

# Psalms 1:3

Sunday 10/08/2023

## I. Review

Today we will finish the first three verses in Psalms Chapter one, and you ought to be able to see by now how rich and full the book of Psalms is going to be for us. Historically, we're going to see the struggles and the blessings that the Old Testament saints went through. Doctrinally, we'll see how it lays out for us those three key aspects of God dealing with Israel (Tribulation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming, Millennium) in the future. Inspirationally, we have seen how to have the blessings of God through a walk with God by being in agreement with God and avoiding the pitfalls of the world that simply want to take our walk from us. You know that will lead to a life without the blessings of God, and we saw that very clearly—we focused on each one of these.

Last week I showed you how **Psalm 1 will be a Millennial Psalm**, and I told you that every Psalm will fit into one of three categories—Millennial Psalm, Tribulation Psalm, or a Second Coming Psalm. I will show those and lay those out to you as we go through Psalms.

Last week was one of the most key times for you to get a portion of your Bible, the millennial reign of Christ, really laid out. I didn't get down into all the aspects of it and what all the pieces mean, but that will come in time. I wanted you to understand the concept; I wanted you to realize what it really is. I took my time and broke it down as clearly and as easily as I could. I broke it down into basic sections. When we got to Ezekiel chapter 40-48 (I actually gave you an outline of the whole book of Ezekiel), I took time so you could grasp the basic teaching of the millennium. I learned a long time ago that if I can teach someone the fundamental basics of something, and they get it, then I can go back and build on that and teach them everything else about that. That's the problem today with Christianity and most teaching—nobody lays a foundation. Nobody gives anybody the basics of anything, and they just get up there and try to put out a lot of things that most people don't understand what they're talking about.

The millennium is nothing more than the establishment of two kingdoms. The spiritual Kingdom of God gets established when Christ comes back because He's the spiritual King of it, and the Kingdom of Heaven, which is the literal kingdom given to Israel, also gets established, and He's king over that. And you'll want to remember the millennium will be the final phase of God's plan on earth before eternity starts.

When you come through the end of the book of Revelation:

- Chapter 19 is the Second Coming,
- Chapter 20 is the Millennium,
- Chapter 21 is the New Jerusalem,
- Chapter 22 we're into eternity.

So, the millennium is the last major event—on earth anyhow. We see now God's overall goal in the Old Testament was to establish this kingdom, and He wanted to do it through the nation of Israel; however, as we know, the devil made sure that never happened. The closest it ever got

was under Solomon's reign for 40 years when there were no wars, and everything was at peace. It is probably in the Old Testament, outside of Ezekiel, where you see the greatest example of how the millennium is going to run. Again, if you look at David's 40 years before Solomon, David is the warrior king. He subdues all the last enemies that Israel has and wipes them out of the land so that when Solomon comes, there are no more enemies to fight, and the land is at peace for 40 years. David then, in his 40 years, is a type of Christ at the second coming who wipes out all the enemies. Solomon then after David is a picture of the millennium. The Bible is consistent all the way through.

Then we saw Israel never accomplished that. They go into captivity and then we come into the church age which we're in now, and we are at the end of that; and we're waiting for the next four key events to take place:

- The Rapture of the Church
- The Tribulation
- The Second Coming of Christ
- The Millennium

## II. Connecting Bible Prophecy and Current Events

Now I don't know how much any of you pay attention to what goes on around you in the world, but yesterday (October 7, 2023) the world changed; it changed in a way that it will never be the same again. The spiraling down of America has been a process which during the last 10-12 years really got accelerated. The first time the world changed in the 21st century was 1948 when Israel became a nation. Most people never saw the change; I'm talking about God's people. They never saw how it impacted the world and how it impacted out of the Bible in Matthew chapter 24. I would say the next thing that changed the whole world happened about 3 or 4 years ago with the election when the liberal "woke" folks took over this country, but we know their impact is throughout the world. We see America as a nation in decline. It's easy for us to look back and blame the decline on a political party, but God has turned His back on America. This country is never going back to the way it was. What you're seeing is that this world can change in a split second. It's no accident that Israel was attacked just like she was in 73 with Yom Kippur War. It's no accident that NBC and Fox News sees Hamas coming to the place where they have attacked Israel and killed, I don't know how many hundreds of people, and taken hostages. Already people in the United Nations are calling for a cease fire; already people want to let them kill the Israelis and make some kind of substantive peace. Someone said this was all by plan because Israel was in the process of making a peace movement with Saudi Arabia. People are saying this was Hamas' way to disrupt it. That may be true, but I'll tell you who doesn't want peace in the Middle East, and it's God the Father. What you're seeing is the prelude to what's coming...this well could be in the final stages of life on planet earth as we know it. I'm not saying that to scare you; I'm saying that because God's people have no urgency. They will go on with their lives tomorrow just as they did before all this happened. They won't see any urgency to get involved in ministry or do what they can in these last days. It will all be business as usual. Iran is funding Hamas, and these people have sworn they won't rest until Israel is wiped off the

