

## **KEY TEXT**

### **Psalm 30:1-12 (ESV)**

**A Psalm of David. A song at the dedication of the temple.**

**Verse 1- I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.**

**Verse 2- O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.**

**Verse 3- O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.**

**Verse 4- Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name.**

**Verse 5- For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.**

**Verse 6- As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."**

**Verse 7 – By your favor, O LORD, you made my mountain stand strong; you hid your face; I was dismayed.**

**Verse 8 – To you, O LORD, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy:**

Vese 9 – “What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit?” Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?

Verse 10- Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me! O LORD, be my helper!”

Verse 11- You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,

Verse 12- that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

### INTRODUCTION

(1) *The past 2 years*

(2) *Psalm 30 for this pandemic*

(3) *The questions Psalm 30 pose to us*

**How should we as Christians think about earthly prosperity?**

(4) *Title*

**‘FROM PROSPERITY, TO THE PIT, TO PRAISE.’**

The outline:

- The background of Psalm 30
- Earthly prosperity is a gift and a test
- The pit is fearsome and purposeful
- Praise is audible and bodily

## MAIN POINTS

### (I) BACKGROUND OF PSALM 30

Psalm 30 is what many have called a **PSALM OF THANKS**.

David, the psalmist, stands on the other side of some **GREAT DISTRESS** and thanks God for rescuing him from a close encounter with **DEATH**.

Psalm 30 has an interesting “**flashback**” in **verses 6-10**.

It begins in the present (**verses 1-3**), then draws others in to worship (**verse 4**) and grounds the praise in the timeless nature of God (**verse 5**), then flashes back to David’s time of trouble, when he was in the pit and how he prayed for help (**verses 6-10**) and then ends with enhanced praises in **verses 11-12**.

This psalm moves in David’s life from **prosperity, to the pit, to praise**.

### (II) EARTHLY PROSPERITY IS A GIFT AND A TEST (VERSES 6-7)

How should Christian think about our seasons of prosperity in this age?

**Verse 6- As for me, I said in my prosperity, “I shall never be moved.”**

**Verse 7 – By your favor, O LORD, you made my mountain stand strong; you hid your face; I was dismayed.**

**Verses 6-7** give us two truths here for how we should think about our earthly prosperity.

- **Earthly prosperity is “from God”**

**Verse 7** says, **“You made my mountain stand strong...”**

God made David prosperous.

It was a **GIFT** – not the ultimate gift but a real, tangible blessing, fragile as earthly prosperity can be.

Which means David should not have grown prideful about his seeming strength but humble.

And what would humility in his prosperity have looked like?

**GRATITUDE.**

David should have thanked God for what he had (as should we), rather than slowly swelling to being prideful about it.

- **God’s temporal favor in this age is not an expression of His enduring favor**
- 

**Verse 7** says, **“You hid your face.”**

David was God's anointed and yet God's making David prosperous for a season was **NOT A FINAL WORD ABOUT GOD'S FAVOR** on David.

In fact, because God did favor David, he **TESTED** him; He **HUMBLED** him.

David almost lost everything on the brink of death itself.

Prosperity in this world is both a **GIFT** (for which to THANK GOD) and also a **TEST** (in which to RENEW TRUST IN GOD, NOT SELF).

**Both prosperity and poverty serve His eternal designs for His people.**

And David now confesses in this flashback that he **MISHANDLED** prosperity.

**Verse 6- As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."**

**"I shall never be moved" – shows that PRIDE IS TALKING.**

Prosperity gave space for David's pride to **SWELL**.

He grew numb to the truth that it was God who made him strong like a mountain, and that God is able to make mountains crumble at His word, and for our eternal good.

What Psalm 30 shows us is that in this life, neither **MOUNTAIN-STRENGTH** nor **GOD'S HIDDEN FACE** are the **FINAL WORD**.

The wicked can seem mountain-strong and be prideful.

Or the righteous can be **MOUNTAIN-STRONG** and be humble.

