

Wait for the Lord

December 4, 2016 – Psalm 130:1-8

“Out of the depths I cry to you O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice. Let Your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy. If you O Lord kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. I wait for the Lord, my soul waits and in His word I put my hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning. O Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with Him is full redemption. He Himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.”

This morning on your way to church, did you sing some hymns? Maybe because we are in Advent you sang “*Oh Come Oh Come Immanuel*” Or because it is getting closer to Christmas perhaps you sang - *Joy to the World!* - or - *Away in a manger?*

When the people of Israel would journey to Jerusalem each year for Passover, or for other Religious Festivals to worship at the Temple, some of them would sing. They would sing Psalms such as the Psalm that we have for our sermon text this morning.

Psalm 130 is a SONG of ASCENT. A Song of “Going UP”.

This going up can be in reference to prayers going up to God. It can also be in reference to Going up to Jerusalem, to Mount Zion to Worship the Lord at the Temple.

Psalms 120 – 134 are noted as SONGS of ASCENT.

Songs going up to God of course are to give HIM Thanks for all of His many and varied blessings. God has blessed us with all our earthly blessings of food and clothing, house and home, family and friends.

God has also blessed us with the greatest blessing of the forgiveness of sins and Eternal Life in Heaven which God in Christ Jesus won for us on the cross of Calvary.

Before looking more closely at the Psalm, I would like to just remind you of the Biblical account when Jesus went to Jerusalem with His parents, Mary and Joseph at the age of 12 for the Passover Feast. (Luke 2:41-52)

In Luke 2:41-52 we learn that the family members and friends traveled together in a group. The distance from where Jesus and His family stayed in Nazareth was between 60-80 miles all of which was done by foot and with whatever pack animals they used. As the people walked that distance it would give time to join together in singing the Psalms. As the people sang the Psalms to Praise the Lord, it also served as a way to instruct the youth concerning The Word of Our Lord God.

So what instruction is there to gain from Psalm 130?

Vs. 1 – *Out of the depths I cry to you O Lord;*

Vs. 2 – *O Lord, hear my voice. Let Your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.*

The writer is in a low point in their life. They are in the depths and so they cry out to the Lord.

(It is unfortunate that so often we do not go to the Lord until after calamity brings us low. Instead we need to remember to go to the Lord always, even in good times.)

The writer begs the Lord to be heard. Even as they Psalmist begs the Lord to be heard, the Psalmist is also confident that the Lord hears since he immediately states:

Vs. 3 – If you O Lord kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

Vs. 4 – But with you there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

The Psalmist is confident of the forgiveness which the Lord gives. All our sins are beyond counting, yet they are forgiven. Since the Psalmist knows that he is forgiven he states:

Vs. 5 – I wait for the Lord, my soul waits and in His word I put my hope.

Vs. 6 – My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.

As the Soldier guards the city standing watch on the wall of the city, the night can grow long. The soldier needs to fight off sleep and remain steadfast because the night watchman knows that to fall asleep or lose concentration could mean death for him and for the city if the enemy were to be sneaking up on the city. There is no time for Attention Deficit Disorder when guarding the city.

As Christians, we continue to wait for the Lord and His time. It is most important to put your hope in the Lord and His WORD, not the words of human logic or science or popular opinion.

As believers, what are we waiting for? - God's Deliverance, God's Unfailing Love, God's Redemption.

Vs. 7 – O Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with Him is full redemption.

Vs. 8 – He Himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

As Believers in Jesus Christ, we are Children of Israel, and so we are also New Testament Israel. In Jesus we have been redeemed from ALL Our Sins, not just some, but All.

- All those evil thoughts, harsh words, wicked deeds and times of doubting Our Lord.

We are forgiven. You are forgiven!

We truly do have reason to sing praises to God Our Savior, the Maker of Heaven and earth as we sing -
"Remember Your Mercy O Lord, Remember You mercy and Love." AMEN