

# THE OTHER SIDE OF THE JOURNEY! PSALM 129

Psalm 128 & Psalm 129 go tother! They must be held together, and even sung together!

**129:1-3: Cantor / Reader / Leader**

**129:4 : response of Congregation**

**129:5-8 : Unison**

## 1. A Call to Remember / Rehearse!

**Psalm 129:1** Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth, **May Israel now say:**

**Psalm 129:2** Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth: Yet they have not prevailed against me. **Psalm 129:3**  
The plowers plowed upon my back: They made long their furrows.

**The Cantor begins by rehearsing what Israel can say:**

➤ **We have been afflicted** 1-2

Suffered, attacked, distressed...

➤ **We have been afflicted many times & in many ways**

Many a time (רַבָּתַי) = both number & magnitude

➤ **We have been afflicted from our youth – since the beginning of the nation**

**Exodus 1:11** Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses. **Exodus 1:12** But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel. **Exodus 1:13** And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour: **Exodus 1:14** And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigour.

**Exodus 2:22** And she bare him a son, and he called his name Gershom: for he said, I have been a stranger in a strange land. **Exodus 2:23** And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage. **Exodus 2:24** And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. **Exodus 2:25** And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them.

➤ **We have been afflicted seriously, ruthlessly, & cruelly!**

**Psalm 129:3** The plowers plowed upon my back: They made long their furrows.

**Micah 3:12** Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed as a field, And Jerusalem shall become heaps, And the mountain of the house as the high places of the forest.

➤ **We have been afflicted irrationally**

**Psalm 129:5** Let them all be confounded and turned back That hate Zion.

**John 15:18** If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. **John 15:19** If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. **John 15:20** Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. **John 15:21** But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.

**John 16:33** These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

**Philippians 1:29** For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;

**Acts 14:22** Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, **and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.**

➤ **We have been afflicted but...not too much | not beyond help!!!**

**Psalm 129:2** Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth: **Yet they have not prevailed against me.**

**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.

**Psalm 37:23** The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: And he delighteth in his way. **Psalm 37:24** **Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: For the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.**

**Proverbs 24:16** For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: But the wicked shall fall into mischief. **Proverbs 24:17** Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, And let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth:

## **2. A Response of Faith & Confidence!**

**Psalm 129:4** **The LORD is righteous:** He hath cut asunder the cords of the wicked.

Righteous = just, right, righteous!

**In the middle of a raging flood – believers have a place to stand!**

**Genesis 18:25** That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: **Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?**

**Psalm 103:19** The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; And his kingdom ruleth over all.

**1 Samuel 17:45** Then said David to the Philistine, **Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.**

**Daniel 3:16** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. **Daniel 3:17** If it be so, **our God whom we serve is able** to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. **Daniel 3:18** But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

**Job 19:25** **For I know that my redeemer liveth,** And that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: **Job 19:26** And though after my skin worms destroy this body, Yet in my flesh shall I see God: **Job 19:27** Whom I shall see for myself, And mine eyes shall behold, and not another; Though my reins be consumed within me.

**Job 23:10** But he knoweth the way that I take: When he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

**Revelation 11:15** And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, **The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.**

## **3. A Prayer for a Just Intervention!**

As a kid growing up at FBC of Fieldon, we read this exactly like this

Leader →

← congregation

**And then the last verse(s) in unison**

**Psalm 129:5** Let them all be confounded and turned back That hate Zion.

**Psalm 129:6** Let them be as the grass upon the housetops, Which withereth afore it groweth up:

**Psalm 129:7** Wherewith the mower filleth not his hand; Nor he that bindeth sheaves his bosom.

**Psalm 129:8** **Neither** do they which go by say, The blessing of the LORD be upon you: We bless you in the name of the LORD.