

Psalms 4:4-8 & God's Design of the Book of Psalms Around Seven Writers

Sunday 12/17/2023

I. Review

As you know, we have put a lot of work into Psalms because I think it's a key book, and every week we take it almost to a different level. That's certainly going to be true today. That's why we are doing the outlines.

Last week we started chapter four, and we have been talking about David's mighty men of valor from 2 Samuel 23. I showed you what it takes to really be the kind of Christian that God wants you to be by four character qualities. Then last week, I took it another step farther and showed you how these same four character qualities are what you find in the Lord Jesus Christ. **The real mark of a child of God will be putting these four areas in our lives.**

1. Determination
2. Loyalty
3. Courage
4. Honor

We hear the phrase *Christ-like* or *to be like Christ*, and yet this is what it really takes to be Christ-like. These four keys form the basis of the Christian life. I have showed you over the last couple of weeks how that **when man gets his hands on the things of God, 2 Corinthians 11:3 tells us that he takes what the Bible calls the simplicity of Christ and tries to make it very complex.**

There's a real difference between being spiritual and being Biblical in your spirituality. When you look at the Scribes, Pharisees, and the Sadducees (the religious leaders of Israel at the first coming of Christ), they were spiritual, but none of it was Biblical. It's the same today in many cases. **These four areas (determination, loyalty, courage, and honor) are the key to being Biblical in your relationship with Christ, and your spirituality is certainly based on these four things.**

Last week I walked you through the first three verses of Psalms 4, and I laid out what you can expect from the world, as well as what you can expect from God as He sustains you, as you fulfill what He has called you to do.

We talked about how God will enlarge you in the midst of your adversity. Enlarged means that you become bigger spiritually through what you go through. He talks about enlarging your heart, enlarging your mouth (knowing what to say) enlarging your steps, enlarging your family, and in time, as you put these things in your life and you really give your life to ministry, you help enlarge others (bring them along; help them be better).

And I showed you how people will try to turn your glory into shame. They'll make you look bad so they can make themselves look good. You will find it not just in the ministry and

Christianity, but in life itself. You'll be the new person at a job, and if you do a good job—better than the people already there, they're going to sandbag you. It's just that simple.

Then we talked about the love of vanity. We talked about men of low degree and men of high degree. Back in the 70's when the KJV Bible issue was hot and heavy in Baptist churches, a lot of the big time Baptist preachers, who were connected with Bible colleges who rejected the word of God and the King James Bible, would look at all these young guys starting churches who believed the King James Version, and they would ridicule them. They would talk about them being backwoods hillbillies because they didn't have the education that they had, and they actually believed that God could write a Bible and preserve it. God forbid.

We talked about how they will seek after leasing, which is an old English word meaning lying, to discredit you again to make themselves look good. But then I showed you that in the midst of it all, the real reason for the hatred, lies, and attacks is simply the fact that **God has separated you unto Himself.** He's given you a solidly blessed ministry which changes people's lives, and He has given them nothing.

I showed you how the LORD has set apart him that is godly for himself. And we talked about understanding that when you got saved, God separated you from the world. But as you grow, and you get to the point where you really begin to get involved in what God has for your life, then He will begin to separate you unto Him for a particular task.

I gave you the great verse in Romans 1:1: *Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called [to be] an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,* and I laid it out how Paul tells us he was a servant—that's our attitude about what God has done for us, and he said he was an apostle—that's the calling that God had for him (and God has a calling for you; what he wants you to do), and how he was separated unto the gospel of God—God wants to accomplish His plan for us.

Then we talked about our prayer life—24/7 access to God. **The Bible talks about three infirmities that we all have as Christians.**

1. Romans 6:19—Our flesh
2. Psalms 77:10—Forgetting what God has done for us
3. Romans 8:26—Not knowing how to pray

We talked about losing our false spirituality and finding the real meaning and understanding of prayer. It says in Matthew 23:14: *Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.*

The scribes and Pharisees were focused on a non-Biblical prayer to impress everybody, which had nothing to do with what real prayer is. **The Bible says that we should pray without ceasing (I Thessalonians 5:17). We should have a constant communication with God 24/7 all day long** and add anything else that you may do corporately to that, but that's where your prayer life really begins.

