

## Psalm 5 – a lament for resurrection

Eric Pyle

### I. Genre of Lament (or Petition)

“*Laments cry out* to God, **remembering** Yahweh's past covenant mercies and promises, and **offering a case** for God to prove his faithfulness **to save the psalmist** from his present distress.” (Dillard & Longman, *Introduction the OT*).

Laments typically contain more than one of following components:

- 1) **Invocation/Appeal** to God to listen to hear his case
- 2) Submission of **Problem/Complaint** and **Specific Requests** for help
- 3) **Defense of innocence** (or confession of sin)
- 4) **Profession of faith, Confidence in God's faithfulness** or **Vow of thanksgiving**
- 5) **Hymn of Praise/Blessing**

### II. Literary Context

**Wide:** The Psalter (5 books: *Petitions* dominate books 1-3 (Ps 1-89); *Praise* dominates 4-5 (Ps 90-150).

- 1) **Covenant-Confidence** – Blessing in God's teaching (Ps 1) by establishing His Messiah (Ps 2)
- 2) **Lament** (Ps 3) – David is displaced from the throne (Ps 3-7...)
- 3) **Praise** (Ps 144-150) – God (re-)establishes David's throne (Ps 96-99)

**Near:** The 7 superscripted “Psalms of David” // (Creation week?)  
Ps 3-7: 5 Laments // (days 1-5, morning & evening)  
Psalm 8: Enthronement of Adam as king // (day 6: creation of man)  
Psalm 9: Praise to God as King (+ petition) // (day 7: Sabbath)

Psalm 5 is a **liturgical centerpiece** in the drama of David's exile (Ps 3, & 7)

(3:1) A PSALM OF DAVID, *WHEN HE FLED FROM ABSALOM HIS SON.*  
(4:1) TO THE CHOIRMASTER: WITH STRINGED INSTRUMENTS.  
A PSALM OF DAVID.  
(5:1) TO THE CHOIRMASTER: **FOR THE FLUTES.**  
A PSALM OF DAVID.  
(6:1) TO THE CHOIRMASTER: WITH STRINGED INSTRUMENTS....  
A PSALM OF DAVID.  
(7:1) A SHIGGAION OF DAVID, *WHICH HE SANG TO THE LORD*  
*CONCERNING THE WORDS OF CUSH, A BENJAMINITE.*

### III. Basic Outline of Psalm 5

1-2. **Appeal** to Yahweh/King/God: the words of David

2. **Ground for appeal:** (Profession of faith) God's own name/reputation

3. **Confidence/Vow** to Yahweh: for David's morning sacrifice

4-6. **Ground for confidence** (implied complaint & implied innocence):  
(Profession of faith) Yahweh does not tolerate pride/injustice/falsehood.

7-8. **Request** (==what?): Lead David to enter His house to worship in fear/truth. (bless)

means: *by His faithfulness & righteousness, making level His way*

8b,9. **Ground for request:** <FIGurative> His enemies' falsehood leads to death

10. **Request** (==how?): Humble his enemies. (curse)

**Ground for request:** their rebellion against God

11. **Request** (==why?): Let those who trust in God's protection rejoice in Him forever.

12. **Ground for confidence:** (Profession of faith) Yahweh blesses/protects the righteous <FIG>

**IV. Conclusion** – David's prayer is answered in the resurrection/exaltation of His Messiah Jesus

God vindicates the His reputation of His covenant faithfulness/righteous in His Son

Cursing Death/Sin in Him

Restoring/Exalting Him to rule the world in righteousness in His image.

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ESV **Psalm 5:1** TO THE CHOIRMASTER: FOR THE FLUTES. A PSALM OF DAVID.

	<b>Give ear</b> to <i>my words</i> ,	<b>APPEAL</b>
O LORD;		
	<b>consider</b> my groaning.	
<sup>2</sup>	<b>Give attention</b> to the sound of my cry,	
my King		
and my God,		GROUND (PROFESSION)
	<u>for</u> to <i>you</i> do <b>I pray</b> .	
<sup>3</sup> O LORD,		<b>CONFIDENCE/ VOW/ INNOCENCE(?)</b>
	<i>in the morning</i>	
you	<sup>1</sup> <b>hear</b> my voice;	
	<i>in the morning</i> <sup>2</sup>	
I	<b>prepare a sacrifice</b> for you	
	and <b>watch</b> .	
<sup>4</sup>	<u>For</u> you are not a God who delights in wickedness;	GROUND (PROFESSION)
	evil <b>may not dwell</b> with you.	
<sup>5</sup>	The boastful <b>shall not stand</b> before your eyes;	
	<b>you hate</b> all evildoers.	
<sup>6</sup>	<b>You destroy</b> those who speak lies;	
	<u>the LORD</u> <b>abhors</b> the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.	
<sup>7</sup> But I,	through <i>the abundance of your steadfast love</i> ,	<b>REQUEST (BLESSING)</b>
	<b>will enter</b> <sup>3</sup> your house.	
I	<b>will bow down</b> toward your holy temple in the fear of you.	
<sup>8</sup>	<b>Lead me,</b>	
O LORD,	<i>in your righteousness</i>	
	<i>because of my enemies;</i>	
	<b>make</b> your way <b>straight</b> before me.	
<sup>9</sup>	<u>For</u> there is no truth in their mouth;	GROUND (COMPLAINT)
	<i>their inmost self is destruction;</i>	
	<i>their throat is an {open grave};</i>	
	<i>they flatter with their tongue.</i>	
<sup>10</sup>	<b>Make</b> them <b>bear their guilt</b> ,	<b>REQUEST (CURSE)</b>
O God;		
	<b>let them fall</b> by their own counsels;	
	<i>because of the abundance of their transgressions</i>	
	<b>cast them out</b> ,	GROUND (COMPLAINT)
	<u>for</u> <b>they have rebelled</b> against you.	
<sup>11</sup> But	<b>let</b> all who take refuge in you <b>rejoice</b> ;	<b>REQUEST (BLESSING)</b>
	<b>let them</b> ever <b>sing for joy</b> ,	
	and <b>spread your protection</b> over them,	
	<i>that those who love your name may exult in you.</i>	
	<sup>12</sup> <u>For</u> <i>you</i> <b>bless</b> the righteous, O LORD;	GROUND (PROFESSION)
	<i>you cover him with favor as with a {shield}.</i>	

<sup>1</sup> Alternatively “You *shall* hear”

<sup>2</sup> Alternatively, “a sacrifice”

<sup>3</sup> Alternatively, “may I”