

Psalms 60

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Psalms 60

Psalms 60 is a great poem,

What do we do when God seems far away?

There may be moments in our lives when we feel that "God has forsaken us."
Maybe it's financial pressure, family breakdown, health challenges, or a
spiritual drought with no way out. Psalm 60 was written for such a time.

1. The cry in the midst of suffering (vv. 1 - 3).

Dawei is honest with God here, and he does not hide his failure and pain. Do
we have the courage to speak openly to God about our difficulties and losses,
as the Great Greats did?

- Sometimes we mistakenly think that faith is the same as not being able
to question. But true faith is not giving up on dialogue with God in
the midst of pain.

2. The turning point of faith (vv. 4 - 5).

- Can we still hold up the banner of faith in the face of difficulties?
- When faced with difficulties at home, at work, or in the church, do you still believe that God is in control?

3. Review God's promises (vv.6 - 8).

It's as if God is declaring, "This land is still mine!" Even though man seems chaotic, God's sovereignty has not wavered.

- God's plan never stops. He does not give up on His people because of a defeat or a low point.

4. The final declaration of faith (vv.11 - 12).

- It is not the great military power that brings the victory, but the help and presence of God.
- Difficulties won't last forever, but God's promises will.

We pray

Lord, there are times when I don't see what you do,
 but give us the faith to hold up the banner you have given me and
 choose to believe in the midst of suffering,
 because we know that it is not the improvement of circumstances that will
 save us, but
 your eternal faithfulness.
 Amen.

The new poem, reverberating Psalm 60, expresses the poet's lament in the
 midst of a difficult situation

The earth is torn apart, our hearts are torn apart, our
 walls are clumped in the wind, and
 the promises of the past are like distant stars,
 twinkling, but untouchable.
 God, when you turn away,
 are our prayers scattered in the clouds?

The banner of the enemy, swaggering on the hills, our
shields, covered with dust in the wilderness.
Thou hast said, 'This is thy vineyard, and
now thou hast allowed thorns to spread?'
God, when will your anger
turn to silent grace?

However, your right hand has not been retracted, and
in the darkness there is still a light that shines through.
We stand, on the broken cornerstone,
with trembling lips, singing your name.
O God, thou art our banner, in the midst of the
storm, leading us through.

Behold, there is thy promise on the top of the mountain, and the
brook shall not dry up, but the wilderness shall blossom.
Thy rod leads us through the shadow of death, and
thy love is deeper than our failures.
Be with us, O God,
to restore glory to this broken place.

Psalms 60

Amplified Bible

Lament over Defeat in Battle, and Prayer for Help.

**To the Chief Musician; set to [the tune of] "The Lily of the Testimony." A Mikhtam of David
[intended to record memorable thoughts and] to teach; when he struggled with the Arameans of
Mesopotamia and the Arameans of Zobah, and when Joab returned and struck twelve thousand
Edomites in the Valley of Salt.**

60 O God, You have rejected us *and* cast us off. You have broken [down our defenses and scattered] us;
You have been angry; O restore us *and* turn again to us.

²

You have made the land quake, You have split it open;
Heal its rifts, for it shakes *and* totters.

³

You have made Your people experience hardship;
You have given us wine to drink that makes us stagger *and* fall.

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*.

5

That Your beloved ones may be rescued,
Save with Your right hand and answer us.

6

God has spoken in His holiness [in His promises]:

“I will rejoice, I will divide [the land of] Shechem and measure out the Valley of Succoth [west to east].

7

“Gilead is Mine, and Manasseh is Mine;

Ephraim is My helmet;

Judah is My scepter.

8

“Moab is My ^[a]washbowl;

Over Edom I shall throw My shoe [in triumph];

Over Philistia I raise the shout [of victory].”

9

Who will bring me into the besieged city [of Petra]?

Who will lead me to Edom?

10

Have You not rejected us, O God?

And will You not go out with our armies?

11

Give us help against the enemy,

For the help of man is worthless (ineffectual, without purpose).

12

Through God we will have victory,

For He will trample down our enemies.

