

## Psalms Handout Week Eleven

1 But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He will make it glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

2 The people who walk in darkness  
Have seen a great light;  
Those who live in a death's shadow,  
The light has shone on them.

3 You have multiplied the nation,  
You have increased their joy;  
They rejoice in Your presence  
As with the joy of harvest,  
As people rejoice when they divide the spoils.

4 For You have broken the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders,  
The rod of their oppressor, as at the battle of Midian.

5 For every boot of the marching warrior in the roar of battle,  
And cloak rolled in blood, will be for burning, fuel for the fire.

6 For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will rest on His shoulders;  
And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end,  
On the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness  
From then on and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

-There is an outrageous mismatch between the worth of the gift and the worth of the recipient.

Isa. 1:2 Listen, O heavens, and hear, O earth; For the LORD speaks, "Sons I have reared and brought up, But they have revolted against Me. An ox knows its owner, And a donkey its master's manger, But Israel does not know. My people do not understand." Alas, sinful nation, People weighed down with iniquity, Offspring of evildoers, Sons who act corruptly!

They have abandoned the LORD, They have despised the Holy One of Israel, They have turned away from Him. Where will you be stricken again, As you continue in your rebellion? The whole head is sick And the whole heart is faint.

Isa. 8:11 For thus the LORD spoke to me with mighty power and instructed me not to walk in the way of this people, saying, "You are not to say, 'It is a conspiracy!' In regard to all that this people call a conspiracy, and you are not to fear what they fear or be in dread of it..."

19 When they say to you, "Consult the mediums and the spiritists who whisper and mutter," should not a people consult their God? Should they consult the dead on behalf of the living? To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because *they have no dawn*. They will pass through the land hard-pressed and famished, and it will turn out that when they are hungry, they will be enraged and curse their king and their God as they face upward. Then they will look to the earth, and behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish; and they will be driven away into darkness.

What about us?

Eccl. 9:3b Furthermore, the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil and insanity is in their hearts throughout their lives.

Eph. 2:1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Yes, but I figured out the worth of the giver, right?

Jn. 6:44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws (Gr: **drags**) him; and I will raise him up on the last day...63. It is the *Spirit who gives life*; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life...65 And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him (given as a gift) from the Father.

Tit. 3:5 He saved us, *not* because of righteous things we *had done*, but because of *His mercy*. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

-There is an illogical mismatch between the gift and the need. The problem is just too big. With everything going on in the world, God gives a \_\_\_\_\_!

-There is an unimaginable, horrible mismatch in the destiny of the gift.  
v. 6 Unto us a son is given—assigned, delivered over to. To what?

Isa. 53:1 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground; He has no stately form or majesty that we would look at Him, nor an appearance that we would take pleasure in Him. He was despised and abandoned by men, a man of great pain and familiar with sickness; and like one from whom people hide their faces, He was despised, and we had no regard for Him. However, it was our sicknesses that He Himself bore, and our pains that He carried; Yet we ourselves assumed that He had been afflicted, struck down by God, and humiliated. But He was pierced for our offenses, He was crushed for our wrongdoings; the punishment for our well-being was laid upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed. All of us, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the wrongdoing of us all to fall on Him. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth. By oppression and judgment He was taken away; and as for His generation, who considered that He was cut off from the land of the living for the wrongdoing of my people, to whom the blow was due?

Mk. 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to *give His life* as a ransom for many.

-There is a gross mismatch in numbers.  
V.1,3,7 ?

Rev. 7:9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which *no one could count*, from every nation and all the tribes, peoples, and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb

Not really an exchange...

Rom. 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All we can ever offer is genuine delight.

-There is a glaring mismatch in the marketing hype verses the reality.

Zebulun and Naphtali,      Light in darkness      Joy of the harvest/spoils

Freedom from slavery and oppression      An end to war      A eternal kingdom of justice and peace

WOW!! Of course, it's hard to buy the hype.

Reason 1: We're foolish and stuck in narrow thinking. Still...let's be realistic.

Reason 2: We just don't understand prophesy as well as we would like. No one does. Not even angels.

There is a problem with time compression.

There is the concept of the already and the not yet.

Made more complicated by verb tense.

NASB. v. 2 The people who walk in darkness will see a great light

NIV. v. 2. The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light.

NASB v. 6 For a child will be born to us.      NIV v. 6. For unto us a child is born.

The prophetic perfect (past tense): Events in the future described as if they have already happened.

Reflects a knowledge of God's character as an infallible promise keeper, a belief that once God says something is going to happen, it's a sure thing.

Reason three: It's poetry, man! "A light will shine."

Well, does it match up?

Zebulun and Naphtali

Jn. 1:5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Mat. 4:12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been taken into custody, He withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth, He came and settled in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. This happened so that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet would be fulfilled....

Light in darkness.

Jn. 8:12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; the one who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

1 Jn. 1:5 This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: God is light; *in Him there is no darkness at all.*

1 Cor. 15:54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. 21:23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illuminated it, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. In the daytime (for there will be no night there).

Multiplies the nations. Joy as at the harvest. Joy as at the spoils

1 Cor. 15:20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the *first fruits* of those who are asleep.

Acts 2:1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them... Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from *every nation under heaven*. And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language...<sup>41</sup> So then, those who had received His word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

The spoils...

2 Cor. 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us as *captives* in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere.

Col. 1:13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and *transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son*, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

No burden, no staff, no rod of the oppressor.

What were we enslaved to?

Lk. 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim *liberty* to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at *liberty those who are oppressed*,

Jn. 8:32 And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free...<sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Rom. 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has *set you free* from the law of sin and death.

Day of Midian.

What is God's point?

It's all

I've

I'll

End to war.

Gen.3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.

Col. 1:21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind...

Eph. 2: And you were... by nature *children of wrath*, like the rest of mankind.

Rom. 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have *peace with God* through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rom. 5:10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were *reconciled to Him* through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life!

Col. 1:21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, He has now *reconciled* in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach *before Him*,

His kingdom of justice and righteousness and peace.

The already—

Lk. 17:20 Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, he answered them, “The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed, nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, the kingdom of God is (in you) in the midst of you.”

Rom. 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Burn it all for the kingdom!

The not yet part—

But what do we have embedded in this song that gives us a hope we can put our weight down on?

The gift is indeed a mismatch. It greatly exceeds the hype.

A wonderful (miraculous) counselor

Jam. 3:17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

Rom. 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

Mighty (strong, valiant, hero) God:

Rom. 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

1 Jn. 4:4 Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

Everlasting Father:

Prince of Peace:

Jn. 14:27 Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

Rev. 21:1 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and He will dwell with them. They will be His people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.

Isa. 9:7 Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end,  
On the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness  
From then on and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts (armies) will accomplish this.

Zeal:

### Takeaways

-Believe

-If it feels dark

Ps. 139:11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me (break me),  
And the light around me will be as night,"  
Even the darkness is not dark to You, and the night is as bright as the day.  
Darkness and light are alike to You.

-If you are feeling the weight of the world

-Trust

Take courage

Rest in

Let the peace of the Prince

-Let the hallelujah chorus

### Discussion

Which name for Jesus in v. 6 is particularly needful or precious to you at this time? Why?