II. Psalms 4:4-8

Today we're going to look at the next part of Psalms Chapter 4—verses 4-8, and we're going to get a little more insight into the book of Psalms. Psalms is an incredibly deep book. **I would be amiss if I tried to give you all the depth of Psalms in one sitting. It would overwhelm all of us, and we'd never be able to process it; therefore, as we come through Psalms, there are things that I want to take you in a little deeper.** I want to build this in a fashion that as we go through Psalms, I can take you a little farther inside and give you a little more insight. I think that's the best way to do it. There are some great principles found in these verses today.

Psalm 4: 4-8. Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah. 5. Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD. 6. [There be] many that say, Who will shew us [any] good? LORD, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us. 7. Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time [that] their corn and their wine increased. 8. I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.

Psalms is an incredible book, but most people only ever see it at face value. They'll have their favorite Psalms, they'll read it when they're going through some tough times, or they'll use it as a spiritual Band-Aid to help them through. Some people will memorize the Psalms; the verses are very real and precious to them, and all that is good.

A.) Understanding the Anatomy of Things

I've always had a desire, going back to when I was a kid, to see and know how things go together and how they work. I'm a *connect the dots* kind of guy. When I would read a book, I'd always read the last chapter first, so I'd have a better understanding of where it was going. I always liked to understand the workings of things; in fact, I use the word anatomy of something—the parts and pieces which will make it function (or not function) correctly. I've also applied that concept to the ministry. There's a definite anatomy of ministry. You can also apply it to the Bible. I have always looked at it that way because I was trying to learn the “ins and outs” of everything that God did.

I was very fortunate that when I first got right with the Lord, and began to grow, God put a man in my life, my father in the Lord Mel Sabaka. He did something for me that I try to do for you, and that is take you under my wing and show you the “ins and outs” of what the ministry is all about. I can never thank him enough because I was like most young guys, who when you look at the ministry, you see it at face value. **He helped me see and understand a depth to the ministry and what really made it work.** Another guy I can never thank enough for the things he showed me is Dr. Truman Dollar, who I worked under for a number of years. Where Mel showed me on one spectrum, Pastor Dollar showed me on the other side. It was a great balance in my life to help me see and understand how the ministry worked. I think that's crucial.

Most of us are really at a disadvantage with our automobiles because when they break down, we don't know what to do about it. I always envy the guys that could help the lady with the car that

wouldn't start. A lot of people are like that when it comes to the ministry. You coast along in it, you enjoy it, but you really don't know how it works. You don't know what happens or takes place, and these are things that were taught to me early on—learning what the anatomy of a ministry is, the anatomy of the Bible, and the working parts of a solid Bible-based ministry. It's the inside workings, not just what you see on the surface. Face value can be misleading. There's an old saying "Never judge a book by the cover."

World history has anatomy to it. There have been seven wonders of the ancient world which stand as benchmarks in man's early history. And yet who knows what the seven wonders are today? Nobody. In the word of God, God has seven wonders that the anatomy of the world spiritually is built around. Who knows what they are? But they're there. The anatomy of history is what the world does and what God does. In Proverbs 9:1, it tells us that wisdom is built on seven pillars. If you want to know what the anatomy of wisdom is, find out what those seven pillars are. And yet there are seven pillars in the Bible of understanding, which are key to the Bible in the Christian life. If you want to find out the inner workings of understanding, find out what they are. If you go to medical school, you study anatomy which shows you all the parts of the human body and how they function, and yet when you look at the Christian spiritual body, there is an anatomy to it—body, soul, and spirit. But who knows what those are? When you look at the Old Testament in your Bible, it's built around seven men. That's the anatomy of the Old Testament. When you get into the New Testament, it's built on around seven churches. That's the anatomy of it.

The Bible is the same way. It has inner workings. **Each book of the Bible has an anatomy to it. Each book will have its own inner workings which make up the anatomy of what that book really wants to do and say in your life.** Now, we're in the book of Psalms. The anatomy of the book of Psalms and the ability to get the most out of this book is seeing the structure of how God put it together to teach us something.

