



# Our Real King: Psalm 5

Brownsburg Church of Christ

by Edwin Crozier

June 23, 2013

PM Assembly



## Introduction:

When the Founding Fathers established the United States of America, one of their bases was God as the creator. Many immigrated to our nation to worship God freely. For generations the anchor was faith in God. That is not to say there were no atheists. But the foundation was faith. The 10 Commandments are displayed in courthouses. The dollar bill announces "In God We Trust." The President generally takes his oath of office on a Bible. Congressional sessions often begin with prayer. And many Christians are complacent. After all, we are Americans, which to too many is about the same as claiming that we are Christians. But times are changing. Faith in Christ cannot be presumed just because someone is American. In fact, faith in any god cannot be presumed. We are surrounded with "Tolerance" and "Coexist" bumper stickers. God is being removed from political platforms. Immoralities such as the murder of infants in the womb and the legalization and sanction of homosexuality are the planks on which modern political platforms are built. Prayer and Bible study is being removed from schools. Mentioning God is being stricken from the public forum. God's commands are being ridiculed. God's ways are being mocked. Certainly, there are still plenty of Americans who want a healthy dependence on faith in our country. But it is becoming painfully obvious that our nation is not moving in that direction. Further, for all the political posturing of the Religious Right, for all the rallying of so-called Christians, for all the campaigns to get out the vote, our nation is not likely to turn around any time soon. For many in our culture, even for many of the religious in our culture, God is nothing more than a fairy godmother to cry out to when tough times occur like 9/11 or hurricanes in the Gulf or tornadoes in the Midwest, or He is a weak, powerless benefactor to abandon when those tough times occur. He is not the anchor.

Sadly, for all the preaching of tolerance and coexistence, our modern culture won't tolerate us. They want to castigate us, cast us out, hinder us. They claim they are happy for us to be Christians as long as we keep it quiet. But then they still mock and browbeat us. They try to keep us from even going behind closed doors of worship. Many in our culture wish to end all religious practice as intellectually ridiculous and a danger to society. As much as I hope I'm wrong, this will likely get worse before it gets better. How are we going to live like this? Enter **Psalm 5**.

We don't know exactly when this occurred in David's life. Many suggest it was during Absalom's rebellion. I think that is likely. But in any event notice how David describes his surroundings. He is surrounded by the boastful and by evildoers (**vs. 5**). There are numerous liars who are deceitful and bloodthirsty (**vs. 6**). Many men are attacking the truth (**vs. 9**). They flatter with the tongue, but really they are pursuing destruction (**vs. 9**). Does this sound familiar to you? How did David make it? How did he continue on? No doubt, there is a whole lot we can get from this psalm. But the anchor for David was simply this: though surrounded by wickedness and hindered by the wicked, God will care for him and bring him into His holy house. We can have the same anchor.

## Discussion:

### I. Remember your Real King.

- A. Notice **Psalm 5:2**. Though David is rightful king of Israel, he declares who is the Real King: God. In **Psalm 5:3**, he uses God's covenant name, Jehovah. God has made a covenant with Israel through Abraham and then Moses. He has made a covenant with David. David knew he was king only because God let him.
- B. Whether this is written during the days of Saul chasing David, Absalom's rebellion, or even in response to some plot by foreign kings to overthrow Israel, David remembers who the real king is. This is evident in the midst of Absalom's rebellion. In **II Samuel 16:5-14**, David flees Absalom amid the curses of Shimei. When David's friends want to kill Shimei, David stays their hands. Why? Because this may be from God. If God wants a different king, that is God's business. After all, He is the Real King.
- C. We have a real king—Jesus (**Revelations 17:14**). If He allows our nation to devolve spiritually, that is His business. While we submit to earthly authorities, they are not our real rulers. George W. Bush was not our king. Barak Obama is not our king. Whoever comes next will not be our king. Jesus Christ is our Real King.

### II. Prioritize your connection to your Real King.

- A. David says in **Psalm 5:3**, "O LORD, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch" (ESV). No doubt this demonstrates the psalm as a morning prayer. No doubt it demonstrates David's praying is as regular as the morning. However, the real key is priority. Morning is the first part of the day. David's priority was connection with his Real King.

