

Rhema Christian Center
Triumphant Tuesday Weekly Bible Study
The Book of Psalm Study - Psalm 61
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PSALM 61

David could have written this psalm during any of the many times he was in danger, but perhaps the best context is the rebellion under Absalom (2 Samuel 15-18). David's prayer about a foe; he prayed about protection for his life, and he prayed about the security of his throne.

PSALM 61

To the chief musician upon Neginah (stringed instruments)
A Psalm of David: Crying to God In Distress

David in this Psalm, as in many others, begins with a sad heart, but concludes with an air of pleasantness; he begins with prayers and tears, but ends with songs of praise.

The soul, by being lifted up to God, returns to the enjoyment of itself. It would seem David was driven out and banished when he penned this Psalm, whether by Absalom or Saul is uncertain. Physically, emotionally, mentally, David felt tired, alienated, fatigued, and overwhelmed.

Even yet, in this Psalm, David resolves to carry on in his duty, encouraged both by his experience and by his expectations.

Memory verse: *"I Long to Dwell in Your Tent Forever"* (v.4)

- When you are feeling weary, weak, and contemplating quitting: Meditate on "**Eternity**", think Jesus and His cross. He did not quit!
- Trials are inherent for the life of a Jesus disciple.

" I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you **will** have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." (John 16:33 NLT)

David writes as one weak and faltering, far from Jerusalem, longing to return to God's sanctuary there.

No historical setting is specified, but it fits David's time in exile from Jerusalem when his son Absalom usurped his throne (2 Samuel 15-17).

David begins by calling on God from afar (vv.1-3).

He longs to dwell in God's tent forever because of the rich heritage God has given him (vv.4-5). He includes a short prayer on behalf of the King (vv.6-7) and concludes with his vow to praise into perpetuity (v. 8).

Psalm 61 is in the midst of several psalms that emphasize the theme of God as a refuge (Ps. 57, 18:1-2; 2:12).

And its location immediately following psalm 60, which affirms Israel in God's plan, leads a backdrop to the security David is praying for in this psalm. In Ps.60, he ask God to lead him to victory over Edom (60:9); here he asks God to lead him to the **solid Rock** (v. 2). It is part of the ongoing sequence of psalms dealing with David's enemies.

Psalm 61:1-2 (NIV) Here my cry, O God; listen to my prayer. 2) From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

David must have been far from home when he wrote this psalm. Fortunately, God is not limited to any geographic location, among unknown people or surroundings: God never changes. His presence is always with us.

*(V2 -TPT) For no matter where I am, even when I am far from home, I will cry out to you for a **fathers** help. When I'm feeble and overwhelmed by life, guide me into your glory, where I am safe and sheltered.*

*A **father's** role is one of a protector*

*A **father's** role is one of a firm foundation (stable, strong, reliable)*

This Psalm expresses a fundamental truth by which every believer should live.

In times of trouble, affliction or opposition of enemies, we should turn to God as our **Eternal** ultimate refuge and deliverer.

Every believer who trusts in God should be able to say:

1. I will allow no trouble, crisis, or suffering to shake my confidence in God (vv2,6). Not only from Him comes my deliverance (v1), but He Himself is my salvation and my strength (vv6,7).

Our heavenly Father is **"I AM, THAT I AM"**

2. In times of anxiety or threat I will commit myself to Him and by earnest prayer tell Him all that is in my heart.

➤ Philippians 4:6-7 (TPT) Don't be pulled in different directions or worried about a thing. Be saturated in prayer throughout each day, offering your faith-filled requests before God with overflowing gratitude. Tell Him every detail of your life, 7.) then God's wonderful peace that transcends human understanding, will make the answer known to you through Jesus Christ.

V. 3 -NIV For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe.

REFUGE: a condition of being safe or sheltered from pursuit, danger or trouble.

- David looked back through his life and found encouragement by remembering, God who had never failed him in crisis, and would not fail him then.

(V. 3-TPT) Lord, you are a paradise of protection to me. You lift me high above the fray. None of my foes can touch me when I am held firmly in your wrap around presence!

- God's presence is **eternal**
- God's protection is **eternal**
- God's deliverance is **eternal**

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you, he will never leave you nor forsake you.” (Deut 31:6)

V.4 NIV I long to dwell in your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of your wings.

- “Your tent” (Ps. 15:1) “LORD, who may dwell in your (sacred tent)? Who may live on your holy mountain?”
 - This was the tabernacle, constructed by Israel in the Siani wilderness (Exd.26); it was the place where God “dwelt” until Solomon built the temple (1 Kgs. 8:1).
 - For David, God’s home was the tabernacle, the place where His glory dwelled; and where David longed to be back in Jerusalem worshipping and adoring his LORD.

V.5 NIV For you, God, have heard my vows; you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name.

The heritage (or inheritance) that God gave Israel was the land of Canaan (Deut. 1:21; Josh 1:2-3), and those who feared the Lord would remain in the land (Deut. 4:40).

But a special component of those promises was that the king who feared the Lord would reign a long time in Israel (Deut. 17:18-20).

David's words undoubtedly reflect his consciousness **that he was God's chosen king who received this rich Eternal heritage.**

Reflection:

When David became king, he made promises to the Lord and to the people, and he intended to keep those promises.

All during his wilderness exile, while hiding from saul, David obey the Lord (Ps.18:19-20). He sought to be a shepherd to the nation.

Why would the Lord care for David all those years, give him his throne, and then allow him to be replaced by his wicked son.

David's throne was his **Eternal** heritage from the LORD (Ps.16:5-6), just as the land of Israel was the heritage (possession) of God's people (Ps. 37:9,11,22,29).

When we find ourselves in desperate situations, it should always drive us back to the promises God has made to **US His children.**

In those promises we will find great comfort and assurance in his eternal security, and renewed confidence; allowing for a refreshing worship with our Heavenly Father.

V.6 NIV Increase the days of the king's life, his years for many generations.

This prayer for longevity recalls God's promise to David and David's prayer of response (2 Sam.7:16,29), as well as "Solomon,s" prayer for the king (Ps. 72: 15,17).

Generations: David's concern extends beyond himself; his prayer in (v.7) that the king be enthroned "forever" reinforces this. The Davidic lineage continued unbroken in Judah, leading all the way to the greatest Son of David, Jesus the Messiah (Matt1:1).

V.7 NIV May he be enthroned in God's presence forever; appoint your love and faithfulness to protect him.

"May he be enthroned": This harks back to God's establishing David as king of Zion, God's holy mountain (2:6). The throne of David and his descendants was, in a very real sense, God's throne, as 1 Chr 28:5 (" the throne of the kingdom of the LORD") affirm. That is, David and his descendants were God's "vice-regents" representing God's kingdom on earth.

Vice-regent: a deputy regent; a person who acts in the place of a ruler, governor, or sovereign.

V. 8 NIV Then I will ever sing in praise of your name and fulfill my vows day after day.

(V. 8 TPT) And my praises will fill the heavens forever, fulfilling my vow to make every day a love gift to you!

His own throne was in jeopardy at the time, but he had confidence that **eternal** God would keep his **eternal** promise. God is always in the **eternal**, in our NOW!

Reference Resources:

Warren W. Wiersbe

(Be Worshipful)

Christ-Centered Exposition

The Passion Translation Bible

Life Application Study Bible - KJV