

**SBC – June 9, 2024**

**Psalm 30 (NKJV)**

**“Praise God for Answered Prayer”**

We believe David wrote this Psalm but the superscription is unique.

### **A Psalm. A Song At the Dedication of the House of David.**

Some have thought David wrote this Psalm prophetically in anticipation of the dedication of the temple which of course happened after David was gone by king Solomon (cf. 1 Kg. 8:63). Some think perhaps it was written on the occasion of David dedicating the land on which the temple would be built (cf. 2 Chron. 21:26; 22:21).

That the intended reference is to the dedication of the temple also supported by early Jewish tradition, according to which this psalm was recited in the temple on the eight days of Hanukkah (as it still is in many synagogues to this day), commemorating the (re) dedication of the temple in the intertestamental period after the victory of the Maccabees over the Greeks who sought to eradicate Jewish practices in Israel at that time.

Although David may have written this psalm in anticipation of the future dedication of the temple, it is more likely that this superscription was included by the postexilic editor of the Psalms, since there is no specific reference to the temple in it.

– ***The Moody Bible Commentator***

However, others think David wrote it in reference to an occasion in his life. Perhaps in reference to when David placed the ark in a tabernacle (tent) he had prepared for it. (cf. 2 Sam. 6:17).

Another real possibility is that the occasion was in reference to the dedication of David's palace. The text itself simply says “House” – “Dedication of the House of David”. I would lean this way because the Psalm says nothing about the house itself. The entire Psalm focuses on God and what He has done for David – which would be very appropriate in reflecting on the completion of his palace.

#### **Slide # 1**

**2 Samuel 5:11–12 (NKJV)**

**11** Then Hiram king of Tyre sent messengers to David, and cedar trees, and carpenters and masons. **And they built David a house.**

**12** **So David knew that the LORD had established him** as king over Israel, and that He **had exalted His kingdom** for the sake of His people Israel.

**Slide # 2****Psalm 30*****Theme: Praise God for Answered Prayer******Outline:*****A. David Extols the LORD.**

- v. 1 - For lifting him up.
- v. 2 – For healing him.
- v. 3 – For Preserving his life.

**B. David's Testimony**

- v. 4 – Exhortation to Praise.
- v. 5 – The Reason for Praise.
- vv. 6-7 – David's Troubled Testimony.

**C. Answered Prayer**

- vv. 8-10 Prayer in Time of Trouble.
- v.11 – Joy in Answered Prayer.
- v. 12 – God Glorified and Thanked.

**1 I will extol You, O LORD, for You have lifted me up, And have not let my foes rejoice over me.**

On the occasion of this dedication service David reflects back on how God has worked in his life to bring him to this point. He gives God all the glory. This Psalm is not really about David – but rather about David's God and what He has done (cf. 2 Chron. 14:1-2). David in his life was consistently hounded by enemies but God had caused him to prevail.

**2 O LORD my God, I cried out to You, And You healed me.**

**3 O LORD, You brought my soul up from the grave; You have kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.**

David recalls when he had evidently had a near death experience of some kind of affliction and God healed him. He recalls how he had cried out to God and God answered prayer and kept him alive.

For the godly a health crisis has the tendency to drive us to God and depend upon Him. David's testimony is one of prayerful dependence upon God.

J. Vernon McGee went through a terrible battle with cancer. He wrote:

I consider this my psalm, because after having cancer, the Lord has permitted me to live. "O LORD my God, I cried to You, and You healed me." ...I went directly to the Great Physician. Oh, my friend, if you are sick, take your case to the Great Physician, and then call in the best doctor you can get – because our Great Physician gave him all the skill and wisdom he has (whether or not he recognizes that fact). – J. Vernon McGee

At this point David calls on the saints to enter into praise and thanksgiving with him.

**4 Sing praise to the LORD, you saints of His, And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.**

**5 For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning.**

David had evidently gone through a time of discipline that brought him very low – almost to death but is full of praise and thanksgiving to God for restoring him.

He says God's anger is real but momentary while His favor (blessing) endures for life.

In New Testament vocabulary we might say that the correction or discipline of God is for a moment, but His grace abides forever.

- **David Guzik**

Morning always follows night, and the weeping believer may be confident that as he keeps his focus on God, He will bring him once again to joy. "*Weeping may endure for a night*": but nights are not for ever." - **Charles Spurgeon**

As a brand new Christian I had a friend who worked with a certain type of machines. One day he was really struggling with a certain project and he made a sign and put it on the machine "This too shall pass". Whatever hardship we are going through remember that weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. "This too shall pass".

There was a time when the MacDonald family was plunged into deep sorrow. Friends trooped in to express their condolences, but nothing seemed to assuage the grief. Their words were well-intentioned but inadequate. Then Dr. H.A. Ironside sent a brief note in which he quoted Psalm 30:5: “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.” That did it. The bands of sorrow were snapped!

- **William MacDonald**

Each morning, God’s mercies are new (Lam. 3:22-23), and God special help often arrives in the morning. “God shall help just at the break of dawn” (46:5; see 59:16; 143:8). The resurrection of Jesus Christ brought the dawning of a new day for all who trust in Him (Matt. 28:1). – **Warren Wiersbe**

How many times in my life I have gone to bed and wrestled with something in the night only to arise to Lam. 3:22-23 in my mind which strengthened me greatly.

### **Slide # 3**

#### **Lamentations 3:22–23 (NKJV)**

**22** Through the LORD’s mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.

**23** **They are new every morning**; Great is Your faithfulness.

#### **6 Now in my prosperity I said, “I shall never be moved.”**

This seems to be the sin that David was under discipline for. In his great prosperity he got a little cocky and self-reliant. He seemed to think he was in such a strong position that he was in no danger of being moved out of it. When things are going really well it is very human to lose sight of our dependence upon God. Note the focus on self: “I shall never be moved.”

