

Psalm 129: Let Israel Say.

1-2: The Psalmist encouraged Israel to testify that the wicked who had continued to oppress them from the beginning had not been victorious.

3-4: The imagery of plowing furrows describes the extreme suffering that the enemies inflicted on Israel. It is as if they had plowed long furrows down their backs. Deliverance from such suffering is attributed to the righteous LORD.

5-8: The psalmist prayed that all his enemies who hated Zion, the city of the Lord, would be put to shame. He prayed that they would wither up so they could not be found. Grass on the housetops suggests that grass seeds blown by the wind sometimes fell on flat roofs and then began to grow but withered because of no depth of soil.

In greeting someone, it was normal to wish God's blessing on them, but not for the wicked. They do not deserve the Lord's blessing.

2 Corinthians 4:8-10 - *We are had-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair, prosecuted but not forsaken; struck down but not destroyed – always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.*

Psalm 130: There Is Forgiveness And Hope.

1-2: He prayed that the LORD would answer his cry for mercy.

3-4: No one could stand if God dealt with sinners according to what they deserved. The comfort is that with God there is forgiveness. This is the reason for the Lord's not keeping records of sins; He forgives. Believers throughout all ages have rejoiced over this fact, for apart from this, none could endure His judgment!

God forgives so that the forgiven will fear Him. This general word for fear often includes the ideas of worship and obedience. The Scriptures state that many results come from fearing the LORD; the most notable is that the person keeps himself from sin. The forgiveness of God cannot be treated lightly. It turns sinners into saints, people who follow Him in obedience.

John 8:11 – *She said, “No one Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”*

Romans 6:14 – *For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under the law but under grace.*

Psalm 103:12 - *As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.*

5-8: He was patiently waiting for the LORD. He compared his wait to that of a city's watchmen looking for the first rays of dawn, for then they would be relieved of their duties by other guards. He eagerly looked for God's new merciful dealings with the nation.

He encouraged to put their hope in the LORD. The reason is that with Him is loyal love and full pardon. Because of His loyalty to Israel God would redeem her from all her sins. Only when God forgave the people's sins and pardoned them would they be delivered. Because they believed this, they looked for that day of redemption.

People today who have come to know Him as the God of forgiveness also look for full redemption.

Psalm 131 – Hope & Humility.

Asserting that he had not been proud or followed lofty endeavors, pilgrim David spoke of his childlike trust, his hope in the Lord.

1: David affirmed that he had not been arrogant. Pride is essentially independence from and disobedience to God.

2. David then testified to his humility. His soul was not disturbed by selfish ambition and passion. He had stilled and silenced his soul. Like a weaned child, no longer wanting his mother's milk. A mature believer leaves the clamor of proud ambition and rests in the Lord.

3: David called for Israel to hope in the LORD forever. To trust in Him is the opposite of pride.

Proverbs 3:34 – *Surely He scorns the scornful, but gives grace to the humble.*

Romans 5:1-5 - *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have* peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*