

# “IF THE FOUNDATIONS BE DESTROYED, WHAT SHALL THE RIGHTEOUS DO?”

PSALM 11:3

Part I

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## INTRODUCTION

Most Bible scholars say that David is the author of this psalm. They say that it was written during his time of escaping the wrath of Saul. As far as a specific time frame, Adam Clarke states that David wrote this when the priests had been slaughtered by Doeg at the command of Saul. The assertion is that, because of the priests being killed, this had destroyed the religious foundations of Israel. Some commentators think that *foundations* has reference to the state and how it had become corrupt and ineffective. One cannot, substantively, find a difference in the two positions. For the case is that, since Saul did command the mass murder of the priests, he exhibited his woeful lack of leadership and ungodly life. Thus, when David writes this psalm, Israel is suffering from the ungodly and pathetic leadership of Saul. Therefore, the *foundations* of Israel had deteriorated to the point of becoming a regime that had ceased being what God intended it to be and had become the originator of persecution and tyranny. Thus, the rhetorical question is asked: “What shall the righteous do?” Keil and Delitzsch state that the question requires a negative answer—that is, there is nothing that can be done, for it had gotten so bad. It is also thought that David is stating that, since the life of the righteous man means nothing to Saul, then the righteous should *flee*. What David, through the Holy Spirit, is doing is voicing the concerns and thinking of those who do not have God as their refuge. In the remainder of the psalm, David answers the question of verse three. He goes on to state that the “LORD *is* in his holy temple.” In other words, God is in charge, and the righteous should take comfort in that fact. In verse five David points out that the way of the wicked and ungodly are hated by God. God will not let the wicked go unpunished. In verse seven David joyfully exclaims that the righteous Lord loves the righteous. The righteous should not fear; the God of the universe is on their side and will protect them. The same principle applies today. It may seem that the ungodly of this world are *calling the shots*. The fact is God hates what the unrighteous are doing, and will completely destroy their works. All around

us we see the world becoming more and more like its *god* (2 Cor. 4:4ff). Often the child of God becomes frustrated and disillusioned by the ungodly acts of those in governmental power and influence. Socially, the way of Christ is ridiculed and belittled. Men live lives that are ethically corrupt. Justice is a word that has lost its meaning in so many venues of our lives. It is a shame to see the murderer and the rapist set free with a *slap on the hand* while those who would have “under God” in our nation’s pledge are seen as being *unethical*. Yes, often is the case where we want to extend our hands to the sky and say, “Why even try?” However, we cannot stop being what God wants us to be even in the face of tyranny and injustice. It matters not; ultimately, who is on the throne of the world, God is still in control. His will be done! The same is true regarding things spiritual. Many are attempting to *destroy* the foundations of the Truth of God’s Word. When thinking about the idea of *foundations*, the New Testament very succinctly gives the foundations of all things spiritual in a passage written by the great apostle Paul. In Ephesians 4:4-6, Paul sets out, what many times are called, the seven-point platform for unity and truth. In these few verses one can see explained the very fundamental truth of the Word of God, and, as will be illustrated, each point that is given by Paul deals with everything that the human being needs to know regarding things unseen and seen. Things not only spiritual but physical are addressed in these verses. This study will address three major categories that are being assailed by those who would destroy what God’s Word so very clearly states. The first category is the subject of the Godhead, the second is the nature of the Gospel, and the third is the nature of the church. To be continued.....Lee