

PSALM 30:1-12

CHAPTER STUDIES ON THE PSALTER

"Prayer is the unfailing resource of God's people."

Throughout this Psalm, we have indications that David had been greatly afflicted after thinking he was secure. When God's children prosper one way, they are generally tried another. Few can handle prosperity. The joys of hope need to be mixed with the pains of experience, for comfort breeds carnal security and self-confidence. Yet pardon followed repentance, and God's mercy was glorified. This Psalm is a song and not a complaint. Read it in the light of David's last days, when he had numbered the people (2 Sam. 24:10). God chastened him and then in mercy commanded the angel to put away his sword (2 Sam. 24:16). On the floor of Oman the poet received the inspiration that glows in this delightful ode. It is the Psalm of the numbering of the people and of the dedication temple that commemorated the end of the plague.

(Ps. 30:1) For Thou hast lifted me up.

This is an antithesis, "I will exalt You, for You have exalted me." I will give according to the benefits received. The psalmist had a reason for the praise in his heart. He had been lifted like a prisoner from a dungeon, like Joseph out of the pit (Gen. 37:28), and therefore he loved his deliverer. Grace has lifted us from the pit of hell, from the ditch of sin, from the Slough of

Despondence, from the bed of sickness, from the bondage of doubts and fears. Have we no song to offer for all this? How high has our Lord lifted us? He has lifted us into the children's place, to be adopted into the family. He has lifted us into union with Christ, to sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:6). Let us lift high the name of our God, for He has lifted us above the stars.

(Ps. 30:8) I cried to Thee, O LORD.

Prayer is the unfailing resource of God's people. If driven to their wit's end, they may still go to the mercy seat. When an earthquake makes our mountain tremble, the throne of grace stands firm, and we may come to it. Never forget to pray, and never doubt the success of prayer. The hand that wounds can heal; turn to Him who strikes. Prayer is better solace than Kain's building a city (Josh. 15:57), or Saul's seeking music (1 Sam. 16:17). Mirth and carnal amusements are a sorry prescription for a mind distracted and despairing. Prayer will succeed where all else fails.

(The Treasury of David, Charles Haddon Spurgeon, updated by Mark Wash)

**When God takes away the mourning
what does He give in its place? Ps. 30:11**