

PSALMS OF PRAYER AND PRAISE

Psalm 25:1-22 (NASB)

¹ To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

² O my God, in You I trust, Do not let me be ashamed; Do not let my enemies exult over me.

³ Indeed, none of those who wait for You will be ashamed; Those who deal treacherously without cause will be ashamed.

⁴ Make me know Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths.

⁵ Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; For You I wait all the day.

⁶ Remember, O LORD, Your compassion and Your lovingkindnesses, For they have been from of old.

⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; According to Your lovingkindness remember me, For Your goodness' sake, O LORD.

⁸ Good and upright is the LORD; Therefore He instructs sinners in the way.

⁹ He leads the humble in justice, And He teaches the humble His way.

¹⁰ All the paths of the LORD are lovingkindness and truth To those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

¹¹ For Your name's sake, O LORD, Pardon my iniquity, for it is great.

¹² Who is the man who fears the LORD? He will instruct him in the way he should choose.

¹³ His soul will abide in prosperity, And his descendants will inherit the land.

¹⁴ The secret of the LORD is for those who fear Him, And He will make them know His covenant.

¹⁵ My eyes are continually toward the LORD, For He will pluck my feet out of the net.

¹⁶ Turn to me and be gracious to me, For I am lonely and afflicted.

¹⁷ The troubles of my heart are enlarged; Bring me out of my distresses.

¹⁸ Look upon my affliction and my trouble, And forgive all my sins.

¹⁹ Look upon my enemies, for they are many, And they hate me with violent hatred.

²⁰ Guard my soul and deliver me; Do not let me be ashamed, for I take refuge in You.

²¹ Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, For I wait for You.

²² Redeem Israel, O God, Out of all his troubles.

Psalm 25: Prayer for Instruction

This is a Psalm of prayer and communion with God. David prayed for help against his enemies. David did not live life in a proverbial rose garden. He was a real man with real

enemies in situations that perplexed him nearly to death. David knew to whom to turn and what to do—trust and wait on God (**verses 1–3**). During the waiting, David also knew he needed God’s instructions. The word “*teach*” is used in **5 verses (4, 5, 8, 9, and 12)** and the thought of God’s instructions is in others as well. Often we get so distressed in the situations of life that seem out of our control that we forget there is something we can do—learn from God in the very difficult situation. We can stay in God’s Word and draw from God’s wisdom no matter what circumstance we are in. We can also search our hearts and ask forgiveness for sin (**verses 7, 11, and 18**).

When attacks come, we can become bitter or vengeful and this needs to be confessed as sin before God. Then our soul will “ *dwell in prosperity*” (**verse 13**). If we return the hate our enemies show toward us, we are no better than they. David did not want to shame God, as he represented God to people (**verses 2 and 20**). He knew he needed integrity and uprightness to preserve him (**verse 21**). How very important to realize that God will fight for us if we stay steadfast and focused on Him, not on the problem at hand. We can be brutally honest with God, telling Him how awful and desolate we feel (**verses 16 and 17**) and know that He is worthy of trust.

There is no particular historical background indicated for the writing of this psalm. It is a psalm of petition and reflects David’s personal desire to be all God wanted him to be. The underlying theme of the psalm is guidance. In the closing verse, David no longer prayed for himself but for all Israel.