

## *Psalm 13 (ASV)*

<sup>1</sup>How long, O Jehovah? wilt thou forget me for ever?

How long wilt thou hide thy face from me?

<sup>2</sup>How long shall I take counsel in my soul,

Having sorrow in my heart all the day?

How long shall mine enemy be exalted over me?

<sup>3</sup>Consider and answer me, O Jehovah my God:

Lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death;

<sup>4</sup>Lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him;

Lest mine adversaries rejoice when I am moved.

<sup>5</sup>But I have trusted in thy lovingkindness;

My heart shall rejoice in thy salvation.

<sup>6</sup>I will sing unto Jehovah,

Because he hath dealt bountifully with me.

Study the Psalm and fill in the categories as Scripture reveals.

**God is:**

**God will:**

**I am:**

**I will:**

**Enemy will:**

### *Prayer*

Dear Jehovah, Thank You that I can bring all my sorrows to You when the weight of my enemies feels too heavy to bear. Thank You for the hope You provide—the strength to **TRUST**, the joy to **REJOICE**, and the freedom to **SING** to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Reflection

Discuss a Scripture (not in Psalms) where a believer calls out to God, but hope prevails?

How has that happened in your life?

Do you know anyone who needs hope that you could share one or both of your responses above?

## Lisa's Response

David was having a bad day. His enemies were already celebrating a victory they believed was certain. In that moment of despair, he cried out to God—forgetting, for a time, all the ways God had rescued him before.

Don't we all do that? I know I do. While I don't have anyone trying to kill me (at least, not that I'm aware of), there are times when the weight of this broken world causes my spirit to sink low. I find myself wondering if anything will ever change. Watching people rejoice in sinful behavior grieves my heart. It often seems as though unbelievers are always winning.

But then, after I've finished my time of sorrow, the Holy Spirit gently speaks to my heart. I'm reminded of all the times God has worked everything out for good. I recall Paul's words in *1 Thessalonians 5*: "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances." When I turn my focus back to God's Word and His faithfulness, my heart grows joyful again.

In those moments, I remember that ...*He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world.* -1 John 4:4 That truth brings comfort—and gives us reason to celebrate. It will always be so!

## Guest Response

### When God Hides His Face: Navigating God's Silence with Faith

Kalani cycles past her husband's killer every day on her way to the market. Seventeen years later, he still hasn't faced a day in court, while she lives with the disability and devastation his bullets caused. Although the officials in her Asian city know the identity of the murderer, they continue to ignore the injustice, considering crimes against Christians as inconsequential. Like David, she could ask God, "How long?" How long will wrong triumph over right?

*How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me? (Psalm 13:1-2 NIV)*

David adopted the ancient Israelite tradition of questioning or wrestling with God. His fourfold repetition of "*How long*" reveals his hopelessness and sense of abandonment. In Hebrew, the phrase refers not only to time but also to location. Separated from God's anchoring presence and feeling the weight of imminent danger, David feared he was out of time and out of place. He yearned for a restoration of his close relationship with God and begged the Lord not to ignore him (*hide [his] face*). Instead, David longed for God to acknowledge the depth of his anointed king's distress, returning him to a position of favor.

Scholars suggest several possible scenarios that led to David's lament. Perhaps he wrote his prayer while fleeing from Saul's murderous rage or during a time of serious illness. Maybe he composed his desperate plea when his son Absalom rebelled and attempted to take over his kingdom.

*Look on me and answer, LORD my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him," and my foes will rejoice when I fall. (Psalm 13:3-4 NIV)*

David prayed God would protect him from the darkness of death by answering his anguished cries with divine life-giving light. Otherwise, his enemies would celebrate his demise and consider his defeat proof not just of David's weakness but also of God's powerlessness.

*But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the LORD's praise, for he has been good to me. (Psalm 13:5-6 NIV)*

Despite David's circumstances, he remained convinced of God's righteousness and refused to give up on him. The former shepherd pivoted his attention to remember and rely on God's hesed, his steadfast covenant love that would bring both physical and spiritual deliverance.

We may wonder how David could transition from despair to hope in one verse. Yet, many of us also experience feelings that conflict with our faith, and we must choose where to focus. David's complaints and praise coexisted while he looked forward to God's coming salvation.

God speaks and works even in his silence, and what he does in us while we wait is often more important than what we're waiting for. The instant Kalani felt the bullet, she called out to Jesus, determined to forgive the shooter. When she awoke from her three-week coma to discover she was a widow, she also forgave the man for murdering her husband. Kalani knows the justice she awaits will come in the next life. Until then, she refuses to dwell on painful but unanswerable questions, trusting instead in God's timing and wisdom. She leans on the Lord's power as she pastors her husband's church and exercises grace toward those who ignore her suffering. God uses Kalani's faithfulness to speak to her watching village of his love and mercy.

When David strained to hear God's still, small voice, he first declared his fear and frustration. Then he directed his attention to God's past faithfulness and future salvation. We can make the same choice.

God's silence is never evidence of his absence but of his listening presence as he stretches our faith and strengthens us to demonstrate faithfulness and obedience. When we face God's deafening silence, we do well to ask ourselves what he hears in us. Are we demanding our way or seeking and submitting to his?

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**Nancy Lucenay's** writing and teaching reflect her passion for helping Christian women apply their faith to life's puzzling questions. Connect with her at [NancyLucenay.com](http://NancyLucenay.com), where you'll find articles on the Bible and its historical and cultural context.



## *Reminder*

I would love to hear from you! Use the "Contact" to submit your response about how God moved you in this passage. If you grant permission in your response, I may post it on the main page of the website for the following week. If you don't want it posted, that's okay too. I will keep it private. Thank you, and I pray you are blessed in amazing ways.

**PS. See the additional activity sheet for a cryptogram puzzle.**