When we started the book of Psalms, I told you there were seven authors. I didn't say anything more about it because I wanted to wait and see if anybody would do anything with it. **Have you ever noticed or observed that the book of Psalms will be built around seven authors, and these seven men will be the foundation of teaching that will come out of the book of Psalms?** When you really understand this, what you are going to come away with—not just on the surface, but seeing it as these seven men that it's built around and what they bring to the table—teaches you about Psalms. **And when we look beyond the surface of Psalms, you'll see the anatomy of Psalms will be seven men who wrote the Psalms and how they represent what we should get out of Psalms.** It's quite incredible. And then we add these things to our lives as we grow through that, and like we said last week, you become a servant, then you get a calling, then God separates you unto Himself.

III. The Seven Authors of the Book of Psalms

Most of you have the authors of Psalms in your outlines or your notes: Asaph, David, Solomon, Ethan, Moses, Sons of Korah, and a Mystery Man.

Each one of them will bring a different teaching out of the book of Psalms to us by what they write. Collectively, when you view the book of Psalms in this kind of depth, you're going to get some things out of Psalms that you're not going to get by just reading the surface of it.

Now when you look at each one of these, you will see each will be a different component of the Christian life. Psalms is a book that most Christians go to in a time of trouble. I understand that. It's a great devotional book. **But most people never get past the surface of that to see that these seven men, when they write, not only provide insight and structure to the book, but also insight and structure to the anatomy of our Christian life.** And that's why the outlines are important because they will reinforce the material, and you can spend a little less time gathering it because it's all right there at your fingertips.

Now let's look at them; **let's go down deep and look at each one of them as they portray to us the book of Psalms.** Each one of these guys is an absolute study in and of themselves which you could spend a month on. I want to whet your appetite and give you enough that you can begin to do a study on it, or at least leave with a better understanding.

1.) Asaph

The first guy we're going to talk about is Asaph, and he's found in 2 Chronicles 29:30, I Chronicles 15:19, and I Chronicles 16:1-5. He writes Psalms 73 through Psalms 83. Asaph is David's chief musician. **You're going to find he is the guy who David goes to, and he is going to represent and define for us what the idea of praise is in the Bible.** Here again, we are so far from this today in Christianity. You have praise bands, praise services, praise ministries, etc. When you see Asaph and you see how he defines praise, you will find that most of that is, like I said earlier, it might be spiritual, but it isn't very Biblical. As David's chief musician, Asaph sings and writes songs based on his being a prophet or seer in the word of God, and you'll find that in 2 Chronicles 29:30 where he's referred to as Asaph the seer.

It says in 1 Chronicles 16:5 that he is the chief of all David's musicians, and he's connected with brass and cymbals. He's a prophet and he writes his music based on the doctrine of the word of God. We sing the *Old Hymns of the Faith* here where you could take a song out of the hymnal and preach it because it's loaded with doctrine. It's probably the closest you're going to get to what Asaph had done, and if you look at the dates, those songs were all done during the Philadelphian church age when the word of God was reigning and so was the music.

You should check out the six-point outline in Psalms 73 that Asaph sets up about music and praise. Then when you go over to Colossians 3:16, you see how it all comes together.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

This is the verse in the New Testament which shows you what Asaph did in the Old Testament—music being written based on the doctrine of the word of God that's in your heart, not some feeling that you have. It's based on the word of God in your heart and the principles that are in your life that bring the song forth.

- Psalms: What we are currently studying
- Hymns: The established Bible hymns which we use here
- Spiritual Songs: Things we sing here such as solos or great spiritual songs which carry the message with it

But it all comes down to the Bible doctrine of the word of God dwelling in you richly.

How can you have the right kind of praise and music that's supposed to come from the word of God when we threw the Bible away in 1900? You can't. That's the anatomy of music in the 20th/21st century church. That's looking beyond *He touched me* and seeing what really took place. It's key to understanding what Asaph does for me. When I read the book of Psalms and I read his, it's one of the greatest studies you'll ever take through the word of God.

