

Gleanings of Grace

Psalm 62

Lesson 21

Many believe that David wrote Psalm 62 during the time his son, Absalom, was attempting to take the kingdom from him. Whether it was during this time or another, surely it was during a time when David was tempted to misplace his hopes. Rather, David chose to encourage himself, with “soul-talk”. May we join him in his choice.

OBSERVATION: Psalm 62

1. Read Psalm 62 using the Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework). After reading through the chapter, what would you say to someone if they asked you what it is about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns/titles that refer to *God*.
Key Words: *God, my, only/alone, and rock*
3. The contrasting word *but* is used in verse 4 of Psalm 62. Mark the word and record what is being contrasted.

Background:

1. The record of Absalom’s treason began in 2 Samuel 15 and sadly, ends with his death in 2 Samuel 18. *Absalom would rise early and stand beside the way to the gate. So it was, whenever anyone who had a lawsuit who came to the king for a decision, Absalom would call out to them.* Using verses 2-5 of 2 Samuel 15, describe his behavior towards the people.
 - a. What was the result? Verses 6,12,13

2. What was Absalom's error?
 - a. What was the error of the people?
 - b. Why do we need to be careful when people say to us what we want to hear?
3. A messenger came to David, warning David of Absalom's intentions. According to 2 Samuel 15:14, what did David decide to do?
 - a. Some of the people remained faithful to David and left Jerusalem with him. Describe the atmosphere at that time. Verse 23
4. Although the situation seemed grim, verse 25 reflects David's attitude. What did he say?
 - a. What are your thoughts regarding David's reaction?
 - b. Although David was trusting the LORD with the events that had befallen him, what do we learn from 2 Samuel 15:30?
 - 1.) How can a person trust the LORD and weep at the same time?
5. This was a bad day for David. Using the following verses, list the calamities that had befallen him.

2 Samuel 15:17

2 Samuel 16:3 (This was a lie about Mephibosheth)

2 Samuel 16:5-8

2 Samuel 16:22

 - a. What thoughts might we have when we experience such painful times?

Read Psalm 62:1,2

1. In the midst of sorrow, David reminded himself of who to place his hope in. What did he say he would do?
 - a. According to the following verses, what are the benefits of *waiting* on the LORD?
Psalm 27:14

Psalm 33:20

Psalm 40:1

Isaiah 40:31
2. If you were to encourage yourself to *wait on the LORD*, what might that practically look like?
3. David then declared, *from Him comes my salvation*. This word *salvation* not only refers to deliverance from Hell, but speaks of God's overall delivering power. What has the LORD delivered you from?
 - a. Why might it be helpful to remind ourselves of God's deliverance in our lives?
4. In Psalm 62:2, David moved from what God had done to His character. What three things did David declare about Him?
 - a. Next to each word above, declare what each of those attributes personally mean to you.
5. After declaring some of God's attributes, David records his response. What did he say?
 - a. The word translated as *moved* had the sense of shaken, or fall from a position. Consider the phrase "fall from position". In what ways are we sometimes tempted to fall from our position of faith when a trial comes?
 - b. How do the attributes of God that David chose to focus on, help you to remain steadfast and not be *moved*?

Read Psalm 62:3,4

1. Unlike David's assurance that he *shall not be greatly moved*, David knew the *attackers would be like a leaning wall and a tottering fence*. How would it be helpful to see those who choose to harm you in this manner?

a. Some understand this verse to refer to David's feelings of vulnerability, describing his own sense of *leaning and tottering*. There are times when the pain of life can cause us to feel as David did. Record the prayer of Psalm 119:28.

1.) What *strength* have you gleaned from God's word?

2. List their behavior as recorded in Psalm 62:4.

3. Ponder the words of Psalm 52:3 as you write them.

a. Why do you think this caused David so much pain?

1.) What are some truths you can remind yourself of when someone chooses to speak lies against you, or to you, so that you don't *totter*?

2.) How are you challenged by the reminder that, although you may feel like you are falling, God can keep you from being *moved*?

Read Psalm 62:5-7

1. At first glance, we might think that the first words of Psalm 62:5 is a repeat of the first words of Psalm 62:1. What word ends the phrase in verse 5 that is not present in verse 1?

a. Define the word *alone* as it relates to *waiting on God*.

b. Why is it important to wait on God *alone*?

2. Reflect upon the words of the last phrase of verse 5 as you record them.
 - a. What are some synonyms for the word *expectation*?

3. What did Jeremiah boldly declare in Lamentations 3:24-26?
 - a. These words follow the words of Lamentations 3:23. What are they?
 - 1.) How does the truth of Lamentations 3:23 provoke in you a desire to declare the truths of the next two verses?

4. What are some choices we have, other than God, in placing our *expectations*?
 - a. What risks do we take when we do that?

 - b. In Romans 5:3-5, we are given reasons we can *glory in tribulations*. What is the last word on the list in verse 4?
 - 1.) What does this *hope* not do? verse 5
 - a.) Why? verse 5

 - b.) Why does the fact that God loves you prove to you that He will not *disappoint* you?

5. The words of Psalm 62:6 are a repeat of verse 2. Why is it often beneficial to repeat truths about God to ourselves?

6. In what ways is God your:
glory

strength

Read Psalm 62:8-12

1. In the first seven verses of Psalm 62, David used the personal pronoun *my* several times. In verse 8 he shifts to speaking to others. Why is it important to know God's truths for ourselves before we declare them to others?

2. What instructions did David give to the people? Verse 10

3. What two qualities of God did David proclaim in Psalm 62:11,12?
 - a. How do these two qualities help you in times of trials?

REVIEW: Psalm 62

1. How have you been challenged to follow David's example in facing the problems and trials in your life?

2. What can we *expect* from God?
 - a. What *expectations* have you placed on God that you shouldn't have?

3. In what areas of your life have you been challenged to depend more on the LORD?

And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You.
- Psalm 39:7

Observation Worksheet

Psalm 62

¹ Truly my soul silently waits for God; from Him comes my salvation. ² He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved. ³ How long will you attack a man? You shall be slain, all of you, like a leaning wall and a tottering fence. ⁴ They only consult to cast him down from his high position; they delight in lies; they bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly. Selah ⁵ My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him. ⁶ He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved. ⁷ In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. ⁸ Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah ⁹ Surely men of low degree are a vapor, men of high degree are a lie; if they are weighed on the scales, they are altogether lighter than vapor. ¹⁰ Do not trust in oppression, nor vainly hope in robbery; if riches increase, do not set your heart on them. ¹¹ God has spoken once, twice I have heard this: that power belongs to God. ¹² Also to You, O Lord, belongs mercy; for You render to each one according to his work.