

A The Warrior (Psalm 18).

- ❖ Does God have the power to defend us? Of course (Ps. 18:2).
- ❖ We can see God manifesting himself as a warrior riding a horse; causing the earth to tremble and raising smoke and fire in its wake; paralyzing the enemy with his powerful voice; using the forces of nature as his arrows; and thus delivering those who cry to Him (Ps. 18:7-18).
- ❖ Although he was a warrior accustomed to battle, David never trusted his own strength, his intelligence, or his skill in handling weapons. He owed all his victories to God, who always fought for him (Ps. 18:47-48).

B Justice:

❖ Divine justice (Psalm 41).

- The Bible makes it very clear that God does not tolerate injustice. If the needy or the oppressed cry out to God, He rises up to give them justice (Ps. 12:5).
- When he felt vulnerable and sick, and his own friends secretly wished for his death, David cried out to God (Ps. 41:7-9). Confessing his own unworthiness, he left his case in the merciful hands of God, confident that He would hear him (Ps. 41:4, 11-13).
- God's attitude toward those in need calls us to feel the same way, that is, we should care for them. The Lord rewards those who have this attitude (Ps. 41:1-3).

❖ Human justice (Psalm 82).

- God delegated the ability to judge to the leaders of the people, with the king being the main judge of Israel (Ps. 72:1-2). Those who judge by divine delegation are called “gods” (Ps. 82:1).
- This delegation goes beyond the people of God. Everyone who has the ability to judge, does so by divine authority, even if they do not recognize it (Jn. 19:10-11; Rom. 13:1).
- The authority they receive makes them accountable to God for the way they administer justice (Ps. 82:2).
- God indicates the way in which a human judge should judge (Ps. 82:3-4). If they do it correctly, they are considered “sons of the Almighty” (Ps. 82:6). Otherwise, they themselves will fall under divine judgment (Ps. 82:7-8).

C The trial:

❖ Divine wrath.

- How can we harmonize the words of Psalm 137:9 – “Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones Against the stones” – with Jesus' request to love even our enemies?
- The psalms that plead for God to take revenge and pour out his wrath on men are harsh and disconcerting. Especially when we have in mind our own anger and our own way of getting revenge.
- However, the psalmist never intends to take revenge on himself. Only God can do true justice, and give people their deserved payment for their actions.
- Good and evil cannot be taken lightly. Evil has its consequences, and the wrath of God is manifested as the only means for its eradication.

❖ The Sanctuary (Psalm 99).

- The Celestial Sanctuary is closely linked with the Judgment. In the Holy of Holies, where the Lord reigns “sitting on cherubim” (Ps. 99:1), the work of judgment is done (Dan. 7:9-10).
- This is the place where the forgiveness of sin and the restoration of justice takes place. This implies both the absolution of those who cling to the Savior and the condemnation of those who reject Him (Ps. 1:5-6).
- As clearly symbolized in the ark of the testimony, the Judgment is based on the fulfillment or violation of God's Law, the Ten Commandments.
- Sure of divine forgiveness, God's servants long for the hour of Judgment, and cry out for its arrival so that justice may be fulfilled at last (Ps. 7:6-8; 9:19; 67:4; 99:4; 135:14).