

MONDAY

March 25

Peace of a Weaned Child

Read Psalm 131. What does this psalm teach us about our relationship with God?

3rd shortest Psalm

1 Lord, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty: neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me.

2 Surely I have behaved [Shavah to level; to adjust] and quieted [PS 62:5 “wait” thou only upon God] myself, as a child that is weaned [benefit, ripen] of his mother: my soul is even as a weaned [benefited, ripened] child.

3 Let Israel hope [wait] in the Lord from henceforth and for ever.

[3rd shortest PSALM IN THE BIBLE PSALM 117 two verses long.]

HAUGHTY = LIFTED UP OR PROUD

12 Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.

13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

14 Thou *art* the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

15 Thou *wast* perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

18 Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.

19 All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.

1 **Lord**, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty:
Lofty = “ruwm” to be high actively, to rise or raise

9 And out of one of them came forth a little horn, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land.

10 And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them.

11 Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, [ruwm to be high actively, to rise or raise] and the place of his sanctuary was cast down.

12 And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered.

- DAVID NOT ALLOWED TO BUILD THE TEMPLE
- MOSES NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER THE PROMISED LAND.
- BOTH FORFEITED BY THEIR EXPERIENCES IN LIFE
- BOTH OBEYED GOD

-BOTH DID ALL THEY COULD TO SET THE NEXT GENERATION UP FOR SUCCESS

-BOTH DID EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE OF LUCIFER THE COVERING CHERUB WHOSE HEART WAS LIFTED UP BECAUSE OF HIS BEAUTY AND THEREBY HE WANTS TO RAISE HIMSELF UP TO THE PLACE OF CHRIST.

THE HIGH HONORS CONFERRED UPON LUCIFER WERE NOT APPRECIATED AS GOD'S SPECIAL GIFT, AND THEREFORE, CALLED FORTH NO GRATITUDE TO HIS CREATOR. HE GLORIED IN HIS BRIGHTNESS AND EXALTATION AND ASPIRED TO BE EQUAL WITH GOD. HE WAS BELOVED AND REVERENCED BY THE HEAVENLY HOST, ANGELS DELIGHTED TO EXECUTE HIS COMMANDS, AND HE WAS CLOTHED WITH WISDOM AND GLORY ABOVE THEM ALL. YET THE SON OF GOD WAS EXALTED ABOVE HIM, AS ONE IN POWER AND AUTHORITY WITH THE FATHER. HE SHARED THE FATHER'S COUNSELS, WHILE LUCIFER DID NOT THUS ENTER INTO THE PURPOSES OF GOD. "WHY," QUESTIONED THIS MIGHTY ANGEL, "SHOULD CHRIST HAVE THE SUPREMACY? WHY IS HE HONORED ABOVE LUCIFER?" . PP 36.3

God's people live in a world that afflicts the faithful, a world full of temptations and hardship for almost everyone. A refreshed conviction that he is a child of God and dependent on God for his life consoles the psalmist and brings him to confess that his pride has no value. The deceitfulness of pride is that it causes the proud to become self-centered and unable to look beyond themselves. The proud are thus blinded to the higher reality of God.

In contrast, the righteous lift their eyes to God (*Ps. 123:1, 2*). The acknowledgment of God's greatness makes them humble and free from self-seeking and vain ambition. The psalmist confesses that he does not seek "great matters" and "things too high" (*Ps. 131:1*). These expressions describe God's works in the world that are beyond human comprehension. Modern science has shown us that even the "simplest" things can be incredibly complicated and far beyond our understanding, at least for now. In fact, there's a great irony: the more we learn about the physical world, the greater the mysteries that appear before us.

Meanwhile, the metaphor in Psalm 131:2, "like a weaned child with [its] mother" (*NKJV*), is a powerful image of one who finds calmness and who is quieted in the embrace of God. It

points to the loving relationship a child has with its mother at various stages in that child's young life.

Through weaning us from insubstantial ambitions and pride, God introduces us to the nourishment of solid food, which is to "do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work" (*John 4:34, also Heb. 5:12-14*). The childlike trust depicted in Psalm 131 is mature faith that has been tried and tested by hardships of life and has found God to be faithful and true to His Word.

The psalmist's attention at the end rests on the well-being of God's people. Ultimately, we are called to use our experience with God to strengthen His church. That is, from what we have learned, personally, of God's faithfulness and goodness, we can share with others who, for whatever reason, still struggle with their faith. Our witness about Christ can even be within the church itself, where many need to know Him for themselves.

" 'Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven' " (*Matt. 18:3, NKJV*). What is Jesus saying to us here? What does this idea entail?