

Psalms 61-63

Psalms 62:7,8 In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength, and my refuge is in God. Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.

In these three psalms, David turns from a world of chaos and pain to find refuge and relief in God.

Psalms 61: David makes three requests in the psalm. First, he asks God to hear his cry and to pay attention to his requests. The cry indicates the urgency with which he prayed and the need he had for God to make His presence felt.

Second, David asks, "When my heart is overwhelmed, lead me to a rock that is higher than I." There are those times when we do not have an answer. The situation we face requires more than we have to give, more strength than we possess within ourselves. Facing such a time, David asks, "Lead me to a rock that is higher than I..." This would be to lifted above the possible in order to gain the advantage and to become triumphant.

Third, David asks, "Oh, prepare mercy and truth, which may preserve him." David speaks here in the third person of himself. He seeks God's mercy and truth as guidance for the journey. Mercy softens our attitude toward others and truth sharpens our vision giving certainty to our quest.

Psalms 62: In another hour of need David waits for God. When we cry out to God we may not be sure that He understands the distress we feel, When we wait for Him then we are sure. God knows. And we can know that He does. Confidence in God, His consciousness, His goodwill, His power and strength, works to calm the stormy waters. The storm may rage on the outside but inwardly there are peaceful and tranquil seas. The urgent cry is not needed. Silently waiting is enough for God knows and He is on His way. Should He be delayed, no panic surfaces. He knows best. When we wait, we do not settle, we patiently endure for the sake of the best possible outcome.

These are the sentiments of experience. "In God is my salvation and my glory..." The psalmist has "been here before" and God did not fail him in the past. He offers counsel, "Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us."

Psalms 63: Out of a longing for God and sense of His absence, the psalmist rises early but fruitlessly, for he finds himself "in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water." The quest for God continues - it would seem in the imagination and remembrance of the seeker. He remembers seeking God in the sanctuary and truly He was there. In those precious times, "Your lovingkindness is better than life." David's resolve then was to praise God with his lips, lift up his hands and bless God for as long as he lived.

David also remembered the offering of praise to God in times of plenty, the gratefulness he expressed to God for His help and care as he laid upon his bed, and God's close proximity when he walked together with Him down treacherous trails. These memories revived David's confidence during his present distress. The thirsty soul, the needy flesh, and the dry and barren land have become a merry court in which those gathered rejoice in glory and triumph. In such a place accusers and liars and doubters have no voice.