

Rhema Christian Center Triumphant Bible Study
Triumphant Tuesday 3/5/2024 & Wisdom
Wednesday 3/6/2024
Presenter- Willie Bryant

Psalm 129 NKJV: Song of Victory over Zion's Enemies
A Song of Ascents.
The author is unknown.

The Psalms of Ascents 120 to 134 have existed as a Pilgrim Psalter song by Jewish Pilgrims as they traveled up to Jerusalem (Zion) for a great feast.

As we work our way through the Psalms of Ascents “we follow a three-fold patterns with a Psalm of trouble, followed by a Psalm of trust and a Psalm of Triumphant, and repeating the pattern all over again. “Psalms 128 was a Psalm of **wisdom, Triumphant**, and we saw God pouring **his blessing** on his people. In Psalms 129, we see God withholding his blessing from those who hated his people.

In ancient Israel, God's Temple in Jerusalem represented the center of worship for God's people. They would travel to Jerusalem at set times through the year to worship God there. They used these times centered feast, to remember that God had enabled Israel to survive the many persecutions she has suffered through history, renew their commitment to him, and respond to his work with thanksgiving.

“The journey was hard and dangerous because of those who worshiped other gods hated them,”

NOTE: The Jewish pilgrims didn't wait to get to Jerusalem to worship God, they worshiped God along the way.” And they found joy as they journeyed.”

The Psalms of Ascents are helpful for our journey through life because they are a collection of Psalms, prayers, and hymns that help us understand things about who God is in the midst of our..... **you fill in the blank.**

This Psalm is about Persevering through pain. It can be divided into two sessions:

- **Persecution and oppression vs 1-4**
- **Praying through the pain and asking God to condemn persecutors. Vs 5-8**

Psalms 129 NKJV vs 1-8

Vs 1) “Many a time they have afflicted^[a] me from my youth,”

Let Israel now say—

V2) “Many a time they have afflicted me from my youth;

Yet they have not prevailed against me.

We are reminded in this psalm of Ascent was sung chiefly as pilgrims journeyed to Jerusalem to celebrate the major feasts,” Singing this psalm would reignite a deep seated and hearty reminder that even in the face of centuries of persecution from both **WITHIN** and **WITHOUT**, God had preserved his people.”

Reflections:

- **When God called Abraham, He revealed that some would bless the Jews and others curse them, Gen 12:1-3 kjv.**
- **Isaac was persecuted by Ishmail Gen 21:8-21 and Gal 4:21-31.**
- **The Jews were terribly oppressed in Egypt. The more they were persecuted, the more they were increased. Exodus 1:8-14**
- **Egypt tried to drown the Jews Ex 1;15-22, but the lord drowned Egypt troops Ex14:19-31**
- **Nebuchadnezzar, ruler of Babylon, tried to burn them up, but the Lord delivered them Danial 3.**
- **Belshazzar blasphemed the God of Israel and defiled the holy vessels of the temple, but that very night, the Medes and Persians killed them.**

- **Fast forward, Hitler killed over six million Jews in gas chambers, but he was soundly defeated, and the nation of Israel was born a few years later (Warren Wiersbye)**
- **“The Haman’s, the Herod’s have repeatedly tried to destroy Israel. they all failed”**
- **December 2023 the Hamas and Israel is at war. Deuteronomy 28 ERV says ““The Lord will help you defeat your enemies who come to fight against you. Your enemies will come against you one way, but they will run away from you seven different ways!”**

The preservation and perseverance of the Jewish people are proof that God’s word is sure.

V3) The plowers plowed on my back; They made their furrows long.”

**V4) The Lord *is* righteous;
He has cut in pieces the cords of the wicked.**

The Psalmist use the imagery to depict Israel’s persecution. It is to compare Israel enemies to a farmer who plows the field with long rows. The plowmen are the warriors The long furrows are the wounds and adversities

The field is the “back” of Israel. The back is a symbol of Isarael’s history of suffering, as its enemies attempted to destroy its natural life.

This is a picture of suffering to bring under control and conjurer, dominate, over power and subdue.

