

PSALMS

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Psalm 60 as we continue our study through the Word of God. Once again we are told when this Psalm took place; this is **“A Michtam of David. For teaching. When he fought against Mesopotamia and Syria of Zobah, and Joab returned and killed twelve thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt.”**

Many feel that this event is spoken of in II Samuel chapter 8 and I Chronicles chapter 18. Yes Israel was victorious but before they obtained the victory there was a defeat. You see, while David and his men, the majority of them were fighting in the northern part of the country, one of Israel's other enemies, Edom, successfully attacked the southern part of Judah. And out of this defeat we see the cry of David for God to deliver them and Israel's confidence in the Lord for that victory. These are lessons for us or as the introduction tells us, **“For teaching.”** Thus, may we learn the lessons that God has for us as we begin reading in Psalm 60, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word.

PSALM 60**VERSES 1-3**

1. David sounds like he saw God forsaking them or forgetting about them for a time. And now he is calling for God to respond to their cry for help. David did not blame anyone but he saw this chastening from God and is asking God to restore them, to give them the victory.

2. Now some feel this is a literal earthquake spoken of in verse 2. I tend to see that the children of Israel were shaken by this event, awakened to their sin and that lead them to repent before God and get right with God.

3. Some of the situations we go through are tough, and we can become easily confused by them. Life is not always easy and why we go through certain things we may never know, look at Job and all he went through. And in the end, God taught Job the answer to his question of “Why?” The answer was to trust in God, you won’t always know or understand the whys. Life’s lessons are very difficult at times, but they are there for us to learn, to grow from. They help us to depend more on the Lord and less on ourselves. And truly, the only comfort we will find is in the Lord. He is our answer!

Now we should seek the Lord and see if there is some sin in our lives that has brought this upon us, that is important to do. But not all trouble, not all the things that happen in our lives are a result of some sin in our lives. Through it all God is getting us to trust in Him, to rest in Him, to grow in Him, to not have ***SELF-ESTEEM*** but ***GOD-ESTEEM!*** I don't need to build myself up, I need to humble myself and learn to trust more in God!

VERSES 4-5

1. When we give our life to the Lord, we are now fighting under His banner and we should display it proudly. We should not be afraid to let people know we love the Lord, not only in good times, but in those difficult times also. He will see us through. What happens many times is we fly our own banner, we lift ourselves up and God will allow you to do that. But also understand that you will be on your own and when you fall, when you look back to Him, He will lift you up. It is as Paul said, "**I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.**" Philippians 4:13. That truly is the key. Yes we can do all that God wants us to do but we can only do it because He gives us the strength and the ability to do it! For Israel and for us, our hope must be in the ***LORD!***

VERSES 6-8

1. How are they going to gain this victory over their enemies? God is going to give them the victory, that will bless His people. God watches over His children but if you are not His children, look out!

2. In verse 8 we see what God has to say about those that come against Him and come against His people. For Moab, they will be a wash pot or a place to wash your dirty feet. For Edom, they will be crushed by him. And for Philistia, they will fall to defeat. This section is better translated, **“I will shout in triumph over them.”**

3. What about our enemies, does God give us victory over them? You bet He does but we must be willing to walk in the Spirit, to allow God to gain the victory through us and not by us! And many times it is not a physical enemy that we are fighting against, but it is the flesh! John put it like this in I John 5:4-5, **“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”** Our victory is in Christ and we not only need to trust in Him but we need to walk as He is leading us, not giving into the flesh, but walking in the Spirit!

VERSES 9-12

1. What is the strong city that is located in Edom? It is Petra, the capitol of Edom! Now to get to this city you have to travel through a narrow corridor that at one point narrows down to some 3 feet. Thus, only one person at a time could pass through, and it is the only way into this city. So Petra is a very secure city because it was very easy to defend. And as you go through these corridors, it finally opens up into a beautiful city built into the rocks, the mountains.

