

## Psalm 30: 13-22 (ESV): Hope in the Lord

**Main point:** Put your hope in God, not the world around you.

**Open with a short prayer, inviting God to teach us.**

**Background:** No particular prefix for this one; assumed to be written by David.

### Focus of the study:

The Lord looks down from heaven;  
he sees all the children of man;  
<sup>14</sup> from where he sits enthroned he looks out  
on all the inhabitants of the earth,  
<sup>15</sup> he who fashions the hearts of them all  
and observes all their deeds.  
<sup>16</sup> The king is not saved by his great army;  
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.  
<sup>17</sup> The war horse is a false hope for salvation,  
and by its great might it cannot rescue.  
<sup>18</sup> Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,  
on those who hope in his steadfast love,  
<sup>19</sup> that he may deliver their soul from death  
and keep them alive in famine.  
<sup>20</sup> Our soul waits for the Lord;  
he is our help and our shield.  
<sup>21</sup> For our heart is glad in him,  
because we trust in his holy name.  
<sup>22</sup> Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,  
even as we hope in you.

### Questions:

1. *What/who does God see? What does he look upon? What does he observe?*
  - a. v. 13: all the children of man
  - b. v. 14: all the inhabitants of the earth
  - c. v. 15: observes *all* their deeds
2. *What do you see when you observe the earth and its people?*
  - a. limited view ... can't see very far
  - b. people trying hard and failing!
3. *Where is God "looking" from? What kind of view does this give him?*
  - a. v. 14: from where he sits enthroned
  - b. eternal / big picture perspective
4. *How does the writer describe what God sees?*
  - a. v. 16-17: people: kings, great armies, warriors, great strength, war horses
5. *How do these people look to us?*

- a. all-powerful, imposing, frightening, in control
- 6. *But how do they look to God?*
  - a. size and might do not save
- 7. *In v. 18, the writer calls out “Behold” – what does that mean?*
  - a. look at this! pay attention
- 8. *Who does God see and help?*
  - a. v. 18: those who fear him
  - b. those who *hope* in his steadfast love
- 9. *What does God do for those people?*
  - a. v. 19: delivers their souls from death; provide for them in famine
- 10. *So what is our response if we hope and fear the Lord versus trusting in our own power and might or fearing those who have power and might on this earth?*
  - a. v. 20: we *wait* for the Lord; *he* is our help and shield, not an army of humans
  - b. v. 21: be glad *in the Lord*: secure that he holds all things in *his* hands
- 11. *Why can we wait in hope and be glad, even when things look scary or out of control in the world around us?*
  - a. because we trust in God – his power, his might, his eternal perspective, and his *steadfast love* for us
- 12. The psalm ends with a prayer: “Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.” That’s a good prayer!
  - a. *What does “steadfast love” mean to you?*
  - b. *How do you experience God’s love as you put your hope in him?*
- 13. Ask for any prayer requests for today.
- 14. Close in prayer, naming people and needs listed.
- 15. End with a song, e.g., first verse of Amazing Grace