

Evening Sermon Outline – January 2, 2022  
“Climbing Past the Enemy, THEY” Psalm 129

This is another **Song of Ascents** indicating the climb is not Easy, because there are enemies not only on the way, but all the way, every step is contested -

I. Many times “they” afflicted Israel -

1. “Many a time... Psalm 129:1 A repeated verse :2

“Many a time... Psalm 129:2 A

Multiple, repeated afflictions ---

2. they have afflicted me from my youth,” from my youth -

Let Israel now say—

<sup>2</sup> “Many a time they have afflicted me from my youth;

This is Israel speaking as a nation ... read their history -

3. Who “they” are is not specified, why?

A. Enemies do not deserve the fame of a name –

Verse 1.—“They.” The persecutors deserve not a name...”

—John Trapp.

B. Enemies too many for a song, too long a list to make ...

Verse 1.—“They.” In speaking of the enemies of Israel simply by the pronoun “they,” without being more specific, the Psalmist aggravates the greatness of the evil more than if he had expressly named the Assyrians or the Egyptians. By not specifying any particular class of foes, he tacitly intimates that the world is filled with innumerable bands of enemies, whom Satan easily arms for the destruction of good men, his object being that new wars may arise continually on every side. History certainly bears ample testimony that the people of God had not to deal with a few enemies, but that they were assaulted by almost the whole world; and further, that they were molested not only by external foes, but also by those of an internal kind, by such as professed to belong to the Church.—*John Calvin.*

C. “They” afflict, not God –

\* God is sovereign, He allows the affliction or the affliction would not happen! Yet, while He (God) allows affliction, even for our good

- Job 23:10 (NKJV) <sup>10</sup> But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.

\* God allows trials to refine us, but Satan wants us to curse God and die – Job 2:9 (NKJV) <sup>9</sup> Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!” -Satan, will make even our own family our enemy ... he makes them into part of “They”

4. Long before Israel was born, “They” were afflicting God’s people –

Verse 1.—“From my youth.” The first that ever died, died for religion; so early came martyrdom into the world.—*John Trapp.*

5. Long after this Psalmist the persecution continues –

<sup>12</sup> Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. 2 Timothy 3:12

6. 666 the number of a man: is a number of murders; a number of persecutions, a number connected to death –

... and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. <sup>16</sup> He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, <sup>17</sup> and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Revelation 13:15-17

<sup>12</sup> There is a way *that seems* right to a man, but its end *is* the way of death. Proverbs 14:12 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> “Their feet are swift to shed blood; Romans 3:15 (NKJV)

7. Yet, though they assail, they cannot prevail –  
Yet they have not prevailed against me. Psalm 129:2 B

<sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? Romans 8:31

Romans 8:35–39 (NKJV) <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written: “*For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*”

<sup>37</sup> Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## II. *They are plowers –*

<sup>3</sup> The plowers plowed on my back; They made their furrows long.”  
Psalm 129:3

1. *It is what they did to our Lord Jesus, what He knew they would do -*

<sup>33</sup> They will scourge *Him* and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.” Luke 18:33

19 So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged *Him*. John 19:1

2. *It is what Christ told us they would do to us –*

Matthew 10:17 (NKJV) <sup>17</sup> But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues.

*Scourging is plowing of the back with a whip ... a whip laced with sharp stones --- yet they are spiritual plowers also, sowing evil seed ...*

## III. *They are doomed –*

<sup>4</sup> The LORD *is* righteous; He has cut in pieces the cords of the wicked

<sup>5</sup> Let all those who hate Zion Be put to shame and turned back.

<sup>6</sup> Let them be as the grass on the housetops, Which withers before it grows up, <sup>7</sup> With which the reaper does not fill his hand, Nor he who binds sheaves, his arms. <sup>8</sup> Neither let those who pass by them say, “The blessing of the LORD *be* upon you; We bless you in the name of the LORD!” Psalm 129:4-8 (NKJV)

1. *The Lord is righteous, you will be freed and avenged - :4 –*

<sup>4</sup> The LORD *is* righteous; He has cut in pieces the cords of the wicked ...  
*Cords they used to tie / bind God's people are cut!*

2. *They will be ashamed, and turned back – :5*

<sup>5</sup> Let all those who hate Zion Be put to shame and turned back.

A. *This means eventually they will see God's glory, even in His people, and they will be ashamed of their actions*

B. *Turned back, they won't achieve their goal ...*

3. *Grass on housetops –*

<sup>6</sup> Let them be as the grass on the housetops, Which withers before it grows up, Psalm 129:6

A. *Short lived either with death*

B. *Or short-lived; in regard to power ...*

4. *The prayer is also that they will be FEW –*

<sup>7</sup> With which the reaper does not fill his hand, Nor he who binds sheaves, his arms. Psalm 129:7

5. *They are certainly not ultimately blessed –*

<sup>8</sup> Neither let those who pass by them say, “The blessing of the LORD *be* upon you; We bless you in the name of the LORD!” Psalm 129:4-8 (NKJV)

A. *This is not in contradiction to Jesus' command –*

<sup>43</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘*You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.*’ <sup>44</sup> But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, <sup>45</sup> that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. <sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more *than others*? Do not even the tax collectors do so? <sup>48</sup> Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect. Matthew 5:43-48 *This has to do with who we are, as sons of the Heavenly Father ----*

B. *The prayed for do-not-let-them-be blessed, has to do with who THEY, the enemies of God's people are... THEY do not deserve the blessing – even if they receive it –*

**Romans 12:14-20**

*Arnold Brevick*