

August 15–21

Psalms 49–51; 61–66; 69–72; 77–78; 85–86

“I Will Declare What He Hath Done for My Soul”



THE
PSALMS

After Trials Comes Miraculous Blessings

Ps 66:10-11

Why would the psalmist praise God for being tried with afflictions?

James E. Faust

"Here then is a great truth. In the pain, the agony, and the heroic endeavors of life, we pass through a refiner's fire, and the insignificant and the unimportant in our lives can melt away like dross and make our faith bright, intact, and strong.... In the agonies of life, we seem to listen better to the faint, godly whisperings of the Divine Shepherd.

"There seems to be a full measure of anguish, sorrow, and often heartbreak for everyone, including those who earnestly seek to do right and be faithful.... In this way the soul can become like soft clay in the hands of the Master in building lives of faith, usefulness, beauty, and strength. For some, the refiner's fire causes a loss of belief and faith in God, but those with eternal perspective understand that such refining is part of the perfection process." (CR, April 1979)

After Trials Comes Miraculous Blessings

Ps 77:1,9-12,13-4

What does the psalmist do when he feels that his prayers are not being heard?

After Trials Comes Miraculous Blessings

Ps 86:1-3,7,13-14,17

Howard W. Hunter

“I wish to speak briefly of some of those divine moments in our lives when the Savior reaches out to redeem and make whole and strengthen us.

“The Psalmist has written:

‘I cried unto God with my voice,... and he gave ear unto me....’

‘And I said, This is my infirmity: but I will remember the years of the right hand of the most High....’

‘Thou art the God that doest wonders: thou hast declared thy strength among the people.’

“Among the signs of the true church, and included in the evidences of God’s work in the world, are the manifestations of his power which we are helpless to explain or to fully understand. In the scriptures these divine acts and special blessings are variously referred to as miracles or signs or wonders or marvels.”

(CR, April 1989)

Change of Heart

Ps 51:7-12

David wants a clean heart. Why does he ask the Lord to create it for him?

Charles A. Callis

“Pray with David, 'Create in me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me.' When a man repents of his sins and brings forth fruits meet for repentance, is he not another man? Does not God give him another heart, a new heart?... my brethren and sisters, if the people will put all manner of evil beneath their feet; if they will turn wholly to God: if they will set their faces as flint against those evils which are vexing mankind, God will give them new hearts, and by obeying the gospel, they will become better and stronger.” (CR, April 1917)

The Lord Is Our Protection and Strength

Ps 61:1-4

Ps 62:5-8

Allan M. Walburger

"the scriptures teach us that when we trust in the Savior, He can protect or shelter us. Listen to these comforting words of the Psalmist, 'From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.'

"These comforting words remind us of the love that our Savior has for each of his flock. He desires to protect us. But we must come unto him to find the refuge we seek.

"In what way does He protect us or provide us refuge? Perhaps the most obvious is with respect to temporal storms and physical harm.... We might be reminded that, the Lord has promised, 'I will go before your face. I will be on your right hand and on your left, and my Spirit shall be in your hearts, and mine angels round about you, to bear you up' (D&C 84:88). Our faith in Christ can yield protection and miraculous blessings as He sees fit to grant in our times of need.

"Of course, the greatest protection that the Rock provides us is protection from temptation and sin. He promises that we will not be 'tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it' (1 Corinthians 10:13). This protection is absolutely real." (BYUI Devotional, May 27, 2014)

Our Physical Needs

Ps 63:5

Ps 65:9-13

Orson Pratt

[This place] was once considered the most dreary, desolate, barren place on the face of all North America, a land where it was supposed that no human being could subsist.... But what was formerly a desert.... has become a fruitful land, and the Lord has fulfilled many and many a prophecy recorded in Isaiah and the Psalms of David in relation to making the desert blossom as the rose and making it like the garden of the Lord. It is thus prophesied, and that it has been fulfilled no one can dispute.” (JD, 17:289)

Gospel Message Brings Joy

Ps 66:1-2,8-9,16

D. Todd Christofferson

“Truly, when you think about it, we have in the restored gospel what people, deep down, really want. So the warning voice is generally not only civil, but in the Psalmist’s phrase, it is a ‘joyful noise.’” (CR, April 2017)

The Second Coming

Ps 50:2-3

Ps 68:1-3

Orson Pratt

“This is the work of God. It is God that causes these kingdoms to vanish away. It is our God that will cleanse the earth from wickedness. ‘A fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him’. He it is that will speak and the wicked shall melt away.”
(JD, 21:272)

The Second Coming

Ps 85:1,5-6,11-13

Orson Pratt

“David says, in the 85th Psalm, when enquiring about the long captivity of Jacob—‘Lord, wilt thou not bring back the captivity of Jacob’, ‘that Israel may rejoice, and that thy people may be glad.’ The Lord, in answering this prayer of David, tells him how he will do it. Says he—‘I will cause truth to spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven’, ‘and they shall go before us; to set us in the way of his steps.’ Yes, by bringing forth this work out of the earth, and by raising up his church, by the divine authority which he restored again, and by pouring out the Holy Ghost... the Lord has set us again in the way of his steps. And Israel will truly be made glad, and the house of Jacob, when this work shall go forth to them, will no longer be made ashamed.” (JD, 17:278)

Next Week:

August 22–28

Psalms 102–103; 110; 116–119; 127–
128; 135–139; 146–150

“Let Every Thing
That Hath Breath
Praise the Lord”

