

PSALM 130

I WAIT FOR THE LORD

Every Christian would do well to memorize this Psalm in its entirety. Here we see our sinful soul at a loss with how to deal with the sinful world and sinful life around us and within us. Self help programs will not fix us; better methods will not clean us up. There is only one thing for a sinner faced with his sin and its consequences to do: Cry unto God from the depths. Psalms were meant to be sung, see the video: *Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu Dir*

THE STYLE

A Song of Ascents

Psalms 120-134 have the titles “Songs of Ascent.” These were songs that God’s people used at they were “going up,” either as the priests went up the stairs of the temple for worship or as the pilgrims were going up the elevated terrain to reach Jerusalem.

A Penitential Psalm

In Christian liturgical tradition, this has been numbered as one of the seven Penitential Psalms. (Psalms 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143). Christian worship has drawn its words of confession and its pleas for mercy from these psalms for millennia.

Dates

c. 500 BC

Latin Name:

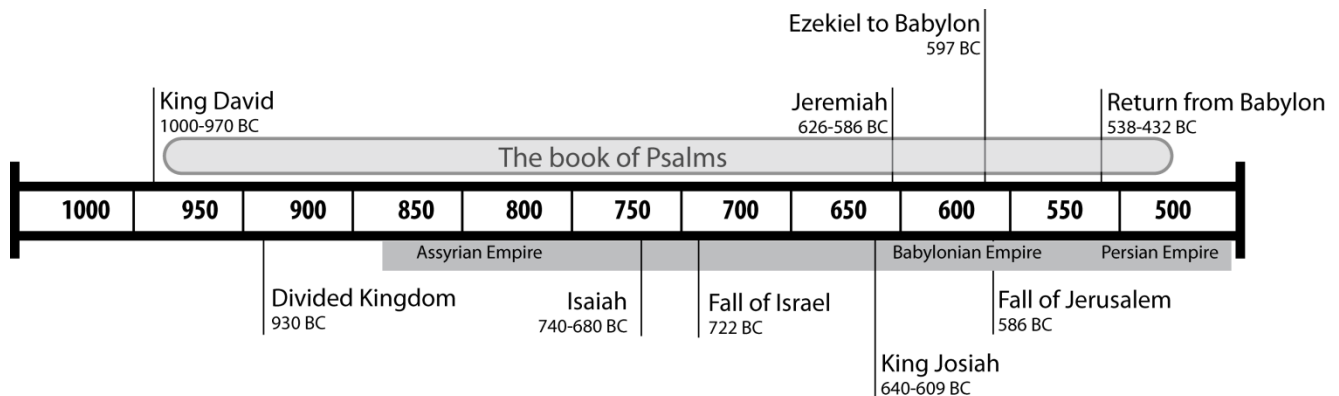
De profundis

THE POETRY

Notice the poetic structure of the psalm. The psalm is divided into four stanzas (vv1-2; 3-4; 5-6; 7-8) with each of the stanzas divided into couplets of one verse each.

THE BOOK

The Psalter, or book of Psalms, is a collection of the songs of the people of Israel written over a period of centuries, from the time of Moses until after the return from Babylon. There are 150 psalms in the book that cover nearly every aspect of Christian life and worship. This book is especially suited for use in your personal devotional life.



PSALM 130

¹ A song of ascents.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

² O Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

³ If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

⁴ But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.

⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope.

⁶ My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.

⁷ O Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

⁸ He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

1. From what depths does the psalmist cry?
2. What is our cry for mercy?
3. Agree or Disagree? We can demand things from God.
4. Agree or Disagree? God doesn't keep track of sins. Cf. Micah 7:19; 2 Cor 5:19.
5. Why is the word "therefore" in verse 4 so important?
6. What is true fear of God?
7. For what is the psalmist waiting?
8. How do put our hope in his word?
9. How are we like watchmen?
10. Agree or Disagree? If we sin enough, we forfeit our salvation.
11. Explain why God calls it his *unfailing* love and his *full* redemption.
12. Review the picture of redeemer. How does this psalm end on a completely illogical but glorious truth?