

# Psalm 129

**Psalms 129:1-4** [New King James] *“Many a time they have afflicted me from my youth,’ let Israel now say, ‘Many a time they have afflicted me from my youth; yet they have not prevailed against me. The plowers plowed on my back; they made their furrows long.’ The LORD is righteous; He has cut in pieces the cords of the wicked.”*

**Hundreds of years in the experience of the people of God are condensed into these four verses. Enslavement in Egypt, [a type of sin] supplies most of the metaphors but the testimony is of one opponent after another, as the words “from my youth” indicate, [Hosea 11:1]. Yet the most up-to-date testimony [“now” in verse 1] is of survival. This is due to the righteousness of the Creator God, that is He never deviates from His purposes and promises.**

**Psalms 23:1-4** [New King James] *“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”*

**Both the green pastures and the valley of deep darkness are both “paths of righteousness,” that is right paths appointed by the Creator God.**

**Psalms 129:5-8** [New King James] *“Let all those who hate Zion be put to shame and turned back. Let them be as the grass on the housetops, which withers before it grows up, with which the reaper does not fill his hand, nor he who binds sheaves, his arms. Neither let those who pass by them say, ‘The blessing of the LORD be upon you; we bless you in the name of the LORD!’”*

**Just as one restoration of Israel’s fortunes still leave them needing yet another, as one opponent replaces another, the resource remains the same, prayer to the righteous Creator God who will never forsake His own people.**

**Prayer and prayer alone is the reply to opposition. Prayer that asks that all opponents may be disappointed of their expectations, “put to shame,” [verse 5] not be permanent, [verse 6] fruitless, [verse 7] and friendless, [verse 8].**

**Behind such a prayer is the love and compassion of the Psalmist who prays that such response from the Creator God will cause those who are in opposition to him and his nation will eventually become friends and also worship the Creator God he loves.**

**Matthew 5:43-48** [New King James] *“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”*

**Such a response to those who oppose us and the Creator God we worship will help us along our path towards taking on the very nature of the Holy Creator God.**