

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.*

## MESSIANIC PSALMS

### Psalm 31

#### INTRODUCTION

Why do words of slander or contempt (disrespect) from neighbors (friends) hurt?

#### OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

*Note: Psalm 31:5 was used as a Jewish child's bedtime prayer.*

#### Read Psalm 31:1-8

1. What does term "fortress" mean? Why is that a good description of God?
2. What is the trap that is set for David? Vv 1-5 Who is setting it? Why?

#### Read Psalm 31:9-13

3. What words imply that the trap has worked? Why didn't God prevent it?
4. How do the captors and his friends feel about him?

#### Read Psalm 31:14-20

5. How does David express his faith?
6. David didn't just commit his soul to God (Vs 5) but also his life (future here on earth) Vs 15. Why is it important to do both?
7. What are some of the good things that God has stored up for those who fear Him and take refuge in Him? Vs 19

#### Read Psalm 31:21-24

8. What words imply that God brought David through the danger?
9. Jesus quoted verse 5 when he was about to die. (Lk 23:46) How did his circumstances compare to David's? How did his prayers and faithfulness compare? How did God's response to David and Jesus compare?

#### APPLICATION

God doesn't change. He's still listening for prayers in distress. He's still all powerful with a plan that glorifies himself and often mystifies us. How can you express the commitment of your soul and future to Him (faith)?

*'Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last' (23:46). The other gospels record some of the most well-known words of Jesus from the cross, particularly his excruciating cry of agony of soul and heart, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' He was forsaken for a time, but then he followed that anguished exclamation with the statement, 'It is finished.' Presumably the forsakenness was over, the atonement had been made, it was finished and God gazed once more at his Son and Jesus could say, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.' The Father had just put the Son through hell, had just poured out the wrath of absolute righteousness upon him; yet the Son in saying, 'Father, I put my spirit in your hands,' vindicated not only the holiness of God but his own sinlessness.*

*'The centurion [the man in charge of the soldiers who did the actual crucifixion], seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man." ' Throughout the narrative Jesus is vindicated by official witnesses; Pilate four times stated 'I find no guilt in the man', and now the captain of the guard declares Jesus' innocence.<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> Sproul, R. C. (1999). *A Walk with God: An Exposition of Luke* (p. 414). Great Britain: Christian Focus Publications.