

LESSONS LEARNED IN HARD TIMES

PSALM 31

Introduction:

The Psalmist passes on to us the things he learned in some very difficult times. We are not told the exact nature of his difficulties, but we do know that they created much anxiety and pain in his life. He put the lessons into this beautiful poem in order to stir his own memory, and to pass them on to fellow-strugglers.

I. ACKNOWLEDGE THE REALITY OF EVIL.

1. There are evil people in the world.
2. They plot against the righteous.
3. They are a source of danger to the righteous.

Just as there are poisonous snakes, there are people who will do you harm with their words and with their hands.

II. AFFIRM WHAT YOU KNOW FOR SURE.

1. God is a refuge to the righteous.
2. The lives of the righteous are in His hands.
3. God will judge the evil in the world.

III. ASK GOD FOR WHAT YOU NEED.

1. Pray with faith.

2. Pray with specificity.

IV. CONTINUE TO DO THE RIGHT THING.

1. It protects you from the evil.

Continue to pray like a Daniel.

2. It honors the Lord.

Continue to serve like a Joseph.