

Psalm 129

Prayer during the Day Thursday Week 4

As with all the psalms from Psalm 120 to Psalm 134, the title reads 'A Song of Ascents.' This is a prayer that those who oppose Jerusalem will be thwarted and deprived of God's blessing.

The people have been treated cruelly:

I will put it into the hand of your tormentors, who have said to you, 'Bow down, that we may walk on you'; and you have made your back like the ground and like the street for them to walk on.

– Isaiah 51:23

I will trample your flesh on the thorns of the wilderness and on briars.

– Judges 8:7

They have threshed Gilead with threshing sledges of iron.

– Amos 1:3

They have been used as slaves to do the work of farm animals, pulling the plough and turning the mill wheel.

There is no other god besides me, a just God and a Saviour.

– Isaiah 45:21

YHWH within the city is just; he does no wrong.

– Zephaniah 3:5

They have become like plants of the field and like tender grass, like grass on the housetops, blighted before it is grown.

– Isaiah 37:27

To refuse a blessing is to declare that those who hate Jerusalem do not belong to the people of YHWH and are separated from God.

¹ Often have they attacked me from my youth – so says Israel –

² often have they attacked me from my youth, yet they have not prevailed against me.

³ Those working the plough ploughed my back; they made their furrows long.

⁴ YHWH* is just*; he has cut to pieces the yoke of the wicked.

⁵ May all who hate Zion be put to shame and repulsed.

⁶ Let them be like the grass on the housetops that withers before it is cut.

⁷ The reapers do not get to handle it, nor is it bound into sheaves.

⁸ Those who pass by do not say, 'The blessing* of YHWH be upon you! We bless* you in the name of YHWH!'