

Psalms 60

This evening - we're continuing our overview of the Old Testament book titled Psalms.

With this as our focus - let's open our Bibles to Psalms chapter 60 - and as we make our way to the 60th Psalm...

...I wanna begin by first pointing out that this Psalm - which was written by King David...

...is the fifth of five successive songs - each of which are introduced as Michtams of David.

Once again - I'll remind you that we don't fully comprehend the meaning of the Hebrew word - Michtam.

Some scholars believe that this word was derived from the Hebrew word from - kethem - which means - gold...

...and it's for this reason that they call these the golden psalms.

Others believe that the original Hebrew word was derived from a root word - which means - to hide - or to cover.

And this certainly make sense - seeing how these five psalms were written...

...regarding the days when David was seeking shelter from his enemies.

For example - the first Psalm in this series of Michtams was written after David decided to hide from King Saul - by fleeing to Philistine city of Gath.

It was in the second Psalm found in this series of Michtams - where David described the days when he hid from Saul in the caves of Judah.

The third Psalm found in this series of Michtams seems to be connected to the situation in the previous song.

And the fourth Psalm found in this series of Michtams detailed the days...

...when King Saul sent his soldiers to wait at David's house - so that they might kill him.

Now - here in the fifth and final Michtam - we find David - mourning over the Lord's decision...

...to allow the Philistines - to defeat King Saul - and the armies of Israel.

And at the same time - he also rejoiced in the victories that followed...

...after the Lord appointed him - king of Israel.

And as we make our way through this Michtam of King David...

...we'll begin to see how the Lord is able to turn tragedy - into triumph.

With this as our focus - let's consider the content of this fifth and final Michtam - found here in the 60th Psalm.

Look with me beginning there at verse 1 where King David writes...

Psa 60:1a To the Chief Musician. Set to "Lily of the Testimony." 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.

Now - I wanna stop right here - so that we can consider the superscription section of this Psalm.

I should first point out that this is the longest historical superscription found in the book of Psalms.

King David not only directed the Chief Musician of Israel to set these lyrics to the “Lily of the Testimony”...

...but - he also informed his audience that this Michtam is was also written...

...for the purpose of instruction.

Not only that - but - we also learn that this Psalm was written during the days...

...when David fought against Mesopotamia and Syria of Zobah - as well as the Edomites in the Valley of Salt.

And as we consider the historical accounts which are found in 2nd Samuel chapter 8 - - and 1st Chronicles chapter 18...

...what we learn is that this Psalm was written at a time when King David conquered the land...

...from Damascus in Syrian - all the way to Edom - in the Valley of Salt.

Before rejoicing in these victories - - David took the time to mourn the tragic loss of life that occurred - before He ascended to the throne of Israel.

With this as our focus - let's pick up our study of the 60th Psalm - beginning there in the middle of verse 1 - where King David declared...

Psa 60:1b O God, You have cast us off;
You have broken us down;
You have been displeased;
Oh, restore us again!

Psa 60:2 You have made the earth tremble;
You have broken it;
Heal its breaches, for it is shaking.

Psa 60:3 You have shown Your people hard things;
You have made us drink the wine of confusion.

Psa 60:4 You have given a banner to those who fear You,
That it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah

Here in these verses - we find King David - grieving over God's decision to cast off his people.

And while we aren't given any details about the way that the Lord broke them down in His displeasure...

...it's my strong conviction that David was referring to the days...

...when the Lord raised up the Philistines - to defeat the armies of King Saul.

We find Ezra's account of that day - in 1st Chronicles chapter 10 - where we learn that...

1Ch 10:1 ...the Philistines fought against Israel; and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell slain on Mount Gilboa.

1Ch 10:2 Then the Philistines followed hard after Saul and his sons. And the Philistines killed Jonathan, Abinadab, and Malchishua, Saul's sons.

1Ch 10:3 The battle became fierce against Saul. The archers hit him, and he was wounded by the archers.

1Ch 10:4 Then Saul said to his armorbearer, "Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised men come and abuse me." But his armorbearer would not, for he was greatly afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword and fell on it.

1Ch 10:5 And when his armorbearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell on his sword and died.

1Ch 10:6 So Saul and his three sons died, and all his house died together.

1Ch 10:7 And when all the men of Israel who were in the valley saw that they had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they forsook their cities and fled; then the Philistines came and dwelt in them.

Here in this account - we learn about the way that the Lord raised up the Philistines to punish His chosen people.

And one reason why was due to the fact that - King Saul had made it his aim...

...to stop the Lord from appointing - and anointing David - as the next King of Israel.

And while it's true that King Saul brought this punishment upon himself...

...it's also true that David still mourned over this national defeat.

