

Psalm 60:1-12

Introduction

Many times we might think that believers advance from one victory to another in the Christian life with hardly any difficulty. The actual experience of the Christian, however, is that it seldom works that way.

Summary

Psalm 60 shows the troubles in David's life, some of which were due to God's displeasure, teaching us how to address setbacks in our spiritual lives by returning to the Lord in faith under God's banner.

1. Painful Disaster vv. 1-4

Whilst David's main force was far away from Israel, during the campaign in the East against the Arameans, the Edomites and Moabites farther south took the opportunity to strike out and deliver a sharp defeat to David's forces.

David understood this defeat as a divine rebuke (**Psalm 60:1**).

Christians often wonder whether setbacks in life indicate God's displeasure.

The Bible's answer is that sometimes that may be the case.

David was not indifferent to the crisis arising from God's discipline.

He uses two parallels as he laments this situation: **First**, David compared the disaster to an earthquake that undermines the security of everything he has built (**Ps. 60:2**).

Secondly, David felt that his kingdom was staggering like a man who has become drunk with wine (**Psalm 60:3**).

David turned to the Lord in this moment of crisis and found hope in God's provision of salvation (**Psalm 60:4**). By means of this banner, we learn that even in times when God seems to be rejecting his people and giving strength to their foes, he always provides a refuge for those who are faithful.

2. Answered Appeal vv. 5-8

In his alarm, David appealed to the Lord. If God's displeasure had caused the disaster, only God's mercy could reverse it. He therefore called out to God (**Ps. 60:5**). David's prayer shows that the lowest points of our lives are often our most beneficial ones, since it is at such times that we are moved to call out to God in prayer.

David spoke to the Lord in prayer and then sought God's answer in his Word (**Psalm 60:6**). The Bible presents God as speaking "in his holiness," so that we should reverence its message as the very words of God himself.

The particular revelation spoken of by **Psalm 60:7-8** refers to land promises given by God to God's people under the Old Covenant. Remembering the promises that God attached to such place names, David is emboldened in his prayer.

What do we learn from this?

First, just as God reminded David of his promise to preserve the land for his people, Christians can be certain of the salvation that God has promised us in Christ, which no spiritual enemy will succeed in taking from us.

Secondly, God wants our confidence in the salvation He has provided to be strengthened through the promises of his Word.

Do you wish to grow strong in faith?

Commit yourself to God's Word and practice trusting its promises, then you will experience a growing strength and peace midst the troubles of this world.

3. Exclusive Source of Victory vv. 9-11

Only God can grant the victory to his people.

In **Psalm 60:9**, David considers the problem posed by Edom. Even after David's enemies were defeated in the Valley of Salt, they still possessed their mountain forts, the greatest of which was Petra, a famously inaccessible and virtually impregnable stronghold. David knew that the only way to break such a fortress was with God's mighty help (**Ps. 60:12**). The same principle holds true for our spiritual battles today, whether they involve withstanding temptation, witnessing to the gospel, or striving against evil, worldly powers: only God can give the victory.

Applications:

First; the sign that we really understand our dependence on God's power, is that we must earnestly commit ourselves to prayer.

Secondly; and another proof that we realize our dependence on God, is that we therefore must not rely on worldly methods or human power.

4. Christ; Our Banner vs. 12

The third application is that believers should live courageously under the banner that God has given us (**Ps. 60:12**). If David spoke of God's banner in general terms, New Testament believers know more clearly and specifically that God's banner for salvation is his Son, Jesus Christ.

What is the significance of God's banner; the Lord Jesus?

First, a banner is displayed as the sign of union.

Secondly, the banner of Christ is the symbol of his church's defiance.

Thirdly, Christ our banner is "the symbol of victory" for God's people.

Fourthly, Christ, our banner, is a source of constant consolation to the wounded.

How do we come under Christ's banner so as to be a victor over sin, the world, and ultimately even death?

Psalm 60:4 "You have set up a banner for those who fear you".

Reconciled to God through the blood of Christ, our Banner, the Lord will teach us to say: "With God we shall do valiantly; it is he who will tread down our foes" (**Psalm 60:12**).

Psalm 60:1-12 Outline