

Part 2 – Times of Reproach

In part 1, we learned that David wrote this Psalm when he was being wrongfully persecuted. Though he was not without sin, people hated him due to lies and rumors that were untrue and that likely was due to Saul's false claims that David was a traitor and a rebel. We also learned that, when this Psalm was written, David had been persecuted for quite a while. And he had also been crying out to God to help him for some time. So, by now he felt pretty overwhelmed by the persecutions. So much so that he felt like he was sinking into deep mud he couldn't get out of and being drown with waters that would not stop gushing at him. He also felt like those who hated him 'without a cause' were more than the hairs on his head. Which was also what happened to Jesus Christ (which is why Jesus quoted verse 4), as well as the apostles and truly will happen to all those who love and serve Jesus Christ. In fact, *all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution* (2 Tim 3:12), as Jesus warned us in John 15:20. But, David provided an excellent example for what we are to do in times like this. We must continue to take our troubles to our Heavenly Father in prayer, no matter how long it takes to get an answer. Jesus also taught us a parable how we should not faint in prayer in Luke 18. And sometimes, having to endure hard times, for a long time, is needed to help us grow spiritually stronger and more mature, as well as to purify our inner man. David's many years of hardship are what made him such a good king of Israel. And likewise, our hard times help to prepare us to serve Jesus Christ in the Millennium. So, while it's good to pour out our heart to God, like David is doing in this prayer, we should always remember that *the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever* (1 John 2:17)...

Psalm 69

5 O God, thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee.

The word 'God' here is again '**Elohiym** (#430), which means *the Supreme God*, who is our *Creator*. '**Elohiym** (or '**Elohim**) is God the Creator putting His omnipotence ('**El**) into operation. And the word '**foolishness**' here means **silliness** (#200); it's also been translated as *folly*. Truly, we all have been foolish in our life, especially in our younger years. And perhaps that is what David is speaking about - the foolishness of his younger years when he 'didn't know any better'. And we all have a tendency to think we are invincible, and always right, when we are younger... before we've got the experience to know better! And the word '**sins**' here means **guiltiness** and **at fault** (#819). So, David is admitting that he was not without sin, for even *the thought of foolishness is sin* (Prov 24:9). However, he knew he had not done anything to deserve the persecutions he was receiving and that's why he kept asking God for help. And this is always wise for us to do too, when we're being persecuted for things we think we do not deserve. It's always good to look inside our heart and mind, and repent (sincerely) for the sins we do see; for *that's* how we can ensure our Heavenly Father will help us. After all, there might just be something we *did* do to deserve the way we are being treated; that's always a possibility. But,

David had apparently looked inside himself (probably many times); so, he knew he was not sinless and there were times he acted foolishly in life – as it is for all of us, with the exception of Jesus Christ. He truly had no sin (Heb 4:15, 2 Cor 5:21, 1 Peter 2:22, 1 John 3:5) - and therefore David was sure that his persecutions were totally unwarranted. But, when we do see our sins (which usually comes when studying His Word, Heb 4:12), our Heavenly Father is gracious and merciful to forgive our sins, so long as we humbly and sincerely repent for them (1 John 1:9). So, while David was not without sin, he was truly being persecuted *wrongfully*. And because David did confess and repent (*wholeheartedly*) for his sins, our Heavenly Father *would* hear – and answer – his pleas for help...

Psalm 69

*6 Let not them that **wait** on thee, O Lord GOD of hosts, be ashamed for my sake: let not those that seek thee be confounded for my sake, O God of Israel.*

