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The
Songs

28

PSALMS - The SONGS

Twenty-eight

I Call to You, O LORD

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Psalm 28** and mark every reference to the LORD, including pronouns and synonyms, with a red triangle.

Read through **Psalm 28** and mark every reference to the psalmist or righteous man, along with all pronouns and synonyms (i.e. His anointed, etc.) with a blue capital "R".

Read through **Psalm 28** and mark every reference to the wicked, along with all pronouns and synonyms (i.e. those who go down to the pit, those who do iniquity, "they" and "their" when it applies to the wicked, etc.) with an orange capital "W".

Read through **Psalm 28** and underline all figurative references to the LORD (i.e. Rock, Strength, Shield, Shepherd, etc.) in purple.

Read through **Psalm 28** and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal line.

Read through **Psalm 28** and mark every comparison with a pink equal sign.

Read through **Psalm 28** and mark every term of conclusion with a pink capital "T".

Read through **Psalm 28** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Supplication to the LORD (to repay the wicked)
2. Thanks to the LORD (because the He has heard the psalmist's supplication)
3. Supplication to the LORD (to save the LORD's people)

READ AND ANSWER

Psalm 28:1-5

What is the psalmist's first order of business?

To Whom does he call?

What metaphor does he use for the LORD?

What does he ask the LORD not to do?

Why? What will happen if the LORD does not respond to him?

What is synonymous to the LORD being deaf to his prayer?

What is synonymous to the LORD hearing his prayer?



**The same principle holds true today.
The LORD does not change.
If the LORD truly hears our prayer, He answers...**

**It's not that He cannot hear, because obviously He can...
It's that He is not obligated to hear a prayer that does not align with His will.
But if He chooses to hear a prayer... He is choosing to answer.**

**Many people think they can just ask God for whatever they want
and He should give it to them.
Those same people believe that God is listening to everything they say
no matter who they are and no matter what they do.**

Are they right?

**God does *not* promise He will listen to the prayers of just anybody.
God *does* promise to listen to the prayers of those who are His.**

God does *not* promise He will listen to the prayers of a believer
who is praying contrary to God's will.
God *does* promise to listen to the prayers of a believer
who is praying according to God's will.

God does *not* promise He will give anybody
everything they want.
God does *not* promise He will give a believer
everything he wants.
God *does* promise He will give a believer
everything he requests that is according to God's will.

God will *not* be held to a promise He did not make.
God *will* keep each and every promise He has made.

Read these cross-references written by the same author, John, below.
They shed even more light of God's requirements to answer prayer.

John 9:31
*We know that God does not hear sinners;
but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him.*

God does not hear sinners.
God hears those who fear Him and do His will.

John 14:13–14
*Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do,
so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.*

The context of this passage shows the “you” are believers
in the Name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
Whatever is asked must be in accordance with Who Jesus is—His Name.

John 15:7
*If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you,
ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*

You must abide in Christ.
Christ's words must abide in you.
If you abide in Him and His Word abides in you,
whatever you wish will be according to His desire, pleasure, and will.

John 16:23–24
*In that day you will not question Me about anything.
Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name,*

***He will give it to you.
Until now you have asked for nothing in My name;
ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.***

**You must ask according to Jesus' Name, Who He is.
Who is He?
He is the exact representation and radiance of His Glory!
Whatever is asked *according to Jesus' Name*
will necessarily be according to the Father's will.**

**1 John 3:21–22
*Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God;
and whatever we ask we receive from Him,
because we keep His commandments
and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.***

**We must keep His commandments.
We must do the things that are pleasing in His sight.
We will only ask the things that are pleasing in His sight to receive what we ask.**

So, what have we seen?

**God must hear a prayer before He will answer it.
In order for Him to hear your prayer you must be a righteous believer.
In order for Him to hear your prayer it must be according to His will.
If all His requirements are met, then and only then,
does He promise to answer your prayer.**

**Does God's criteria make Him somehow less than "good"?
No. Not at all.
His standards show His perfectly just and holy righteousness.**

What does the psalmist mean when he says that he will go down to the pit if the LORD does not answer his prayer?

What does the psalmist believe might happen to him if the LORD does not help him?

Do we know why the psalmist thinks he might die?

What is the psalmist doing in order to procure the LORD'S help?

- 1.
- 2.

What is the LORD'S holy sanctuary?

Why is he lifting up his hands toward the LORD'S holy sanctuary?

What is the psalmist asking the LORD to spare him from?