This is the place where the Jews will flee to during the half way point of the seven-year Tribulation Period when the Antichrist will reveal himself and enter the holy of holies and demand to be worshipped as God. And Jesus, in warning the Jews of this time, said that when you see these things take place, don't even go back into your homes, but flee to the mountains, to the rock city of Petra. And for 3½ years God will preserve His people there until He returns to set up His kingdom.

2. Now this is important and something that David understands but towards the end of his life he forgot. David is telling God that if you don't go with us we can never win in battle. It is not the strength of his army but the strength of the Lord that will see them through and give them the victory over their enemies!

You see, years later, towards the end of his life, David would number his military, see how many soldiers he had and that was something that God did not want him to do. You see, David was looking to the numbers of soldiers he had instead of trusting in the Lord! No longer was he saying, "**Through God we will do valiantly, for it is He who shall tread down our enemies.**" And God chastened David and the nation for that sin, for not trusting in the Lord but in their might!

3. That is a great lesson for us to learn. What are we putting our trust in? Do we trust in our Job? Do we trust in our bank account or the stock market? Do we trust in our health? Do we trust in this or that instead of trusting in the Lord and allow Him to give us the salvation we need in whatever situation we are in! Paul put it like this in II Corinthians 1:8-10, **“For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us.”**

Paul understood and saw the trouble that he was in wherever he presented the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Thus, his trust was not in his strength but he trusted in the Lord to see him through, to deliver him from whatever trouble came his way. And we must do the same; put our trust in the Lord!

PSALM 61

Many feel that Psalms 61 through 64 were written by David during the time that Absalom, his son, rebelled against him. David's son attempted, and for a short time succeeded, in taking over the Kingdom from his father David. And it is out of this broken heart, having your own son come against you, that Psalm 61 was written.

If you have ever been overwhelmed by the situations that are before you, then this Psalm will minister to you. That means it should minister to everyone of else, because, like David, our heart has been overwhelmed and it is what we do when we are in those situations that can either lift us up or bring us down. So let's read what David did.

VERSES 1-2

1. Obviously David is in pain; his heart is broken over the situation that is before him. And he just cries out to God and in the Hebrew it speaks of a loud wail, a wail of desperation, of hopelessness, of brokenness. And David feels, as he is going through this time that God is a million miles away.

And yet, David knew that was not true, for in Psalm 139 he said, **“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea.”** Psalm 139:7-9.

You see, it is one thing to know something, and quite another to apply that truth to our life. I think it is easy for us to theologically understand Biblical truth. The hard part comes when we go through a devastating time, like David did, and we just don't feel close to God. But He is just as close as He was before, for the Bible tells us that. That is the time we need to put into practice those things we say we believe!

2. Now as shaky as things may be around us, as slippery a situation that we are in may be, David wants to place his feet upon the Rock, a place of stability. And please understand that David is not looking for help from man, but from God, the Rock, a place of safety, that was higher than him or able to accomplish this task and answer David's cry.

So when you are overwhelmed, you need to give it to the Lord, you need to cry out to Him and place your feet upon the Rock, Jesus Christ! And think about that for a minute. This Rock that David spoke of must be more than just a man, it is someone that is higher than David and I believe it is pointing to the deity of Jesus Christ. He is saying that God alone can help and will help us through all the storms of life that we will go through!

VERSES 3-4

1. David is overwhelmed; he is crying out to God and notice where he gets his encouragement in the present situation that he is facing. David looks back on God's past help to strengthen him in the present situation that he finds himself in. Thus, he will take safety under the wings of God, for then the only way for the enemy to get at David was through God. Remember what John said, **"You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."**

I John 4:4. We need to have that perspective of God and His work in our lives. We need to remember what God has done in the past to encourage us in the present situations we are facing! If God is for us, and He is, then there is no one who can truly be victorious against us!

