

929

929

La D 389 day evening 21.6.69. Prayer Meeting at Ebenezer Chapel, Clapham, S.W.4

Opening Hymn:- 398:- "Dear Shepherd of thy people, here
Thy presence now display."

LIBRARY OF THE
GOSPEL STANDARD BAPTISTS

Reading:- 34th Psalm.

Address by Pastor:- This Psalm is an exhortation to praise and bless God, and truly we have many reasons to do this; but in David's case it was after a signal deliverance from a distressing condition when he changed his behaviour before Abimelech, that is Achish, the king of Gath, who drove him away and he departed. (1.Sam: 21/13) That was his deliverance - to be driven away! as it is expressed, from great danger of his life. David had many evidences of this. Let us notice in the Psalm, first of all, ANSWERED PRAYER. See verse 6. "This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles." This appears to be mentioned again in relation to the Lord's people as in verse 17 "The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles." Then again in verse 19 "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivereth him out of them all." Every one of them! Although they are continually in some trouble or affliction, they are witnesses, repeatedly, of a delivering God. It must be a great mercy to know the Lord in that sense, to have grace, whatever burden may press, whatever trial may be in our path, to betake ourselves to this God, the God of Jacob, as a delivering God.

The Psalmist describes himself as a "poor man" - not a rich man . "This poor man cried." That is an experience of which all the Lord's people will have to know something. This poor man was evidently David himself, referring probably to the painful and distressing circumstances through which he had been passing. All the children of God, in a spiritual way, must be brought to feel themselves to be poor. Literally, a poor man lacks that which is necessary for the life of his body in relation to bodily provision; but spiritually a poor man feels to lack that which is necessary for his soul's comfort, peace and salvation. This does not mean he is out of the secret - no not by any means, though he might feel to be, but it is a consciousness of lack of need, more than of possession, and this is a wholesome, though painful experience. We have to feel our poverty; to have, as it were, nothing in ourselves

but sin. No help in self can we find. Yet all these poor people are really rich in Christ; but they are brought to feel their dependence upon Him, and they prove Him to be a faithful, and a prayer-answering God too!

Another point is DIVINE PROVIDENCE (verse 7) "The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them." David was a witness of this many times. So have many of the Lord's people been. By the "Angel" here, rendered in the singular, I believe we may understand the "Angel of the covenant," The Lord Jesus Christ; He encompasses round about His people. If it refers to created angels, is this not true of them, possibly more often than we can say, though they are not visible to us? It is a quieting and comforting thought to feel that the Lord's eye, His protective providence, is over every one of us. I believe His people feel the need of this, and they experience the comfort of it in their lives, matters and circumstances. It is very confirming to feel there is a Sovereign Protector over us and that:-

"Not a single shaft can hit,
'till the God of love sees fit."

Sometimes He does see fit for wise purposes.

In the Psalm are confirming statements particularly to encourage and help the Lord's people to wait upon Him and to put their trust in Him. May we each one be helped to do this, because of the blessing that attends it - not something in us - it is a divine blessing. "O taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man that trusteth in Him."

=====

Prayers:-

- Mr. S. Collins.
- Mr. A. Allen. & Hymn 981 "Why should I yield to slavish fears?"

Second Reading:- Psalm 121

- Prayers:- Mr. A. Levell
- Pastor.

=====