

The LORD'S Sovereign Work – Psalm 92

Spergeon's notes on Psalm 20:5 strikes the attentive. He says that the Bible teaches, "*If joy were more general among the Lord's people, God would be more glorified among men; **the happiness of the subjects is the honor of the Sovereign***".

In this Psalm the LORD sweetens (v.1-4) and strengthens (v.10-15) ultimately His people (v.5-9). We see this truth by noticing three aspects of the LORD's sovereign work.

Provides gladness

v.1-4

First, the LORD's sovereign work provides gladness for His people. We notice this in v.1-4. To see this truth concerning His work, notice the evidence and effects of God-given gladness.

Evidence of (4)

"For You, O LORD, have made me glad by Your works"

Clearly verse four tells us that the LORD's work causes His people to become glad. His work provides His people all they need in order to find their joy in His name; see v.1 (i.e. renown, fame, glory).

Effect of (1-3)

"give thanks" "sing praises to Your name" "to declare Your steadfast love" "to the music of"

Clearly verses 1-3 give us the effects of God-given gladness. These verses show that the LORD is involved in His people's lives; whether they are in difficulty or not.

Perishes the mindless

v.5-9

Second, the LORD's sovereign work perishes the mindless. Consider this dreadful and damning truth by noticing v.5-9.

Evidence of (7)

“[the wicked] are doomed to destruction forever” This word “doomed” is a dreadful reality. In other places this reality is described as “shall perish” “shall be scattered”. The verbs “doomed” and “scattered” are in the passive meaning that something/one is doing the action upon them = dooming forever & scattering. This action is credited to the sovereign work of the LORD.

Effects of (5-9)

“The stupid man cannot know; the fool cannot understand”. Verse 6 talks about a fundamental reality concerning the wicked. They are mindless of two things.

Unable to see His terrific majesty (5,8)

The wicked have not the ability (i.e. “cannot”) to see the grand scale of God’s majesty.

Unable to see their terrifying misery (7,9)

The wicked have not the ability to see their short-lived prosperity. In the end they perish!

Promotes tirelessness v.10-14

Third, the LORD’s sovereign work promotes tirelessness for His people.

Evidence of (10)

“But you have exalted my horn (i.e. strength) like that of the wild ox”. Verse 10 outlines the third aspect of the LORD’s sovereign work. He strengthens His people.

Effects of (11-15)

“fresh oil” “my eyes have seen” “righteous flourish” “grow” “They are planted...” “they still bear fruit in old age” “they are ever full of sap and green”. Verses 11-15 course with grace and life! This renewed strength carries His people into old age; not sapped but sap-filled.

So why does He sweeten and strengthen His people?

This Psalm is not about us. It is neither about our gladness nor our endurance. Notice how the Psalm begins and ends. His transforming work in our lives produces joy and steadfastness. And now with lips sweetened(v.1-4) and lives strengthened (v.10-15) we are to declare Him (v.2,15)! That’s the point. Even in difficult exile He is to be acknowledged gladly and consistently. Remember that seen accurately Yahweh is to be declared accordingly.