

PSALMS: VOLUME ONE | THE AUDIT, THE AMBUSH AND PERSISTENCE | PSALM 17

Psalm 17 reminds us that when we are falsely accused, surrounded by trials, or tempted to envy those who seem to prosper, God calls us to persevering prayer, holiness, and trust. The world may offer temporary rewards, but Christ is our eternal portion—our validation, protection, and ultimate satisfaction.

MAIN POINTS, QUESTIONS OR THINGS THAT STUCK OUT TO YOU:

[illegible]

FURTHER STUDY:

Cross References, Resources, etc.

1 Peter 2:21–23; Matthew 24:12–13; Hebrews 2:1–4; Luke 18:1–8; 1 Peter 5:6–10; Luke 12:13–21



SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:

GROUND RULES: Encourage others and hold yourself accountable.

What is said within a group stays in the group. | Where is it written in the Bible?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

David begins by asking God to examine his heart and affirm his integrity (vv. 1–5). What does David mean by this, and how is this different from claiming to be completely sinless?

In verses 8–9, David asks God to keep him “as the apple of your eye” and hide him “in the shadow of your wings.” What do these images communicate about God's character and His relationship with His people?

David describes his enemies as people whose “portion is in this life,” while he says, “I shall behold your face... I shall be satisfied with your likeness” (vv. 14–15). What is the contrast David is making?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

David uses the imagery of the “apple of the eye” (the pupil) and the “shadow of wings” to describe how God cares for him. When you are going through a brutal week, do you actually view God as a fierce protector, or does He feel distant? What makes Him feel closer?

Verses 14 and 15 draw a hard line between people whose reward is entirely in this life (money, houses, status) and people whose reward is God Himself. If someone looked at your calendar, your bank account, and your stress levels from the past month, would they say your “portion” is in this life or the next?

David says he will be fully satisfied just by waking up and looking at God's face. What is one practical way we can fight to find our validation and satisfaction in Christ alone this week, rather than waiting for our boss, our spouse, or our culture to give it to us?

Read Ahead: Psalm 18