Psalm 60 is a communal lament and prayer for restoration, attributed to David, likely written during a time of military defeat or national distress, possibly linked to conflicts with Edom and other enemies (as noted in the superscription, "when he fought Aram-Naharaim and Aram-Zobah, and when Joab returned and struck down twelve thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt"). The psalm reflects a sense of divine abandonment, a plea for God's intervention, and a hopeful affirmation of trust in God's ultimate victory. It blends raw emotion with theological depth, addressing themes of rejection, restoration, and divine sovereignty.

Full Description

Psalm 60 is a *miktam* (possibly a musical or liturgical term) and is structured as a corporate prayer, expressing the collective anguish of Israel. The psalm can be divided into three main sections:

1. **Lament over God's Rejection (verses 1–3):** The psalmist cries out, feeling that God has rejected His people, causing the land to tremble and the nation to stagger under divine judgment.

2. **Appeal for Deliverance and God's Favor (verses 4–8):** The tone shifts to a plea for salvation, with a banner raised for the faithful. God's oracle reassures Israel of His sovereignty over the land and its enemies.
3. **Confidence in God's Victory (verses 9–12):** The psalmist questions who will lead them to victory but concludes with trust in God, acknowledging human efforts are futile without divine help.

The historical context suggests a military setback, possibly during David's campaigns (2 Samuel 8:13–14). The psalm captures a moment of crisis where Israel feels forsaken but clings to God's promises. Its tone is both desperate and hopeful, emphasizing God's covenant with His people and His ultimate authority over nations.

Important Verses

Here are key verses with their significance:

- **Verse 1:** *"You have rejected us, God, and burst upon us; you have been angry—now restore us!"*
This opening cry sets the tone of lament, expressing the pain of perceived divine abandonment. It's a raw acknowledgment of national suffering, seeking restoration.
- **Verse 4:** *"But for those who fear you, you have raised a banner to be unfurled against the bow."*
This verse offers hope, symbolizing God's protection for the faithful, with the "banner" representing divine guidance and rallying point.
- **Verse 6–8:** *"God has spoken from his sanctuary: 'In triumph I will parcel out Shechem... Moab is my washbasin, on Edom I toss my sandal; over Philistia I shout in triumph.'"*
This divine oracle is the theological heart of the psalm, affirming God's sovereignty over Israel's territories (Shechem, Succoth) and neighboring nations (Moab, Edom, Philistia). The imagery of a washbasin and tossed sandal conveys dominance and contempt for enemies.
- **Verse 11–12:** *"Give us aid against the enemy, for human help is worthless. With God we will gain the victory, and he will trample down our enemies."*
The closing declaration shifts from despair to confidence, emphasizing reliance on God alone for victory, a key spiritual lesson.

Spiritual Influence

Psalm 60 has a profound spiritual impact, resonating with individuals and communities facing crises, whether personal, national, or spiritual:

1. **Honest Lament:** The psalm models raw honesty in prayer, encouraging believers to voice feelings of abandonment or despair to God. It validates emotional struggles while pointing to hope.
2. **Trust in Divine Sovereignty:** The oracle in verses 6–8 reassures believers that God remains in control, even in chaos. This fosters trust in God's promises during trials.
3. **Dependence on God:** The acknowledgment that "human help is worthless" (v. 11) challenges self-reliance, urging complete dependence on God for deliverance.
4. **Hope in Restoration:** The plea for restoration (v. 1) and the confidence in victory (v. 12) inspire hope, reminding believers that God can turn defeat into triumph.

5. **Corporate Prayer:** As a communal psalm, it encourages collective faith, uniting communities in seeking God's intervention during shared struggles.

In Christian tradition, Psalm 60 is often read as a prayer for the church under persecution or spiritual attack, with the "banner" (v. 4) sometimes interpreted as Christ's victory over sin and death. In Jewish tradition, it reflects Israel's covenant relationship with God, emphasizing His faithfulness despite apparent rejection. The psalm's themes of divine judgment, mercy, and triumph make it a powerful text for worship, reflection, and intercession.