7 categories of the Psalms:

1. Praise and adoration (hymns that glorify the power, character, and majesty of God.) Ps. 131
2. Thanksgiving (express gratitude to God) Ps. 136
3. Royal (exalt the kingship of the Messiah) Ps. 110
4. Wisdom (offer practical instruction) Ps. 1
5. Trust (declare confidence in God) Ps. 125
6. Lament (are cries for help. Most common – 1/3) Psalm 13
7. Imprecatory (call for God's judgment, justice and wrath on the wicked)

"How Long, O Lord?"

Psalm 13

Oct. 18, 2026

Ps 13

1 How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever?
How long will You hide Your face from me?
2 How long shall I take counsel in my soul,
Having sorrow in my heart all the day?
How long will my enemy be exalted over me?
3 Consider and answer me, O Lord my God;
Enlighten my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,
4 And my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"
And my adversaries will rejoice when I am shaken.
5 But I have trusted in Your lovingkindness;
My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.
6 I will sing to the Lord,
Because He has dealt bountifully with me.

Pattern of Lament Psalms

1. **Address.** Calling out to God.
2. **Complaint.** Stating the problem.
3. **Petition.** Asking God for help.
4. **Trust.** Expressing confidence in God.
5. **Praise.** Expressing thankfulness and confidence.

1 How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever?
How long will You hide Your face from me?

- This is a Psalm of David. David is on the run from Saul.
- David is down, depressed, confused, dejected, forsaken, feels abandoned, and troubled.

"**How long** . . ." indicates that this has been going on for some time. "Is there no end to it?" "Is this my lot in life?"

- The phrase "How long" occurs 4 times in the first 2 verses.
- We are impatient people:

Travel.
Microwave society.
Fast Food.
Communication.
AI.
We - Wait! Wait! Wait!

"The hard thing about waiting is that you have to wait!"

- Steven Cole

Phillips Brooks normally was a calm man. But one day he was clearly agitated. He paced the floor like a caged lion. A friend asked him, "What's the trouble?" Brooks replied, "The trouble is, I'm in a hurry, but God isn't."

1 How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever?

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- Waiting has a purpose. It is God's way of building a mature believer.
- "But it's been months! Years!" That's the way God works. He builds things to last, and that takes time. But the finished product is so much better in quality.
- We work in minutes, hours, and days.
- God works in months, years, and decades.
- Consider this . . .

- *Examples in scripture –*

  Abraham had to wait for 25 years after God's promise before Isaac was born.

  Isaac had to wait 20 years for his children.

  Joseph had to wait 13 years before he was set free.

  Moses had a wait of 80 years before God called him to lead Israel out of Egypt.

  David waited 15 years to become king after being anointed.

  Noah waited 120 years for the judgment of God.

  Jacob waited 14 years to marry Rachel.

  Hannah waited years for the birth of Samuel.

  Simeon waited a lifetime to see the promised Messiah.

  Anna waited decades before seeing the infant Jesus.

  Zacharias and Elizabeth waited years before seeing the birth of John the Baptist.

  Paul waited 14 years before beginning his ministry after becoming a believer.

  Paul spent 4-5 years in prison until his final execution.

2 Cor 1:8-9

8 For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life;

9 indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead;

1 How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever?

How long will You hide Your face from me?

- When God seems distant, it affects our emotions.
- Emotions:

  God gave us emotions.

  2 extremes: 1. Ignore emotions. 2. Ruled by emotions.

“Ignoring our emotions is turning our back on reality. Listening to our emotions, this ushers us into reality. And reality is where we meet God.”

1 How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever?
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6 things that will affect your emotions:

1. Temperament.
2. Illness.
3. Exhaustion.
4. Lack of sleep.
5. Stress/pressure.
6. Let-down from a high.

1 How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever?
How long will You hide Your face from me?

- To David, it seemed like forever.
- David sees 2 answers:
  - ✓God has forgotten him.
  - ✓God is deliberately hiding from him, which is worst-case scenario.
- The last thing we want to see, is that God is deliberately avoiding me.
- When David sensed God was distant, he didn’t walk away and abandon God, but rather he cried out to God.
- For the unbeliever, God will abandon them and banish them from His presence in eternity –

2 Thess 1:9-10

9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

- This is the “hell of hells.”

