

“I Shall Go To Him”

Introduction. There is an account in the Old Testament about the consequences of transgression. When King David committed adultery with Bathsheba, a judgment was pronounced by Nathan (2 Samuel 12:10-14). Included in that judgment was the death of David and Bathsheba’s infant son. When the baby became ill, David fasted, prayed, and wept for six days. On the seventh day, David’s servants came with the anguished news, “He is dead.” David’s response is remarkable in 2 Samuel 12:22-23.

Everyone will face personal tragedy, such as the loss of loved ones, the loss of a parent, the loss of a spouse or child, divorce, or serious illness, so how does someone cope with catastrophes with deep faith and courage like King David? This lesson will offer four brief thoughts.

I. Comfort Through Communion

- A. David experienced comfort through God’s presence. Psalm 9 is a lament psalm, and it reads as though it was written during a painful period in David’s life. In it He speaks of God’s sanctuary during trying times (vv. 1-7, 13-16; cp. Psalm 119:132, 153).
- B. David found comfort through prayer, meditation, and fellowship with God. There were many other people in the scriptures who found it too (1 Samuel 1:1-10; Nehemiah 2:4; 13:14, 22, 31; Psalm 63:5-6; 104:34; 139:17-18; Exodus 33:11, 14-17; 2 Corinthians 13:11).

II. Peace To Ease Pain

- A. It is difficult for the non-believer to understand how peace can be experienced in times of turmoil, when your heart is breaking and you feel so weak and vulnerable; yet it so (Psalm 4:1-8).
- B. Jesus promised peace to His followers (John 14:27; 16:33), and Paul exalted the “peace of God” (Philippians 4:6-7). The concept of peace is pervasive in the New Testament. Paul expresses the wish of peace in the introduction of all 13 of his letters; Peter does it in both of his letters; John does it in 2 of 5 of his writings.
- C. God can provide peace in the most difficult circumstances, in the most trying times, and in the most severe situations. We are all so blessed to have words of comfort (Proverbs 3:21-26).

III. Purpose In Life

- A. David was assured that God was able to perform and perfect whatever He has promised for us (Psalm 57:1-2).
- B. God gives life. There is a time to be born and a time to die (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2). We are not in control of either. Regardless of the length of life, it is sacred, holy, and blessed by God.
- C. Every person’s life has worth, dignity, and purpose (Genesis 1:27; Genesis 9:6). That primary purpose is to glorify God through being restored back to Him (Acts 3:19-21; Ephesians 1:9, 11; 3:11; cp. Psalm 79:8-9; Isaiah 43:6-7; Ezekiel 36:22-23; Matthew 5:16; 1 Corinthians 10:31; 1 Peter 2:9).

IV. Hope Of Heaven

- A. David expressed a definite belief in the afterlife when he said, "I cannot bring him back, but I can go to him!" We do not know how much the ancients knew about eternity, but they had some insight. All through the scriptures the certainty of death is matched by the certainty of life after death.
 - 1. The translation of the dead (Genesis 5:22-24; 2 Kings 2:11).
 - 2. The resurrection of the dead (1 Kings 17:22; 2 Kings 4:35; 13:21).
 - 3. The reappearance of Samuel (1 Samuel 28:12-19).
- B. David knew that his child was now in a place of safety, security, and solace (Luke 16:22, 25). What hope! What assurance! What confidence!
- C. We share in that hope. We live in that assurance. We have confidence in that promise of a brighter day, a better body, and a happier home (Colossians 1:5-6; Titus 2:13; 3:7; 1 Peter 1:13). Let hope be your helmet (1 Thessalonians 5:8) and anchor (Hebrews 6:18-19).

Conclusion. Personal tragedy gives focus to life. It lets us feel the weight of sorrow and oppression, and then use that to sharpen our focus on eternity (2 Corinthians 4:17-18). To all, who like David, are people "after God's own heart," we extend our deepest sympathy as you experience your burdens. But we rejoice in your faith, hope, and love. May God bless you and be with you, as only we know He can.