The word ‘**wait**’ here is a beautiful word in the Hebrew; one we’ve seen before in the Psalms (Ps 25:3,5,21, 27:14, 37:9,34, 39:7, 52:9, 56:6). It is *qavah* (#6960), a primitive root that means **to bind together** (perhaps by twisting), i.e. **collect**; (figuratively) **to expect**. So, the word ‘wait’ in the Hebrew doesn’t mean what our English word does; that we should just sit around idle and do nothing. It means to wait on the Lord’s help (answer to our prayers) but to do so by binding our inner man (heart and mind) to His. And we do this by studying His Word and allowing it to change what we desire (our heart) and how we think (our mind) so that we learn how to obey God’s Word, from the heart (willingly). And, as we do this (bind our heart and mind to God, through His Word and Holy Spirit) we *can* ‘expect’ to ‘collect’ on His promises. For, the only way we can ‘claim’ God’s promises is by doing our part to be able to receive them. That means, we must *obey* the *conditions* of His promises. The conditions are often the ‘if’ in the Scriptures – ‘if’ you obey Him *then* He will bless and protect you. And while none of us are without fault (we all fall short and sin at times, Rom 3:23), our Heavenly Father knows when we are sincerely trying. And He’ll help us grow, mature, and get stronger so we can learn to better obey Him... and then the blessings begin to flow. And the best blessing of all is the precious peace of mind He gives us (Isa 26:3, Ps 16:11, Phil 4:6-7).

Next, David also uses another different name/title for our Heavenly Father. The word ‘Lord’ is actually *Adonay* (#136) but it’s used only as a proper name for God. It’s also an emphatic form of *adown* or (shortened) *adon* (#113), which means **sovereign**, i.e. **controller** (human or divine). And then the word ‘God’ is **Yehovih** (#3069), which is another variation of *Yehovah* (#3068). Apx 4:VIII 2 and II tells us more about these two titles/names of God. Further, *Adonay* (or Adonai) is the Lord *in His relation to the earth*; and, as carrying out His purposes of blessing in the earth. With this limitation *it is almost equivalent to Yehovah*. Indeed, it was from an early date so used, by associating the vowel points of the word Yehovah with Adon, thus converting Adon into Adoni. A list of 134 passages (which we’ve learned some about already in our studies

in the Psalms) where this was deliberately done is preserved and given in the *Massorah* (104-115, see apx 32). We saw this used back in Psalms 68:20. And then the word ‘**hosts**’ is the Hebrew word *tsaba’* or *tseba’ah* (#6635) which means **a mass of persons** (or figuratively, things), especially reg. **organized for war** (**an army**); by implication, **a campaign**, literally or figuratively (specifically, hardship, worship) (#6635). We saw this used back in Psalms 59:5.

Now, David makes a different request here in verse 6. Instead of asking something for *himself*, he’s asking something *for others* who ‘wait’ (bind themselves to) the ‘Lord God of hosts’ – he asks that they be not ashamed. And then he states nearly the same thing but asks those that ‘seek’ Him not be ‘confounded’, for his (David’s) sake and calls our Heavenly Father the ‘God’ (#430 *Elohiym*) of Israel, which is used quite a bit elsewhere in the Bible, especially in the book of Isaiah. The word ‘**ashamed**’ here means not only **to be ashamed** but also **disappointed** or **delayed** (#935) and the word ‘**confused**’ means **to wound** and, figuratively, it means **to taunt** or **insult** (#3637). And then the word ‘**seek**’ means **to search out** (by any method, *specifically in worship or prayer*); by implication, **to strive after** (#1245), which is an *excellent* explanation of what the Hebrew word ‘wait’ means - #6960 *qavah* - to bind together (perhaps by twisting), i.e. collect; (figuratively) to expect. So, what this boils down to is that David – in all his trials and tribulations, and terrible emotional distress that he’s in – is not thinking only of himself. That’s the mark of someone who *truly* loves our Heavenly Father: **unselfishness**. David’s concern is that, if he is being treated this horribly for no fault of his own, how many others who love and serve God are too? He prayed a very similar request back a few chapters...

2 *O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me.*
3 *Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed: let them be ashamed which transgress without cause.*

