

Thursday, May 21, 2020

**Turn off the outside “noise” for a couple of minutes and consider this message from God’s Word.  
I am praying that it calms your spirit and encourages your heart.**

PSALM 130 (NIV)

A SONG OF ASCENTS.

<sup>1</sup> Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord;

<sup>2</sup> Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive  
to my cry for mercy.

<sup>3</sup> If you, Lord, kept a record of sins,

Lord, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup> But with you there is forgiveness,  
so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

<sup>5</sup> I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits,  
and in his word I put my hope.

<sup>6</sup> I wait for the Lord  
more than watchmen wait for the morning,  
more than watchmen wait for the morning.

<sup>7</sup> Israel, put your hope in the Lord,  
for with the Lord is unfailing love  
and with him is full redemption.

<sup>8</sup> He himself will redeem Israel  
from all their sins.

— PART 8 —

*I found that when a passage of Scripture has been very familiar to me for a long time — such as this passage! — if I will simply **slow down** . . . take my time . . . and read thoughtfully and reflectively, it can become alive to me in new and fresh ways.*

PSALM 130 (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> Israel, **put your hope in the Lord,**  
for **with the Lord** is **unfailing love**

and **with him** is **full redemption.**

<sup>8</sup> **He himself** will **redeem** Israel  
**from all their sins.**

Let’s review for a moment. Psalm 130 kicks off with the Psalmist crying to the Lord from “out of the depths”. And we’ve learned that his cry for help is not simply a generic prayer in response to some deep trouble that has come his way — but rather that he is “*in deep kimchi*” (as our beloved brother Bill Spurlock used to say) as the result of his sin, as vv. 3-4 make clear. He trusts the Lord to forgive him, because the Lord “keeps no record of sins,” and because “with the Lord there is forgiveness.”

Then vv. 5-6 conveys his **confidence** in the Lord as he waits for God’s response — he **waits, waits, waits, waits, waits** for the Lord’s word of forgiveness! Yes, **he uses the word “wait” FIVE times** . . . and he also uses the word “hope”! “In his word [of forgiveness] I put my hope” . . . and as we saw yesterday, that word contains an emphasis on both “quiet relaxation” and “urgent expectancy”! Allen Ross insightfully observes that **“the psalm has more to do with assurance of forgiveness than the difficulty in which the psalmist found himself. He is sure of forgiveness, but longs for the word from the LORD.”**

ALLEN P. ROSS, *A Commentary on the Psalms, 90-150* [Kregel Exegetical Library]

This brings us to the final two verses (vv. 7-8). Ross notes that they contain “a call for the **people** to hope in the LORD because some day he will redeem **them** from all their sins. The psalm is saying that **the present (and repeated) cycle, for the remedy of sin — forgiveness and deliverance — is a harbinger** of the final and complete deliverance from all sin.

In other words, **every** deliverance is a **preview** and a **pledge** of that great day of redemption, and **every** experience of forgiveness is a **foreshadowing** of the final redemption from sin and everything connected to it.”

And again:

The last section addresses the **nation**, encouraging them to keep hoping in the LORD, because there will be abundant redemption for them when the LORD removes their iniquities. Individual experiences of forgiveness reveal the nature of the LORD God and provide a preview of the great deliverance to come.

ALLEN P. ROSS, *A Commentary on the Psalms, 90-150* [Kregel Exegetical Library]

This confident hope is based on two realities. First, “with the Lord is unfailing love.” Ross translates this “*loyal love*” — Bruce Waltke calls it “*unfailing love*” — it’s the **steady, unchanging, never-ending, faithful love** that Yahweh offers in the covenant relationship he shares with his people. Waltke says “*God’s unfailing kindness finds concrete expression in his act of liberating his covenant partner.*”

BRUCE K. WALTKE, JAMES M. HOUSTON, & ERIKA MOORE, *The Psalms as Christian Lament - A Historical Commentary*

Second, “with him is **full** redemption” — i.e., God offers **all the redemption any of us could ever need!** In other words, God offers “*a very great redemption...a complete salvation from a distressful situation*” (Waltke).

There is good news for flawed, imperfect, finite, sinful people like you and I! God forgives us **now**; and he will forgive us, with finality, in the **future**. “**There is coming a time** when the LORD will deliver his people from their sins, **once and for all**; accordingly, until then **every** act of forgiveness, **every** deliverance, is but **a preview or a harbinger of that time.... Thus, in the future, the LORD will redeem his people from ALL their crises.** How so? **By removing any iniquities that caused them and setting them free**” (Ross).

1 JOHN 3:3 (NLT)

Dear friends, we are already God’s children,  
but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears.  
But **we do know that we will be like him,  
for we will see him as he really is.**  
And all who have this eager expectation  
will keep themselves pure, just as he is pure.

1 JOHN 3:2-3 (The Message)

...friends, that’s exactly who we are: children of God.  
And that’s only the **beginning.**  
**Who knows how we’ll end up!**  
**What we know is that when Christ is openly revealed,  
we’ll see him — and in seeing him, become like him.**  
**All of us who look forward to his Coming stay ready,  
with the glistening purity of Jesus’ life as a model for our own.**

::

Forgiving Father, we thank you for forgiving us in the *present*...but also for the hope of our *thorough* deliverance from sin in *the glorious future you are preparing for us!* “**Come, Lord Jesus! Come!**” (Revelation 22:20)

Pastor Doug