



**Joy Comes in the Morning  
Then Why Am I Still Waiting?  
Psalm 30**

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**Psalm 30:title–12**

**“A Psalm; a Song at the Dedication of the House. A Psalm of David. I will exalt You, LORD, for You have lifted me up, And have not let my enemies rejoice over me. LORD my God, I cried to You for help, and You healed me. LORD, You have brought up my soul from Sheol; You have kept me alive, that I would not go down to the pit. Sing praise to the LORD, you His godly ones, And praise the mention of His holiness. For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for a lifetime; Weeping may last for**



**the night, But a shout of joy comes in the morning.** Now as for me, I said in my prosperity, “I will never be moved.” LORD, by Your favor You have made my mountain to stand strong; You hid Your face, I was dismayed. **To You, LORD, I called, And to the Lord I pleaded for compassion: “What gain is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise You? Will it declare Your faithfulness? Hear, LORD, and be gracious to me; LORD, be my helper.” You have turned my mourning into dancing for me; You have untied my sackcloth and encircled me with joy, That my soul may sing praise to You and not be silent.** LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever.” (NASB 2020)

As we go about doing life day to day, there are those times where we begin to think we are much more than what we actually are. The Lord has blessed, things are going well, the trials are over for now and a little problem begins to grow again, pride. We start to read our own press clippings again. We have all been there and if we allow that seed of pride to grow, well Paul wrote this.

1 Corinthians 10:12

**“If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall.”** (NLT)

At our strongest, when we are at rest and everything seems to be settled, or we have even experienced a great triumph in the Lord, look out. We are primed for an attack of the enemy and must be on guard. David learned this and reflects. It appears that at a point in his life, he was seriously humbled by the Lord who did this for David by allowing him to rediscover his own mortality. And how is that going to be joy? Since we read this is “a Song at the Dedication of the House,” what and when is this all about?

The event this was to be sung at was at the dedication of the house, which house? The term used in the Hebrew is rather generic.

Scanning through the various Biblical scholars you get a variety of opinions. David wrote this as he dedicated the tent for the Ark to the Covenant (1 Chronicles 16:1-6). Others say this is when he dedicated the threshing floor of Araunah as the future Temple site (2 Samuel 24:18-25). Some point to the promise of God to prepare him a house (1 Chronicles 17:10) rather than allow him to build the Temple.

It could also be for the dedication of the house he built for himself or rather had built for himself (2 Samuel 5:9-12).

2 Samuel 5:9–12

**“So David made the fortress his home, and he called it the City of David. He extended the city, starting at the supporting terraces and working inward. And David became more and more powerful, because the LORD God of Heaven’s Armies was with him. Then King Hiram of Tyre sent messengers to David, along with cedar timber and carpenters and stonemasons, and they built David a palace. And David realized that the LORD had confirmed him as king over Israel and had blessed his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel.”** (NLT)

But there is nothing about David being ill or fearful of becoming ill here. But this psalm talks about healing.

I tend to think this psalm was written as a result of David’s decision to perform a census, without the leading of the Lord, followed by a plague not ending until David actually sees the angel of the Lord with drawn sword at the site of the future Temple, which David then purchases. We see this in 1 Chronicles 21.

1 Chronicles 21:7–16

**“But God was displeased with this thing, and he struck Israel.** And David said to God, “I have sinned greatly in that I have done this thing. But now, please take away the iniquity of your servant, for I have acted very foolishly.” And the LORD spoke to Gad, David’s seer, saying, “Go and say to David, ‘Thus says



the LORD, Three things I offer you; choose one of them, that I may do it to you.' " So Gad came to David and said to him, "Thus says the LORD, 'Choose what you will: either three years of famine, or three months of devastation by your foes while the sword of your enemies overtakes you, **or else three days of the sword of the LORD, pestilence on the land, with the angel of the LORD destroying throughout all the territory of Israel.**' Now decide what answer I shall return to him who sent me." Then David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Let me fall into the hand of the LORD, for his mercy is very great, but do not let me fall into the hand of man." So the LORD sent a pestilence on Israel, and 70,000 men of Israel fell. And God sent the angel to Jerusalem to destroy it, but as he was about to destroy it, the LORD saw, and he relented from the calamity. And he said to the angel who was working destruction, "It is enough; now stay your hand." And the angel of the LORD was standing by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. And David lifted his eyes and saw the angel of the LORD standing between earth and heaven, and in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell upon their faces." (ESV)