In every case of persecution, God had set the people free. The lord healed the long furrows of abuse and pain on Israel’s back.

In verse 4 He cuts the cords of the wicked... the restraints that enslaved the people and the physical torments inflicted upon them.

Psalms 124:7 NET says: “We escaped like a bird from a hunter’s trap. The trap is broken, and we are free!”

God also liberated the spirits of the Jewish people. They were never forgetting what they and their ancestors had endured, they would not be held captive to their past. Their spirits were strong, determined and steadfast.

In the end, every attempt to destroy Israel had failed. By the grace of God, she had persevered them all and the nation of Israel continues today.

Verses 5-8 The Psalmist is praying through the pain, asking God to condemn all Israel’s persecutors who hate Zion.

**V5) Let all those who hate Zion
Be put to shame and turned back.**

**V6) Let them be as the grass *on* the housetops,
Which withers before it grows up,**

**V7) With which the reaper does not fill his hand,
Nor he who binds sheaves, his ^harms.**

**V8) Neither let those who pass by them say,
“The blessing of the Lord *be* upon you;
We bless you in the name of the Lord!”**

Verse 5 The Psalmist prays that all who rise up against Israel /zion would be turned back.

It was noted that “being forced to retreat would bring shame on Israel’s foes, diminishing their influence among other nations and making them subject to invasion,”

Verses 6-7 The psalmist asked God to make those who hate Zion be like grass that sprouts on a rooftop. In Old Testament times, the roof of most houses was flat and usually composed of mud, wood and mortar. It was easy for wind – blown seeds to settle on the roofs.

One commentator noted “after rain, skimpy grass on house tops would spring up showy as if it was going to do great things, but was skimpy and worthless”.

The psalmist prayed that Israel's persecutor would be –"like that skimpy grass on roof tops be worthless, and become scared and totally useless".

One commentator noted the enmity of the Samaritans were showy and boastful as if they were going to do great things. But, the enmity of the Samaritans was short lived. It only spoiled their relations with Israel," and put them out of favor with the Persians,"

Writers sometime allude to the grass of the house top as an emblem of weakness, frailty and certain destruction. **Isaiah 37:27 NLT says: "that is why their people have so little power and are so frightened and confused. They are as weak as grass, as easily trampled as tender green shoots. They are like grass sprouting on a housetop, scorched before it can grow lush and tall."**

Vs 8 is a prayer denial of blessing for those who hate Zion.

"When the Israelites passed by the territory of the neighboring nation, it was their custom to speak a blessing over that nation,"

The psalmist prayed that Israel's oppressor would not be blessed, honored or encouraged by others.

They would be turned back in disgrace because they could not eradicate Israel. (Warren Wiersbe)

Note: Zion was the city of God, the place where His presence rested in a special way.

Hatred toward Israel was hatred toward the Kingdom of God, the psalmist prayers were according to the Lord's promises to Abraham; "I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.""

Genesis 12:3 NIV

Like Israel, as a Christian we will face persecution and suffering in the world.

Paul told Timothy **“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,” 2 Timothy 3:12 NIV**

1 Peter 4:12 TPT says “Beloved friends, if life gets extremely difficult, with many tests, don’t be bewildered as though something strange were overwhelming you.”

Paul reminds us “our struggle is not against flesh and blood. But we can persevere and pray through the pain because in Christ your victory is assured and knowing that victory awaits us on the other side.

1Corinthians tells us: “God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”

The Bible tells us to love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you.

So, Let’s pray for discernment and recognition of evil. We should never pray from an attitude of personal hatred or revenge.

We should pray that they will see the light of the gospel, turn from their abominable ways, and believe in Jesus Christ.

Matthew 5:43 NKJV says, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’”

Luke 23:34 NLT Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.” And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice.”

Finally, remember “when people treat you like dirt because you belong to Jesus, remember the A B C’S of this Psalm: Accept it, Benefit from it , Commit it to the Lord (Warren Wiersbe)

Sources used: NKJV The Hebrew Greek Key Study Bible

NKJV

Cultural Background Study Bible

Logos Bible Study

Warren Wiersbe Commentary –Be Worthful Psalms

Bible Gateway