

Psalm 31:14–15

¹⁴ But as for me, I trust in You, O LORD; I say, “You are my God.”

¹⁵ My times are in Your hand; Deliver me from the hand of my enemies, And from those who persecute me.

“My Times are in Your Hands” *Psalm 31:14-15*

INTRO:

When I was a child there was a popular song that said, ***“He’s got the whole world in His hands/ He’s got the whole wide world in His hands.”*** Clearly, such a lyric would not be popular today. The 31st Psalm makes me think about this song. David claimed in the 15th verse that God has his times in His hands. ***“But as for me, I trust in You, O LORD; I say, You are my God. My times are in Your hand. Deliver me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.”***

Psalm 31 is a long song. It has several stanzas. The first five verses are a prayer for deliverance from trouble. In these verses David uses the image of God being his rock and fortress. In **verses 6-8**, David expresses his trust in God. Then in **verses 9-13**, David grieves over the trouble he is in. Our text is found next in David’s praise to God for His help in this difficult situation. How would you respond to the circumstances of **verses 12 and 13?** ***“I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; I am like a broken vessel. For I hear the slander of many; fear is on every side; while they take counsel together against me, they scheme to take away my life.”***

I wager that it would not naturally be David’s response. He wrote:

vs.14-15 ***“But as for me, I trust in You, O LORD, I say, ‘You are my God.’ My times are in Your hand. Deliver me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.”***

What did David mean that his times were in God’s hand? His statement has three dimensions. First, he knew that the times of the world were in the LORD’s hands. Second, He also was sure that the circumstances surrounding His life as a whole were in the LORD’s hand. But most of all He knew that the times of His life today were in His hands.

I. The World

II. Life

III. Today

I. The World

A. David could proclaim confidently that in the face of enormous pressure and the attack of his enemies that he trusted in God and knew that his times were in God’s hands because He knew that the times of the world were in God’s hands.

1. Several centuries later, another dear saint of God, Daniel the prophet, in an equally difficult situation could praise the LORD that his times, indeed the times of the entire world, were in God's hands. He said in **Daniel 2:20-22**;

“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons. He removes kings and raises up kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals deep and secret things. He knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with Him.”

2. Daniel like David before him could look death straight in the eye and praise God because he knew that God was the one who directed history and set up kings and puts them down. God was bigger than Nebuchadnezzar and God is bigger than any problem that Daniel faced.

B. Speaking of Nebuchadnezzar, he too was to learn an important lesson about the Lord our God and His having our times in His hands.

1. In **Daniel 4** we read the account. Twice, in the relating of the dream and then in God's decree that made it happen, we are told the purpose of this little exercise. One of those occasions is **verse 32**.

“And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses.”

Finally, after seven years, Nebuchadnezzar's mind is returned to him and we read how he indeed learned the lesson that God wanted to teach him.

2. Here is Nebuchadnezzar's thesis for his degree in God's school of theology.

vs.34-35 ***“And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever, for His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing. He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’”***

3. Although a pagan king learned this lesson in theology, there are many who name the name of Christ who refuse to embrace this reality. Do you believe that God is absolutely in control over the events of the world around you? Or are we among those who when 9/11 came wrung our hands and said, ***“Where was God?”*** God put Nebuchadnezzar through seven years as an ox to teach this truth to him. What will God have to put us through to teach this reality to you and me?

II. Life

A. Not only did David understand that the LORD his God held the events of history and the world in His hand, David also knew that God held the circumstances of his very life in His almighty hands. Most of us would pass the test if we were asked if we believed that God controlled the Universe He created. We might even concede that God is the God of history and puts rulers up and takes them down again. However, when it comes to believing God is the blessed controller of everything in our lives, that is when “we are not smarter than a fifth grader.”

B. David did not fail this test. Do you remember his great Psalm about God’s omniscience and omnipresence? **Psalm 139.1-6** says:

“O LORD, You have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. You scrutinize my path and my lying down, and are intimately acquainted with all my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all. You have enclosed me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me. It is too high, I cannot attain to it.”

David said, “Yahweh I know you are intimately involved in my life. I cannot begin to fully understand this.” God is actively sovereignly working out His will for our lives.

C. In the Psalm **139:16** David wrote.

“Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed, and in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.”

The times of your life and mine are already written down in God’s book. Our lives are in His hand!

III. Today

A. David could say to God, ***“My times are in Your hands”*** and find great comfort in this truth because he knew that God controlled history. ***“He has the whole wide world in His hands.”*** Not only that, He has David’s entire life in His hands. We need to bring the circle in one more time. Before this will be real to us, we need to understand that He has our today and tomorrow in His hands.

B. David knew God had his today and tomorrow in His hands. In **Psalm 31:6-8** we read; ***“I hate those who regard vain idols, but I trust in the LORD. I will rejoice and be glad in Your lovingkindness, Because You have seen my affliction; You have known the troubles of my soul, And You have not given me over into the hand of the enemy; You have set my feet in a large place.”***

1. David says, first, he knows God saw his affliction. Implied in the fact God saw it is that He will do something about his trouble.

2. Second, God also felt the anguish of David's soul. God knows what we feel. David wrote in **Psalm 56**;

"You number my wanderings. Put my tears into Your bottle. Are they not in Your book?"

God understands tears. He knows what we are going through.

Do we believe this also? Do we believe that God knows our afflictions and trials? Are we sure He will deliver us? Do we recognize God knows exactly what we are going through? Do we understand that God is involved in all the details of our lives?

We can say with David that we know that our times are in His hands if we are certain that the affairs of the World and history are in His hands, and that the circumstances of our lives are in His hands, but most of all, if we live in the reality that today and tomorrow are in His hands also.