

• *David's songs written in times of trouble*

• *Problems connected with kingship – David – the Lord Jesus and we who reign with Christ*

• *The final defeat of God's enemies is delayed*

• *We must be ready for delay*

(i) *Respond with patience*

(ii) *The world expects everything to be instant! – but that is not God's way!*

• *Justification is instantaneous – but inheriting God's promises takes time!*

Look at there characteristics of God's delay

(i) *God seems to be absent*

(ii) *David is in mental turmoil*

These psalms of David are like a prayer-diary. They record the songs he wrote when he turned to God in times of trouble. They deal with every kind of trouble we might ever have. Here in Psalm 13, David is perplexed by God's delays. These trouble-psalms ¹ are connected with kingship. Psalm 2 said that God's kingdom will triumph. But this means that God's king will triumph - David and his line, leading up to the Lord Jesus Christ. But we too are also kings! We reign with Christ! So these problems for the king are problems for us also. Although we reign with Christ, still we face these many problems that we find in these early psalms. David became the king over the whole of Israel only **slowly**. The same is true of Jesus. Jesus is appointed the king in his resurrection. But he still has not won all the nations yet. And his final kingdom will be in his second coming in glory. All enemies will be defeated.

So we must be ready for delay. First, let us think of two general points. (i) The subject of delay is a key topic in the Bible. It is by faith and patience that we inherit the kingdom. God often delays the fulfilment of his purposes for us. It is typical of the Bible to warn us that inheriting God's promises does not come quickly. God has to work patience in us. Faith is always tested! We have to 'bear fruit with patience' ¹. Paul prays, 'May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all **endurance** and **patience** with joy' ².

The saints have had to learn this. You remember how long Abraham had to wait before Isaac was born. You remember how long David had to persist before the kingdom became fully his!

(ii) This is perhaps the worst time in history for preaching about delay! Because we live in a world where everyone expect everything to be instant! Instant coffee! Instant news! Instant pleasure! Buying what we want now - instantly - borrowing if necessary to get what we want now. Instant miracles! Instant healings! 'Receive your miracle *now!*' – we are told every day. But instant Christianity is not God's way! By faith and patience we inherit what God wants to give us. We have to be ready to consider delay. David had to face this. David is struggling with the fact that things do not always happen as quickly as we would like.

¹*Yahweh, how long will it be? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?.*

All of the trouble-songs of David seem to come either from the time of his conflict with Absalom or from his time of conflict with Saul. Since the latter conflict was the longer of the two, Psalm 13 probably comes from that time. What troubled David at that time was the very great delay in the arrival of the promises of God. God promised that David would one day be the king of Israel. But for many years there seemed to be no sign that it would ever happen. When David came into contact with Saul he experienced not exaltation to the kingship but persecution and extreme delay in the promises of God. It does not take time to receive our first salvation. Justification is instantaneous. New birth is instantaneous. But inheriting the promises takes time.

Look at the characteristics of God's delay.

(i) God seems to be absent. The smile of his face is not experienced. David seems to be forgotten.

(ii) David is in mental turmoil. He spends hours thinking over his situation. He is a soft man, easily upset! A lot of modern life makes us so hard and insensitive. David was human!

¹ Psalms 3 - 41

¹ Luke 8:15
² Colossians 1:11

He was no so tough that he never became upset. I like soft and tender people and I think God does also!

^{2a,b}How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day?.

• David shares his distress with God

David tells God of his troubles of heart. God is a God of sympathy. We may tell God about our sorrows and distresses. Do not be so hard that you harden your heart and are afraid to feel sorrow, and become unable to share your distresses with God.

(iii) David's situation was humiliating

(iii) He finds his situation humiliating.

^{2c}How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

One aspect of this delay is that it is humiliating. People despise you because you do not enjoy the fulfillment of what you are expecting. We are meant to have glory in the eyes of others — eventually. Success that comes too easily does not do you any good. The worst thing that can happen to you is to succeed before you are ready. It is better to struggle and have to wait upon God and cry. David was distressed at the humiliation of delay. His enemies gloated that he was not succeeding.

(iii) David lives under the threat of death

(iv) He is not sure that he will live very long. Saul is trying to kill David.

³Consider and answer me, Yahweh my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death....

Look at the way David handles his problem

Look at the way David handles his problem.

12:1

(i) David turns to God in song and in prayer. These psalms are concerned with how we work through the trials and perplexities in which we find ourselves. David shares his feelings with God (13:1-3). 'Answer me', he prays,

(i) He turns to God in prayer and song



⁴lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

If David really is a key figure in God's kingdom, then David's enemies are God's enemies. The defeat of David will be the defeat of God.

(ii) He insists that he will joyfully and persistently trust God

(ii) David insists that he will joyfully and persistently trust in God.

*⁵But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
⁶I will sing to Yahweh, because he has dealt bountifully with me.*

	<p>Dr Michael Eaton is highly respected internationally as a theologian, author, preacher and teacher. He lives in Kenya where he is one of the leaders of the Chrisco Fellowship. His <i>Preaching Through The Bible (PTTB)</i> books are highly popular worldwide. Michael Eaton puts the theological and practical meaning of the Bible in a clear and down-to-earth way so that what is written can be easily understood by the reader.</p>	
<p>These specially reformatted chapters "Slices of Bread" produced by Sovereign World Trust are available in three categories as set out below</p>		
<p>Slices for the Nations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For pastors, libraries and colleges in those parts of the world where resources are scarce and unaffordable In the fullness of time the whole series will be made available free of charge Weekly emailings of 3 - 4 Slices or available to download from the Slices web site 	<p>Slices for Sponsors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For those in more prosperous circumstances who can afford to contribute to the development of this material and its distribution with a small monthly donation The same material as Slices for the Nations Weekly emailings of 3 - 4 Slices or by download from the Slices web site 	<p>Slices for Everyone / Slice of the Week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For those who wish to sample the material or dip into it from time to time, a proportion of the PTTB series is available free of charge Slices for Everyone (as a download) or Slice of the Week (attached to a weekly email) The remainder of the PTTB material is available to Sponsors and those eligible to receive Slices for the Nations
<p>To subscribe please contact: slicesofbread@sovereignworldtrust.org.uk stating which category fits your situation. Further details are at www.slices.org.uk Details of the availability of <i>Preaching Through The Bible</i> books and how they may be purchased can be found on www.ibtr.org.uk</p>		