David is writing this psalm as a result. "David's description of his recovery is most appropriate, for he may, like many others, especially since he was the instigator of the deed that brought on the plague, have thought himself all but dead as a result of the pestilence then raging and about to strike Jerusalem. Besides that, the plague lasted "from morning till the appointed time," which may well be the time of the evening sacrifice (cf., 1 Kings 18:36); and this agrees with the time limit set in v. 5. V. 6 of the psalm would then indicate the spirit which animated David when he appointed the taking of a census, a spirit of pride and carnal security. Also the satisfaction that David's enemies might have gained from a more extensive plague is the matter referred to in v. 1. We feel that the psalm fits this historical situation as a glove fits the hand. (Leupold 1959, 252)

Now we know the background to this psalm. It is truly sung at the dedication of the house, the future location of the Temple, after David's great sin caused the deaths of so many even bringing him to being fearful for his life as well.

Psalm 30:title-1

"A Psalm; **a Song at the Dedication of the House.** A Psalm of David. **I will exalt You, LORD, for You have lifted me up, And have not let my enemies rejoice over me.**" (NASB 2020)

David should have known better. By this time in his life, he had recovered from the situation with Absalom and was nearing the end of his life, however his pride was something Satan would take advantage of. This is also a warning to us as the enemy still does this today. He will indeed use our pride to destroy others, as well as our testimony.

Is there a prohibition to a census? Yes and no.

Exodus 30:11-12

"Then the LORD said to Moses, "**Whenever you take a census of the people of Israel, each man who is counted must pay a ransom for himself to the LORD. Then no plague will strike the people as you count them.**" (NLT)

God announced that a plague would be the penalty for breaking this law, including conducting a census without the ransom payments. (Stuart 2006, 636)

David did not allow for ransom payments, and that is only the beginning. The reality is, there are only two reasons to conduct a census, war and taxation.

Because the Israelites had no right to go to war except for the taking and holding of the promised land by holy war as called explicitly by Yahweh through a prophet and because they had no right to impose taxes



beyond the contribution system revealed in the law by God himself, **the taking of a census would constitute in most cases an act of direct covenant disobedience.** (Stuart 2006, 636)

Joab knew that and warned David.

1 Chronicles 21:1–3

**“Then Satan stood against Israel and incited David to number Israel.** So David said to Joab and the commanders of the army, “Go, number Israel, from Beersheba to Dan, and bring me a report, that I may know their number.” **But Joab said, “May the LORD add to his people a hundred times as many as they are! Are they not, my lord the king, all of them my lord’s servants? Why then should my lord require this? Why should it be a cause of guilt for Israel?”**” (ESV)

Here we see the instigation by Satan, taking advantage of the pride of a King, and fortunately, he had a trusted man who would tell him the truth no matter what. Joab warned him of his sin.

1 Chronicles 27:24

“Joab the son of Zeruiah began to count, but did not finish. Yet wrath came upon Israel for this, and the number was not entered in the chronicles of King David.” (ESV)

Even after warning, Joab did as he was ordered, but he was not able to finish. Gad confronted David after he repented, and gave him three options, and David opted for plague. The reality though is the plague had already begun; it was a promised outcome from the Torah.

This is why it is so important for us to have others we are accountable to in our lives. If the King of Israel can go off the rails and has to be confronted, so do we.

