



PSALM 30 TO NUMBER OR NOT TO NUMBER

QUICK REVIEW

LESSON ONE

- » David made the mistake of listening to the devil.

LESSON TWO

- » David wanted to number the people out of pride.

LESSON THREE

- » David's friend warned him that it was wrong.

LESSON FOUR

- » David took the blame for his mistake.

LESSON FIVE

- » David insisted on paying the price for his wrong.

ABOUT THIS PSALM

From one end of the Bible to the other there are records kept of numbering things. Records are meticulously kept of people's ages, armies, countries names, equipment, years, etc. This Psalm is about a time when apparently records were being kept for personal pride, which was the wrong reason.

AUTHOR

We are informed in the title that the author of Psalm 30 is David, the son of Jesse from Bethlehem. In the title to this psalm we are informed of the occasion that the psalm was penned about. It is a difficult lesson for many people to grasp, but one of great importance.

THEME

The theme of Psalm 30 needs to be viewed from a heavenly perspective. An event in history that takes place in I Chronicles 21 is the narrative that Psalm 30 is based on. There we see a situation that has occurred over time in the lives of many people. Satan, a fallen angel who has made himself the enemy and adversary of any believer, somehow tempts David into believing that David's own capabilities, is the reason for all his successes. Apparently out of pride, David decides to count the number of soldiers he has accumulated in his campaign to be a great king over Israel. The problem is he wanted to know the number for the wrong reason. God knew that David was beginning to feel that he was the one who deserved the credit for all that he had accomplished. David's friend Joab warned him not to do it. When God reprimanded David for his actions, he too immediately admitted that his actions were wrong.

There are five lessons we can learn from Psalm 30:

- » ONE: Don't ever listen to the devil;
- » TWO: Stay humble and don't let pride influence you to do something you should not do;
- » THREE: Listen to the Godly influence of our friends and fellow believers;
- » FOUR: If you do make a mistake then own up to it;
- » FIVE: Be willing to pay the price for correcting your mistakes.

PERSONAL APPLICATIONS//PSALM 30

TO NUMBER OR NOT TO NUMBER

NOTE

Psalm 30 is better understood by reading the story that it is based on from I Chronicles 21.

I CHRONICLES 21:1-4: “Now Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel. So David said to Joab and the commanders of the troops, ‘Go number Israel from Beersheba to Dan, and bring the number that I may know it.’ And Joab answered, ‘May the LORD make His people a hundred times more than they are. But my lord the king, are they not all my lord’s servant? Why then does my lord require this thing?’ Nevertheless the king’s word prevailed against Joab...”

QUESTIONS

What exactly was David’s sin? Have you ever allowed personal pride to cloud a certain decision and it resulted in you making a bad decision? David’s mistake was made clear to him by the words of a prophet. How did God reveal your mistake to you? Have a discussion about the varying ways God speaks to us and brings our own failures to our attention.

PSALM 30:1-5: “I will exalt You, O LORD, for you lifted me out of the depths and did not let my enemies gloat over me. O LORD my God, I called to You for help and you healed me. O LORD, You brought me up from the grave; You spared me from going down to the pit. Sing to the LORD you saints of his; praise His holy name. For his anger lasts only a moment but His favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.”

QUESTIONS

C.H. Spurgeon, when commenting on this psalm, said; “Let us never forget to pray, and let us never doubt the success of prayer. Prayer will succeed where all else fails.” Why do we sometimes forget to pray? How do we break this bad habit?

According to Vs. 5, how long does God’s anger last? How long does his favor last? What does this reveal about God’s character?

Psalm 30:6-12: “When I felt secure, I said, ‘I will never be shaken.’ O LORD when you favored me, You made my mountain stand firm; but when You hid Your face, I was dismayed. To You, O LORD, I called; to the Lord I cried for mercy: ‘What is there in my destruction, in my going down to the pit? Will the dust praise You? Will it proclaim Your faithfulness? Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me; O LORD, be my help.’ Your turned my wailing into dancing; You removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing to You and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give You thanks forever.”

QUESTIONS

David’s enemies, allowed by God because of David’s sin, were about to take his life. What did David think God would gain if he died? What did David think God would lose if he died? The burden of sin can become so great upon us that we may be tempted to think that it is too late for us to return to God. But what does scripture really say -- is it ever too late or are we ever too far?

David concludes this psalm by giving thanks. Can you each share something you are thankful for?

CLOSING SCRIPTURES

- » I Peter 5:8-9: “Be self controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of suffering. ...”
- » I John 1:8-9: “If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”