

SBC – Jan. 11, 2026

Psalm 92:1-15 (NKJV)

“The Wicked Perish – The Righteous Flourish”

Psalm 92 (NKJV)

A Psalm. A Song for the Sabbath Day.

We don't know who wrote Psalm 92 – some suggest David but that is just a guess.

The title “A Psalm. A Song for the Sabbath Day”. This Psalm indicates that the Sabbath was not only a day for rest but also a day for corporate worship.

Slide # 1

Psalm 92

“The Wicked Perish – The Righteous Flourish”

vv. 1-3 Worship is Good

vv. 4-6 God's Great Works and Thoughts

vv. 7-9 God's Enemies Perish Before His Sovereignty

vv. 10-15 Testimony to God's Blessing

1 It is good to give thanks to the LORD, And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;

We see the idea of Hebrew poetry come through repeatedly in this Psalm. One form of Hebrew poetry is to repeat the same basic idea in a little different way. We see that here.

It is good to give thanks to the LORD. It is good, meaning it is fitting! It is good in that God values it! The word LORD is actually YHWH, which is often referred to as God's covenant name. It is found 7 times in this Psalm – so the emphasis here is strong! It emphasizes His unchanging nature. God's character is unchanging. His faithfulness is unchanging! The name YHWH emphasizes God's unchanging faithfulness to His people!

The parallel to “give thanks” is “sing praises”. Most High emphasizes God's supreme position over all. There is none above Him. He is over all!

As such God is worthy of our worship – of our thanks and praise! We were created by God and for God. We were created to worship. Indeed, it is good when we worship in thanksgiving and praise.

2 To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, And Your faithfulness every night,

And what specifically is thankfulness and praise about? They serve to declare God's lovingkindness in the morning and His faithfulness every night.

Lovingkindness is the rich Hebrew word "hesed". This word is found 248 times in the OT (cf. Jer. 9:24; 32:18; Lam. 3:22; Dan. 9:4). This has been called an undefinable word. It is so rich in meaning that it is hard to get your mind around it. The KJV translators initially translated it 14 different ways eventually ending up with the compound word "loving –kindness". It is often translated as "steadfast love" or "loyal love".

It underscores God's covenant FAITHFULNESS or His covenant love. It is God's FAITHFULNESS flavored with MERCY. I like the definition of "Forever faithful!" Above all, it underscores God's unfailing FAITHFULNESS! Hesed is God's UNCHANGING FOREVER FAITHFULNESS!

God is to be thanked and praised every morning for His unchanging, forever faithfulness! This should be among our first thoughts in the morning.

Slide # 2

Lamentations 3:22–23 (NKJV)

22 Through the LORD's mercies [HESEDS] we are not consumed,
Because His compassions fail not.

23 They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

It is good to declare God's faithfulness every night! His hesed (unchanging forever faithfulness) brought us through the night, and His faithfulness brought us through the day! It is good to give God thanks and praise every morning and every night, with special emphasis here in context on the Sabbath.

Slide # 3

Psalms 113:3 (NKJV)

3 From the rising of the sun to its going down The LORD's name is to be praised.

3 On an instrument of ten strings, On the lute, And on the harp, With harmonious sound.

We give thanks with our tongues. We sing with our tongues, but it is also appropriate to use musical instruments in our worship. Those who claim it is more spiritual to be non-instrumental must live lives that are totally blasé'. But the real issue is that taking this position forces you to cut out huge sections of the Bible. This includes a total of 24 Psalms!

Certainly, we should do so with some skill, as it says here, “with harmonious sound.” David sought out those who were skillful in music to lead in worship (1 Chron. 25:1-7).

The first three verses of this psalm show that worshipping and honoring God have many different aspects and expressions. We should worship God in any available and honoring way.

– **David Guzik**

4 For You, LORD, have made me glad through Your work; I will triumph in the works of Your hands.

We should worship God for His faithfulness, and His faithfulness is seen in His works! Day and night God providentially takes care of His own. He sovereignly preserves His own as seen later in this Psalm (v. 10-11). Truly our times are in His hand (Ps. 31:15). This preserving work of God on our behalf should make us grateful and glad.