It's for this reason that David prayed for national restoration by declaring...

Psa 60:1b O God, You have cast us off;
You have broken us down;
You have been displeased;
Oh, restore us again!

That word - restore - found there in verse 1 - was translated from a Hebrew word...

...which means - to bring back - in order to refresh and repair.

Simply put - King David was praying for the restoration of the relationship...

...between God - and His chosen people.

We should also notice how King David also prayed for national healing - - it's there in verse 2 - where he declared...

Psa 60:2 You have made the earth tremble;
You have broken it;
Heal its breaches, for it is shaking.

Here in this prayer - we find King David - asking the Lord to heal their land.

And while it's possible that David was referring to the destruction caused by literal earthquakes...

...it's more probable that he was presenting a poetic prayer request.

I like the way that Spurgeon explained it in his commentary of this passage - where he declared...

Things were as unsettled as though the solid earth had been made to quake; nothing was stable; the priests had been murdered by Saul, the worst men had been put in office, the military power had been broken by the Philistines, and the civil authority had grown despicable through insurrections and intestine contests. Thou hast broken it. As the earth cracks, and opens itself in rifts during violent earthquakes, so was the kingdom rent with strife and calamity. "Heal the breaches thereof."

In light of Spurgeon's perspective - it seems to me that David was probably praying for the Lord...

...to heal all of the damage that had been caused by King Saul's depraved decisions.

And not only that - but - he was also praying for the Lord to reestablish righteousness...

...there in the land of Israel.

Let's consider how he put it - there in verses 3 and 4 - where King David declared...

Psa 60:3 You have shown Your people hard things;
You have made us drink the wine of confusion.

Psa 60:4 You have given a banner to those who fear You,
That it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah

Under the leadership of King Saul - the nation of Israel was brought to a point of confusion...

...after hearing about the way that the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines.

And while it's true that those who were faithful to King Saul - were killed on the battle field...

...it's also true that those who were walking in the fear of the Lord...

...were protected under the banner of truth.

I like the way that the scholars who created the Amplified Bible rendered verse 4 - they put it like this...

Psa 60:4 You have set up a banner for those who fear You [with awe-inspired reverence and submissive wonder—a banner to shield them from attack], A banner that may be displayed because of the truth. Selah.

According to King David - the Lord set up a banner of truth - for those who were truly trusting in Him.

And in this way - He spared the remnant - from the attack of the Philistines.

Not only that - but - he also spared David and his men - from that dreadful day.

And when all was said and done - the Lord handed the kingdom over to David.

Here's how Ezra summed it up in 1st Chronicles chapter 10 - it's verses 13 and 14 where he declared...

1Ch 10:13 So Saul died for his unfaithfulness which he had committed against the LORD, because he did not keep the word of the LORD, and also because he consulted a medium for guidance.
1Ch 10:14 But he did not inquire of the LORD; therefore He killed him, and turned the kingdom over to David the son of Jesse.

From this - we can see that - David was appointed to the throne of Israel...

...after the Lord punished King Saul - for failing to follow the truth of God's word.

And so — when David informed his audience that the Lord displayed a banner truth for those who feared Him...

...it seems to me that - this was His way of saving - and sanctifying the remnant of Israel...

...from the sinful ways of king Saul.

In similar fashion - the Christ Jesus came to display the banner of truth - by providing a way to save - and sanctify those who trust in Him.

This was precisely the point that the Lord was making - in John chapter 17 - where He declared...

Jhn 17:14 "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

Jhn 17:15 "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

Jhn 17:16 "They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

Jhn 17:17 "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

Jhn 17:18 "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

Jhn 17:19 "And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

Christian - listen - - the Lord Jesus has established a standard - or - a banner of truth - which is the word of God.

And those who embrace the truth of His word - will be sanctified - according to the truth.

Therefore - rather than allowing the King Saul's of this world - to lead us on the path of destruction...

...let's follow the instructions found in the word of God...

...and as we do - the Lord will deliver us from the attacks of the enemy.

With this in mind - let's consider the way that David prayed for this deliverance - here in the 60th Psalm.

Look with me - there at verse 5 - where King David declared...

Psa 60:5 That Your beloved may be delivered,
Save with Your right hand, and hear me.

Here in this verse - we find King David - prayerfully seeking the salvation of the Lord - on behalf of the nation of Israel.

I like the way that the scholars who created the New International Version of the Bible rendered this verse - here's how they put it...

Psa 60:5 Save us and help us with your right hand, that those you love may be delivered.

From this - we can see that - David was not only concerned about his own salvation...

...but - he was equally concerned about the deliverance of the Lord's chosen nation - Israel.

