

They That Sow in Tears

Psalms 124:1 – 131:3

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~ Our Spiritual Safari camel train is on the home stretch of this pilgrim march across the blossoming desert of Psalms; and we continue up towards Jerusalem in this report. In Psalm one hundred twenty, we first met this Psalmist pilgrim in distress at a time of trouble and despair. We saw him living in the awful ghetto neighborhood of Mesech, in Kedar, where everyone was gossiping hateful lies about the things he was doing. So, he packed up his hopes and desires, and headed off towards Jerusalem. In Psalm one hundred twenty-one, he came into the hill country of Judaea and wondered at the multitudes who were worshiping who-knows-what on the tops of the hills. Then, in Psalm one hundred twenty-two, he moved to the place where he could see the holy city of Jerusalem; to which all of the tribes of Israel were ascending to observe the feasts.

The Jews do not possess Jerusalem as I type this report and you read it. They cannot build a temple on the Temple Mount, because the Mosque of Omar would have to be demolished; and literally all of the sacred places are occupied by Gentile concerns. Hosea said, *".... the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, without a prince, without a sacrifice, without an image, without an ephod and without teraphim."* Hosea chapter three verse four. Well, if you start from the time Jerusalem was destroyed by Titus the Roman in 70 AD, and follow down to the present hour, it has currently been many days, friends – and it isn't over yet; and this was written many days before you are reading it — because it just doesn't look like they're going to build a temple in Jerusalem anytime soon.

Psalm one hundred twenty-three is labeled the *'eye of hope.'* That was a wonderful Psalm, and our Psalmist pilgrim could see the temple come into full view now. That caused him to lift his eyes to Heaven in prayer, in thanksgiving, praise, worship, and confession. This man knows God dwells in Heaven – not in the temple. This is where this man waits on the mercy of the Lord. If there's one thing we need today, friends – it's mercy; and we

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need mercy because we are exceedingly filled with contempt – and that means each and every one of us. The hearts and lives of those who do not care about the Lord Jesus Christ are exceedingly filled with scorning, pride and an utterly despising hatred of God’s children....

CXXCV ~ (A Song of degrees of David)

1 If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, now may Israel say;

2 If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when men rose up against us:

3 Then they had swallowed us up alive, when their wrath was kindled against us:

4 Then the waters had overwhelmed us, the stream had gone over our soul:

5 Then the proud waters had gone over our soul.

6 Blessed be the LORD, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth.

7 Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped.

8 Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

~ It was God Himself Who had made it possible for the children of Israel to go up to Jerusalem to worship. Can you look back on your life and see how the Lord fought for you at some time? Do you honestly feel like God is on your side today? This Psalmist pilgrim is giving thanks to God that the enemy, who literally hated him, hasn’t completely overcome him. This is a historical Psalm looking back to the waters of the Red Sea, the waters of the Jordan River – and the waters of circumstance, too. The children of Israel found themselves drowning many, many times, by the way. We know that “waters” speaks of the Word of God in Scripture; so, turn that over in

your mind a few times and see what you come up with. This is a profoundly deep and meaningful Psalm. Do you find your help in the Word of God as you worship your Creator? Or are you looking to something else? ~

CXXV ~ (A Song of degrees)

1 They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever.

2 As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the LORD is round about his people from henceforth even for ever.

3 For the rod of the wicked shall not rest upon the lot of the righteous; lest the righteous put forth their hands unto iniquity.

4 Do good, O LORD, unto those that be good, and to them that are upright in their hearts.

5 As for such as turn aside unto their crooked ways, the LORD shall lead them forth with the workers of iniquity: but peace shall be upon Israel.

~ This is a Psalm for the future of the nation Israel, during the Great Tribulation period, as the remnant anticipates reaching Mount Zion. I think we can relate to this Psalm today by saying, “.... *being confident of this very thing, that He that hath began a good work in us shall perform it until the day of the Lord Jesus Christ!*” Paul wrote that in Philippians chapter one verse six. This is a Psalm of security, safety, and protection. This also looks forward to the time of the restoration of the Godly remnant of the nation Israel during their trials and testing during the Great Tribulation period. The Israelites have all converged on Jerusalem at the time this Psalm was written; and they can see Mount Zion clearly in the distance from where they are at. They can actually feel the presence of the Lord at this time. All who put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ can never be moved – just like this mountain will never be moved....

CXXV ~ (A Song of degrees)

1 When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them.

3 The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.

4 Turn again our captivity, O LORD, as the streams in the south.

5 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

~ A brightly shining sun and the shadow it creates are both in this Psalm! There are heathen round-about, and the Psalmist pilgrim wants to be a witness to them. I believe this Psalm was inserted *after* the Babylonian captivity. This is like a dream to these people now – it seems too good to be true that Cyrus is permitting them to return to Jerusalem! That makes them want to give a testimony to the world. Do you want to give a testimony to the world for all the great things God has done that make you glad? Well, we know that when we sow the Word of God, it's going to bring tears in our lives – there's no way around that fact; but those who do so are going to reap in joy! I cannot tell you how much the promise in this report means to my own personal life, my beloved readers – you have no idea. I cannot articulate it....

℣℟℣℣℣ ~ (A Song of degrees)

1 Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

2 It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

3 Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

4 As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.

5 Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.

~ This is a Psalm that is also good for us today as we go *above* the temple, *above* Mount Zion — and right on up into the Heavenlies! This Psalm reveals an utter dependence upon the Lord God Almighty. This Psalm was recited at the inauguration of President Eisenhower. There were two Bibles open on that day; and one of them was opened to this Psalm. The George Washington Bible display is also opened to this Psalm, and that Bible has been used at the inauguration of President Warren G. Harding, Jimmy Carter and George H.W. Bush. It was supposed to be used at the inauguration of George W. Bush, but the weather wouldn't allow it. Unfortunately, the next succeeding president placed his hand on a Moslem text – marking the end of America as we once knew it.

