

# Disillusioned by God?

There are several categories of Psalms (Psalms of Thanksgiving, Praise & Trust → Psalms of LAMENT) Lament largest group 54 - (next royal & prophetic with 22) - maybe because lament is a common experience

- **Why Have You Forsaken Me?** (Psalm 22:1)
- **O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.** (Psa 22:2)
- **"Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?"** (Psalm 10:1)

*(Dennis Bratcher) The theological significance of a lament is that it expresses a trust in God in the absence of any evidence that He is active in the world.*

Psa 13:1-6 ESV - an example of the flow of a lamentation

**From expressing the emotion of the crisis...**

- How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? 2 How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

**To asking God to intervene...**

- 3 Consider and answer me, O LORD my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, 4 lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

**To affirming trust even tho there is no immediate deliverance from the crisis (present, past and future)**

- 5 But I have trusted in your **steadfast love**; my heart shall rejoice in **your salvation**. 6 I will sing to the LORD, because **he has dealt bountifully** with me.

## Three Things That Help Us Affirm Our Trust even tho'

**God's love is steadfast (psalm 136 has 26 verses each ends with "his love endures forever")**

- Psa 36:5 ESV Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.
- Joh 15:13 ESV **Greater love has no one than this**, that someone lay down his life for his friends.
- Rom 8:35 ESV **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

**God's promise is sure**

- Rom 8:18 ESV For I consider that the sufferings of this **present** time are not worth comparing with the **glory that is to be revealed** to us.
- 2Co 4:17 ESV For this **light momentary affliction** is preparing for us an **eternal weight of glory** beyond all comparison,
- 2 Cor 1:8-9 ESV "For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was **to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.**"

**God's testimony is true**

- Psa 77:7-13 ESV "Will the Lord spurn forever, and never again be favorable? 8 Has his steadfast love forever ceased? Are his promises at an end for all time? 9 Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he in anger shut up his compassion?" Selah. 10 Then I said, "I will appeal to this, to the years of the right hand of the Most High." 11 I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. 12 I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds. 13 Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God?