

**Psalm 64 — "Secret Plots & Sudden Shots!"** [Yahweh is the Divine Warrior]

This psalm is a journey from 'fear to faith' (William Varner)

"The conception of God as a warrior played a fundamental role in the religious and military experiences of Israel...

One can only go so far in describing the history of Israel, or its religion, or the theology of the Old Testament without encountering the wars of Yahweh. In prose and poetry, early and later material alike, the view that Yahweh fought for or against his people stands forth prominently. The centrality of that conviction and its historical, cultic, literary and theological ramifications can hardly be overestimated." (P.D. Miller, Jr.)

- Mark it well: **The LORD is a Warrior!** (Exodus 15.3)

*Background to Psalm 64 —*

- David wrote this lament [superscript] — for the *Choir-Director* (leader of music; subscript)
- This is a lament/sorrowful psalm *full* of war-language.

*Enemies? For me and you?*

- **What kind of enemies?**
  1. **physical enemies** —
  2. **circumstantial enemies** —
  3. **spiritual enemies** —

**THESIS — When the secret plots & sudden shots come your way, how do you pray?**

*Learning from David, what can you verbalize?*

**I. YOUR ENTREATY (1-2)**

- A. Hear me
- B. Preserve me
- C. Hide me

"However high and closely engirdling may be the walls that men or sorrows build around us, there is always an opening in the dungeon roof through which heaven is visible and prayers can mount."

(Alexander Maclaren)

"Anything is a blessing which leads us to pray." (Charles Spurgeon)

## II. YOUR ENEMY (3-6)

- A. they are **secretive** (2)
- B. they are **slanderous** (3)
- C. they are **stouthearted** (4-5)
- D. they are **shameful** (6)

## III. YOUR GLORY (7-10)

This is the breakthrough! This is the relief!

See God's action in judgment —

- **Sovereign** - in God's timing
- **Severe** - with an arrow
- **Sudden** - suddenly they will be wounded
- **Fatal** - they will be wounded
- **Just** - their own tongue produces God's judgment
- **Repayment** - he pays them what they deserve.
- **Public** - the judgment of the wicked is before the eyes of all
- **Praiseworthy** - God's justice is worthy of praise.

"They shoot, and shall be shot. A greater archer than they shall make sure aim at their heart. One of his arrows shall be enough, for He never misses his aim!" (Charles Spurgeon)

So then?

- Why Worry (Matthew 6.25-33)
- Why Be Anxious (Phil 4.6-9)
- Why Fear (Luke 12.32)
- Why Grumble (1 Thess. 5.18)
- Why Envy the Wicked (Prov 23.17)

- Mark it well: **The LORD is a Warrior!** (Exodus 15.3)

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## ADDITIONAL NOTES ON YAHWEH AS 'DIVINE WARRIOR'

Tremper Longman writes:

"The three roles of Yahweh as Savior, King, and Judge speak of Divine Warrior.

Saving, Ruling, Judging are three roles of the divine warrior-King.

He saves his people and he judges his enemies in the same act.

He establishes (and publicizes) his kingship through military victories.

After victory, the appropriate response is praise!

Other Divine Warrior psalms include Psalm 18, 21, 24, 29, 47, 68, 76, 96-98, 124, 125"

Tremper Longman continues:

Note the already/not yet feature of Christ's victory. Since the enemy is not completely subdued in the present, in the period between resurrection and consummation, the Christian is called upon to wage war. Once again, the warfare is not directed toward human adversaries but toward the evil powers which stand behind evil men. I will mention in this section only one passage, Eph 6:10-20. The Christian, Paul writes, is engaged in a battle, and it is a battle "not directed against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" (v 12). The Christian is said to be fighting in true Holy War fashion. That is, the real power is not found in the human participants but rather in the power of God. After all, the armor is called the "full armor of God." Much of the imagery found here comes from Isa 59:15bff, where God is displeased with injustice in the world. So in Old Testament (OT) Holy War terminology the Isaiah passage states that "his own arm worked salvation for him." Donning a breastplate of righteousness and a helmet of salvation he goes out to "repay wrath to his enemies and retribution to his foes." Thus, regardless of the question of Paul alluding to Roman armor, the imagery of Eph 6:10-20 is grounded in an OT Divine Warrior passage.

### AM I A SOLDIER OF THE CROSS?

Am I a soldier of the cross,  
A follower of the Lamb,  
And shall I fear to own His cause,  
Or blush to speak His Name?

Sure I must fight if I would reign;  
Increase my courage, Lord.  
I'll bear the toil, endure the pain,  
Supported by Thy Word.

Must I be carried to the skies  
On flowery beds of ease,  
While others fought to win the prize,  
And sailed through bloody seas?

Thy saints in all this glorious war  
Shall conquer, though they die;  
They see the triumph from afar,  
By faith's discerning eye.

Are there no foes for me to face?  
Must I not stem the flood?  
Is this vile world a friend to grace,  
To help me on to God?

When that illustrious day shall rise,  
And all Thy armies shine  
In robes of victory through the skies,  
The glory shall be Thine.

**PSALM 64: *The Psalter***

Tune: “There is a fountain filled with blood”

Hear me, O God, as unto You I voice complaint and cry;  
 Protect my life from enemies whose threats are always nigh.  
 Hide me from their conspiracy – that noisy, evil crowd,  
 They sharpen tongues like swords and aim their words like arrows proud.

They shoot their arrows and ambush the innocent who’s near;  
 They shoot at him quite suddenly and show no dread or fear.  
 They talk to one another and encourage evil plans;  
 They say, “Who sees the snares we hide? We’ve formed a perfect plan!”

They plot injustice and declare, “Our perfect plot will stand!”  
 For surely very cunning is the mind and heart of man.  
 But God will shoot His arrows, too, and they will be struck down;  
 He’ll turn their own tongues back on them – their plans He will confound.

To ruin God will bring them – those who see will scorn each one;  
 Then all will fear and ponder God, proclaiming what He’s done.  
 Let righteous ones take refuge and rejoice in God the LORD;  
 Let all upright in heart praise Him – to Him all praise accord!

**GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS**

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
 there is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
 Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;  
 as Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest;  
 sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
 join with all nature in manifold witness  
 to Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

*Great is Thy faithfulness!*  
*Great is Thy faithfulness!*  
*Morning by morning new mercies I see;*  
*all I have needed Thy hand hath provided:*  
*great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
 Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
 strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:  
 blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!