

Introduction

We are not told who the author of this Psalm is. We are simply told in the Psalm heading three things:

- 1) That this Psalm is written to the chief Musician – i.e. God!
- 2) Maschil – Means that this is a Psalm of *“instruction with understanding.”*
i.e. There is some teaching here for us!
- 3) This Psalm is written for *“the sons of Korah.”*

Korah was a Levite. He was a cousin of Moses and Aaron, who joined in a rebellion against God’s appointed leadership of His people.

Because of his rebellion, the wrath of God blazed out against this man and his fellow conspirators (Dathan and Abiram) in a rumbling earthquake that opened up the earth and dropped them into the pit. All that pertained to Dathan and Abiram were consumed, including their families, but **Numbers 26:11** tells us that the children of Korah died not.

In other words, **the children of Korah were vessels of mercy in the midst of the wrath of God. God’s judgment was tempered with mercy. So they are a type of the Believer in Christ! We Believers are all vessels of mercy!**

So, we could say that **the message here is for all of God’s vessels of mercy of which we who are Believers are a part of.**

Read Psalm 42

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Verses 3 and 10 have this phrase in them, *“Where is thy God?”*

It is the taunt of an enemy to a saint who finds himself in circumstances of deep distress, when all the waves and billows of life are gone over him.

When a child of God is at such a low point in his life that he thinks things can’t get much worse, but then they get worse. (e.g. Job’s trials)

Many times **the devil will tempt** the believer who is struggling with difficult circumstances of life by whispering the question, *“Where is thy God?”* or *“Where is your God now?”*

Many times **the world says it as we struggle to hold on to our faith in the midst of deep trials** such as we are seeing in our country right now with this COVID-19 pandemic and all the pain and suffering it is inflicting!

The fact is, those without God in their lives doubt the reality of a God who would allow such things to those who love Him!

Many times **it’s even our flesh that can feel it as we look for reasons why!** Whether it be **physical or emotional pain and suffering we are experiencing...or sorrowful circumstances...or financial setbacks...or even fear of the unknown...or our perplexity of all that we are experiencing as we go through the valley of trials with unanswered questions!**

We cry out in the midst of it all, *“Why?”* or *“Where were you when I needed you God?”* We want to hope in God, but when we’re overwhelmed by some really difficult things happening to us or around us in this life, it is hard to do and the enemies of **the world, the flesh, and the devil** all cry out and mock us saying – *“Where is your God now?”*

I. WHAT ARE WE TO MAKE OF LIFE’S PERPLEXITIES AND DIFFICULTIES THAT COME OUR WAY AS BELIEVERS?

Because sometimes life hits us with things that might even make us as Believers question the goodness and fairness of God:

Maybe it’s the tragic loss of a loved one taken away in the prime of life.

Maybe it’s a miscarriage or untimely death of a young child.

Maybe it’s a long, drawn out illness where you or a loved one suffer beyond belief.

Maybe it’s a child kidnaped without a trace.

Maybe it’s a life touched by unbelievable violence.

Maybe it’s a spouse or a child who has broken a trust or brought great disappointment and sorrow in some way.

Maybe it’s something like this pandemic that is causing great pain and suffering to many and great loss to others.

Maybe it’s something else entirely that brings perplexity.

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Well, understand that sometimes THERE JUST ARE NO EASY ANSWERS?

Even as we read our Bible and we see God's servant by the name of Job being pummeled by Satan, **even the answers that we see, we sometimes have difficulty with.**

We may begin to question right along with those in the world saying, *"What kind of God treats His faithful servant that way?"*

i.e. We can begin to question the very goodness of God!

As we read how Job mounted His complaint against God, **we are tempted, as we read it, to think that just maybe Job has sufficient cause to complain against God!**

After all, Job had been faithful to God and he had known the blessing of God and had not taken that blessing for granted. Then, BOOM!... Out of nowhere he is blind-sided by Satan—Where was God?

Even though Job couldn't see God and even though God was silent until near the end, nevertheless, HE WAS THERE WITH JOB with His hand on the thermostat of how much Satan could turn up the heat!

Some might say, but really, it wasn't enough that he lost all that he had materially and was mourning the loss of all 10 of his children killed at one time, but then he began to suffer physically!

And if that was not enough, his wife turned on him and tried to get him to curse God and die!

And if that was not enough Job's three friends came by and added insult to injury and laid the charge that Job was to blame for all of this that came into his life.

When God manifests Himself to Job in Chapter 38-39 it might seem to some that God was harsh and unsympathetic to Job's trials?

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Then about the time we think God's discourse was over, He continued in Chapter 40. And some would want to throw a penalty flag on God for personal foul and piling on Job.

But listen, in the end Job knew he was wrong and that God was right! Don't miss that or you'll get bitter against God when trials come your way!

So, what do we do with life's perplexities? Well, as we said, there are no easy answers! But we need to know and understand the truth that **GOD IS ALWAYS GOOD AND GOD IS ALWAYS RIGHT!**

II. LET'S TALK ABOUT WHAT WE MUST NOT DO—WE MUST NOT ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE CONTROLLED BY OR GUIDED BY OUR FEELINGS OR EMOTIONS!

Now I understand the **we all are emotional creatures. Some are more emotional than others!**

Our feelings and emotions can easily change and can toss us to unbelievable extremes.

