

CONTAGIOUS JOY – CHAPTER SIX DIGGING DEEPER

Looking into the “before & verses” in our bible study

1)- Psalms 122:1 - A song of ascents. Of David. ¹I rejoiced with those who said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.” ²Our feet are standing in your gates, Jerusalem. ³Jerusalem is built like a city that is closely compacted together. ⁴That is where the tribes go up— the tribes of the LORD—to praise the name of the LORD according to the statute given to Israel. ⁵There stand the thrones for judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

2) -Psalms 42:4 - For the director of music. A *maskil* of the Sons of Korah.

¹As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. ²My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? ³My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, “Where is your God?” ⁴These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng.

⁵Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God. ⁶My soul is downcast within me; therefore I will remember you from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar. ⁷Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me. ⁸By day the LORD directs his love, at night his song is with me—a prayer to the God of my life. ⁹I say to God my Rock, “Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?”

¹⁰My bones suffer mortal agony as my foes taunt me, saying to me all day long, “Where is your God?” ¹¹Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

3) -Psalms 32:1-12 – Of David. A *maskil*.^[a]

¹Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.²Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit.³When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.⁴For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.^[b]⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." And you forgave the guilt of my sin.⁶Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them.⁷You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

⁸I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.⁹Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.¹⁰Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him.¹¹Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!

4) -Psalms 132:9 - A song of ascents.

¹LORD, remember David and all his self-denial.²He swore an oath to the LORD, he made a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob:³"I will not enter my house or go to my bed,⁴I will allow no sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids,⁵till I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob."

⁶We heard it in Ephrathah, we came upon it in the fields of Jaar:^[a]
⁷"Let us go to his dwelling place, let us worship at his footstool, saying,
⁸"Arise, LORD, and come to your resting place, you and the ark of your might.⁹May your priests be clothed with your righteousness; may your faithful people sing for joy."¹⁰For the sake of your servant David, do not reject your anointed one.

5) -Psalms 65:13 - For the director of music. A psalm of David. A song.

¹Praise awaits^[b] you, our God, in Zion; to you our vows will be fulfilled.

²You who answer prayer, to you all people will come.³When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave^[c] our transgressions.⁴Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts! We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple.⁵You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas,⁶who formed the mountains by your power, having armed yourself with strength,⁷who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations.

⁸The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy.

⁹You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you have ordained it.^[d]¹⁰You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops.¹¹You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance.¹²The grasslands of the wilderness overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness.¹³The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing.

6) -1 Chronicles 15:16 - The Ark Brought to Jerusalem

15 After David had constructed buildings for himself in the City of David, he prepared a place for the ark of God and pitched a tent for it. ²Then David said, "No one but the Levites may carry the ark of God, because the LORD chose them to carry the ark of the LORD and to minister before him forever."

³David assembled all Israel in Jerusalem to bring up the ark of the LORD to the place he had prepared for it. ⁴He called together the descendants of Aaron and the Levites:

⁵From the descendants of Kohath,Uriel the leader and 120 relatives;⁶from the descendants of Merari,Asaiah the leader and 220 relatives;⁷from the descendants of Gershon,^[a]Joel the leader and 130 relatives;

⁸from the descendants of Elizaphan,Shemaiah the leader and 200 relatives;⁹from the descendants of Hebron,Eliel the leader and 80 relatives;¹⁰from the descendants of Uzziel,Amminadab the leader and 112 relatives.

¹¹Then David summoned Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel and Amminadab the Levites. ¹²He said to them, "You are the heads of the Levitical families; you and your fellow Levites are to consecrate yourselves and bring up the ark of the LORD, the God of Israel, to the place I have prepared for it. ¹³It was because you, the Levites, did not bring it up the first time that the LORD our God broke out in anger against us. We did not inquire of him about how to do it in the prescribed way." ¹⁴So the priests and Levites consecrated themselves in order to bring up the ark of the LORD, the God of Israel. ¹⁵And the Levites carried the ark of God with the poles on their shoulders, as Moses had commanded in accordance with the word of the LORD.

¹⁶David told the leaders of the Levites to appoint their fellow Levites as musicians to make a joyful sound with musical instruments: lyres, harps and cymbals.

