Shalom AZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

"The God Who Came Into the Depths"

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts (TLV): Psalms 100, 10, 40, 130

Have you ever been in a place where you were doing your best to trust ADONAI, but you were still looking around and saying, "Lord, I'm ready for You to show up"? Perhaps you see injustice continuing unchecked, or you are facing something that seems beyond your strength. Perhaps the difficulty isn't only what is happening around you. There are things going on *within* you—struggles, failures, even sin—and you feel stuck in the mud, unable to pull yourself out. These Psalms bring us into those very places. They describe the person who cries out from the depths, waits patiently for ADONAI, and looks for Him to draw near.

Yet right in the middle of these cries stands Psalm 100, a Psalm of thanksgiving. It invites us to come before His face with joyful singing, to enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. How can we do that when we are still waiting for Him? Because the wonderful truth holding these Psalms together is that we are able to come into His presence because He came to us first. He made Himself available. He reached down into the depths of humanity, into our mud and mire, to rescue us. Our thanksgiving is not simply about everything going well. It is an acknowledgment of who He is: good, faithful, and abounding in *chesed*, His enduring lovingkindness.

1. ENTER HIS PRESENCE WITH THANKSGIVING, EVEN IN THE DEPTHS (PS. 100)

Psalm 100 opens with a call to the whole earth: "Shout joyfully to ADONAI, all the earth!" (Ps. 100:1). We are invited to serve Him with gladness, and to know that ADONAI, He is God. It is He who made us; we belong to Him. We are His people, the sheep of His pasture. That truth gives us a place to stand even before our circumstances change. We didn't make ourselves, and we do not have to sustain ourselves. We belong to the One whose goodness and faithfulness reach from generation to generation. Thanksgiving—*todah*—is an acknowledgment, a making known of His faithfulness. We declare who He is even while we are waiting to see what He will do.

This is more than a pleasant song to sing when life feels easy. It is a deliberate turning toward the Lord in the middle of trouble. We can enter His gates with thanksgiving while also carrying questions, grief, and needs that have not yet been answered. We can say, "Lord, for all You have done, I thank You; for all You have promised, I thank You; and for who You are, I thank You." We begin by remembering that His lovingkindness endures forever. Our praise does not deny the depths; it sets our hearts on the God who is faithful in them. We do not have to manufacture joy. We are invited to approach the One who has already drawn near.

2. CRY OUT TO THE KING WHO SEES AND HEARS (PS. 10)

Psalm 10 takes us straight into the distress. "Why, ADONAI, are You standing far off? Why hide Yourself in times of trouble?" (Ps. 10:1). The wicked seem to prosper, openly praising their own cravings and blessing unjust gain. The powerful threaten the vulnerable, the innocent are crushed, and those responsible act as though no one will ever call them to account. It is not hard to recognize that kind of world. Even today we see people using strength, influence, or dishonesty to take advantage of others. And in those moments we may find ourselves asking, "Where are You, Lord? Do You see what is happening?" The psalmist does not pretend those questions are absent. He brings them directly to ADONAI.

But the Psalm does not end with the arrogance of the wicked. The psalmist remembers that ADONAI sees trouble and grief and takes them into His hand. He is the helper of the orphan, the One who hears the desire of the meek and establishes their hearts. "ADONAI is King forever and ever!" (Ps. 10:16). The wicked may think God will never investigate their actions, but He does see, and He does care. This changes where we place our confidence. Rather than turning toward the apparently successful and powerful, we entrust ourselves to the King who will bring justice. Even when we feel squeezed, afflicted, or forgotten, we can call upon Him. He is not indifferent to the helpless. He hears, He strengthens, and He is worthy of our trust.

3. WAIT FOR THE ONE WHO REACHES INTO THE MIRE AND REDEEMS (PS. 40; 130)

David gives us a beautiful picture in Psalm 40: "I waited patiently for ADONAI. He bent down to me and heard my cry."(Ps. 40:2). He describes being brought up from the slimy pit, out of mud and mire, and having his feet set upon a rock. It is a picture of more than a difficult circumstance being resolved. It points us toward Yeshua, who came into the mud of humanity, clothed Himself in flesh, and walked among us. God with us. He did not simply call from a safe distance and tell us to climb out. He came to rescue us. And when He lifts us up, He gives us firm steps and a new song, so that others may see and put their trust in ADONAI.

But David also admits that his own sins have overtaken him and his heart fails him. Sometimes our deepest need is not rescue from someone else's wickedness but deliverance from our own. Psalm 130 joins that cry: "Out of the depths I cry to You, ADONAI!" (Ps. 130:1). These are depths of trouble and of guilt, even of things we cannot understand. And here is the astonishing order of grace: "For with You there is forgiveness, so You may be revered." (Ps. 130:4). We do not earn forgiveness by first becoming worthy; His forgiveness moves us to reverence and awe. So we wait, not with half-hearted resignation, but like watchmen longing for the morning. We put our hope in His Word, knowing that with ADONAI are lovingkindness and full redemption. He has not forgotten us. His rescue can reach all the way down.

CONCLUSION

Together these Psalms give us a way to live: enter His presence with thanksgiving, cry out honestly when the world seems unjust, and wait expectantly for the One who hears and redeems. They also reveal something deeper about what He desires from us. In Psalm 40, David recognizes that it is not simply sacrifices or outward religious motions that delight ADONAI. His opened ears lead him to say, "Lord, I want what You want. Let Your Torah, Your instruction, be within my innermost being." The God who rescues us from the pit also wants to transform what is happening within us. He gives more than temporary relief; He invites us into a life of trust, obedience, and joyful worship.

Perhaps today you are standing in one of those depths. Perhaps injustice has worn you down, or you have been trying to find the strength within yourself to overcome something you cannot overcome. Perhaps your own failures are weighing heavily upon you. Do not hide from ADONAI or wait until you have cleaned yourself up. Call out to Him right where you are. Confess what needs to be confessed. Turn away from the false things you have trusted, and place yourself fully into His hands. Receive the forgiveness and redemption He offers through Yeshua, the One who came to us first. Ask Him to clear out your ears, change your desires, and establish your steps. And as you wait for the morning, begin to thank Him even now. The One who came into the depths is the One who can bring you out. There is none like Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does Psalm 100 teach us about giving thanks to ADONAI before our circumstances have changed?
2. In Psalm 10, what does the psalmist discover about God's response to the afflicted and oppressed?
3. Where in your life do you presently feel stuck in the "mud and mire," and what would it look like to cry out to ADONAI rather than rely only on your own strength?
4. How might the apparent success of dishonest or arrogant people tempt us today to place our confidence in the wrong things?
5. How do forgiveness, reverence, and expectant waiting fit together in Psalm 130, and how could that change your daily walk with ADONAI?

CLOSING PRAYER

ADONAI, we come into Your gates with thanksgiving and acknowledge that You are good. Your love endures forever, and Your faithfulness never fails. Thank You for seeing us in our distress, for hearing our cries, and for coming into the depths to rescue us. Yeshua, thank You for meeting us in our mud and mire and setting our feet upon the rock. Forgive our sins, clear out our ears, and transform our innermost desires until we delight to do Your will. Holy Spirit, strengthen us when our hearts fail and teach us to wait expectantly upon Your Word. Establish our hearts, renew our joy, and let our lives declare Your faithfulness to others. We need You, Lord. We depend upon You to see us through.

B'Shem Yeshua, In the name of Yeshua, amen.