

PSALM 13 – How Long, O LORD? A Psalm for the Impatient!

12/7/19 – Sat. Morn. Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com www.ptwente.com

HOW LONG? – Terry MacAlmon

How long, how long, Till I awake in Your likeness, How long, how long Till I become like You (2X)

Lord You are calling me to be all Your own. Yet how I struggle to surrender to Your throne

Give me a grace oh God to die that I might live. In You, in You

How long, how long, Till I awake in Your likeness, How long, how long Till I become like You

Lord You are calling us to be a spotless bride, Raised up in holy power that cannot be denied

Give us the grace oh God to boldly bear Your name, For You, for You

How long, how long, Till we awake in Your likeness, How long, how long Till we become like You (2X)

Lord, make us more like You. May we become like You!

Psalm 13 – A psalm of David. While we're not told, the time of the writing of the psalm, it was doubtless, more than once the language of the sweet Psalmist of Israel. It is intended to express the feelings of the people of God in every returning trial which comes upon them. If the reader has not yet expressed these thoughts and feelings, he will do so soon, if he is a man after God's own heart. We have desired to call this the "How Long" Psalm, or a crying, howling psalm, from the repetition of the cry "how long"?

PSALM 13 – How Long, O Lord? Trust in the Salvation of the LORD; To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

Verses 1-2 The Question of Anxiety!

Psa 13:1 *A Psalm of David. How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me?*

Psa 13:2 *How long shall I take counsel in my soul, Having sorrow in my heart daily? How long will my enemy be exalted over me?*

- David feels forgotten by God in the trial the he is going through. Go back to where we heard God last – then hold on to that! David saying, LORD, You're losing valuable time!
- "How long?" - This question is repeated four times, crying out with a very intense desire for deliverance, and great anguish of heart, having within it some impatience. Is this not a true portrait of our own experience? It is not easy to prevent desire from degenerating into impatience.
- O for grace that, while we wait on God, we may be kept from indulging a murmuring spirit! "How long?"
- We can see that the question "how long?" is put in four shapes. The writer's grief is viewed, as it affects himself within, and his enemies without. We are all prone to play most on the worst string. Ruminating upon trouble is bitter work.

Verses 3-4 The Cry of Prayer!

Psa 13:3 *Consider (have regard) and hear me, O LORD my God; Enlighten my eyes. Lest (so that I will not!) I sleep the sleep of death;*

Psa 13:4 *Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed against him!"; Lest those who trouble me rejoice when I am moved.*

- But now prayer lifts up her voice, like the watchman who proclaims the daybreak. Now will the tide turn, and the crying eyes be dried. The mercy-seat is the life of hope and the death of despair. The gloomy thought of God's having forsaken him is still upon the Psalmist's soul, and he therefore cries, "Consider and hear me." He remembers at once the root of his woe and cries that it may be removed.
- Note the cry of faith, "O Lord my God!" It is a glorious fact that our interest in our God is not destroyed by all our trials and sorrows? We may lose our material possessions, but not our God. The title-deed of heaven is not written in the sand, but in eternal brass.
- "Enlighten my eyes:" that is, let the eye of my faith be clear, that I may see my God in the dark; let my eye of watchfulness be wide open, lest I be entrapped, and let the eye of my understanding be illuminated to see the right way.
- Our covenant God will complete the confusion of all our enemies, and if for a while we become the butt of their jokes, the day is coming when the shame will change sides, and the contempt shall be poured on those to whom it is due.

Verses 5-6 **Jehovah, Himself, thunders out His wrath against His oppressors.**

Psa 13:5 *But I have trusted in Your mercy; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.*

Psa 13:6 *I will sing to the LORD, Because He has dealt bountifully with me*

- What a change is here! Wow, the rain is over and gone, and the time of the singing of birds is come! The mercy-seat has so refreshed, that crying has turned to singing! If we have mourned with him, let us now dance with him. David's heart was more often out of tune than his harp.
- David closes this Psalm on a tone of praise! His anxiousness is replaced by His peace. God, You are in control!
- The Psalm closes with a sentence which refutes the charge of forgetfulness which David had uttered in the first verse, "***Because He has dealt bountifully with me.***" So, shall it be with us if we wait awhile. The complaint which in our haste we utter shall be joyfully retracted, and we shall witness that the Lord has dealt bountifully with us.

SUMMARY:

- When we are beset by trials and afflictions that seem to have no end and feel forgotten by God and are filled with "***How long?***", how we need to wait on the LORD. To go back to where we heard God last – then hold on to that! O for grace that, while we wait on God, we may be kept from indulging a murmuring spirit! "***How long?***"
- But now prayer lifts up her voice! Note the cry of faith, "***O Lord my God!***" It is a glorious fact that our interest in our God is not destroyed by all our trials and sorrows? We may lose our material possessions, but not our God. The title-deed of heaven is not written in the sand, but in eternal brass. "***Enlighten my eyes:***" that is, let the eye of my faith be clear, that I may see my God in the dark; let my eye of watchfulness be wide open, lest I be entrapped, and let the eye of my understanding be illuminated to see the right way.
- What a surprising change is here in a few lines! In the beginning of the psalm we have him drooping, trembling, and ready to sink into melancholy and despair; but, in the close of it, rejoicing in God, and elevated and enlarged in his praises. See the power of faith, the power of prayer, and how good it is to draw near to God. If we bring our cares and griefs to the throne of grace, and leave them there, we may go away victorious and refreshed!
- In singing this psalm and praying it over, if we have not the same complaints to make that David had, we must thank God that we have not, dread His withdrawals, sympathize with those that are troubled in mind, and encourage ourselves in our most holy faith and joy.

BE STILL, MY SOUL - Von Schliegel/Sibelius – Whintley Phipps (5:40)

1 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side; bear patiently the cross of grief or pain; leave to thy God to order and provide; in every change He faithful will remain. Be still, my soul: thy best, thy Heav'nly Friend thro' thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

2 Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake to guide the future as He has the past. Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake; all now mysterious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know His voice, who ruled them while He dwelt below.

3 Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on when we shall be forever with the Lord, when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone, sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored. Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past, all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Be still, my soul: (2x)

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Brian Brodersen, John Chubik, Craig Coffin, John Henry Corcoran, Kellen Criswell, Scott Cunningham, Julian Duigud, Lance Emma, Cameron Franklin, Jason Huffman, John Hwang, Jim Kuehnert, Sergio Lopez, Will Lynn, Dave Manne, John Moran, Mike Mugavero, George Scanlan, Dave Shirley, Aaron Szloboda, Jordan Taylor, Phil Twente, Carl Westerlund.

PRAY FOR OUR NATION'S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD LEADERS: -

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