¹⁷So the Levites appointed Heman son of Joel; from his relatives, Asaph son of Berekiah; and from their relatives the Merarites, Ethan son of Kushaiah;

7) -1 Kings 1:40 - Adonijah Sets Himself Up as King

1 When King David was very old, he could not keep warm even when they put covers over him. ²So his attendants said to him, "Let us look for a young virgin to serve the king and take care of him. She can lie beside him so that our lord the king may keep warm."

³Then they searched throughout Israel for a beautiful young woman and found Abishag, a Shunammite, and brought her to the king. ⁴The woman was very beautiful; she took care of the king and waited on him, but the king had no sexual relations with her.

⁵Now Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith, put himself forward and said, "I will be king." So he got chariots and horses^[a] ready, with fifty men to run ahead of him. ⁶(His father had never rebuked him by asking, "Why do you behave as you do?" He was also very handsome and was born next after Absalom.)

⁷Adonijah conferred with Joab son of Zeruiah and with Abiathar the priest, and they gave him their support. ⁸But Zadok the priest, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, Nathan the prophet, Shimei and Rei and David's special guard did not join Adonijah.

⁹Adonijah then sacrificed sheep, cattle and fattened calves at the Stone of Zohelath near En Rogel. He invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the royal officials of Judah, ¹⁰but he did not invite Nathan the prophet or Benaiah or the special guard or his brother Solomon.

¹¹Then Nathan asked Bathsheba, Solomon's mother, "Have you not heard that Adonijah, the son of Haggith, has become king, and our lord David knows nothing about it? ¹²Now then, let me advise you how you can save your own life and the life of your son Solomon. ¹³Go in to King David and say to him, 'My lord the king, did you not swear to me your servant: "Surely Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne"? Why then has Adonijah become king?'¹⁴While you are still there talking to the king, I will come in and add my word to what you have said."

¹⁵So Bathsheba went to see the aged king in his room, where Abishag the Shunammite was attending him. ¹⁶Bathsheba bowed down, prostrating herself before the king.

“What is it you want?” the king asked.

¹⁷She said to him, “My lord, you yourself swore to me your servant by the LORD your God: ‘Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne.’¹⁸But now Adonijah has become king, and you, my lord the king, do not know about it. ¹⁹He has sacrificed great numbers of cattle, fattened calves, and sheep, and has invited all the king’s sons, Abiathar the priest and Joab the commander of the army, but he has not invited Solomon your servant. ²⁰My lord the king, the eyes of all Israel are on you, to learn from you who will sit on the throne of my lord the king after him. ²¹Otherwise, as soon as my lord the king is laid to rest with his ancestors, I and my son Solomon will be treated as criminals.”

²²While she was still speaking with the king, Nathan the prophet arrived. ²³And the king was told, “Nathan the prophet is here.” So he went before the king and bowed with his face to the ground.

²⁴Nathan said, “Have you, my lord the king, declared that Adonijah shall be king after you, and that he will sit on your throne? ²⁵Today he has gone down and sacrificed great numbers of cattle, fattened calves, and sheep. He has invited all the king’s sons, the commanders of the army and Abiathar the priest. Right now they are eating and drinking with him and saying, ‘Long live King Adonijah!’ ²⁶But me your servant, and Zadok the priest, and Benaiah son of Jehoiada, and your servant Solomon he did not invite. ²⁷Is this something my lord the king has done without letting his servants know who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?”

David Makes Solomon King

²⁸Then King David said, “Call in Bathsheba.” So she came into the king’s presence and stood before him.²⁹The king then took an oath: “As surely as the LORD lives, who has delivered me out of every trouble, ³⁰I will surely carry out this very day what I swore to you by the LORD, the God of Israel:

Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne in my place.”

³¹Then Bathsheba bowed down with her face to the ground, prostrating herself before the king, and said, “May my lord King David live forever!”

³²King David said, “Call in Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet and Benaiah son of Jehoiada.” When they came before the king, ³³he said to them: “Take your lord’s servants with you and have Solomon my son mount my own mule and take him down to Gihon. ³⁴There have Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel. Blow the trumpet and shout, ‘Long live King Solomon!’³⁵Then you are to go up with him, and he is to come and sit on my throne and reign in my place. I have appointed him ruler over Israel and Judah.”

