



CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
NINILCHIK

WEDNESDAY PRAYER MEETING

Mid-Week Devotional

SERIES:

“Christ in the Psalms”

August 3rd, 2022

“The Tenth Psalm of Ascent”

Psalm 129

THE SONGS OF DEGREES AS A WHOLE

This little psalter within the psalter consists of fifteen brief songs. Why they are grouped together and what is meant by their generic name it would be hard to tell. The conjectures are very many, but they are mere suppositions. Out of them all the conjecture by Dr. Jebb best commends itself to my own mind, though it would be quite consistent with this suggestion to believe that the series of songs are arranged by David became the Pilgrim Psalms of after ages, and were chanted by the Lord's people as they went up to the temple. They are "Songs of the Goings Up;" so some read the word. Those who delight to spiritualize everything find here Ascents of the Soul, or language fitted to describe the rising of the heart from the deepest grief to the highest delight....

—C.H.S.

PSALM 129

TITLE. —*A Song of Degrees.* I fail to see how this is a step beyond the previous psalm; and yet it is clearly the song of an older and more tried individual, who looks back upon a life of affliction in which he suffered all along, even from his youth. Inasmuch as patience is a higher, or at least more difficult, grace than domestic love, the ascent or progress may perhaps be seen in that direction. Probably if we knew more of the stations on the road to the Temple we should see a reason for the order of these psalms; but as that information cannot be obtained, we must take the songs as we find them, and remember that, as we do not now go on pilgrimages to Zion, it is our curiosity and not our necessity which is a loser by our not knowing the cause of the arrangement of the songs in this Pilgrim Psalter.

AUTHOR, ETC. —It does not seem to us at all needful to ascribe this psalm to a period subsequent to the captivity: indeed, it is more suitable to a time when as yet the enemy had not so far prevailed as to have carried the people into a distant land. It is a mingled hymn of sorrow and of strong resolve. Though sorely smitten, the afflicted one is heart-whole, and scorns to yield in the least degree to the enemy. The poet sings the trials of Israel, verses 1-3; the interposition of the Lord, verse 4; and the unblessed condition of Israel's foes, verses 5-8. It is a rustic song, full of allusions to husbandry. It reminds us of the books of Ruth and Amos.

The Treasury of David

by Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892)

VOLUME VII, PASSMORE & ALABASTER EDITION

Devotional Thoughts from Psalm 129

REFLECTION. The afflictions of the Lord Jesus Christ were not only from the cross and the prior cruel torment inflicted upon Him by His captors, but also in the fact that the sinless and perfect God must endure by incarnation the filth and depravity of sinful humanity (v1a; Isa 53:2-4); and Jesus invites us to share in His sufferings (v1b; Phil 3:10). We proclaim Christ's incarnate afflictions for our atonement, yet also exalt His resurrection, prevailing in triumph (v2; Acts 4:2). Jesus suffered physically, by scourging, before suffering God's wrath upon the cross (v3; Matt 27:26). Those who hated Jesus (*Zion*), are under the greatest condemnation of sin, and by the cross has cut their cords and put them to shame (vv4-5; John 19:11). The enemies of Christ's cross will wither on the rooftops and bear nothing for the great Harvester (vv6-7; Jas 1:11). Before Christ's judgment seat, there will be no blessing for them, not from the angels in heaven, neither from the redeemed children saved by grace (v8; 2 Jn 1:11).

APPLICATION. Because the Lord Jesus Christ was afflicted (v1), in following Him, we are promised affliction as well (v2a), hatred of the world (John 15:18), tribulation in the world (John 16:33), and persecution from the world (2 Tim 3:12). Nevertheless, the world will not prevail against us (v2b), for Jesus Himself promised that far worse than the world, the gates of hell, are powerless against His church: "... *and on this Rock I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it*" (Matt 16:18).

Devotional Challenge from Psalm 129

REFLECT upon the scourging of our Lord Jesus (v3) and the passage of Scripture that says, "*But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed*" (Isa 53:5). While it wasn't Jesus' physical afflictions that atoned for our sins, but His suffering God's wrath, His death, and His shed blood, Jesus did suffer those atoning penalties while He was in His weakest condition physically. How does knowing this help to strengthen your faith and understand the cost of your salvation?

READ ISAIAH 52:13-53:12 this week and consider the afflictions of God's "Suffering Servant," our Lord Jesus Christ. This passage is a prophecy concerning Jesus in His earthly life and death, written about 600 years before He was born. Why is this such an important passage to know? How does it help you understand Christ's gospel better? How does this passage help you to understand Psalm 129 better? How can knowing the connection between Psalm 129 and Isaiah 52-53 help you strengthen your faith?

Considering Psalm 129 & Isaiah 53:13-53:12:

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