

Psalm 30 is a psalm of David. H. A. Ironside said the next five psalms (30-34) are great psalms of salvation (*Psalms*, p. 173). God had wrought a great deliverance and this psalm makes that point very clear. The superscription reads that this is a song written for the “Dedication of the House.”

Now there have been three views as to what that actually means:

- 1) Some have suggested that this is a psalm of dedication that David wrote when the Tabernacle had been constructed and David was back worshipping at it.
- 2) Some have suggested that this is a psalm of dedication that dedicates the land where the Temple of Solomon would sit.
- 3) Some have suggested that this is a psalm of dedication that David wrote when he was finally in Jerusalem and had his own house built to live in as King. The truth is we just don't know.

There is certainly something wonderful and very special about dedicating a new property to God. It is a special moment when a new church building is dedicated to the Lord. When God's people are able to gather at a new facility and offer praise and worship to God for what they have seen God do, it is a wonderful moment. This is apparently what David was experiencing here.

There is also something wonderful when God gives you your own home and you can praise Him for that. David believed God walked with him through all aspects of life, including when he got his own home. All of these moments are special God-honoring moments in life and it was this kind of moment that was the backdrop for David writing this psalm. The point of the psalm is this:

WHEN GOD FINALLY DELIVER'S HIS PEOPLE AND BLESSES THEM BY GIVING THEM A WONDERFUL PLACE TO LIVE AND WORSHIP, HIS PEOPLE SHOULD EXALT GOD, PRAISE GOD, THANK GOD AND BE JOYFUL.

For David to actually be in Jerusalem in his own home as King and to be able to worship God at the tabernacle was a very wonderful moment. The path to getting him to this place was lined with difficulty and hardship.

Now there are four ways that David exalts God in this psalm:

EXALTATION WAY #1 – David exalts God personally and privately. **30:1-3**

The Hebrew word “extol” is one that means to lift up to a high and lofty position (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 761). David is personally and privately exalting God and is elevating God in his worship. There are four reasons for this:

Reason #1 - Because God has lifted him up. **30:1b**

God had literally lifted David up from being a shepherd to King. It is only natural that David lift up God in worship for that. Really, no one can lift up God, because He is always the lifted up God; but what we can do is acknowledge how great, how high and how lofty God is, which is exactly what David is doing here.

All of us who know Christ can praise God because God has lifted us up out of the pit of sin and darkness and eternal death and has raised us up to being in an exalted status of a child of God.

Reason #2 - Because God did not let David's enemies rejoice. **30:1c**

The enemies of David wanted him gone, in fact, they wanted him dead (Psalm 68:20). Had God let David be destroyed, his enemies would have had a field day of rejoicing. But God did not allow it. He came to David's defense and his enemies could only stand in awe of what they had seen God do.

Reason #3 - Because God helped and healed David. **30:2**

It is very possible that David was literally physically sick and near death. Many interpreters believe that David wrote this after recovering from a fatal sickness. In this verse, David prayed and God answered his prayers.

The truth is whether our disease is physical, spiritual or emotional, let us quickly appeal to God as our Great Physician. It is important that we pray for the sick (Deut. 32:39; I Sam. 2:6).

Reason #4 - Because God sustained David. **30:3**

David had literally faced death and God sustained him and kept him alive. He was able to live in Jerusalem and worship God and that is why he was exalting God in this psalm.

The truth is any who have experienced salvation from God may exalt God for these very same reasons:

- 1) God has lifted us up.
- 2) God has defeated our enemies.
- 3) God has helped us and healed us.
- 4) God has sustained us.

EXALTATION WAY #2 – David promotes the exaltation of God publicly . **30:4-5**

David had been delivered by God and he wanted faithful people to praise God for it. In this part of the psalm, he encourages all godly people of Israel to offer praise to God.

In this part of the psalm, he encourages all godly people of Israel to offer praise to God. Notice only godly people are in a position to praise and worship God. He encouraged all godly people to praise God and thank God for four reasons:

Reason #1 - Godly people may praise God because His anger is momentary. **30:5a**

One Bible scholar observed there is nothing of which we should speak more carefully and reverently about than the anger of God. When God gets angry at His own, it is a righteous anger, it is a deserved anger and it is a dangerous anger. His anger is designed to produce righteousness (Heb.12:3-13). **But David also brings out that it is a momentary anger, especially if His people mourn and repent.**

Reason #2 - Godly people may praise God because His favor is forever. **30:5b**

Godly people understand that God's chastisement is brief but His favor is forever. There is a time limit to the fiery anger of God but there is no time limit to the favor of God.

Reason #3 - Godly people may praise God because sorrow is temporal. **30:5c**

Mourning only lasts until morning. Storms do come into the life of the people of God. There are things that hit us that make us hurt and there are times when we cry. But those times are temporal and the time of it is controlled by God. The sun will shine after the darkness.

Reason #4 - Godly people may praise God because after sorrow comes joy. **30:5d**

God will always turn the tears of the godly into joy. In fact, God will take sorrowful things so far away from His people that they will shout for joy. After times of sadness comes times of gladness.

EXALTATION WAY #3 – David promises that he will exalt God in his prosperity. **30:6-7**

There is a danger in prosperity. God's blessings may potentially give birth to confidence and confidence may give birth to carelessness.

David would never allow any position or prosperity to move him away from worship. David realized that everything he had God had given to him and he never wanted God to hide His face of blessing from David. He continued to honor God at a high and exalted level.

EXALTATION WAY #4 – David petitions God and exalts Him prayerfully. **30:8-12**

David was a prayer warrior. Even though he had the favor of God, he did not stop praying. He did not stop thanking God and exalting God. David realized that if he died he would no longer be a leader who could declare great truths about God. **For David, personal exaltation led to greater opportunities for public communication about the greatness of God.**

In **verse 10**, David asks God to be gracious to him and continue to help him. Now this is a preventative prayer. In fact, in **verse 11** David says that God had already helped him and turned his sorrow into joy, his mourning into dancing and his humility into gladness. God had given David a tremendous deliverance victory and David always wanted that from God.

What David is doing here is praying about the future. God had blessed him and David wanted God to continue to bless him. David desired to praise God forever, as long as he lived his life on this earth and in order for that to happen, he needed God's favor.

LESSONS FROM PSALM #30

- 1) We need to exalt God for who and what He reveals Himself to be.**
- 2) It is right to worship and praise God when He delivers us from our enemies.**
- 3) Godly people do experience trials temporarily.**
- 4) God will eventually replace sorrow with joy.**