There is no plausible deniability on this one, David is the one who did this. He has repented of what he did but there was still a reaping required for what his sin of pride did. This is a warning taken to heart since we do not read of any other King deciding to do this until Amaziah, he had problems as well. Solomon did a census of foreigners, but not of the people of Israel. And now, on the back side of judgment and plague, David rejoices that the Lord stopped when He did.

If the plague had continued, if David had indeed died as a result of it, then yes, his enemies would have indeed rejoiced. David now has a new lease on life. He has been humbled for his sin.

The sin of those in leadership roles does indeed cause others to suffer as well. God was in the process of judging Israel and yes, He knew David would sin in this manner, and He used this as a basis for His judgment.

So, now on the back side, he sees the Lord has been merciful to him and the bulk of the nation once again and he exalts God because God has lifted him up from his despondency.

God does that. He has done that for me; He did that for David and He can and will do that for all of us as we continue to be faithfully following Him.

Psalms 30:2–3

“LORD my God, I cried to You for help, and You healed me. LORD, You have brought up my soul from Sheol; You have kept me alive, that I would not go down to the pit.” (NASB 2020)

David prayed for the people and for himself as the plague rolled through the nation. He knew the only one who could truly heal was the Lord.



When asked, we do indeed pray for those who want to be prayed for, for healing. God is the one who does indeed do the healing (Deuteronomy 32:39), and He can choose to do so through a miracle, through medicine, through time, or for all of us, our ultimate healing is when we go home to be with Him. God is sovereign and it is His choice. Charles Spurgeon says the following.

If we must have a physician, let it be so, but still let us go to our God first of all; and, above all, remember that there can be no power to heal in medicine of itself; the healing energy must flow from the divine hand. (Spurgeon n.d., 44)

David had already, due to the virulence of the plague, considered himself as good as dead. He was the instigator of this after all and felt, as a shepherd, the weight of those in his flock, the nation, who were dying as a result of his sin. It was his fault and he visualized himself in Sheol.

This is not the first time David has stared death in the face, but this time he is doing so as the direct result of his own sin, a sin that could only be done by one who is a shepherd of the flock of Israel. Calling for a census without the authority of God to do so.

There are indeed those things which are sinful that we all struggle with, but for someone who is a shepherd, a spiritual leader, they are still also sheep. David was part of the flock of Israel as well, but he was also a shepherd, he was to be an example to the people of what a faithful follower of YAHWEH would look like and operate. His pride took him to a place he should not have gone to.

The problem David had, which Satan took advantage of, for him at this point in his life it was his pride, Satan still does this with those who are shepherds today. "Paul stated his concern that pastors are constantly susceptible to the snares of the devil (2 Tim 2:26). Satan enjoys disgracing "God's work and God's people by trapping church leaders in sin before a watching world." A pastor has to be careful to keep his reputation unblemished. (Showers 2001, 109-110)

Pride though leads to all sorts of problems for the leader.

The reality, we all are being watched by an unbelieving world and as such, when we blow it, Satan will indeed use that to try and destroy our ministry as well as the impact we may have had on others. David repented and God gave him grace. Here at Calvary Chapel, we seek "to minister to hurting people—to see them restored, back on their feet, functioning again. John tells us that the Law came by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." (Smith 2000, Kindle Location 562) And that is what David received from the Lord, grace.

Psalms 30:4-5

**"Sing praise to the LORD, you His godly ones, And praise the mention of His holiness.** For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for a lifetime; Weeping may last for the night, But a shout of joy comes in the morning." (NASB 2020)

There are those out there right now on YouTube who are trying to tell us that the Bible does not teach us to praise the Lord in song and worship Him. David shoots all kinds of holes through that new twist on worship wars and legalism. Not only does he reference the types of instruments to use as you sing a few of his psalms, but this is very clear, "sing praise to the Lord."

"Thanksgiving," according to the Psalms, is clearly not to be a private affair between the believer and God, but is to be sung before all saints of his. This call to hymnic praise offers the congregation a general lesson that is exemplified by the worshiper's own distress and deliverance. (Broyles 2012, 154)

Actually, when you examine the Hebrew used here, David uses the word זָמְרוּ (zammru).



