

Psalm 101
Godward Administration

Introduction:

This psalm is found in the fourth book (90-106) of Psalms, which focuses on Moses' intercession for the Davidic Covenant. (James Hamilton)

The fourth book is outlined by Hamilton as follows:

- Psalms 90–92, Mosaic Intercession and Reaffirmation of Davidic Covenant
 - Psalms 93–100, Yahweh Reigns: Guaranteeing the Davidic Covenant
 - **Psalms 101–103, Davidic Commitment, Prayer, and Forgiveness**
- Psalms 104–106, Creation, the Covenant with Abraham, and Israel's Sin

This appears to express David's determination to rule as a Godly king. This aligns with God's revelation concerning kings in Deut. 17:14-20.

At one point in Europe's history (1600's), this psalm was known as *The Prince's Psalm*, because it expressed the ideal conduct of a Christian ruler. If an official did something wrong, apparently this psalm was sent to them as a reminder. (Franz Delitzsch)

Superscription: *Of David. Psalm.*

1) His PERSONAL resolutions—101:1-5 (8x "I will")

- a) **Resolved to publicly highlight Yahweh's attributes—101:1** ¹ *I will sing of lovingkindness [chesed] (loyal love) and justice [mishpat] (freedom from self-interest, fairness according to God's standard), to You, O Yahweh, I will sing praises.*
- i) Cf. Ps. 89:14 of God's reign as king
- b) **Resolved to live blamelessly before Yahweh—101:2a** ² *I will consider [sakal] the way of the blameless [tamim].*
- c) **Recognition of one's inability apart from God—101:2b** *When will You come to me?*
- d) **What personal integrity looks like—101:2c-5**
 - i) **Integrity at home—101:2c** *I will walk within my house in the integrity [tom] of my heart.*
 - (1) In contrast to the other kings in his culture.
 - (2) This will be the scene of his worst betrayal. (cf. 2 Sam 11-12)

- ii) **Proper focus**—101:3a ³ *I will set no vile (worthless, waste of time) thing before my eyes;*
- iii) **No sinful compromise**—101:3b *I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me.*
- iv) **Rejection of self-trust**—101:4 ⁴ *A crooked heart (the opposite of integrity) shall depart from me; I will know no evil.*
- v) **Removal of gossips**—101:5a⁵ *Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy/ silence;*
- vi) **Disassociate with the self-oriented**—101:5b *whoever has a haughty look and an arrogant heart (those unwilling to submit to the king), I will not endure.*

2) His PUBLIC administrative policies—101:6-8

- a) **Positively**—101:6 (possibly the focal point of the psalm)
 - i) **Reward the trustworthy:** ⁶ *My eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may abide with me;*
 - ii) **Honor those with integrity:** *he who walks in the way of the blameless [tamim] is the one who will minister to me.*
- b) **Negatively**—101:7-8
 - i) **Reject liars; value truth**—101:7
 - (1) ⁷ *He who practices deceit shall not dwell within my house;*
 - (2) *he who speaks lies shall not be established before my eyes.*
 - ii) **Remove the corrupt; administer justice**—101:8
 - (1) **Nationally:** ⁸ *Every morning I will destroy/ silence all the wicked of the land,*
 - (2) **In the capital:** *to cut off from the city of Yahweh all the workers of iniquity.*

3) Things we need to remember:

- a) It should hardly need saying that the resolve made here to have no truck with evil men does not spring from pharisaic pride but from a king's concern for a clean administration, honest from the top down. (Derek Kidner)
- b) Steven Lawson reminds us: When a believer lives with integrity, the Word of God is completely integrated into his life.
- c) Ultimately only Messiah Jesus, the great Son of David, can and will fulfill the commitments and ideals of Ps 101. (MBC)