

Psalm 60 — “A Tough Trial. A Sovereign God. A Passionate Prayer”

Indeed, this is a psalm where David and the people struggle to practically affirm faith in the sovereignty of God over history—especially in a time when their faith is being tested by severe hardships! (Marvin Tate)

Trials are medicines that God gives because we need them (John Newton).

Background to Psalm 60

- The larger landscape of the battles = GOD GAVE THE VICTORY (the title is a Mikhtam [preserve it]; to teach [learn it]; when David struggled in battle [summarized in 2 Sam 8 / 1 Chron 18])
 - but Ps 60 is a view of a difficult time/season —> apparent defeat (a bad one!)
- **Messianic tones: As we survey this Divine-Song, there are *Messianic Overtones throughout* — v.7b- Judah is my Scepter (cf. the clear allusion back to the Messianic text of Gen 49.10).**

There is a Messianic TONE to this song

>> As we are reading, we *SHOULD* read hope in Messiah thru the text...

Ps 60:7 alludes back to **Genesis 49:10***—
Gen 49:10 teaches...

- the scepter will not depart from Judah = kingship

- Nor the ruler' staff from between his feet = he will rule

- Until SHILOH comes = the man / the person (his "title")

- and UNTO HIM = the masculine ruler

- shall be the obedience of the peoples = the King; over all nations.

- washes his garments in wine and his robes in the blood = JUDGMENT.

So then, the Royal King-Messiah is from:

Judah = the preeminence; the Power; the promise of Messiah

his kingship

his judgment

his sovereignty

his holiness

his authority

THESIS — in a time of apparent defeat, when hope appears lost, when the future is bleak, *Look Up to God* in 3 ways:

GOD'S... (1) severity (2) sovereignty (3) security

I. GOD'S SEVERITY (v. 1-5) (in the pain)

II. GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY (v. 6-8) (over the peoples)

verses 5-8 = pictures of sovereignty & overwhelming victory over the nations

Interpretively and covenantally, we must know that in selecting representative sections of the land = the psalmist recalls the ancient allotments of the land by the LORD to show that it all really does belong to the LORD.

- *It is covenant terminology, covenant context, with Messianic tones.*
- *Thus: here there is glimmers of hope and anticipation of the future Kingdom when Messiah, the royal King of Judah, reigns over the full allotted portion of the Land (JJ Stewart Perowne).*

Some reflections from vv.6-8

- ◆rejoice in God’s Spoken Word (v.6)
- ◆Rejoice in God’s perfect Joy (v.6b)
- ◆Long for Christ to Rule all Nations (v.8)
- ◆Praise the power of our God (v.7)

III. GOD’S SECURITY (v. 9- 12) (with all power)

- ★ **1 Cor 15.57** - we have the *victory* thru our Lord Jesus Christ
- ★ **1 John 5.4** - the *victory* that has overcome the world is *our faith!*
- ★ **Matt 12.20** - Christ leads *justice to victory!*
- ★ **1 Cor 2:14** - *We triumph in Christ!*

4 lessons for me and you:

1. **BIG PICTURE.** When a battle seems tragically lost, remember God has irrefutably won the WAR
2. **THE KING.** God’s absolute sovereignty over the nations protects your heart & thoughts.
3. **CHRIST’S TRIUMPH.** Christ your banner is King & he shall deliver ALL his soldiers victoriously.
4. **GOD’S JOY.** God is perfectly Holy & He delights In His Unfailing & Sovereignty.

Conclusion:

A Scottish Covenanter gives 7 anchors for the Christian during “stormy times”:

1. There is a reward for the righteous.
2. Christ has overcome the world.
3. Christ was hated by the world too.
4. God is greater than the greatest troubles.
5. The LORD will be with us.
6. The LORD will keep us IN trouble.
7. Christ is our Shelter.

PSALM 60 *PSALTER*

Tune: How sweet & awful is the place

O God, You have rejected us,
and scattered us abroad.
You have been very angry but
return to us, O God.

You’ve shown Your people desperate times,
and hardship on them sent;
And You have made us drink the wine
of staggering lament.

And yet a banner You have giv’n
to those who do fear You;
That it may be displayed abroad,
and witness to Your truth.

Save us and help with Your right hand;
O hear and answer me,
That those You love may come to be
delivered and set free.

God spoke from His most holy place,
“In triumph I will move;
I’ll parcel out both Shechem and
the Valley of Succoth.

“Now Gi-le-ad is Mine by right;
Manasseh Mine shall be;
My helmet’s E-phra-im, and Judah will my scepter be.”

“Moab’s My washbowl, and My shoe
on Edom I will throw;
I’ll shout over Philistia;
in triumph I will go.”

O give us help against the foe,
for human help is vain.
Through God we’ll gain the victory;
He’ll tread our foes again.

HYMN MEDLEY ON THE SOVEREIGNTY & KINGSHIP OF GOD

O WORSHIP THE KING

O worship the King, all glorious above,
O gratefully sing His power and His love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

ALL HAIL THE POWER

All hail the power of Jesus' Name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all.

Let every kindred, every tribe, On this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe, And crown Him Lord of all!
To Him all majesty ascribe, And crown Him Lord of all!

PRAISE TO THE LORD THE ALMIGHTY

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near,
Join me in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
If with His love He befriend thee.

CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS

Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne.
Hark! How the heav'nly anthem drowns All music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee;
And hail Him as thy matchless king Through all eternity!

Crown Him the Lord of Heav'n, Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns, As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is king of all.