

Jan 20th
Psalms 7
Part 1
~ Judgment Equals Revival ~

Theme:

God's personal judgment of His people and revival in the Church are inseparable.

*"O Lord my God, in You I put my trust;
Save me from all those who persecute me;
And deliver me, Lest they tear me like a lion, Rending me in pieces, while
there is none to deliver." - vs 1-2*

Both Paul and Daniel were delivered from the lions' mouth. Following God puts us in places that only He can deliver us from. Only God can "*strengthen*" us in our inner person - to keep us from being torn to pieces. He is enough, He will stand by us and deliver us from "the lions' mouth", as He did for Daniel and Paul.

*"But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, that the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion."
~ 2 Timothy 4:17*

*"O Lord my God, if I have done this:
If there is iniquity in my hands, If I have repaid evil to him that is at peace with me,
Or plundered my enemy without cause, Let the enemy pursue me and overtake me;
Yes, let him trample my life to the earth,
And lay my honor in the dust. Arise, O Lord, arise, in Your anger; Lift up Yourself, because of the rage of the enemies;
Rise up for me to the judgment You have commanded! So the congregation of the people shall surround You; For their sake's, therefore, return on high." vs - 3-7*

David is pulling out all stops for God to be lifted high above the enemy who is distorting and harassing his people. He is even asking God to use his enemies to humble him if David is the one in the way of God being exalted. This is because he knows that when God is exalted to His rightful place, His people will surround Him with reverence and praise. So he pleads with God from a shepherd's heart, *"For their sakes, therefore, return on high"*.

This applies today in God judging the enemy who has crept into His house, the church. This is something He is doing both individually and corporately.

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"For the time [has arrived] for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will [be] the end of those who do not respect or believe or obey the good news (the Gospel) of God?"
~ 1 Peter 4:17

When Jesus overthrew the money changers in His house, the Temple, the children surrounded Him with songs of joy. As we are going to see in a couple of days in Psalm 8, God uses the praise of little children to silence the rage of the enemy. Yes, when God is lifted high, the enemy is destroyed, and His people are revived. We are the ones who will someday judge angels (1 Cor. 6:3) and bind kings by the high praise of God being in our mouth (Ps. 149:6-8).

"And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. He said to them, 'It is written, "My house shall be called a house of prayer,"but you make it a den of robbers.' And the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple, 'Hosanna to the Son of David!' they were indignant."
~ Matthew 21:12-15

“The Lord shall judge the peoples; judge me, O Lord, according to my righteousness, and according to my integrity within me.” - Vs. 8

God begins His judgment at the house of God by each individual believer being personally revived. The statement is true: “Lord, revive your church, and let it start with my heart.” Yet in our examination, we must know that it is examining ourselves to see if we are in the faith, rather than a morbid introspection of our own righteousness. We must follow the example of Paul, who said, “It is the Lord who judges me.” If we compare ourselves to one another, rather than to the Lord, revival will be stymied. God is stooping low and blowing on the smoldering flame of our life. Perhaps right now it is in the form of His chastening, so that we can enjoy His lordship over every area of our lives.

Lord, I ask You to judge me and test my heart and mind to see if I am in the faith. Lord if the test of Christ in me comes forth as a YES... then I join with Paul who said “But He that judgeth me is the Lord”.

In what areas have I taken Your place in judging myself rather than asking You to judge me?

“Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?— unless indeed you fail to meet the test!” ~ 2 Corinthians 13:15

“But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man’s judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. For I know nothing against myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.”

~ 1 Corinthians 4:3-4

