



Psalms 29-31

Psalm 29-31
Tape #7175
By Chuck Smith

Let's turn now in our Bibles to the book of psalms beginning tonight with the twenty-ninth psalm. The psalm begins with an exhortation to give unto the Lord the ascription of glory and strength. The call is to the mighty.

Give unto the LORD, O ye mighty, give unto the LORD glory and strength (29:1).

It is good for us to be reminded of the greatness of God. It is so easy for us to become overawed with the greatness of our problems. The difficulties of life. The hardships that we face. The mountains that we must cross. And we become so involved in ourselves in the situations of life that we oftentimes lose perspective and our problems become overwhelming for us. And we forget the greatness of God. We forget the power of God. We forget the glory of God. And so this giving unto the Lord glory and strength or ascribing to God that glory and strength helps us to deal with our own situations. Because I begin to see then my problems in the light of God's power, rather than in the light of my own ineptness. My own weakness. And it is always strengthening, faith building, to spend time just in praising the Lord for the glory, the strength, the power of His might.

Give unto the LORD the glory that is due unto his name (29:2);

The name of God was something that was highly revered and respected by the Jews. So much so that it became almost a bondage to them legalistically. For as time developed, they felt that the name of God was so marvelous, so wonderful that man's lips were unworthy to utter it. And so as they would write the name of God, they would not write the vowels. And so you have the YHWH which is unpronounceable without vowels. You don't know what the pronunciation is and that was deliberate. They didn't want you pronouncing the name of God. When they would write the consonants in their manuscripts, in copying the scriptures because, of course, and all the scriptures used to be copied by hand. Before Gutenberg invented the press, the scriptures were all hand copied. And that's what the duty of the scribes.

You read about the scribes and the Pharisees. The scribes were those who spent their lives copying the scriptures. And in their copying of the scriptures, they would not copy them word for word but letter by letter. And if they made one mistake, there was no erasures or strike-overs allowed. They'd have to destroy the whole scroll and start again. And they'd usually do the whole scroll on just one scroll. The whole book of Isaiah was just a single scroll. So you get to chapter sixty-six and you get a little careless and you copy that letter wrong and the fellow who was check proofing for you says, Uh-oh.

But they came to the place where in their respect for the name of God, when they would come to the consonants standing for that name, YHWH, they would take a bath. They would change their clothes. They would wash their pen. Dip it in fresh ink and then write the consonants. That's the kind of respect that they have for the name. You need to know that when in reading in the scriptures, "Give the glory due His name." Because they oftentimes would extol the name of the Lord.

In the proverbs it reads, "The name of the Lord is a high tower: the righteous run into it, and are safe" (Proverbs 18:10). And over and over and over again you find references to the name of the Lord. The pronunciation is thought to be Yahweh. But we're not certain. There are some who have suggested Jehovah but that is not certain either. That is sort of a later suggestion. But most generally the scholars believe that the name was pronounced Yahweh.

In the Hebrew it is actually a verb which means the Becoming One. It is the way that God chose to reveal Himself to man so that God becomes to you whatever your need might be. You need peace, He is Yahweh Shalom. You need healing, He is Yahweh Rapha. He becomes to you whatever your need might be. You need salvation, He becomes Yeshua, which in Greek is Jesus. But God becomes to us what our needs might be. So when they speak about giving unto the Lord the glory that is due His name, you need to know

how highly they esteemed and revered the name of God. And if you understand that, then it will clarify a lot of scriptures. You'll understand much more fully many of the psalms where the name of the Lord is extolled. Blessed is the nation whose God is Yahweh, the Lord.

You can always distinguish it in the Bible when it is using this Hebrew name for God because it is all capitals. It is LORD, all capitals. There is another word Lord, Adonai in Hebrew and that would be a capital L, small o-r-d in your English version. But where the name for God. Now Lord, capital L, small o-r-d, is not His name. That is His title. He is the Lord God, His title, the Lord over us. But His name is Yahweh. God is not His name. A lot of people make the mistake of thinking, God is the name of God. There are lots of gods. The Bible says the gods of the heathen are many. A person says, I don't believe in God. Which one you talking about? Maybe I don't either.

But we believe in Yahweh, the true and the living God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth. And thus He is distinguished from the other gods. And so His name became so important to the Jews.

Worship (29:2)

And you see the Lord there in capital L, capital O, capital R, capital D. "Worship,"

Yahweh in the beauty of holiness (29:2).