Ps 25:2-3

So, David’s not only thinking of himself. He doesn’t want anyone who ‘waits’ on God, by seeking them wholeheartedly, to be ashamed (or disappointed) or to be taunted and insulted, like he is. If this Psalm was written during David’s younger years, this is quite an understandable prayer request. After all, David had been proclaimed to be a traitor, and a rebel, by the king of Israel (Saul). And, even though Saul had been rejected by God by this time (1 Sam 15:23), most people in Israel didn’t realize that. And so, many were afraid to disobey Saul... even if that meant disobeying God. How some things never change (Ecc 1:9). People today also fear disobeying the government over fearing to disobey God Almighty. So, David not only didn’t want those who were truly seeking our Heavenly Father to be persecuted (which some were) but he also didn’t want those who helped him to be harmed either. Perhaps he was thinking of his best friend, Jonathan (among others)? For he put his ‘neck on the line’ to try and help David; interceding, for David’s behalf, with his father (Saul) *several* times. Again, unselfishness is a mark of someone who truly loves, and is striving to obey, our Heavenly Father. So, David really

is showing his ‘true colors’ here. Likewise, Jesus Christ, knowing full well that He was about to be brutally beaten, mocked and killed in one of the most torturous of ways (via crucifixion) told Peter that, He knew Peter would deny Him (*three* times) yet still prayed that his faith would not fail (Luke 22:32). Jesus also prayed for all those who God had ‘given Him’ (John 17:9) and asked that they wouldn’t be taken out of the world [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/457>] but that God would keep (guard, #5083) them from evil (John 17:15). And we too should do the same for those in the Body of Christ (James 5:16).

Psalms 69

7 Because for thy sake I have borne reproach; shame hath covered my face.

This verse shows that David well understood what his troubles were all about: *spiritual* warfare. David had been anointed as the next king of Israel at a very young age, likely around 17 years old. And 1 Sam 16:13 tells us that from that day on, the Spirit of the Lord (YHVH) was upon David. And it was an evil spirit that caused Saul (who entertained it) to hate David, insomuch that he kept trying to kill him, for no good reason (1 Sam 18:10, 19:9). So, it was the Devil (Satan) himself who kept trying to get the true ‘anointed’ king of Israel (David) killed by the king of Israel who had been rejected by God (1 Sam 16:14). And by this time in David’s life (when he wrote this Psalm), David well understood that the reason he was being persecuted was because he was a faithful servant (anointed) of God.

And so it is that *all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution* (2 Tim 3:12). And, that’s because (as Jesus said) the servant is not greater than his lord. If (and they did) persecute Jesus Christ, they *will* persecute us (John 15:20). And they even persecuted the man who was a ‘type’ of the Savior, which was David. He was the one who God anointed to lead Israel; the man who God would use to conquer Israel’s enemies. And likewise, Jesus Christ was also persecuted from the time He was a babe; for even Herod tried to get him killed when he was but a toddler. God had to warn the wise men, and Joseph, so that Jesus would be kept safe (Mth 2:12-13). And there were several times throughout Jesus’ ministry that God saved Him too, when the religious men were so pissed off at Jesus that they *literally* tried to kill Him themselves (John 8:59, 10:31, 39). As 2 Cor 10:3 says: *for though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh*. So, even though we might be in physical warfare (as David was), the root of it is always spiritual. As Paul reminds us also in Eph 6:12: *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places*. That’s why we should put on the whole armor of God so we can withstand the ‘evil day’ (when Satan comes to earth to fool the world into worshiping him as God, 2 Thess 2, Rev 12) - because we must do *all we can do* to spiritually prepare for that time (Eph 6:13). So, when we’re persecuted unjustly and ‘hated without a cause’, we must remember that the reason is because we’re in a *spiritual* war. As Peter warned...

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

*9 Whom **resist steadfast in the faith**, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*

1 Peter 5:8-9

And because we're in a spiritual war, it's important we not be consumed with alcohol, drugs or anything else that clouds our thinking abilities, because *we need to stay on guard* so we don't get deceived into believing in, and following, lies. That's how far too many Israelites were fooled into helping Saul try and kill David. And we should also know that we're not alone, even today, in being persecuted. Christians *all over the world* are also being persecuted too. So, it's good for us to pray for them, just as David did in vs 6. But what we should also not forget is that Jesus Christ (who never sinned at all, Heb 4:15, 2 Cor 5:21, 1 Peter 2:22, 1 John 3:5) has truly born (put up with) reproach (insults and slander) and shame (disgrace) but He did so *for our sake*, as Isaiah 53 [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Isaiah/1386] explains ever so clearly, and the Gospels all document. And that is why we should be willing to suffer for His sake too. After all, when you truly love someone, you are willing to suffer for them. And suffering to help others come to Jesus Christ is *well worth* the temporary pain we must go through to help, even just *one* other person, return to God, through faith in Jesus Christ. After all, Jesus told us, in Matt 5:11-12 and Lk 6:22-23, that we will be *extremely* blessed (happy) for serving Him, despite being reviled, persecuted and all manner of evil things falsely said about us – for our reward in heaven (meaning, when we die or when Jesus returns) is *very* great. And that's something we should never forget! As Paul wrote in 1 Tim 4:10: *for therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.*

