

Psalm 30

"David's Dedicatory Song of Praise for Yahweh's Merciful Deliverance from Death"

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A Psalm; a Song at the Dedication of the House.¹
A *Psalm* of David. (NASB '88)

A1 DAVID'S PRAISE TO YAHWEH FOR HIS DELIVERANCE FROM DEATH 30:1-3

B1 His Praise That Yahweh's Deliverance Has Prevented His Enemies' Rejoicing at His Demise 30:1

C1 Yahweh's Lifting Him Up: *{1}* I will extol You, O LORD, for You have lifted me up,²

C2 Yahweh's Thwarting of Enemy Joy: And have not let my enemies rejoice over me.

B2 His Praise That Yahweh Healed Him: *{2}* O LORD my God, I cried to You for help, and You healed me.³ 30:2

¹ Ps 30 Superscription - Dedication of the House: This psalm is associated with David's pride (v. 6) and his discipline (v. 5) by Yahweh to the point of death, from which he had been delivered (v. 3). Scholars surmise (see Allen P. Ross, "Psalms," *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*) that this psalm may have been associated with David's prideful act of numbering Israel's military (1 Chron. 21:1-6). This brought upon Israel great judgment (21:7-14), which was suspended by God's mercy (21:15), and placated by David's purchase of the threshing site of Ornan the Jebusite and by his offering there a blood sacrifice upon an altar as instructed by the Angel of Yahweh through the prophet Gad (21:16-27). David, seeing that God answered him there, then concluded that this should be the permanent site of the temple, God's residence in Israel (21:28 - 22:1). Though David was himself unable to build the temple (1 Chron. 22:8), he may well have composed this song for the occasion of dedicating at the site of Ornan's threshing floor the tent in which, presumably, the ark of the covenant would have been placed. Worship would have then have been conducted in this provisional tent on the site of Ornan's threshing floor in anticipation of Solomon's building a permanent temple on the site. If the analysis is accurate, Psalm 30 would dedicate both the temple site and the provisional structure, no matter whether it was a provisional tent, or whether David moved the old Mosaic tabernacle from Gibeon to Jerusalem at this time. On this point the Scripture remains silent.

² 30:1 - lifted me up (*dalah*, 1802): used of drawing up a bucket of water from a well (Ex. 2:16,19; Prov. 20:5). Used only four times in the O. T.

³ 30:2 - healed me: It may be that the pestilence with which Yahweh fatally afflicted 70,000 Israelis for David's prideful sin of numbering the people (1 Chron. 21:1-14) also attacked David and brought him near death, although the text in Chronicles never states that. Or it may be that David's great remorse (1 Chron. 21:16-17) actually drove him to depression, near death. More likely, this incident refers to David's remorse and depression at the consequences of his actions combined with his sheer terror at the possibility of himself and all Jerusalem being killed by the Angel of Yahweh (1 Chron. 21:16, 27-30). Whatever the case, David was near death (Ps. 30:3), and God healed him.

B3 His Praise That Yahweh Delivered Him from Death 30:3

C1 {3} O LORD, You have brought up ⁴ my soul from Sheol; ⁵

C2 You have kept me alive, that I would not go down to the pit. ⁶

A2 DAVID'S CALL TO THE CONGREGATION TO PRAISE YAHWEH FOR JUDGMENT SUSPENDED 30:4-5**B1 His Call for the Godly in Israel to Praise 30:4**

C1 {4} Sing praise to the LORD, you His godly ones,

C2 And give thanks to His holy name.

B2 His Reason for Praise 30:5

C1 Yahweh's Short-lived Anger

D1 {5} For His anger is but for a moment,

D2 His favor is for a lifetime;

C2 Man's Short-lived Sorrow

D1 Weeping may last for the night,

D2 But a shout of joy *comes* in the morning.

A3 DAVID'S PERSONAL TESTIMONY OF HIS SIN, DISCIPLINE, SUPPLICATION, RESTORATION, AND PRAISE 30:6-12**B1 David's Pride 30:6-7a**

C1 {6} Now as for me, I said in my prosperity, "I will never be moved."

C2 {7} O LORD, by Your favor You have made my mountain to stand strong;

B2 Yahweh's Disapproval: You hid Your face, I was dismayed. 30:7b

⁴ 30:3 - brought up: *'alah* (5927) rhymes with *dalah* in 30:1. While *dalah* is used only four times in the O.T., *'alah*, a much more common word, is used almost 900 times in a wide variety of settings, meaning to go or ascend or bring or offer, usually implying a vertical direction (up).

⁵ 30:3 - Sheol: The place of the dead. David was near death. If this psalm is properly associated with his prideful census (1 Chron. 21), David, from his point of view, was indeed near death, as were the elders of Israel and the entire city of Jerusalem! From God's point of view, the Angel of Yahweh's death march had already been suspended, but the Angel did not sheathe His sword until after David had offered his sacrifice on Ornan's threshing floor and Yahweh had answered with fire from heaven to consume the sacrifice. Of course, Yahweh knew all along what the outcome would be. One might argue that David was not really near death from God's point of view, but that is always the case with us humans -- we do not know in advance what God is going to do, and so we pray from our perspective. If one hypothesizes what might have happened had David been rebellious and not offered up a sacrifice

⁶ 30:3 - pit: A synonym, in this context, for Sheol. The first reference to pit is Gen. 37:20. Had Joseph been left in the pit, he would have died.

B3 David's Supplication 30:8-10

- C1 David's Remembrance of His Prayer: {8} To You, O LORD, I called, And to the Lord I made supplication: 30:8
- C2 David's Pleading Questions to Yahweh Begging the Sparing of His Life 30:9
- D1 {9} "What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit?
- D2 Will the dust praise You? Will it declare Your faithfulness?
- C3 David's Plea for Help: {10} "Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me; O LORD, be my helper." 30:10

B4 David's Testimony of Joy 30:11

- C1 {11} You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;
- C2 You have loosed my sackcloth and girded me with gladness,

B5 David's Vow of Praise 30:12

- C1 Unending Praise: {12} That *my* soul may sing praise to You and not be silent.
- C2 Eternal Thanks: O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever.

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 30
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