

## LESSONS FROM THE PSALMS THIRTY-NINE

Scripture: Psalm 39:1-13

Ray O. Brooks

### Introduction:

- A. This is a Psalm of David.
- B. Most people place the time of the writing the same as the last Psalm...a time when David was reeling under the chastening hand of God. Others place the time when David was fleeing Jerusalem under the attack of his son Absalom.
- C. Whatever the time, there are some very fine lessons for God's people in any age when trouble touches their lives

### I. LEARN SOMETHING ON THE USE OF THE TONGUE.

- A. Verses 1 and 9 surely point out the possibility of our sinning should we speak out against bad treatment.
  1. We just might be accusing God of doing wrong.
  2. Never right for God's people to speak before the lost in such a way as to question God's work or His choice.
- B. Failure to speak of our sorrow can be detrimental to one's health. vs.2,3
  1. To hold one's peace can increase sorrow. v.2
    - a. God never intended for us to hold all our thoughts of sorrow in..We need to speak about it.
    - b. Counselors instruct, "Talk it out with those with those with whom you have trouble."
  2. We must speak.
    - a. To God.
    - b. NOT about God.

### II. LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT OUR LIVES ON THIS EARTH.

- A. Our days on this earth are as nothing before God. vs.4,5
  1. God inhabits eternity—where there is no time.
    - a. No past tense... no future tense...Just NOW.
    - b. God is the great "I AM." The eternal PRESENT TENSE.
  2. Our days on earth are as a handbreadth. (4 inches)
  3. At best life is altogether VANITY...a puff of one's breath...a vapor...fog...(streak in sky).
- B. A person can walk in vain show—build up a great empire—and someone else will harvest it. v.6
- C. We are as strangers and sojourners WITH GOD. v.12
  1. Leviticus 25:23 uses the same terminology concerning Israel occupying the land.
  2. This simply put means that we are guest on God's earth...Just visiting for a brief time.

### III. LEARN TO RECOGNIZE THE HAND OF GOD IN ALL THE EXPERIENCES OF LIFE ON THIS EARTH.

- A. That is true of the good and the bad experiences.
  1. Easy to accept the good and fail to thank God.
  2. But few people fail to blame God for the bad.
- B. David recognizes God's hand in his sorrow and discomfort. vs.9-11
  1. David wept before God and sought relief, BUT he did not blame God for his trouble.
  2. Too many of God's own people are afflicted with the "God, why did you do this to me syndrome."

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- C. We should all confess that God is better to us than we deserve. This will keep us from getting into more trouble by blaming God for wrong doing.

### IV. LEARN THAT IT IS WISE TO BUILD OUR HOPE ON GOD AND WAIT ON HIM.

- A. David had come to the place that his only hope was in God and he would wait on God to act in fulfilling it. v.7
  - 1. We too should emulate David.
  - 2. God is our only hope.
  - 3. And God's time is the best time.
- B. We must look to God for deliverance. v.8
  - 1. From our sins.
  - 2. From them that trouble us.
- C. We should understand that since God's hand is in the chastisement, He alone can relieve the suffering. vs.12,13
  - 1. Thus, plead for His attention..
    - a. Hear me.
    - b. Give ear unto my cry
  - 2. Lean on His loving mercy..tears of repentance.
  - 3. Plead with Him for renewed strength...lest you be consumed with sorrow and suffering.