

Floods

Psalm 6

O Lord, rebuke me not in your anger,
nor discipline me in your wrath.
Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing;
heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled.
My soul also is greatly troubled.
But you, O Lord- how long?

Turn, O Lord, deliver my life;
save me for the sake of your steadfast love.
For in death there is no remembrance of you;
in Sheol who will give you praise?

I am weary with my moaning;
every night I flood my bed with tears;
I drench my couch with my weeping.
My eye wastes away because of grief;
it grows weak because of all my foes.

Depart from me, all you workers of evil,
for the Lord has heard the sound of my weeping.
The Lord has heard my plea;
the Lord accepts my prayer.
All my enemies shall be ashamed and greatly troubled;
they shall turn back and be put to shame
in a moment.

Have you ever flooded your bed with tears like David? Maybe you have when a loved one died, maybe when you've been in great pain, or maybe your flooding tears were tears of joy. Tears reveal the deep emotions that are

stirring within us. God created us with the ability to cry - not just to keep our eyes moist, but as an outlet for these deep emotions.

Why was David flooding his bed with his tears? For him it was fear - the fear of God's anger and wrath. David was feeling the weight of his sins and he was greatly troubled by them. Maybe he wrote this psalm after his adultery and when he arranged for the murder of the woman's husband to cover it up (2 Samuel 11:1 - 12:15). And then maybe he remembered another flood caused by sin like his, a story he had heard many times - of Noah, when the world was so sinful and evil that God decided to destroy it all with a great flood (Genesis 6:1 - 9:17). That's what he deserved.

We don't tend to take sin all that seriously today. We shrug it off and think it not so bad, chalk it up to youth, think what we do wrong just harmless mistakes, or think our excuses excuse us. Well, none of that is true. The truth is that we, like David, deserve the wrath and anger of God. And that should scare us.

But there is something David remembers that helps him at just such a time as this: *the steadfast love of the Lord*. The love of God that caused Him to promise a Saviour from sin, to receive the anger and wrath against our sin in our place. A Saviour who would flood the world with His blood that cleanses us from our sin. And that this love of God is even greater than His anger and wrath.

So by the end of the psalm, David, though *fearful*, is also *hopeful*. With his eyes off his sin and latched onto the promise of God, he is confident that the Lord has *heard the sound of his weeping, has heard his plea, and accepts his prayer*.

That is the confidence you can have as well. Are your sins great, in both quality and quantity? **Yes** they are. Do you deserve God's wrath? **Yes** again. But now remember this too: Do you have a Saviour? **Yes** you do. Is His love and the blood that He shed greater than your sin? **Yes** again. So does God

hear your prayer of repentance and your plea for forgiveness? **Yes** He does. And are you forgiven? In Jesus, **yes**. Just as by being in the ark saved Noah from the flood, so too by being in Jesus are you saved from all that your sins deserve. You are safe in Him.

And so tears of fear can turn into tears of joy, when your eyes are fixed on Jesus.

Lord, my sins are great but Your love and forgiveness are greater. Help me not to sin, but when I do, help me to repent and look to You for hope and forgiveness, and know that Your promises to me, made in Your steadfast love, are always true and sure in Jesus. Thank You for the flood of His blood that saves me. Amen.