In 15 cases, we are dealing with the “summons to praise” that is characteristic of the hymn genre, usually in the form of the imperative *zammerû* (Isa. 12:5; Ps. 9:12 [Eng. v. 11]; 30:5[4]; 33:2; 47:7[6] (twice), 8[7]; 66:2; 68:5[4], 33[32]; 98:4f.; 105:2; 147:7; 1 Ch. 16:9), once in the jussive (Ps. 149:3). It is usually addressed to the assembled congregation, sometimes (Ps. 68:33[32]; 98:4; cf. the jussives in Ps. 66:4) to the whole earth. (Barth 1980, 93)

The word is in the imperative and is a call, a command, to praise in song. The word *zammru* means “to sing properly, to cut off the discourse or sentence, or song; to express a song divided according to rhythmical numbers...to play on a musical instrument or to sing so accompanied...to dance.” (Gesenius and Tregelles 2003, 248)

And trust me, I am not picking on those legalists in my past who said dance is bad, I am just saying, not when David and the psalms comes to mind.

When we are healed by the Lord, delivered by the Lord and reach the other end of a test or even discipline as here in the case of David, praise and worship is indeed in order. David requires it per the grammar he uses. Put it this way, as followers of Jesus Christ, worship and praise is an expected behavior of us from the Lord. It is something members of His family do.

Verse 5 provides the reason why we sing and praise, and David is approaching it from the point of the discipline that he is receiving as a result of his sin and God's grace he is also receiving.

Psalm 30:5

**“For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for a lifetime; Weeping may last for the night, But a shout of joy comes in the morning.”** (NASB 2020)

First, we see from God's perspective. David engaged in sin, he knows it now, Joab knew it as well. The judgment was harsh and severe, but it ended short of Jerusalem because of God's grace. David had repented and was delivered, reflective of God's grace. “But implicit here is also a lesson many modern believers overlook. Yahweh is a God who delivers, not a God who preserves his people from ever experiencing hardship in general...We may hope that life would be a consistent, upward progression, but the Psalms clearly show it will have its ups and downs. After all, we should note that much of this thanksgiving psalm consists of repeating elements from an earlier prayer psalm. Obviously there would be no thanksgiving in this formal sense without prior distress and lament. (Broyles 2012, 154-155)

In this specific case, David sinned, and God is indeed displeased with sin. I have good news and bad news for all of us too, that has not changed.

Proverbs 8:13

“All who fear the LORD will hate evil. Therefore, I hate pride and arrogance, corruption and perverse speech.” (NLT)

God is very upfront about His attitude towards sin, wickedness and evil.

This attitude, contrary to what some teach today, has never changed. The prophet Malachi, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit wrote the following to a nation that also thought God would wink at sin.

Malachi 3:6

“Descendants of Jacob, **I am the LORD All-Powerful, and I never change.** That's why you haven't been wiped out,” (CEV)





God is indeed displeased with sin and can never be indifferent to it. He judges sin with a holy anger, even in Christians. But for his people God's judgments and anger are short-lived. They pass quickly. (Boice 2005, 263)

David was first confronted with his sin, ahead of time, by Joab but David ignored the warning and insisted on moving forward. God struck Israel as a result, per the Torah, and David repented. But he really did know better. God sent the prophet Gad to give David, once again, His grace showing, how he should be judged. David opted to fall into the hands of God.

But again, God's grace shows up in that He stopped the Angel of the Lord as He was about to enter Jerusalem. As followers of Jesus, we too have forgiveness available to us at all times, if we choose to avail ourselves of it.

1 John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (NASB 2020)

He indeed forgives us of our sins, but not necessarily the consequences of our sin. I wish I could tell you that Christians never suffer as a result of living on earth, but I would be lying to you.