Another great study you'll take some time, hopefully when we do our church history study, is the development of music and the world and how it corresponds with the development of the word of God. When it reaches its high point; when it reaches its low point... but **no matter what the world or Christianity does, Asaph is the standard. It's the standard for this church, our praise comes out of the word of God that's in our hearts, and the songs that we sing based on the doctrine.**

2.) Solomon

Solomon will represent for us the wisdom of God, and Solomon will be our example of getting God's wisdom.

There are four parts to wisdom:

- Discretion
- Discernment
- Perspective
- Understanding

When Solomon writes, he writes from those four perspectives. He writes four of the five wisdom books—Song of Solomon (he writes that to the church), parts of Psalms (which will give us an understanding of his wisdom), Proverbs (to the Nation of Israel), and Ecclesiastes (which shows us the world system).

Every one of those books shows you a type of anatomy.

- Song of Solomon shows you the anatomy of what a relationship with Christ should be.
- Proverbs shows you the anatomy of God's wisdom.
- Ecclesiastes shows you the anatomy of how the world looks at everything.

You see, when you get those books, you go underneath the surface, and you learn some things.

I learned how to deal with people by watching Solomon—his wisdom is impeccable. My favorite example is found in I Kings 3:16-28. I'll show you how it works, how I learned from it, how many of you have learned from it, and how some of you will learn from it.

16. Then came there two women, [that were] harlots, unto the king, and stood before him. 17. And the one woman said, O my lord, I and this woman dwell in one house; and I was delivered of a child with her in the house. 18. And it came to pass the third day after that I was delivered, that this woman was delivered also: and we [were] together; [there was] no stranger with us in the house, save we two in the house. 19. And this woman's child died in the night; because she overlaid it (she rolled over on it). 20. And she arose at midnight, and took my son from beside me, while thine handmaid slept, and laid it in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom. 21. And when I rose in the morning to give my child suck, behold, it was dead: but when I had considered it in the morning, behold, it was not my son, which I did bear. 22. And the other woman said, Nay; but the living [is] my son, and the dead [is] thy son. And this said, No; but the dead [is] thy son, and the living [is] my son. Thus they spake before the king.

Now you can see the obvious problem here. This is how I learned to deal with people with all kinds of problems because people will do the same thing that these two do. They'll tell you their side of the story. One woman is lying here, and one woman is telling the truth. Now, here's the problem—Solomon doesn't know these ladies, and they're both of not the most impeccable character (they're harlots). He's faced with a situation where these two come in and each claim the living baby. When you tell your story, you're not going to tell it from the other person's side; you're going to tell it from your side. That's just human nature.

23. Then said the king, The one saith, This [is] my son that liveth, and thy son [is] the dead: and the other saith, Nay; but thy son [is] the dead, and my son [is] the living. 24. And the king said, Bring me a sword. And they brought a sword before the king. 25. And the king said, Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other.

Now when I read that, I thought to myself, that's the dumbest thing I've ever heard. I thought Solomon was supposed to be wise. You're going to cut the baby in half like a piece of salami and send half home with each woman? What's going on here? Oh...the wisdom of Solomon.

26. Then spake the woman whose the living child [was] unto the king, for her bowels yearned upon her son, and she said, O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it. But the other said, Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide [it]. 27. Then the king answered and said, Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: she is the mother thereof. 28. And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment.

A.) The Sword (the Word of God) Produced the Truth

He's playing on the fact that the real mother would rather see her baby go to another woman than have it killed. That could backfire in some situations if you try to do that in dealing with people, but that's not the point here. **When he had two people there and he didn't know who was telling the truth, he called for a sword, and it was the sword which produced the truth. And in Hebrews 4, the sword is the word of God.** And when you have two people telling you different stories, when you put both of them under the sword (the word of God), when you get them involved in the Book, when you get them under accountability to the word of God, when you start getting the word of God into them, the sword (the word of God) will always produce

the truth. Do you know why? Because the person that is lying won't want to stick around to get under the Book. That's a great lesson I learned.

It's a lot like a story about a guy in a cave. Deep in the cave it is pitch black. Let's say you're two miles in and your light goes out. You don't know what to do, and you're beginning to panic. You don't know the way out, and you don't have food or water. Then suddenly, after many hours, way down to the end of the passage, you see a light. Somebody is coming to find you. What are you going to do? You're going to move toward that light because that light is your salvation to get out of that cave.

