

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

THROUGH GOD WE SHALL DO VALIANTLY PSALMS 60

Text: Psalms 60:12

Psalm 60:12

¹² Through God we shall do valiantly: for he it is that shall tread down our enemies.

Introduction:

To better understand this psalm is the lengthy title of the psalm.

Israel was engaged in two battles – one against Edom and another against Aram.

Aram most all of the time is translated in scripture as Syria and the hyphenated word speaks of a specific area of Syria.

As you read through the psalm you can surmise a defeat in one of these battles that distresses David greatly, but by the end of the psalm David is rejoicing in ultimate victory because of the promises and power of God.

Note:

1. THE PUNISHMENT ALLOWED (vs. 1-5)

The main theme of this psalm is the defeat of Israel's army. In an event that is implied but not recorded is a defeat of Israel's armies by either the Syrians or the army of Edom.

Notice:

A. The Specifics of the Punishment (vs. 1-3)

Psalm 60:1-3

¹ *O God, thou hast cast us off, thou hast scattered us, thou hast been displeased; O turn thyself to us again.*

² *Thou hast made the earth to tremble; thou hast broken it: heal the breaches thereof; for it shaketh.*

³ *Thou hast shewed thy people hard things: thou hast made us to drink the wine of astonishment.*

In these verses the psalmist details some of the specifics of this punishment and its effect upon Israel.

- Discarded (vs. 1) – ***“Thou hast cast off”***

The defeat by the enemy was like being discarded. This was an awful feeling for one who enjoyed God's favor most of his life.

Not only was there a feeling of being discarded but also:

- Disseminated (vs. 1) – ***“Thou hast scattered us”***

When an army is scattered over the field of battle it is often a defeated army.

The psalmist pictures the defeat of Israel’s army by it being scattered.

Not only was there the feeling of being discarded and disseminated but also there was the:

- Displeasure (vs. 1) – ***“Thou hast been displeased”***

This no doubt really hurt the psalmist. He desired the favor of God but instead experienced the displeasure of God.

The defeat by the enemy was very discouraging to the psalmist.

Note not only the feeling of being discarded, disseminated and displeasure but also their:

- Destruction (vs. 2) – ***“Thou hast made the earth to tremble: thou hast broken it”***

The picture here is that of an earthquake that brings great destruction to the land.

Being defeated by the enemy was devastating to the psalmist and he compared it to an earthquake which devastates the land.

Note not only the feeling of being discarded, disseminated, displeasure and their destruction but also their:

- Difficulties – (vs. 3) ***“Thou hast showed thy people hard things”***

Difficulties, trials and troubles were what the psalmist was experiencing at this time.

These were hard things and times.

He wanted to once again experience the favor and blessing of God.

Note not only the feeling of being discarded, disseminated, displeasure, their destruction and difficulties but also their:

- Drink (vs. 3) – ***“Thou hast made us to drink the wine of astonishment”***

In this defeat the psalmist compares it to the unbelievable.

Illustration:

On September 11, 2001 when planes flew into the buildings it was unbelievable and astonishing.

We not only see the Specifics but also:

B. The Source of the Punishment (vs. 1-3)

Psalm 60:1-3

¹ *O God, thou hast cast us off, thou hast scattered us, thou hast been displeased; O turn thyself to us again.*

² *Thou hast made the earth to tremble; thou hast broken it: heal the breaches thereof; for it shaketh.*

³ *Thou hast shewed thy people hard things: thou hast made us to drink the wine of astonishment.*

The psalmist sees beyond the secondary causes (their defeat) to the first cause.

Note the expression “Thou hast.” It is used seven times in these three verses.

God was using other nations to punish Israel to so that they would return to Him.

Illustration:

I feel we are seeing the exact same thing happening today in this nation.

Other nations and people have become a real threat today.

There are also viruses and diseases today that we have never heard of and many with no known cure.

When a nation condones the aborting of babies and sanctions the union of sodomites, rest assured God will have the final word.

We see not only Specifics and Source of Punishment but also:

C. The Standard for the Punishment (vs. 4)

Psalm 60:4

⁴ Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah.

Here is a note about the flag that encourages recovery.

- The Purpose of the Flag – ***“Given a banner”***

The flag is a rallying point. Israel’s army was to serve under the flag which promised future victories.

Note not only the Purpose of the Flag but also:

- The Proclamation of the Flag – ***“Be displayed because of truth”***

Flags are symbols or testimonies. This flag was to be a testimony of Divine truth.

Not many banners honor Divine truth today.

Flags today are more likely to honor evil (homosexuals, gambling) rather than truth.

The next time you see a parade look at the banners that represent or support evil.

Note not only the Purpose and Proclamation of the Flag but also:

The People for the Flag – ***“Them that fear thee”***

Scattered Israel was to be regathered under the flag that represented Divine truth.

This is a note of encouragement amid the discouragement that promises victory.

Their defeat was because they had departed from the truth.

We have considered the Punishment Allowed note secondly:

2. THE PROMISES ALLOTTED (VS. 6-8)

Psalm 60:6-8

⁶ God hath spoken in his holiness; I will rejoice, I will divide Shechem, and mete out the valley of Succoth.

⁷ Gilead is mine, and Manasseh is mine; Ephraim also is the strength of mine head; Judah is my lawgiver;

⁸ Moab is my washpot; over Edom will I cast out my shoe: Philistia, triumph thou because of me.

The psalmist finds courage in the Word of God especially in the promises of the Word which are reliable because they were spoken in “holiness” which means they are true and genuine promises.

Our hope amidst the trials will be found in the trustworthy promises of God’s Word.

Note:

A. The Promise for Canaan (vs. 6-7)

Psalm 60:6-7

⁶ God hath spoken in his holiness; I will rejoice, I will divide Shechem, and mete out the valley of Succoth.

⁷ Gilead is mine, and Manasseh is mine; Ephraim also is the strength of mine head; Judah is my lawgiver;

This promised the victory in possessing the land of Canaan.

- The Promise of Contempt (vs. 8)

Psalm 60:8

⁸ Moab is my washpot; over Edom will I cast out my shoe: Philistia, triumph thou because of me.

We have considered the Punishment Allowed, and the Promises Allotted note lastly:

3. THE POWER ACKNOWLEDGED (VS. 9-12)

Psalm 60:9-12

⁹ Who will bring me into the strong city? who will lead me into Edom? ¹⁰ Wilt not thou, O God, which hadst cast us off? and thou, O God, which didst not go out with our armies? ¹¹ Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man. ¹² Through God we shall do valiantly: for he it is that shall tread down our enemies.

The psalm closes on a note of praise for the power of God which would assure Israel's return to the victory stand.

In verse 12 we see the testimony of the greatness of God and the essentialness of God in time of conflict.

Without Him we can do nothing.

God is our key to our strength and success.

The performance of God's people is dependent upon God's enabling and help.

Our nation's attitude of rejecting God is an attitude that will breed shameful defeat.

Close: