

Program: SS Panel 2024 1 Q

Quarterly title: The Book Of Psalms

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Lesson Title: #5 SINGING THE LORD'S SONG IN A STRANGE LAND

Section title: Monday - At Death's Door

Record date: Tuesday Nov. 7, 2023

John Dinzey.2024.Q1.L4.At Death's Door

SINGING THE LORD'S SONG IN A STRANGE LAND

Read for This Week's Study: Ps. 79:5–13, Ps. 88:3–12, Ps. 69:1–3, Ps. 22:1, Psalm 77, Ps. 73:1–20, 1 Pet. 1:17.

Memory Text: "How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land?" (Psalm 137:4).

MONDAY

January 29

At Death's Door

*****Using in the beginning from =middle of lesson*****

Many Psalms assume the Lord has permitted the trouble because of Israel's disobedience. The psalmist recognizes that sin can bring sickness; therefore, he refers to the forgiveness that comes before healing (Ps. 41:3, 4). However, some Psalms, such as Psalm 88 and Psalm 102, acknowledge that the innocent suffering of God's people is a fact of life, no matter how hard to understand.

Read Psalm 41:1–4; Psalm 88:3–12; and Psalm 102:3–5, 11, 23, 24. What experiences do these texts describe? In what can you relate to what is said here?

Psalm 41:1–4 1 Blessed *is* he who considers the poor; **The Lord will deliver him in time of trouble.**

Psalm 41:2 The Lord will preserve him and keep him alive, *And* he will be blessed on the earth; You will not deliver him to the will of his enemies.

we have no idea from how many evil things the Lord has protected us
Psalm 105:13-15 13 When they went from one nation to another, From one kingdom to another people,
14 He permitted no one to do them wrong; Yes, He rebuked kings for their sakes,
15 Saying, "Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm."

Psalm 41:3-4 The Lord will strengthen him on his bed of illness; **You will sustain him on his sickbed.**

4 I said, "Lord, be merciful to me; Heal my soul, for I have sinned against You."

>> **Sometimes we will have to face trouble and even life-threatening sickness**

Psalm 88:1 O Lord, God of my salvation, I have cried out day and night before You.

2 Let my prayer come before You; Incline Your ear to my cry.

my life draws near to the grave.

Psalm 88:3–12 3 For my soul is full of troubles, And my life draws near to the grave.

4 I am counted with those who go down to the pit; I am like a man *who has* no strength,

5 Adrift among the dead, Like the slain who lie in the grave, Whom You remember no more, And who are cut off from Your hand.

6 You have laid me in the lowest pit, In darkness, in the depths.

7 Your wrath lies heavy upon me, And You have afflicted *me* with all Your waves.
Selah

8 You have put away my acquaintances far from me; You have made me an abomination to them; *I am* shut up, and I cannot get out;

9 My eye wastes away because of affliction. Lord, I have called daily upon You; I have stretched out my hands to You.

10 Will You work wonders for the dead? Shall the dead arise *and* praise You?
Selah

11 Shall Your lovingkindness be declared in the grave? *Or* Your faithfulness in the place of destruction?

12 Shall Your wonders be known in the dark? And Your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Psalm 102:3–5, 11, 23, 24. Hear my prayer, O Lord, And let my cry come to You.

2 Do not hide Your face from me in the day of my trouble; Incline Your ear to me; In the day that I call, answer me speedily.

3 For my days are consumed like smoke, And my bones are burned like a hearth.

4 My heart is stricken and withered like grass, So that I forget to eat my bread.

5 Because of the sound of my groaning **My bones cling to my skin.**

6 I am like a pelican of the wilderness; I am like an owl of the desert.

7 I lie awake, And am like a sparrow alone on the housetop.

8 My enemies reproach me all day long; Those who deride me swear an oath against me.

9 For I have eaten ashes like bread, And mingled my drink with weeping,

10 Because of Your indignation and Your wrath; For You have lifted me up and cast me away.

11 My days *are* like a shadow that lengthens, And I wither away like grass.

Psalm 102:23-24 23 He weakened my strength in the way; He shortened my days.

24 I said, "O my God, Do not take me away in the midst of my days; Your years *are* throughout all generations.

1Co 15:26 The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death.

These prayers for salvation from illness and death demonstrate that God's children are not exempt from the sufferings of this world. The Psalms reveal the

psalmist's terrible afflictions. He is without strength, withering like grass, unable to eat, set apart with the dead, lying like the slain in the grave, repulsive to his friends, suffering and in despair. His bones cling to his skin.

*****Used in the beginning?*****

Many Psalms assume the Lord has permitted the trouble because of Israel's disobedience. The psalmist recognizes that sin can bring sickness; therefore, he refers to the forgiveness that comes before healing (*Ps. 41:3, 4*). However, some Psalms, such as Psalm 88 and Psalm 102, acknowledge that the innocent suffering of God's people is a fact of life, no matter how hard to understand.

In Psalm 88, God is charged with bringing the psalmist to the verge of death (*Ps. 88:6–8*). Notice, however, that even when the most daring complaints are uttered, the lament is clearly an act of faith, for if the Lord in His sovereignty allowed trouble, He could restore the well-being of His child.

*****READ????*****

At the grave's threshold, the psalmist remembers God's wonders, lovingkindness, faithfulness, and righteousness (*Ps. 88:10–12*). Despite his sense of being stricken by God, the psalmist clings to God. Although he suffers, he does not deny God's love and knows that God is his only salvation. These appeals show that the psalmist knows not only suffering but also has an intimate knowledge of God's grace and that the two do not necessarily exclude each other.

Job suffered an intense pain and agony

Job 13:15 Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him. Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him.

Job 19:14-26 14 My relatives have failed, And my close friends have forgotten me.

15 Those who dwell in my house, and my maidservants, Count me as a stranger; I am an alien in their sight.

16 I call my servant, but he gives no answer; I beg him with my mouth.

17 My breath is offensive to my wife, And I am repulsive to the children of my own body.

18 Even young children despise me; I arise, and they speak against me.

19 All my close friends abhor me, And those whom I love have turned against me.

20 My bone clings to my skin and to my flesh, And I have escaped by the skin of my teeth.

21 "Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends, For the hand of God has struck me!

22 Why do you persecute me as God does, And are not satisfied with my flesh?

23 "Oh, that my words were written! Oh, that they were inscribed in a book!

24 That they were engraved on a rock With an iron pen and lead, forever!

25 For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth;

26 And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God,

*****READ*****

In short, both God's permitting of suffering and His deliverance are demonstrations of His ultimate sovereignty. Knowing that God is in control inspires hope. When we read Psalm 88 in the light of Christ's suffering, we are awed by the depths of His love, in which He was willing to pass through death's door for the sake of humanity.

Think about Jesus on the cross and what He suffered because of sin. How should that reality, that God in Christ suffered even worse than any of us, help us keep faith even amid times of suffering and trial?