

## Psalm 129 – Dealing with Affliction

Transition to the experience faced by the pilgrims as they embarked one of three annual festivals in Jerusalem: Passover, Pentecost, and Booths – the Psalms of Ascent (120-134).

### A pattern discovered (Psalms of Ascent:120-134)<sup>1</sup>

- Difficulty – a situation of difficulty
- Deliverance – focuses on God's power to keep
- Delight – the security in Zion and its God

#### Psalm 120-122 –

- 120 – Difficulty: the unkind words of ungodly people
- 121 – Deliverance from the Lord (I looked to the hills...)
- 122 – Security in Zion (Let us go to the house of the Lord...)

#### Psalm 123-125 –

- 123 – Difficulty: the ill and unjust treatment of people (contempt through scorn and pride) (3-4)
- 124 – Deliverance from the Lord
- 125 – Security in Zion (1)

#### Psalm 126-128 –

- 126 – Difficulty: I AM EXPERIENCING SPRITUAL APATHY! (4)
- 127 – Deliverance from the Lord (He builds the house.)
- 128 – Security in Zion (5)

#### Psalm 129-131

- 129 – Difficulty: Expect affliction to come.
- 130 – Deliverance: Cry out to God for mercy.
- 131 – Delight: Quiet your heart in God alone.

### Expect affliction to come from sin and a sin-cursed world. (Psalm 129)

- A challenging past (1-2)
- A longing for justice (5-8)
- A solution for moving forward (3-4)

- **Signs of burnout or emotional exhaustion**<sup>2</sup>

Sense of failure and self-doubt

Feeling helpless, trapped, and defeated

Detachment, feeling alone in the world

Loss of motivation

Increasingly cynical and negative outlook

Decreased satisfaction and sense of accomplishment

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<sup>1</sup> *Psalms by the Day: A New Devotional Translation* by Alec Motyer

<sup>2</sup> *Take the Day Off* by Robert Morris, page xxi

# Jaycee Dugard Biography: (1980–)<sup>3</sup>

Jaycee Dugard was kidnapped in 1991 at the age of 11. She would spend the next 18 years of her life held captive by Phillip and Nancy Garrido, during which time she was assaulted repeatedly and gave birth to two daughters, before being freed after the Garrido's arrest in August 2009.

## Who Is Jaycee Lee Dugard?

Born on May 3, 1980, Jaycee Lee Dugard grew up in the community of South Lake Tahoe, California. On June 10, 1991, when Jaycee Dugard was 11 years old, she was kidnapped outside of her home. Jaycee's stepfather, Carl Probyn, saw the abduction through his home's garage window and attempted to chase the car down on his bicycle but was outrun.

Probyn immediately called local authorities, who were aided by the FBI in their search for Jaycee. The search included dogs, aircraft and hundreds of law enforcement personnel, but to no avail; Jaycee wasn't found. She would eventually be discovered living with Phillip and Nancy Garrido 170 miles away, in Antioch, California.

## The Kidnapping

Her captor, convicted rapist [Phillip Garrido](#), raped Jaycee repeatedly, fed her countless lies and impregnated her twice (she gave birth to daughters at ages 14 and 17). Jaycee spent 18 years in captivity, living in a backyard shack at the home of Garrido and his wife, Nancy.

Jaycee was locked in a makeshift recording studio by convicted rapist Phillip Garrido and his wife, Nancy Garrido, in the backyard of their home. Renamed "Allissa," Jaycee soon realized the major motive for her abduction: She was raped repeatedly by Phillip Garrido, which resulted in two pregnancies. At age 14, Jaycee gave birth to her first child, a daughter; three years later, at age 17, she gave birth to a second daughter.

Jaycee spent more than 18 years in captivity with the Garridos, who fed her countless lies and largely prohibited her contact with the outside world. During that time, she wrote in a journal frequently, documenting deep depression, fear, loneliness and feelings of being "unloved." She constantly wondered about her family members and whether they were searching for her, but over time—and cut off from any relationships outside of the Garrido home—the severely depressed victim grew to cherish any human interaction, even that from her kidnappers. Jaycee didn't know how to leave, and after years of lies from her captors about her family's lack of love for her, she wasn't even sure whether she had anyone to flee to.

## Arrest of Phillip and Nancy Garrido

On August 24, 2009, Phillip Garrido visited the UC Berkeley campus with his and Jaycee's two daughters to inquire about holding a religious event. Suspicious of his behavior, the UCPD special events manager had another officer conduct a background check, which revealed that Garrido was on parole for kidnapping and rape and was a registered sex offender. They followed up by calling Garrido's parole officer, who was surprised to learn that Garrido had children.

On August 26, Garrido attended a parole meeting with Nancy, Jaycee and their daughters. Garrido insisted that Jaycee and the young girls were relatives, and Jaycee, who called herself "Allissa," initially covered for him. Eventually Garrido broke down and confessed to his crimes, enabling Jaycee to reveal her true identity. Shortly thereafter, Phillip and Nancy Garrido were charged with 29 felony counts, including rape and false imprisonment.

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<sup>3</sup> Article Title: Jaycee Dugard Biography. Author: Biography.com Editors. Website Name: The Biography.com = website <https://www.biography.com/crime-figure/jaycee-dugard>; Last Updated: June 28, 2019. Original Published Date: April 2, 2014.

