

Psalm 64

- Written or composed during the time of Absalom's rebellion, expressing his concerns connected to this difficult trial.
-

V: 1 David is in a life threatening situation so he's asking God to save him. He's not just asking God to spare his life or save him, but he's asking God to keep him in the Spirit, to keep him from "fear of the enemy."

- Fear is a tool of the enemy; often times we die a thousand deaths fearing the one. Fear can stop us in our track, immobilize us. There is a reason why the command to "fear not" is the most oft repeated command in the Bible.
- Fear is a manifestation of faithlessness:

1 John 4:17-18 *"¹⁷Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as He is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."*

- Initially David isn't asking God to change his circumstances, he's asking God to give him a stronger heart!

V: 2 Hide him, protect him from the secret counsel of the enemy. David knew that Ahithophel along with these men were meeting together, conspiring, seeking how to destroy him - David is saying, "Lord protect me from their counsel."

- Keep me from the insurrection, the rebellion of the wicked.

Psalm 33:10 *"The Lord bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: He maketh the devices of the people of none effect."*

- Had Absalom taken heed to Ahithophel's counsel, David would have been in much greater danger. As it was, God turned Absalom away from Ahithophel's counsel and it led to both of their deaths.

V: 3-5 Describing the wicked who whet or sharpen their tongue against the righteous, they shoot their bitter words as arrows.

- They say things in secret, they do so without any fear of repercussions.
- Normally people wouldn't speak criticism openly about a king, because it could lead to their death - now they're doing it because they think he's down and out. There are some surprises in store for some of them.

V: 6 Their heart, their mind, their efforts are focused on scheming ways to take David down. The word translated “deep” in KJV is also translated as “cunning” in other translations.

V: 7 God will deal with them, God will shoot an arrow back and catch them at just the right moment.

Jehoshaphat & Ahab:

2 Chronicles 18:33 “And a certain man drew a bow at a venture, and smote the king of Israel between the joints of the harness:...”

Jesus said:

Matthew 26:52 “... for all they that take the sword, shall perish with the sword.”

- David has said that their tongues are like swords; now he’s saying that their own tongues will be their downfall.
- All that see them will flee away; no one wants to be connected with traitors who will be made an example of.
- That was the real reason behind Ahithophel’s suicide. He realized that when Absalom rejected his counsel the cause was lost. Absalom was going to be defeated and those like Ahithophel who tied their fate to his cause would eventually be executed for treason.

V: 8 God will confuse their counsel and they will turn on each other.

Galatians 5:15 “But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed / destroyed one of another.”

V: 9-10 Those that fear God will declare His work, they will wisely consider - think it through.

- Support for Absalom will wane, it will fade away, the righteous shall prevail in gladness, those that trust in Him.
- The nation would be given a renewed perspective on God as they saw David’s enemies defeated seemingly against all odds, and as David, who was God’s choice was vindicated.
- That potential fear of the enemy at the beginning of this psalm has been replaced by gladness in the Lord.
- David is confident in His Lord, the Lord has blessed him to keep that fear out of his heart.

Nehemiah 8:10 "... for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Psalm 65

- Psalm 65 is the beginning of a short series of Psalms that focuses on simply praising the Lord.
- This Psalm is a song, praising God for the blessing of a good harvest, His fruitfulness and blessing.

V: 1 So often we focus on the promises that God has made to us, and generally that should be the focus because He is so faithful. Here we see David's promise to God: I / we are going to worship you!

- This vow, this promise is a loving response to God's initiated love towards us!

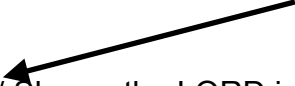
1 John 4:19 "We love Him, because He first loved us."

- In Hebrew there is the idea of the people being gathered together, waiting before the Lord in silence, and at the same time ready to break out in praise:
- Sounds a little like a surprise party, except that we can't surprise God.
- The vows made unto God shall be made good.

Numbers 30:2 "If a man vow a vow unto the Lord, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth."

V: 2 The first thing mentioned that God is praised and worshipped for is the fact that God hears our prayers. He is very much a God that listens.

Psalm 34:17 "The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles."

- "Jehovah-Shammah" / Shama the LORD is there, the Lord hears. 
- When we consider the greatness of God and the extent of His creation it's baffling that He'd take the time to listen to any of us, but He does.
- Unto thee shall all flesh come: He beckons us to Himself, (**Genesis 7:1, Isaiah 1:18, Matthew 11:28**) He is not willing that any should perish - but eventually even those who reject Him will kneel before Him to proclaim His glory.

Philippians 2:10-11 “¹⁰That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ¹¹and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

V: 3 The second reason to worship is the fact that He will purge, or cleanse away our transgressions, that God forgives sin.

- Sin may have that initial victory in our lives, it may prevail temporarily; but it will be overcome by the blood of Jesus.

1 John 5:4-5 “⁴For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. ⁵Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”

- It is accurately being described as a yet future event; but they are worshipping Him for it now, trusting in the reality of it in their lives.

Leviticus 17:11 “For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”

1 John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

1 John 2:1-2 “¹My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: ²And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”

V: 4 “*Blessed*” - Oh how happy is the man that God chooses!

- There is certainly a discussion that can be had about the chosen, the elect, the pre-destined and all of that; but I’m gonna roll with the fact, the joy of just knowing that He chose me from the beginning of time.
- I rejoice in my salvation, I don’t need to always explain every aspect and theological detail of it - I’m just really glad to be saved and I’m quite happy to enjoy the simplicity of it.

Jesus told His disciples:

John 15:16 “Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain...”

- I love it! We are chosen of God!

Ephesians 1:3-4 “³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:
⁴According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world...”

- My confidence is in Him, He knows ahead of time who will choose Him, so He chooses them first!
- If God ever knows anything, then He’s always known it.

1 Peter 1:2 “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.”

David's prayer & desire:

Psalms 27:4 “One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His Temple.”

V: 5-8 By “terrible” or awesome feats, God will answer, will speak in righteousness to peoples and nations near and far.

- Describing His power: having set the mountains in their places.
- ⁷Who can still the oceans / silencing them.

Jesus' disciples, totally astonished, declared of Him:

Matthew 8:27 “... what manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him!?”

V: 9-13 The blessings that He pours out upon man:

1. He visits the earth, God reaches down to us.
 2. He waters the earth, rain is a blessing from God, it’s needed for corn, for crops to flourish.
- ¹⁰He waters the ridges, the hill tops, he waters the furrows, where the crops grow, he softens the dirt that would otherwise be rock hard and unable to accept the seed which then springs forth.
 - ¹¹You crown the year, you top it off with “fatness” or prosperity.

David knows what we know, what James describes:

James 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

- ¹²The waters drop upon the pastures in the wilderness, in those far away places, the hills rejoice to receive the rain, the blessing.
- ¹³As a result, the pastures are clothed, covered with flocks; the valley's are covered with corn, grain, crops; they rejoice, we rejoice at thy blessings!

Matthew 5:45 "... for He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."

- But aren't you glad to be a child of God? Oh the blessing, the comfort, the peace that only He can give, even the enjoyment and appreciation of the blessings!