

Psalm 30

King David may have written this Psalm when he dedicated Araunah's threshing floor [which became the future site of the temple] and after God stopped the great plague He had used to discipline King David, [1 Chronicles 21:1-22:6].

Psalms 30:1-3 [New King James] *"I will extol You, O LORD, for You have lifted me up, and have not let my foes rejoice over me. O LORD my God, I cried out to You, and You healed me. O LORD, You brought my soul up from the grave; You have kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit."*

The serious illness that is mentioned in verses 2-3 may refer to an illness David personally experienced in that plague.

The Hebrew for **"brought my soul up"** is a vivid description of pulling a bucket of water up from a well, a well that was as deep as death that had come with the sickness.

In spite of the condition he was in, King David was also concerned that his enemies may think that God had abandoned him leaving them with the opportunity to ridicule the True Creator God.

Psalms 30:4-5 [New King James] *"Sing praise to the LORD, you saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name. For His anger is but for a moment, His favour is for life; weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning."*

This concept of sorrow producing joy in the end is also expressed in the New Testament.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 [New King James] *"Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."*

The pain that may be part of God's correction will end in eternal joy.

John 16:20-22 [New King James] *"Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy. A woman, when she is in labour, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you."*

This is contrasting momentary troubles that will seem so small when viewed from within an eternal life that is free from pain, [Revelation 21:4].

Psalms 30:6 [New King James] *"Now in my prosperity I said, 'I shall never be moved.'"*

Was this a foolish boast?

Easy circumstances and a careless outlook are seldom far apart.

The Hebrew word translated **"prosperity"** is **"shâlâh"** meaning **tranquil, successful.**

Jeremiah 22:21 [New King James] *"I spoke to you in your prosperity, but you said, 'I will not hear.' This has been your manner from your youth, that you did not obey My voice."*

This had happened to Israel, God's chosen people.

Christians who have prospered can be caught in this trap.

Proverbs 1:32-33 [New King James] *“For the turning away of the simple will slay them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; but whoever listens to me will dwell safely, and will be secure, without fear of evil.”*

These verses show the difference between a careless life and a carefree life.

Psalms 30:7 [New King James] *“LORD, by Your favour You have made my **mountain** stand strong; You hid Your face, and I was troubled.”*

“Mountain” is translated from the Hebrew word **“har”** used figuratively for promotion, especially linked with authority.

The Creator God had chosen David to be king, to replace Saul who had disobeyed Him.

This promotion would continue as long as David remained within God's favour.

King David did make mistakes, he was not sin-free, yet the repentant attitude he shows in **Psalms 51:4** confirms that David understood God's merciful attitude as expressed in this Psalm [verse 5].

Psalms 30:8-10 [New King James] *“I cried out to You, O LORD; and to the LORD I made supplication: ‘What **profit** is there in my **blood**, when I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise You? Will it declare Your truth? Hear, O LORD, and have mercy on me; LORD, be my helper!’”*

The Hebrew word translated **“profit”** is **“betsa”** a sharply **commercial word meaning gain.**

For a moment David's argument is quite “down to earth,” he is saying **“You will gain nothing and lose a worshipper.”** This is a limited horizon, bounded by death. **Blood** is referring to David's physical life, [Psalms 6:5; Psalms 146:4; Ecclesiastes 9:5-6].

This is a right question for a person like King David who was a man who had a close relationship with his Creator God.

The answer however is **not** for us to give.

This argument is dropped in verse 10, for David was a man in need and only the mercy of the Creator God could fulfil this need.

Psalms 30:11 [New King James] *“You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,”*

David's buoyant attitude could be uninhibited, [2 Samuel 6:14-16], but also there is the same intensity in his moments of quiet meditation, [2 Samuel 7:18-22].

Psalms 30:12 [New King James] *“To the end that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever.”*

The Hebrew word translated **“glory”** is **“kabowd”** meaning weight or honour. In **Psalms 16:9** it is linked with heart.

In **Psalms 57:7-8** it is linked with singing and praise, as well as in **Psalms 108:1**. Other places it evidently means the human spirit.

This thankfulness of King David has depth and also persistence.

More persistence, perhaps, than King David himself could guess when he included the word “forever.”

Ezekiel 37:21-25 [New King James] *“Then say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again. They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be My people, and I will be their God. David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them. Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children’s children, forever; and My servant David shall be their prince forever.””*

A direct promise concerning King David’s future, from the Creator God he loved so much, [Acts 13:22].