

Series Title: Awake My Soul

Sermon Title: Week 4: Then and Now

Date: 08-18-19

✠ Old and New, Then and Now: The Question

- **Hold Bible... God's Word....**
- **Two parts- Old Testament, New Testament**
- **What we call NT- is TWO THOUSAND years old. We wrestle with it, spent year just doing 16 chapters of Romans... but as Believers we generally accept it.**
- **THEN, we open OLD testament. In our case today, poem written in ancient Hebrew, middle eastern poet king named David, THREE THOUSAND years ago.**
- **As 21st century people, how do we approach this? THIS IS QUESTION- IF THIS IS GOD'S TRUTH TO US, as followers of Christ, how do we approach, understand this ancient Hebrew poem- psalms?**
- **THIS IS HUGE QUESTION, because as we've talked a lot here, we approach the OT and NT differently, in a few crucial ways. If we don't understand this, it can lead to great confusion. Psalm 145 is a great example- SO, A PRIMER-(lots of script, won't cover)**
- **MUCH BETTER than OT/NT is concept of OC/NC**

Old Covenant | New Covenant

- **Bottom line, approach OC through lens of NC**
- **Few (many more) perspectives of difference between THEN AND NOW**
- **FIRST- REGARDING FORGIVENESS**

OC: Multiple sacrifices, TEMPORARY forgiveness

NC: ONE sacrifice, eternal forgiveness

- **Hebrews 10.. says 'temple sacrifice will never take away sin! BUT, Christ has done it...
¹⁴ For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.**
- **NEXT- regarding our motivation for how we live, what guides us, how we relate to God....**

OC: Old way of the LAW NC: New way of the SPIRIT

Romans 7:6 *But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.*

- **Speaking of the Spirit.. HUGE! God's presence to us**

OC: Spirit came at specific times for specific purpose

NC: Spirit indwells believer in constant UNION

- **Of course, theme throughout all of NT- just one example...**

John 14:19-20 *Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.*

- **HERE'S MAIN DIFFERENCE TO FOCUS TODAY**

OC: **GENERAL EMPHASIS...** Experienced God's provision for **temporal and physical needs** of life in relationship to their OBEDIENCE

- **When David cries out "deliver me God!", he is talking about from a literal enemy. When we see Israel fall into hands of enemy, it is a result of their rebellion against God**
- **This paradigm of OC embodied in MOSAIC LAW, conclusion of which is found in (among other places)**

Deuteronomy 30:15-16 *See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. ¹⁶ For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.*

NC: **PRIMARY EMPHASIS** Experience God's provision of **inner and eternal needs** (His Righteousness) in relationship to our **FAITH**

– **FAITH by which we enter into relationship with God**

Romans 3:21-22 But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

– **AND FAITH OF RELATIONSHIP, continuing, by which we EXPERIENCE the transforming power of God in our lives... most succinctly described...**

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

– **Here's why this matters. David is about to express something that strikes at the heart of a relationship with GOD, and it is as important for us as it was for him. He will say... "I exalt you my God and King, I praise your name forever and ever". HE MEANS IT.**

– **What led David to say this? That's the question he answers with Psalm 145.**

– **HERE'S THE THING- the reasons David gives for his worship of God are the SAME reasons God invites us to see, NOW... but from a different PERSPECTIVE- a perspective David couldn't yet have, the NEW COV.**

✠ **Psalm 145, an introduction:** A psalm of praise. Of David.

– **Last attributed to David. Pure worship.**

– **Acrostic poem- why? Meant to be memorized**

– **In Jewish 'Berakhot'... known as 'Praise of David' repeat 3 times daily, gave confidence of life to follow**

———— THEN ———— ✨ **Psalm 145** ✨ ———— NOW ————

Verses 1-2: Worship: The perspective of a heart SET ON GOD

¹I will exalt you, my God the King;

I will praise your name for ever and ever.

²Every day I will praise you

and extol your name for ever and ever.

– **Awe. Amazement. Surrender (the King). Devotion. When consider, Can't keep quiet! (extoll)**

– **It's not like David sat around in the temple all day. Far from it. Looking back on history of his life, this was his conclusion. LORD! YOU ARE MY LIFE!**

– **NOW, in NC... do we reach same conclusion? HEB...**

Hebrews 12:1-3 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² **fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ **Consider him (BE AMAZED)** who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Verses 3-6: Why worship God? The greatness of His WORKS

³Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;

his greatness no one can fathom.