I am fully aware that there are popular false teachings known as the Word of Faith, Prosperity Gospel or wrapped into what is referred to as the New Apostolic Reformation. All false teaching and all teach that a follower of Jesus will not suffer...ever. That statement is utter garbage.

Paul proved that to be not the case multiple times as he went about serving the Lord on his various missionary trips. He and Silas were privileged to be beaten, thrown into prison, and then basically chased out of town, and that was early in the ministry. By then, Paul had also contracted a thorn, disease, in the flesh as well as had been stoned and left for dead. Yes, he was in the middle of God's will and fully serving the Lord.

We live in a fallen world and for some of us, our bodies reflect the consequences of what we have done to them in the past.

Galatians 6:7-10

"Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. **You will always harvest what you plant.** Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit. So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith." (NLT)

David is the poster child of God's grace as well as the example of reaping what he sowed. Yet, he is still a man after God's own heart.

God does indeed love David, He does indeed love you and me as His own and desires the best for us. That would be a life of obedience and one that reflects that obedience and stays from sin.

Just as we would discipline a child who strays, to teach them not do that in the future, the Lord does the same.



Matthew 7:11

“So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.” (NLT)

The example Jesus uses points us to the fact that as His followers, we are His adopted kids and just as we discipline our kids, God does as well. He is God after all.

Being disciplined is not fun. Suffering is not fun. I think again about my uncle who was seriously limited in this life. He was a believer and loved the Lord yet suffered his entire life. Now he is with the Lord and there is no more suffering, “joy comes in the morning.” I can’t wait to see him and go running with him, just a walk would be good. We used to do that when I was young but then he reached a point where he could not walk any longer. I miss him and really look forward to seeing him soon.

Psalms 30:6–7

**“Now as for me, I said in my prosperity, ‘I will never be moved.’ LORD, by Your favor You have made my mountain to stand strong; You hid Your face, I was dismayed.”** (NASB 2020)

Why in the world did David order a census? Here in verse 6, we get the reason, pride, hubris. Worldly security in knowing he would have the manpower to fend off any foe.

There was a period of time, post Absalom, where the kingdom was secure, enemies subdued, and David was wanting to build the Temple but was not to be allowed to do so. He got bored and began to entertain other thoughts; he began reading his own press clippings.

So, in his prosperity, as he looked about, he had “security” or so he thought. Things have now reached a steady state and there should be no more changes. You have made my government, my mountain, to stand strong. As a strong King with an equally strong kingdom, it would be nice to know how many troops I can put out there if I need it. And there is the pride, the temptation to think “I did this.”

So, as he stepped out with the census, God turned from him because he had moved forward in sin. I mean Joab told him, but no, he insisted.

The prosperity that David was enjoying, the peace, the security, all of it was grace from God. All of it was totally undeserved favor from God. “David apparently ascribed it to his capable government. Then God turned away: “Thou didst hide Thy face.”” (Leupold 1959, 255)

David very quickly recognized the withdrawal of God’s favor. One day he is feeling on top of the world, he wakes up and decides, let’s see how big my army can be, census. He talks with Joab, who points out this is sin, but no, this is what I want. The next morning, he gets up and suddenly his age catches up with him, nothing seems right, and there are reports coming in of a plague of some type breaking out in those areas Joab is passing through.

And now he remembers what Exodus says and why Joab did indeed warn him. He repents and changes his wardrobe to sackcloth and ashes and hears that Gad the prophet wants a word with him.

Psalms 30:8–9

**“To You, LORD, I called, And to the Lord I pleaded for compassion: ‘What gain is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise You? Will it declare Your faithfulness?’** (NASB 2020)

David is totally and completely helpless. There is nothing he can do to fix the situation that he created through his sin. He opted for the hand of the Lord, in other words, agreed with the Lord about what the





penalty would be from the prohibition in Exodus 30. And God had already begun to move taking 75,000 outside of Jerusalem. Disease does not often differentiate in who it impacts, and since David is the cause, he feels accountable to the Lord.

