

Christ and the Church

Revealed
and Typified
in the
Psalms

Witness Lee

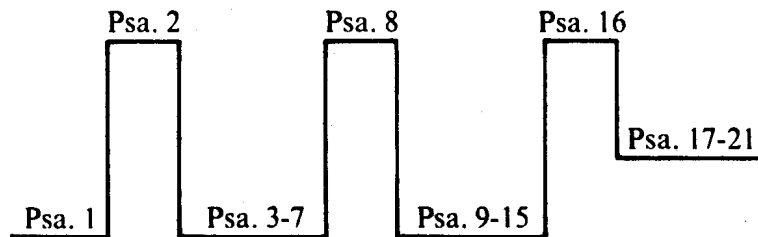
Published by

Living Stream Ministry
1853 W. Ball Road, P.O. Box 2121,
Anaheim, CA 92804 U.S.A.

CHAPTER FOUR
CHRIST CRUCIFIED
PSALMS 17 to 22:21

Scripture Reading: Psalms 18:6, 22; 17:15; 18:43-44, 50; 20:6, 9; 21:3-5; 22:1-22

After Psalm 8, we have Psalm 16 as a continuation of the Psalms about Christ. Then after Psalm 16, we have no more until Psalm 22. What about the Psalms between Psalm 16 and 22—Psalms 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21? By reading them carefully, we may realize that in these Psalms there is a certain kind of improvement. These Psalms are unlike Psalms 3 through 7 or 9 through 15. We may extend our little sketch to include these Psalms and to show the spiritual level and progression:



Psalms 17 through 21 are down from the level of Psalm 16, but they are not as far down as Psalm 3 through 7 and 9 through 15. Later, following Psalm 24, we will see more and more improvement, till finally, when we reach the last book of the Psalms, there will be no further declining. At the end of the Psalms, we have improvement to the uttermost, and the normal level is attained.

FROM THE LAW TO THE ANOINTED ONE

Here, in Psalms 17 through 21, we have the first stage of improvement. We may define these Psalms as follows: The saints' prayers firstly take the righteousness of the law as a base, but later turn to God's Anointed One, Christ, as the center. Do you see the improvement? The writers of these Psalms also appreciate the house of God. (See Psalm 18:6 and 20:2.) They realize that God hears their voices from His temple, that God sends them help from the sanctuary and strengthens them out of Zion. To this extent they appreciate God's dwelling place.

Psalm 19, as an insertion in this section, shows that the righteousness upon which the saints rely is of two kinds of testimony—the testimony of creation and the testimony of the law. But when we come to Psalms 20 and 21, God's Anointed One becomes God's testimony. The three great testimonies that God has toward man are creation, the law, and Christ. Christ is the last and greatest. For this reason there is the improvement. By this time the Psalmists came to realize something concerning Christ as God's Anointed. They said that the king hears when they call (20:9). When they cry, God hears, and the king hears also. They put the king on the same level as God. This is a real improvement.

In Psalms 17 through 21 the concept changes from the law to God's Anointed; it is gradually shifted from one line to another. Let us read all these verses referring to God's Anointed.

Psalm 17:15, "As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness." This is apparently the word of David, but if we read it again and again, we will see that it is in reality the word of Christ. While David was uttering something, the Spirit of Christ spoke within his utterance. This is the utterance of the Anointed. "As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness." Many Bible students believe this expresses the desire of Christ during the three days between His crucifixion