

# Psalm 31

**Psalms 31:1-5** [New King James] *“In You, O LORD, I put my trust; let me never be ashamed; deliver me in Your righteousness. Bow down Your ear to me, deliver me speedily; be my rock of refuge, a fortress of defence to save me. For You are my rock and my fortress; therefore, for Your name’s sake, lead me and guide me. Pull me out of the net which they have secretly laid for me, for You are my strength. Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.”*

**This Psalm impressed itself on more than one other Biblical character, deeply enough to come to mind at moments of supreme crisis.**

**Jonah** – his prayer draws on the words of this Psalm, [**Jonah 2:1-7**].

**Jeremiah** –was haunted by a phrase from verse 13, [**Jeremiah 6:25; Jeremiah 6:29**].

**Jesus Christ** – the final words He uttered on the cross were inspired by this Psalm, [**Luke 23:46**].

**It may be significant that when Jesus Christ quoted verse 5, He stopped short of the second part.**

**Stephen** – his final words were influenced by David’s Psalm, [**Acts 7:59**].

This illustrates that the role of the Psalms in meeting a great variety of human needs beyond the bounds of formal worship and the original experiences of the authors.

In his prayer of faith, King David finds strength in remembering his early adventures and escapes.

David also knows that defensive strength is not enough, the right initiatives are as vital as a right refuge, *“lead me and guide me,”* [**verse 3**].

**Note the grounds of David’s appeal, not any persuasiveness on his part but on God’s righteousness, [verse 1].**

**That is God’s concern to see justice done, not so much the thought of David’s own good name.**

Note also that King David used the perfect tense, *“You have redeemed me,”* showing the great faith and trust that King David had in the Creator God.

**Psalms 31:6** [New King James] *“I have hated those who regard useless idols; but I trust in the LORD.”*

**Why did David bring up the subject of idol worship?**

This was to contrast his total devotion to God with the diluted worship offered by many Israelites.

**Pagan religious rituals were never completely banished from Israel and Judah, despite the efforts of King David and a few other kings.**

**Obviously a person who clung to idols could not commit their spirit into God’s hands.**

**When we put today’s idols [wealth, material possessions, success] first in our lives, we cannot honestly expect God’s Spirit to guide us.**

**Romans 12:1-2** [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform*

*any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will."*

**Out of thankfulness for what God the Father has done for us through Jesus Christ we have to place our whole life experience into His hands, a complete sacrifice of our body, mind and human spirit. This is what the Greek word translated "bodies" means.**

**Only then will the Holy Spirit begin to re-educate our minds, that are so influenced by the Satan-influenced society in which we live, [2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 5:19].**

**Psalms 31:7-8** [New King James] *"I will be glad and rejoice in Your mercy, for You have considered my trouble; You have known my soul in adversities, and have not shut me up into the hand of the enemy; You have set my feet in a wide place."*

**King David knows that the Creator God is well aware of his troubles in life, [Psalms 139:1-16] and has not allowed this corrupted society to take a grip on his life.**

**"Wide place" the Hebrew word used is "merchâb" meaning an open space, indicating liberty of choice, within the confines of God's moral boundaries.**

**This allows us to develop Godlike character by the choices we make in life.**

**The Creator God wants us to love Him as He loves us, but love cannot be forced, it has to be a choice on the part of the human being, [1 John 4:19].**

**Psalms 31:9-13** [New King James] *"Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; my eye wastes away with grief, yes, my soul and my body! For my life is spent with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my iniquity, and my bones waste away. I am a reproach among all my enemies, but especially among my neighbours, and am repulsive to my acquaintances; those who see me outside flee from me. I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; I am like a broken vessel. For I hear the slander of many; fear is on every side; while they take counsel together against me, they scheme to take away my life."*

**King David is expressing how he has become so isolated from his fellow human beings because of his dedication to the Creator God.**

**All true Christians feel this isolation to a certain extent; Jesus Christ in His final prayer for His disciples warned of this isolation.**

**John 17:14-20** [New King James] *"I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;"*

**The fact that we accept the Word of God, the Christian Bible, as the basis of all truth will set us apart from the majority of human beings, who have been blinded by Satan at this time to the truth, [2 Corinthians 4:4].**

**Psalms 31:14-18** [New King James] *"But as for me, I trust in You, O LORD; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in Your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me. Make Your face shine upon Your servant; save me for Your mercies' sake. Do not let me be ashamed, O LORD, for I have called upon You; let the wicked be ashamed; let them be silent in the grave. Let the lying lips be put to silence, which speak insolent things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous."*

**This is how King David overcame the pain of his isolation, by a closer relationship with the Creator God, and the knowledge of His great mercy, and that He is well aware of the pain this isolation brings, [Hebrews 12:1-3].**

**Psalms 31:19-20** [New King James] *“Oh, how great is Your goodness, which You have laid up for those who fear You, which You have prepared for those who trust in You in the presence of the sons of men! You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence from the plots of man; You shall keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.”*

**The past recorded experiences of all people who look to the Creator God for guidance and protection, shows very clearly the concern He has for their welfare, both physical and spiritual.**

**Psalms 31:21-22** [New King James] *“Blessed be the LORD, for He has shown me His marvellous kindness in a strong city! For I said in my haste, ‘I am cut off from before Your eyes’; nevertheless You heard the voice of my supplications when I cried out to You.”*

King David admits it was in his state of panic that he thought that the Creator God had forsaken him.

**This panic can be experienced directly after we have knowingly sinned and realised that the Creator God had observed it.**

**This panic will remain until we confess the sin and seek God’s forgiveness and strength to resist making the same mistake in the future.**

**Psalms 51:10-11** [New King James] *“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.”*

**This same sense of panic is expressed by King David in this Psalm, written after Nathan had exposed his sin with Bathsheba in a way that David condemned himself, [2 Samuel 12:1-9].**

**Psalms 31:23-24** [New King James] *“Oh, love the LORD, all you His saints! For the LORD preserves the faithful, and fully repays the proud person. Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the LORD.”*

**“Saints” are all who are in covenant with the Creator God and faithful to their part in that covenant.**

**The promise to preserve the faithful does not mean the end of trials and trouble in our lives, but the courage to face and overcome them.**

**Luke 22:42-43** [New King James] *“saying, ‘Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.’ Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.”*

Jesus Christ, as a human being, knew the traumatic pain He was about to face, and as a physical human prayed for relief from such an experience.

**God the Father’s response was to send supernatural strength to face this trial, and remain faithful to God the Father’s will.**

**This has been repeated in many of God’s dedicated disciples and servants.**