He is a holy God. He is absolutely pure. There is no shadow in Him. The absolute awesome holiness of God. Worship Him in the beauty of holiness. Now he goes on the rest of the chapter to extol the voice of Yahweh. It is in the figure of lightning, the thundering, the clapping of thunder as the voice of God. We sing, *This is my Father's world and to my listening ears, all nature sings and round me rings the music of the spheres.* Some people hear the voice of God in the songs of the sparrows, the meadowlarks, the mockingbirds. Others hear the voice of God in the sound of the thunder.

It is interesting in the New Testament that at times when God did speak, when Jesus was here on the earth, for instance at the baptism of Jesus, as He came up out of the water and the Spirit of God descended and lighted upon Him, and the voice of God came from heaven saying, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). Some people said, It thundered. And so here the psalmist declares that,

The voice of Yahweh is upon the waters: the God of glory thundereth: the LORD is upon many waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful; it is full of majesty. The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; yea, the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon. He makes them also to skip like a calf; Lebanon and Sirion like a young unicorn. The voice of the LORD divides the flames of fire, the flashes of lightning. The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh (29:3-8).

From Lebanon in the north to Kadesh in the south.

The voice of the LORD makes the hinds to calve, and discovers the forests: and in his temple doth every one speak of his glory (29:9).

Interesting that David, of course, was a shepherd and if sheep are by themselves in a thunderstorm, if the ewe is by itself in a thunderstorm, during the thunderstorm, it gets so frightened that it. What's the word for the ewe dropping the lamb? Not casting, they have a special word for that, it will come to me. But anyhow, when the thunderstorm comes the shepherd gets them all together. If they're in together close by each other, they won't lay their young. They don't lay, chicken lay eggs but they won't give birth to their young if they're huddled together. But if they're isolated during a thunder shower, they will give birth to the lamb. And so "the voice of the Lord makes the hinds, the deer, to calve, and discovers the forests: in his temple does every one speak of his glory."

The LORD sitteth upon the flood; yea, the LORD sitteth King for ever (29:10).

Now he talks about giving glory unto God. And now he's declaring how that God sits as King forever.

The LORD will give strength unto his people (29:11);

If I have my proper aspect of God, reigning, reigning over His universe, sitting upon the throne, then it is meaningful to me that the God of the universe sitting upon the throne will give me strength. "Strength to His people,"

and He will bless his people with peace (29:11).

Psalm 30 is declared to be,

The song at the dedication of the house of David (30:1).

It is also thought that this psalm has in mind when David numbered the people and was judged for it. And how the plague in which 70,000 of the Israelites were slain was stayed by the hand of God when the destroying angel came to the city of Jerusalem.

I will extol thee, O LORD; for You have lifted me up, You have not made my foes to rejoice over me (30:1).

There were many who, when David thus sinned against Israel, had the plague not stopped, they would have overthrown David. They were ready to get rid of him. David was a popular king but he also had his share of enemies. Being in the public eye has its problems. Because though there are people who love you and are devoted, you have those that hate you with the same degree of hatred of those that love you. And those who resent you. And so David had his share of detractors as well as his share of supporters. So he is rejoicing because the Lord did not allow his foes to rejoice over him.

I cried unto the Lord, and He has healed me. O LORD, You've brought up my soul from the grave: You have kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit (30:2,3).

David's life was threatened. It was in danger. Yet the Lord spared him. The Lord healed.

One of the names for Yahweh is Yahweh Rapha, which we said the Lord has become your healer. That was God's revelation to the nation of Israel in the Old Testament. Surely Jesus manifested God's desire to heal the people in the New Testament. If you study the life of Christ in the gospels, a very large part of the gospels are taken up with the miracles of healing, physical healing that Jesus did. Touching and healing those that were sick, those that were afflicted.

I do not see any scriptural reason or any logic that would cause a person to somehow believe that God was no longer interested in touching and healing the physical maladies of the people. I believe that God does heal today and I believe in the power of God to heal today. I do believe that God has given to man in His grace and in His mercy great discoveries in the field of medicine. And I believe that God has gifted men with knowledge in their research but I also believe that God can heal apart from medicine. As just an answer to believing prayer.

We were up at the Pastors' conference in Lake Tahoe and a request came for a pastor's wife who was going to be having surgery at the cancer hospital over here in City of Hope. And so the note was passed to the leader of the conference, the master of ceremonies there to pray for this pastor's wife. And so as he prayed he just said, Lord, help them when they open her up not to find any cancer. The next phone call came and it said, They opened her up and the cancer was in the lymph nodes and it spread through her body so they just closed her up again.

