

**I. INTRODUCTION – PS. 1-3**

- A. God the Father is resetting believers all across the earth in this hour. This time of ‘reset’ is meant to center our lives again on His eternal purposes found solely in his son Jesus.
- B. Father is calling his church back to center, wholehearted voluntary love for Jesus.
- C. The global transitions taking place right now make it clear that Father God is in the midst of a transitional generation.
  - 1. According to National Geographic (Aug. 2019) the UN is reporting that 1 in 7 people on the earth today are in some form of transition (geographically). That is an estimated 1 billion people in some form of transition. (See article by Paul Salopek, “*A storyteller chronicles the mass migrations that define our age*”—Aug. 2019)
  - 2. Transitional Generations are ones in which God reveals Himself in a new way. These are generations where there is a radical shift in how God relates to His people and how God’s people relate to Him.
  - 3. These are generations, which witness the power and activity of God on a regular basis. These generations are to escort the people of God into a new season of redemptive history. They usually contain both God’s judgment & God’s redemption.
  - 4. They are times where the people of God are required to respond in a greater measure to the revelation that God is releasing in their midst. Example of Jesus’ command to the rich young ruler.
- D. Seven Major transitional Generations found in the bible. The church or God’s people are called upon to prepare their cities and nations for these transitions.
  - 1. Noah, Moses, David, Elijah and Elisha, The Prophets associated with the exile of Northern Israel (722BC) and Southern Israel (586BC); John the Baptist, Jesus, and the Apostles; The generation in which the Lord returns.
- E. As God’s people, members of his family we are called to: ***“A Psalm 1 lifestyle, with a Psalm 2 understanding of our times, empowered by a Psalm 3 prayer life.”***

## II. PS. 1 – CALLED TO A HOLY SEPARATION

*Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. Ps. 1:1-4*

A. The Psalmist calls believers to separate from the *counsel*, the *path* and *seat* of unrighteous living. We have to wrestle with what this means in our generation. It's a call to separation just as Jesus called to his disciples (and all believers really) to separate from this present evil age.

*<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? Matt. 16: 24-26*

B. One of the most common misconceptions of Christianity is that there is no sacrifice, no need to change one's life for the sake of loving Jesus.

C. Jesus did not die on the cross to make our lives painless and free of disappointment. He died that in the midst of the difficult experiences in life we would have an eternal spiritual relationship to comfort, guide and lead us as well as providing different choices than the common responses given by so many.

D. The Psalmist tells us that the only anchor in life is relationship with God and his word (law). This relationship is to be the main preoccupation in our life, and we are to meditate on this relationship "*day and night.*"

1. Day and night means that God has 24/7 access to our lives, and we with him.

E. This relationship will establish our lives, like a tree planted by streams of water, meaning we will be fruitful, established and nourished. We can find satisfaction in this relationship.

1. This relationship is the secret to: 1) *fruitfulness*; 2) *beauty* (shade, covering, health) and 3) *prosperity* (meaning our soul increasing and maturing in grace and peace).

## III. PS. 2 – UNDERSTANDING OUR TIMES

A. Psalm 2 gives us a global perspective of human history, and often the state of the nations during transitional seasons. This psalm provides for us a contextual overview of what we can expect in our lives as we seek to live a Ps. 1 lifestyle.

- B. We are to understand that our faith in God and his son Jesus will consistently be tested as a means for refining and maturing our love for the Father and his son, Jesus. We need this resistance over years and decades so that our love would be purified and wholehearted.
- C. Outline of Ps. 2
1. Ps. 2:1-3 – The nations and kings of the earth rage against God’s law and provide fierce opposition to Jesus’ leadership—their angry rebellion.
  2. Ps. 2: 4-6 –The Father God’s response—a message to the rebellious kings.
  3. Ps. 2: 7-9 – Jesus’ response to the Father’s message—intercession.
  4. Ps. 2: 10-12 – David’s warning to the leaders of the nations—obey the Lord no matter the cost.

#### IV. PS. 3 – THE LORD PROMISES TO HELP HIS TROUBLED PEOPLE

*Lord, how they have increased who trouble me! Many are they who rise up against me. 2 Many are they who say of me, “There is no help for him in God.” Selah 3 But You, O Lord, are a shield for me, My glory and the One who lifts up my head. 4 I cried to the Lord with my voice, And He heard me from His holy hill. Selah 5 I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustained me. 6 I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people Who have set themselves against me all around. Ps. 3: 1-6*

- A. Psalm 3 is considered to be the prayer and lament David prayed when he fled Jerusalem from the advancing army of his rebellious son, Absalom.
- B. Absalom started a rebellious civil war with his father David, which was the outward manifestation of the bitterness he carried in his heart over the horrible events surrounding the rape of his sister Tamar.
1. From the narrative of this story, Absalom was angry over David’s unjust dealings with this criminal act. (2 Sam. 13-16). David did not judge his son Amnon for raping his half-sister, so Absalom murdered Amnon bitter at David’s inactivity.
- C. So many today are rejecting the leadership of Jesus since it seems that there is no justice for the wickedness we see so prevalent on the earth.
- D. The Psalmist finishes by proclaiming that God provides salvation and justice. It is hard to wait patiently for God’s plan of justice. So often our desire for justice is nothing more than *‘punitive pay-back’* instead of redemption.

*Arise, O LORD; Save me, O my God! For You have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of the ungodly. <sup>8</sup> Salvation belongs to the LORD. Your blessing is upon Your people. Selah Ps. 3: 7-8*

- E. David's prayer was for God to vindicate and provide justice for the raging of his rebellious son Absalom. David did not want his angry rebellious son dead, and he waited for God to guide.
- F. David certainly had not only the power and position but the resources to amass his army and fight against his son. David's desire to avoid a power confrontation with his son was not a sign of weakness but one of hope that God could deal with the wounded soul of his son.

## V. CONCLUSION

- A. Psalm 1 reveals to us the call to separate our lives unto God trusting that he will establish us in the generation we serve.
- B. Psalm 2 reveals the resistance to God's plan to focus all of his eternal purposes in his son Jesus, and the lifestyle of the redeemed.
- C. Psalm 3 reveals the grace given to the redeemed as they pray for help when resistance comes as they live the lifestyle of Ps. 1 in a fallen raging world (Ps. 2).