Second scenario: You just robbed a bank and killed seven people. The cops are after you. You ditched the car, ran through a cornfield, and you found a cave to hide in. It's pitch black, and you're in about 400-500 yards. You've still got the money and you know you're in trouble. After about four or five hours, you see a light. You know it's the law. And what are you going to do? You're going to go farther away from the light. You see...**when you really want to do what's right, when you get under the sword you're going to come to the light, but when you don't want to do what's right, you're going to get as far from that light as you can.** Those are the things you learn and understand when you see underneath what's going on.

Solomon gives us the answer to every issue of life: it will be the word of God in any scenario. You put them under the sword (the word of God), and the sword will always bring out the truth.

3.) Ethan

You'll find Ethan in Psalms 89 and I Kings 4:30-31.

*I Kings 4: 29-32. And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, (look at this) and largeness of heart (there it is—like we talked about last week), even as the sand that [is] on the sea shore. 30. And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt. 31. For he was wiser than all men; than **Ethan the Ezrahite**, and Heman, and Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol: and his fame was in all nations round about. 32. And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five.*

Now when we come to Ethan, and Ethan is the guy who when you study his life out, was the chief guy who got the best wisdom from Solomon. **It looks like he did more with the wisdom of Solomon than anybody else, and he's a picture for us of God's wisdom that we get from God (Solomon) and what we do with it after that.** The Bible says Solomon's wisdom is more than all the East country. And when you get that same wisdom, like Ethan, when you allow the wisdom of God to impact your life and you get the wisdom of God and understanding, then you too will be on almost the same level as God's wisdom. We're human; we're frail, so we will never reach it fully, but I'll tell you what: Ethan got awfully close, and so can you and I.

It says his wisdom is more than the east country. Most people just read that and never think any more about it. Hey, that's the far east religions, that's Buddha, that's Taoism, that's Confucianism, that's Hinduism, that's Brahmanism, that's the Greek philosophers; they're all in

the east. And he says all the wisdom of Egypt. That brings it up to Alexandria, Egypt, with Origen, Philo, Clement...we talk about them at the beginning of the New Testament. It lays out all the corruptness of these guys. **Ethan will be the fulfillment of a man or a woman who sits under Solomon and gleans from his wisdom. And it's a picture of you and me sitting under the wisdom of the word of God typified by Solomon and gleaning from that wisdom and gaining the wisdom of God over everything the world has and every situation you're going to find.** When you come over to Psalms 119:97-100, this is Ethan.

Psalm 119:97-100. O how love I thy law! it [is] my meditation all the day (here it comes). 98. Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they [are] ever with me. 99. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies [are] my meditation. 100. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.

Three things that when you get the wisdom of God make you superior to everything that's out there. You'll be:

- Wiser than your enemies
- Have more understanding than the people who taught you
- Understand more than the ancients

In 1 Kings 4:29 Solomon is given wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and God enlarged his heart. **That's what God will do for every child of God who wants to see what Ethan got out of Solomon and why he was chosen to be a writer of Psalms.** He stands to be the chief guy who got the most wisdom out of Solomon's wisdom even though Solomon was greater, just like God is greater than all our wisdom and understanding, but you can get to the place where you understand what is going on...more than your enemies, more than your teachers, more than the ancients. That's Ethan.

4.) Moses

Now out of Moses' life and his writings, we find really the basic key to our relationship with God. There is more written about Moses than any other man in the Bible, other than Christ. I would say the second to Moses would be Abraham. We see through his life his ups and his downs just like we have them. We see his early life in Egypt, which is a picture of our early life when we were in the world. We see his calling with God, and God giving him the burning bush. **That will be his calling, and I'm telling you right now, you may not have to go up on a mountain down in Branson someplace, but spiritually speaking, when you get to a point, you will have your own burning bush experience.** God will make it very clear to you what He wants you to do. Not through some trance or dream you have; it will be through the word of God where He shows you exactly what He wants you to do just like He did Moses. We see him leading the children of Israel out of bondage in Egypt in Exodus 12 and becoming the greatest leader that Israel ever had, and all through the Bible it tells us that **he was the friend of God.**

Exodus 33:11. And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.

