

Psalm 60 Praise God for the Promise of Victory

by Pastor Roy Hogan

The title above this Psalm tells us much about the circumstance David faced that he writes about in this chapter of the great book of Psalms. The heading reads as follows:

To the chief Musician upon Shushan-eduth, Michtam
of David, to teach; when he strove with Aram-naharaim a
nd with Aram-zobah, when Joab returned, and smote of E
dom in the
valley of salt twelve thousand

One may read the account of this occasion in II Samuel 8, I Chronicles 18, and I Kings 11. The setting for the chapter is the time David went to war with other kings. David is seated on the throne in this Psalm. In this chapter, David is smiting his foes and his foes are striking him. Life is full of conflict. As long as there is a Devil, there will be conflict. Seems that if we are not smiting, we are being smitten. If we are not in conflict with another person, we are battling health problems. Sometimes we battle our bad habits. Have you ever been in war against a bad habit?

60:1-3

O God, thou hast cast us off, thou hast scattered us, thou hast been displeased; O turn thyself to us again. 2 Thou hast made the earth to tremble; thou hast broken it: heal the breaches thereof; for it shaketh. 3 Thou hast showed thy people hard things: thou hast made us to drink the wine of astonishment.

These three verses tell us that all is not well on the “home-front.” These verses point to problems within the nation Israel. In verse 1, it seems God is not pleased with the spiritual state of Israel. A wise Christian is one who recognizes that, first and foremost, it is of utmost importance for the soul to be in fellowship with God. The body of a saved person, along with the soul, belong to God. If the

soul is out of kilter in its relationship with God, all other matters of life will be negatively affected. Once a person enters into a relationship with the Lord, he becomes to captain of the ship. All life's decisions involve him. David speaks, in verse 1, of God being displeased. God seems to have taken his eyes off Israel because of their unacceptable spiritual state. David pleads for God to once again turn his face toward Israel.

Let us think, for a moment, about our country, the great United States of America. God is not happy with America in its present spiritual state. He is having to turn his head from us and look the other way. There are idols everywhere. False gods abound. A spokesman at a recent event that I attended stated that seven churches close each day in America. Dear God, please have mercy on us. Our only hope is, as David did, to pray for our country. I believe in apologizing to God on behalf of my country when I pray.

I have an opinion, for what it is worth, that America will never be defeated from without, but will decay from within. "Dear God, I am so sorry for the manner in which we are treating you." David pleads "O God, turn thyself to us again.

David is leading Israel in warfare against nations that have taken Israel's land. The promise to Abraham was:

Genesis 15:18 In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

Genesis 17:7-8 And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. 8 And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all

the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

Joshua 1:2-4 Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel. 3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.

When Joshua led Israel across Jordan into Canaan, he drove many enemies out of Israel's promised land just as God instructed him to do. He was not successful in capturing all the land promised to Abraham. Upon his death, soft, backslidden Israelites allowed enemies to steal back portions of the land. The reason David is now going to war is to recapture Israel's land. I wish America would wake up and recapture its land.

The Devil is wise. Verse 2 speaks of the land being *broken*. While David and his troops were battling the enemy in the North, the Edomites launched an attack in the South. This reminds me of life. We get involved in battling addressing a problem to the north, and a problem arises in the south.

Take a look at verse 3. Have you ever drunk the *wine of astonishment*? Likely, you have. So many problems arise at one time that you get dizzy. Have you ever been there? The heat and air unit goes out. You look outside and a tire is flat on the car. The phone rings, and the voice on the line says come and get your sick child at school. Recently, one of the saints was battling the results of surgery and was making progress. On the way to the doctor for a follow-up visit, a car on the wrong side of the road struck her vehicle head-on and injured the wound that was healing so well.

That saint was dizzy on the wine of astonishment. David was, in verse 3, unstable on his feet.

60:4-5

Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth.

Selah 5 That thy beloved may be delivered; save with thy right hand, and hear me.

When we are in drunken state overwhelmed by problems, what can we do and where can we turn? We can do as David. We can call on the Lord. Amidst all his problems that caused him to be dizzy and stagger, he got the strength to lift his head. What he saw was amazing. He saw a *banner*. A banner displays a message. It is not for decoration, but it is for conveying a message. It does not make an audible sound, but its message is powerful. How good it is to hear from God! When we are low, God's banner is high. When we are on the floor, God's banner is above the roof. When we do not know what to say because we are dumbfounded by our circumstances, the banner has a message. When the enemy is lying and even our friends are lying, the banner of God speaks truth, verse 4.

The banner says, among other things, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." "With God, we are more than conquerors." "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." There are times in my life when the banner simply says "I love you, even enough to die for you."

60:6-8

God hath spoken in his holiness; I will rejoice, I will divide Shechem, and mete out the valley of Succoth. 7 Gilead is mine, and Manasseh is mine; Ephraim also is the strength of mine head; Judah is my lawgiver; 8 Moab is my washpot; over Edom will I cast out my shoe: Philistia, triumph thou because of me.

In these three verses, David gets to advertise his victory. If you know what you are involved in is God's will for your life, victory will eventually come. In verse 6, David is having a celebration. Victory does not come cheap. Victory does not always come according to our timetable. However, we can be assured that, through God, we can conquer.

Sometimes, we must do as David in these verses. God had given Israel the land. The Devil had invaded for a time. Now, it was God's time. It was time for the land to be returned to its rightful owner.

Dear mother and father, your child may have gone astray. It seems you have lost the child. Do as David. Remind God that it was him who gave you the child. It is time the child is reclaimed. If you know God gave you the business you own and operate, rest assured it can't go down. Challenges will come, but amidst the challenges you can remind God it was he who gave the business to you. We have sat entertained and allowed the Devil to steal our children, our marriages and homes, and, now, our country. This is one nation under God given to a group of Christians seeking freedom to worship the one-and-only true and living God. I wish God's people would reclaim this nation we so dearly reverence.

In verse 8, David pronounced Moab to be his *washpot*. This is a statement of contempt. In other words, Moab you are now mine. David says of Edom in verse 8, to you *will I cast out my shoe*. In Bible times, a master may toss his shoe to a servant so that the servant may clean them. David will see the day when the Edomites will serve the Israelites.

60:9

Who will bring me into the strong city? who will lead me into Edom?

It is thought verse 9 refers to Petra, a city that was more or less a rock fortress. It was thus referred to as a strong city. It was occupied by the Edomites. The strongest things the Devil has can be overcome by God. God is greater than alcohol. He is greater than drugs. He is greater than the wealth this world has to offer. God can conquer even the Devil's best and his strongest.

60:10-11

Wilt not thou, O God, which hadst cast us off? and thou, O God, which didst not go out with our armies? 11 Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man.

These two verses are a heart-felt apology to God by David. He admits he had, at times, gone to war counting on his own strength and not the strength of God. I believe he is also apologizing to God for the army of Israel who, like David, had waged war by their own might rather than depending on God.

I stand guilty of the same failure David is apologizing for in these two verses. How many times have I taken matters in mine own hand and left God out of the equation?

60:12

Through God we shall do valiantly: for he it is that shall tread down our enemies.

God is still on the throne. God does not have disease. His strength has not diminished. Let us be reminded that he is still very much God.