

Message Series: The Whole Counsel of God, Message 22  
Finding Satisfaction In God. Psalm 42-72  
Pastor Roger Ridley, Gretna Baptist Church – July 15, 2007

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Perhaps you can remember a Coke commercial from a few years back. I thought it was very creative. A man walks into a dinner and sits at the counter. Behind the counter is a parrot, but instead of talking, the parrot makes the sound of a pop can being opened, someone drinking it, and then finishing with the sound of satisfaction. When the waiter asked the man what he wanted to order, he replied, “*A can of Coke.*”

The sound of thirst being satisfied was the incentive of the commercial.

There is an even greater thirst in the soul of men and women crying out for satisfaction, we find it addressed in the opening verses of Psalm 42. Look with me at Psalm 42:1-2a...

What is it about the living God that creates a thirst deep within our soul which can only be satisfied by Him? The answer is found in how God relates to us.

In Psalms 42-72, five attributes of God are emphasized which should bring satisfaction to the thirsting of our souls.

## **I. God is Our King**

First of all, He is presented as our King. In Psalm 44:4, David makes this simple, yet life encompassing statement, “*Thou art my King, O God!*” Who is it that rules your heart or thoughts? Who is it that sits on the throne of your life? Numerous answers could be given: self, pleasures, riches, but none better than *God the King*. I like the way the psalmist expresses himself in Psalm 45:1...

He says, “*When it comes to the subject of the King, there is so much to say!*” Look at verse 6...

Sitting on His throne, the scepter is the rod held in the hand of the king as an emblem of His authority, and here, David acknowledges that God’s authority is the right authority in life. Hebrews 1:8-9 quotes this verse and applies it to the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the King of kings, and Lord of lords!

In this series of Psalms, one especially stands out from the rest in exalting God as our great King. Look at Psalm 47...

Clearly, God is the exalted King of all the earth, and if all the earth should praise Him as King, certainly you and I should.

Can you say, without reservation, that God is your King.

## **II. God Is Our Judge**

We also learn in psalms 42-72 that God is our Judge.

I am sure at some time in your life you have felt wrongly judged. It hurts doesn't it! Psalm 64:3 describes the people who often inflict this kind of pain...

The problem is, most of us have wrongly judged others as well, including me. Several years ago I was sharing the gospel with Fair-goers at the Nebraska State Fair. I saw this man walking in our direction with long hair and tattoos and thought to myself he would never be interested, but in just a few minutes he was sitting down with us, with his head bowed, praying to the Great Judge asking for mercy and salvation.

That's the difference between God's judgment and ours. When we judge we rarely get past appearances and actions. However, look at what 44:21 says of God the Judge...

God does not judge by appearances, but by the heart. As a result, we never have to worry whether God will judge us fairly or not. Psalm 67:4 tells us He always judges us righteously. That means when we do sin, when we do fall, when we do that which is wrong, we can go to Him. Look with me at Psalm 51:1-12...

This psalm was written following David's sin with Bathsheba and murder of her husband. He did not deserve it, but because God judges righteously, David knew he could go to God even then. He David could, under those circumstances, so can you and I!

Can you say God is your Judge?

### **III. God Is Our Refuge**

God is our King, our Judge, but in these psalms He is also presented as our Refuge. A refuge is simply a place of safety. Do you have a place you like to go to get away from everything? Is there someone you go to when you need help or feel afraid? People can be a refuge, places can be a refuge, but our God is the greatest refuge! Look at what it says in Psalm 62:8...

There is never a time when we cannot go to God as our refuge.

At a very dark and troubled time in his life, while being tried for heresy, Martin Luther jotted down the words of the hymn, A Mighty Fortress Is Our God based on his meditation of Psalm 46...

When everything about our life seems to be shaken, this psalm teaches us that God is with us. He is a very present help in our trouble. He is our refuge!

I especially like the illustration of God as our refuge presented in 57:1...

God would gladly provide safety beneath His wings for each of us, but He leaves it up to us to seek His shelter. Look at Matthew 23:37...

God is very willing to be a place of refuge for us, but too often we are not willing. What a shame when such a great place of safety is available.

Can you say God is your Refuge.

### **IV. God Is Our Rock**

Not only is God our Refuge, He is also our Rock. Living out here in the sandy plains of Nebraska as we do, it is kind of difficult to imagine what it means for God to be our Rock. I moved to Nebraska from Illinois, and there we had outcroppings of rock all around us. Having spent much time on many of them I believe I have a good sense of what David meant when he referred to God as our Rock.

Standing on an outcropping of rock gives you a sense of stability, security, and strength. Remember the story Jesus told? Look at Matthew 7:24f...

If God's Word acts as a foundation rock for our lives, imagine what God Himself does. Look at what David says in Psalm 61:2...

Look also at 62:2 and 6...

When you take a look at your life, what rock nor foundation are you building on? I hope you can say God is your Rock.

## **V. God Is Our Salvation**

Intertwined with all of these attributes we also learn that God is our Salvation. In these psalms, salvation is referred to in two different ways: (1) deliverance from trouble or enemies, and (2) deliverance from the ultimate enemy sin and death.

I am so glad when I am in trouble I can cry out, "*O God save me, deliver me, help me!*" But I am even happier, and I believe it is the greatest reason God brings satisfaction to our soul, that we can look to Him for salvation from sin and death. Look at Psalm 71:17-20...

In old age, David faced death with confidence because he knew God would provide the ultimate victory and death would not keep him in the grave.

One of my favorite Bible passages is 1 Corinthians 15:55-57...

When Jesus went to the cross, died for sin, and then rose from the grave, He secured salvation for all who would call upon Him.

On December 20, 1974, I prayed and asked the Lord to save me from my sins. Since that day, He alone has been my salvation, and I can say, as David does repeatedly in Psalm 62, God **Alone** is my Salvation!

I hope you too can say God is your Salvation.

All around us people are thirsting; their souls are parched and find no satisfaction in all the things this world has to offer. God, the living God, is the only One that can bring satisfaction to the soul. Consequently, I hope

each of you can say God is **my** King, Judge, Refuge, Rock, and Salvation. If not, receive Him as such today! Here's how...

Admit...

Acknowledge...

Ask...