2. Now notice that the situation has not changed but David's focus has. Let's read on and see where David is at.

VERSES 5-7

1. David is now confident that God will see him through this even though the situation has not changed. His hope is in the Lord, in the promises of God towards him and that is where he finds rest, comfort, hope! As we look to the Lord, as we trust in Him, it gives us confidence in what He can do to see us through the situations we are in. We need to believe in the promises of God, we need to trust what He has told us in His Word and walk by faith!

VERSE 8

1. Do you see where this all leads to? It leads to the praise and worship of God! You see, when you cry out to God, when you focus back on Him, when you place your life in His hands or place your feet upon the Rock, upon Jesus you can't help praise Him. When you look at what God has done in your life and how He brought you through those times, it brings praise unto the Lord because you are no longer focused on the situation!

2. As I have said before, the Psalms often begin in despair and end in joy as the Psalmist gets re-focused and puts things in the proper perspective. When we go through a difficult time, cry out to God those things that are upon your heart, and as you get re-focused and rest upon the Rock, praise will then flow from your life!

PSALM 62

Keep in mind that many believe that this Psalm was born out of the events that transpired during Absalom's rebellion. All the pain that David was going through he cast upon the Lord because David knew that the Lord not only cared for him but would lift him up, see him through this time!

VERSES 1-2

1. To understand what David was waiting on God for, we need to look at the events that transpired during Absalom's rebellion. Absalom and his forces were coming from Hebron to remove David from being King, to kill him. And as David hears of this plan, he leaves the city with some of those who loved him. The reason David did not stay and fight was because he did not want Jerusalem to become a blood bath; it was to be a place of worship.

And as he was leaving, Zadok, a Levite, brought the Ark of the Covenant out to take with David. And we read in II Samuel 15:25-26, **“Then the king said to Zadok, ‘Carry the ark of God back into the city. If I find favor in the eyes of the LORD, He will bring me back and show me both it and His dwelling place. But if He says thus: ‘I have no delight in you,’ here I am, let Him do to me as seems good to Him.”**

You see, David gave this situation over to the Lord, if God wanted him back in the Kingdom He could and would do it. If not, then whatever the Lord sees fit in doing, David will accept. That is what David is waiting silently for, an answer from God regarding this situation he was in.

2. Maybe you have been praying about a situation in your life and you have not heard from God. Don't get frustrated, don't get impatient, and don't do something that you will regret. Wait upon the Lord as David was doing. Wait silently before Him and He will answer you in His timing, which will be the perfect time! I realize we may not always agree with God's timing, but He is God and He knows what He is doing!

3. We see here that as David is waiting upon the Lord; he rests upon the Rock, which then brings stability in his life. Here is the problem for many today. There are other rocks out there, but they do not bring stability in our life. People try to fill their lives with all kinds of things and their lives are still unstable and slippery. There is only one God, one Rock!

It is as Moses said in Deuteronomy 32:31, "**For their rock is not like our Rock. . . .**" You see, nothing compares to our Rock, Jesus Christ. He truly is the Rock that is higher than I! And why would I want to go to anyone or anything else that will not bring stability to my life but these other things will allow me to get swept away in the storms of life! That would be foolish to do.

4. As we move on we will see that David is going to focus on those who joined forces with Absalom in this rebellion. He is going to speak of those who came against him.

VERSE 3-4

1. David is speaking of the hypocrisy of those who rebelled against him. While he was King they bowed down before him, but now they curse him and want him dead. A good example of this is seen in Shimei, a relative of King Saul. And as David was leaving the city of Jerusalem he began to throw stones at David and curse him, telling him he is only getting what he deserves. You see, now that the King was vulnerable the wicked were ready to bring him down, even though they bowed before him prior to this.

2. What would you do if you were in a situation where someone took advantage over you? What would you do if someone got the promotion through deceit over you? What if someone is coming against you, what would you do? “Godfather, I need a favor!” No, that is not what we are to do! Let’s read on and see what David did because it is an example to us of what we need to do.

