

## *PSALMS 60 and 61*

Old Testament history confirms the truth that when God has been rejected by his people--the nation of Israel--he delivers them into the hands of her enemies. In this 61st psalm, Israel is suffering persecution from the Arameans. This psalm commemorates one memorable part of that battle, when Joab returns and kills 12,000 Edomites in the Valley of Salt. David praises God for the triumph, recognizing that the help of man is vain.

### Psalm 60

**For the choir director; according to Shushan Eduth. A Mikhtam of David, to teach; when he struggled with Aram-naharaim and with Aram-zobah, and Joab returned, and smote twelve thousand of Edom in the Valley of Salt.**

- 1 O God, You have rejected us. You have broken us; You have been angry; O, restore us.
- 2 You have made the land quake, You have split it open; heal its breaches, for it totters.
- 3 You have made Your people experience hardship;  
You have given us wine to drink that makes us stagger.
- 4 You have given a banner to those who fear You,  
that it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah
- 5 That Your beloved may be delivered, save with Your right hand, and answer us!
  
- 6 God has spoken in His holiness:  
“I will exult, I will portion out Shechem and measure out the valley of Succoth.
- 7 “Gilead is Mine, and Manasseh is Mine; Ephraim also is the helmet of My head;  
Judah is My scepter.
- 8 “Moab is My washbowl; over Edom I shall throw My shoe;  
shout loud, O Philistia, because of Me!”
  
- 9 Who will bring me into the besieged city? Who will lead me to Edom?
- 10 Have not You Yourself, O God, rejected us?  
And will You not go forth with our armies, O God?
- 11 O give us help against the adversary, for deliverance by man is in vain.
- 12 Through God we shall do valiantly, and it is He who will tread down our adversaries.

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### Psalm 61

**For the choir director; on a stringed instrument. A Psalm of David.**

This is a very personal psalm of David. He had been forcibly exiled from the throne but now is returning. This psalm was written to show forth his prayer and thanksgiving on his way back. God had raised David up for the temporal preservation and prosperity of Israel. His descendant, Jesus the Messiah, died to insure an eternal one.

- 1 Hear my cry, O God; give heed to my prayer.
- 2 From the end of the earth I call to You when my heart is faint;  
lead me to the rock that is higher than I.
- 3 For You have been a refuge for me, a tower of strength against the enemy.
- 4 Let me dwell in Your tent forever; let me take refuge in the shelter of Your wings. Selah
  
- 5 For You have heard my vows, O God;  
You have given *me* the inheritance of those who fear Your name.
- 6 You will prolong the king's life; his years will be as many generations.
- 7 He will abide before God forever;  
appoint lovingkindness and truth that they may preserve him.
- 8 So I will sing praise to Your name forever, that I may pay my vows day by day.

#### PRAYER

*Almighty God, we praise you for preserving the Jewish nation, your chosen people. We look forward to that day when all Israel shall be saved, and they together with the Gentiles shall enter your presence for eternity. Your only Son, Jesus the Messiah, has opened the gate of everlasting life for all who believe on him. Give us a hearty zeal to spread such good news to all mankind, and grant the convicting grace of the Holy Spirit that they may repent and turn to Jesus, the only mediator between God and man. Amen.*