map. Israel's only real ally is the US, and we are about as fractured as we can be. We have a group of people who see now Iran funding Hamas, and people are wondering how it could happen. Hello, we just gave them \$6 billion. I can read my Bible and see this is setting itself up for the next event—The Rapture of the Church.

Life in America is done as we once knew it. Now, America being fractured and busted, bankrupt, open borders; now Israel needs help financially and militarily. We're already funding Ukraine and giving them everything they need, and now we're wavering on that. It's going to come down to this busted broken nation, who can't even make the decision to close the border, are going to have to decide which one we're going to support—Israel or Ukraine. Some things you don't have to pray about if you know your Bible.

The rapture is the next event, then the tribulation, second coming, millennium, then right on through God's plan to Isaiah 9: 6-7. Now, based on current events, and where we're at in Psalms, you have it all laid out for you. I told you about Clarence Larkin's book *Dispensational Truth*. He wrote that in 1900. I've never seen anyone get the millennium laid out and drawn out as clearly and cleanly as he has, and I told you he did three basic charts on it that I put in my Bible corresponding with the Chapters in Ezekiel that he talked about. We're living in a time where God's people better get their heads out of the sand. The reason they don't know what's going on, other than what's on the general perimeter, is because they don't have a Bible anymore that tells them what to look for.

So today I want to lay out Psalms 1:3 as an inspirational application. Last week we looked at it doctrinally, and I want to go back and look at it again as to how it will affect us today, because if there ever was a time when God's people needed to understand where they're at in relation to the Lord Jesus Christ coming for His church and each one of us standing before the Judgment Seat of Christ, it's now.

### III. Psalms 1:1-2—a Prelude to Psalms 1:3

I showed you last week inspirationally how verses one and two are really a prelude to verse three which is where we're at today. Verse one was about establishing a walk with God through our agreement with God and His word. As I said, this will be by choice. You have to choose to walk the way of God instead of the way of the ungodly, the sinners, or the scornful. And that's really where it starts for each of us. I can preach as long as God gives me breath, but it will not force you to make the right choice. You have to look at your own life, listen to the word of God being preached, and then you have to decide what you're going to do with your relationship with Christ. And each of us have to make that choice—our choosing to either walk with Him or not walk with Him and walk with the world.

The second verse is after we make the right choice (and life is choices), in time we will develop the right attitude toward God and His word. This, too, was built around three key words:

**delight** (delight yourself), **law** (of God), and **meditate** (let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus). Taking the word of God, believing it, putting it into your heart, and letting it get into your mind—the three key elements to a walk with God and being in agreement with

Him. Inspirationally, you can see now how verses one and two can prepare you for what happens when we get into verse three.

Today, we're going to lay out verse three. Remember verse one—it's our choice. When we make the right choice, we develop the right attitude—verse two. And now in verse three we want to look at the blessings and the benefits of making right choices which is the end result of putting verses one and two to work in your life.

## IV. God Teaches by Comparison as well as Contrast

Last week we came through Ezekiel Chapters 40-48 and also Psalms 1:3, and we talked about the rivers of water and the tree planted along the riverbank on both sides. Let's read again Psalms 1: 1-3 just one more time.

*1. Blessed [is] the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2. But his delight [is] in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

It's no mystery at this point that Psalms 1:1-3 will be the key to the Christian life; however, I also wanted to show you a comparison verse that fits right with this one, and you're going to see that there's some extra insight; in fact, there are about four things that are added here or maybe explained a little better.

