

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

# IT'S A GOOD THING TO GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD PSALMS 92

Text: Psalms 92:1

## ***Psalm 92:1***

<sup>1</sup> ***It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD,*** and  
to sing praises unto thy name, O most High:

Introduction:

The central theme of this psalm is found in the very first verse.

Illustration:

Bruce and Jan Benson are Bible translators, serving in Peru. Several years ago, they were driving down an Andean road with their 14 year-old son when they came around a switchback and came bumper to bumper with a truckload of people. Suddenly, these people brandished rifles at the Bensons, who realized that they had encountered the brutal terrorist organization, Shining Path. Jan thought, "This is it! This is the end of our lives!"

The terrorists forced them out of their car and transported them to a nearby town. On the way, fearful and bewildered, Jan felt the need to pray and even to sing praises to God. Jan described it, It began as a trickle. A presence that said, “The Lord inhabits the praises of His people.” “But Lord, I don’t know how to praise you right now.” “Sing,” came the thought. “At least you can sing.” The words were there as I needed them: “You are my hiding place. You always fill my heart with songs of deliverance. Whenever I am afraid I will trust in you... Trust and obey... Jesus, name above all names... Emmanuel, God is with us...”

Suddenly I felt as though I was the only person alive on earth, just me and God. The others were simply part of an unreal puppet play, dangling from the strings of the Enemy... I felt an all-encompassing love. God reassured me that He was in control, that nothing could remove me from His loving presence—not even death itself.

That night the terrorists unexpectedly released the Bensons—but not without first confiscating their car, their portable projection equipment and film reels of the “New Media Bible,” which is based on the book of Luke.

One year passed. The Bensons had moved to the capital for safety and to take on administrative roles. Jan received a phone call. One of their captors had become a Christian and wanted to meet with them.

Face-to-face he told them he was an experienced killer, and that he and the others had planned on killing them all. But, for some reason they just could not do it and instead released them.

He told Bruce and Jan that soon after arriving at their base, the rebels set up the projector and watched the film, eventually many times. At one viewing, several hundred terrorist rebels were watching! The Word of God in the film, understood in their own language, reached into the men's hardened hearts. Many were so moved that they wanted to lay down their arms right there and leave "The Shining Path." Now, standing before them as a fellow believer, their former enemy asked forgiveness for what he had done to them that day. Eventually, Bruce and Jan were able to go back into the mountains to do a final "read through" of the entire New Testament in their language, the last key step before it went to press (told by Roy Peterson, Wycliffe Bible Translators newsletter, 11/27/2001).

Sometimes it is very difficult to praise the Lord. Sometimes you just don't feel like it. Probably none of us have ever been in the kind of frightening, life-threatening situation the Benson's were in. But even in the most difficult of situations, the psalmist would still tell us ([Ps 92:1](#)),

"It is good to give thanks to the Lord and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High."

You may wonder, “Why is it good to give thanks to the Lord when you face difficult trials? Why is it good to sing praises to His name when evil people seem to be prospering?”

The psalmist here gives us three reasons:

It is good to give thanks to the Lord because of who He is and what He has done; because He will triumph over the wicked; and, because He causes the righteous to flourish.

Note:

## **1. THE RIGHTNESS OF PRAISE (VS. 1-3)**

### ***Psalm 92:1-3***

*<sup>1</sup> It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: <sup>2</sup> To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night, <sup>3</sup> Upon an instrument of ten strings, and upon the psaltery; upon the harp with a solemn sound.*

The psalmist conveyed, it is good to praise the Lord. That is, worshipping God is fitting, the most reasonable thing to do.

He is to be worshipped because of the surpassing greatness of who he is and what he has done.

Note not only the Rightness of Praise but also:

## 2. THE REASONS FOR PRAISE (VS. 4-11)

### ***Psalm 92:4-11***

*<sup>4</sup> For thou, LORD, hast made me glad through thy work: I will triumph in the works of thy hands. <sup>5</sup> O LORD, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep.*

*<sup>6</sup> A brutish man knoweth not; neither doth a fool understand this. <sup>7</sup> When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; it is that they shall be destroyed for ever: <sup>8</sup> But thou, LORD, art most high for evermore. <sup>9</sup> For, lo, thine enemies, O LORD, for, lo, thine enemies shall perish; all the workers of iniquity shall be scattered. <sup>10</sup> But my horn shalt thou exalt like the horn of an unicorn: I shall be anointed with fresh oil. <sup>11</sup> Mine eye also shall see my desire on mine enemies, and mine ears shall hear my desire of the wicked that rise up against me.*

#### A. Praise God for His Exploits (4-5)

- His deeds make me glad (4)
- His deeds are great (5a)
- His deeds are profound (5b)
- His deeds are unknowable (6-7)

## B. Praise God for His Exaltation (8-9)

### ***Psalm 92:8-9***

*<sup>8</sup> But thou, LORD, art most high for evermore. <sup>9</sup> For, lo, thine enemies, O LORD, for, lo, thine enemies shall perish; all the workers of iniquity shall be scattered.*

- His exaltation is forever (8)
- His enemies are defeated (9)

## C. Praise God for His Enablement (10-11)

### ***Psalm 92:10-11***

*<sup>10</sup> But my horn shalt thou exalt like the horn of an unicorn: I shall be anointed with fresh oil. <sup>11</sup> Mine eye also shall see my desire on mine enemies, and mine ears shall hear my desire of the wicked that rise up against me.*

- His horn is exalted (10a)
- His head is anointed (10b)
- His adversaries are defeated (11)

These are just some of the reasons for praise. Note also:

### 3. THE RESULTS OF PRAISE (VS. 12-15)

#### **Psalm 92:12-15**

<sup>12</sup> *The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.* <sup>13</sup> *Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.* <sup>14</sup> *They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;* <sup>15</sup> *To shew that the LORD is upright: he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.*

#### A. The Righteous Are Spiritually Productive (12)

#### **Psalm 92:12**

<sup>12</sup> *The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.*

- Like a palm tree (12a) – bearing fruit in every season and circumstance of life.
- Like a Lebanon cedar (12b) – the largest trees of the Near East, a symbol of majestic size and strength.

#### B. The Righteous Are Securely Planted (13)

#### **Psalm 92:13**

<sup>13</sup> *Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.*

- In the house of the Lord (13a)
- In the courts of our God (13b)

#### C. The Righteous Are Steadfastly Prolific (14)

##### ***Psalm 92:14***

*<sup>14</sup> They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;*

- Bearing fruit in old age (14a)
- Staying fresh in old age (14b)

#### D. The Righteous Are Strongly Passionate (15)

##### ***Psalm 92:15***

*<sup>15</sup> To shew that the LORD is upright: he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.*

- The Lord is upright (15a)
- The Lord is my rock (15b)
- The Lord is holy (15c)



Close:

Why should we worship God? Why is it imperative to worship Him alone, instead of statues or the moon or ourselves?

Because He is worthy, and the results are great blessings.