

PSALM 6

Prayer for Mercy in Time of Trouble

I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. Roy Enoch (10-20-93).
- B. For the Chief Musician, on stringed instruments, set to the Sheminith. A Psalm of David.
- C. In the superscription, "set to the Sheminith" means "set to the eighth," and it is thought that their tunes were numbered, and the various lyrics were assigned a specific tune.
- D. Coffman points out that this has long been considered to be one of seven Penitential Psalms, namely, 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, and 143. No specific sin is mentioned to indicate why David felt that he was under God's wrath. Whether his sickness was attributed to guilt, or fear of enemies, we can only guess. Sin seems the most likely reason.

THE TEXT.

- 6:1** O LORD, do not rebuke me in Your anger,
Nor chasten me in Your wrath.
- 2** Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I *am* pining away;
Heal me, O LORD, for my bones are dismayed.
- 3** And my soul is greatly dismayed;
But You, O LORD--how long?
- 4** Return, O LORD, rescue my soul;
Save me because of Your lovingkindness.
- 5** For there is no mention of You in death;
In Sheol who will give You thanks?
- 6** I am weary with my sighing;
Every night I make my bed swim,
I dissolve my couch with my tears.
- 7** My eye has wasted away with grief;
It has become old because of all my adversaries.
- 8** Depart from me, all you who do iniquity,
For the LORD has heard the voice of my weeping.
- 9** The LORD has heard my supplication,
The LORD receives my prayer.
- 10** All my enemies will be ashamed and greatly dismayed;
They shall turn back, they will suddenly be ashamed.

COMMENTS.

- A. **[v1-3]** "Your anger... Your hot displeasure" seems to imply guilt that would cause one to attribute one's hardship or illness to God's wrath. "Have mercy on me, O Jehovah" is significant in that he doesn't want justice. David does not plead innocence, but penitence.
- B. **[v4,5]** "In death there is no remembrance of You" seems to indicate that he feels that his illness is life threatening and that only God can heal by forgiving. This verse is sometimes used to claim that there is no consciousness after death. Jesus describes a concern for the welfare of those on the earth by those in Hades in Lk. 16:27-28. He could not reach them or know what they were doing at the time, but he knew how they were when he left them.
- C. **[v6,7]** "All night I make my bed swim; I drench my couch with my tears." This is a typical example of biblical hyperbole: exaggeration for the purpose of emphasis. It describes David's repentance and evidence of a broken heart. Paul refers to this in 2Cor. 7:10 "Godly sorrow works repentance."
- D. **[v8-10]** "Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity;" is quoted by the Lord twice in the gospels (Mt. 7:23; Lk. 13:27). David seems to equate his separation from workers of iniquity with God hearing his prayer. Notice the change of tense, "The Lord has heard my supplication; the Lord will receive my prayer." Here is the trust and confidence that we need in order for the Lord to answer prayer (Jas. 1:5-8).