



Understanding Psalm 108

What had happened? Israel had forsaken God and God had cast her off (v. 11) – He was not working powerfully in and through them. As a result, Israel's enemies were victorious over Israel. The temptation was to look to man for help in overcoming their enemies (v. 12) – often a country would hire an army to come and help them win a war. God had told Israel that a lack of His presence could not be remedied by turning to man for help.

Isaiah 31:1 "Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!"

It is never wise to turn to a man-centered methodology to solve the problem of the absence of God's power.

David was committed to not do that – he knew that only God could fix the problem (v. 12). David's heart was fixed (v. 1). He will not try to solve the problem in a man-centered way.

- He will sing & praise (v. 1)
- He will be joined by musical instruments (v. 2)
- He will sing UNTO God (v. 3)
- He will sing publically AMONG the saved (v. 3)
- He will sing publically AMONG the unsaved (v. 3)

David sought God (v. 6b). What will He answer? Will God help? How?

God answers...in His HOLINESS! (v. 7a)

David will experience victory over enemies (v. 7b-9)

Who will accomplish the victory? (v. 10)

God! (v. 11)

Vain are the techniques of the world. We need God! (v. 12)

When it is all over, God triumphs through His holiness (v. 13, 7a)

In this passage....

- we have a need – God's power is missing allowing the enemy to triumph.
- we have a wrong solution – man-centered methodology.
- we have a right solution – God's holiness which activates His power.
- we have a MUSIC MINISTRY – man is focused on God as seen in his song.

Does a good music ministry provide a tangible value to a church? Let's consider four facets of the music ministry:

1. Source of Our Music – Your _____ v. 1a

Verse 1b-3 flowed out of verse 1a! David's heart is fixed. He will not turn to man for a solution to the problem at hand, his hope and confidence is in God. He will seek God, praise God and wait on God to win the victory.

A good music ministry begins with hearts passionate about Jesus.

2. Motivation of Our Music – God's _____ v. 4

1) God's Mercy

Are you not in awe of God's mercy to you?

2) God's Truth

Are you not in awe that God has revealed truth to you?

3. Earmark of Our Music – Your _____ v. 1b-2

What is "even with my glory"??? David will sing and praise God with the best of his abilities and skills. He will sing and praise with everything that is within him. With all that he is known for. He will give his very best in singing praise to God. *Such enthusiasm!*

Psalms 66:1-2; 81:1-3; 95:1-2; 96:1-2; 98:1, 4-9

What happens with your voice when you get excited? Meditative?

Charles Haddon Spurgeon on Psalm 81:1-3 – "'Aloud' for the heartiest praise is due to our good Lord. His acts of love speak more loudly than any of our words of gratitude can do. No dullness should ever stupify our psalmody, or half-heartedness cause it to limp along. Sing aloud ye debtors to sovereign grace, your hearts are profoundly grateful, let your voices express your thankfulness.... It is to be regretted that the niceties of modern singing frighten our congregations from joining lustily in the hymns. For our part we delight in full bursts of praise, and had rather discover the ruggedness of a want of musical training than miss the heartiness of universal congregational song.... Beat on your tambourines, let the sound be loud and inspiring. Sound the trumpets, beat the drums. God is not to be served with misery but with mirthful music. Timbrel for sound, harp for sweetness. Let the full compass of music be holiness unto the Lord."

4. Result of Our Music – _____ v. 5-6

1) To Us....our thoughts & feelings toward God.

2) To Guests....they observe that we are serious about our God. They are brought to face the reality of the God we are enthusiastic about.