³⁶Benaiah son of Jehoiada answered the king, “Amen! May the LORD, the God of my lord the king, so declare it. ³⁷As the LORD was with my lord the king, so may he be with Solomon to make his throne even greater than the throne of my lord King David!”

³⁸So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, the Kerethites and the Pelethites went down and had Solomon mount King David’s mule, and they escorted him to Gihon. ³⁹Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the sacred tent and anointed Solomon. Then they sounded the trumpet and all the people shouted, “Long live King Solomon!” ⁴⁰And all the people went up after him, playing pipes and rejoicing greatly, so that the ground shook with the sound.

⁴¹Adonijah and all the guests who were with him heard it as they were finishing their feast. On hearing the sound of the trumpet, Joab asked, “What’s the meaning of all the noise in the city?”

8) -Nehemiah 12:43 - Priests and Levites

12 These were the priests and Levites who returned with Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and with Joshua:

Seraiah, Jeremiah, Ezra,² Amariah, Malluk, Hattush,³ Shekaniah, Rehum, Meremoth,⁴ Iddo, Ginnethon,^[a] Abijah,⁵ Mijamin,^[b] Moadiah, Bilgah,⁶ Shemaiah, Joiarib, Jedaiah,⁷ Sallu, Amok, Hilkiyah and Jedaiah.

These were the leaders of the priests and their associates in the days of Joshua.⁸ The Levites were Jeshua, Binnui, Kadmiel, Sherebiah, Judah, and also Mattaniah, who, together with his associates, was in charge of the songs of thanksgiving.⁹ Bakbukiah and Unni, their associates, stood opposite them in the services.¹⁰ Joshua was the father of Joiakim, Joiakim the father of Eliashib, Eliashib the father of Joiada, ¹¹Joiada the father of Jonathan, and Jonathan the father of Jaddua.

¹²In the days of Joiakim, these were the heads of the priestly families: of Seraiah's family, Meraiah; of Jeremiah's, Hananiah;¹³ of Ezra's, Meshullam; of Amariah's, Jehohanan;¹⁴ of Malluk's, Jonathan; of Shekaniah's,^[c] Joseph;¹⁵ of Harim's, Adna; of Meremoth's,^[d] Helkai;¹⁶ of Iddo's, Zechariah; of Ginnethon's, Meshullam;¹⁷ of Abijah's, Zikri; of Mijamin's and of Moadiah's, Piltai;¹⁸ of Bilgah's, Shammua; of Shemaiah's, Jehonathan;¹⁹ of Joiarib's, Mattenai; of Jedaiah's, Uzzi;²⁰ of Sallu's, Kallai; of Amok's, Eber;²¹ of Hilkiyah's, Hashabiah; of Jedaiah's, Nethanel.

²²The family heads of the Levites in the days of Eliashib, Joiada, Johanan and Jaddua, as well as those of the priests, were recorded in the reign of Darius the Persian. ²³The family heads among the descendants of Levi up to the time of Johanan son of Eliashib were recorded in the book of the annals. ²⁴And the leaders of the Levites were Hashabiah, Sherebiah, Jeshua son of Kadmiel, and their associates, who stood opposite them to give praise and thanksgiving, one section responding to the other, as prescribed by David the man of God.

²⁵Mattaniah, Bakbukiah, Obadiah, Meshullam, Talmon and Akkub were gatekeepers who guarded the storerooms at the gates. ²⁶They served in the days of Joiakim son of Joshua, the son of Jozadak, and in the days of Nehemiah the governor and of Ezra the priest, the teacher of the Law.

Dedication of the Wall of Jerusalem

²⁷At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were sought out from where they lived and were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully the dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps and lyres. ²⁸The musicians also were brought together from the region around Jerusalem—from the villages of the Netophathites, ²⁹from Beth Gilgal, and from the area of Geba and Azmaveth, for the musicians had built villages for themselves around Jerusalem. ³⁰When the priests and Levites had purified themselves ceremonially, they purified the people, the gates and the wall.

