who are in awe of the majesty of our God and can humble ourselves before Him, confidently resting in the love He has for us as we're reminded of what Jesus has done for us and what the Spirit continues to do in us and through us.
- Let's be people who are worshipers of God through the storms of life; who though we may tremble in fear, are able to find our peace and our strength in Him as the Spirit walks with us through the storm.
- This is what our teen titan did, **PP** this is what the Lord saw in his heart, and by the grace of God let's seek to be people who are being transformed by the Spirit to have the same heart of worship no matter what circumstance we're in. Amen. Amen.