*Jeremiah 17:7-8. Blessed [is] the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. 8. For he shall be as a tree (there it is) planted by the waters (there it is), and [that] spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.*

Here again we see a tree planted by the waters in verse 8. **Notice that the roots go down deep into the water and they spread out.** You didn't get that in Ezekiel or Psalms Chapter 1. **Then it says the heat of the world will not affect the tree. When drought comes (that will be the Laodicean church age), he need not worry for his roots are in the pure water of God (that will be your King James 1611 Authorized Version). And then it says he will yield his fruit forever.** Now that's where most Christians should be, but unfortunately, most of them are in the contrasting verse that I gave you a couple of weeks ago which is found in Jeremiah 17:5-6.

*Jeremiah 17: 5-6. Thus saith the LORD; Cursed [be] the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD. 6. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, [in] a salt land and not inhabited.*

Now this is where most of God's people are today. Notice the contrast of somebody trusting in man instead of trusting in the Lord. It says in verses 7-8 that he shall be like a tree not affected by the heat in the desert, but in verses 5-6 he will be barren and desolate like the desert. One is

experiencing the blessings of God while the other can't see God doing anything. One bears fruit, and the other is like a ground that has been sewn with salt which they did in the Old Testament and could never grow anything for years. One made Christ his arm of strength while the other made flesh his arm of strength. One's heart delights in God's law while the other's heart simply departs from God. And every child of God will find himself today in one of two places right here within these verses. It's just that simple. It's an incredible concept which eludes most of God's people.

## V. The Job of the Husbandman

Coming through the Bible, you'll find the pattern becomes clear. When God put Adam and Eve down in the garden in Genesis 1-3, the Bible tells us that Adam was a husbandman. Now let me explain that term to you. **A husbandman has to do with one being in charge of a garden and whose job is to take care of that garden—to dress it, keep the weeds out, and keep it growing so that it continues to bear fruit.** Adam is called a husbandman, and he's put in a garden, and he's told to dress it and keep it. When Noah comes out of the ark in Genesis 9:20, he too becomes a husbandman, and he has a vineyard. When we get into the nation of Israel, you'll find in Matthew 21:33 that Israel as a nation is likened to something that's planted in a garden. God says that he cleared out the land (that will be David and those guys), and then he planted his nation in the exact same place that was the Garden of Eden that Adam had. He put them there to bear fruit, and the Bible says once they established their Kingdom (I Samuel), that in time, under the Kings of Israel, God sent his husbandman (Old Testament prophets) to dress and keep the nation of Israel as God's garden; however, Israel didn't bear any fruit, and they killed and rejected the Old Testament prophets.

And then we move into the New Testament scenario. In Mark chapter 8, you've got an interesting story; it's the only place in the Bible where healing was not instantaneous, and there's a great biblical doctrinal reason that we don't have time to get into today. Jesus comes to the blind man, and he does a little thing on his eyes, then asks him what he sees. He replies that he sees men walking around like trees. Now that's one of the clearest places in the Bible that **men and women are likened to trees.** Now he goes and does the second thing that Jesus tells him, and then he comes back and sees every man clearly. You'll find the answer to that over in Romans chapters 9 and 11, but men and women in the Bible are likened to trees in Mark 8:24, Psalms 92:12, Ezekiel chapter 31, Psalms 37:35, and Judges chapter 9.

## VI. People as Trees—Saved by God to Bear Fruit

*And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season;*

Having said all that and having seen that down through the history of man and the Bible, in every group that deals with God's people, it is likened to a husbandman. This church, though you look around and see a bunch of people, from God's standpoint, it's just filled with a bunch of trees this morning. You are God's garden in this church, and **the pastor's job is to be a husbandman and take care of the trees in God's garden;** therefore, fundamentally my job is

to transplant all of you as trees, uproot you from the world through the preaching of the word of God, and bring you up in a Bible-believing, Bible-teaching church, and then through Discipleship I, Discipleship 2, Discipleship 3, investing in your life....transplant you as God's tree by the rivers of water that you too can get your roots down deep, that you too can face whatever is coming; however, life is about choices. Transplanting people can be quite a challenge because a lot of it, if not most of it, depends on how long you've had your roots down in the dirt and filth of this world and how deep they went before you got here. Now you take a young tree in your backyard that is maybe three, four, or five years old, and you decide that you want to take it out or move it. You can do it relatively easily. You can dig it up, move it out, and you can put it someplace else, and it will grow again. But, having said that, you take a tree that's been in the ground for 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 100 years, and you'll never get the roots out.

