

Psalm 129

"Israel's Acknowledgment of Yahweh's Deliverance from Haters of Zion"

(A Song of Ascents.)¹

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A1 A CALL TO ISRAEL TO ACKNOWLEDGE YAHWEH'S DELIVERANCE FROM WICKED ENEMIES 129:1-4

B1 A Plaintive Acknowledgment of Perpetual Persecution 129:1-2

C1 National Acknowledgment of Persecution 129:1

D1 {1} "Many times they have persecuted ²me from my youth up,"

D2 Let Israel now say,

C2 Repeated Acknowledgment of Unsuccessful Persecution 129:2

D1 Repeated persecution: {2} "Many times they have persecuted me from my youth up;

D2 Unsuccessful persecution: Yet they have not prevailed against me.

B2 Description of Persecution 129:3

C1 Plowers Plowing: {3} "The plowers plowed upon my back;

C2 Lengthened Furrows; They lengthened their furrows."

¹ Superscription - Song of Ascents: See note on Psalm 120.

² 129:1 - persecuted: From Israel's youth and onward, the nation has been persecuted. Growing up in Egypt, the breadbasket of the world, the young nation was reduced to slavery. Throughout Israel's history, Jewish people have been subjected to intense hatred, persecution, and anti-Semitism. True, some of that has come as a Divine judgment for forsaking Yahweh and His commands, the Torah. But as a whole the ferocity and irrationality of the antipathy toward Israel can only be attributed to a supernatural hatred inspired by the Devil himself. The world typically despises those whom God has chosen (Psalm 2:1-3; John 15:18-19, 23-25; 1 John 3:13). The world has yet to vent its fiercest hatred against the Jewish people (Zech. 13:8 - 14:2; Jer. 30:7; Matt. 24:15-22; Rev. 12:13).

B3 Release from Persecution 129:4

- C1 Because of Yahweh's Character: {4} The LORD is righteous;
- C2 Because of Yahweh's Intervention: He has cut in two the cords of the wicked.

A2 A CALL FOR THE DEMORALIZATION AND PREMATURE DEMISE OF HATERS OF ZION 129:5-8

B1 May Haters of Zion Be Shamed and Thwarted 129:5

- C1 Their Character: {5} May all who hate Zion
- C2 Their Doom: Be put to shame and turned backward;

B2 May Haters of Zion Be as Transient and Unblessed as Rooftop Grass 129:6-8

- C1 The Request for the Haters' Marginalization: {6} Let them be like grass³ upon the housetops, 129:6a
- C2 The Description of the Haters' Marginalization 129:6b-8
 - D1 Premature death: Which withers before it grows up; 129:6b
 - D2 Thwarted potential 129:7
 - E1 For the reaper: {7} With which the reaper⁴ does not fill his hand,
 - E2 For the binder of sheaves: Or the binder of sheaves his bosom;

³ 129:6 - grass on the housetops: Dirt and debris gather on rooftops (particularly the flat rooftops of the Middle East in that era). The grass seeds thereupon, soaked by a passing shower, sprout, and grass springs up. But on the roof there is no depth of soil, and the blazing sun soon saps the life from the grass, which withers and dies.

⁴ 129:7 - reaper, binder: Though the grass on the rooftop may be of a quality suitable for harvesting and using for hay, no harvest of it is ever made, for its life is so short that it dries and shrivels to worthless cellulose long before the time of a farmer's first cutting of hay.

- D3 Absent any blessings of Yahweh uttered by passersby 129:8
- E1 {8} Nor do those who pass by say, "The blessing ⁵ of the LORD be upon you;
- E2 We bless you in the name of the LORD."

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 129

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⁵ 129:8 - blessing: Because the grass on a rooftop has no practical value, no one ever offers a friendly blessing upon it from Yahweh. (Farmers do pray that God will bless their crops!) It has no useful purpose and is devoid of any hope or thought of productivity. The psalmist's prayer is that the haters of Zion live short lives, die a premature death devoid of blessing from Yahweh's people or Yahweh Himself, having no worth or significance -- nothing of lasting value eventuating from their short lives.

In the context of eternity, Yahweh will answer these prayers. During Jesus Christ's Millennial reign over the earth from Jerusalem, all nations will "stream" to Mt. Zion to learn more about the King's Laws and live in His ways (Isa. 2:2-3). "[T]he earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea" (Isa. 11:9)!

After God's construction of a new universe "in which righteousness dwells" (2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1) the future of eternal life will be entwined with the heavenly Mount Zion (see Rev. 14:1-3), the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21-22). None who continue to hate Zion will be there. **Jesus warns**, "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. {13} "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." {14} Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city. {15} Outside are the dogs and the sorcerers and the immoral persons and the murderers and the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices lying (Rev. 22:12-15). **The invitation to all stands:** The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost (Rev. 22:17). Will you come to Jesus? He said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me" (John 14:6).