

1. Account of God's Past mercies (1-3)

- A) His favor upon their land (1)
- B) His forgiveness of their sins (2)
- C) His forbearance of His wrath (3)

⇒ Reflecting upon God's past mercies & faithfulness is designed to stimulate us unto prayer, which is precisely what happens in the next section

2. Appeal to God's Promised mercies (4-7)

- A) Restore us (again) as in v.1 (4a)
- B) Remove your anger (again) as in v.3 (4b-5)
- C) Revive us (again) (6)
- D) Remember your covenant love (7)

3. Anticipation of God's Prospective mercies (8-13)

A) Confidence in God's promises produces patience (8a)

- ⇒ Isa. 40:31; 49:23
- ⇒ Mic. 7:7 – “Therefore I will keep watching expectantly unto the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me.
- ⇒ James 3:1 – the reason we usually don't ask is b/c we don't believe.

B) Confidence in God's promises produces commitment (8b-9)

- ⇒ If we want Yahweh to turn to us, we must make sure that the do not turn away from Him into the kind of stupidity that turns Him away.
- ⇒ The reason God is not answering our prayers is b/c we do are not so sincere as we'd like others to believe. But if we really believed that He draws near unto those who draw near to Him, we'd be > committed.
- ⇒ If we are not committed to fearing of Him, let us not waste our breath crying out for deliverance & the return of His glory, which itself evokes true fear (awe & reverence). If we are “sure” that He is loyal to those who are loyal to Him, let us seek to be loyal to Him (cf. NET, NAB).
- ⇒ The reason we seek salvation & deliverance: (9b). Wherever God's saving power is displayed, His glory is revealed. (Cf. Jam. 3:1).

C) Confidence in God's promise recites His promises (11-13)

- ⇒ In the Psalms especially, God's ‘righteousness’ is His perfect faithfulness to uphold all His covenant commitments.
- ⇒ The importance of memorizing Scripture. The psalmist knew God's promises, believed them, and therefore prayed them.
- ⇒ The psalmist is confident that God's attributes are in perfect harmony to bring His people deliverance & peace (*hesed* & *emet* are allies, not enemies; His *shalom* & *tsadiq* are friends).
- ⇒ “Indeed” Yahweh will give His people what is good, b/c righteousness goes before Him, and the path His feet tread is righteousness, not wrath