If you walk around the back of our church, you will see there is a tree stump that I was told was over 250 years old. That tree was a history itself which witnessed all the events of over the last 250 years, but it died and had to be taken out. You know why they left the stump there? Just try to get those roots out. In 200 plus years, those roots attached themselves to everything underground. They went down deep. They're around this foundation, they're around the neighbor's foundation, they're around every rock and boulder that's down there. It has its roots down so deep that it's impossible to unroot, and you know it's the same way with a lot of God's people. They will come to a Bible believing church for a little while, but their roots are down too deep in the world. They're down too deep in the ideas of a non-biblical system or too deep in education, and you just can't transplant them. It's too tough to dig up the roots.

I always have a special love for men and women who get to be 60, 70, 80, maybe 90 years old who really love the Lord. I see a man or a woman who has gotten their roots down deep into the water and are surviving when so many other Christians are not. Much like Israel, God's people have completely lost God's concept for their salvation. Oh, they get saved but never understand the reason behind God saving them. God's people today are the most selfish people on the planet. They'll take everything God has for them and give absolutely nothing back. That's New Testament Laodicean salvation.

**God saving us was for fruit bearing. It was for you and me to be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth our fruit.** Now this church is filled with young people. I believe the key to any successful church is a good healthy balance of people. People tell me all the time how special this place is because churches today just can't get young couples and young people to come. Most churches are like a dinosaur graveyard. They're filled with people that are 60, 70, 80 years old, and they're going to die and close the door just by the death rate. This doesn't happen by accident. A pastor has to have a plan in place because he sees what it takes to have a healthy balance in a church. But having said that, all of you younger ones are much easier to transplant. You come in and don't really have a lot of major issues in your life. You haven't had any real addictions, and you'll come in and you'll get saved and see what we've got here and immediately you'll begin that process to get transplanted. You get rooted here in the water to be God's fruit bearing tree. Then it's the pastor's job, as the husbandman, to dress you, keep you, help you, prune you that you bring more fruit. The younger ones are always easier to deal with. I'll just hit this one lightly: to you parents, your kids will be easier to deal with when

they're 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 than they will be when they're 18, 19, and 20. Do whatever you want with that.

In a good healthy balance, you have the older ones too which are invaluable to what I try to do here because they make up that good healthy balance. You know God brought you here because He sees in you the depth which you have that you not only are bearing fruit, but you can help the younger ones come along like we saw in Nehemiah chapter 8.

## VII. There is a Season to your Fruit Bearing

*...that bringeth forth his fruit in his season;*

**The next thing I want you to see is that you are to be a tree that bears fruit, but there is a season to your fruit bearing.** The life and fruit bearing of any tree stands as a stark reminder of what our season will be like as Christians. Psalms 90 tells us that the average lifespan you can expect to have is threescore and ten; that's 70 years. Some get a little more and some a little less. That shows me that there is a springtime in your life. Many of you young kids, young singles, and young couples are in the springtime. You're at the best time of your life. You're at the most teachable time, and you're at a time in your life where your roots have not yet been grounded so badly that you can't be transplanted. Then there comes the summertime of life, and that's where you really start to come on now. That's where you really, because of the fact that you've got your roots down, go to town. Then, as always, fall sets in. You can still do some things, but you can't do the things that you like to do in the summertime, and then winter is coming. **Apple trees don't bear fruit in January or February.** There's a season to our fruit bearing.

