

## Sunday Night Message

June 23, 2013

*Psalm 30*

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 31

### **Introduction**

This is another one of the Psalms of David, and is a Song of Lament, which indicates that not all songs were songs of praise. This Psalm can be interpreted from three different perspectives:

- 1 In the past, this Psalm relates to David in his earthly situation. Here, he is praying for deliverance from his enemies. (Saul, Absalom, and many others)
- 2 In the future, this Psalm will relate to the Nation of Israel as they endure the oppression of their enemies, and the attacks of the Anti-Christ in the Tribulation Period.
- 3 In the present, we can identify with this Psalm as we go through the trials and tribulations of this life. However, we can hardly compare our afflictions with what David faced, or with what Israel will face; but there are people in this dispensation today that are experiencing the cruelty and persecution at the hands of the enemies of God. Also, throughout the history of the New Testament churches there have been people that have been martyred for their faith, and even brutally tortured.

This Psalm also points prophetically to the Lord Jesus in His crucifixion.

*"Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth." (Psalms 31:5)*

*"And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost." (Luke 23:46)*

Steven also:

*"And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." (Acts 7:59)*

John Huss also:

The order of degradation was carried out by six bishops, who disrobed the condemned man of his vestments and destroyed his tonsure. They then put on his head a cap covered over with pictures of the devil and inscribed with the word, heresiarch, and committed his soul to the devil. With upturned eyes, Huss exclaimed, "and I commit myself to the most gracious Lord Jesus."<sup>1</sup>

These were the last words of Polycarp, of Bernard, of Huss, of Jerome of Prague, of Luther, Melancthon, and many others. "Blessed are they," says Luther, "who die not only for the Lord, as martyrs, not only in the Lord, as all believers, but likewise with the Lord, as breathing forth their lives in these words, 'Into thine hand I commit my spirit.'" (J. J. Stewart Perowne.)

## **I David's Prayer to God**

### **A David's Declaration of Dependence Upon God (vs. 1 - 8)**

Here in this first section of the Psalm David declares to God his complete dependence upon and trust in Him. We cannot be sure the particular problem that David was facing, but he was in a jam. Notice v. 2: "bow down thine ear to me, deliver me speedily" These phrases give the indication that David was close to perishing, but he was trusting in God for deliverance.

Notice two things from this section:

- 1 David recognizes God as the rock (vs. 2 - 3)

The Rock is the Lord Jesus Christ.

*"Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." (1 Corinthians 10:1-4)*

*"Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which*

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<sup>1</sup> Schaff, P., & Schaff, D. S. (1910). *Vol. 6: History of the Christian church* (382). New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

*was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:10-12)*

*"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it." (Matthew 7:24-27; also Luke 6:46 - 49)*

Jesus is our rock; The principles found in His word are strong, and trustworthy, and dependable.

You can depend upon God and His Word, because He will not let you down.

## 2 God recognizes David and his troubles

Notice in verse 7, the words *considered* and *known*. God knows all about our problems, and he is concerned about them.

In Exodus, God told Moses that He heard the cries of the people, and has seen the affliction:

*"Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them." (Exodus 3:9)*

He sent Moses to do something about it.

Jesus saw the disciple toiling on the Sea of Galilee, for the wind was contrary to them. What did He do? He walked out on the water to help them.

God sees. God understands. God knows what you can handle.

## **B David's Description of His Dilemma (vs. 9 - 13)**

David is still speaking to God here; this is still part of his prayer. He is rehearsing his troubles to God. Of course, God already knows about David's troubles, but David wants to share them with God anyway.

When you are in trouble, go to God. Don't whine to everybody around you. Don't look to men for solutions to your problems. Look to God. Ultimately, all help comes from the Lord. (See Psalm 121)

You will notice that David does not try to portray that he is completely innocent in this Psalm. He acknowledges his own sin here. It seems in every trial or conflict in life, there is blame to be delivered in the direction of our enemies, but there is also blame to be directed within. We are never completely innocent.

Notice also in this section that the emotional pain that he was experiencing was describes in terms of a physical ailment. Mental distress can oftentimes manifest itself into physical symptoms.

It appears that both friend and enemy alike have attacked him. Have you ever been there, when it seemed like the whole world was against you?

#### **C David's Desire for Deliverance (vs. 14 – 18)**

#### **D David's Delayed Devotion (vs. 19 – 22)**

In this section, we see David praising the Lord for His deliverance, but notice in v. 22: David confesses that he had jumped the gun in thinking that the Lord didn't see, or didn't care, or didn't deliver.

Did you ever do that? Have you ever griped and complained about how unfair your situation was, or how unjustly you were being treated, only to find out that God was in the process of fixing the situation all along. Be patient – “wait on the Lord”.

“We generally speak amiss when we are in a hurry. Hasty words are but for a moment on the tongue, but they often lie for years on the conscience.”  
(Charles Spurgeon)

### **IV David's Prescription to the People of God (vs. 23 – 24)**

#### **A Love the Lord (v. 23)**

God protects His children, and punishes those that would hurt His children.

#### **B Learn to Trust the Lord (v. 24)**

Faith is the opposite of fear.