

# Singing in the King's Choir Keswick 2024

## 2: The Suffering King (Psalm 13)

### Introduction

What can sad Christians sing?

Tension between the now and the not yet

A promise for the future: God's universal King (1:8)

The reality in the present: God's rejected/suffering King (3:1)

Books I and II

Psalms of David (72:22)

Mostly laments

### Psalm 13

"For the director of music"

"A Psalm of David"

#### 1. *A cry of anguish (v1-2)*

"How long, Lord?" (v1)

"a yell rather than a thought" (C.S. Lewis)

Breadth of pain: spiritual (v1b), psychological (v2a), circumstantial (v2b)

These are David's words

Some of what he says is alien to us

- Intensity and significance of the suffering (3:7-8)
- Cry for judgement (139:21-22)
- Righteousness of the sufferer (26:1)
- sometimes alien to David too (51; 110:1, Mt 22:41-46)

These are Jesus' words (David's story becomes Jesus' story)

E.g., "Even my close friend, who shared my bread, has turned against me" (41:9; Jn 13:18). See also: 22:1 (Mt.27:46); 31:5 (Lk. 23:46)

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (22:1; Mt 27:46)

"Into your hands I commit my spirit" (31:5; Lk 23:46)

They can become our words (Jesus' story has become our story)

"How long until you come to judge?" (Rev 6:10)

Breadth of pain

loneliness (25:16); grief (35:14); physical pain (38:7); sadness (42:3); shame (44:15);  
feeling overwhelmed (69:1-2); depression and despair (88:6, 18b)

## **2. A prayer of faith (v3-4)**

"Look on me... Lord my God... give light to my eyes" (v3)

The King's song

"fervent cries and tears" (Heb 5:7)

Do we pray like this?

## **3. A declaration of confidence (v5-6)**

A change of perspective, not circumstances

He does not just look around or in, but he

- Looks up

"I trust in your unfailing love" (v5)

"the Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead" (Lk 24:46)

"you will not... let your Holy one see decay" (16:10; Acts 2:27-31)

"he has not despised... the suffering of the afflicted one" (22:24)

- Looks forward

"my heart rejoices in your salvation" (v5)

"For the joy that was set before him he endured the cross" (Heb 12:2)

"weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning" (30:5)

- Looks back

"he has been good to me" (v6)

"sorrowful, yet always rejoicing" (2 Cor 6:10)

## **Conclusion**

Book I begins with lament (3:1) and ends with praise (41:13)

Book II begins with lament (42:3)

David as an old man (71:18) looking to the future (a new king: 72:11,17)

Ends with praise (72:18-20)