And it's for this reason that he took the time to pray for national deliverance from the enemies of Israel.

And it's here in our text today - where we find King David....

...describing the way that the Lord delivered them.

With this as our focus - let's consider the content - found in the second half of this Psalm.

Let's pick up our study of the 60th Psalm - beginning there at verse 6 - where King David declared...

Psa 60:6 God has spoken in His holiness:

"I will rejoice;

I will divide Shechem

And measure out the Valley of Succoth.

Psa 60:7 Gilead is Mine, and Manasseh is Mine;

Ephraim also is the helmet for My head;

Judah is My lawgiver.

Psa 60:8 Moab is My washpot;

Over Edom I will cast My shoe;

Philistia, shout in triumph because of Me."

Here in these verses - we find King David - rejoicing in the victories that the Lord enabled them to secure.

And as we consider the content of these verses - you might be interested to know that...

...we find the same exact lyrics - in the 108th Psalm.

And as we consider how the lyrics of this Psalm were written - after this prophecy was fulfilled...

...it's my guess that David copied - and pasted the 108th Psalm - here into this song...

...after his victory against the Edomites and Philistia.

With this in mind - let's consider the way that God fulfilled this prophetic promise.

Look with me again - there at verse 6 - where David reminded his readers that...

Psa 60:6a God has spoken in His holiness:

In other words - the Lord God of Israel presented this prophetic promise - according to His holiness.

And listen - when God presents a promise - - we can be certain that He will accomplish it...

...because - it's impossible for God to lie.

I like the way that Paul put it - in Hebrews chapter 6

Heb 6:16 For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute.

Heb 6:17 Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath,

Heb 6:18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

It's impossible for God to lie - and the reason why is because - it's contrary to His immutable character.

Therefore - when God makes a prophetic promise - we can be sure that He will keep it.

With that being the case - let's take a moment to consider the promise that the Lord presented - here in our text tonight.

Notice with me again - there in verse 6 - where David declared...

Psa 60:6 God has spoken in His holiness:

"I will rejoice;

I will divide Shechem

And measure out the Valley of Succoth.

Here in this verse - we find the Lord - promising to provide Shechem and the valley of Succoth - to the nation of Israel.

And just to be clear - Shechem is located between Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal...

...in the region that is currently called the West Bank.

And while this region is hotly contested by those who identify themselves as Palestinians...

...this is land that the Lord promised to give to children of Israel.

The Valley of Succoth - is located east of the Jordan River - which is currently part of the country called Jordan.

And while the British empire saw fit to give this land to the Hashemite Dynasty...

...the fact is - the Lord gave this land to children of Israel - as an everlasting inheritance.

We should also notice how the Lord expanded upon this prophetic promise - there in verse 7 - by declaring...

Psa 60:7 Gilead is Mine, and Manasseh is Mine;
Ephraim also is the helmet for My head;
Judah is My lawgiver.

Now - you might like to know that - Gilead is also east of the Jordan River...

...and it currently corresponds to the modern region of northwestern Jordan.

And then there's the territory of Manasseh - - which encompassed land on both sides of the Jordan River.

The western half was in central Israel - while the eastern half of Manasseh...

...was in the region currently occupied by the Hashemite kingdom of Jordan.

The Lord also promised to reestablish them in the land of Ephraim - which was located in central Israel.

And as we consider how the Philistines defeated king Saul's army - on Mount Gilboa...

...we can be certain that they had also conquered many cities across Ephraim - during that campaign.

And so - the Lord was promising to give this land - back to the children of Israel.

And it's there at the end of verse 7 - where the Lord promised to reestablish His lawgiver - there in the land of Judah.

And that's exactly what He did - when He placed King David - a descendant of Judah - upon the throne of Israel.

We should also consider how the Lord expanded upon this prophetic promise - there in verse 8 - by declaring...

Psa 60:8 Moab is My washpot;
Over Edom I will cast My shoe;
Philistia, shout in triumph because of Me."

I like the way that the scholars who created the New Living Translation rendered this verse - they put it like this...

Psa 60:8 But Moab, my washbasin, will become my servant,
and I will wipe my feet on Edom
and shout in triumph over Philistia."

More simply put - the Lord was prophetically promising to give the land of Moab - Edom - and Philistia...

...into the hands of His chosen people.

Now - it'll help you to know that Moab was located east of the Dead Sea...

...which is also in the region that is currently called Jordan.

Edom was an ancient kingdom located in the south of modern-day Jordan and Israel.

It stretched from the Dead Sea - to the Gulf of Aqaba.

And then there's Philistia - which included five main cities - called Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron, and Gath.

This is the hotly contested region that we now call - the Gaza Strip.