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2 How long shall I take counsel in my soul,
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How long will my enemy be exalted over me?

- David asks, "How long am I going to have to look for answers within myself."
- This also expresses worry because David was not getting answers from within himself.
- This is not a fleeting emotion. David is filled with sadness all day and every day. Hard way to live.
- David is on the run. David hides in caves. Saul is in his castle.
- "Am I eventually just going to be killed, or just die in some cave."
- Think of those in our present day, who are being persecuted, that are crying out to God. "How long?":

  Believers in Ukraine

  Believers in Iran

  Believers in North Korea, Somalia, Yemen. Sudan,
  Eritrea, Syria, Nigeria, Pakistan, Libya, Iraq, and many more.

Rev 6:10

10 and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

3 Consider and answer me, O Lord my God;

Enlighten my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,

"consider" - נָבַט **nabat** (naw-bat') - to look intently, to regard with care, have respect for, consider.

- David asks God to see what is happening and give an answer.

"Lord my God" - יְהוָה אֱלֹהָי - Yahweh Elohim. The covenant-keeping, personal, mighty One.

- "Apply to my situation all of your mighty strength and power."

"Enlighten my eyes," – give me wisdom and divine perspective.

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Eph 1:17-19

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

3 Consider and answer me, O Lord my God;

Enlighten my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,

- This requires humility. We must admit that we don't have all of the answers or information.
- **David –** "if you fail, God, I will die."

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- David is asking God to not let his enemies get the victory.
- They not only will proclaim victory. But will rejoice over it.
- "God, is that what you want to happen?"

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"But . . ." – in contrast to what I have just said.

- Crucial word in scripture.
- Many times, it is used of a divine turnaround. (Eph 2:1-4)
- David is saying there are things he does not know so he goes back to what he does know.
- **3 things David knows:**
    1. God's lovingkindness toward him. (5a)
    2. God's provision of salvation. (5b)
    3. God's blessings richly given to him. (6b)

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- David turns his sadness into singing.
- **Note:**
    1. David's circumstances had not changed but David's thinking had changed
    2. Instead of focusing on himself, he focused on God's loyal-love and his salvation.
    3. David chose to interpret his circumstances by God's love for him, instead of interpreting God's love for him by his circumstances.
- David knew rejoicing is wonderfully expressed in singing.
- In the fellowship of believers, we sing and rejoice.
    - Gets our minds off of our problems.
    - Songs of praise and thanksgiving will instruct our hearts and remind us that God has not abandoned us.

    Eph 5:18-19

    18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,
    19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;
- The Psalms teach us how to process our feelings and emotions and not get stuck.

"Whenever you look into David's Psalms, you may somewhere or another see yourselves. You never get into a corner but you find David in that corner. I think that I was never so low that I could not find that David was lower; and I never climbed so high that I could not find that David was up above me, ready to sing his song upon his stringed instrument, even as I could sing mine."

- Spurgeon

“This song as it were casts up constantly lessening waves, until it becomes still as the sea when smooth as a mirror, and the only motion discernible at last is that of the joyous ripple of calm repose”

- Franz Delitzsch

Application

1. The real test of your faith is not when things are going well and you sense God’s presence in your life, but the real test is when God seems distant, unresponsive, and silent.
2. Your struggle, trial, suffering, may be close at hand but it is not as close as the Lord.
3. God knows everything about me, and yet He is still faithful to me, still committed to me, still with me. He will not leave me.
4. Take your complaints to God. It does not offend Him when we have questions and deep feelings about our relationship with Him. . . and then -

   1 Peter 5:7

   7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.
5. It’s not where you begin, but where you end.