- B. David was king of Israel. He was king in the midst of attacks, in the midst of coups, in the midst of the day to day agenda of running a country. But what was his priority? It was not getting to the business of ruling, protecting, or leading the nation. His priority was connecting to his Real King.
- C. How easy it is to be distracted by plunging into the business of the day. But do any of us think we have more important work to get to on a Monday morning than running a nation? I fall prey to this distraction so often. Rather than making sure I devote myself to and connect to my Real King, I plunge into the business of writing sermons, preparing class material, visiting hospitals, conducting studies with others. It is so easy to think that I have to get about my work that I forget my work can only be fruitful if it is anchored in awe of my Real King. I can only imagine how tough this must be for someone whose 40-to-60-hour-per-week job is not about preaching and teaching. The issue here is not so much making sure that the first thing you do is devotional. The issue is making it a priority that governs all you do. As **Matthew 6:33** explains, the primary and fundamental aspect of our lives is our connection with our Real King.

### III. Know your Real King.

- A. **Psalm 5:4-6** is utterly profound for this psalm. Don't skip over it as if it is an embarrassing explanation of the nature of God and how He deals with His enemies. This section of the prayer is the anchor of the entire psalm, the basis of the whole poem, the foundation of David's every statement. Though David is surrounded by lying evildoers who are trying to hinder his ability to worship God, though at the moment it looks like God is tolerating the wicked, though in the instant it looks like the blaspheming liars have the upper hand and will endure, David knows his Real King does not delight in wickedness, put up with evil, tolerate blasphemous deceit. He will destroy the lying hordes. David's faith is anchored in knowledge of his Real King.
- B. His Real King does not tolerate the evil. He will not endure the wicked. In the end, his Real King will rise up and win the victory. This faith ties into the covenant expressed in **Psalm 2**. God gives the raging nations and enemies time to "kiss the Son," to "serve the LORD," but in the end, if they do not, "his wrath is quickly kindled" and they will "perish in the way." David knows his Real King; he understands the nature of his Real King. He grasps why there is a time of struggle. But his faith is anchored in the true knowledge of how his Real King works and, therefore, his faith is not moved in the face of the enemies.
- C. When we know our Real King, we can face the enemies even when it looks like they are winning. Rather than running scared because the nation around us is not going our way, we can remain anchored. Oh sure, we may suffer for a time. We may be on the run for a while. It may look like the enemy is winning. But we know in the end, God wins! We know that because we know our Real King. As **II Thessalonians 1:5-12** teaches, our Real King wins and will judge those that impenitently afflict us. We simply need to hang on.

### IV. Follow your Real King.

- A. Because David rested his faith in knowing the true nature of his Real King, no matter what surrounding events and people tried to convince him, he knew his only recourse was to follow his Real King. **Psalm 5:7-8** demonstrates that. However, the true power of this section of the Psalm is that David understood the only way He would enter the house of the Lord was because of the steadfast love of God. He would only walk in righteousness if the Lord led him. He didn't follow the Lord to prove he was good enough to enter God's house. He entered God's house because he had faith in God to lead him there.
- B. David understood his enemies were hindering him. If this psalm is written during the rebellion of Absalom, this statement is very literal. David can't get to the house of the Lord, the temple, because he is fleeing Jerusalem. Until Absalom is defeated, David will not be able to get to God's house. But when God defeats Absalom, then God will be the reason David is able to enter that house again. David knows his only hope of being in the Lord's house is the Lord's deliverance. So, what does he do? He just does what God says. He follows the Lord anywhere He leads. That is why when Saul was against him, David refused to take up arms against the Lord's anointed. That is why he tolerated Shimei's taunts during Absalom's rebellion. That is why he was willing to leave the Ark of the Covenant in Jerusalem when he fled before Absalom.
- C. No matter what lies we hear from our culture, no matter what we are called, no matter how we are taunted, we must do what our Real King says. Why? To prove how great we are? No. Because His way is the only one that works. If we want to bow before Him in His eternal house, it will be only by His love and His lead. Though our enemies try to cloud the way, God will make His way straight for us.