See, except the Lord build a house, they that build the house labor in vain. It is extremely interesting how this Psalm both blessed and indicts the United States of America. This is one of the most profound teachings of prophecy that we are going to find in the entire Word of God in our safari. This speaks of the blessing of the Lord Jesus Christ; and it is the Lord Jesus Who is the Happy Man in verse five – just as we saw Him in Psalm one. You and I, as believers, are His heritage. We are His children; and the Psalmist pilgrim had his family with him at this time. The Lord our God maketh us rich, and addeth not sorrow with it. Of course, that Proverb means our treasures are in Heaven – not here on earth. The Septuagint does not include Solomon in the inscription.

The word “vain” is used two times in this Psalm. Friends, everything in this world is vain unless God is a part of it! Everything in this entire world is utterly dependant upon Him and on His blessings. That’s critical to understand and accept. I wish more of us looked at life this way; unfortunately, many Christians just cannot process this reality as truth. Jesus tells us to take no thought for our lives or for what we shall eat or what we shall drink; not even for our bodies, what we shall put on because the life is more than meat and the body more than raiment. Jesus tells us to take no heed for tomorrow for tomorrow shall take thought for the things of itself; sufficient unto this day is the evil thereof. I just don’t see anyone taking this truth seriously these days....

CXXVDDD ~ (A Song of degrees)

1 Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in his ways.

2 For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.

3 Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table.

4 Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD.

5 The LORD shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life.

6 Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel.

~ Over this Psalm could be written “Home Sweet Home.” Martin Luther called this the “Marriage Psalm.” What we have is a description of a happy and fulfilling family life. It also brings the invocation of the Lord’s blessing once again. The foundation of a happy home is one where a leader who fears the Lord and walks in the ways of the Word of God leads the family. Mankind produces all sorts of conferences today regarding the family and marriage and they espouse the adoption of certain methods that they say

will adjust themselves with certain procedures. Well, I hate to tell you this, but you will *NEVER* – NEVER – *NEVER* have a happy home until the fear of the Lord is the driving principle of that home; because that would be impossible.

You cannot get past the fear of the Lord as guiding truth – there is no substitute permitted. That means a home where we honestly walk day to day in God's ways and in His Word. Your children know if you honestly love the Lord and if you are serving Him and obeying His commands and precepts — and whether or not God is really important in your home — or if it is all just a big front in your life. The idea that you're going to learn to adjust your finances and assign tasks and chores and fabricate a routine for resolving quarrels is complete foolishness. That's not the way success is done; never has been – never will be.

If you want a pattern for a family altar, this is the place you're going to find it. When you get all of this worked out into a right relationship with the Lord Jesus, you'll be amazed at how many problems in your life are instantly resolved – and the others just seem to dissolve somehow, eventually. There is a very interesting statement that has been made regarding this Psalm, and I would like to pass it on to you. Before the fall, paradise was man's home. After the fall, the home became man's paradise. The home can be paradise; or it can be the exact opposite – but it won't be both....

CXXIX ~ (A Song of degrees)

1 Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth, may Israel now say:

2 Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth: yet they have not prevailed against me.

3 The plowers plowed upon my back: they made long their furrows.

4 The LORD is righteous: he hath cut asunder the cords of the wicked.

5 Let them all be confounded and turned back that hate Zion.

6 Let them be as the grass upon the housetops, which withereth afore it groweth up:

7 Wherewith the mower filleth not his hand; nor he that bindeth sheaves his bosom.

8 Neither do they which go by say, The blessing of the LORD be upon you: we bless you in the name of the LORD.

~ When the children of Israel returned to Jerusalem from the Babylonian captivity, they found a city burned and broken – but not totally consumed. Remember, Nehemiah rode around the city at night, and made a survey that the city could, in fact, be rebuilt. Nehemiah was back for one reason and one reason only: to worship God! The only way this was possible after seventy years of being out of the land was that God Himself had preserved them. This all speaks of a right relationship with God. Remember, when Boaz came out into his fields he spoke to his workers and said, “.... *blessed be ye*” – and the workers turned right around and replied, “.... *may the Lord bless you, Boaz!*” Well, my friends, capital and labor just don’t happen to have that type of relationship today – not even close....

CXXX ~ (A Song of degrees)

1 Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O LORD.

2 Lord, hear my voice: let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.

3 If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?

4 But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.

5 I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.

6 My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning.

7 Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption.

8 And he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

CXXXO ~ (A Song of degrees of David)

1 LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty: neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me.

2 Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul is even as a weaned child.

3 Let Israel hope in the LORD from henceforth and for ever.

~ Our Spiritual Safari breaks to camp for the night with two deeply profound Psalms. Psalm one hundred thirty has been called a Psalm of Paul – or a Pauline Psalm. Out of the depths we come as we speak once again of the mercy of the Lord that endureth forever. God has delivered man out from the depths of sin and death, friends. You and I aren't saved because of, and God doesn't have mercy upon us based on, our works, either. The salvation of the redeemed is done by the Lord Jesus Christ — absent any works of the law on our part whatsoever.

You and I have nothing in the world we could possibly offer to God for our eternal life. If God judged us according to our works *NO ONE* would ever be saved. The Lord Jesus paid it all — on the cross at Calvary. Actually, when you and I attempt to add something to the finished redemption of Christ on the cross, we pollute it. We're going to have to understand the Bible to understand what's right and what's wrong. I know many reject the truth of that child-like simplicity and humility; very few really practice any of this and, again, I know my teachings are rejected wholesale – and, as a result, God rejects those people. Make a note ~

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