

PSALM 63

The Thirsting Soul Satisfied in God.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. A Psalm of David when he was in the wilderness of Judea.
- B. Matthew Henry says of this beautiful psalm of devotion: "Just as the sweetest of Paul's epistles were those sent out from a Roman prison, so some of the sweetest of David's Psalms are those that were penned, as this one was, in the wild desolation of the Dead Sea desert."

COMMENTS.

- A. Psa. 63:1:

O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly;
My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You,
In a dry and weary land where there is no water.

"O GOD, YOU are my GOD..." Coffman points out that the Hebrews here are. "Elohim," "Eli," "Elohim." The word "Elohim" is plural and the word "Eli" is singular. *Strong's* says gods in the ordinary sense; but specifically used (in the plural thus, especially with the article) of the supreme God; occasionally applied by way of deference to magistrates; and sometimes as a superlative. Also; strength; as adjective, mighty; especially the Almighty (but used also of any deity.

I have given these definitions to show that the words do have a variety of meanings and that they do not always refer to the God of heaven. As in English, many words derive their specific meaning from the way they are used in a context of the sentence, and paragraph.

"...my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water." It seems the figure of his soul thirsting for God is prompted by his being in a dry land. This certainly is a description of the "Wilderness of Judea." (*Pictures*)

- B. Psa. 63:2:

Thus I have seen You in the sanctuary,
To see Your power and Your glory.

"So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory." Some versions, as the NIV read, "I have seen You..." Many understand David to claim that he had seen the Lord in a vision in the Temple, and that seems to be source of his hope and trust.

- C. Psa. 63:3-4:

Because Your lovingkindness is better than life,
My lips will praise You.
4 So I will bless You as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands in Your name.

David is determined to continue to praise God for His lovingkindness.

- D. Psa. 63:5-6:

My soul is satisfied as with marrow and fatness,
And my mouth offers praises with joyful lips.
6 When I remember You on my bed,
I meditate on You in the night watches,

"My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness..." This is the most tasty food that represents God's richest blessings.

- E. Psa. 63:7:

For You have been my help,
And in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy.

"Because You have been my help..." David's confidence was based on the many times God had already blessed him and delivered him from dangers. "...therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice." See Psa. 57:1; 61:4. As a little chick seeks safety and protection under its mother, David felt secure trusting in God for deliverance.

- F. Psa. 63:8-10:

F. Psa. 63:8-10:

My soul clings to You;

Your right hand upholds me.

9 But those who seek my life to destroy it,

Will go into the depths of the earth.

10 They will be delivered over to the power of the sword;

They will be a prey for foxes.

In these verses David contrasts his blessings “in the shadow of Your wings” with the fate of the wicked whom God will destroy.

G. Psa. 63:11:

But the king will rejoice in God;

Everyone who swears by Him will glory,

For the mouths of those who speak lies will be stopped.

“But the king shall rejoice in God...” He speaks of his office and position of glory in the objective third person. This not only allows him to speak with gratitude, but also with modesty. It also would make the statement more easily applied to other righteous kings.

CONCLUSION.

- A. This is a beautiful psalm of devotion, thanksgiving and faith.
- B. David was in a difficult circumstance in the barren wilderness of Judea, fleeing from Absalom.
- C. He maintained his faith, because he recognized God’s blessings in many other difficult times to give him hope.