VERSES 5-7

1. Notice what David is doing, he is hoping in the Lord, he is trusting in the Lord. What a lesson for us to learn. We look at this country and the coming elections and my comment on all this is that out of the 313,862,101 people in America as of July 2nd, 2012, these are the best candidates we have for President! Folk’s, hear me out on this and you may disagree with me and that is okay, but I think I am right. I don’t look to any man for my hope, my expectations are not to be won or lost in this election because my hope is in the Lord! Everything else moves me, shakes me but not the Lord, He brings stability to my life if I am willing to look to Him and trust in Him!

2. I want you to also see that David's faith has grown in this Psalm. In verse 2 he said, "**I shall not be greatly moved.**" Now, here in verse 6, he says, "**I shall not be moved.**"

What happened in those few verses? David's faith grew. You see, God will give to us the faith we need to go through trials and as we look to Him our faith will grow, we shall not be moved or shaken by them! But if we look to man, if we look to ourselves, we will be shaken, our hope will falter, we will not find the salvation that we were looking for apart from the Lord!

3. Now please understand that I am not watering down what you are going through. I am not saying to "Suck it up!" What I am saying is you need to look to the Lord and trust in Him for your hope, for your expectations are only found in Him! Let me explain it like this. There was this little Scottish woman who arose during a testimony meeting and gave this as her testimony. She said, "You know, sometimes I tremmel [tremble] on the rock, but the rock never tremmels under me."

How important that is for us to understand. We may tremble as we go through various times in our life, but the Rock will not tremble, He will not be moved! Paul tells us in I Corinthians 3:11, "**For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.**" Don't ever lose sight of that fact! Remain on the Rock; don't be shaken by life's situations, look to Him!

And think about all that David was going through at this time. The Kingdom was taken away by his son. Jerusalem is a mess, the wicked are destroying it. Many who were his friends, who bowed before him, have now turned against him. But he is able to say, "God is my rock and I will trust in Him!" May we do the same!

VERSE 8

1. David was not speaking from his palace, in the midst of great luxury, but on the run, in the desert. Don't think that David is speaking out of comfort, for he is speaking out of the midst of a trial, probably the worst one in his life. And he is telling us to just pour out our heart to God, give it to Him, for in Him is safety and comfort. It is as Peter said in I Peter 5:7, "**Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.**" Think about it, where else are you going to run to? Who will deliver you from this trial besides God? No one!

2. There is something else here in verse 8 that I want to touch on. David is going through this tough time and what he does here is he is encouraging the people, probably those who left Jerusalem with him, to trust in the Lord. The lessons we go through folks are for us to learn but they are also to help others who are going through difficult times, sometimes something that we have already gone through!

Paul put it like this in II Corinthians 1:3-7, **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ. Now if we are afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation. And our hope for you is steadfast, because we know that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also you will partake of the consolation.”**

As you go through these things may you do so seeing the hand of God in them instead of becoming overwhelmed by the situation! God is not going to tempt you beyond what you are able to stand and the key of course is not to trust in yourself, but in God. “Mr. Knox, a little before his death, rose out of his bed; and being asked wherefore, being so sick, he would offer to rise? He answered, that he had sweet meditations of the resurrection of Jesus Christ that night, and now he would go into the pulpit, and impart to others the comforts he felt in his soul.” (Trapp). That truly is a servant of God. Nothing was going to stop him from sharing the Good News with people, sharing the comfort of God with people.

Now God has His reasons for allowing these things in our life and I think A. W. Tozer got it right when he said, “Before God can use a person greatly, he must allow that person to be hurt deeply.” We don’t like that; we just want to be used, but in order to help you have to learn to receive the comfort of God into your own life. You need to learn how God comforts the brokenhearted so that you can have compassion on others and be able to share with them what God has done in your life!

VERSES 9-10

1. David is telling us to, “Trust in the Lord and not in men, regardless of their position.” I think we understand that but when things get tough, when trouble comes our way, what do we do? We look to man to deliver us instead of the Lord! We don’t seek the Lord; we see the help of man!

