

## PSALM 13

*Prayer for Help in Trouble.*

### INTRODUCTION.

- A. Roy Enoch (11-24-93).
- B. For the Chief Musician, A Psalm of David. "Yearning for Help from God."
- C. This situation seems to be the same as the last psalm. The structure of this psalm:
  - 1. Five lines of lament (13:1,2).
  - 2. Four lines of prayer (13:3,4).
  - 3. Three lines of faith and rejoicing (13:5,6).

### THE TEXT.

- 13:1** How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever?  
How long will You hide Your face from me?
- 2** How long shall I take counsel in my soul,  
Having sorrow in my heart all the day?  
How long will my enemy be exalted over me?
- 3** Consider and answer me, O LORD my God;  
Enlighten my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,
- 4** And my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"  
And my adversaries will rejoice when I am shaken.
- 5** But I have trusted in Your lovingkindness;  
My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.
- 6** I will sing to the LORD,  
Because He has dealt bountifully with me.

### COMMENTS.

- A. Lament - five lines.  
**[v1,2]** Four times the plaintive cry, "How long?" rises in these five lines. A feeling that one is separated from God is an agonizing disposition. Since He recognized that God is the source of all happiness, wisdom, strength and life itself, he feels despair in being away from God. But we should realize that our feelings are not always dependable. We may underestimate God's willingness to forgive, though seldom do we underestimate our sinfulness.
- B. Prayer - four lines.  
**[v3,4]** This prayer expresses three dangers if God does not hear and answer. If he dies, his enemies will cast reflections on his God. Many times God says that He forgives to keep from being dishonored before the nations when His nation Israel sinned. Moses used this plea for Israel: Num. 14:15,16.
- C. Rejoicing in faith - three lines.  
**[v5,6]** Did the prayer bring faith? Or was the faith revived by prayer? Or was the anxiety the result of momentary distraction by the trials of the world like Peter when he was walking on the water to the Lord, but was distracted by the winds and waves and began to sink? We would probably be distracted less by the world if we prayed more to God.