

Psalm 62 Looking for Encouragement

The setting of this Psalm is not certain. Some believe it to be written during David's time of fleeing Saul. Some say it best fits the time of Absalom's rebellion when he sought to steal his father's throne. I believe it to be the time of Absalom's rebellion rather than during the time of fleeing Saul.

When David sinned with Bathsheba, God judged him sorely. He suffered spiritual pain as well as physical pain. It seems he did experience the dread of leprosy, one of the worst diseases addressed in the Bible. While wrestling with spiritual and physical trouble, he was not able to give full attention to his kingship. Likely, you have known the manner in which spiritual warfare and physical sickness can distract from one's fulltime duties of life.

Perhaps the worst day in David's life came the day the news reached him that Absalom had stolen the hearts of the people of the kingdom. From a study of God's Word, Absalom may well have been the apple of David's eye. Now, he had to wrestle with the sorrow of the apple rotting. Let us take a look.

62:1-2

*1 Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation.
2 He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defence; I shall not be greatly moved.*

David is at a place where he has no one but the Lord to turn to. He was willing to wait for the Lord to come to his rescue. Waiting on the Lord is not a virtue of mankind. Human desire is to have help immediately. God knows the right time. Peter needed help immediately when he took his eyes off Jesus and began to sink in the Sea of Galilee. Job waited a long, long time for the Lord to come to his rescue. David waited *truly* on God.

God, as David says, is my *only* hope. Some believe in God, but not in God only. Some believe in the Scripture, but not in the Scripture only. Men seem to struggle with the concept of God alone being enough. Moses feared when instructed to speak to Pharaoh about

Israel's freedom. Why would Pharaoh listen to such a lowly messenger as Moses? Moses was instructed to tell Pharaoh "I am" sent me to you.

David wrote in verse 2 that God was his *defense* and that made him *unmovable*. How could one in such a predicament as being displaced from the throne rest so sure in God's help? Absalom was handsome. He was smooth-talking. He appealed to the citizens. He was young. However, it was David who was the *anointed* one to sit on the throne of Israel. God had his hand on David, not Absalom.

If you are born again, that settles it with God. You can't waste away in defeat. God has his hands on you. The anchor holds.

62:3-4

3 How long will ye imagine mischief against a man? ye shall be slain all of you: as a bowing wall shall ye be, and as a tottering fence. 4 They only consult to cast him down from his excellency: they delight in lies: they bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly. Selah.

It is one thing to be a starry-eyed dreamer and another thing to be spiritually grounded. If we are not careful, we will let a dreamer come by and scare us to death. Absalom was a dreamer. In verse 3, David speaks of a time limit for Absalom and his followers- *How long will ye imagine mischief against a man?* David had peace in his heart this situation was temporal. The opposition shall, in time, be slain.

The opposition against David was faulty. There was a chink in the armor. He likened his opposition to a bowing wall and a fence that was tottering. We have all seen a bowing wall and a leaning fence. The force of the wind comes along and the next morning we arise, and behold, the wall is flat and the fence is on the ground.

Because of our frail mind, it is hard for God's children to grasp that one day every one of our opponents will be flat on the ground. Every force of opposition we have will one day collapse. I live some days as if the sun will never come up. Sometimes, I think all is vain for the opponent seems so much greater and stronger.

Verse 4 gives great enlightenment. David describes his opposition as wishing to tear down what God had put in place. Further, he describes them as two-faced liars. May I ask a question? How can God bless destructive, two-faced liars? The Bible-believing churches are running scared in this day. Old-time religion has been traded for show-time religion. Bible-based churches can make it with the help of God. If God was not on our side, how did we get this far? For sure, the world is ripe for the delusion of the antichrist.

62:5-7

5 My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him. 6 He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defence; I shall not be moved. 7 In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.

In verse 5 and 6, David repeats verse 1 and 2. I believe in the power and ability of God. I have never doubted that he can do for me what is needed, and even more. My problem is to be *still* and wait. While we wait, the devil is over in the corner saying throw in the towel and give up. The Devil says there is no use; you are doing no good. He may even say do something in an attempt to get one to go ahead of God. Psalm 46:10 reads *Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.*

62:8-10

8 Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah. 9 Surely men of low degree are vanity, and men of high degree are a lie: to be laid in the balance, they are altogether lighter than vanity. 10 Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, set not your heart upon them.

In verses 8-12, David, having tried to encourage himself, now turns to trying to encourage his followers. God bless David for this kind gesture. Often, we let our own problems drag us to such depths that we forget about our loved ones. Husband, you have a wife. Wife, you have a husband. Parents, you have children.

Children, you have parents. Teacher, you have students. Pastor, you have a congregation. Congregation, you have a pastor. Again, I say, God bless David for not allowing his own time of sorrow to cause him to forget his faithful followers. A few hundred crossed over the river with David in his flight from Jerusalem during Absalom's uprising.

David's supporters may have been having second thoughts. Had they done the right thing in supporting David, or should they have joined forces with Absalom? Is this a lost cause? Caleb tried valiantly to encourage the children of Israel that the promised land was theirs to be had. I have had folk in my life who were champion encouragers, or I doubt that I would have made it this far.

In verse 8, the instruction to his supporters is keep your trust in the Lord at all times, and pour out your heart to him. This seems like a simple admonition, but sometimes the simple things seem to be the best to understand and follow. He reminds the followers that we have a *refuge* in God. That must have been encouraging to a people who had left the comfort of their home and were sleeping in tents beneath the stars.

The followers are told, in verse 9, the truth about the opponents. Some of the opposition were men of *low degree*, and they are described as *vanity*. Vanity is literally *breath*. They are hot air.

Other opponents are described as men of *high degree*. They are labeled as liars. Perhaps, David was thinking of one specific man of high degree named Ahithophel. He was a long-time and very close advisor to David. Now, he had deserted David, sided with Absalom, and is living a lie.

Further, David said if the men of low degree are bundled up with the men of high degree and placed in a balance, the balance would tip opposite to what one would think. This is explained like this: the low degree and the high degree added together are vanity, and vanity is "breath," that is, air. No one have ever described me as being less than air. That would hurt anyone's feelings! I may not be much, but I hope I weight more than air!

In verse 10, I am inclined to believe Absalom had paid men to side with him. He had bought supporters. I suppose that happens every day in the world we live in, particularly in politics.

62:11-12

11 God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God. 12 Also unto thee, O Lord, belongeth mercy: for thou renderest to every man according to his work.

When all is said and done, what matters the most? The thing that is of utmost importance is the Word of God. Verse 11 says *God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God*. Absalom did not have the power of the spoken Word of God on his side. His followers had no promise from God. If God says it, believe it. If God instructs it, do it. If you have the Word of God with you, the gates of hell cannot prevail.

We find comfort in verse 12 for once again we find that beautiful word *mercy*. I am thankful “his mercy endureth forever.”