A good pastor should never build his church around himself. Many pastors do; they become the sole identity of the church, and everything has to run through them. That's not the way that it works; rather, you build it around the people God gives you, but obviously through the word of God. God has blessed this church with so many young men and young ladies, and yet this doesn't happen by accident. If you can't see the hand of God, not only here but around this world, you are like the guy in Jeremiah that can't see anything God is doing. But that doesn't happen by accident. You can't just be a really nice guy, or even a really good preacher, and go start a church and everything else falls into place. **A pastor has to look at his church as a garden of trees. He has to see the established pattern from Adam up through Noah through the nation of Israel right into the church, that God has husbandmen who take care of the trees.** Now this is why in Song of Solomon you find the relationship that Christ wants to have with you, but at the same time, you have defined for you the relationship you need to have with Him. Did you ever notice that when you read all that and put it together, it's all about gardens, fruit, pleasant smells and aromas; it's all about a garden. Most people just think that's the poetic sense that it was written in, but let me take it up to the next level for you. **Your life and your relationship with Christ, your walk with Him, your fellowship with Him, your agreement with Him should be your own personal Garden of Eden.** When Adam and Eve were in the garden back there, it was the perfect environment. Now we live in a world that's under a curse, don't we? There isn't a perfect environment, but inside your relationship with

Christ, in the world that we live in, it ought to be a perfect environment. You know why? He meets all your needs. You have the Supreme architect of the universe who loves you and died for you, and He looks at you and wants you to look at Him as your own personal Garden of Eden: everything you need. You're protected. Your leaf shall not wither. You bear fruit. You as an individual and your relationship with Him, is like the relationship that Adam had in the Garden of Eden. God came down and taught them the word of God, fellowshiped with them, and walked with them. He wants to do the same thing with you, and when you see that, and you understand that... I know human factor comes in and it goes out the window sometimes, but this church (any church), by God's design, should be for you as a tree like the Garden of Eden. The pastor doesn't get what he needs, you get what you need. My job is to be the husbandman to dress the trees to make sure the trees bear fruit that you get everything you need.... the right amount of sunlight, the right amount of water, etc.

**The pastor's job is to keep the garden bearing fruit by transplanting the trees from the world and getting your roots out of the world and down deep in the water of the river.** He should realize what he has, and then he puts a plan together to take the people which God gives him and plants them and transplants them helping through their training and development out of everything he does to prune the trees, keep the trees, dress the trees to teach them to be the fruit bearing tree that God wants them to be, but also using the older ones who know me and how I think. As an older Christian, you should have an invaluable reservoir of Bible truth which you can use to help me with the younger ones. Building your garden as a husbandman in a way as likened unto trees, that when winter, drought, or heat comes, your roots are planted in the water, and they go down deep in the river of God, and you survive through the desert of this world much like the nation of Israel in the wilderness when God supernaturally got them through because now there is a depth to you. Behind everything I do, there's a plan behind it to get your roots deeper into the water.

## VIII. Your Family is your Garden

*...his leaf also shall not wither;*

Now **this leaf will be your family.** It'll be your children. Here the concept is also very clear. My job is to plant and transplant you; your job is to train and plant your children. In the Old Testament, God had His garden (Israel and Jerusalem) and in the New Testament this church will be God's garden of trees to bear fruit (you) then within your family—they are your garden. You, mom and dad, will be the husbandman taking care of the garden God has given you. We have been entrusted with the children that God gives us to plant their roots by the rivers of water that they too might bear fruit, and where they get planted is on you. Getting a successful garden that bears fruit takes a lot of work and so does your family.



## IX. God Blesses the Right Attitude Toward the WOG

*...and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

Here's how it works. You do verse 1 and 2 and God will bless you (verse three) in whatever you do. You develop the right attitude toward the word of God, and God will set before you, like He did the Philadelphian church in Revelation 3:8, an open door. And now you will find and fulfill God's plan for your life.

Jeremiah 17: 7-8 shows the blessings from trusting in the Lord and not man—whose hope is in the Lord (you understand that God is your only hope). A man planted by the water of God. We get our roots down in God's word and our leaves stay green in the midst of the parched, dry, dusty, barren world. Your life and my life and our relationship with God should be the Garden of Eden. It just simply has to do with you getting transplanted, getting your roots down in the water of the word of God deep and spread out, and God uses you.

Water in the Bible will be likened to four things:

1. The word of God—John 4
2. The voice of God—Revelation 1:15: and Psalms
3. The Holy Spirit of God—Ezekiel 47
4. People—Revelation 17:15 and Ecclesiastes 11:1

When you get in your life the word of God, you hide the word of God in your heart, and through that now you're able hear the voice of God. Now you begin to walk with Him daily in the Spirit of God. You too will transplant people and make a difference in people's lives. You know why? Because the word of God made a difference in your life. You'll never make a difference in anybody's life until it first makes a difference in your life.