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→ Psalm 13: How Long, How Long, How Long?
Unfiltered: Real Worship for Real Life: **Lament: Book**

Motivate toward gospel obedience, disciple making!

Lament: ind/corp: wail/cry/groan; complain: to God! Most common of Pss (65:43%); Lamentations. We all face pain, heartbreak, anguish, trouble, difficulty: relationships, bodies, finances, emotions; inner/outer turmoil; language to use. Incl Imprecatory (call down curse): 58:6,8; **137:8-9**. Maranatha!

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→ **Prop:** No matter how hopeless it may seem, God will never abandon you!

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→ **1. Though it may seem hopeless, cry out to God! (read vv1-2) Pain**

Transition from Ps12-13; from bad to worse: 12:1 (godly gone); 12:8 (wicked prow)! Abandoned by godly; now feeling abandoned by God! Same enemies; now he feels powerless/hopeless. Tshirt/hat!

5Q (4: How long)! Rhetorical cry from his soul! Doesn't know what else to say! Don't know situation he's facing, frankly, don't need to; we've all been there. No mention of time; could be Day1/Yr 3 (day like 1,000yrs)! Want pain to stop, want a solution, go back to normal, cry uncle! Will you forget me forever? Sometimes it feels that way: Groundhog day; no resolution! There?

Simple answer: God can't forget/won't; unchanging/eternal! Remember means: taking up a cause/fight for; covenant bound! Can't go back on His Word/promises! **Rev6:10-11**! **Cash:** Hurt, "Focus on pain/only thing that's real!" Profound detail: aim of his cry, through storm of heartache: LORD (1,3,6)!

May feel like you're alone, weathering storm by yourself, abandoned by everyone/God; no one cares/understands. Hope shattered; nowhere else to turn. Cry out to God: songbook! Only gospel shows a God: enters into our pain alongside us; experienced loss/heartbreak (never leave). We can hold on when we know help is on the way? Enemy: **1Pet5:8**! Face: blessing/care: **Numb6:24-26**!

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→ **2. Though it may seem hopeless, call out to God! (read vv3-4) Prayer**

Cry of David's soul becomes Call for God to do what only God can do! *Today Thy Mercy Calls Me*: "When all things seem against us, to drive us to despair, we know one gate is open, one ear will hear our prayer!" Turning point! Sadly, truth: we stink at asking for help (H/V)! Calls upon cov promises!

Reminding Himself of the God he knows, believes, trusts! To know hunger means you've tasted food/filled your stomach! To feel lost means you've experienced security and be found. To feel abandoned means you know the experience of being known/cared for/loved. This is one of the aspects of what it means to be created in the image of God; known by Him/brokenness, distorted.

He doesn't just pray for pain to go away/somehow have it numbed; "light up my eyes!" **Mt6:22-23**. Give me eyes of hope, eyes fixed on You, your Word, your promises! Then everything else follows. We often times miss that! We pray for situations/circumstances to change, the pain/problems to be dealt with, the turmoil/storms to pass. No closer to God. Here: eyes of faith amidst them! My God!

Ultimate victory of God *for* us meant defeat of X on cross. Witch/Aslan: so much for love! **1Pet5:7**.

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→ **3. Though it may seem hopeless, trust in God! (read vv5-6) Praise**

Condensed here into a few lines; we have no idea how much time has passed from 1-2/3-4/here. One of my frustrations with Xian subculture of books/movies/music: white picket fence mentality that everything's just dandy/swell; always painlessly works out in end; happily ever after! Cross/crown.

Jesus, Paul, apostles, church history! When we remove cross; we strip gospel of its beauty/pwr and we shackle people to a false idea of Xian life. There's a call to trust; doesn't mean it's pain free, w/o cost, and w/o tears. Darkness may not lift; circumstances may not get better. God is good!

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→ Stanza 1:5/2:4/3:3. **Delitzsch**, "This song casts up constantly lessening waves until it becomes still as the sea when smooth as a mirror, and the only motion discernible at last is that of the joyous ripple of calm repose." We live in the tension of the already but not yet; we're not there yet!

Verbs are mixed: 2 perf/2 ongoing: I've trusted/He's dealt (one time); *shall* rejoice/*will* sing come as a result! Ever say, "When this is all over?" David, too! He has dealt bountifully: the provision of God always exceeds our asking! 130:7, "Plentiful redemption!" Until the end (and beyond): **Phil1:6**!

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→ **Recap:** No matter how hopeless it may seem, God will never abandon you!

WT: He is!

Ben: **Rom8:35-39**