And so this pastor came up to me who had brought the request who was very close friend of the person who had been operated on, and he said, Chuck, I don't understand it. Here he prayed, Lord, when they open her up, help them not to find any cancer and they opened her up and here, so full of it that they just didn't even operate, they just closed again. He said, Not find it so that they won't operate and they didn't operate because they said, She's just inoperable. And this fellow said I'm sort of devastated. And so I said to him, Well, when is it too late? Is it too late now? God can't do anything now? Is it too late? Is that what you're saying? When is it ever too late?

As far as Mary and Martha was concerned, it was too late when their brother died. When they put him in the tomb. Too late. Lord, You had your chance. If You'd only have been here, our brother would not have died. It's too late. But I said it wasn't too late. I said so often, we have set our times. Lord, You need to do it by Tuesday afternoon. Otherwise, it's too late. They foreclose. But when is it too late? I have found that oftentimes, God's timetable isn't synchronized with mine. I have set God on a timetable. I've given Him the time parameters in which He must work and then I say, Well, too late. We got to take Plan B. God didn't come through. That was Plan A.

And so I said to him, When is it too late? I said the Lord even now can touch and heal. Why should we predicate our faith upon a time factor? I said, Let's pray for her. So we held hands and we prayed and we agreed together that God would touch her, place her in the Lord's hands for His work. The doctors can't do anything. This pastor was here Saturday at our For Men Only in the morning. Came up all smiles. He said the doctor came back and said after further examination and the lab tests and everything else, he said, I don't

know, this has never happened before, we're awfully sorry but there's nothing wrong with you. You don't have any cancer. He said, I just can't explain it, I don't know. And this fellow said, I can explain it to you.

I believe that the Lord can heal and will heal. Not in every case. And surely I don't understand and I have no pretense of understanding the ways of God. In fact, I would be rather foolish if I did because God said, "My ways are not your ways" (Isaiah 55:8); "My ways are beyond your finding out" (Romans 11:33). So if I say, Well now, let me tell you all about God. And I acted as if I had all kinds of understanding of God, that would be foolishness on my part. I know that God apparently doesn't heal in every case. And surely not in every case that I pray for. But I know that God does heal. And so you have to leave that with God.

"I cried unto Thee and You healed me." That's marvelous. It's always marvelous when we see the hand of God working to heal. "You brought my soul, he said, out of the grave." David had despaired for life. "You've kept me alive that I should not go down into the pit." And thus he exhorts,

Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness. For his anger endures but a moment (30:4,5);

David was being judged by God because of his pride in numbering the people of Israel. God said you can have a choice. You can be delivered into the hands of your enemies for three months or into the hands of the Lord for three days. David said I'll take You any day. "For His anger endures but for a moment;"

But His favour is for life (30:5):

It's forever. God's favor.

weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. And in my prosperity I said, I shall never be moved (30:5,6).

David was prideful. He was proud of the nation Israel, its strength, its power. That was the motive behind the numbering of the men who were capable of fighting. "My prosperity I said, I will not be moved."

LORD, by Your favour You have made my mountain to stand strong: You did hide Your face, and I was troubled (30:7).

When God doesn't seem to answer. When God seems to be hiding His face, it is a difficult time. It's an extremely difficult time. God doesn't seem to be responding to my prayers. He doesn't seem to be answering my needs. And that's always a difficult time to go through. It is usually, however, a time of growing. Faith developing. When I don't see, then I keep holding on.

I cried to thee, O LORD; and unto the LORD I made supplication. What profit is there in my blood, when I go down to the pit (30:8,9)?

If my body, if I die then my lips will be sealed by death and they cannot move to praise You.

Shall the dust praise thee? shall it declare thy truth (30:9)?

As long as I'm alive I can praise the Lord, I can declare His truth but my body when it goes back to dust, they really didn't have a clear understanding of the resurrection. That was a truth of God that was clarified through Jesus Christ. It was a truth that was not really revealed that much to the Old Testament saints.

Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me: LORD, be my helper. You have turned for me my mourning into dancing: You have put off my sackcloth [which was the badge of grief, sorrow], and You've girded me with gladness (30:10,11);

Beautiful picturesque speech. I was wearing this old sackcloth of sadness. I was covered with sadness. That misery of sadness. But Lord, You've clothed me with gladness. "Turned my mourning into dancing." The beautiful prophecy concerning Jesus that we made mention of at the sunrise service today. The work of Jesus to comfort all that mourn. To give them beauty for ashes. The oil of joy for mourning and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. It's sort of a sequel to this particular psalm there. David declared what God had done for him.