³¹I had the leaders of Judah go up on top of^[e] the wall. I also assigned two large choirs to give thanks. One was to proceed on top of^[f] the wall to the right, toward the Dung Gate. ³²Hoshaiah and half the leaders of Judah followed them, ³³along with Azariah, Ezra, Meshullam, ³⁴Judah, Benjamin, Shemaiah, Jeremiah, ³⁵as well as some priests with trumpets, and also Zechariah son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Micaiah, the son of Zakkur, the son of Asaph, ³⁶and his associates—Shemaiah, Azarel, Milalai, Gilalai, Maai, Nethanel, Judah and Hanani—with musical instruments prescribed by David the man of God. Ezra the teacher of the Law led the procession. ³⁷At the Fountain Gate they continued directly up the steps of the City of David on the ascent to the wall and passed above the site of David's palace to the Water Gate on the east.

³⁸The second choir proceeded in the opposite direction. I followed them on top of^[g] the wall, together with half the people—past the Tower of the Ovens to the Broad Wall, ³⁹over the Gate of Ephraim, the Jeshanah^[h] Gate, the Fish Gate, the Tower of Hananel and the Tower of the Hundred, as far as the Sheep Gate. At the Gate of the Guard they stopped.

⁴⁰The two choirs that gave thanks then took their places in the house of God; so did I, together with half the officials, ⁴¹as well as the priests—Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Micaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah and Hananiah with their trumpets— ⁴²and also Maaseiah, Shemaiah, Eleazar, Uzzi, Jehohanan, Malkijah, Elam and Ezer. The choirs sang under the direction of Jezrahiah. ⁴³And on that day they offered great sacrifices, rejoicing because God had given them great joy. The women and children also rejoiced. The sound of rejoicing in Jerusalem could be heard far away.

⁴⁴At that time men were appointed to be in charge of the storerooms for the contributions, firstfruits and tithes. From the fields around the towns they were to bring into the storerooms the portions required by the Law for the priests and the Levites, for Judah was pleased with the ministering priests and Levites.

9) -Psalms 35:27 -

¹Contend, LORD, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me²Take up shield and armor; arise and come to my aid.

³Brandish spear and javelin^[a] against those who pursue me. Say to me, "I am your salvation."⁴May those who seek my life be disgraced and put to shame; may those who plot my ruin be turned back in dismay.

⁵May they be like chaff before the wind, with the angel of the LORD driving them away;⁶may their path be dark and slippery, with the angel of the LORD pursuing them.

⁷Since they hid their net for me without cause and without cause dug a pit for me,⁸may ruin overtake them by surprise— may the net they hid entangle them, may they fall into the pit, to their ruin.⁹Then my soul will rejoice in the LORD and delight in his salvation.¹⁰My whole being will exclaim, "Who is like you, LORD? You rescue the poor from those too strong for them, the poor and needy from those who rob them."

¹¹Ruthless witnesses come forward; they question me on things I know nothing about.¹²They repay me evil for good and leave me like one bereaved.

¹³Yet when they were ill, I put on sackcloth and humbled myself with fasting. When my prayers returned to me unanswered,¹⁴ I went about mourning as though for my friend or brother. I bowed my head in grief as though weeping for my mother.¹⁵But when I stumbled, they gathered in glee; assailants gathered against me without my knowledge. They slandered me without ceasing.¹⁶Like the ungodly they maliciously mocked;^[b] they gnashed their teeth at me.

¹⁷How long, Lord, will you look on? Rescue me from their ravages, my precious life from these lions.¹⁸I will give you thanks in the great assembly; among the throngs I will praise you.¹⁹Do not let those gloat over me who are my enemies without cause; do not let those who hate me without reason maliciously wink the eye.²⁰They do not speak peaceably, but devise false accusations against those who live quietly in the land.²¹They sneer at me and say, "Aha! Aha! With our own eyes we have seen it."

²²LORD, you have seen this; do not be silent. Do not be far from me, Lord.

²³Awake, and rise to my defense! Contend for me, my God and Lord.

²⁴Vindicate me in your righteousness, LORD my God; do not let them gloat over me.²⁵Do not let them think, "Aha, just what we wanted!"

or say, "We have swallowed him up."²⁶May all who gloat over my distress be put to shame and confusion; may all who exalt themselves over me be clothed with shame and disgrace.²⁷May those who delight in my vindication shout for joy and gladness; may they always say, "The LORD be exalted, who delights in the well-being of his servant."²⁸My tongue will proclaim your righteousness, your praises all day long.