Others may trust in the flexing of their muscle to take advantage of others to get what they want. You don’t trust in men, you don’t trust in might, and David goes on to say that we don’t trust in money! Paul picked up on this in I Timothy 6:10 where he wrote, “**For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.**”

Again, I think we all understand this but when trouble comes our way, instead of crying out to God, instead of bringing it to Him, instead of trusting in Him, we trust in man, we trust in our might and we trust in money to get us through and we will find out it will never succeed the way God wanted it to. You can do your own thing, but there truly are consequences to them!

2. Let me show you what I mean with this story of King Asa from II Chronicles chapter 16. At this period of time Baasha was the King of the Northern Kingdom of Israel, and he is trying to stop the flow of his people from going into the Southern Kingdom of Judah and to block the trade route to Judah. You see, word got out how God was blessing Asa and the Southern Kingdom of Judah, and that caused many to come and be part of what God was doing. Also keep in mind that that the Temple was in Jerusalem, in the Southern Kingdom of Judah. And in II Chronicles 15:9 we read of this taking place. It says, **“... for they came over to him in great numbers from Israel when they saw that the LORD his God was with him.”**

So Baasha builds up Ramah, which was located about 5 miles north of Jerusalem, on the boarder between the two kingdoms, and on an important trade route linking Egypt and Mesopotamia, to stop this migration or defection of his people to the Southern Kingdom of Judah. And in the process of doing this, Baasha is bringing his men and supplies into this city to most likely prepare for war against Judah, which would put a halt to the defections that were taking place.

And look at the change in Asa here. Instead of crying out to the Lord, he cries out to Ben-Hadad the King from Syria for help. What a contrast we see in what Asa did here versus what he did when the Ethiopians had him outnumbered. Then he trusted in the Lord, but now we see him trust in man. He is in trouble and he has no place to turn, so he turns to man. What happened? During those years of peace Asa did not cultivate a deep relationship with the Lord, but focused on his outward strength. Thus, his actions are born out of an empty spirit. Because of that Asa takes the treasures of God and gives them to Ben-Hadad, King of Syria, an unbeliever, to help him with his problems.

Spurgeon sums this up like this, “The power of Ethiopia was broken before him, and Judah’s armies returned laden with the spoil. You would not have thought that a man who could perform that grand action would become, a little after, full of unbelief; but the greatest faith of yesterday will not give us confidence for to-day, unless the fresh springs which are in God shall overflow again.”

Here is a lesson for us. You never make an alliance with the enemy, you never ask them to assist you, no matter how bad the situation is. Asa started out strong, his reforms were good, but he faded at the end of his life. That tells me that it doesn’t really matter how long you have walked with the Lord, the enemy never gives up, and thus, we can not let our guard down, even at the end of our life! You don’t trust in man, you don’t trust in might and you don’t trust in money!

Now, interestingly enough, Ben-Hadad had a treaty with Baasha, but he was bought out and comes to the aid of Asa. Now Baasha is down in Ramah, in the southern part of his kingdom, so Ben-Hadad strikes Israel at its northern borders. In doing so it caused Baasha to stop his work down in Ramah and go and protect his northern borders from this invasion.

What a great plan and it worked! Asa was free of Baasha, and you may think, “Great, this must be of God, it worked!” Wrong! Just because something works does not mean it is of God, and we will see that in a minute. Morgan put it like this, “Things which appear successful may be in the life of faith most disastrous.” And Spurgeon made these remarks, “Now, many people in the world judge actions by their immediate results. If a Christian does a wrong thing, and it prospers, then at once they conclude he was justified in doing it; but, ah! Brethren, this is a poor, blind way of judging the actions of men and the providence of God. Do you not know that there are devil’s providences as well as God’s providences?” May we learn the lesson!

And we don’t have to guess what God thinks of what Asa did because we see that God rebukes Asa through the prophet Hanani for his actions, for his unfaithfulness to the Lord. He told Asa, “**For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars.**” II Chronicles 16:9.

