Psalm 30

Context and Commentary:

Psalm 30 is a Psalm of David, sung as a prayer of thanksgiving for God’s deliverance. It was to be sung at the dedication of the temple. In that time, people would sing songs of praise and dedication whenever a house was finished and the temple was no different.

Throughout the Psalm, David is remembering different ways that God has delivered him in the past. He even states his previous lament that he felt before God delivered him.

Verses 1-3: An Introductory Declaration of Praise

Verse 1 presents a summary of the entire Psalm, “I will exalt you, Lord for you lifted me out of the depths and did not let my enemies gloat over me.” In Verse 2-3, David recalls when he was on the brink of death, God healed him.

Verses 4-5: An Invitation to Praise

David invites everyone to join him in singing God’s praises. And he gives them reasons, “For his anger lasts only a moment but his favor a lifetime.” One commentator said that “we have found his frowns very short. Though we have deserved that they should be everlasting.” Weeping that can come from God’s anger does not last, but rejoicing comes quickly.

Verses 6-12: A Recollection of Lament and Deliverance

In these verses, David recalls the time when he first felt secure in himself and felt God’s favor, but became dismayed when God hid his face. In response, David wept and asked God to again look upon him with favor. In verses 11-12 we see that God did respond and cause David to rejoice in him again.