Psalm 69

8 I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children.

David now speaks of how, even some of his own family didn't want to have anything to do with him. While we know some of his family did remain loyal to him (1 Sam 22:1), some didn't stick with him. So, David felt like they considered him a stranger, as if he was from a foreign nation. And again, in Lk 6:23 Jesus told us not to be worried when people hate us, separate us from their company (shun us) and speak of us as evil doers, *when* we faithfully serve Jesus Christ. Because, our rewards for staying loyal to Jesus Christ are *very* great. And *nothing* is worth losing eternal life or being able to make the first resurrection – which means we get to serve Jesus Christ in the Millennium (Rev 20:4-6). And for those of us living today, the pressure will be even greater than ever before. For, when Satan is cast out of heaven to earth (with his fallen angels) many unsuspecting Christians will unwittingly fall for his lies (as the studies on apostasy explain: <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/499>). And so, when we refuse to worship Satan (who they think is the real 'Christ'), they will be disgusted with us. Yet, others will 'deliver us up' to the

courts in hopes we'll change our mind (Luke 21:16-17). Yet, that's as it should be; for that's when the Holy Spirit has the opportunity speak through us, to help them (and many others) realize that *Satan is a fake* (Mth 10:18-22, Mk 13:9-13, Lk 21:12-19). So, don't get mad at others just because they treat you like crap for being a Christian. And don't get mad at other Christians who refuse to see how they've fallen for the 'traditions of man' and think that the real Gospel of Jesus Christ is a lie (or a cult). They are deceived terribly and just don't know it. While we should not let them change our faith in the truth, nor partake with them in their ignorant traditions, we should be mature enough to not get mad or hate them back. Remember, learning to endure hard times (which also applies to peer pressure and slandering's about us) is part of what matures and purifies our heart and mind.

And Jesus also knew what this felt like, for even his own half siblings didn't all believe in Him, as John 7:1-8 documents. John 1:11 also says that *He came unto his own, and his own received him not*. This means that Jesus' own nation (Israel) didn't accept Him as the Messiah. Jesus also made it clear that He considered those who hear the Word of God, and do it, **his brethren** – much more so than those who were biologically related to Him (Luke 8:21). That's why the apostles called other believers 'the brethren'. And we really are 'brethren' when we truly believe in Jesus Christ. Because, those who the Holy Spirit creates a 'new man' within (Eph 4:24, Col 2:10), truly have been 'begotten' by the Holy Spirit (1 John 5:18, 1 Pt 1:3). As 1 John 5:1 so forthrightly says: *whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God* and James 1:18 also declares that: *of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures*. So, we are truly *spiritual* brethren, when we're in the Body of Christ.

Psalms 69

9 For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.

David truly was very zealous for our Heavenly Father. He showed his zeal when he was just a young man (around 17 years old) and had the faith to take on the giant, Goliath, even though he had no prior military experience. But, he had experienced God's helping him to kill a lion and a bear while protecting his flock; so, he had the faith to know God would help him kill that giant (1 Sam 17:33-37,44-51). Interestingly, the word 'zeal' here means to be **jealous** or even **envious** (#7068). And the word 'house' can also mean **a family** (#1004). And the phrase 'eaten me up' is a figure of speech that means *to be consumed with 'zeal'*, which means jealousy or envy. In this case, **it means to be jealous for the Lord**. And this is as it should be...