There are only two men in the Bible who are called God's friend. Moses is one and Abraham is the other. And yet, when you look at Moses, and we go back to what we said last week, here's a man who God separated unto himself. This is what God wants to do with each of you. He wants to separate you unto Himself. **If you're saved here today, He has something that He wants you to do—He has a calling for you.** And once you get separated unto God, everything that God is and has becomes yours.

A.) Paul Refers to the Gospel of the Grace of God as *My Gospel*

I told you last week how Paul was separated unto God, and God gave him the gospel of the grace of God. **And Paul was so separated unto God and unto that calling that he recognized that it may have been God's gospel, but God gave it to him with the responsibility; therefore, Paul had no problem calling it *my gospel* because when he was separated unto the gospel of God it became his, just like it belonged to God.**

B.) God's Law Known as the *Law of Moses*

Did you ever see in the Bible where it says the law of Moses? It wasn't the Law of Moses; it was the Law of God. Moses didn't write it; he copied it down when God gave it to him. How dare he say the Law of Moses—it was the law of God. No, **Moses was separated unto the Law; he was separated unto God and what God had, and what God gave him was his.**

C.) Separating Yourself unto Ministry

That's the problem with God's people today, they haven't separated themselves to anything. They don't call anything in the ministry theirs. It's always a nice easy way to get in that spiritual façade where they say it's really the Lord's ministry; it's really God's church. Really? Yeah, I guess it is when you haven't separated yourself unto it—you've paid no price to build it. **But when it becomes everything in your life, you build and throw your life into it, and you become separated unto the gospel and unto God, it's yours.** And the reason that I know it's yours is because someday you're going to give an account for it. God would never hold you accountable for what He gave you if He didn't think it was yours. Moses is a great study. What an example he is of a real Biblical relationship with God that we should have—not this phony plastic spiritual façade that you see so many times today. They were friends.

I love studying and reading about the little combatives that they had with each other. It shows you what a real relationship with God is—just being honest and plainly talking with God, not hiding behind some degree or some false spirituality. There were times when Moses got mad at the Nation of Israel saying God should just kill all of them, but God would put His arm around him and say He's not going to do that. He knows they're goofy people and they're problematic, but He's going to do something through them. Moses feels better. Then another time God is ready to kill them—they're not thankful, they blame God for everything, and God is done with them. Then Moses puts his arm around God and says you don't want to do that. You know if you destroyed those people, all those nations out there that don't believe in you would make fun of you and the people. You know they're stiff-necked people. God says that Moses is right. Face to face as a man speaks to his friend, talking to him, reasoning things out with Him.

About your salvation...*Isaiah 1:18. Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD:* God is not unreasonable. We're unreasonable, and we don't want all that He has for us. You just talk to God like you talk to your best friend; you don't need to put on your spiritual jacket or your prayer robe.

5.) Sons of Korah

You will find the Sons of Korah in I Chronicles 9:19 and I Chronicles 26:1. You're going to find that this family is out of Asaph's line. **This family was part of the inner circle of the family that took care of the tabernacle and in particular, the gates.** They too are singers in the temple. **And what they represent to me helps me understand the importance of being on the inside of ministry.** They got as close to the real things of God (holy of holies; tabernacle) as they could. I've told you before, but when you look at the anatomy of the Nation of Israel, they break down into three sections. In the middle, when they camped, is the tabernacle, tent, ark of the covenant, and the holy of holies. Then right around that, working in there daily and around it (setting it up, taking it down, keeping it in repair) were these three families.

Then when they camped, the other 12 tribes camped in a circle around them a little distance away. Then you had a third group that got as far as they could from the ark, and they were called the mixed multitude. They were the ones that always gave Moses and the leaders the problems. **Where the family like Korah got as close to the things of God as they could in the ministry, the mixed multitude got as far away as they could...**yet they were still in the Nation of Israel.

The sons of Korah show me my position in ministry on the inside of it by learning everything that I can and getting as close to it as I can to see how it really works. I'm sure they were accused by the mixed multitude and maybe even by the 12 tribes of being a clique. And that's okay; as long as it's God's clique and not the clique of the mixed multitude. The Sons of Korah are an incredible study to show us where our position really should be to get as close to the things of God as we can.

