

July 28, 2024



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Expectant Watchfulness Ps 130:1-8

Lesson Background and Introduction

Psalm 130 is part of a larger cluster, usually called the Psalms of Ascents or, less often, the Pilgrimage Psalter (Psalms 120-134). The psalms in the group may have originated at different times and places (as would be true of a modern hymnal) but functioned together as songs for the pilgrims entering the Jerusalem temple in the period following the Babylonian exile. The group of psalms falls into three subgroups (Psalms 120-124; 125-129, and 130-134). Perhaps the pilgrims sang them at different stops on the road from the Mount of Olives, through the Kidron Valley, and into the precinct around the temple itself. Psalm 130, in particular, may have served as part of a night vigil as the pilgrims awaited the dawn, which in turn would symbolize the dawning of God's light in their lives (see 130:6). Those hypotheses are reasonable but hard to prove. Yet they would explain the varying moods of these psalms and their progressive closeness to the temple itself. More certain is that the psalms together address a wide range of concerns and moods. Together, they allow the worshipping community to express anxiety and hope, fear and trust, sorrow and joy. That is, they help worshippers bring their entire lives to God, share their lives with each other, and eagerly await God's transforming work. Psalm 130 moves the pilgrims from an attitude of despair (v. 1) to one of supreme confidence in God's saving work (vv. 7-8). When the one singing focuses on his or her personal suffering, fear and sorrow can overtake faith. But when the focus shifts toward God's inclination to save and the consequent hope that the entire people may enjoy, the mood may change to hope. Psalm 130 seems like a very condensed lament that shades into something different altogether. Perhaps that difference from other psalms reflects this one's placement in a larger group. It does not have to do all the work a "normal" lament does because it does not stand alone. Psalm 129 describes longstanding attacks on faithful Israelites and expects God's deliverance, while Psalm 130 expresses contrition before God. Collectively, these psalms together position the one praying as someone in the correct spiritual position before God.

Psalm 130 speaks to **faith that involves waiting for God's grace to make itself known.** During such a time, the person may doubt God's ability or willingness to save, question the integrity of other human beings, and even lose self-respect. **Waiting for salvation challenges every fiber of a person's being.** Yet, that challenge itself strengthens faith in the long run. As this psalm makes clear, trust in God does not come without some doubts. Will God listen? Biblical faith is not a Pollyanna attitude about life. It is realistic and honest about hardship. Yet it does not remain there. The spiritual challenges we face, the depths, become opportunities for grace. Therefore, learning the discipline of waiting is part of learning to live with God and all others who are also awaiting God's help. This psalm, in short, exposes an important truth about human beings: our profound need and desire for God's presence. As part of a community of pilgrims seeking God's presence, the faithful person can speak to God even in the most desperate moments of life. The communal worship of the Israelite community acknowledges that fact. God does not skimp on acts that will benefit human beings but rather frequently engages in them. Worship in the community still reminds us of God's mighty acts. May we, in our darkest moments and in the grasp of the sins that don't want to let us go, cry out to our God and heed the call to hope in His saving works.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

The best way to escape temptation is to run to God

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Lord, keep us from the secret sins and selfish reactions we're so naturally inclined toward. By Your grace, turn our temptations into moments of growth in Christlikeness

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong

(1 Cor 16:13 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Nov 02, 2016)

Series: Hope in the Lord

UNIT 3: Eternal Hope

NEXT WEEK

**The Word of God
(1 Thess 2:13-3:5)**

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Expectant Forgiveness (Ps 130:1-4)

Forgiveness through prayer (1-2)

Prayer because there is confidence in approaching God's throne (Heb 4:16)

Prayer because Jesus is interceding for us (Rom 8:34)

Prayer because Jesus commanded it (Matt 26:41)

Prayer because the prayer offered in faith is effective (James 5:15-16)

Prayer because God hears prayers (1 Kings 8:39)

Forgiveness through God's power (3)

God's power through the cross (1 Cor 1:18)

God's power that provides the foundation of our faith (1 Cor 2:5)

God's power manifested in His Kingdom (1 Cor 4:20)

God's power to resurrect His Church (1 Cor 6:14)

God's power to revive the soul (Ps 19:7-8)

God's power to keep one's life pure (Ps 119:9-11)

God's power to save the believers (Rom 1:16)

Forgiveness through the fear of the Lord (4)

Fear the Lord because He promises we will lack nothing (Ps 34:9)

Fear the Lord because He will not remember our sins any more (Heb 8:12)

Fear the Lord because He sanctifies (Acts 26:17-18)

Fear the Lord because He rescues from a dominion of darkness (Col 1:13-14)

Fear the Lord because forgiveness is through Jesus' blood (Matt 26:28)

Fear the Lord because He forgives through His grace (Eph 1:7)

Expectant Hope (Ps 130:5-8)

Hope through patient waiting (5-6)

Waiting on God because we should put our trust and hope in His word (Ps 130:5-6)

Waiting on God because it is good to do so (Lam 3:25-26)

Waiting on God because we are commanded to do so (Hos 12:6)

Waiting on God because hope demands it (Rom 8:24-25)

Waiting on God because His coming is near (James 5:7-8)

Hope because of God's mercy (7)

Mercy that is prompted by love (Ps 89:28-33)

Mercy that comes from serving God's purposes (Acts 13:34-37)

Mercy that endures forever (Ps 106:1)

Mercy that is shown through God's discipline (Prov 3:11-12)

Mercy that comes from God being with us (Jer 30:11)

Hope because of God's redemption (8)

Redemption through Jesus (Rom 3:23-24)

Redemption of our bodies (Rom 8:23)

Redemption that Jesus became for us (1 Cor 1:30)

Redemption through Jesus' blood (Eph 1:7)

Redemption that is guaranteed by the seal of the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:13-14)

Redemption from the dominion of darkness (Col 1:13-14)