Instead, so often people tend to complain about what is happening to them. Instead of thanksgiving and praise, people often want to blame God and be upset instead of being glad about God’s sovereign care.

We whine as if our lives were martyrdoms, and every breath a woe. But it is not so. Such conduct slanders the good Lord.”

– **Charles Spurgeon**

I have a sign in my office that says “No whining!” That is biblical!

Now, admittedly, not everything that happens to us feels good or is enjoyable, but we can decide how we are going to respond. It could always be worse! We could be unsaved. But as it is, we as believers always have Romans 8:28 to lean on, which should make us glad no matter what is happening.

Slide # 4**Romans 8:28 (NKJV)**

28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

5 O LORD, how great are Your works! Your thoughts are very deep.

YHWH's works are great! How great we can't even begin to fathom. God-things are happening all around us all the time. God's providential care and protection are continual.

God's thoughts are very deep! His plans are inscrutable! This speaks to God's intelligence! And His thoughts are demonstrated in His great works which is the carrying out of His plans.

Often we have no idea how God is going to work in a certain situation, but His thoughts are very deep and His works are great!

Slide # 5**Proverbs 20:24 (NKJV)**

24 A man's steps are of the LORD; How then can a man understand his own way?

Even though we can't figure it out as we go along, we see how great His works are, and we appreciate them and worship accordingly! In contrast...

6 A senseless man does not know, Nor does a fool understand this.

The fool is clueless as to God and His ways! He just thinks everything is random! He doesn't recognize "Intelligent Design." He doesn't think in light of eternity! He just lives for now! To leave God out of the equation of life is senseless! It is the way of the fool!

Senseless is sometimes translated as "stupid." The word "senseless" is the idea of being brutish and operating on the level of a brute animal. It is the idea of acting like an animal, having no perception or appreciation of God and His ways.

Slide # 6

Ephesians 4:18 (NKJV)

18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

2 Peter 2:12 (NKJV)

12 But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption,

[M]an's calling [is] to look up to God and become like God, in whose image he is made. But if he will not look up, the only place he will be able to look is down, and he will begin to behave like an animal."

- **James Montgomery Boice**

Here is what they fail to understand...

7 When the wicked spring up like grass, And when all the workers of iniquity flourish, It is that they may be destroyed forever.

The wicked spring up like grass. It happens quickly, and for a moment, they seem to flourish. But to what end? "***It is that they may be destroyed forever.***" The fool does not consider his end! He lives for now. That is all he cares about! But in the end, it all counts for nothing!

And not only does it not count for anything, but their end is also eternal destruction.

"Destruction '*for ever*' is a portion far too terrible for the mind to realise. Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, the full terror of the wrath to come!" – **Charles Spurgeon**

But in contrast...

8 But You, LORD, are on high forevermore.

This is the key verse of the Psalm. It emphasizes the sovereign rule of God! YHWH is on high (over all) forevermore! His position as Most High will never change! Therefore, He is a God to be reckoned with! Only a fool is oblivious to this reality!

What a contrast: "Destroyed forever" versus "on high forevermore."

9 For behold, Your enemies, O LORD, For behold, Your enemies shall perish; All the workers of iniquity shall be scattered.

All God's enemies are going down. They are all eternal losers! They will be destroyed forever; they shall perish. All the workers of iniquity shall be scattered. Iniquity is the idea of perverse rebellion that defies God's holy standard.

When it says all the workers of iniquity will be scattered, it is the idea that they will be dispersed into nothing. Picture the dispersing of smoke or wax melting before fire. Thus, it signifies God's total defeat of them! They might try to band together in rebellion, but they are going to be scattered into nothingness.

- This is another of God's great works! He preserves the righteous but He scatters the wicked!

10 But my horn You have exalted like a wild ox; I have been anointed with fresh oil.

The Psalmist speaking now as an old man shares his testimony!

The horn of a wild ox was a symbol of strength. The enemies of God will perish, but God gives strength to His own. "Anointed with fresh oil" symbolizes God refreshing and invigorating Him. God restores and strengthens. This God has done for him, this is his testimony.

