

As A Matter Of Grace...

Psalms 25:21 (NKJV)

21 Let **integrity** and **uprightness** preserve me, For I wait for You.

Integrity: blamelessness - a state of innocence.

Psalms 7:title-8 (NKJV)

A Meditation Concerning the Words of Cush, a Benjamite.

1 O LORD my God, in You I put my trust; Save me from all those who persecute me; And deliver me,

2 Lest they tear me like a lion, Rending me in pieces, while there is none to deliver.

3 O LORD my God, if I have done this: If there is iniquity in my hands,

4 If I have repaid evil to him who was at peace with me, Or have plundered my enemy without cause,

5 Let the enemy pursue me and overtake me; Yes, let him trample my life to the earth, And lay my honor in the dust. Selah

6 Arise, O LORD, in Your anger; Lift Yourself up because of the rage of my enemies; Rise up for me to the judgment You have commanded!

7 So the congregation of the peoples shall surround You; For their sakes, therefore, return on high.

8 The LORD shall judge the peoples; Judge me, O LORD, according to my righteousness, And according to my integrity within me.

There's a connection here to the period of Absalom's (When a leader is overthrown, it is typically referred to as a coup d'état (often shortened to "coup"). This term describes a sudden and illegal seizure of power from a government, usually involving the military or other political factions. Other related terms include insurrection or revolution, depending on the context and nature of the overthrow.)

against David, Absalom's father. David is forced to flee from Jerusalem into the wilderness. This period is a time of testing for David.

Proverbs 28:18 (NKJV)

18 Whoever walks **blamelessly** will be saved, But he who is perverse in his ways will suddenly fall.

Proverbs 10:9 (NKJV)

9 He who walks with **integrity** walks *securely*, But he who perverts his ways will become known.

Securely:freedom from anxiety or fear.

Proverbs 3:23 (NKJV)

23 Then you will walk **safely/securely** in your way, And your foot will not stumble.

Isaiah 33:14–16 (NKJV)

14 The sinners in Zion are afraid; Fearfulness has seized the hypocrites:
“Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?”

15 He who walks **righteously and speaks uprightly**, He who despises the gain of oppressions, Who gestures with his hands, refusing bribes, Who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed, And shuts his eyes from seeing evil:

16 He will dwell on high; His place of defense will be the fortress of rocks;
Bread will be given him, His water will be sure.

The contrast between the Jewish remnant and the rebellious Jews.

Proverbs 11:3–6 (NKJV)

3 The **integrity** of the upright will guide them, But the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them.

4 Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, But righteousness delivers from death.

5 The righteousness of the blameless will direct his way aright, But the wicked will fall by his own wickedness.

6 The righteousness of the upright will deliver them, But the unfaithful will be caught by their lust.

Numbers 22:31–34 (NKJV)

31 Then the LORD opened Balaam’s eyes, and he saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face.

32 And the Angel of the LORD said to him, “Why have you struck your donkey these three times? BEHOLD, I HAVE COME OUT TO STAND AGAINST YOU, BECAUSE YOUR WAY IS PERVERSE BEFORE ME.

33 The donkey saw Me and turned aside from Me these three times. If she had not turned aside from Me, surely I would also have killed you by now, and let her live.”

34 And Balaam said to the Angel of the LORD, “I have sinned, for I did not know You stood in the way against me. Now therefore, if it displeases You, I will turn back.”

Notice limited perception of Balaam the Angel was addressing the perversity of Balaam’s behavior but Balaam was

Romans 1:28–32 (NKJV)

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;

29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers,

30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

31 **undiscerning**, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;

32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

Undiscerning: uncomprehending - lacking the ability to understand the meaning or the importance of something (or the knowledge acquired as a result).

If God is going to judge these individuals for these things then, we can reason that the opportunity for their opposite qualities was afforded them but, they didn’t take advantage of the resources available.

Romans 2:1–11 (NKJV)

1 Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for **you who judge practice the same things.**

2 But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things.

3 And do you think this, O man, **you who judge those practicing such things**, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?

4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

5 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

6 who “will render to each one according to his deeds”:

7 eternal life to those who by **patient continuance in doing good** seek for glory, honor, and immortality;

Romans 8:24–25 (NKJV)

24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?

25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

Psalms 111:10 (NKJV)

10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; **A good understanding have all those who do His commandments.** His praise endures forever.

The resources of verse 4

8 but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath,

9 tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek;

10 but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

11 For there is no partiality with God.

Uprightness: the quality of conforming to a moral standard.

This is the work of God for man (Prov 3:6 KJV “direct”)

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;

6 In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall **direct** your paths.

Direct or make straight, level, unobstructed

It's during this time that it's speculated that David was inspired to record this Psalm along with the following two chapters.

2 Samuel 13-17 tell of this period and David's deliverance.

2 Samuel 6 tells of David's bringing back the arc of the covenant to Jerusalem

Psalms 25:9–10 (NKJV)

9 The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way.

10 All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth, To such as keep His covenant and His testimonies.

