

Evening Sermon Outline – July 5, 2020
Psalm 61 “David’s Everlasting Encore”

To the Chief Musician. On A Stringed Instrument. A Psalm of David.

The King James Version kept the Hebrew word “Neginah” נְגִינָה for string instrument or harp in this title. -

To the Chief Musician upon Neginah, a Psalm of David

Usually the reference would be to stringed instruments, plural, in the title, but here is just one harp, David’s own! As a young man, probably a teenager, David played for King Saul. As an older man he plays as a king ...

I. David plays and sings as a praying king –

¹ Hear my cry, O God; Attend to my prayer. ² From the end of the earth I will cry to You, when my heart is overwhelmed; lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

- 1. Notice what is regular, habitual, predictable about David’s prayer, he asks for a hearing with God, we have seen examples of this in Psalm 5, 17, and 54 -*

David calls to God to hear, attend to his prayer -

¹ Give ear to my words, O LORD, Consider my meditation. ² Give heed to the voice of my cry, My King and my God, for to You I will pray. Psalm 5:1–2 (NKJV)

A Prayer of David. ¹ Hear a just cause, O LORD, Attend to my cry; Give ear to my prayer which is not from deceitful lips. Psalm 17:1(NKJV)

² Hear my prayer, O God; Give ear to the words of my mouth. Psalm 54:2 (NKJV)

2. Note what David has learned about prayer, God hears him: A. wherever he is -

² From the end of the earth I will cry to You... Psalm 61:2 A

“... for as God is the center of life, hope, love, and joy, distance from Him, of whatsoever degree, Is the antipodes of the soul, a region of sterility and darkness; The Iceland of man’s spirit.” —Alfred Bowen Evans, 1852.

B. Whatever condition he may be in - when my heart is overwhelmed; Psalm 61:2 B

Absalom had expelled David from his kingdom and home, David was away from God’s Temple in Jerusalem not only physically, but morally and spiritually, because of his own sin; but not out of reach of God’s ear, or His everlasting arms ...

C. We have troubles too –

Verse 2.—“When my heart is overwhelmed.” Troubles are of various kinds; some are provoking, some are gnawing, some are perplexing, and some are overwhelming; but whatever form they assume, they are troubles, and are part of the wear and tear of life....

Overwhelming troubles are such as sweep over a man, just as the mighty billows of the ocean sweep over and submerge the sands. These are troubles which struggle with us, as it were, for life and death; troubles which would leave us helpless wrecks; troubles which enter into conflict with us in our prime, which grapple with us in our health and strength, and threaten to conquer us by sheer force, no matter how bravely we may contend. Such trouble the Psalmist knew.—Philip Bennett Power, in “The ‘I wills’ of the Psalms,” 1861.

3. He counted on, depended on God’s strength, stability, height – lead me to the rock that is higher than I. Psalm 61:2 C

⁴ He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He. Deuteronomy 32:4 (NKJV)

How infinitely higher than we are is the salvation of God. We are low and groveling, but it towers like some tall cliff far above us. This is its glory, and is our delight when we have once climbed into the rock, and claimed an interest in it; but while we are as yet trembling seekers, the glory and sublimity of salvation appall us, and we feel that we are too unworthy even to be partakers of it; hence we are led to cry for grace upon grace, and to see how dependent we are for everything, not only for the Savior, but for the power to believe on him. C. H. Spurgeon

II. David plays and sings as a staying king -

³ For You have been a shelter for me, a strong tower from the enemy.
⁴ I will abide in Your tabernacle forever; I will trust in the shelter of Your wings. Selah

1. God is David's shelter – ³ For **You have been** a shelter for me David is an old man here, not just chronologically, but spiritually, he is an experienced believer! His experience of God's grace in the past, has him trusting in God for his future!

2. God is David's strong tower – a strong tower from the enemy.

3. David will abide in God's tabernacle forever -⁴ I will abide in Your tabernacle forever

4. God is the reason for David's staying power - I will trust in the shelter of Your wings. Selah

5. We have staying power too, in our Good Shepherd Jesus Christ, and His and Our Father -

²⁷ My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸ And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father's hand. ³⁰ I and My Father are one." John 10:27–30 (NKJV)

III. David plays and sings as a blessed king, even forever –

Listen to David count his blessings:

1. God hears him –

⁵ For You, O God, have heard my vows; Psalm 62:5 A

The vows David is referring to here are promises connected to prayers. This is what Hannah did –

¹⁰ And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish. ¹¹ Then she made a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head." 1 Samuel 1:10–11 (NKJV)

The prophet Samuel was the result of Hannah's prayer / vow combination!

2. God gave him a glorious heritage –

You have given *me* the heritage of those who fear Your Name. Psalm 62:5 B

David's heritage was like that of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but those who fear God's Name might also include people like us, people whose names are not written in Scripture, people who may not be famous, but people who know, fear and trust God!

3. God prolongs his life -

⁶ You will prolong the king's life, His years as many generations.

⁷ He shall abide before God forever.

A. He took David's earthy life beyond the wicked rebellion of Absalom!

B. Through Jesus Christ, the Son of David, David's rule continues forever –

⁶ For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace *There will be no end*, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even **forever**. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. Isaiah 9:6–7 (NKJV)

C. Through the blessing Christ wins for us on the cross, David like all believers has eternal life –

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16 (NKJV)

David's praise endures forever, because of God's mercy and truth -

Oh, prepare mercy and truth, *which* may preserve him! Psalm 61:7 B

⁸ So I will sing praise to Your name forever, that I may daily perform my vows. Psalm 61:8

Arnold Brevick