You see, it doesn’t matter if the plan worked or not, he put his trust in man, an unbeliever rather than the Lord. And Hanani reminds Asa that when the Ethiopians came upon him, that he turned to the Lord for help. He did not place his faith in the arm of flesh. Paul tells us in Romans 13:14, “**But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.**” If you give the flesh room to grow, like a weed, it will take advantage of the opportunity. If you fill yourself with the Lord, stay focused on Him, you will not give the flesh room to grow!

Now we, like Asa, fall into this trap all the time. It is much easier to trust in the arm of man than the arm of God. Why is that? Because we are looking for immediate results and God does not always work that way. How many people run to counselors, seminars, read books to try and overcome the flesh? They are looking to themselves to gain victory over the flesh through these programs and-so-on. It won't happen; at least you won't have complete victory. Think about it this way, how many New Year's Eve resolutions have you made and then within a week or two how many of them have you broken? Yes the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak!

How come Asa did not see this? Because compromise blinds us to what we have done and who are true enemies are. For Asa it was not Baasha, it was the Syrians, but he did not see it. And what ends up happening is we make alliances with those whom God would rather give us victory over. We don't partner with the enemy to gain victory in our lives! And so, don't trust in man, don't trust in might and don't trust in money, trust in the **LORD!**

VERSES 11-12

1. Power belongs to whom? Does power belong to man? Does power belong to might or intellect? Does power belong to wealth? No, it belongs to God and not only does power belong to Him, but also love, mercy that He extends to us. And through it all, He will reward us for our faithfulness. Thus, we need to look to Him in all that we do in this life!

PSALM 63

Having fled from his son, David is in the desert region in Judah. And this area is very dry, it is very arid, the conditions were very brutal. There was no Motel 6 back then; they could not leave the light on! Thus, we see the idea of being thirsty, not for physical water but spiritual water, the refreshing water of God upon his life! Tradition tells us that this Psalm was read every day in the early church because they felt there were many practical lessons, many benefits that could be gleaned from this Psalm. So let's dig in and see what they are!

VERSES 1-2

1. The first thing that David establishes is this relationship with God – **“O God, You are my God . . .”** You see, without that relationship there is no basis then for fellowship. But David recognizes that God is in control of his life, and out of that relationship is born fellowship.

2. As you go from Jerusalem westward, you enter the coastal plains, those fertile, lush valleys. But, as you go from Jerusalem eastward, you enter the wilderness of Judah, and it is barren, dry, rocky, only getting about 1 inch of rain per year. This area is far worse than our desert areas of California, Arizona and Nevada. And thus, as you read this you can understand how David was physically dry in this barren part of Israel. But I also see here a spiritual dryness for David as he is asking for the refreshing waters of God upon his life. And it is that fellowship with God that refreshes us and thus, David started his day early seeking after God and so should we!

3. Now keep in mind that David is not in Jerusalem and he is longing to go back. Why is that? Because that is where the Temple was located and David loved to worship the Lord at the Temple! He loved to be there with God!

VERSES 3-5

1. David, a man who lived the life of luxury in Jerusalem, is now living in the barren wilderness of Judah. He was stripped of all those luxuries and just has the basics. It is out of that we see David saying that all he needs is God.

Folk's, agree or not, that is what truly satisfies, fellowship with Him. Many times we have so much material things, so much outwardly, but spiritually speaking we are dry. In Psalm 106 we see the Psalmist speaking of the children of Israel and how they murmured and complained about their situation. That they wanted more, when God had given them what they needed.

And we read of this time, **“They soon forgot His works; They did not wait for His counsel, But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, And tested God in the desert. And He gave them their request, But sent leanness into their soul.”** Psalm 106:13-15.

They desired things that they did not need and in getting those material things, they had leanness of soul, they were spiritually dry. For David, he was satisfied in the Lord; he was refreshed in the Lord.

