

## Psalm 130

**Psalm 130:1** - "Out of the depths have I cried to you, O LORD."

The depths indicate deep affliction and profound distress - either sorrow and grief, physical suffering or sickness, betrayal, depression or despair, or spiritual suffering for guilt over sin.

The feeling is of being overwhelmed, like Jonah in the belly of the whale. In such situations, the Holy Ghost gives us a fresh sense of our deep necessity.

And "the lowest abysses of calamity" have served to bring the psalmist closer to God, because he is "crying out" to Him. He appeals to God, who is able to save, and is a present help in time of need.

**Psalm 130:2** - "Lord, hear my voice: let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications."

But...

- **Isaiah 59:1-2** - "Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."

"supplications" = *tachanuwn* - supplications, intreaties, (also, "to be loathsome")  
Supplication is prayer, from a root with an emphasis on appealing to God's pity and mercy. The idea is the supplicant has nothing to justify himself or offer as a reason to accept his prayer. It will be pure mercy if he is heard and answered, but at any rate, he will abide by whatever comes.

- **Proverbs 18:23** - "The poor useth intreaties;( *tachanuwn* ); but the rich answereth roughly."

**Psalm 130:3** - "If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?"

Not one; since all are sinners (**Romans 3:23**), and the wages of sin is death.

- **Ecclesiastes 7:20** - "For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not."

- **Nahum 1:6** - "Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him."

- **Psalm 1:5** - "Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. 6For the LORD guards the path of the righteous, but the way

of the wicked will perish."

**Psalm 130:4** - "But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared."

forgiveness = *cěliyachah* - pardon - Used only three times in the Old Testament.

- **Nehemiah 9:17** - "...but thou art a God ready to pardon (*cěliyachah*), gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not."

The Septuagint has "propitiation"

Because of Christ's sacrifice for sin, God casts our sins behind his back and into the depths of the sea, sends them away as far as the east is from the west.

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men" (**Titus 2:11**).

God's forgiveness is linked to real fear of God because of what it says about His expansive power and goodness. The demons believe in God, but have no forgiveness that would allow them to fear Him.

Justice and holiness, grace and mercy come together in Christ's self-giving love.

**Psalm 130:5** - "I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope."

The Jewish translation is, "I hoped, O Lord; yea, my soul hoped, and I wait for His word."

"I have been waiting, and still wait." Waiting for the Messiah. Waiting for the resurrection. Waiting for God's final triumph

**Psalm 130:6** - "My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning."

Rashi - I am among those who look forward to the redemption.

Targum: "more than they that observe the morning watches, which they observe to offer up the morning sacrifice"

An allusion to the Levite-sentinel whose duty it was to signal the first ray of dawn, and the moment for commencing the sacred rites of the Temple (**Psalm 134:1**). It's a beautiful picture of the ardent desire with which the truly repentant expect and long for the salvation of God.

Thus in affliction - the long, dark, dreary, gloomy night of sorrow - the sufferer looks for the first indication, the first faint ray of comfort to the soul.

- **2 Peter 1:19** - "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that

ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts"

- **Revelation 22:16** - "I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star."

**Psalm 130:7-8** - "Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption. And he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities."

"plenteous" = *rabah* - Enough and to spare for all, abundantly sufficient

Christ saves his people from their sins, **Matthew 1:21**; redeems them from all iniquity, **Titus 2:14**; and turns away ungodliness from Jacob, **Romans 11:26**.