⁴One generation commends your **works** to another;

they tell of your mighty **acts**.

⁵They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—

and I will meditate on your **wonderful works**.

⁶They tell of the power of your **awesome works**—

and I will proclaim your **great deeds**.

- **What is David thinking of? Creation! World. God's provision in created order. "Heaven's proclaim" ALSO, God's work on behalf of Israel. Establishing them, protecting, victory in struggle, deliverance**
- **These are TOLD. SPEAK... MEDITATE on them**
- **NOW, US, why do we worship God? HERE IS CRUX OF NC PERSPECTIVE. When we think of greatness of God, emphasis is NOT OUR CIRCUMSTANCES.**
- **IT IS THE CROSS!! BUT hear! Not just past tense. Because of RESURRECTION, it is work of God RIGHT NOW... what is nature of that work?**

Ephesians 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who **has blessed us** in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. **ALL BELIEVERS, RIGHT NOW**

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

2 Peter 1:3-4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.

Philippians 1:9-11 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

- **Does God work, intervene, change things in our circumstances, because he loves us, and to reveal who he is? YES. He does.**
- **PRINCIPLE... when we live by spirit... life better...**
- **BUT THIS IS PRINCIPLE, NOT A PROMISE. Times when circumstances don't change.**
- **Why praise God then? THIS IS THE GIFT! THE PROMISE THAT IS MADE, for all believers, all time, is that while God may not choose to CHANGE our circumstance, he is PRESENT IN OUR CIRCUMSTANCE, comforting, strengthening, giving us perspective and hope, preparing us, shaping us... WE EXPERIENCE ALL OF THIS BY FAITH.**
- **WIERSBE... "For praising believer, difficult circumstances are a window to God. For complaining... mirror where only see self"**
- **NOW DAVID himself moves from worshipping God for what he has done, to... for who he is.**

Verses 7-9: We praise God for His **GOODNESS**, love, and compassion

⁷They (**His people/works**) celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

⁸The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

⁹The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

- **GOD. IS. GOOD. Do we believe this? This is a fundamental question every believer must face, both in good times and difficult times. IS GOD GOOD? If we evaluate through mirror of our circumstance, we will conclude that he isn't. BUT, if by FAITH, we let spirit open our eyes to SEE... He will show us that HE IS GOOD. In life... and in His WORD.**
- **In a sense, opening line of Jesus' message was GOD IS GOOD!**

Mark 1:14-15 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God.

¹⁵ "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

- **David takes next step... God is sovereign...**

Verses 10-13: We praise God for the Glory of His **KINGDOM**

¹⁰ All your works praise you, LORD;
your faithful people extol you.
¹¹ They tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might,
¹² so that all people may know of your mighty acts
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures through all generations.

– **NOW... NC.. we are PART OF THAT KINGDOM**

Matthew 5:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

– **IT IS HERE!**

Matthew 4:16-17 ¹⁶the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.” ¹⁷ From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

Verses 14-16: We praise God for the provision of His GRACE

^{13b}The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises
and faithful in all he does.

¹⁴ The LORD upholds all who fall
and lifts up all who are bowed down.

¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food at the proper time.

¹⁶ You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

– **HOW is this a picture of Grace? PROVISION.**

– **NC perspective-, meeting our deepest needs, no matter what life may bring, how long life may bring it.**

– **V 14..GIFT!! Upholds us in our weakness... NEW COV**

1 Peter 5:6-7 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

– **David continuing same thought....**

Verses 17-20: We praise God for the provision of His PRESENCE

¹⁷The LORD is righteous in all his ways
and faithful in all he does.

¹⁸ The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

¹⁹ He fulfills the desires of those who fear him;
he hears their cry and saves them.

²⁰ The LORD watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.

– **NC...Not just near, but IN. Presence through Holy Spirit, gifts of church, fellowship, communion.**

– **19-20. HOW UNDERSTAND? Through lens of faith. Deepest desires, perhaps we don’t even know. He provides all we need to experience goodness of his salvation NOW... to prevail, to have peace, hope**

– **We live in a fallen world, but ultimately God will make all things right.**

– **In Hebrews, beautiful picture of God’s invitation for us to experience his presence NOW...**

Hebrews 4:15-16 *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

Verse 21: Our only response

²¹*My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD.
Let every creature praise his holy name
for ever and ever*