So also, the wicked, in the end will be humbled and the righteous not only might but will go through seasons where God's face and favor seem hidden and withdrawn.

Earthly prosperity is NOT a sign of God's eternal favor nor is poverty a sign of His disfavor.

If you are in a season of seeming strength and prosperity, the word for you from Psalm 30 is:

- **HUMBLE YOURSELF BEFORE GOD NOW**
- **THANK HIM**
- **REALIZE THE FRAGILITY OF YOUR PROSPERITY**

- **ACKNOWLEDGE HIS KINDNESS AND YOUR UNWORTHINESS. Do not say in your prosperity, “I shall never be moved.”**

**Have you seen all the mountains God has crumbled since the pandemic drags on?**

**And if you are in a season where His face seems “hidden”, do not take that as God’s FINAL WORD TO YOU.**

**In Christ, it is NOT HIS FINAL WORD.**

**We are fragile.**

**Our world is fragile.**

**Our economy is fragile.**

**Our health is fragile.**

**Our peace is fragile.**

**When we are prosperous, God is the GIVER.**

**And we should humbly thank Him and not presume WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED.**

**And when our mountain does crumble, God has taken it away and He has eternal purposes for us in it.**

This is His **TEST** to reveal **WHO WE REALLY ARE AND PURIFY US FOR HIS FINAL FAVOR.**

(III) **THE PIT IS FEARSOME AND PURPOSEFUL (VERSES 3, 8-10)**

**Verse 8 – To you, O LORD, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy:**

**Vese 9 – “What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit?” Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?**

**Verse 10- Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me! O LORD, be my helper!”**

David tells us **HOW** he pled with God when he was desperate and near death.

- **First, he reasons with God**

**Vese 9 – “What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit?” Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?**

*In other words, “God, what good is it to you if I die? I cannot praise you if I lose my body, mouth and tongue.”*

**Verse 9 mentions “the pit” as does verse 3.**

Another name for this “pit” is **“Sheol”**.



Look at **verse 3**: “O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.”

What is this *Sheol* he mentions?

**SHEOL** – or the **PIT** or **HADES** – was the dark and shadowy place of the dead where the human soul would go once body and soul were torn apart in death.

The body dies and goes into the ground and the soul and spirit then would wait in **SHEOL**, where a chasm was fixed between the righteous and the wicked (**Luke 16:26**).

So, SHEOL was a holding place for the souls of the dead, waiting for the final judgment – no bodies to move, or hands to work, or eyes to see or ears to hear or mouths to speak.

And David appeals to this.

He knows that God made the world for His glory and that He rightly means to be praised (**Ephesian 1:6,12,14**) and David begs that God spare his life to preserve His praise.

He reasons with God on the basis of **GOD’S GLORY**, which is a good way to pray.

- Second, he just pleads for mercy

**Verse 10- Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me! O LORD, be my helper!”**

**And God does show him mercy.**

**He heals him, rescues him, preserves his life, body, mouth and tongue.**

**And David writes Psalm 30 to sing praises and thanks and to draw others in to sign with him and more than just sing.**

**(IV) PRAISE IS AUDIBLE AND BODILY (VERSES 5, 11-12)**

**In **verses 11-12**, we come back to the **PRESENT** from the flashback of **verses 6-10**.**

**David has been rescued, he still has his mouth and he is using it to ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name.**

**And his praise, on the other side of the pit, is not only **AUDIBLE** but also **BODILY**.**

**This is what we might call an **ENHANCED PRAISE**.**

**Verse 11- You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness,**

**Verse 12- that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever.**

Here are two things to see in these important climatic verses.

- **Sorrow and Joy are not equal**

In God and for His people, the sackcloth of sorrow and the garment of gladness are **NOT EQUAL**.

Sorrow and joy are asymmetrical for God's people.

Sackcloth always serves gladness.

God takes our mourning and turns it into **DANCING**.

That's the **FINAL WORD**.

Not the other way around, not in the end.

