

Psalm 60

1 To the chief Musician upon Shushaneduth, Michtam of David, to teach; when he strove with Aramnaharaim and with Aramzobah, when Joab returned, and smote of Edom in the valley of salt twelve thousand. 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.

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

5 That thy beloved may be delivered; save with thy right hand, and hear me.

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.

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.

Introduction:

1. "To the chief Musician" (1 Chr. 25:1-6) – Asaph, Jeduthun, Heman.
2. "Shushaneduth" (1 time only, here) – meaning "upon the lily of the testimony"; lily or trumpet.
3. "Michtam" – meditation/understanding (of David).
4. "to teach" – instruction.
5. "Aramnaharaim" – two rivers Tigris and Euphrates (Syria) and "Aramzobah" (highland of Tsobah/Zobah) (Syria).

6. The historical background: 2 Samuel 8 and 1 Chronicles 18.

7. A Psalm of National Lament.

Outline: (double or parallel chiasm)

- A. Rejection (vv.1-3) (vv.9-11)
- B. Confidence of Victory (v.4) (v.12)
- C. Prayer (v.5)
- C.' God's Response (vv. 6-8)

Observations:

1. This Psalm was written in between the first battle and the final battle against the Edomites.
2. (vv.1-3) Laments a serious defeat.
3. (vv.5-8) Reminds God of His promise to give His people dominion.
4. (vv.9-12) Expresses trust in God and anticipates victory.
5. Israel's defeat was due to their unfaithfulness and was a punishment from God. (example, Josh. 6-8)
6. Righteousness brings victory and sin brings defeat.
7. Prayer for restoration: v.1 – O turn thyself to us again; v.2 – heal the breaches thereof.
8. The land names mentioned are intended to encompass the entire nation.
9. David goes back into doubts. But ends in triumph. The Christian life is also cyclical at times: sin, defeat, depression, complaint, prayer, hope, promise, expectation, appeal, assurance, gratitude, and joy.

Lesson: What is your attitude towards God's holiness and His dealings with sin in our lives? Through God we can have victory but we must ask God for it.