

## Wednesday Word Meditation Material (June 10, 2020)

OrderPrayer → Praise → Scripture → Understanding Scripture → Meditation on Grace → Prayer → Lord's Prayer

- ❖ **Prayer** – One of the family members or Individual
- ❖ **Praise** – If possible, Hymns 144 & 519 are to be sung. If not, please sing any good Christian song
- ❖ **Scripture Reading** – Psalm 42:1~11
- ❖ **Understanding Scripture** (*Where Is God?!*)
  1. The background of this psalm is written before verse 1, saying “when he strove with Aram-naharaim and with Aram-zobah, and when Joab on his return struck down twelve thousand of Edom in the Valley of Salt.” Here, “Aram” means “Syria” the nation before Assyria. Aram-naharaim means the Arameans who lived in Mesopotamia area (the Babylon area, a couple of hundreds years later). “Naharaim” means “rivers” so the implication is that the two big rivers, Tigris and Euphrates. Around that area was Babylon. Aram-Zobah means the Arameans who lived in the middle of Syria. “Zobah” was a country name near “Damascus” on the north of Israel.
  2. The historical background of this text is written in **2Samuel 8:1~14 and 1Chronicles 18:1~19** more in detail. According to the text, David chased the king of Zobah, “Hadarezer,” who was in river Euphrates in order to prepare his troops to fight against David after reinforcing the military power. There, David defeated him. Later on, the allies from Damascus came and added military power to defeat David. David also defeated them. After these consecutive victories, David could set a vassal relationship between Aram and Israel so that Israel could receive the tributes from them. After this, David sent Joab (Abishai) and troops to defeat the Edmoites. So Israeli troops killed about 18,000 of Edmoite troops in the Valley of Salt. There was another vassal relationship with them, too.
  3. In those times, the victory has been set and Israel was being confirmed, this psalm was written. So, this psalm is a kind of reflection on what God has been doing. In the past, Israel was not stable. But, David prays that God would restore Israel in verse 1. Verses 2~3 wrote the difficult times that Israel experienced on the way thus far. But, now, David, meditating the current victories, confesses “You have set up a banner for those who fear you (i.e., David) that they may flee to it from the bow. Selah” in verse 4. He, in verse 5, prayed “That your beloved ones (i.e., David) may be delivered, give salvation by your right hand and answer us!”
  4. Still in the process of battle, David looks beautiful for his confession that God is the reason and foundation of the victory. The basis for his confession is the Word of God in verses 6~8 about the sovereignty of God. Yes, God is the Owner of the entire universe. David, relying on His sovereignty, could sing the “salvation”(victory) of his current steps of battle in verses 9~12. That salvation is not a swing and always unstable victory by the power of human beings but a complete and perfect victory (“salvation as it should be”) by the power of God the Owner of the creation.
- ❖ **Meditation on Grace**
  1. Along with COVID-19, we are going through a difficult situation, Protest (and riot), which makes us dismayed, anxious, and fretful. But, we are supposed to rely on “God’s sovereignty” and look at God who restores our life, family, society, and church. With meditation, let us find anything to be restored and saved and share them together!
  2. Now, let us rely on Jesus Christ! In the painful, dismayed, and depressed history still ongoingly progressed, why don’t we rely on Jesus in order to rely on “God the sovereign” for our life?
- ❖ **Prayer** – Praying with the meditation and finishing with the Lord’s Prayer.