

## PSALM 60

*Lament over Defeat in Battle, and Prayer for Help.*

### INTRODUCTION.

- A. From Roy H. Enoch (11-2-94).
- B. To the Chief Musician. Set to "Lily of the Testimony." A Michtam of David. For Teaching. When he fought against Mesopotamia and Syria of Zobah, and Joab returned and killed twelve thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt.
- C. "Set to 'Lily of the Testimony.'" Psa. 45, 69, and 80 are set to this tune.
- D. Coffman quotes Dummelow on the occasion of the psalm: "The Psalm is clearly written after a lost battle, not after a victory. It has been suggested that while David was engaged in the north of Palestine subjugating Damascus and the Syrians, the Edomites in the south, saw their opportunity and attacked Israel, inflicting a serious military defeat."
- E. Coffman uses Rawlinson's organization for studying the psalm:
  - I. God is pleaded with (60:1-5).
  - II. God is reminded of the promises He made to Israel (60:6-8).
  - III. God is pleaded with in the strongest terms to give help to Israel (60:9-11).
  - IV. God is praised and extolled as Israel's Helper who will give them final and complete victory (60:12).

### THE TEXT.

- 60:1** O God, You have rejected us. You have broken us;  
You have been angry; O, restore us.
- 2** You have made the land quake, You have split it open;  
Heal its breaches, for it totters.
- 3** You have made Your people experience hardship;  
You have given us wine to drink that makes us stagger.
- 4** You have given a banner to those who fear You,  
That it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah.
- 5** That Your beloved may be delivered,  
Save with Your right hand, and answer us!
- 6** God has spoken in His holiness:  
"I will exult, I will portion out Shechem and measure out the valley of Succoth."
- 7** "Gilead is Mine, and Manasseh is Mine;  
Ephraim also is the helmet of My head;  
Judah is My scepter.
- 8** "Moab is My washbowl;  
Over Edom I shall throw My shoe;  
Shout loud, O Philistia, because of Me!"
- 9** Who will bring me into the besieged city?  
Who will lead me to Edom?
- 10** Have not You Yourself, O God, rejected us?  
And will You not go forth with our armies, O God?
- 11** O give us help against the adversary,  
For deliverance by man is in vain.
- 12** Through God we shall do valiantly,  
And it is He who will tread down our adversaries.

### COMMENTS.

- A. God is Pleaded With.

[v1-3] "O God, You have cast us off... broken us... been displeased... restore us..." This clearly is not the language of victory. David acknowledges that what happened was from God and that He can also deliver them. ("Restore us Again" is a beautiful song.)

**[v4,5]** “You have given a banner to those who fear you...save with your right hand, and hear me.” The banner was their battle standard so that the men would know which way to march. It would identify the nation and the unit or division of that commander.

B. God is Reminded of the Promises that He made to Israel.

**[v6]** “...Shechem... Succoth.” Shechem was the principle city west of the Jordan and the Valley of Succoth was a prominent place east of the Jordan. This seems to refer to God's promise to give the land to Israel.

**[v7]** “Gilead... Manasseh... Ephraim... Judah...” Gilead was a large area east of the Jordan, Mannasseh had land on both sides, Ephraim was the major tribe in the north and Judah was the large tribe in the south. These expressions were characteristic of statements that God had made concerning His devotion to the nation. “Judah is My lawgiver” may refer to the promise that The Ruler would come from the tribe of Judah.

**[v8]** “Moab... Edom... Philistia...” are referred to a subservient status in contrast with the references to Israel. Moab was a pot for bathing the feet, Edom was the servant to whom the sandals are thrown, and Philistia would be the theme for a victory song. This psalm shows that remembering and repeating God's promises is a proper theme for prayers.

C. God is Strongly Pleaded with the Rescue Israel.

**[v9,10]** “...Who will lead us to Edom? Is it not You, O God...” This seems to clearly indicate that Edom has attacked, and that they have not yet received the victory, but are confident that He will deliver them. (The “strong city” here is clearly Petra, the city built in the red sandstone mountain.)

God had “cast them off” in their defeat, and “did not go out with our armies” but He is still the one that David trusts will give them the victory after they have repented.

D. God is Praised and Extolled as Israel's Deliverer.

**[v12]** “Through God we WILL do valiantly...” David seems to say that if they will follow God that they can be victorious. “...it is He who shall tread down our enemies.” David did not expect to be victorious on their own. He claims a hope of victory only through God's power.