

"THE BOOK OF PSALMS"
Book II (42-72)
Psalm 60
February 17, 2021
Leader Notes

Psalm 60 Title: Lament Over Defeat in Battle, Author: David, Type: Communal (National) Lament

Summary: Psalm 60 is a communal (national) lament, or national prayer (note the “we”, “us”, and “our” throughout; see verses 1, 3, 5, 10, 11, 12). The psalmist and Israel are lamenting the disaster and defeat they have experienced in a previous battle. They believe God has cast them off to an invading army and they are now broken (verse 1). There has been some national defeat or calamity whereby the land is devastated (verse 2) and the people are in disarray (verse 3). However, those who fear God are given hope with a banner of truth to rally behind (verse 4). The psalmist prays that God would deliver Israel, save them, and answer them (verse 5). When God speaks, he reminds Israel that he owns the neighboring lands around them and rules over them all (verses 6-8). The psalmist wants to go to Edom (verse 9), but he knows that God has cast off the people (verse 10). So, he prays for God’s help against the present adversary (verse 11) and he believes that there will be victory over any adversaries in the future (verse 12).

Outline:

- A. Lamentation of the past: defeat in battle (verses 1-4).
- B. Proclamation for the present: deliverance in battle (verses 5-8).
- C. Expectation of the future: determination in battle (verse 9-12).

Questions:

1. What does God do to Israel and what does the psalmist request of God (verse 1)?
2. What does God do to the land (verse 2)?
3. What does God do to the people (verse 3)?
4. What does God give to those who fear him (verse 4)?

5. What does the psalmist request of God (verse 5)?
6. How does God speak (verse 6)?
7. What does God say about the following people and places: Shechem and Succoth (verse 6)? Gilead, Manasseh, Ephraim, and Judah (verse 7)? Moab, Edom, and Philistia (verse 8)?
8. What questions does the psalmist ask (verse 9)?
9. What does the psalmist believe God does to Israel (verse 10)?
10. What is the help of man (verse 11)?
11. What does the psalmist believe Israel can do with God's help (verse 12)?

Applications for Today:

1. God casts off his people when they sin (verses 1 and 10). Who did God cast off in OT times (2 K. 23:27; Jer. 12:7)? Does God cast off his people forever (Psa. 77:7; Lam. 3:31)?
2. During battle, we need to take up the banner of truth and display it before all people (verse 4). What are Christians to put on in battle (Eph. 6:14)?
3. In the midst of battles, God still loves his people (verse 5). Can anything separate Christians from God's love (Rom. 8:39)?
4. Seeking help or salvation from man is vanity (verse 11). Who are we not to trust (Psa. 146:3)?
5. What a great admonition: "Through God we will do valiantly"! With God's help, we can conquer our adversaries (verse 12). What does the right hand of the Lord do for the righteous (Psa. 118:15-16)?