

## Psalm 129 A Song of Ascents

### *We have been treated badly*

<sup>1</sup> Life has been hard. Since I was a child evil people have been hostile toward me and have harassed me mercilessly over and over and over again. <sup>2</sup> Israel has been treated the same way as me. Let her say along with me,

“Evil people have been hostile toward us and have harassed us mercilessly over and over and over again, but they have not overcome us. <sup>3</sup> These evil people have cut and torn us over and over again like a farmer plowing rows in his field, and they have riddled the backs of both Israel and me.

### *The LORD is our protector*

<sup>4</sup> In spite of the way we have been treated, the LORD is good, right, and just in every way. Praise the LORD, He has taken away the ability of those wicked people to hold me (and Israel) in their grasp.

### *I (and Israel) wish that evil people would leave us alone*

<sup>5</sup> I wish everyone who hates Israel would be put to shame and made to turn tail and run to their destruction. <sup>6</sup> Let them be like small clumps of grass that try to grow on a hot roof. Since that grass does not have a good root system it soon dries out and dies. <sup>7</sup> The dry grass that is left doesn't amount to enough to fill a man's hand and certainly isn't worth harvesting for any useful purpose. <sup>8</sup> No one in their right mind would tell these wicked people,

‘The LORD bless you, brother. I wish you well in everything you do.’

Instead they will say,

‘Good riddance, you vile person!’”