

PSALM 31 | UNCHANGEABLE, UNASSAILABLE SONG

2 Thessalonians 3:5 “May the Lord direct your hearts to God’s love and Christ’s endurance.”

Our landscape is uncertain.

“Anxiety escalates as society is overwhelmed by the quantity and speed of change.” Mark Sayers, *A Non-anxious presence*, 42 (quoting Edwin Friedman, *A Failure of Nerve*, 63).

The basis for much of our uncertainty and our need for assurance for most of us is not due to tangible, physical enemies.

The Psalmist entrusts himself to the God of truth who is unchanging in his faithfulness and his steadfast love. Thus his hope endures.

1. God is our rock: He is the Immutable, Unchangeable One

Long ago you established the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will endure; all of them will wear out like clothing. You will change them like a garment, and they will pass away. But you are the same, and your years will never end. Your servants’ children will dwell securely, and their offspring will be established before you. Psalm 102:25-28

God is our refuge and strength, a helper who is always found in times of trouble. Therefore we will not be afraid, though the earth trembles and the mountains topple into the depths of the seas, though its water roars and foams and the mountains quake with its turmoil. Selah Psalms 46:1-3

He is not capricious. What God has been and what God is, is what God will be. He’s not fickle. What God has said is what God will remain committed to.

2. God is unchangeably good: He is faithful and abounding in steadfast love

Hope is based on who God is.

v1 save me by your righteousness

v2 lead and guide me for your name’s sake

God is not merciful because he’s been manipulated, begrudgingly into it, but because it is who he is.

God is not counted on as a refuge because of how deserving the one praying is, but because of who he is.

Please pardon the iniquity of this people, in keeping with the greatness of your faithful love, just as you have forgiven them from Egypt until now.” Numbers 14:19

All the Lord’s ways show faithful love and truth to those who keep his covenant and decrees. Lord, for the sake of your name, forgive my iniquity, for it is immense. Psalms 25:10-11

Hesed (Steadfast love)

Hesed is “love that is demonstrated when someone is committed to a relationship and a desire to be true to that commitment motivates them to act in unexpectedly (or undeservedly) good ways.”

Emet (truth/faithfulness)

He is the God of truth.

3. Therefore, we can entrust ourselves to God and persevere in hope, like Jesus.

Jesus was always entrusting, committing everything to God the Father.

"I can do nothing on my own. I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, because I do not seek my own will, but the will of him who sent me. John 5:30

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me—nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." Luke 22:42

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three, because the sun's light failed. The curtain of the sanctuary was split down the middle. And Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit." Saying this, he breathed his last. Luke 23:44-46

What is our only hope, our only comfort, in life and death?

That we are not our own but belong, body and soul, both in life and death, to God and to our Savior Jesus Christ.

Romans 14:8 If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

Psalms 31:23-24 Love the Lord, all his faithful ones...Be strong, and let your heart be courageous, all you who put your hope in the Lord.