God removes the garment of our **WEeping** and clothes us with **JOY**.

In God, mourning does not have the final say but **MORNING – JOY** comes with the **MORNING (verse 5)**.

Mourning gives way to morning.

The reason we know this is true for God's people, is because this is **ROOTED IN WHO GOD IS**.

**Verse 5- For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.**

**Note also this one word- **FOR**.**

**God is not only full of favor. He is not only gracious but He also gets righteously angry.**

**But grace and anger are not equal in revealing who He is.**

**Anger serves favor.**

**Weeping does not have the last word for those who are His but joy sounds the final note.**

**How can we say that?**

**Because God is God. This is who God is.**

**Because He has revealed himself as the God of **verse 5**, we can know that **verse 11** will come true: **that morning will come; rescue will come; relief will come; joy will sound the final note, no matter our present trouble or distress, if we are His people.****

**When we sink the roots of our joy into the very nature and character of God as **verse 5** does, our roots of joy go down as deep as possible.**

Our joy, come what may, is grounded **on who God is as the God of joy, who is infinitely happy.**

There is no greater foundation, no greater source, no greater reason for stability and security and genuine joy, when our joy is hidden in God himself – that **his anger (though real and painful) is but for a moment and His favor is for a LIFETIME.**

Weeping may indeed tarry for the night.

And it does. Oh, how often it does, for many long nights.

But in God, **MORNING IS ALWAYS COMING** – just a little while longer – and **JOY** comes with the morning and gets us through the night, knowing that more is coming.

And as sure as David could be of this, as we see in **verses 5 and 11**, we now, in Christ are even more sure, even more secure, more enduringly stable.

Because in a way David could not yet see we have the **cross and the resurrection** – which is not only another example of joy sounding the last note but it is the once-and-for-all objective accomplishment in history that **JOY WILL WIN.**

Joy will have the last laugh, the final say, sound the last note.

As sure as Jesus conquered the grave, so will we.

Which is no promise about earthly prosperity – whether how soon the pandemic ends or whether any fresh and lasting peace is achieved in our city.

The present pandemic might turn out far worse than current assessments.

The nature and person of God doesn't give us earthly assurances that we will have no nights of weeping.

But in Christ, God does give us **FINAL ASSURANCE. THE NIGHT WILL END.**

Morning will come.

Joy will be the final note.

- God turns mourning into dancing

Verse 12- that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent.  
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

“My glory” means “my WHOLE BEING MAY SING YOUR PRAISE AND NOT BE SILENT.”

On the other side of the pit, David's praise has been **ENHANCED.**

He is not just praising with his mouth but with his **WHOLE BEING.**

And what does verse 11 mention?

DANCING.

**DANCING** is the **WHOLE-BEING JOY**.

In other words, the **WHOLE PERSON MATTERS FOR PRAISING GOD**. The mind matters and the heart matters. The voice matters.

David's climactic declaration is that **he will praise God with his glory**; with his whole being: his heart, voice and whole body.

He will dance to praise God with his whole being, clothed with gladness, which means to **"image"** God in the world – not just to think about Him and love Him and praise and thank him inwardly and invisibly but to speak, to tell, to praise, to extol and to dance, clothed with good works, to project him into the world for others to see and hear the joy we have in Him.

### CONCLUSION

For David, the bringing up of his soul from Sheol, from the pit, was **FIGURATIVE**.

But for David's greater Son, it was **LITERALLY** true.

He died on the cross.

His body and soul were torn apart and His human soul went all the way to the **PIT**.

For Friday evening and all-day Saturday and into Sunday morning, His spirit waited in the pit.

And then God drew Him up and spoiled the joy of His enemies and brought Him up all the way, not just from the brink of death but from death itself.

Because God hid his face on Friday, **JOY** came with Easter Sunday morning.

And because of Jesus, we experience joy – not wrath – as our **FINAL NOTE**.

Clothed with gladness.

And so, we are as we are conformed to His image.

**END**