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Psalms
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Unit Five

Analysis of Psalms 30

Psalms 30 is a thanksgiving and deliverance psalm, Mays also mentioned that, “Psalm 30 is a prayer of thanksgiving from deliverance. In it a person whose prayer for help has been answered brings an offering of praise and proclamation in gratitude.” (Location 2908). The heading of the psalm attributes “Thanksgiving for Recovery from Grave Illness”. The author of this psalm is David. The psalm is composed of both an individual and corporate hymn. This psalmist begins the psalm in verse 1a with praising the Lord, which would be the base for the rest of the psalm. Mays stated that, “The opening declaration, “I extol you Lord,” identifies the purpose of the song. The declaration is supported by an acknowledgement of the Lord’s deliverance (v. 1a plus 1b-3); the basic report of prayer and deliverance in verse 2 anticipates the longer narrative in verses 6-12.” (Location 2908).

This psalm also contains parallelism throughout the psalm, Mays mentioned that. “The composer has woven a pattern of alternation and reversal through the entire poem. “I cried out---you healed” (v.2) sets the basic pattern; the other alternations are variations on this basic theme.” (Location 2918). Mays also mentioned that, “The repeated and complex use of the pattern of alternation is a way of making the psalm’s theological subject heard again and again.” (Location 2918). In this psalm there was also a connection with Psalm 6 and Isaiah 38. Mays mentions that, “It reads as if it were a prayer of thanks to be said after a prayer for help like Psalm 6 had been answered.” (Location 2918).

In conclusion, this praise psalm is based on deliverance from God! In this psalm parallelism was important because of the repeated patterns of alternation. These repeated patterns helped the reader to experience the psalmist’s focal point on praising God for his deliverance.