9 And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah?

*10 And he said, **I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.***

11 And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake:

12 And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

13 And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?

*14 And he said, **I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.***

1 Kings 19:9-14

This account is after Elijah had gone to Israel and demanded a ‘face off’ with the false prophets. He demanded a ‘test’ to show Israel who was *truly* God, and that the false prophets were *really false*. So, the false prophets/priests made an altar and spent *all day* trying to get their false gods to make fire come down and consume it. It didn’t work. Then Elijah had an altar made to the *true* God (YHVH) and even requested *water to be poured on it* (which was quite a precious commodity since they had been in a drought for three years) – and after that, he called upon the *true* God to consume it with fire – and He did! Then, Elijah *killed off all* of the false prophets; and because he did so, the king’s wicked wife threatened to kill Elijah. So, he fled to the wilderness where he asked God that he could just die. Apparently, he felt as if he had failed his mission. Have you ever felt this way? As if your seed planting is for nothing? Or that, the whole world is going to ‘hell in a handbasket’ and there’s nothing you can do to stop it? Well, that’s what Elijah felt like at this point in time. Yet, *it was not true* for him and *neither is it for us*. Just because the whole nation didn’t turn around (as Elijah was apparently hoping for) he did make a positive impact. Not only did he make many bold stands for God, he also started prophet schools (where God’s Word was taught) which would continue on through the years of the next prophet of God, Elisha. But, the point to our study is that Elijah was very ‘jealous’ for the Lord God of Israel *because* he was very angry that they kept apostatizing! So, jealousy is not always a bad thing. In fact, Ex 20:5, 34:14, Deut 4:24, 5:9, 6:15 and Joshua 24:19 all tell us that Yehovah is a jealous God... why? Because He does not like us worshiping anyone other than Him! And, if we are ‘jealous for Him’, we too should not like anyone worshiping false gods. So, it's good for us to be ‘jealous’ (zealous) of our God in this way; *so long as* it doesn’t cause us to act in misguided zeal, as Psalms 37 so sternly warns us against.

And that's essentially what David is saying here. *Because* he served God, he was being severely persecuted (as happened to all of God's prophets). The reproaches (insults, reviling's, abuse, etc., #2781) of those who hated God 'fell upon' David because he was truly serving God; just as they did for Elijah, Jeremiah and so many other prophets – even Jesus Christ! Indeed, Jesus Christ was very 'zealous' (even jealous) for God's 'house'...

*13 And the Jews' passover was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem,
14 And found in the temple those that sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the changers of money sitting:
15 And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables;
16 And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; **make not my Father's house an house of merchandise**.
17 And his disciples remembered that it was written, **The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up**.*
John 2:13-17

When Jesus went into the Temple, He saw something that *greatly* disturbed Him. There were people selling oxen, sheep and doves. There were also 'changers of money'. This made Him so zealous (or 'jealous') for God (i.e. it kindled His righteous indignation) that he made a 'scourge of small cords' (a whip, #5416) and literally drove them all out of the Temple, along with the all the animals! He also poured out the money of the money changers and overthrew their tables! He then verbally commanded those who sold the animals to take 'these things hence' – He told them to take their things and get the heck out of there. Why? *Because He did not want them to make His Father's house a 'house of merchandise'*. Many people think this is 'uncharacteristic' of Jesus, but **it shows they do not really know Him**. He will do much more than this when He returns at His Second Advent! And never forget, Jesus never did anything that was (or is) not commanded by His Heavenly Father (God Almighty) (John 8:28). So, this is something that God wanted done. Why? Well, Matt 21:12-13, Mark 11:15-18 and Luke 19:45-48 all tell us it was because God's house was *supposed* to be a 'house of prayer' (Isa 56:1-8) but they made it a 'den of thieves' (Jer 7:1-11). God's Temple is *supposed* to be a place where His children come to communicate with Him (a House of prayer) but those moneychangers and sellers of animals were making it a 'den of thieves' by selling animals to be offered to God, when the people were supposed to be giving God the best of what *they* had. Instead of the people sacrificing the best of their won herd (as they were supposed to do), they just stopped and bought an animal to sacrifice. So, these animals were not only *not* coming from the people themselves (it was not of their own herds or flocks they sacrificed from; which it was supposed to be) but they were also *not up to standards* of what the sacrifices were to be (without blemish, i.e. Lev 1:3).

