

“JOY COMES IN THE MORNING”

Psalm 30

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INTRODUCTION

When we were children we all likely said more than once: “**I can do it myself!**” Independence and self-confidence can both be wholesome qualities in some ways—but not when it comes to man’s relationship with God. *God desires the believer to be humbly dependent and confident in his relationship with a powerful, all-sufficient, and faithful God!*

David discovered the hard way that no matter how successful, no matter how blessed he had been under the hand of his great God, no matter how many enemies he had defeated, no matter how much love and devotion he experienced from his loyal subjects, he could never afford to come to the place in life when he took it for granted and became **self-sufficient** and **complacent**. Note v. 6:

“I SAID IN MY PROSPERITY, I SHALL NEVER BE MOVED.”

YOU MUST NEVER TRUST IN YOURSELF AND BECOME COMPLACENT IN YOUR WALK WITH GOD.

The background of this psalm will aid immeasurably in helping us to understand its meaning.

- A. The meaning of the title: At the dedication of the House [not David’s personal house]. Rather God’s house—the “temple” of “house of the Lord”—the temporary site where David built an altar and that would one day become the actual location of the temple—See especially I Chr. 22:1.
- B. This site was purchased and dedicated to Yahweh because of special circumstances in David’s life whereby he came under the displeasure and discipline of Yahweh; the details are in II Sam. 24 and I Chr. 21: David made a census, God’s displeasure, rebuke by the prophet Gad, three choices of punishment—3 years famine, 3 months chased by his enemies, 3 days at the “sword of the Lord”: pestilence. David chooses the latter. 70, 000 people die and the angel is about to sweep through Jerusalem. David *considers himself (as the instigator) and his people as good as dead*. Then he **sees the Angel of the Lord “standing between earth and heaven, with his drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem” standing by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite—at the site of a rock on the high hill of Moriah. David is frightened to death!** “Kill me, O Lord; please leave these people alone!”
- C. The angel commands David to go to the site and build an altar to Yahweh; Ornan sees the angel but his sons went and hid; he falls down before David. He offers to give it, but David insists on purchasing it—making sure what is for God “costs him something”! David buys and puts the sacrifices on the altar.
- D. The fire of God falls from Heaven and consumes it (v. 26). David offered the sacrifice, but could not go personally before the altar to seek the Lord—“for he was terrified by the sword of the angel of the LORD” (v. 30).
- E. David said: “This is the house of the LORD God, and this is the altar of burnt offering for Israel” (I Chr. 22:1)

The main argument against this as the background of psalm 30 is the fact that no mention is made of David becoming sick through the plague (cf. v.2—Heal me). But that argument is rather trite, in light of the imminent

danger of death that David felt, and his knowledge of his just deserts. The details of this psalm fit the historical circumstances like a hand in a glove!

- 1) David gives thanks for deliverance for Him and thus for the nation. He had interceded in prayer—see v. 8.
- 2) He had acted wrongly in his feeling of security (vv. 6-7) by making a census and paid dearly for it.
- 3) His note of “healing”, recovery, is appropriate, since he had instigated the deed! He likely considered himself “all but dead” due to the pestilence raging all about him and about to strike Jerusalem.
- 4) The plague lasted “from morning till the appointed time”—possibly the time of the evening sacrifice—see I K. 18:36.
- 5) Notice the “sackcloth” worn by David in I Chr. 21:16—see v. 11 in Ps. 30.
- 6) Note the brevity of the plague—cf. v. 5 of the brevity of Yahweh’s **anger**.
- 7) Such a background also explains the satisfaction that David’s enemies might have as the result of such an event (v. 1).
- 8) Note also that once David built the altar at the sacred site, Yahweh miraculously approved the choice by fire from heaven (I Chr. 21:26).
- 9) Note also that at this point David immediately began preparations for the building of the house under Solomon.

Note how this psalm is organized: Resolve to Thank God for Deliverance from “Grave” Peril (1-3); Summons to Godly Men to join in this Praise (4-5) [Cf. Ps. 29 wherein the angels are summoned to praise God.]; Self Confidence that led to the Peril (6-10); Review and Resolve to Praise God forever (11-12)

- I. RESOLVE TO THANK GOD FOR DELIVERANCE FROM ‘GRAVE’ PERIL (1-3)
 - A. I will “lift you up” for You have lifted me up—out of a deep well—and not let me down (v. 1).
 - B. I cried to You for help and you “healed” me (2).
 - C. I was about to die—enter into Sheol and go down to the Pit; you “kept me alive.”But, what had led to this problem? The problem and solution is stated in vv. 6-10

- II. SELF-CONFIDENCE THAT LED TO THE PERIL (6-10)
 - A. Prosperous complacency (v. 6; cf. 10:6; Dt. 8:10-20)
 - B. Yahweh is the true source of David’s strength and security (7)
 1. His **favor** made his mountain strong.
 2. His face hidden to complacency and self-trust
 3. David’s dismay
 - C. Calling upon Yahweh; humble supplication for help (8-10)
 1. He went to the right Person for help (8)
 2. I want God “to profit”—His glory and good (9) [**profit is a bold figure to use with God!**]
 3. The dead [dust] cannot praise God here on earth and declare His faithfulness
 4. I need **GRACE**—divine favor; He must be my “Helper.” (10)

Once God responds, David review His amazing answer and resolves to praise Him forever.

- III. REVIEW AND RESOLVE TO PRAISE GOD FOREVER (11-12).
 - A. Look what God has done!
 - Mourning turned into “dancing”

- Girding with sackcloth changed into Girding with Gladness
- B. Look what I will Do!
 1. Sing praise to God
 2. Not be silent
 3. Give thanks to God forever.

- IV. SUMMONS TO GODLY MEN TO JOIN IN THIS PRAISE (4-5).
 - A. Persons: Men of the covenant—who both experienced His loyal love and manifested it in life.
 - B. Object: Praise and thanks should be given to Yahweh’s memorial—the renown of His manifested character in life situations with His people—otherwise **His name**.
 - C. Reason: the Contrast of His **Favor** with **His anger**. (v. 5)
 - For a moment in His anger; a lifetime in His favor
 - For a night WEEPING may lodge as a traveler; for the morning JOY [note no verb; the sudden entrance and permanent stay of the **ringing cry** or **joy** just like the plague had suddenly ceased!]
 - ❖ See Is. 54:7-8
 - ❖ See Jn. 16:20-22 This verse is the high water mark of this psalm; a precious truth beloved
 - ❖ See II Cor. 4:17 for centuries by God’s people.

CONCLUSION

The songwriter states: “It will be worth it all, when we see Jesus. Life’s trials will seem so small when we see Christ. One glimpse of his dear face, all sorrow will erase. So bravely run the race, till we see Christ.”

“For His anger is but for a moment. His favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may last for the night, but a shout of joy comes in the morning.”

These truths will sustain any child of God—no matter what he experiences.

Don’t get yourself into the mess that David found himself in; but if you do, resolve it the way he did!
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