



## A Hopeful Perspective (Psalm 13)

How do you view King David? More often than not, we see him as a King, as blessed, as a hero, a wise ruler, and a military genius. Many of you see him as a man after God's own heart, or maybe some of you see him as a sinner. In addition to all of those things, David suffered, and we do too.

How often do we think of David as a suffering victim? David doesn't claim a victim identity, yet David could have taken that identity. He could have seen himself as a victim of both his and others actions. He suffered greatly, and he expressed that to God. Think about the suffering and brokenness David endured:

- He was deemed insignificant by his family (1 Samuel 16:1-13).
- Was the target of a King's Rage, and subject of abuse (1 Samuel 18:6-18).
- Had to flee his home and future kingdom for his safety (1 Samuel 19-23).
- Lost a best friend due to conflict with Saul (1 Samuel 20).
- David's baby died (2 Samuel 12:15-17).
- Had a son (Amnon) who sinned grievously against his sister (2 Samuel 13:1-21).
- Absalom another of David's had Amnon killed to avenge his sister (2 Samuel 13:23-38).
- Later, Absalom betrays David and tries to steal the kingdom from him (2 Samuel 15-19).

The list could go on.

In Psalm 13, David expresses his suffering to God. The reader can sense his confusion. Rather than allowing his feelings to influence his relationship with God, he allows facts to shape his feelings. He knows God saves him, cares for him, and has brought him from darkness and into light. David knew that his identity didn't rest in what was done to him, but what was done for him. He knew God was there to redeem his life in the middle of the most hopeless situations. David chose to trust in God and to rejoice in hope.

At Christmas, we look to this same hope, and we know that this hope is in the King who David pointed to—Jesus. Jesus is the perfect king who never failed. In many ways David failed, but Jesus will never fail. Although Jesus was perfect, he suffered greatly. It's through his wounds our suffering will one day end. No matter what we are going through, we can turn to the Lord choosing to trust him because he has dealt bountifully with us. We can change our perspective. Let him comfort you with his eternal hope this Christmas season.

## CBC at Home & Advent Devotional December 3, 2023

### HOPE

*the Prophet's Candle  
Sermon: Isaiah 9*

Holy God, as we begin again this season of hope, peace, joy, and love, help us remember its source. May we look in grateful remembrance this Christmas on Your first advent, which humbly and quietly brought You to this earth to acquaint Yourself with our grief and sorrow. To wrap Yourself in our injured flesh, to dwell among us, and in perfect obedience, be poured out in death for the forgiveness of our sin.

In gratefulness, we rejoice, not only in this life-giving death but in Your victory over death; that You rose after three days as You promised and thereby ushered in the beginning of a new longing. Another advent of glory and power.

Lord, as we now wait once again, may we do so with the deep and abiding hope of Your imminent return, and may we celebrate this season of waiting, hoping, and expecting in the strength of Your Spirit.

We give You all glory in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.



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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What areas of your life do you find you need a perspective shift? What might that perspective shift look like in your relationships with your family, friends, and co-workers?
- Where have you given up hope? How can you be more intentional about finding hope in this situation?
- Why is it hard to trust in God when we suffer and go through hard things?
- What would it look like to have a Psalm 13 attitude in your life? What steps can you take to better hope in God?

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS FROM THE SERMON

(Isaiah 9)

- Why are the prophecies in Isaiah essential to the Christmas story?
- What are some other passages in the Bible about hope? (eg Joshua 21:45, Joshua 23:14, and Philippians 1:6) What are the things we learn about God's promises?
- Is there anything that particularly stood out to you from the sermon?

## FAMILY QUESTIONS

- How does it make you feel when someone keeps their promise? What are other promises in the Bible that can give us hope?
- How can we take time during the advent to show people the hope of Jesus?

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S J E E X D I V A D F O Y T I C O  
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ANGELS  
BETHLEHEM  
CAESAR AUGUSTUS

CHRIST  
CHRISTMAS  
CITY OF DAVID  
DONKEY  
GLORY  
GOD  
GOOD TIDINGS  
HAY  
INN  
JESUS  
JOSEPH  
JOY  
JUDEA

KEEPER  
KING HEROD  
MARY  
MESSIAH  
PEACE  
SAVIOR  
SHEEP  
SHEPHERDS  
SMALL ONE  
STAR  
TAXED  
VIRGIN  
WISE MEN



## WEEKLY PRAYER

- Our Men & Women in Uniform
- Marcus & Amy, Pioneers West Asia
- Glen Lashbrook, Elder
- Keith Doyle, Senior Pastor
- Young Adults/Journey Class
- Faith Christian Church, New London
- Those who do not yet have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus (Col 4:2-4)

## SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

Even though I walk through the valley  
of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.  
**Psalms 23:4 (ESV)**