

When the Unrighteous are Winning, You Need to be Reminded of the Character and Works of God and the Benefits of Righteous Living

Psalm 92

Not certain of the specifics but generally some deliverance or act of God that benefited the writer, 4, 10.

God wants you to see the benefit of praise and reflection on his attributes *who he is*, 1-3, 8, 15

It is right to praise the Lord in music, whether you feel like it or not, "It is good," 1, 3

It is good to reflect upon the attributes of God, his

"love" NIV, Mercy, KJV, v 2. His *hesed*.

"Faithfulness" dependability ,v 2. 15 he is my rock.

Exalted forever, 8, his eternal sovereign position, 9 will finally vanquish his enemies.

Musical instruments

Ten stringed lyre, probably an instrument of a wide range

Harp, probably not what we know...

God wants you to reflect upon what he has done, 4-11

Brought joy to the heart of the writer by some great deed, perhaps creation, but more likely some blessing deliverance, of aid, v 4.

God wants us to see that his works are great, even though we don't always understand them, v 5: Romans 11:33-36; Isaiah 40:12-31; Job 38-41. God doesn't owe us an explanation, we owe him our trust and obedience.

It is a mark of depravity to not trust God or see his hand in the providence of his deeds, v 6.

They are too focused on the here and now, the phenomenal short term success of the wicked, they “flourish,” v 7

Because God is eternal, v 8, and righteous, v 15, therefore ultimately and finally righteousness¹ will be rewarded, it will finally and ultimately “flourish,” his enemies will be destroyed.

He always energizes and refreshes those who obey and trust him, v 10.

Sometimes he allows his children to see the defeat of their enemies, , 11.

God wants you to focus on the long-term rewards of those who know God and obey him, 12-15.

They will “flourish” finally and permanently, 12.

A palm tree

The date-palm (רמל) is a tall, slender tree with a plume-like foliage at the top. Its deep tap roots seek out water in the ground, and it is associated with water sources and oases (Elim, Num 33:9; Jericho, Deut 34:3; Judg 1:16; 3:13). The fruit of the date-palm can be consumed as food, and a drink can be made from its sap. The leaves were used for roofs and woven into mats and baskets.

The Cedar

The “cedar” (רעא) of Lebanon is renowned in biblical references for size and quality (e.g., Judg 9:5; 11 Kgs 4:33 [5:13]; 2 Kgs 14:9; Ezra 3:7; Isa 2:13; 14:8; Ps 104:16). The deep-rooted coniferous tree lives to a great age and grows very high and large. The wood, durable and resistant to insects, is a prime choice for fine products, such as musical instruments, chests, panels, and coffins. For the majestic and cosmic nature of a cedar of Lebanon, see Ezek 31:1—9, where the magnificent world-tree, drawing upon the rich waters of the primeval deep in the Garden of God, is a metaphor for the royal power

Those who are “planted in the house of Yahweh” have enduring vitality, even when old they will be like trees full of sap and with green foliage (v 15).

¹ The contrast between the “wicked” (רשע) and the “righteous” (צדיק) is familiar in the wisdom literature (e.g., Prov 10:3, 6, 7, 11, 16, 20, 24, 25, 28, 30, 31, 32) and Ps 1.