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“Praying in Times of Trouble” (Psalm 120)

“I call on the Lord in my distress.” (Psalm 120:1)

I. Call on the Lord in times of trouble (1-2)
   A. God hears you when you pray
      - John 16:23-24; James 5:13
   
   B. Cry out for him to save you (ex. lies and deceit)
      - John 4:24

II. Know that God will judge the wicked (3-4)
   A. God’s judgment is appropriate and just
      - Proverbs 26:27; Jeremiah 9:8; James 3:6
   
   B. God’s judgment is certain and severe
      - Exodus 34:7; Psalm 64:3-8; 140:9-10; Romans 12:19

III. Know that you do not belong to the world (5-7)
   A. The Christian is uncomfortable living in the world
      - John 15:19, 17:14-16
   
   B. The Christian gets tired of living in the world
      - Psalm 42:2; Philippians 3:20
   
   C. The Christian longs for peace in the midst of a hostile world
      - Matthew 5:9; John 14:27, 16:33; Romans 12:18
“Trusting in God’s Providential Care” (Psalm 121)

“My help comes from the Lord.” (Psalm 121:2)

I. The Creator is your helper (1-2)
   A. Look beyond the mountains to the God who created them
      - Psalm 46:1, 90:2

   B. Your help comes from the Maker of heaven and earth
      - Genesis 1:1; Jeremiah 10:12

II. The God of Israel is your protector (3-6)
   A. He protects you from accidents
      - Psalm 37:23-24

   B. He never slumbers nor sleeps
      - contrast 1 Kings 18:27

   C. He is close beside you
      - Genesis 28:15; Psalm 16:8

   D. He protects you at all times
      - Psalm 91:5-6

III. God will keep you from all harm (7-8)
   A. He watches over every aspect of your life

   B. He watches over every transition in your life
      - Deuteronomy 28:6; Psalm 139:2-3

   C. He watches over you both now and forevermore
      - Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:8
“Gathering with God’s People” (Psalm 122)

“Let us go to the house of the Lord.” (Psalm 122:1)

I. Look forward to gathered worship each week (1-2)
   A. Look forward to worshiping with God’s people
      - Hebrews 10:25
   B. Enter gathered worship with anticipation and joy
      - Psalm 100:4

II. Reap the benefits of gathered worship each week (3-5)
   A. Enjoy the closeness of Christian fellowship
      - Psalm 133:1
   B. Experience the unity that comes from praising God together
      - Romans 12:4-5
   C. Receive direction from God’s word
      - Colossians 3:16; Revelation 20:11-15

III. Pray for God’s people regularly (6-9)
   A. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem
      - Genesis 12:3; Luke 19:41-42
   B. Pray for the peace of the church
      - Acts 2:42-47; Ephesians 4:3-6
   C. Pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ
      - Ephesians 6:18
   D. Seek the well-being of your church
      - Philippians 1:23-25; Revelation 21:2-4
“Looking to the Lord for Mercy” (Psalm 123)
“I lift up my eyes to you.” (Psalm 123:1)

I. Look to the Lord as the king on his throne (1)
   A. Consider his sovereignty
      - Psalm 115:3; Matthew 6:9

   B. Worship his majesty
      - 1 Chronicles 29:10-12

II. Look to the Lord as a servant looks to his master (2)
   A. Take the attitude of a servant towards God (1 Samuel 3:10)
      1) Be attentive to his will
      2) Wait patiently for his timing
      3) Be responsive to his commands

   B. Know that you are dependent on God for all things
      - 2 Chronicles 20:12; Psalm 104:24-28

   C. Know that God will help you in your time of need
      - Psalm 145:15-16; Philippians 4:19

III. Look to the Lord as your merciful Savior (3-4)
   A. He sees your suffering
      - Exodus 3:7

   B. He cares about your suffering
      - Hebrews 4:15-16

   C. He knows your limits
      - Psalm 103:13-14; 1 Corinthians 10:13

   D. God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble
      - Isaiah 13:11; James 4:6
“Depending on God” (Psalm 124)  
“If the Lord had not been on our side ...” (Psalm 124:1)

I. Affirm the difference God makes in your life (1-5)
   A. Where would you be without God?  
      - John 15:5; Galatians 6:3

   B. If God is for us, who can be against us?  
      - Psalm 118:6; Romans 8:31-32

II. Praise God for his protection and deliverance in your life (6-7)
   A. He protects you when you are in danger  
      - Psalm 121:7-8; Isaiah 43:2

   B. He rescues you when you are trapped  
      - 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Timothy 2:26

III. Tell others how God has helped you (8)  
     (compare Psalm 121:1-2)
   A. Give God the glory for what he has done  
      - Psalm 115:1; Mark 5:19

   B. Encourage others to depend on God too  
      - Psalm 20:7; Acts 4:12
“Safe and Secure” (Psalm 125)

“The LORD surrounds his people.” (Psalm 125:2)

