

WEDNESDAY

January 31

Has His Promise Failed Forevermore?

Read Psalm 77. What experience is the [DAVID] author going through?

Psalm 77 begins with a plea to God for help that is filled with lament and painful remembering of the past (*Ps. 77:1-6*).

1 I cried unto God with my voice, even unto God with my voice; and He gave ear unto me.

2 In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord: my sore ran in the night, and ceased not: my soul refused to be comforted.

3 I remembered God, and was troubled: I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed. Selah.

4 Thou holdest mine eyes waking: I am so troubled that I cannot speak.

5 I have considered the days of old, the years of ancient times.

6 I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search.

The psalmist's [DAVID-CTR 153; 11LTMS, MS 4, 1896] whole being is mournfully turned to God. He refuses to be comforted by any relief except the one coming from God. However, remembering God appears to intensify his anguish. "When I remember God, I moan" (*Ps. 77:3, ESV*). Hebrew *hamah*, "moan," often depicts the roar of raging waters (*Ps. 46:3*). Similarly, the psalmist's [DAVID-CTR 153; 11LTMS, MS 4, 1896] whole being is in a state of intense unrest.

How can remembering God produce such strong feelings of distress? A series of troubling questions betray the cause of his anguish (*Ps. 77:7-9*): *Has God changed? Can God possibly betray His covenant?*

7 Will the Lord cast off for ever? and will He be favourable no more?

8 Is His mercy clean gone for ever? doth *His* promise fail for evermore?

9 Hath God forgotten to be gracious? hath He in anger shut up His tender mercies? Selah.

“The Psalmist David in his experience had many changes of mind. At times, as he obtained views of God’s will and ways, he was highly exalted. Then as he caught sight of the reverse of God’s mercy and changeless

love, everything seemed to be shrouded in a cloud of darkness. But through the darkness he obtained a view of the attributes of God, which gave him confidence and strengthened his faith. But when he meditated upon the difficulties and danger of life, they looked so forbidding that he thought himself abandoned by God because of his sins. He viewed his sin in such a strong light that he exclaimed, “Will the Lord cast off for ever? will he be favorable no more?” [Psalm 77:7.] **-(CHRIST TRIUMPHANT, 153; 11LTMS, MS 4, 1896).**

The stark contrast between God’s saving acts in the past and God’s apparent absence in the present causes the psalmist **[DAVID-CTR 153; 11LTMS, MS 4, 1896]** to feel abandoned by God. If God has changed, then the psalmist **[DAVID-CTR 153; 11LTMS, MS 4, 1896]** has no hope, a conclusion that he struggles to reject.

Meanwhile, the psalmist **[DAVID-CTR 153; 11LTMS, MS 4, 1896]** cannot sleep because the Lord keeps him awake (*Ps. 77:4*). This recalls other biblical characters whose insomnia was

providentially used by God to advance His purposes (*Gen. 41:1-8, Esther 6:1, Dan. 2:1-3*). The long sleepless night causes the psalmist [DAVID-CTR 153; 11LTMS, MS 4, 1896] to consider the Lord's past acts of deliverance but with new resolve (*Ps. 77:5, 10*).

10 And I said, This *is my infirmity*: *but I will remember the years of the right hand of the most High.*

The assurance that the psalmist [DAVID-CTR 153; 11LTMS, MS 4, 1896] receives from God does not consist of explanations about his personal situation, but rather a confirmation of God's faithfulness and trustworthiness (like Job). The psalmist [DAVID-CTR 153; 11LTMS, MS 4, 1896] is encouraged to wait on the Lord in faith, knowing that He is the same God who performed miracles in Israel's past (*Ps. 77:11-18*).

11 I will remember the works of the Lord: surely I will remember thy wonders of old.

12 I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings.

13 Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who *is so great a God as our God?*

14 Thou *art* the God that doest wonders: thou hast declared thy strength among the people.

15 Thou hast with *thine* arm redeemed thy people, the sons of Jacob and Joseph. Selah.

16 The waters saw thee, O God, the waters saw thee; they were afraid: the depths also were troubled.

17 The clouds poured out water: the skies sent out a sound: thine arrows also went abroad.

18 The voice of thy thunder was in the heaven: the lightnings lightened the world: the earth trembled and shook.

19 Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known.

20 Thou leddest thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

The psalmist [DAVID-CTR 153; 11LTMS, MS 4, 1896] also realizes that "Your footsteps were not known" (*Ps. 77:19, NKJV*), recognizing God's guidance, even in situations in which His presence is not obvious to human eyes. The psalmist [DAVID-CTR 153; 11LTMS, MS 4, 1896] acknowledges that God is simultaneously revealed and hidden, and so he offers praise to the Lord's mysterious and sovereign ways.

PSALM 77:13 - IS THE CENTERPIECE OF THIS PSALM OF DAVID DIRECTING THE READER TO THE SANCTUARY AS THE OLD TESTAMENT MESSAGE OF GRACE. THE GOSPEL WAS LAID OUT IN THE TYPES AND SHADOWS OF THIS OT SANCTUARY SERVICE. OFTEN ITS SACRED

ORDINANCES WERE ABUSED IN WHAT WE COULD DESCRIBE IN NT LANGUAGE AS TURNING THE GRACE OF GOD INTO A LICENSE TO SIN. ANIMAL SACRIFICES REPRESENTING THE GREAT SACRIFICE OF MESSIAH WERE MADE WITHOUT IMPACTING THE HEART AND THEREFORE FAILING TO CHANGE THE DIRECTION OF THE LIFE AWAY FROM SIN.

NEVERTHELESS, THE OLD TESTAMENT SANCTUARY SERVICE WAS THE GOSPEL IN TYPES. THE NEW TESTAMENT REALITY IS JESUS CHRIST, THE LAMB OF GOD, WHO TAKES AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD. THEREFORE, WHEN DAVID LOOKS TO THE SANCTUARY, HE IS LOOKING TO THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL, TO THE GREAT LOVE, FAITHFULNESS, FIDELITY, OF THE COVENANT, KEEPING GOD, CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH. TO THE GREAT SACRIFICE MADE BY GOD, IN GIVING HIMSELF FOR THE SIN OF THE WORLD. AND THIS LOOK TO HEAVEN, TO THE HEART OF GOD, TO THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF JESUS CHRIST, THE ONE WHO CAME TO LIVE RIGHT AND TO DO RIGHT AND HIS PERFECT LIFE AND SELF SACRIFICING LOVE BRINGS DAVID HOPE, PEACE, AND RESOLVE.

I MISS OUT

I STAND OUT

I'M LEFT OUT

Think about past times when the Lord worked in your life.
How can that truth help you deal with whatever you are facing
now?