

GROUP LEADERS NOTES ON PSALM 30

Question 1

- a) To extol is to lift up and speak out; to praise enthusiastically.
- b) God has lifted David up above his circumstances. Those circumstances include danger at the hand of an enemy; sickness and despair.
- c) The idea of being 'drawn up' in verse 1 is that of pulling up a bucket from a well; from the very depths of darkness.
- d) Sheol is the place of the dead and although no mortal man returns from that place David is using the term poetically to express the very depths of his situation and subsequent rescue.
- e) David has been physically and spiritually restored; even though he lives among those whose hearts are far from God (v3b).

Question 2

- a) David is not backward in expressing that for the child of God there are times of anger and weeping.
- b) God's discipline is always for our good (see **Heb 12:11-14**).
- c) But note the positive outcome. Anger for a short while brings favour for a long time; weeping in the darkness brings a disappearance of the gloom into the glorious light of God's grace.
- d) Spurgeon identifies: "*the transient nature of the believer's trouble, and the permanence of his joy*" (see **2 Cor 4:16-18**).

Question 3

- a) God's name is holy and therefore He is utterly trustworthy.
- b) David's own personal experience shows that suffering and temptation are under God's control and He will not let us go.

Question 4

- a) Verse 6 describes a different environment. Things are good; conflict and suffering are not present. This is without doubt a dangerous time; a time of potential temptation and false security.
- b) These are times when Satan strikes.
- c) *"The word 'prosperity' denotes peace and tranquillity, arising from an affluent prosperous condition. When God had settled him quietly on the throne, he thought all his troubles were over, and that he should enjoy uninterrupted happiness; and that God" had made his mountain so strong, as that it should never be moved"* (Samuel Chandler).
- d) It was in this tranquillity that the problem struck when least expected. Such was the extent of it that God seemed to have turned His face.
- e) The fact that David was dismayed showed that he was not ready.
- f) When things are going well we can become complacent and our relationship with God can be affected. We must take on those words of wisdom in **Prov 30:7-9**.

Question 5

- a) David is not having ideas above his station here; suggesting that God relies on him and therefore he is indispensable.
- b) David wants his life to bring glory to God. He is just overflowing with things that he wants to declare to others about his God. He wants to hang around!
- c) We are reminded of Paul considering the same issue in **Philippians 1:21-26**.
- d) Sometimes God is glorified in the death of His saints; other times in deliverance or healing. But the question David asks in verse 9 can only be answered by God and His sovereign will.
- e) In the meantime David wants to be in the position where he can continue to declare God's glory.

Question 6

Try and draw out personal testimony from the group with particular reference to God's attributes that have become more real through experience.

- a) David's psalms inevitably end with action; or a call to action, because of who God is and what He has done (see **Psalm 31:23-24; 32:11**).
- b) These conclusions are often reached through struggles, but they always move the Psalmist forward in his relationship with God.