

## PSALM 13: DAVID'S BAD LUCK OR GOD'S PLANNING

### I. INTRODUCTION AND PSALM BACKGROUND:

Today we are going to do a study of the 13<sup>th</sup> Psalm. Some consider the number 13 to be an unlucky number. Was David having, “a run of bad luck” or did God really know what was going on and what was happening was His master plan. As Christians we do not believe in luck as God allows everything to happen or prevents events to happen for a reasons sometimes only known to Him. For the believer these things are for our good, but are not necessarily good of themselves:

***Romans 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.***

This Psalm was likely written during the time when David was on the run from King Saul, his father in law. (1 Samuel 19-27) It could have also been written during the time when David was on the run from his own son Absalom (2 Samuel 15-18). The scripture here does not tell us for sure. David had many times in his life when it seems that he would be overwhelmed by his enemies.

Let us take a look and see that David's trouble was not “a run of bad luck” but affliction that God allowed him to go through. Through that affliction we can see the planning and provision of God.

### II. EXEGESIS OF THE PASSAGE

#### A. VERSES 1-2: DAVID' S DESPAIRING QUESTIONS

**VERSE 1: “How long wilt thou forget me, O LORD? for ever?”**

The words “How long” carry the meaning of “until when”. The word “forget” carries the meaning of “oblivious to or to not pay attention”. The words “for ever” carry the meaning of continually or without end. David is asking God in sincerity, until when will God not pay attention to his dire predicament and further asks him will this lack of attention be temporary or permanent. You can feel the despair of David here and you can feel his sincere pleading with God. David at this point in his life is on the run from King Saul.

***How long wilt thou hide thy face from me?*** To show friendship was to turn one's face toward another with a benign or pleasant look. Turning away of the face or hiding of the face was a way of showing disfavor, displeasure, or avoidance. David is expressing here that he feels that God's is showing displeasure towards him for a reason at the moment that is not clear to him.

**VERSE 2: “How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily?”**

The statement here “take counsel in my soul” carries the meaning of having a conversation with one self inside their soul. David was possibly trying to figure out his next action or move. David was in sorrow each and every day during this adversity. The word “sorrow” just tells us how much despair he was in over this very difficult situation

*VERSE 2: (CONTINUED): “...how long shall mine enemy be exalted over me?”*

David is asking here how long will his enemy have victory over him? He is expressing here the reason for his extreme despair. He is on the run from his enemy and they for the moment are winning?

## **B. VERSES 3-4: DAVID'S DELIVERANCE PRAYER**

*VERSE 3: “Consider and hear me, O LORD my God:  
lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death;”*

The word “lighten” carries the meaning of adding light or increasing the light level. Often in the past, blindness would come before death and this blindness would be expressed by the eyes being described as “dim” or perceiving lack of light. David is asking God here to allow him to be overtaken by blindness, and then death, which the translators clarified by adding the words, “sleep of”. The translators of the King James perfectly understood that death overtakes one here like we are overtaken by sleep when we are tired.

*VERSE 4: “Lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him;  
and those that trouble me rejoice when I am moved. :”*

David is asking God here to deliver him from his enemies lest they can say, “We have victory over David” here. He is asking God to deliver him so his enemies could not boast about destroying one of God's servants. The word “trouble” carries the meaning of adversity or affliction. The word “moved” carries the meaning of wavering or shaken. David is asking God to deliver him so his enemies could not rejoice when could be shaken or waiver in their presence. He wished for stability in the presence of his enemies.

## **C. VERSES 5-6: DAVID'S DEPENDENCE UPON GOD**

*VERSE 5: “But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation.”*

The word “but” here sets the next two verses apart from the previous plea for help from God for deliverance. He trust in God's mercy regardless of whether he is delivered from his enemies or not. God is still merciful even if he did not answer David's answer prayer in the way that he wished God to answer. David is rejoicing in his salvation from his enemies whether he is delivered now or delivered by death. This also is possibly a secondary reference to the salvation of David's soul through the Messiah that at this point had not been revealed.

**VERSE 6: "I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me."**

David is expressing here his faith by worshiping God through singing His praises. The words, "dealt bountifully" carries the meaning of treating with reward or bounty. David is acknowledging here that God, regardless of whether he is delivered in this life or God delivers him through death, that God has been good to him regardless of the outcome.

### **III. APPLICATIONS:**

- (1) Are you in despair? Do you feel God has forgotten you or turn favor away from you?**
- (2) Does it seem like that the wicked and unrighteous have victory over you when you endeavor to serve God?**
- (3) God is a good God regardless of whether He delivers us from our current trouble or not.**
- (4) We can go to God in prayer about anything need in our life large or small.**
- (5) God delights in hearing the prayer of his children. He delights in our praise to Him.**
- (6) We can trust in the mercy of God. God has provided our salvation through a most marvelous and long term plan. His plan began before the world was created.**
- (7) God is good to his children and often gives us things we do not ask for or deserve.**
- (8) God is the perfect "Daddy": *Romans 8:15: "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."***