6.) David

David writes 73 of the Psalms by name. **And as the main author in Psalms, he will picture what my love should be toward the word of God.** There are two great statements in the Bible about David. The first one is in I Samuel 13:14.

*But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him **a man after his own heart,** and the LORD hath commanded him [to be] captain over his people, because thou hast not kept [that] which the LORD commanded thee.*

The other is in Acts 13:22.

*And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave their testimony, and said, I have found David the [son] of Jesse, **a man after mine own heart,** which shall fulfil all my will.*

I want you to see that I Samuel 13:14 is while David is alive while Acts 13:22 is long after he has died; therefore, God continued this mindset about David all the way through.

A.) David's Love for the Word of God and the Sure Mercies of David

Now we all know that David was not perfect. He had all kinds of problems just like we do. But the thing that got David through, no matter what he faced and even in his failures, was his love for the word of God. That's the thing that set him apart. You have to see that. In fact, out of the whole Old Testament, David (you'll find this in Psalms 89:28, Isaiah 55:3, and Acts 13:34) is **the only man in the Old Testament that is given the sure mercies of David.** Most people don't even know what that is. David is a picture and type of our lives in the New Testament sense, and he shows us that we ought to have the right attitude and love toward the word of God. **God gave him the sure mercies of David which is a picture of eternal security in the Old Testament given to one man because of his love for that Book.** And you know what...you want a little treasure out of that to take home with you today? **The sure mercies of David started with David, but it carried on down through his children. Your love for the word of God and putting the word of God #1 in your life is your bona fide guarantee for your children.** Absolutely incredible.

In I Kings, II Kings, I Chronicles, and II Chronicles, **when you start to have the kings of Israel, every one of those kings is held up and judged by the standard of David being king.** It will either say he wasn't like his father David, he was like his father David., he was like his father David in some things and not other things...**David was the standard for the kings, and David is the standard today for the child of God who wants to love and have a relationship with the word of God.** It's just that simple.

7.) The Mystery Man—the Psalms that are Anonymous

In the book of Psalms, you will find that 49 of them are by a mystery writer. Now to me, following the line of reasoning that I've laid out to you, that's always been a picture of New Testament Christianity. **This writer is a mystery writer, and the Bible says in Ephesians 5:32 that the church also is a mystery.** And to me, the greatest mystery of Psalms will be Psalm 119. It runs 176 verses. It's the longest chapter in the Bible, and it's written by a mystery man. And it always pictured to me directly that if I wanted to have a relationship with God as the Body of Christ, part of the mystery, then this is where I would find it.

I don't know if you know it or not, but there are 22 sections in Psalm 119, and each one will deal with a different aspect of the word of God in our lives. **The Psalm 119 mystery writer, i.e. what I should be and what you should be, is simply nothing more than a man asking God to give him His word and His wisdom and then telling God if you give it to me, this is what I'll do for you.**

When you study Psalms 119:1-176, you also will find five key components of what your life as a New Testament child of God should be once you get the word of God in your life.

- He hates sin—Psalms 119:114-115, 127-128, 136
- He has understanding—Psalms 119:104
- He gets God’s perspective—Philippians 2:5 and I Corinthians 2:16
- He has a deep personal relationship with God—Psalms 119:9-16, Psalms 119:105, and Deuteronomy 29:29
- He has a perfect peace—Psalms 119:165

Psalms 119:165. Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

That is one of the greatest verses in the Bible. I’ve met God’s people all my life that will hear something or say something, or I’ll preach something, and they’ll come up to me...in fact, one time I was preaching up in New York someplace and I was preaching pretty hard. A lady came up, and I could tell she wasn’t happy. She said, “I just want you to know, Brother Alexander, that some of the things you said in your message offended me.” I told her I was sorry, but I offered something to help her and quoted this verse.

