

PSALM 6

Intro: This is the first of the *Seven Penitential Psalm*. 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143. All are assigned to David except 102 and 130.

- A. Note: there is no explicit confession made regarding sin. There is no cry for forgiveness. Psalm 6 "...pulsates with an aroused sense of guilt and a shattering dread of God's retributive justice. Yet it is not a morbid indulgence in self-pity. Nor does it end in blank despair. Appeals to God's mercy (to) calm the raging storm of fear. In the end, faith triumphs." (Walter R. Rohrs).
- B. "In these terrors the conscience feels God's wrath against sin, unknown to men who walk in carnal security. It sees the foulness of sin and is genuinely sorry that it has sinned; at the same time it flees God's horrible wrath, for human nature cannot bear it unless it is sustained by the Word of God." (ApXIIA 32).
- C. "According To The Sheminith" - meaning is not certain. ESV notes "Probably a musical term." Some suggest an 8 stringed instrument.
- D. Background to Psalm 6 unknown, though some have pointed to Absalom - 2 Samuel 13-18. Others point to Adonijah's conspiracy - 1 Kings 1.

Verses 1-3

- A. "O Lord, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath."
 - 1. Being chastened can bring about carry the terrifying thought that God's wrath is on us. See Ps. 27:9; 38:1-5; Jn. 3:36 then Jn. 6:28-29.
 - 2. However, keep in mind Deut. 8:5; Heb. 12:1-11; 1 Pet. 1:3-9; Rom. 5:3-5; 2 Cor. 12:7-9.
- B. "...heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled. My soul is greatly troubled. But you, O LORD - how long?"
 - 1. Physical distress can trouble the soul. A troubled soul can cause physical distress.
 - 2. Again, Ps. 38:3f.; then Ps. 51:8; 147:3.

Verse 4 - "...for the sake of your steadfast love." Not for the sake of our love, which runs hot and cold.

Verse 5

- A. "For in death there is no remembrance of you..." - or state of death.
- B. "...in Sheol who will give you praise?" - the realm of the dead.
- C. Facing death, a child of God can become bold to remind God that an early death would make it impossible to give Him praise on this earth.
- D. Did the O. T. saints have a clear picture of life after death? Job 19:25-27; Ps. 16:11; 17:15; 73:23-26; Mat. 17:3.

Verses 6-7

- A. Have we been there?
- B. Foes can be unrelenting in afflicting sorrow and grief.

Verses 8-10

- A. The Lord speaks to us through David.
- B. Let's keep in mind such as Ps. 139:16 and Mat. 6:31-34 among a number.
- C. Regarding the enemies of God's people let's also keep in mind such as Lk. 21:25-28; Mt. 13:41-43.