To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever (30:12).

Thirty-one,

In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness (31:1).

It is thought that this psalm was written at the time of Absalom's rebellion. Let's see if we can find hints

of that within the psalm.

Bow down thine ear to me; deliver me speedily: be thou my strong rock, for an house of defense to save me. For You are my rock, my fortress (31:2,3);

The tsuwr and the cela. The tsuwr was Tyre and the cela was Petra, fortress. My rock, my fortress. *therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me (31:3).*

Thy name's sake. Again, the name of the Lord, the Yahweh. "For Thy name's sake lead me and guide me."

Pull me out of the net that they have laid privily for me: for You are my strength. Into thine hand I commit my spirit: Thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth (31:4,5).

Jesus used this phrase, it was the last utterance from the cross. "Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit. And He bowed His head and dismissed His spirit" (Luke 23:46).

David is probably not talking about death. He's talking about life and committing my life to the Lord. He's faced with dangers. The enemies had risen up against him. He's not certain of the outcome. He's calling unto God for help. But then he is doing one further wise move and that is, he's just committing himself to the Lord.

It is when you get to the place of commitment that you finally come to the place of rest. When I take the issues and say, Lord, it's in Your hands, You take care of it. Whatever comes, Lord, I'm trusting You. That is the place where my soul finally rests when I can commit my issues fully unto the Lord. Commit the issues of my life into His hands. Lord, You take care of it now. I'm just placing it in Your hands and I'm willing to accept however the situation turns out as God's plan and God's will. So I'm really not worried one way or the other. If it goes against my plan, that's the way the Lord wants it. So Lord, Your will be done. If it falls in line according to my desires, praise the Lord. It's great. It's the way the Lord wants it. But I'm willing to take either side and accept it as from the Lord. Because Lord, I'm turning it now over to You. I'm placing it in Your hands and You work out Your will in this thing. And then I can rest.

Where we often get into conflict, where we often get into striving is when I'm insisting that God do it my way. And maybe God has a better way but I want it my way. It's always a dangerous position to be in because it's a position of strife, so often. Because we so oftentimes make the mistake of facing the problem and then working out the solutions in our own mind. And then my prayer is really that God will follow my directions. Here's the way I've got it solved, Lord. Here's the way You can work it out. And so I'm giving directions to God. And my prayers are direction prayers rather than direct prayers.

Now God may and God often, and I'm amazed, at how often God has another way of working. I thought I had figured all the angles. And God has another way of working and when He works it, I'm amazed at how simple it was and how much better than the way even I had it figured out. But in the meantime, I went through such a hassle because I thought God isn't listening to me. God isn't answering my prayer. I asked God to do it this way and He's not doing it that way. God isn't fair and God doesn't love me. And God's not concerned because He's not following my directions. And yet He's working out a plan that is so much better, so much wiser. Not nearly as complicated as the way I had it all figured out. And when it's all over, I said, Wow, how did You do that? Why didn't I think of that? That was so wise, surely I should have thought of that.

So David commits his ways to the Lord. "You have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth." And again, that isn't talking about salvation like we talk about. I've been redeemed, I've been saved. He's talking about saved from a situation. You've delivered me out of this situation. Redeemed me out of this situation.

I have hated them that regard lying vanities: but I trust in the LORD (31:6).

There are several references in the Bible to lying vanities and it might be an interesting little Bible study for you to get a commentary and look up the different references to lying vanities. An interesting subject indeed.

The prophet Jeremiah was told by God to go stand at the gate of the temple and cry to the people as they were going in to worship. "Trust not in lying vanities, saying, The temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD" (Jeremiah 7:4). Jonah learned the most important lesson of his life a very hard way. Three days and three nights in the misery of the belly of that whale as that thing was sounding, going down into the depths

as he was in that hot, humid place. Mammal is 98.6 degrees and you can be sure the humidity was horrendous. And he talked about the waves rolling over my head. Seaweed wrapped around my face. And then after three days of this misery, he finally cried, Uncle, I had it. Okay, Lord, I'll go. For three days he was saying no way, not going to go to that place Nineveh. No way. But then he said, "They that observe lying vanities," again that word lying vanities, "forsake their own mercy" (Jonah 2:5,8).