Who will be drug away?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What is another word for speaking peace to your neighbors while evil is in your heart? (Hint: It starts with an "H" and has four syllables. You might not be sure which word I am asking for since it is not in the text. So, I have used it in the fifth paragraph of the READ AND REASON!)

To where will the wicked be drug away? (Hint: Remember the context from **verse 1.**)

What does the psalmist want the LORD to do to the wicked?



Point of Depth

The Hebrew word for "requite" is *nathan* and means to give.

How does the psalmist want the LORD to requite the wicked? (How is their pay scale to be determined?)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What does the psalmist want to be returned to the wicked?



The Hebrew word for “repay” is *shuv* and means to return.

The Hebrew word for “recompense” is *gemul* and means an act, service, or dealings.

Why? What are their dealings?

- 1.
- 2.

What will the LORD do to the wicked?

- 1.
- 2.

Psalm 28:6-7

While the first segment of the **Psalm** is one of supplication, what changes in this second segment?

What does he do first?

Why does he bless the LORD?

What was David's supplication?

What does David ascribe to the LORD?

1.

2.

Why does David's heart trust in the LORD?

1.

2.

What is it about the LORD that helps David?

1.

2.

Why does David's heart exult?

1.

2.



**The Hebrew word for "exults" is *alaz*
and means to jump for joy.**

Why does David thank the LORD with his song?

- 1.
- 2.



Point of Depth

Just a thought...

**Whether you feel you have any musical talent or not,
have you ever thanked the LORD with a song?**

I don't mean while you are at church.

**I mean when you are by yourself...
when you are considering His answer to one of your supplications...
when your heart exults in His goodness to you...**

**—then...
have you ever thanked the LORD with a song?**

**If not...
why not start?**

And consider this if you feel inadequate.

**He formed you in your mother's womb...
You are fearfully and wonderfully made...
He gave you the voice you have...
He wants you to use the voice He gave you to thank Him in song...**

Psalm 28:8-9

An interesting change takes place in **verse 8**. It does not say that the LORD is David's strength, but it says, "The LORD is their strength." Who is "their"?

To whom is the LORD a saving defense?

Who is His anointed—David or the people of Israel? (Hint: Was the nation safe if their king was not?)

What does David ask the LORD to do?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

READ AND REASON

Why does David introduce the metaphor of building up and tearing down in **verse 5**? Does it somehow seem out of place (even though we know it can't be)?

This **Psalm** is very, very interesting. So often we do not know the occasion by which David penned his songs, and we don't know this one for sure either. But often we are reminded of situations which certainly could have been the occasion which instigated the psalmist to write (like the rock where David hid).

Most of the time it is easy to remember Saul hunting David down like an animal. This **Psalm** could be speaking about that time in David's life. However, in this case, I am reminded of Absalom. Think with me for a moment.

David is certainly in dire straits—he is concerned for his very life. There is no doubt that Absalom was out to destroy his father. The wicked are people who are speaking peace with their neighbors while evil is in their hearts. This was Absalom's method of working—his modus operandi. He would speak to the arrivals at the gate as if he were their friend, but he was really using them to oust his father from his throne.

If this **Psalm** was written because of Absalom's treacherous hypocrisy, **verse 5** takes on a much clearer meaning for us. Absalom's goal was to tear down his father's dynastic sovereignty over Israel. He wanted to build up his own ascendancy and rule.

Instead, David recounts that the LORD will tear Absalom and his minions down instead of building them up.

Even the reference to the wicked not regarding the works of the LORD and the deeds of His hands could be directly linked to not recognizing the clear and repeated anointing of the LORD upon David.

And that's not all. The last two verses contain a supplication for the nation of Israel and a call for God to be their Shepherd. The nation was in danger if Absalom were to wrest control from God's anointed.

The faithful few had followed David out of Jerusalem and were waiting for David to be reinstated on his throne. King David, as God's anointed, needed to be saved if his kingdom were to be saved. David did not have the ability to safely shepherd Israel... only the LORD did...

I don't know for sure which event in David's life prompted this particular **Psalm**... but Absalom's treachery is decidedly possible...

Segment by Segment

**Try titling these segments yourself.
Ask God to help you.**

Verses 1-5

Verses 6-7

Verses 8-9

Purpose of Psalm 28

**Try to identify the purpose of Psalm 28.
The purpose simply states "why the Psalmist wrote the Psalm".**

Theme of Psalm 28

**Try giving Psalm 28 a title by identifying its theme.
The theme simply states “what the Psalm is about”.**
