**November 1, 2022**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Greater Refuge Memorial Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

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**“SING HIS PRAISES AND PERFORM YOUR VOWS”**

**Psalms 61**

**(To the chief Musician upon Neginah, [A Psalm] of David.)**

***Psalms 61:1 Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer."***

This psalm was to be sung with the accompaniment of a stringed instrument. In Ps 60, David expressed confidence in God’s final victory over his enemies. Here he prayed that God would prosper the divine King who will bring about this final victory and who will provide the refuge David and the righteous seek). This is an earnest prayer: Hear my cry, O God; give heed to my prayer. It seems that David is praying this prayer very often. This time he goes further than just a prayer. David wants immediate attention paid to his prayer. Attend means God whatever your answer is to this prayer, please do not delay. This is an urgent plea.

***Psalms 61:2 "From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock [that] is higher than I."***

This verse leads us to believe that this was in a time of terrible anguish of being away from God. He is overwhelmed with grief because he feels that he has alienated himself from God. David loves God more than he loves anything in this world, and this separation is almost more than he can bear. Even though David is at this moment unable to go to his favorite place to meet with God, he does not stop crying out to God. Overwhelmed, David prays for divine security. He says, it does not make any difference where I am physically, I am seeking God in my prayer. His heart is breaking. He is overwhelmed with grief. We are like David in many ways. When it seems that all the world has turned against us, we cry out to God. Troubles seem to bring us closer to Him than when things are going well.

***Romans 5:3-5***

***3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;***

***4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:***

***5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.***

God will listen and forgive when we have a broken and contrite heart. David says, God, I cannot seem to walk the straight and narrow path; come and lead me to the solid rock. The images underscore David’s vulnerability: he is calling out to God as if from a distant land, from the end of the earth when his heart is faint. He therefore looks to God for the most intimate familiarity (his internal emotional needs) and the most impenetrable security (his external physical needs). For security he implored God and said, “Lead me to the rock that is higher than I”, that is, to God Himself. A rock is a common biblical image of the Lord and a place of safety (18:2; 31:2; 62:2, 6-7; 71:3; 94:22). This Rock, of course, is Jesus Christ our Lord. This is the Rock that cannot be moved. This Rock is higher than us all. This is the Rock that the storm cannot move. This is the Rock that we must all build upon. This is not like the sand that shifts when the waves come. Praise God! The sweet Holy Spirit led us to this Rock of our salvation. I shall not be moved, because I have placed my trust in the Lord Jesus Christ {the Rock}. The Lord is specifically called “the Rock of Israel” (2 Samuel 23:3; Isaiah 30:29).

***Psalms 61:3 "For thou hast been a shelter for me, [and] a strong tower from the enemy."***

David knew that God was a refuge and a tower of strength. God alone is a strong tower in the face of the enemy. David is very well aware that God protected him from Goliath, God had hidden him from Saul who sought to kill him, and God will protect him from this peril, as well. When Christians see this, we think of the hedge the Lord has built around each of us to keep us from the enemy. We think of the blood that covers and keeps us out of harm's way, we think of the name of Jesus, that he has given us authority to use against our enemies, is our shelter. He is our strong tower. He is our Saviour.

***Psalms 61:4 "I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings. Selah."***

David is asking to be able to go back into the tabernacle. Abide, as we have said before, means to continually live. We could look at the word tabernacle in a more permanent way, as well. It could mean the dwelling place of God, and could mean heaven, as well. The tabernacle, that David was speaking of here, was just a type and shadow of the true tabernacle in heaven.

***Hebrews 8:5 "Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, [that] thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount."***

The eternal tabernacle is with God in heaven. Therefore, David wanted to remain in his presence. God is like a mother hen providing refuge under the shelter of [his] wings. The only wise position from which to operate in life, then, is under the divine covering an unassailable place of safety from elements and enemies. He implored God to let him dwell in His tent forever, that is, to have intimate fellowship with Him in the tabernacle (15:1; 23:6; 27:4). David then asked God to let him take refuge in the shelter of His wings. Both of David’s petitions envision worship and joyful intimacy in the presence of God. Again, Selah, means pause and think on these things. The covering of the Christian is the white robe of righteousness washed in the blood of the lamb.

