

Meditation 4, Psalms 7 & 8

“The Lord is worthy of praise.”

*“I will praise the Lord for His righteousness, and sing a hymn to the name of the LORD Most High.”
Psalm 7:18*

In Psalm 8:5 we read “What is man that you have been mindful of him, mortal man that You have taken note of him?” This is a song of amazement at God’s continual engagement in the human condition and great care He takes in His relationship with the world.

In Psalm 7 we find a different emotion, this time that of a deeply wounded and perplexed man. Feeling persecuted and plotted against without just cause, he looks for a reason why. He contemplates that perhaps by some accident he may have done something to provoke his own sufferings. He finds no good reason for what is happening so cries out to God over the injustice of it all. Suffering for wrong doing he could accept but punishment without having done wrong? That was difficult to accept. So he calls upon God for justice.

Having cried out to God, the Psalmist sets aside his lament and contemplates the nature of repentance and God’s righteous judgment of all the peoples of the world. He confesses there is justice in the universe and notes that evil doers provoke their own destruction. He also observes that beyond every evil action of man there remains the promised remedy of a just and righteous God. Resting in renewed confidence, he writes into Psalm 8 great praise and exaltation over the magnificent things God has created.

Prayer: “Lord, sometimes it seems even my good deeds are punished. When things like that happen, cause me to trust in your justice and show me the way forward. When there is sin in me, help me turn from that sin. When I am innocent of wrong doing, cause me to trust you anyway and rejoice in your glorious creation.”

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