You know, if you love the Book and you’re separated unto the Book and it’s your Book (*my gospel, the law of Moses, my Bible*), what can anybody say that’s going to offend you? You see, when you have the Book inside you, and you have everything that God has given you, and God has taken care of you and blessed your family, your life, and your ministry, what is anybody going to say to you that’s going to take that away from you? **There’s nothing you could say that would offend me because at the end of the day, I know what I’ve got with God. It’s when you don’t know what you have with God that you get offended.** Maybe you ought to spend a little time in the Book, loving it.

Now to me, God had 49 Psalms written by a mystery writer because that’s me---the church: the mystery of the body of Christ.

IV. Summary

The book of Psalms, seven writers, will do for you what the books of man will never be able to do for you. When man writes all his books and volumes, when you go to for whatever your issues are...you go to a counselor, a therapist, etc....and you read all the books put out there by unsaved people, or even a lot of saved people, **the books of man will conform you. The books of man will reform you. The books of man will inform you. The books of man will misinform you, but there’s only one Book that will transform you, and that’s the Book that God gives you.**

If I know anything about the Bible, which is not much, I owe it to my understanding of the 49 anonymous Psalms—taking it to my heart personally, and in particular, Psalms 119.

Years ago, I saw this. I wanted to learn the Bible so desperately; it was everything that I could ever want. I felt like it was an impossible task, I wasn’t very bright, but then I found out that none of that mattered. Getting God’s wisdom has nothing to do with how smart you are. In fact, the dumber you are, the better off you are because it all comes down to you just loving the Book and loving Him. I’d hear guys preach and listen to guys teach Bible studies laying out all these

things, and I'd think that I'd never be able to do that, but I wanted it so badly. I'd wonder how the preacher could get that out of there, and why I couldn't see that.

And I realized that Psalms 119, once I saw how it applied, was the key to that. And I saw how that entire Psalm is a man who wants to learn the word of God so desperately that he's willing to tell God openly, face to face, that he wants that Book. I want to be wiser than my enemies, I want to know more than the ancients and all my teachers, Lord I just really want that book and if you will give it to me...you find that repeatedly in Psalms. This what I'll do for You. I'll stand before kings, nations, anybody and give them your word. And so, I took Psalm 119, and I made my own prayer. I went through it, and I made my prayer into 14 different petitions. And I realized that there are 176 verses in that chapter. Do you know how many millions of combination prayers you could have out of 176 verses? It's endless. And I'd get that prayer, and it was my prayer. I'd get to the place where I'd get into a room by myself, set a chair across from where I was sitting, and I'd read that prayer to Him, and I'd stop at each petition, and I'd asked God to give me that. I know I don't deserve it, but if you give it to me, then I will never be afraid to stand up and preach your word. I'll take on anybody, anytime, anywhere. I'll take whatever flack comes; I don't care, if you'll just let me have that Book. And I'd read that prayer to Him, and stop at each petition, and ask Him to give me His word. To some people that sounds so corny; however, some people still know nothing about the Book even after 20 years as a Christian.

Paul told the people at Corinth in *2 Corinthians 3:2: Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:* People will read what's really in our hearts. The Bible says, *for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh (Matthew 12:34).* You can't hide. And as we begin to talk to people, people read our anatomy of who we really are—what's underneath the surface. What do people read about us when they read the epistle of our hearts?

Everything in life will have a design function to it...the way God intended it to run. We get so caught up because we have no depth to us or perception...yet the anatomy of things all through life is the key to the Bible, the key to people, your key to marriage, most certainly the key to your family, without a doubt the key to the ministry, and most of all, it's the key to life.

Seven men, who in God's infinite wisdom when He put the Psalms together, He said here's what I'm going to do...I want Psalms to be such an impacting book in the people who read it that I'm going to design that book around seven writers. If they take that Book and study those writers' lives in light of what they wrote, they'll come away with a complete composite of what a Christian life should be. My goal for everybody in this church is to have that depth in their life. I've labored for 50+ years, not holding anything back of what I have in the Bible, for one reason: that you can have everything that God wants you to have at my expense. My job is to make it easier for you, so then you'll see your job is to make it easier for the next person you work with. That's the way it works. That's what we try to do here, by helping you be everything God wants you to be, building those seven areas in your life, and taking you to a whole different level like we did today in the book of Psalms.