So, it was like going to a 'Quick stop' and picking up an inferior 'offering' for God that was quite valueless and also quite shallow. Offering God an inferior animal they can get quickly, and not

having to take the best of their own flock is not an offering that pleased God. Yet, the religious leaders lied and told the people it was. And so, selling people inferior animals that they could get *quickly totally undermined the entire purpose for sacrifices in the first place*. It's similar to telling people that they can *pay the Church* to get their sins forgiven... perhaps that sounds familiar to you? And that's why it angered Jesus so much. And the money changers were also crooked as heck. They had a monopoly over the *kind* of money that could be given to the Temple; they were the only ones who could 'change' the normal money into 'temple money'... which again was not commanded by God. So they (like those who sold the inferior animals) were 'making a killing' from 'religion'. But, the purpose of God's Temple (His House) was (and is still) to be a place people can come to pray to Him, which simply means to communicate with God, *from your heart*. It's also a place where people should be able to come and *learn truth* (from God's Word). So, Jesus was really angry because these people were making a lot of money off of normal people wanting to be pleasing to God, and *it was at the cost of the souls of the people*.

Sadly, organized religion always becomes corrupted over time. This has been proven time and time again. The history of Israel (documented in the Old Testament) proves this, and the New Testament warns of this (2 Tim 3:1-8, 4:3-4). And even in the days when the Church was being established, there were many who tried to corrupted it, which Paul warned would happen to us in the 'latter days' (2 Thess 2). And this is what made Jesus Christ (as it did Elijah and David) so 'jealousy' for God's house being perverted by idol worshipers, that he took a whip and literally cleaned them out. The 'religious' men were making His House a 'den of robbers (thieves)' because they were allowing abominations to go on, even by the gates of His house, instead of doing what was right (executing His righteous laws) and *teaching the truth*. And that's what really 'ate at' Jesus and caused His 'zeal' (jealousy and righteous indignation) to boil up.

And in David's days, the fact that he was continuously persecuted by men who were not loyal from our Heavenly Father really 'ate him up' too. This shows us the depth of David's love for God. For, not only was it distressing that he was being persecuted, but the fact that other innocent people were to. And further, those who were doing the persecuting *really did not love our Heavenly Father*. In past Psalms David wrote about how *totally* morally corrupt they were (Ps 58-59 for example). The history of the priesthood before the prophet Samuel reveals how crooked the priesthood had become. And while Samuel did help it a lot, there was still a lot of idolatry in the nation, which really 'ate at' David, and all others who loved the Lord – just as it does for us today. And, when you are living in a nation that has many idol worshipers, you are going to be reproached (insulted, slandered, lied about, persecuted, etc.) when you faithfully follow Jesus Christ. Remember, we're in a *spiritual* war. So, indeed, the reproaches from the apostasies did 'fall upon' David *because* he was an anointed servant of Jesus Christ. And thus, 'reproaches' also 'fell upon' Jesus Christ, as Paul pointed out...

1 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

2 Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification.

*3 For even Christ pleased not himself; but, **as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.***

*4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we **through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.***

Rom 15:1-4

Indeed, Jesus Christ was truly reproached (Greek #3679, which means to defame, i.e. rail at, chide, taunt) and this happened during His ministry (Lk 16:14), as well as when He was brutally beaten (Lk 22:63, 23:11, Mth 27:29-31), and also when He was hanging on the cross (Lk 23:35, Mk 15:29-32, Mth 27:39-44). So, it's not uncommon for those who God has anointed to serve Him – from Moses, to David to Jeremiah to Jesus and Paul (yea, to so many others) – to have to put up with being reproached and treated cruelly, for the sake of serving Jesus Christ. Again, we're in a spiritual war. *And the more you hurt Satan, the more he's going to strike out at you.* While it might not make it much easier to go through, this fact will help us get through it. Because, just as God helped all those who served Him faithfully before, *so too will he help us.* So long as we don't forsake Him, He won't ever forsake us...

*7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for **whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.***

*8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh **reap corruption**; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall **of the Spirit reap life everlasting.***

*9 And let us **not be weary in well doing**: for **in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.***

10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Gal 6:7-10

We'll pick this up in part 3...

AMEN.