And while there are many who insist that this land belongs to those who identify as Palestinians...

...the Lord was the One - Who promised to give all of this land to the children of Israel.

Just to be clear - it'll help you to know that the Lord presented this promise - in Numbers chapter 34.

It's there where we learn that - the Northern border of Israel is from the Mediterranean Sea - to Zedad

And the Southern border of Israel is from from Kadesh Barnea to the Brook of Egypt better known as the Nile.

The Eastern border of Israel is defined by the Jordan River, extending north to the Sea of Galilee..

And the Western border to Israel is the Mediterranean Sea.

And listen - when people chant - from the river to the sea - Palestine will be free...

...they're actually talking about the borders of the land that the Lord promised to give to the children of Israel.

According to the Lord - this land belongs to Israel.

And it's for this reason that He helped David to conquer those territories.

With this as our focus let's consider the final stanza of the 60th Psalm.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 9 - where David asked...

Psa 60:9 Who will bring me to the strong city?

Who will lead me to Edom?

Psa 60:10 Is it not You, O God, who cast us off?

And You, O God, who did not go out with our armies?

Psa 60:11 Give us help from trouble,

For the help of man is useless.

Psa 60:12 Through God we will do valiantly,

For it is He who shall tread down our enemies.

Here in the final verses of this Psalm - we find David - recounting the prayer that he prayed...

...as he sought the help of the One Who alone could fulfill the promise that the Lord presented in verses 6 - 7 and 8.

And as we consider the way that the Lord promised to extend the borders of Israel - from Syria - to Edom...

...we can rejoice in knowing that the Lord did in fact - fulfill that promise - during the days of King David.

Not only that - but - the Lord will also fulfill the promise that He presented - through the prophet Ezekiel.

This includes the land that the nation of Israel will acquired - during the days of the Millennial Kingdom.

And just to be clear - it's in Ezekiel chapter 47 - beginning at verse 13 where Ezekiel presented this promise - by writing...

Eze 47:13 Thus says the Lord GOD: "These are the borders by which you shall divide the land as an inheritance among the twelve tribes of Israel. Joseph shall have two portions.

Eze 47:14 "You shall inherit it equally with one another; for I raised My hand in an oath to give it to your fathers, and this land shall fall to you as your inheritance.

Eze 47:15 "This shall be the border of the land on the north: from the Great Sea, by the road to Hethlon, as one goes to Zedad,

Eze 47:16 "Hamath, Berothah, Sibram (which is between the border of Damascus and the border of Hamath), to Hazar Hatticon (which is on the border of Hauran).

Eze 47:17 "Thus the boundary shall be from the Sea to Hazar Enan, the border of Damascus; and as for the north, northward, it is the border of Hamath. This is the north side.

Eze 47:18 "On the east side you shall mark out the border from between Hauran and Damascus, and between Gilead and the land of Israel, along the Jordan, and along the eastern side of the sea. This is the east side.

Eze 47:19 "The south side, toward the South, shall be from Tamar to the waters of Meribah by Kadesh, along the brook to the Great Sea. This is the south side, toward the South.

Eze 47:20 "The west side shall be the Great Sea, from the southern boundary until one comes to a point opposite Hamath. This is the west side.

Eze 47:21 "Thus you shall divide this land among yourselves according to the tribes of Israel.

Here in these verses - we find the Lord - presenting another prophetic promise...

...which includes a provision of more land for the children of Israel - during the millennial kingdom of our Messiah.

And yeah - this is despite the fact that there are those who insist that God is done with Israel.

I can assure you - He is not.

Please trust me when I tell you that - God cannot lie - - and what this means is that...

...all of the promises that He made to Israel - - are promises that He will keep - - and without fail.

At the same time - we can also rejoice in knowing that all of the promises that the Lord has made to the church...

...He's going to keep those promises as well.

I like the way that Paul put it - in 1st Corinthians chapter 1 - it's verses 20 thru 22 - where he declared...

2Co 1:20 ...all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

2Co 1:21 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God,

2Co 1:22 who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

Christian - listen - the Lord is not only going to fulfill all of the promises that He made to Israel...

...but - He is also going to fulfill all of the promises that He has made to every born again believer...

...because - all of the promises of God in Christ Jesus are Yes, and in Him Amen

And as we wait for the Millennial kingdom of Christ - when we will rule and reign with the King of kings...

...we can rejoice in knowing that our Savior has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

With that being the case - I encourage you to endure every trial - and every tribulation...

...as we wait patiently for the day - when the Lord will restore us - according to His good pleasure.

And as we look forward to that day - let's continue to sing the praises...

...of the One Who perfectly fulfills the promises that He has made...

...to those who embrace the banner of His truth.

COMMUNION