There are a lot of lying vanities. Or empty lies. The lying vanities that Jonah was being deceived by was he thought he could run from the presence of God. You can't run from the presence of God. The psalmist said, "Where can I hide from Thy presence, O Lord? If I ascend up into heaven, You're there: if I descend into hell, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and I flee to the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there You surround me" (Psalm 139:7-10). Twice he says he was trying to hide from the presence of God. That's a lying vanity. It's just foolish as you can't do that.

He thought he could run from the call of God. You can't run from the call of God upon your life. That was a lying vanity. Now in following these lying vanities, trying to hide from the presence of God and run from the call of God, he just got into all kinds of misery and that's what he is saying. "They that observe or follow a lying vanity forsake their own mercies." You make it hard on yourself. You make it tough on yourself.

And so here the psalmist declares his dislike for those who follow lying vanities. His trust will not be in a lying vanity but his trust will be in the Lord.

I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy: for You have considered my trouble; You have known my soul in adversities (31:7);

David had adversities a plenty. And yet through these things, he discovered the mercies of God.

You have not shut me up into the hand of the enemy: You have set my feet in a large place (31:8).

You've enlarged my borders.

Have mercy upon me, O LORD, for I am in trouble: my eye is consumed with grief, yea, my soul and my belly (31:9).

I'm miserable, Lord. The grief, my eyes are sore from crying. My soul, my belly just aches from the sorrow that I'm going through.

For my life is spent in grief (31:10),

It's interesting how that. Have you ever noticed just a week of having a problem say, you've broken a leg after the first week, you can't even remember ever being able to walk without pain? And somehow you think, I'll never be able to walk without pain again as long as I live. It seems like forever. A week of pain, a week of suffering has a way of just stretching like an eternity and you wonder, I wonder what it was like not to feel pain. I wonder if I'll ever be the same again. I wonder if I'll ever get over this thing. And so here David says, "My life is spent in grief." He'd probably been going through some grief for two or three days but it has a way of just making you feel forever. That's the way it works on you. It's like, Man, I've never had a good day in my whole life. I feel so miserable today.

my years are spent in sighing: my strength fails because of my iniquity, and my bones are consumed (31:10).

Over in this thirty-second chapter and we're not going to get there tonight but let's just take a look for a moment in verse three of chapter thirty-two, where here again he's talking about his unconfessed sins and the effect of trying to hide his sins. Not confessing it and getting rid of it but trying to hide it. "When I kept silence"—that is, I would not confess my guilt, I would not confess my sin—"my bones waxed old through my roaring all day long" (Psalm 32:3). So here he speaks about the bones just waxing old. Here in the scripture that we're considering, "my bones are consumed because of mine iniquity." And the relating of the sin, the iniquities to the bones of his body.

There's probably some interesting little nugget there that Chuck Missler could draw out. But I'll leave that for Chuck and suggest that maybe he look that one up.

I was a reproach among all of my enemies, but especially among my neighbours (31:11),

They were really getting on David's case.

and a fear to my acquaintances: they that did see me fled from me (31:11).

Man, I was in big trouble. No one wanted to have anything to do with me.

I am forgotten as a dead man out of mind: I am like a broken vessel (31:12).

Of no value. You drop one of those old clay pitchers and you just kick the thing aside. Get rid of it. You can't glue it together. It's gone. And David is going through the real pity party here. Man, you can't get much worse. "I'm forgotten like a dead man. I'm like a broken vessel." I'm a reproach to my enemies, but even my neighbors are on my case. Everybody's fleeing from me.

For I have heard the slander of many: fear was on every side: while they took counsel together against me, they devised to take away my life (31:13).

They were conspiring to kill me.

But I trusted in thee, O LORD: I said, You are my God. My times are in Your hand: deliver me from the hand of my enemies, and from those that persecute me (31:14,15).

I love that. Here he is, faced with all these problems. People conspiring against him to kill him. They're slandering him. But yet, Lord, my time. They're conspiring to kill me. They're wanting to cut me off. But "my times are in Your hands."

I sort of have a feeling that God has a plan for each of our lives. And as long as we are fulfilling those purposes that God has for us, He's going to sustain us until we've accomplished that purpose. He's going to take care of us. In a way, it's sort of a fatalism.

We read concerning those two witnesses in the book of Revelation that when anybody would try to take them or capture them, they'd call down fire from heaven. Like Elijah, you remember when the king sent out and said, the captain came to Elijah and he said, The king has sent me to take you captive, O man of God. He said, if I'm a man of God then let fire come down from heaven and consume you. And the fire came down and consumed the captain and his fifty men. So the king sent out a second captain with fifty men and he said, The king has sent me to take you to him, thou man of God. He said, If I'm a man of God then let fire come down from heaven and consume you. King sent the third captain, he said, Sir, have mercy on me, I have a wife and family and they need me. I serve the king and the king wants you to come. Would you mind please to come with me (2 Kings 1:9-15)?