2. What about us? Would we be satisfied with just the Lord and when I say, “Just with the Lord” I am not downplaying that. He is everything but many times He becomes an accessory to our lives, an add-on you might say as long as we have time. He needs to be the most important thing in our life because apart from Him we have nothing. David learned to be satisfied in the Lord and so did Paul. In fact, Paul tells us in Philippians 4:11-12, **“Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.”** Lord, help me to be satisfied in You and to be content in what you have given me!”

VERSES 6-8

1. David meditates upon God in the morning and at night and I get the impression that the Lord was on his mind all day long! And keep in mind that when David speaks of being in bed he is not speaking of a bed in a palace but most likely one made out of dust and rocks in the desert. And instead of wasting those restless nights trying to sleep or taking some kind of sleeping aid, David meditates on the Lord; he spends that time in fellowship with Him. Sometimes the Lord awakens us in the night to pray for someone or something. Don't be angry, pray!

2. Now this too is important. David said that he followed close behind the Lord as the Lord was leading his life. You see, problems arise when we don't follow close behind the Lord, and David found that out first hand. But as we stick by the Lord, He will uphold us, strengthen us. It is as James tells us in James 4:7-10, **“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”**

VERSES 9-10

1. David is asking that his enemies would be cast into hell, the lower parts of the earth. There are a couple of different words that are used for hell, and it can get confusing. First of all **SHEOL** is the Hebrew word and **HADES** is the Greek word that speaks of the abode of the dead. They are the same place and are a temporary holding place for the unsaved until the Great White Throne Judgment that takes place at the end of the Millennial Reign of Christ or thousand year reign! Then those who have rejected Christ will be cast into Outer Darkness, the Lake of Fire for eternity, Gehenna!

VERSE 11

1. Notice what we have seen here. David rejoices *in* God. David chose to bless God. He chose to meditate on God. He chose to seek God. And here, he chooses to rejoice in God. It's all a matter of choice. You are not forced to seek after God, but if you don't you will miss out and in the end, you lose! But, the end result of those who love the Lord is joy, a joy that overflows in their life and brings glory to God.

PSALM 64

Again, this Psalm is born out of Absalom's rebellion against his father David and it is a Psalm that seeks the protection of God!

VERSES 1-4

1. It is not just a fear *from* the enemy, but *of* the enemy. We can allow fear to grow to the point where we are totally incapacitated. We are so afraid that we lock ourselves up and we can allow fear to destroy us. David is asking God to help him to be strong, to not fear the enemy. David is trying to refocus his mind, his life upon the Lord and not the enemy and that is a good lesson for us. We are to be wise, make no mistake about it, but our strength, our victory is only in the Lord and thus, as we look to Him, His perfect love casts out fear!

2. And how hard this must have been for David. Not only his son Absalom, but his close friend Ahithophel and many others had turned against David and joined forces with Ahithophel to destroy David. And they speak these false words against their King and have no fear in their actions. They only want to destroy. People do that even today but in the end, they will lose and God will win. God will take care of them.

VERSES 5-6

1. Have you ever watched a mob that begins to go wild? There are those that are the trouble-makers, the leaders but there are also many others who just join in. People you may never expect, but because the heart of man is evil and once that door is open, they think they can sin and no one will see them. In fact, like we see here, they are feeding off each other, developing their evil plans, and thinking that no one is aware of what they have done or will do, but God is! You see, there is no such thing as a perfect crime or sin, because God is aware of it! Sin is just flowing from the inside, from their evil hearts, and is manifested on the outside, in their actions.

VERSES 7-9

1. God is our defender; we don't have to worry about that. All we need to do is what God has called us to do, love them, pray for them, and God will take care of the rest. It is as Paul said in Romans 12:14-21, **“Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord. Therefore ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”**

The wicked will not get away with anything; God will take care of them as we see here in Psalm 64.

VERSE 10

1. God will protect and deliver those that are His. What I want you to notice here is the way this Psalm opened up and the way it is now closing. We see that the fear of the enemy in verse 1 is replaced by the gladness of the Lord here in verse 10 as David is reminded of the Lord's ability to deal with his enemies. May we not lose sight of that truth and learn to walk by faith and not by sight!