# Expect affliction to come from your own sin or the impact of a sin-cursed world. (Psalm 129)

## I. A challenging past (1-3)

- **Greatly** (often, numerous, many, varied, much) **have they afflicted** (treated with hostility; to lay hold of; to shut up; to oppress; to persecute; to treat in a hostile manner) **me from my youth** (early life)
- 2x: vs. 1 & 2](Deuteronomy 28:58-63 - note the mention of Egyptian bondage (60) and Babylonian exile (63)
- **Greatly** (often, numerous, many, varied, much) **have they afflicted** (treated with hostility; to lay hold of; to shut up; to oppress; to persecute; to treat in a hostile manner) **me from my youth** (early life) **let Israel now say** - a snapshot in the history of a nation, like a picture on Facebook taken 4 years ago...
- 2x: vs. 1 & 2](Deuteronomy 28:58-63 - note the mention of Egyptian bondage (60) and Babylonian exile (63)
  - it reminds me that God has a plan for the nation of Israel and He is still working His plan. The covenant with Abraham, with Moses, with David, and the inauguration of the new covenant is simply the precursor to the church age, millennial kingdom and eternity)
- **Yet they did not prevail against me** (Leviticus 26:1-13-blessing / 14-39-cursing “sevenfold for your sin” (18: with disease & foreign enemies; 21: with wild beasts; 24: pestilence & foreign enemies; 28: siege and exile... so the promised land can enjoy its Sabbaths...) (40-46) Prevailing: through confession, humility, and repentance (change of actions), then God will cause the children of Israel to prevail!
  - All based on the covenant He made with Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3; 15:1-21; 17:1-22), with Isaac (Gen. 26:2-5), & with Jacob (Gen. 28:10-15; 35:9-15) or mentioned altogether (Exodus 2:23-25) Abrahamic Covenant.

## I. *A challenging past (1-3)*

## II. **A longing for justice (5-8)**

- Psalm 129:5-8 based on Gen 12:3 - “and him who dishonors you I will curse...”
- The blessing received by Boaz in Ruth 2:4.

## III. **A Solution for moving forward – the sovereignty of God (3-4)**

- **The plowers plowed upon my back; they made long their furrows** (either reflecting back to their bondage in Egypt or exile in Babylon)
  - Psalm 129:4- deliverance from Egyptian bondage or from Babylonian captivity
  - The psalmist here expresses the pain of reflection on the extent of the affliction.
  - But he quickly turns the corner and expresses delight in the source of deliverance!
- **The Lord is righteous; he has cut the cords of the wicked** (He had cut them loose. He has broken the plower’s harness so the plowing could not continue. Or the word cords in verse 4 may simply refer to subjugation (Psalm 2:3 – “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.”). [Bible Knowledge Commentary]

## Application:

- “Greatly have they afflicted me...”
  - **God knows about your affliction and He cares about your pain.**
    - Exodus 2:23-25 -- <sup>23</sup>During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. <sup>24</sup>And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. <sup>25</sup>God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.
    - 2 Chron. 7:14 -- <sup>14</sup>if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.
    - I John 1:9 -- <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- “From my youth...”
  - **Affliction at a specific period in your life does not have to define you!**
    - Submit to God’s plan to conform you to the image of Jesus. (Rom. 8:28-30)

<sup>28</sup>And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good,<sup>[a]</sup> for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

- “Yet they have not prevailed against me...”
  - **Find hope in the promises of God to help you persevere while experiencing the affliction caused by this sin-cursed world.** (2 Cor. 4:7-10)

<sup>7</sup>But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. <sup>8</sup>We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to

despair; <sup>9</sup>persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup>always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

- “he (the LORD) has cut the cords of the wicked...”
  - **Find help in the power of God to set you free from the affliction caused by your own sin.** (John 8:36)<sup>36</sup>So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.
  
- “may all who hate Zion be put to shame...”
  - **Keep a protective eye out for our PBC children.**
  - **Fill out an accident/incident report if you experience something concerning.**
  - [www.pbcpowdersville.org](http://www.pbcpowdersville.org)
  - email the report to [info@pbcpowdersville.org](mailto:info@pbcpowdersville.org)

### **Return Home**

On August 26, 2009, more than 18 years after she was abducted, Jaycee Dugard was reunited with her mother, Terry Probyn, in South Lake Tahoe, California.

Soon after, the Dugard family learned from California Deputy Inspector General Dave Biggs that due to Garrido's failed parole supervision, they would be awarded \$20 million by the State of California. Additionally, Phillip Garrido was named a person of interest in another California kidnapping case.

In July 2011, Jaycee Dugard published a harrowing memoir, *A Stolen Life*, about her years spent with the Garridos. In March 2012, in an interview with Diane Sawyer, she spoke about her recent activity, discussing her happiness to be back with her family and her struggle with "learning" how to be free. During the interview, she recalled being overly joyed after ordering pizza during a recent trip to New York City: "Just walking down the street. With everybody. It was my favorite moment," she said.

In July 2016 Dugard published a follow up to her memoir entitled *Freedom: My Book of Firsts*, in which she described her experiences after years of captivity. "There is life after something tragic happens," wrote Dugard. "Life doesn't have to end if you don't want it to. It's all in how you look at it. Somehow, I still believe that we each hold the key to our own happiness and you have to grab it where you can in whatever form it might take."