

# *Ponderings in the Psalms*

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The following is a Messianic Study on

## *Psalm 25*

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**Brit Chadashah**  
ברית חדשה

The *Pondering* studies were published in the Brit Chadashah Newsletter. Brit Chadashah (*New Covenant*) is a Messianic Fellowship in Sydney. Led by Paul Cohen a Jewish believer in Messiah Yeshua (Jesus). We meet together fortnightly for Bible studies from a Messianic Jewish Perspective. We are a unique fellowship made up of Jewish and Gentile people who are believers in Yeshua as the promised Messiah of Israel.

If you don't know Yeshua as your Messiah, we encourage you to search out the Scriptures for yourself. God promised in the book of Jeremiah, "*You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart*" (Jeremiah 29:13). And we hope you will make contact with us so that we can share more about the Messiah, His life and ministry.

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# *Pondering Psalm 25*

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1 A Psalm of David. 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.

## **An outline**

Prayer for the LORD's guidance and declaring his faith in God (1-3),

Petitions the LORD for guidance (4-5),

Appeals to God's mercy and grace for forgiveness (6-7),

Describes the LORD's goodness and faithfulness (8-10),

Asks for forgiveness (11),

Describes the benefits of fearing the LORD (12-15),

Seeking the LORD deliverance and protection 16-21),

Additional prayer to the LORD to redeem all Israel (22).

## Structure

Psalm 25 is one of eight alphabetic acrostics within Psalms. [An acrostic means that each verse or segment of a verse begins with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet]. When David wrote it, all the 22 letters were in it. Our text today has small variations, the ב (Beth) is the second word in verse 2, and also two letters are missing - the ו (vav) and the letter ק (koph). It is thought that these letters would have been in the original but were lost. In order to maintain the symmetry of the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet the ר (resh) is doubled and an additional פ (peh) is found in the end as the final verse.

## Some thoughts on Psalm 25

### Prayer for the LORD's guidance and declaring his faith in God (1-3)

David directs his prayer to the Lord in the hope of a gracious answer, asking that his enemies will not be able to be boastful over him. In verse 3 he describes the eschatological hope; none who wait for the LORD shall be put to shame (Romans 9:33).

### Petitions the LORD for guidance (4-5)

David prays for God's direction (Exodus 33:13; Jeremiah 6:16), that is, the guidance of the Torah. David prayed often for the 'ways' and 'paths' to be shown. This is a request for guidance in faith and conduct (Psalm 27:11 & 143:8), and to lead us to the God of our salvation.

### Appeals to God's mercy and grace for forgiveness (6-7)

David does not appeal on the basis of Torah keeping, but on God's steadfast love, and the faith that God forgives sins. As such he appeals to the goodness of the LORD.

### Describes the LORD's goodness and faithfulness (8-10),

David's, and our petitions, are to be grounded in the character of God: good טוב (tov) and upright ישר (jashar) and David reveals that God can lead and teach us, for we are sinners, חטאים chata'im. Those that acknowledge their sins, realise that they need to humble themselves before the LORD. These are the meek, or afflicted עֲנָוִים a'navim and it is thought that Yeshua referenced them in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:3 as the "poor in spirit."

And again, David refers back to the ways, the paths, the revealed, the will and counsel of the LORD. They are חֶסֶד (chesed) loving-kindness, mercy, and grace, leading to the salvation of men, and their aim is the truth אֱמֶת (e'met). As such, we keep His covenant and His testimonies to the best of our abilities, and appeal for mercy at all times.

### Asks for forgiveness (11)

Note how David is asking for pardon in the Name. This is a Hebrew way of saying, based on the revealed character of God (Exodus 34:6-7). Pardon my iniquity, for it is great, but You are merciful and gracious, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin. We see the same request for pardon in His Name in Jeremiah 14:7 and Isaiah 43:25. Asaph in Psalm 79 states it clearly: *"Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your Name; and deliver us and forgive our sins for Your Name's sake"* Psalm 79:9. This connection is often missed but remains true under the New Covenant (Acts 2:38, 10:43 & 22:16). In one of the last letters of the Bible John writes: *"I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His Name's sake"* (1 John 2:12), so let us seek His Name forever.

## David prays for benefits for those who fear the LORD (12-15)

These blessings are a request of David, in the hope that this maybe so:

1. That God may teach the person who fears the Lord (verse 12)
2. That his soul will abide in prosperity; more literally it reads ‘His soul in good does lodge’, idiomatically this means *may you live where there is goodness*; Hebrew, גַּפְשׁוֹ בְּטוֹב תִּלְוֶן, (*naf’shu betov talin*) (verse 13)
3. The requests continues that God may bless his children (verse 13) (Matthew 5:5)
4. And that God may reveal His secrets to the person who fears the Lord (verse 14), revealing secrets is done only to a friend,
5. That God may reveal His Covenantal blessings to the person who fears the Lord (verse 14)
6. Finally, David prays that the Lord would rescue him when he is caught (“*pluck my feet out of the net*”) (verse 15).

This is why David’s eyes were towards the LORD (verse 15) and we too need to turn our eyes consistently back to the LORD.

## Seeking personal deliverance and protection from the LORD (16-21)

In the closing statements David asks the Lord to turn to him and have mercy on him, not based on his good works. We see his prayer; Lord protect me from my distress. He then asks God to consider the many enemies who hate him, and for a strengthening in his soul, and that God would preserve him as he waits upon Him. David had already mentioned this twice, wait upon the Lord.

## Seeking national deliverance and protection from the LORD (22)

David prays for mercy, not only upon himself, but upon the whole nation. Here we see a hint that this Psalm may have been written during the troubled times with Absalom (2 Samuel 15-18), for the sins of David, and his son Absalom, didn’t only affect the royal family but the entire nation.

## Three times: Wait upon the Lord

**How** do you wait upon the Lord? Prayerfully (Psalm 25:4-5), patiently (Psalm 37:7), single-mindedly and with expectation (Psalm 62:6).

**Why** wait upon the Lord? “Our soul waits for the Lord; *for* He is our help and our shield (Psalm 33:20), He sustains us and answers us (Psalm 40:1-3).

## Conclusion

David gives us a model of how to pray, by asking for deliverance from sin, and from his enemies, with a prayer asking for forgiveness and guidance, and an insight into waiting upon the LORD.

*Selah*

*Blessings in Messiah*

*Paul & Sue*