

## **Second Baptist Church of Doylestown**

### **Bible Study Notes Book of Psalms**

**3-16-11**

#### **Psalm 63**

##### **The Story Behind the Psalm**

Once again this Psalm deals with David leaving the city upon Absalom's rebellion. This particular Psalm deals with David saying good-bye to the temple. Perhaps he went to the temple before he left; perhaps he left by way of the temple, or maybe his mind was just dwelling on God's sacred house. At any rate, though the temple of Solomon had not been finished, there nevertheless was a house of God, and David hated to leave. This Psalm deals with his heartbreak because he had to leave the house of God. Notice especially verses 1 and 2 and picture David leaving the house of God on his journey away from the city to avoid a confrontation with his son.

##### **The Way It Was Used by God's People**

Any time a Jew was away from the temple, he would read, among other Psalms, the 63rd. This Psalm was especially used while the Israelites were in captivity, over 500 miles from home with no temple. For their 70 years of captivity, they longed for a house of God and as they did they turned to the 63rd Psalm. There are many who cannot go to God's house because of illness, because of being shut-in, etc. Perhaps they with David can explore the strength received in Psalm 63.

PSALM 63:1

Psalms 61, 62, and 63 were probably written when David was seeking refuge during Absalom's rebellion (2 Samuel 15–18).

PSALM 63:1-5

Hiding from his enemies in the barren wilderness of Judah, David was intensely lonely. He longed for a friend he could trust to ease his loneliness. No wonder he cried out, "O God, ... my soul thirsts for you ... in this parched and weary land." If you are lonely or thirsty for something lasting in your life, remember David's prayer. God alone can satisfy our deepest longings!

#### **Psalm 64**

##### **The Story Behind the Psalm**

Read this Psalm and decide for yourself the circumstances involved in its writing. Notice in verse 1 the words, "Preserve my life from fear of the enemy." Notice in verse 2 the words, "Hide me from the secret counsel of the wicked; from the insurrection of the workers of iniquity." Notice in verse 3, "Who whet their tongue like a sword." Continue to read the Psalm and you will easily find that this is another of the Psalms written by David when his son was busy spreading untruths and gathering an army with which to conquer the kingdom and ascend the throne. The criticism of his son and his dear friends was almost more than he could take.

## **The Way It Was Used by God's People**

When criticized by those who were loved the most, the people read Psalm 64.

PSALM 64:1

Evil can come in the form of a conspiracy or an ambush because Satan wants to catch us unprepared. He tempts us in our weakest areas when we least expect it. But God himself will strike down our enemies (64:7), whether they are physical or spiritual. Wickedness is widespread and affects us in many ways, but the final victory already belongs to God and to those who trust and believe in him.

PSALM 64:1, 2

We may believe that God hears only certain requests from us. While it is true that we should offer praise, confession, and respectful petitions, it is true also that God is willing to listen to *anything* we want to tell him. David expressed himself honestly, knowing that God would hear his voice. God will always listen to us, and he fully understands us.

PSALM 64:3-10

Words spoken against us are among the most painful attacks we may have to face. If we trust in God, however, these attacks need not cause any lasting damage.

## **Our Response**

1. When you cannot sleep at night, think of God. It helps to repeat some parts of the Bible. Learn some verses so that you can do this. Verses 3 and 8 in this psalm are good verses to learn.