

Studies in Psalms by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

Psalm 129

4/12/13

There is uncertainty regarding the author, time, or circumstances of these Psalms, but it is apparent [Psalms 120-134](#) work together, and are called the "Songs of Degrees," and sometimes "Songs of Ascension."

Psalm 129 Scars of Youth

Verses 1-4 mention scars from youth while prevailing;
Verses 5-8 describe uselessness in life for God's enemies.

Verses 1-4: (Verses 1-2) The "afflictions" from "youth" are what shape us as adults. Since this appeal is for "Israel" to say this seems to indicate the "afflictions" were what was happening to them in Egypt when they started as a nation ([Exodus 1:8-14](#)). Much later, God said: "I will give her her vineyards from there, And the Valley of Achor as a door of hope; She shall sing there, As in the days of her youth, As in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt" ([Hosea 2:15](#)). Those who did the afflicting "have not prevailed."

(Verse 3) Egyptian slave masters scarred Israelite backs just as if plows had left the scars! **(Verse 4)** The righteous (upright, responsive to truth) LORD "cut" them free from "the cords of the wicked" ([Exodus 2-15](#)).

Verses 5-8: (Verse 5) Leave it in the hands of the LORD. To "hate Zion" in the Old Testament, meant to despise God's Temple on Mount Zion in Jerusalem, and the Israelites who worshiped there ([Psalm 68:16; 87:1-3](#)). The other side of God's promise to bless His people who obeyed, was that He "will put all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you" ([Deuteronomy 30:7](#)).

(Verses 6-8) This recognition of what God could do to enemies is based upon a frequent practice in the Mid-East, that is, to cover their roofs with dirt, plant grass which grew quickly with rain, but then as quickly dried out before it could be mowed or harvested. In other words, it would be worthless as to its usefulness and quickly forgotten. And the punishment from the LORD for His enemies should include no future blessing because of a good harvest, such as was used in [Ruth 2:4](#). The desire is that God would make enemies suffer because of their own unworthiness.



Studies in Psalms by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

Thought: When Jesus came, “though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him” ([Hebrews 5:8-9](#)). It was prophesied of Him:

Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed ([Isaiah 53:4-5](#)).

He took the scars of sin upon Himself to establish the church of Christ in its youth ([Acts 2:22-41; 20:28](#)). Becoming a Christian means casting our sins on Him in repentance ([1 Corinthians 6:9-11](#)), and being baptized for salvation from those sins ([Acts 18:8; 1 Peter 3:21](#)). Then God will render enemies useless ([Proverbs 6:12-15; 1 Timothy 6:3-5](#)).