But in the two witnesses, they have divine protection. They have all of these conspirators against them in the book of Revelation chapter eleven. And yet they are sustained through miraculous intervention of God. They are sustained from the hand of the enemies. Though they are hated and there's much conspiracy against them, yet they are being sustained. But it says, "And when they had finished their testimony, the beast had power over them to kill them" (Revelation 11:7). But he didn't have that power until they had finished their testimony. And of course then, they were killed, their bodies lay in the streets of Jerusalem for three days. But then after three days, the Spirit of life. As the world was watching on CBS News, they wouldn't even bury these guys. Just letting their bodies lie there in the streets of Jerusalem. But suddenly these guys stood up and ascended into heaven in the sight of all the world. Scripture couldn't be fulfilled until we had satellite TV. And now it's going to be fulfilled soon.

But when they had finished their testimony. I believe that as long as you are fulfilling God's purpose and plan for your life, God will sustain. My times are in your hands. And I believe that. I believe that my life is in God's hands. My times are in His hands. God's going to sustain me as long as He wants. As long as I'm useful to do His work. And when I'm no longer useful to do His work, I really don't want Him to sustain me. I want to go home. So my times are in His hands. I agree with David on that. I really am a firm believer that my life is in God's hands.

"Deliver me, he said, from the hand of my enemies, and from those that persecute me."

Make Your face to shine upon your servant: and save me for your mercies' sake (31:16).

They're conspiring to kill me. Lord, "let Your face shine on me. Save me for Your mercies' sake."

Let me not be ashamed, O LORD; for I have called upon You: but let the wicked be ashamed, let them be silent in the grave (31:17).

They want me to be silent. They want to put me in the grave. You put them in the grave.

Let the lying lips be put to silence; which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous (31:18).

It is thought, it may be true, I have reservations; but it is thought that David was perhaps referring here to Absalom who had said, Dad, I need to go down to Hebron to take care of some business. What he was going to Hebron for was to gather an army to rebel against David and to move against David. And so it was lying lips and he, when he got there, began to speak proudly and contemptuously against his father as we sought to raise the army to overthrow the throne of David.

David declares concerning the Lord,

Oh how great is thy goodness, which You have laid up for those that fear thee (31:19);

The great goodness that God has laid up for you. “Eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard, neither hath it entered into the hearts of men, the things that God has prepared for those that love Him” (1 Corinthians 2:9). “Oh the great goodness which God has laid up for those that fear Him.”

which You have wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men (31:19)!

The rewards of following Jesus Christ.

Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: You will keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues (31:20).

God will be your defense.

Blessed be the LORD: for he hath showed me his marvellous kindness in a strong city. For I said in my haste, I am cut off from before thine eyes (31:21,22):

Those hasty rash statements that we are prone to make. David was guilty of them. Now Job wasn't. “In all these things, Job did not curse God nor did he charge God foolishly” (Job 1:22). David was guilty of charging God foolishly at times. “In his haste, I said, All men are liars” (Psalm 116:11). David said, In my haste. Watch those hasty words. You usually have to eat them and they don't taste good. And so, “In my haste I said, I am cut off.” God's cut me off.

11 I said in my haste, All men are liars.

nevertheless You heard my prayers when I cried unto You (31:22).

David's exhortation for all of us.

O love the LORD, all ye his saints (31:23):

He talked about exhortation last, this is great exhortation. "O just love the Lord, all ye His saints."

for the LORD preserves the faithful, and plentifully rewards the proud doer (31:23).

If you're filled with pride, Lord take care of you.

Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all of you that hope in the LORD (31:24).

"Be of good courage. The Lord will strengthen your heart. All of you who have put your hope in Him."

Love it. Love it, love it.

Thirty-two is one of my favorites. That's why I don't want to go into it tonight. We don't have time. So that's where we'll start next Sunday in Psalm 32.

So God bless you. Keep your eyes on the Lord. Love the Lord, ye His saints. Give glory unto God. Worship Him in the beauty of holiness. Commit your ways and your life unto Him. Let God rule and let God reign. And may you feel and know His presence, His love and power working in your life as He molds and transforms you into the image of His Son for His glory.