### V. Call on your Real King.

- A. Though David is in the midst of turmoil, though his enemies press in on every side, though he flees before them, he is not alone. He knows God is with him. So, we see his plea in **Psalm 5:9-10**. He calls on the Lord to thwart his enemies' plans. He asks that they fall by their own counsels. To me, this seems to be a psalmic

version of David's prayer in **II Samuel 15:31**. Even while conceding that these events may come from the very hand of his Real King, David knows he is accompanied by his Real King, and he calls out to Him.

- B. There is deliverance and salvation by no one but our Real King. Certainly, in our nation's political system, we are free to campaign. We are free to vote. We can have some impact. That is great. Follow that course if you wish. But even in that, understand that our attempts to impact our society will accomplish nothing if we do not call on our Real King's aid and power, asking Him to act based upon His nature. **I Timothy 2:1-4** explains that our Real King longs for all people to be saved. So we can call on Him to act in our culture and our nation to allow us to worship Him, leading peaceful and quiet lives, godly and dignified in every way. So, plan and act. Conceive your ways to impact society. But call on your Real King. Only He can truly accomplish any lasting impact even in the kingdoms of men.
- C. And when you call on Him, do not be afraid to call on Him to act according to His covenant nature. Do not be afraid to ask Him to bring judgment on those who would judge us if they refuse to repent. They are counseling against us and our Real King. Do not be afraid to ask God to let them fall by their own counsel and to be cast out.

#### VI. Take refuge in your Real King.

- A. Finally, in **Psalms 5:11-12** we see a wonderful word picture. Have you ever seen the awful pictures of refugees in foreign lands? Have you seen on the news the horrible images of the victims of genocide in one nation trying to escape to a neighboring land, seeking asylum and protection from their enemies? Have you seen joy and peace in their eyes as they carry only the bare essentials on their backs, leaving their homes, sometimes abandoning family, marching for miles in ragged clothes, only to be herded into camps and live on rations in nations that often can't afford to care for them? Of course not. The picture of a refugee is not a pleasant one. Few of us would long to be refugees. Why would anyone choose that life? In the case of these foreigners, it is because they know their only hope for life is to take refuge in the neighboring nation.
- B. But look at David's plea and proclamation. David talks about happy refugees, blessed refugees, protected refugees, shielded refugees. David recognizes that if he follows the enemies, the only future is death. He can't survive with the blasphemers and liars. There is only one hope, refuge in the Lord. Again, if this is written during Absalom's rebellion, it is a real picture of what David actually does. He flees Jerusalem. He seeks refuge, but not in foreign nations. He seeks refuge in God. The nations around David will not give him protection, but he believes God will. David seeks the protection, the shielding, the blessing of God.
- C. We must do the same. We are surrounded by enemies who seek to take our lives. Our modern culture is at war with Jesus Christ and His people. They are attacking us on every side. They don't want to kill us physically. They simply want us to become like them. They want us to take refuge in their ways. They want us to abandon our Real King. And sadly, far too many Christians take refuge among foreigners. They take refuge in rage, in alcohol, in drugs, in immoral sex, in pornography, in food, in gambling, in fame, in cooperation with the world, in anonymity. These foreign kings (gods even) will not save us. They will kill us as surely as the enemies will. Only by taking refuge in God can we find life. And while living the life of a refugee seems hard to us, in Christ our Real King, the life of a refugee is blessed, protected, shielded. He does provide all we need (cf. **Matthew 6:33**). Run to your Real King. Focus on a relationship with your Real King. Let nothing come between you and your Real King. Understand that there is only one thing that is necessary—connecting to your Real King. Do not let our culture deceive you. Nothing else matters. There is a safe haven. There is a refuge. There is a place to turn even in our modern nation that is against us. That place is God. Are you taking your refuge there?

#### Conclusion:

Let's face it. Things are changing in the culture around us. As frustrating as that may be, it is really not surprising. There have always been those who would oppose the way of God and there always will be. Sometimes, it will seem that they have the upper hand. However, like David we can take comfort in the nature of our Real King. He will not tolerate wickedness. We can put ourselves in His hand and simply follow Him. When the enemies press in, take refuge in Him. That is the only place we will find deliverance. Though surrounded by wickedness and hindered by the wicked, God will care for us and bring us into His holy house forever. Hang on to that faith and keep serving the Lord.