Furthermore...

11 My eye also has seen my desire on my enemies; My ears hear my desire on the wicked Who rise up against me.

God has given him victory over his enemies. His desire is that God would take them down and that has happened. We don't always see this in this life, but we will certainly see it on the other side.

The wicked should understand that this world provides the best they will ever experience, and the righteous should know that this world provides the worst they will experience. – **David Guzik**

Romans 8:36–37 (NKJV)

36 As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

We need to ever keep the faithfulness of God in view in light of forever. The enemies are going to be destroyed forever; they are going to perish (v. 7, 9). But in contrast...

12 The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

The wicked, like grass, are very short-lived (v. 7). But the righteous shall flourish like a palm tree.

Slide # 8

Palm trees are beautiful and are as a symbol of tranquility are known for their resilience to wind and drought as well as their longevity. Some palm trees can live 200 or more years. To flourish like a palm tree is to flourish with endurance.

The righteous flourish like a palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Slide # 9

The cedars of Lebanon were famous for their beauty, size, grandeur, durability, and strength. They could grow more than 100 feet tall – that is like the size of a 10-story building, and they could live for more than a thousand years.

Whereas the wicked are here today – gone tomorrow, the righteous endure and are strong. Again, this is to be seen in view of the long view of eternity! In the end, the righteous have eternal longevity and are in the position of God's strength.

13 Those who are planted in the house of the LORD Shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Being planted in the house and courts of the LORD symbolizes living in the presence of God. Flourishing in the court of God symbolizes maintaining a close relationship with God, which causes one to thrive spiritually.

Those who live close to God will flourish! This is where believers are planted and where they thrive.

14 They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing,

There is a spiritual vibrancy in those who maintain a close walk with God. They shall still bear fruit in old age. They don't outlive their usefulness – not before God.

Now we live in a culture that values youthfulness but not so much those who are of old age.

I remember talking to a young man in the ministry who had the tendency to put down those a little older than him in terms of ministry. I, in effect, told him how misguided his perspective was. He did not appreciate it!

The older I get, the more I like Psalm 92:14!

Slide # 10

The famous evangelist George Whitefield was relating the difficulties of the gospel ministry to some friends. He said that he was weary of the burdens and was glad that his work would soon be over and that he would depart this earthly scene to be with Christ. The others admitted having similar feelings -- all except one, a Mr. Tennant. Noting this, Whitefield tapped him on the knee and said, "Well, Brother Tennant, you are the oldest among us; do you not rejoice to think that your time is so near at hand when you will be called Home?"

The old man answered bluntly that he had no wish about it. When pressed for something more definite, he added, *"I have nothing to do with death. My business is to live as long as I can, and as well as I can, and serve my Savior as faithfully as I can, until He thinks it's time to call me Home."* Whitefield accepted that word as a gentle rebuke from the Lord, and it helped him go on with his work calmly and patiently. - ***Our Daily Bread.***

The righteous shall flourish and still bear fruit in their old age. A verse to live and die by!

15 To declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

How do they still bear fruit? By declaring their testimony about the LORD. It's not about self! For the fruitful old person, it is now all about God!

He is upright!
He is my Rock!
He is totally righteous!

This is the testimony of an old faithful saint who has faithfully walked with the Lord. In this testimony, he is flourishing. In this testimony, he is still bearing fruit!

Things change as we grow older, but the Lord never changes. He ever remains our ROCK, our holy ROCK!

Note it is very personal: ***"He is my rock."***

In all he had been through, through it all, he had learned that God is His ROCK, His stable reality, the reality that He can rest and depend on. And this is his mature, proven testimony!

Every testimony is important and valid. We often want to hear the testimony of the young and the new converts. That is great!

But what about the testimony of the seasoned saints?
Their testimony of God's faithfulness and how they have proved Him ore and ore is very powerful!

God help us to be fruitful, and if we should live into the senior years, continue to bear fruit to the glory of God!

It's all about Him! So says the elderly who are still bearing fruit!