

This portion of the gigantic psalm sees the Psalmist in extremis. His enemies have brought him to the lowest condition of anguish and depression; yet he is faithful to the law and trustful in his God. This octave is the midnight of the psalm, and very dark and black it is. Stars, however, shine out, and the last verse gives promise of the dawn. - Spurgeon

81 ¶ KAPH. My soul faints for Your salvation, But I hope in Your word.

A failing soul

Ps 73:26 My flesh and my heart fail; *But God is* the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Holy Longing is the mark of maturity. There must be persistence in our pursuit of Christ

Ps 42:1-2 << A Contemplation of the sons of Korah.>> As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?

David knew where he moored his ship. Hope without a promise is like an anchor without ground to helot by; but David's hope fixed itself upon the divine word. --William Gurnall.

So 5:8 I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, If you find my beloved, That you tell him I *am* lovesick!

Be cautious of apathy

Re 3:15-16 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

82 My eyes fail from searching Your word, Saying, "When will You comfort me?"

How Long O Lord?

Ps 69:3 I am weary with my crying; My throat is dry; My eyes fail while I wait for my God.

A humble eye lifted up to heaven in silent prayer may flash such flame as shall melt the bolts which bar the entrance of vocal prayer, and so heaven shall be taken by storm with the artillery of tears.

Pr 13:12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But *when* the desire comes, *it is* a tree of life.

Hope: Desire and expectation

The same spirit of faith which teaches man to cry earnestly, teaches him to wait patiently; for as it assures that mercy is in the Lord's hand, so it assures him, it will come forth in Lord's time. --John Mason

83 ¶ For I have become like a wineskin in smoke, Yet I do not forget Your statutes.

Blackened thoughts

Ps 22:15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death.

Lu 5:37 "And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined.

The Victory of Faith

Blackened the man of God might be by falsehood, but the truth was in him, and he never gave it up - Spurgeon

Remember 160 times

Jude 17* But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Re 2:5* "Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent.

84 ¶ How many *are* the days of Your servant? When will You execute judgment on those who persecute me?

1 of 2 verses that do not use one of the ten words for Gods law

He declares that he does not doubt but that there will be at some period an end to his afflictions, and that there will be a time in which his haters and enemies will be judged and punished. He assumes the fact and therefore enquires the date. Thus in the saints their very impatience of delay does itself prove their confidence of future salvation and deliverance. --

Wolfgang Musculus .

Re 6:10* And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

There will be a reckoning

85 ¶ The proud have dug pits for me, Which *is* not according to Your law.

Are you digging pits for anyone? Stop!

Let men beware how they dig pits for others. All God's word testifies against such wickedness. How many tests are invented simply for the purpose of entangling men's consciences and furnishing ground for persecution. --William S. Plumer

Jer 18:20 Shall evil be repaid for good? For they have dug a pit for my life. Remember that I stood before You To speak good for them, To turn away Your wrath from them.

86 All Your commandments *are* faithful; They persecute me wrongfully; Help me!

1. God is true

He had no fault to find with God's law, even though he had fallen into sad trouble through obedience to it - Spurgeon

Unstable like water is the world but truth is immovable

2. I am innocent

There is a stress on the word *falsely* (or *wrongfully*); for that is a true saying of a martyr saint, "The cause, not the pain, makes the martyr."

3. Help

God help me" is an excellent, comprehensive prayer

87 They almost made an end of me on earth, But I did not forsake Your precepts.

1. What the good man loses by gaining.

The lives of good men are full of narrow escapes. The righteous are scarcely saved

1Pe 4:18* Now "If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

2. What he gains by losing

88 ¶ Revive me according to Your lovingkindness, So that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth.

Give me more life not less trials

**The surest token of God's goodwill towards us is his good work in us. --
Matthew Henry .**

1. New life is the cause of new obedience.

2. New obedience is the effect of new life