Really, the sin in view here is PRIDE – which thinks independent of God instead of being dependent upon Him.

### **Slide # 4**

#### **Deuteronomy 8:11–14 (NKJV)**

**11** “Beware that you do not **forget the LORD** your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today,

**12** lest—when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them;

**13** and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied;

**14** when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;

Moses warned them of this tendency to forget God when experiencing great prosperity.

One reason the Lord permits trials is so we might not get comfortable in our faith and stop growing. – *Warren Wiersbe*

**7 LORD, by Your favor You have made my mountain stand strong; You hid Your face, and I was troubled.**

David at this point recognizes that it was the LORD in His favor Who had made him strong. Mountain in the Scripture often represents a kingdom.

But in that position of strength - just that quick God hid His face and David was troubled. It is amazing how quickly things can go south. God's discipline can humble us in a hurry.

The idea of God hiding His face implies removal of His special protection and blessing. The word "troubled" (Heb. Bahal) here means "greatly troubled" (cf. 1 Sam. 28:21).

God has a way of reminding us in short order that we need Him! And it has a way of driving us back to where we should be in close fellowship and dependence upon the LORD.

And that is exactly the effect this had on David...

**8 I cried out to You, O LORD; And to the LORD I made supplication:**

We cry out to the LORD because He is the One who can do something about the situation.

David earnestly pled with the LORD about this life-threatening situation – whatever all was involved.

**9 “What profit is there in my blood, When I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise You? Will it declare Your truth?”**

David appealed to God on the basis that if he dies and goes down to the pit (the grave) he would not be able to praise God anymore.

These words of King David sound strange to someone familiar with the New Testament. It seems very different from the triumphant confidence of Paul who said, *to live is Christ and to die is gain* ([Philippians 1:21](#)). David seemed to see no *gain* in death, and therefore he pleaded that God would preserve his life. – **David Guzik**

But we should remember that the OT was very shadowy on the afterlife. Certainly there were glimpses of hope beyond this life but it was not very clear and David speaks from that perspective.

We must be careful not to be too severe on the OT saints. In many ways they saw through a glass darkly. – **William MacDonald**

As a brand new believer who was as green as green could be but on fire I had an older man ask me a stumper question from Ecclesiastes.

**Slide # 5**

**Ecclesiastes 9:5 (NKJV)**

**5** For the living know that they will die; But the dead know nothing, And they have no more reward, For the memory of them is forgotten.

I was all excited about the hope I had in Jesus but this man said, “Then how do you explain Eccl. 9:5?” I was clueless. I did not understand that much of Ecclesiastes is looking at reality from life under the sun with a very earthward perspective. Add to that shadowy OT realities.

Now I realize it wasn’t until NT revelation that more clearly we see the fate of what happens to believers in death.

**Slide # 6**

**2 Timothy 1:10 (NKJV)**

**10** but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

## **10 Hear, O LORD, and have mercy on me; LORD, be my helper!”**

Even though David prayed in terms of rational reasoning as seen in verse 9, in the end he just threw himself on the mercy of God and asked God to help Him. He recognized His dependence upon God and that He was desperate for His help. God is very merciful to those humbly look to Him for help!

One of the most spiritual prayers we ever pray to God is “help”!

This is where God wants us to be – walking in humble dependence upon Him. This is most basic to the walk of faith. It recognizes God as God and that we are totally dependent upon Him each step of the way.

### **Slide # 7**

“I shall never be moved.” – v. 6

Contrast...

“LORD, be my helper!” – v. 10

### **Slide # 8**

#### **Psalm 119:67 (NKJV)**

**67** Before I was afflicted **I went astray**, But now I keep Your word.

#### **Psalm 119:71 (NKJV)**

**71** It is **good for me that I have been afflicted**, That I may learn Your statutes.

Discipline brings us back in line – it brings us back to where we should be with God. Hebrew 12 says God disciplines all of His children – because obviously we all need it from time to time (Heb. 12:7-11).

Even David needed it!

Between verse 10 and 11 we have prayer answered. Exactly how God answered or what was involved we are not told, but clearly God did intervene which David now celebrates in verses 11-12.

**11 You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,**

Answered prayer calls for celebration. This dedication was a happy celebration as David recalls what God has brought him through to bring him to this point.

I think when we leave this world of hardship and toil this will be our experience as we enter into glory. Our mourning will be turned into dancing – and we will experience overwhelming joy.

David remembered the sad times that God had brought him through to this place of gladness. God had done this and David was careful to give God the glory.

**12 To the end that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever.**

David reveals that the ultimate reason God had done this was to the end that David would passionately (with his glory) sing praise to God. God works in our lives to the end that we give Him the praise that is due Him. David almost seems to imply that it would be sin for him to remain silent!

And so, he concludes: O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever.”

For God’s people when we begin to realize what God has done for us – in all that He has brought us through – all that He brings us through and will yet bring us through – the appropriate response is gratitude – eternal gratitude!

When we come through hard times – perhaps even life threatening times it is easy to move on and quickly lose sight of what God has done. But it is good to look back and remind ourselves of answered prayer and God’s deliverance.

This should cause us to give praise and thanks to God Who is worthy! Yes, in times of desperation we cry out to the LORD, but then when He answers let us not forget to exalt Him and worship Him with praise and thanksgiving.

May we follow in the pattern of David with a heart of everlasting thanksgiving!