

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

# YET THEY HAVE NOT PREVAILED AGAINST ME PSALMS 129

Text: Psalms 129:2

## ***Psalm 129:2***

*<sup>2</sup> Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth:  
**yet they have not prevailed against me.***

Introduction:

In this passage the psalmist reminds God's people how God has delivered them in the past which give us hope for the future.

This message in this psalm is a soul-strengthening.

Note:

Sermon Content:

# 1. THE PERSECUTION OF GOD'S PEOPLE (VS. 1-3)

## ***Psalm 129:1-3***

*<sup>1</sup> Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth, may Israel now say: <sup>2</sup> Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth: yet they have not prevailed against me. <sup>3</sup> The plowers plowed upon my back: they made long their furrows.*

The psalmist reveals that he and his people had been afflicted from their youth.

From the time God's chosen people were first enslaved in Egypt, they have suffered much from godless nations.

They have been greatly oppressed from their nation's youth.

Adversity and hostility is all Israel has known since its conception as a people.

From my youth indicates that this persecution began in the early days of the nation and has continued until the time this psalm was written.

Note Exodus 1:12-13:

### **Exodus 1:12-13**

*<sup>12</sup> But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel. <sup>13</sup> And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour:*

Israel is pictured as a scourged man with deep welts on his back from many inflicted lashes, like furrows in a plowed field.

Over the years, Israel's enemies have plowed long rows down her back in deep persecution.

Note not only the Persecution of God's People but also:

## **2. THE PERSEVERANCE OF GOD'S PEOPLE (VS. 4)**

### **Psalm 129:4**

*<sup>4</sup> The LORD is righteous: he hath cut asunder the cords of the wicked.*

Even though God has defeated the enemy, we are by no means completely passive in the face of opposition.

We should persevere in the face of opposition.

The word perseverance comes from per meaning 'through' and severe.

It means to keep pressing on and trusting God, looking up and doing our duty—even through severe circumstances.

Quote:

When the high seas are raging, it's no time to change ships."

Israel has survived only because the LORD is righteous.

He is faithful to execute all the promises he has made, specifically those promises to preserve Israel as a nation forever.

God has cut me free from the cords of the wicked, the psalmist declared, setting Israel free from the harness of foreign nations.

### **3. THE PETITION OF GOD'S PEOPLE (VS. 5-8)**

#### ***Psalm 129:5-8***

*<sup>5</sup> Let them all be confounded and turned back that hate Zion. <sup>6</sup> Let them be as the grass upon the housetops, which withereth afore it groweth up: <sup>7</sup> Wherewith the mower filleth not his hand; nor he that bindeth sheaves his bosom. <sup>8</sup> Neither do they which go by say, The blessing of the LORD be upon you: we bless you in the name of the LORD.*

The psalmist prays a prayer, calling for the destruction of God's enemies.

He pleads that they be turned back in shame.

He requests that these oppressive foreign powers be repelled through an ignominious defeat at their hands.

This is not just a desire for embarrassment but for their complete devastation and utter humiliation

The psalmist also asks that God's enemies be like grass on the housetops or roofs.

Close:

How do God-fearing believers survive the many persecutions they face in a Christ-rejecting world?

The God who stood with his people, Israel, through many wars and conflicts, is the same God who will stand today beside his children through the spiritual opposition they face.

In the face of such turbulence, Christ has promised that he will never fail us or forsake us.

In such trials, the Lord grants grace to his people, enabling them to persevere, even in the face of defeat.

**2 Corinthians 2:14**

*<sup>14</sup> Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.*

No matter how fierce spiritual warfare is, Christians are always led victoriously by God.