God was indeed involved as He allowed Satan to incite David. David received good advice and could have said no, but he didn't and now, he too is fearful.

David is wanting to stay around for just a bit longer. He had always thought he would die in battle someplace, not due to disease and plague cause by his own sin.

His request that his life may be prolonged was not, therefore, for the sake of worldly possessions and enjoyment, but for the glory of God. He feared death as being the end of the praise of God. (Keil and Delitzsch 1996, 242)

David had agreed to three days of plague, and as he looked out the window towards the threshing floor of Ornan at the top of the hill, he saw the Angel of the Lord prepared to move into Jerusalem.

1 Chronicles 21:15

"And God sent the angel to Jerusalem to destroy it, but as he was about to destroy it, the LORD saw, and he relented from the calamity. And he said to the angel who was working destruction, "It is enough; now stay your hand." And the angel of the LORD was standing by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite." (ESV)

David was in fear of dying very soon and what he was being allowed to see into the unseen realm let him know just how close he is to that. But God showed mercy and stopped. Why? Because of David and his prayer which he infers here in psalm 30, but we read of in detail in 1 Chronicles 21.

1 Chronicles 21:16–27

**"And David lifted his eyes and saw the angel of the LORD standing between earth and heaven, and in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell upon their faces. And David said to God, "Was it not I who gave command to number the people? It is I who have sinned and done great evil. But these sheep, what have they done? Please let your hand, O LORD my God, be against me and against my father's house. But do not let the plague be on your people."** Now the angel of the LORD had commanded Gad to say to David that David should go up and raise an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite. So David went up at Gad's word, which he had spoken in the name of the LORD. **Now Ornan was threshing wheat. He turned and saw the angel, and his four sons who were with him hid themselves.** As David came to Ornan, Ornan looked and saw David and went out from the threshing floor and paid homage to David with his face to the ground. **And David said to Ornan, "Give me the site of the threshing floor that I may build on it an altar to the LORD—give it to me at its full price—that the plague may be averted from the people."** Then Ornan said to David, "Take it, and let my lord the king do what seems good to him. See, I give the oxen for burnt offerings and the threshing sledges for the wood and the wheat for a grain offering; I give it all." **But King David said to Ornan, "No, but I will buy them for the full price. I will not take for the LORD what is yours, nor offer burnt offerings that cost me nothing."** So David paid Ornan 600 shekels of gold by weight for the site. And David built there an altar to the LORD and presented burnt offerings and peace offerings and called on the LORD, and the LORD answered him with fire from heaven upon the altar of burnt offering. Then the LORD commanded the angel, and he put his sword back into its sheath." (ESV)

Why did God stop? David repented, and he meant what he said when he did so. He was still the shepherd of Israel. The selfishness was now gone and it was all about the people and protecting the people.



What we see take place here is one of many examples in his life where he is a type of Christ even to the point of asking the Lord to judge him but leave the people alone.

Following the instructions of the prophet Gad, he rushes up the hill to purchase the threshing floor. This site would later be the site for the Temple that his son Solomon would build.

After making the purchase, David constructed an altar right then and there on the threshing floor and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings to the Lord. It was at that point, that the Lord had the angel sheath his sword and the plague had ended. David would then later write the following reflecting what he had just witnessed and how God had been merciful to him.

Psalm 30:10–12

“Hear, LORD, and be gracious to me; LORD, be my helper.” You have turned my mourning into dancing for me; You have untied my sackcloth and encircled me with joy, That my soul may sing praise to You and not be silent. LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever.” (NASB 2020)

When David sacrificed in repentance of his sin there on the newly constructed altar, he also realized the hand of the Lord in this. Thus, the dedication of the house theme. HE realized this is where God wanted the Temple to be and as a result, his altar becomes the altar for the people and David began preparing all the materials that would be needed to build what he knew he could not build. But the altar was in place and further down the hill was the tent with the Ark in it.

