

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown
Bible Study Notes Book of Psalms
3-16-11

Psalm 61

The Story Behind the Psalm

David is far from his home in Jerusalem and is now in Edom after he had run away from his son Absalom, when Absalom tried to become king. He thought of things around him that made him think about God. To David, God was *like a special rock where he could hide.

The Way It Was Used by God's People

This was a Psalm sung at matins, which means it was a morning Psalm. It was sung and recited as a morning prayer, and the word "matins" comes from the word "maturus" which means "ripe" or "mature." From this word "matins" we get our word "daytime" and the word "matinee," which means a daytime performance. This Psalm was sung at the dawn of a new day. Its reading would certainly improve the start of a new day for any of God's children. God wants the first things. He wants first place in our lives. He wants the first day of the week, the first tithe of the income. He wants the first hour of the day. How sweet to meet Him in the morning before we have met another! How sweet to speak first to Him before we have spoken to another! How sweet to walk with Him before we have walked with another!

Theme: Prayer for security and assurance. Wherever we are, we can trust that God will be there to answer our cries for help.

Author: David, written when he was forced to escape during the days of Absalom's rebellion

For the choir director: A psalm of David, to be accompanied by stringed instruments

PSALM 61:1, 2

David must have been far from home when he wrote this psalm. Fortunately, God is not limited to any geographic location. Even when we are among strange people and surroundings, God never abandons us. His all-surpassing strength is always with us.

PSALM 61:8

David made a vow to praise God each day. David continually praised God through both the good and difficult times of his life. Do you find something to praise God for each day? As you do, you will find your heart elevated from daily distractions to lasting confidence.

Psalm 62

The Story Behind the Psalm

Absalom's rebellion began as all rebellion begins— with gossip and talk. It starts innocently enough, and then it spreads. Absalom was talking about the inefficiencies of his dad and how that he would judge the people better. He even insinuated that his dad was becoming senile. David, of course, began to hear bits of this gossip as it returned to him. Critical statements would leak back to David. It was while this talk was going around that David wrote the 62nd Psalm. Who is there among us that has not felt the sharp dagger and the piercing sabre of talk that we are unable to answer and verbal attacks against which we are unable to defend ourselves?

The Way It Was Used by God's People

It is obvious that this Psalm was used, read and sung when one was unjustly criticized.

Theme: Placing all hope in God. Knowing that God is in control allows us to wait patiently for him to rescue us. True relief does not come when the problem is resolved because more problems are on the way! True relief comes from an enduring hope in God's ultimate salvation. Only then will all trials be resolved.

Author: David, written during the days of Absalom's rebellion (2 Samuel 15–18)

For Jeduthun, the choir director: A psalm of David

PSALM 62:3-6

David expressed his feelings to God and then reaffirmed his faith. Prayer can release our tensions in times of emotional stress. Trusting God to be our rock, salvation, and fortress (62:2) will change our entire outlook on life. No longer must we be held captive by resentment toward others when they hurt us. When we are resting in God's strength, nothing can shake us.

PSALM 62:9-12

It is tempting to use honor, power, wealth, or prestige to measure people. We may even think that such people are really getting ahead in life. But on God's scales, these people are "lighter than a puff of air." What, then, can tilt the scales when God weighs us? Trusting God and working for him (62:12). Wealth, honor, power, or prestige add nothing to our value in God's eyes; only the faithful work we do for him has eternal value.

Our Response

Tell God that you accept his kind love and that you want to love and serve him *like David did. *Trust him, and then wait only for God to help you! He will do it through many people and ways.