

June Prayer Bible Study 2009

Child of God by Mary Kane

I love to be around little babies. They are so much fun and so much work! According to cost.adoption.com the fees for adoption through a private adoption agency in the United States range from \$5,000-\$40,000. International adoptions run from \$7,000-\$30,000. Yahooanswers.com reports if the parents-to-be have insurance, delivering a baby at a hospital can cost from \$500 to \$3,000. Parents without insurance can expect to pay \$14,000-\$25,000 to deliver their bundles of joy. Let's face it—babies are priceless gifts from God!

As you read this Psalm and do this study, I have asked God to help you see and accept how precious and beautiful you are to Him.

Please pray for God to speak to your heart and read Psalm 139. Take your time and be comforted by God's presence and purpose in your life. We will be concentrating on verses 13-16. (From this point on when I use the word *children*, I'm referring to your own children or any children for whom you love and care. "Children of God" refers to anyone who has accepted Christ as their Savior regardless of age—self included!)

What did you like best about this Psalm?

Many of you have probably read this Psalm before. If this is so, did God show you anything new this time?

Look over verses 1-6 again.

Write down the main ideas from these verses.

Now read verses 7-10 and record the main ideas.

What does David, the author of this Psalm, tell us about God in verses 11 and 12?

Now let's dig into verses 13-18 and see what we can discover about being a child of God and how to pray for God's precious children.

Verse 13 in the NKJV reads, "For You formed my inward parts: You covered me in my mother's womb." The original word for *formed* in this text is *qanah*. *Qanah* is a verb that means to create, to bring forth, of God creating His people. Interestingly, hidden within the meaning of this word is a reference to God's plan for our salvation. *Qanah* also means to be bought, to buy, to acquire, to possess, to redeem and recover; it speaks of God buying back and redeeming His people. At the time of our creation, God knew of our great need for His salvation. Let us take comfort in the fact that God, knowing we would need to be redeemed from sin, chose to create us anyway. And regardless of your faults, sins or age, He has a plan to use your life for His glory.

From the insight gained from verse 13, name one area in which you should pray concerning your children and the children of God.

I can think of nothing more important to pray about than the salvation of our children. If you do not have any children yet, pray for those you may have in the future. If God has called you to have "spiritual children" pray for their salvation as well.

Please write the first half of verse 14.

What does verse 14 tell us to do?

Why are we to praise Him?

God's Word says we are to praise Him because we are "fearfully and wonderfully" made! Have you praised God this day for how He has made you? Have you complained to your friends or to the mirror this day for how God has made you? Instead of focusing on what you feel you are lacking in order to be perfect, thank God for what He has given you! I am grateful because I can see the beautiful flowers in my garden, I can *hear* the birds singing outside my windows as I type, and I am thankful for my two legs which will take me running this evening.

Now add a few praises about of your own!

In verse 14, the word *fearfully* transliterates to *yare*. *Yare* means to fear, to revere, to be feared, reverence, honor and respect. "to cause astonishment and awe, be held in awe...to inspire reverence or godly fear" (BLB). The original word for *wonderfully* in verse 14 is *palah* which means "to sever, separated, wonderfully, set apart, marvelous, put a difference, to be distinct, marked out, distinguished (BLB). This word is used in Exodus 8:22 of how God has set apart unto Himself, His own special people, that they may fellowship with Him and make His name famous.

Taking what you have learned about the two Hebrew words *yare* and *palah*, rewrite verse 14 replacing *yare* and *palah* with a few words from their definitions.

"I'll praise You for I am ...

Here is my own attempt: "I'll praise You for I am placed in an exalted position as your creation, and you have made me to be your very own child, set apart in order to make a difference for the kingdom of God in a dark world."

Now please write a short prayer, based on verse 14 for your children and/or for the children of God.

Now let's turn our attention to verses 15-16.

Please reread these two verses and fill in the blanks:

I was _____ in secret and _____ in the lowest parts of the earth.

The descriptive phrase "in the lowest parts of the earth" is referring to the womb. Matthew Henry states "for *I was made in secret, and curiously wrought* in the womb as *in the lowest parts of the earth, so privately, and so far out of sight.*"

God's Holy Word says that we were *made*—we did not evolve, or happen to develop by chance. Not only were we made, we were *skillfully* made. The original word for *skillfully wrought* is *raqam*. This word is used only nine times in the Old Testament. *Raqam* means embroider, to weave, to do needlework, to variegate, mix colors (BLB). Eight times out of nine this word is used to describe the exquisite design of embroidery on the veil of the Holy of Holies in the temple, the curtain of the tabernacle and the garments of the High Priest. Only those who were specifically called by God and "filled with wisdom of heart" were allowed to work on these beautiful pieces (Exodus 35:35).

Now keeping the temple, tabernacle and priestly garments in mind please write 1 Peter 2:5.

How fitting that *raqam* is used to describe our creation since we are the *temple* of the Holy Spirit and *priests* in the kingdom of God (1 Peter 2:5).

Please go back and read verse 16 again.

What was written for you before you were even formed?

Where did God write down all the days of your life?

Do you love to scrapbook? God is the original scrapbooker! Before Creative Memories there was God! From time to time I love to pull out photo albums of Erik and Scott and reminisce over their pictures. Can you imagine Our Holy Father pulling out your life book and reminiscing over your journey with Him, with eyes of tenderness and love? You may be worried that some events of your life are not suitable to be placed in a family scrapbook. Please know that when we turn our mistakes and poor choices over to our Father to be used for His glory, He gives us beauty for ashes. When you live for Him, your life becomes beautiful; He takes all the threads and scraps and skillfully works them together to make a beautiful Masterpiece!

Please write a prayer based on verse 16 for your children or for the children of God (self included).

In closing, I will pray for you.

Dearest Father,
Thank you for my brothers and sisters in Christ. You have given them a place of honor in Your creation and You have called them to be a part of Your kingdom work. In order to accomplish this work, You have anointed them with special gifts and abilities. I pray that whatever their next steps are with You that they will trust You and step out in faith to do what You have called them to do. I praise You for the

beautiful miracle that they are. Help them to live the life You have planned for them in order to bring You glory. Thank you dearest Father that it's not by their might, nor their power that they will accomplish the work set before them, but by Your Spirit. Amen.

Now please read verses 17-18 out loud.

He thinks of you, Child of God. You are loved.

Copyright 2009
All Rights Reserved

Mary Kane