1 Chronicles 22:1

“Then David said, **“Here shall be the house of the LORD God and here the altar of burnt offering for Israel.”** (ESV)

God indeed heard David’s prayer and the plague ended. But as he realized just what it is the Lord had done with the purchase and the altar, not only was the Lord gracious to him but as he looked on the enormity of providing all the materials needed for the Temple to built, he turns to the Lord to be his helper. The discipline of the Lord had achieved all that the Lord had intended in the life of David. As we are observing from further down the hill, we would see the altar with the sacrifice on it, David and those with him in prayer around the altar. And as they moved to peace offerings, then cooked meat would be removed from the altar and served.

David, realizing what has just happened and what the Lord has just done, still in sackcloth and ashes, begins to dance. And those watching are trying to figure it all out. But for David, here is his heart.

Psalm 30:11

**“You have turned my mourning into dancing for me; You have untied my sackcloth and encircled me with joy,”** (NASB 2020)

God is the one who has loosened the belt that holds the sackcloth on, He is the one who removes them as they move from mourning to rejoicing. The angel’s sword has been placed back in the sheath. We now have a place to sacrifice. We have a place where the house for the Lord can be built.

The entire experience has now been flipped on its head and joy is indeed the end result.

As the Lord brings us through testing and discipline here in this world, there will also be those times where He allows us a glimpse of what it will be like in His Kingdom at the end of the Tribulation. We know indeed that that morning is coming and that joy will be rather consistent as we go about serving Him as the King.



Not only does the Lord remove the sackcloth, the garments of mourning that they were wearing, but he replaces them with joy.

When David says, “you have,” he is reflecting to us an aspect of the grace of God working on his behalf. God did not leave David and the people in mourning; He lifted them up to dancing and joy.

This is what is reflective of burnt offerings versus peace offerings. The price for our sin has been paid, we now have peace with God, it is a time to rejoice and have fellowship with Him and with each other.

Once David knew he was forgiven and accepted, he moved from the funeral to the feast. He took off the sackcloth of sadness and put on the garments of gladness. (Wiersbe 2004, 119)

As we have already pointed out, as long as we live on this fallen world in our fallen bodies, even though we are followers of Jesus Christ, we are still subjected to the curse and will be persecuted and suffer. Warren Wiersbe points out the opportunity we have as we do life.

Every difficult experience of life—and David had many of them—is an opportunity to have a “pity party” or attend a rehearsal for singing in the choirs of heaven! We have a lifetime of grace (v. 5) to prepare us for an eternity of glory. (Wiersbe 2004, 119)

David has transitioned from a funeral to a time of rejoicing. He has transitioned from needing his sins forgiven to being forgiven and once again in fellowship with the Lord and with His people.

He has also fully reflected his love for the people as he came to the altar and prayed for them offering himself up in their place as a picture of what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross.

Joy does indeed come in the morning.

Let's read the entire psalm once more.

Psalm 30:title–12

“A Psalm; a Song at the Dedication of the House. A Psalm of David. **I will exalt You, LORD, for You have lifted me up, And have not let my enemies rejoice over me. LORD my God, I cried to You for help, and You healed me. LORD, You have brought up my soul from Sheol; You have kept me alive, that I would not go down to the pit. Sing praise to the LORD, you His godly ones, And praise the mention of His holiness. For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for a lifetime; Weeping may last for the night, But a shout of joy comes in the morning.** Now as for me, I said in my prosperity, “I will never be moved.” LORD, by Your favor You have made my mountain to stand strong; You hid Your face, I was dismayed. **To You, LORD, I called, And to the Lord I pleaded for compassion: “What gain is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise You? Will it declare Your faithfulness? Hear, LORD, and be gracious to me; LORD, be my helper.” You have turned my mourning into dancing for me; You have untied my sackcloth and encircled me with joy, That my soul may sing praise to You and not be silent. LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever.**” (NASB 2020)

Let's pray.



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