We can feel elated one moment when God answers a prayer in a miraculous way! Then, the next moment it is as if heaven is sealed up with stainless steel and we can't get through to God to save our lives!

But God does not want us to be guided by our feelings and emotions, but rather we are to be guided by His truth and by our faith in Him! That brings us to my next point.

III. LET'S TALK ABOUT WHAT WE MUST DO—WE MUST ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS BELIEVE GOD AND TAKE HIM AT HIS WORD!

The Bible calls these times the "trial of your faith." (1 Peter 1:3-9) I don't know who first said it, but I've heard dozens of times that, *"A faith that cannot be tested is a faith that cannot be trusted."*

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A. The Word Of God Says That Our God Is *“The God Of All Comfort.”* (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

Look to God for comfort! No matter what you are going through, God has some words of comfort for you in His Word!

If you are having difficulty finding that comfort from His Word, ask for help!

And if God has comforted you in something that you see someone else going through a similar trial, allow yourself to be used of God to help that other person find comfort from God just as you did!

B. The Word Of God Says That Our God Is *“The God Of All Grace.”*

1 Peter 5:10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

Look to Him for grace—whatever kind of grace you need!
Saving grace, sanctifying grace, serving grace, suffering grace.

(Cf. Paul’s thorn in the flesh in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, the LORD said “My grace is sufficient for thee.”)

C. The Word Of God Says That Our God Will Never Leave Us Nor Forsake Us.

*Hebrews 13:5-6 5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.
6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*

Now understand that sometimes we can’t trace God.
(i.e. Sometimes we have trouble finding Him in it at all!)

But, and I’ve said this before, thank God that even when we can’t trace God, we can trust Him!

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There is a song that I love called:
“Standing Somewhere In The Shadows.”

Verse 1

*Are your crosses too heavy to carry;
And burdens too heavy to bear?
Are there heartaches and tears and anguish;
And there's no one who seems to care?*

Verse 2

*Are there shadows of deep disappointment,
And trusts that have proven untrue?
Has the darkness of night settled round you
Has your hope and your faith wavered too?*

Verse 3

*Has the storm over shadowed your sunshine,
And life lost attraction for you?
Have the dreams that you cherished been broken,
Is you soul filled with bitterness too?*

Chorus

*Standing somewhere in the shadows you'll find Jesus,
He's the Friend who always cares and understands.
Standing somewhere in the shadows you will find Him
And you'll know Him by the nail prints in His hands.*

D. The Word Of God Says That God Works Things Together For Good To Them That Love The Lord!

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

It doesn’t say that all things are good.

It doesn’t even say that we will necessarily be able to see the good.

It does say that God works things together for our good if we love Him and are called according to His purpose!

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- E. The Word Of God Says That Absolutely Nothing Can Separate Us From The Love Of Christ!**
(Romans 8:31, 35, 38-39)
- F. The Word Of God Says That God Will Not Put On Us More Than We Can Bear!**
1 Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.
- G. The Word Of God Says That We Should Wait On The LORD!**
Psalm 27:14 – “Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.”
- The word “*wait*” there can mean “*to bind together*” but it also means “*to expect.*”
- Psalm 130:5 – “I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.”*
- The word “*hope*” there means a “*patient expectation.*”
- Psalm 40:1 – “I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.”*
- Isaiah 40:28-31*
- H. The Word Of God Says That God’s Way Is Perfect! (i.e. He Makes No Mistakes!)**
Psalm 18:30 & 2 Samuel 22:31 – “As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him.”

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- We Should Learn From The Lesson Of Job. (Job 42:2-6)**
- 1. Our Understanding Is Limited–We have a finite mind.**
 - 2. Our Understanding Is Obscured–We haven’t seen God.**

Conclusion

Where is God in what we’re going through right now? Listen closely, He’s still where He always has been. He is with us who are Believers! Though we may not sense His manifest presence, He is there with us! Look To Him! Trust Him! Wait on Him!

When The Enemy Says Where Is Your God? Know This!

- 1. God Is Within Us!** (As A Witness To Us That We Are God’s Own!)
1 Corinthians 6:19 – “What know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you.”

John 14:16-17 – “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

- 2. God Is With Us!** (Wherever We Go And In Whatever We Face!)
Psalm 46:7 – “The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.”

Matthew 28:20 – “. . .and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”

- 3. God Is Around Us!** (To Protect Us!)
Psalm 34:7 – “The Angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear Him and delivereth them.”

A. He Is Before Us! (To Lead Us!)
John 10:27-29; Psalm 23

B. He Is Behind Us! (To Guard Us!)
Just as much as He was behind Israel when Pharaoh and the Egyptian army was pursuing them in *Exodus 14:9-19.*

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C. **He Is Beneath Us!** (To Uphold Us!)
Deuteronomy 33:27– “*The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.*”

4. **God Is Above Us!** (In Wisdom!)
Isaiah 55:9 – “*For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*”

If you don't have God in your life—where is He?

1. He's the one Who sent His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ to pay the penalty for your sins by dying on the cross of Calvary!
2. He's the one Who came in the person of Jesus Christ to seek and to save that which was lost!
3. He's the one knocking on your heart's door wanting to come in. But, you've got to open the door.
4. He's waiting with welcoming, outstretched arms of love. Waiting for you to repent of your sin and come to Him for salvation.
5. He's the one Who is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.
6. If you refuse Him, you'll find Him on the Great White Throne of Judgment!