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The
Songs

13

PSALMS - The SONGS

Thirteen

Rejoice in the LORD When Your Enemies Rejoice Over You!

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Psalm 13** and mark every reference to the LORD, including pronouns and synonyms, with a red triangle.

Read through **Psalm 13** and mark every reference to the psalmist with blue capital "R+".

Read through **Psalm 13** and mark every reference to enemy, along with all pronouns such as adversaries, with an orange underline.

Read through **Psalm 13** and mark every reference to time with a blue box.

Read through **Psalm 13** and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal slash, i.e. "black/white".

Read through **Psalm 13** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Sorrowful Complaint
2. Reasonable Request
3. Joyous Trust

READ AND ANSWER

Psalm 13:1-2

Who is speaking? (This Psalm is attributed to David.)

Who is David speaking to?

How many questions does David ask?

Write each of his questions out below.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Which questions concern his relationship to the LORD?

What does he say the LORD has done?

Which question concerns himself?

What does David say he has been doing?

1.

2.

Which question concerns his relationship to his enemy?

What does he say his enemy has been doing?

What do each of his questions have in common? (Hint: Note the phrase “how long” and “forever”.)

What seems to be the situation happening in David’s life? (I will give you extra space to write it out.)

Why does David picture God as forgetting David? What is happening to him?

Does it seem to David that God has withdrawn His help?



**David’s complaint is not that the LORD is unreachable,
but rather that He is not acting on David’s behalf.
David knows that when God truly “hears” a prayer—He answers.
Biblical “hearing” is not only the ability to hear, but the decision to act.**

**God knew all about David’s situation,
but it pleased God (and He alone knows why)
to let the conditions remain as they were.
That is why David used the language he did—
He was pleading for the LORD to decisively move against his enemies.**

What does it mean when David said he “took counsel” in his soul?



What was David doing when he took counsel in his soul?

**The Hebrew word for “take” is *shiyth*
and is a primitive root that means to place.**

The Hebrew word for “counsel” is *atsah*

and is a primitive root that means to fasten or make firm; i.e. to close (the eyes).

The Hebrew word for “soul” is *naphash*
and is a primitive root which means to breathe.

Do these word definitions help you much? Not so much?
Me, either.

So, let’s just reason through it in simple fashion...

David is troubled—beyond troubled...
He is in trouble and he needs the LORD’S help.
The LORD has not responded... yet...

While waiting, David has tried in his mind to find a way out...
some way...
any way...
there must be a way...

But nothing he can think of will work... and he knows it...
so he continues to take counsel in his soul...

His grief...
his affliction...
his unending sorrow...
drive him to find a way...

But nothing he can think of will work... and he knows it...
so he continues to take counsel in his soul...

The constant reminder of the enemy’s advantage pierces his soul with torment.

His enemy is winning...
his enemy is being exalted over him...
he must find a way out of his misery...

But nothing he can think of will work... and he knows it...
so he continues to take counsel in his soul...

How long, O LORD?
Please come to my rescue, I cannot rescue myself.
Deliver me from this situation, I cannot deliver myself.
Save me, O my God, I cannot save myself.

How long...
How long...
How long...

Why did David take counsel in his soul?

How long was his mind filled with sorrow?

Why did David have sorrow in his heart all the day?

Who was winning in the situational “battle”—David, or his enemy?

Psalm 13:3-4

Who did David know could change that situation?

What did David ask the LORD to do?

1.

2.



Point of Depth

The Hebrew word for “consider” is *nabat* and means to scan, or look intently at. By implication, it has the idea of regarding with pleasure, favor, or care.

The Hebrew word for “answer” is *anah* and means to eye, to heed, or to pay attention. By implication, it means to respond.

What did David want the LORD to do to him?

What does the phrase “enlighten my eyes” mean?

What did David expect to happen to him if the LORD did not enlighten his eyes?

Was David’s concern that he would die, or was it the benefit his enemies would gain from his death?

What would David’s enemies say if he died?

What would David’s adversaries do if he died?

Psalm 13:5-6

What word does **verse 5** begin with?

But... in spite of all that David’s enemies have done, in spite of the fact that God has not yet intervened on David’s behalf... what does David do?

Specifically, what is David trusting in?

What is the lovingkindness of the LORD?



**The Hebrew word for “lovingkindness” is *chesed*
It is the Covenant kindness, the unfailing, steadfast love, and eternal loyalty
of his Covenant keeping God!**

**David has chosen to trust in the lovingkindness of the LORD
Who entered Covenant with him.
Covenant is the most solemn binding agreement that can ever be made—
and when it is made by God, it is beyond unbreakable.
David has fled for refuge into the indestructible promise the LORD has made.
He is certain the LORD will keep His Covenant...
David knows His God...**

Is David's trust sincere?

How can you tell?

What does David say has happened to his heart?

What does David rejoice in?

Who will save David?

What will the LORD save David from?

Does David seem concerned anymore that the LORD has not answered his prayers his specific situation?

Why not?

What is David trusting the LORD to do?

Taking the logical next step beyond trust, David's heart rejoices in his salvation. Out of a rejoicing heart flows a song of praise to his LORD. What are the words to David's song? Write them out for yourself. (Hint: I know the exact words are not written down for us, but the subject sure is!)

How has the LORD dealt bountifully with David? (Keep your answer in context. The answer has to do with the specifics of this **Psalm**.)



**When our own situation seems unbearable—
we can trust in the righteous and true judgments of God**

**When our enemies rejoice over us—
we can rejoice in the LORD our God.**

**When we feel that God is not acting on our behalf...
When we have tried in vain to come up with a solution ourself...
We can do the same things David did—**

We can cry out to the LORD for help.

And then...

**We can trust in His lovingkindness.
We can rejoice in His salvation.**

We can sing to the LORD because He truly has dealt bountifully with us.

READ AND REASON

It is such a short Psalm.
It only has six verses.
It doesn't have much complexity.

It includes the typical characters of the Psalms—
the psalmist
the ungodly
the LORD.

It has a typical theme of the Psalms—
the righteous psalmist
assailed by the ungodly
delivered by the LORD.

But it is spectacular in its brevity nonetheless.
It goes from utter despair and anguish (verses 1 and 2)
to the glorious heights of joyous praise (verses 5 and 6)
in only a matter of moments.

What is to be credited for the turnaround?
The psalmist believes in Who his God is and what He has promised—
and acts on his belief.

The psalmist soundly places his complaint at the feet of his trustworthy God
through the God-given instrument of prayer (verses 3 and 4).

As a result...
the unmanageable burden of despair is replaced with the delight and jubilation of faith...

~ Segment by Segment

**Try titling these segments yourself.
Ask God to help you.**

Verses 1-2

Verses 3-4

Verses 5-6

~ Purpose of Psalm 13

**Try to identify the purpose of Psalm 13.
The purpose simply states “why the Psalmist wrote the Psalm”.**

~ Theme of Psalm 13

**Try giving Psalm 13 a title by identifying its theme.
The theme simply states “what the Psalm is about”.**