I. Those who trust in the Lord are safe and secure (1-2)
   A. You are like Mount Zion which cannot be shaken but endures forever.
      - Psalm 16:8; John 10:28; 1 Peter 2:6

   B. The Lord surrounds you on every side.
      - 2 Kings 6:17; Psalm 34:7

II. Those who trust in the Lord have a secure inheritance (3)
   A. Your inheritance is kept safe from the wicked
      - Psalm 16:5

   B. You are kept safe to receive it
      - Matthew 24:22; 1 Peter 1:4-5

III. Those who trust in the Lord have a secure future (4-5)
   A. God will do good to those who are good
      - Matthew 12:33; Romans 2:6-8

   B. God will banish those who do evil
      - Matthew 7:21-23; Revelation 21:27

   C. God will answer his people’s prayer for peace
      - Isaiah 2:2-3
“From Tears to Joy” (Psalm 126)

“The LORD has done great things for us!” (Psalm 126:3)

I. Marvel at how God has helped you in the past (1-3)

A. Pinch me, I must be dreaming!
   - Ezra 1:1-4; Job 42:10; Acts 12:9-11

B. Laughter and songs of joy
   - Genesis 21:6-7; Job 8:21; Psalm 137:1-4

C. Glory to God and joy for us
   - Isaiah 25:9, 52:10; Luke 1:49

II. Trust God to do it again! (4-6)

A. Pray for God’s full restoration and blessing
   - Isaiah 35:6; Joel 2:25

B. Know that God will turn your sorrow into joy
   - Ruth 1:20-21, 4:16-17; Psalm 30:5; Isaiah 51:11, 61:1-3

C. Commit yourself to the Lord and continue to do good
   - Psalm 56:8; Galatians 6:9; 1 Peter 4:19; Revelation 21:4

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus ... who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame.” (Hebrews 12:2)
“Resting in God’s Blessing” (Psalm 127)

“He grants sleep to those he loves.” (Psalm 127:2)

I. God’s blessing and provision in your work (1-2)
   A. Without God your work is in vain
      - Psalm 90:17; Proverbs 16:3; John 15:5; Hebrews 3:4; James 4:13-17

   B. God grants sleep to those he loves
      - Psalm 3:5-6, 4:8, 104:19-23; Proverbs 10:22; Mark 4:38

II. God’s blessing and provision in your home (3-5)
   A. Children are a gift from the Lord
      - Genesis 33:5; 1 Samuel 1:27; James 1:17

   B. Children support and protect us in our old age
      - Deuteronomy 5:16; Proverbs 23:22; 1 Timothy 5:4,8

   C. God will provide for all your needs
      - Psalm 55:22; Matthew 6:33; Philippians 4:19
“Fearing the Lord” (Psalm 128)

“Blessed are all who fear the LORD.” (Psalm 128:1)

I. Blessed are all who fear the Lord (1-4)
   - Psalm 1:1-3, 119:1-2; John 14:21

   A. God will bless your work.
      - Genesis 2:15; Ecclesiastes 2:24-25; Haggai 1:5-6

   B. God will bless your marriage.
      - Genesis 1:28; Proverbs 7:11, 18:22

   C. God will bless your family.
      - Psalm 144:12; Proverbs 22:6; Isaiah 52:8

II. A prayer of blessing for those who fear the Lord (5-6a)

   A. May God bless you all the days of your life.
      - Psalm 23:6, 48:1, 134:3; John 14:16-17

   B. May God bless you within the community of his people.
      - Psalm 122:6-9

   C. May God bless you with a long and fulfilling life.
      - Proverbs 10:27, 17:6, 22:4; 2 Timothy 1:5

III. A prayer of peace for Israel (6b)

   Note: This is the third prayer for the peace of Israel
   - cf. Psalm 122:6, 125:5
“Persevering through Pain” (Psalm 129)

“They have not gained the victory over me.” (Psalm 129:2)

I. Persevering through the pain (1-4)

A. You can suffer pain without suffering defeat
   - Psalm 124:1-2; 2 Corinthians 4:8-10

B. God has set a limit for your suffering
   - Psalm 124:7, 125:3; Isaiah 50:6, 53:5; 1 Corinthians 10:13

C. In Christ your victory is assured
   - Jeremiah 1:19; Matthew 16:18; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10

II. Praying through the pain (5-8)

A. Pray for persecutors to be turned back in shame
   - Genesis 12:3; Psalm 35:4

B. Pray for the wicked to be stopped in their tracks
   - Psalm 92:7

C. Pray for discernment and recognition of evil
   - cf. Ruth 2:4; Isaiah 5:20; Matthew 7:6; Ephesians 5:11

D. Love and pray for your enemies
   - Matthew 5:44; Romans 12:14; Ephesians 6:12
“Waiting in Hope” (Psalm 130)
“My soul waits for the Lord.” (Psalm 130:6)

