

It has been said of the famed country music singer and great theologian, Tammy Wynette, that when she sang a song, you knew she had lived it. Actually, that is what has been said about the great poets that “they learn in suffering and teach in song.”

David was a great writer and a great poet. But he was not some secular singer or poet. In fact, his writings were actually inspired by God. His life was filled with many conflicts and many lows but also it was a life filled with songs.

When we analyze the Psalms of David, there are a couple of key observations we may make:

- 1) Seldom does David write a Psalm that does not mention his enemies.
- 2) Seldom does David write a Psalm that does not feature him praying.

What we may take from this is that David’s greatest weapon against his enemies was his prayer life. When David’s enemies were talking about him with each other, David was talking about them with God. God became David’s best friend. In fact, David came to realize that God was the only one he could truly trust.

Psalm 64 is a Psalm of David. It was written for the choir director, which means David wrote it for the purpose of having it publicly communicated at worship services. The theme of the Psalm is one we have seen many times:

WHEN WE FIND OURSELVES AFRAID BECAUSE WE ARE SURROUNDED BY ENEMIES WHO ARE OUT TO DESTROY US, WE MAY FIND OUR REFUGE BY PRAYING TO GOD, KNOWING THAT HE WILL TAKE CARE OF OUR ENEMIES AND HE WILL TAKE CARE OF US.

Godly, faithful people do have enemies. Those enemies will be sent by Satan. Satan and his forces are trying to discourage and destroy faithful people. But if faithful people go to the Lord and pray and if faithful people purpose to remain faithful, they will discover that God will take care of the enemies and take care of His people.

- Psalm 64 is a powerful Psalm—it displays the power of God.
- Psalm 64 is a personal Psalm—it was written by a real person who had real personal needs.
- Psalm 64 is a practical Psalm—we all, at times, find ourselves in trouble.
- Psalm 64 is a prayerful Psalm—all Psalms teach us the importance of prayer.
- Psalm 64 is a positive Psalm—it gives positive hope when things are negative.
- Psalm 64 is a purposeful Psalm—it teaches us to specifically pray when facing enemies.

There are clearly four distinct parts to this Psalm:

PART #1 – What David desires from God. **64:1-2**

David was afraid. David was alone. David was outnumbered. David did the only thing he knew to do—pray. There are four specific requests he makes:

Request #1 - David asks God to hear his complaining voice. **64:1a**

Mr. Spurgeon said what we see here is David's real weapon of war. David's refuge was prayer. There were times when that is all he had and all he could do. We need to remember this. There are times when we need to remember our hope is not in a politician or a statesman or an educator. Our hope is not in our vote or our guns; it is with God.

Request #2 - David asks God to preserve his threatened life. **64:1b**

David was fully aware that his enemy was out to take his life.

Request #3 - David asks God to hide him from secret counsel. **64:2a**

One of the biggest threats against any godly person is secret plots. Adam Clarke said in his commentary that evil minds love secrecy. People who are right with God are up front people. They are straight shooters.

Request #4 - David asks God to hide him from the tumult. **64:2b**

The Hebrew word "tumult" includes the idea of verbal rage. These people were making a lot of noise against David.

Look carefully at the language David uses to describe these people— They were his enemy (**64:1**); they were evildoers (**64:2a**); they were doing iniquity (**64:2b**).

These were very religious people who regularly went to the worship services in Israel. These were people who gave the external impression that they were truly right with God.

God says call on Me in times of trouble. Martin Luther said, "Except under troubles, trials and vexations, prayer cannot rightly be made. Without trouble it is only a bald prattling and not from the heart." As one theologian said, "It is better to have a heart without words, than words without heart."

Someone wise said, "Need teaches us to pray." Prayer is our key weapon in times of trouble.

PART #2 – What David's enemies were doing to him. **64:3-6**

We get a vivid description as to how diabolical people operate in these verses. There are eight tactics:

Tactic #1 - David's enemies were attacking him verbally. **64:3**

Mark this and mark this point well; the weapon that is most used by enemies and the weapon that is most vicious is the weapon of words.

Tactic #2 - David's enemies were attacking him secretly. **64:4a**

Don't kid yourself; your enemies are involved in secret plots against you. They will not walk up to you and introduce themselves as your enemies. They will not say we want you to know we are out to destroy you. They are involved in secret stuff. They appear to be so concerned, so spiritual and so religious.

Tactic #3 - David's enemies were attacking him suddenly. **64:4b**

Their attacks come quickly. Obviously David knew what it was like to be suddenly attacked.

Tactic #4 - David's enemies were attacking him without fear. **64:4c**

Enemies of one righteous have no fear of what they are doing. They are caught up in an evil crusade and they do not fear the one they are against and they do not fear the God of the Bible.

Tactic #5 - David's enemies were attacking him in strong unity. **64:5a**

People who are out to destroy one godly encourage themselves. David's evil enemies were bound together in their resolve to destroy him. They felt so strong, so secure, so safe. The irony of this is that the one who was really right with God felt so weak, so insecure and so threatened. Enemies have a bold confidence in what they are doing in their attack against one faithful.

People doing dark things often appear to be so encouraged, so sure, so positive about the evil they are doing, but they forget God is monitoring them.

Tactic #6 - David's enemies were attacking him by laying snares. **64:5b**

David's enemies were secretly spying on him, trying to trap him. That is the way evil people work. They secretly spy. People right with God try to cover someone's sin, especially if they know the person has a track record of faithfulness. People who are not right with God are out to point out any sin so they can trap the one right with God. But in the end it will backfire.

Tactic #7 - David's enemies were attacking him arrogantly. **64:5c**

These people were so arrogant that they believed that no one saw what they were doing. In fact, "they say" this very thing. They boast about the fact that no one can see them or stop them.

Tactic #8 - David's enemies were attacking him unjustly. **64:6**

They had invented things against David that were not true. They came up with a well-conceived plan to destroy him.

Now these tactics were being used by people attacking one right with God. They were out to destroy a very faithful man of God. What could David do? What chance did he have against this group? He could pray and that is precisely what he did. The plan of the enemies actually backfired in many ways, but one of the ways it backfired was that David grew closer to God, which ended up giving him more power and ended up destroying them. It is a very dangerous thing to attack a faithful man of God.

If you find yourself under attack, get alone with God and pray.

PART #3 – What God would do to David’s enemies. **64:7-8a**

Verse 7 is so important for David came to realize that even though they had been attacking him, Almighty God would attack them. He would shoot at them and “suddenly” they would be wounded. Everything they did trying to topple David would be turned against them. They would go down one by one in rapid fire succession.

God often allows people to perfect their evil scheme and then suddenly He strikes. God may not keep one from doing evil, but He will suddenly repay one for doing it. When God decides to use His sovereign arrows to shoot at one evil, He never misses. He will end up using their own tongues to cut their own throats.

PART #4 – How people react when they see God destroy David’s enemies. **64:8b-10**

There are six reactions:

(Reaction #1) - All who see what God does to them will shake their head—shake in derision.

(Reaction #2) - All who see what God does to them will fear God.

(Reaction #3) - All who see what God does to them will testify for God.

(Reaction #4) - All who are righteous will rejoice in the LORD.

(Reaction #5) - All who are righteous will take refuge in the LORD.

(Reaction #6) - All who are righteous will glorify the LORD.

Practical Lessons:

- 1. If you are godly, you will have enemies and those enemies will try and destroy you with their words.**
- 2. When you are afraid and outnumbered and all alone, run to God in prayer.**
- 3. Know that just as suddenly as they tried to destroy you, God will destroy them.**