***Psalms 61:5 "For thou, O God, hast heard my vows: thou hast given [me] the heritage of those that fear thy name."***

Notwithstanding his opening appeal that God “hear” him, David affirmed that God had already heard, that is, He had already provided what was best for David. This “best,” as David affirmed, entailed the inheritance of those who fear God’s name. Inheritance usually refers to land but is used here metaphorically to refer to the spiritual rewards given to those who fear (have appropriate awe) for God’s reputation. He also prayed for God’s eternal King to come forth and be established, based on the promises God had made to David of an eternal King and kingdom described in 2 Samuel 7:11-17. Fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. David has made his commitment to God. He knows that God knows the vows he made were real. David knows that he is heir to the promises made to Abraham. We are, also, heirs according to the promises, if we fear God and call upon the name of Jesus Christ. We know from the following Scripture that there is a heritage through Abraham.

***Galatians 3:29 "And if ye [be] Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."***

***Psalms 61:6-7***

***6 "Thou wilt prolong the king's life: [and] his years as many generations."***

***7 "He shall abide before God for ever: O prepare mercy and truth, [which] may preserve him."***

David expected a descendant whose reign God will prolong, a reign in which the King’s years will be as “many generations”, a poetic idiom for “forever”. The prospect of this eternal King made it possible for David to anticipate eternal life with God and to “take refuge” under God’s “wings”. David was king for 40 years, and when he died, his son Solomon reigned for another 40 years. David lived many years on this earth, but this is a prophetic Scripture speaking of the reign of Jesus Christ who reigns forever and ever. Jesus is even now sitting at the right hand of the Father in heaven, but His reign is never ending. Jesus is Mercy, He is Truth, He is Eternal. The following Scriptures are speaking of the reign of Jesus.

***I Kings 9:5 "Then I will establish the throne of thy kingdom upon Israel for ever, as I promised to David thy father, saying, There shall not fail thee a man upon the throne of Israel."***

***Luke 1:32 “He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:”***

***Psalms 61:8 "So will I sing praise unto thy name for ever, that I may daily perform my vows."***

David concludes with a commitment to continually sing the Lord’s praises and to daily fulfill his vows he had made. In other words, if God would deliver him, David would ensure that God receives the glory for it. He is saying that he will sing and praise God all the days of his life. His praise is performing his vow to God. David is promising to praise the Lord every day. David's gratitude for the Lord answering his prayer is the reason he will praise for ever. His vow had been to God that he would praise him if the prayer was answered. David affirmed the essential motivation for his petition as well as the goal for which he earnestly yearned: to sing praise to [God’s] name forever. Jesus naturally was a descendent of David, but spiritually He was, also, David's Lord.

***Matthew 22:45 "If David then call him Lord, how is he his son?"***

**QUESTIONS**

1. Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. What did David mean by, {from the end of the earth}?
3. When my heart is overwhelmed; lead me to the \_\_\_\_\_ that is higher than I.
4. What is the general condition of David, in verse 2?
5. When does it seem we are closer to God than other times?
6. Who is the Rock, in verse 2?
7. I shall not be moved, because \_ have placed my \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_.
8. What 2 things does David call the Lord, in verse 3?
9. Who are two specific people God had protected David from?
10. What covers the Christian and keeps them from harm's way?
11. What are some of the things tabernacle, in verse 4, could mean?
12. What is the covert of thy wings telling us?
13. This tabernacle, in verse 4, is a type and shadow of what?
14. How long was David king?
15. How long did Solomon reign as king?
16. How long shall Jesus Christ the Righteous reign?
17. What does 1 Kings chapter 9 verse 5 tell us of the reign of Jesus?
18. Luke chapter 1 verse 32 calls Jesus whom?
19. How often did David say, he would perform his vows?
20. What had David called Jesus?