I. Cry to the Lord for mercy (1-4)
   A. Crying from out of the depths
      - Psalm 69:1-3; Psalm 124:4-5; Jonah 2:2; Lamentations 3:5

   B. If God kept a record of sins
      - Luke 18:13; Romans 3:19, 23; Revelation 20:12-13

   C. Forgiveness and fear
      - 1 Kings 8:39-40; Psalm 103:8-12; Mark 2:7; Hebrews 10:17; 1 John 2:1

II. Wait for the Lord expectantly (5-6)
   A. Our hope is in God’s word
      - Psalm 5:3; Jeremiah 29:11; 1 John 1:9

   B. “More than watchmen wait for the morning”
      - Psalm 30:5, 126:5

III. Put your hope in the Lord (7-8)
   A. With the Lord is unfailing love
      - Psalm 86:15; 1 Corinthians 13:8

   B. With the Lord is full redemption
      - Romans 3:23-24, 5:20; Ephesians 1:7

   C. The Lord will redeem his people from all their sins
      - Psalm 103:2-4; Matthew 1:21
“Humbled and Content” (Psalm 131)

“I have stilled and quieted my soul.” (Psalm 131:2)

I. Practice humility (1)
   A. Do not be proud in your heart
      - Proverbs 16:5, 18:12

   B. Do not be proud in your attitude towards others
      - Proverbs 30:13; Romans 12:16

   C. Do not feel that you have to know or understand it all
      - Deut 29:29; Job 42:3; Psalm 139:1-6; Jeremiah 45:5

II. Learn contentment (2)
   A. Be still before the Lord
      - Psalm 46:10

   B. Quiet your soul
      - Psalm 62:1; Matthew 11:28-30

   C. Rest like a weaned child with its mother
      - Isaiah 57:20-21; Matthew 18:3-4

III. Live in hope (3)
   A. Put your hope in the Lord
      - Psalm 130:7

   B. Both now and forevermore
      - Psalm 121:7-8, 125:2
“Believing God’s Promise” (Psalm 132)
“The Lord swore an oath to David.” (Psalm 132:11)

I. David’s promise to God (1-9)
   A. David’s hardships (1)
      - 2 Samuel 6:1-11; Hebrew 6:10
   B. David’s promise to find a dwelling place for the Lord (2-5)
      - Genesis 28:16-22; 2 Samuel 7:1-2
   C. David’s fulfillment of his promise to God — the temple! (6-9)
      - Numbers 10:35-36; 2 Chronicles 6:41-42

II. God’s promise to David (10-12)
   A. God’s promise of the Messiah (10)
      - 2 Chronicles 6:42
   B. God’s promise to establish David’s throne (11-12)
      - 2 Samuel 7:11-13
   C. God’s fulfillment of his promise to David — Jesus!
      - Ephesians 3:20

III. God’s promise to us (13-18)
   A. God’s promise to dwell with his people (13-14)
      - Isaiah 66:1; Matthew 1:22-23; John 1:14
   B. God’s promise to bless us with his salvation (15-16)
      - 1 Peter 2:9-10
   C. God’s fulfillment of his promise to us — Christ reign in heaven! (17-18)
      - Revelation 21:1-4, 22-27
“Living Together in Unity” (Psalm 133)

“How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!” (Psalm 133:1)

I. The goodness of living together in unity (1)

A. Unity is both good and pleasant
   - Acts 2:42-47; James 1:17

B. We are brothers and sisters together in Christ
   - Hebrews 13:1

II. The source of living together in unity (2-3a)

A. It is like oil poured on Aaron’s head
   - Exodus 30:22-33; Psalm 23:5; Ephesians 5:23,30

B. It is like the dew of Hermon falling on Mount Zion
   - Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 4:2-3; James 1:9-10

III. The blessing of living together in unity (3b)

A. God gives his blessing where believers live together in unity
   - Romans 15:5-6

B. Living together in unity is a foretaste of heaven
   - 2 Corinthians 1:21-22
PALM SUNDAY

“Blessing and Blessed” (Psalm 134)

“Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the Lord!” (Psalm 134:2)

I. May you bless the Lord! (1-2)
   A. Praise the Lord all you servants of the Lord
      - 1 Chronicles 9:33, 23:30

      1) All God’s people should praise him
         - 1 Peter 2:9

      2) All God’s people should praise him at all times
         - Psalm 30:5, 126:5

   B. Lift up your hands in worship and prayer
      - Psalm 24:3-4; 1 Timothy 2:8; Hebrews 10:19-22

II. May the Lord bless you! (3)
   A. Remember who God is: the Maker of heaven and earth
      - Psalm 121:2; 124:8

   B. Remember where God’s blessing is found: Zion
      - Hebrews 7:25-26, 12:22-23

Note: Zion = where God meets with his people

“Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Matthew 21:9)