

Taste and See

Chapter 12

Audio Lesson: Old Testament #57



Objective: To understand God's remedy for when we think all is hopeless.



I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. My soul will boast in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together. I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. This poor man called, and the LORD heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them. Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.

—Psalm 34:1-8

Hopelessness is a huge problem in our world, but God's desire is for the hope He has planted within us to lead us to faith in Him and a personal relationship with Him. People lose their hope when they no longer believe anything good will happen to them. But those who trust in God will be blessed. God invites us to "taste and see" that He is good—to follow Him in obedience and trust His Word in order to experience His blessings. When we do, we discover that God Himself is the good we had hoped to experience in this life.

David wrote Psalm 34, a psalm about God's goodness and His power to deliver, when he was with his "mighty men." These men were fugitives and failures when David first met them, but they grew strong in hope and faith as they experienced God's faithfulness to provide, protect, and deliver them. They are proof that God delights to do extraordinary things through ordinary people.



1. **True** or false? Many of the psalms are a combination of preaching, prayer, and praise.
2. True or **false**? All the men who went to the wilderness to join David were happy and successful.
3. **True** or false? Hope is the conviction that something good will happen.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

4. Why does God put hope in our heart?
 - a. So we can live with the illusion that life is good
 - b. To keep us chasing after our desires
 - c. To bring us to faith in Him**
 - d. So people around us will like us
5. What happens to those who trust in God?
 - a. They will not be condemned.**
 - b. They will eventually be disappointed.
 - c. They will never know if they were right.
 - d. They will be very popular.
6. How does Psalm 34 tell us to deal with our failure?
 - a. Make sure it never happens again.
 - b. Taste and see that the Lord is good.**
 - c. Accept the fact that we will never succeed.
 - d. Practice until we get it right.
7. Who was David talking about when he wrote that God would not allow His Holy One to see decay?
 - a. Himself
 - b. Moses
 - c. Every believer
 - d. Jesus**
8. What will happen when Jesus comes again? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. The elements will melt with intense heat.**
 - b. Wars will cease.**
 - c. No one will recognize Him.
 - d. He will be exalted in Israel only.
 - e. He will be exalted among the nations.**
9. What hope will we have on “the day of the Lord”?
 - a. No one can ever know for certain if they will be saved.
 - b. We will know we have lived as well as we could.
 - c. God will be our refuge.**
 - d. We will be judged along with all the earth.

10. How can we experience the divine presence of God?
- a. **By being still**
 - b. By looking into our own soul
 - c. By studying the teachings of many religious leaders
 - d. By completing a pilgrimage

11. What is God busy doing at this time in history?
- a. Punishing people for their sins
 - b. Making a list of all the prayers He hears
 - c. **Building His church**
 - d. Trying to solve all the world's problems



Have you ever been still long enough to experience the divine presence of God? If so, what was it like? If not, what changes in your life can you make to spend more time being still with Him?



Thank God for being your refuge. Ask Him to let you experience His divine presence each day. Praise Him for how He will be exalted among all nations. Ask Him to use you to bring His hope to others who are living in despair.



Going Deeper

1. How did the messages that David preached, as recorded in Psalm 34, turn fugitives and failures into the mighty men of David? (Consider 1 Samuel 22:2) _____

2. In what way does this add great meaning to the exhortation of David to these 400 men, “Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt His name together!” (Psalm 34:3) _____

3. In what way does this battle cry of the mighty men of David demonstrate the reality that God delights to do extraordinary things through very ordinary people? _____

4. How does verse 12 of this psalm add meaning to the exhortation of David in verse eight? _____

5. As Psalm 46 prophesies the destiny of this earth, how can God be our refuge and our strength and our very present help? _____

6. What are three things God wants us to know when we are still in the midst of this great calamity? _____

7. How does the teaching of this psalm fit in with the teachings of the Old and New Testaments regarding the Second Coming of Jesus Christ? _____
