

PSALM 64

Prayer for Deliverance from Secret Enemies.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. From Roy H. Enoch (11-16-94).
- B. To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. "Evil slanders Judged by the Lord"
- C. This psalm not only is typical of many situations in the life of David, but it also applies to the lives of many others, as Mordecai and Haman; and Daniel and the Satraps and administrators in Babylon.
- D. There were many conspiracies by Saul when he was trying to kill David, but many have suggested that the plot of Absalom to take his father's kingdom may be more likely the time this psalm describes.
- E. Coffman suggests as natural divisions of the psalm:
 - I. David's plea for help (64:1-4).
 - II. The secret plans of the wicked (64:5,6).
 - III. God will deliver the righteous (64:7-10).

THE TEXT.

- 64:1** Hear my voice, O God, in my complaint;
Preserve my life from dread of the enemy.
- 2** Hide me from the secret counsel of evildoers,
From the tumult of those who do iniquity,
- 3** Who have sharpened their tongue like a sword.
They aimed bitter speech *as* their arrow,
- 4** To shoot from concealment at the blameless;
Suddenly they shoot at him, and do not fear.
- 5** They hold fast to themselves an evil purpose;
They talk of laying snares secretly;
They say, "Who can see them?"
- 6** They devise injustices, *saying*,
"We are ready with a well-conceived plot";
For the inward thought and the heart of a man are deep.
- 7** But God will shoot at them with an arrow;
Suddenly they will be wounded.
- 8** So they will make him stumble;
Their own tongue is against them;
All who see them will shake the head.
- 9** Then all men will fear,
And they will declare the work of God,
And will consider what He has done.
- 10** The righteous man will be glad in the LORD and will take refuge in Him;
And all the upright in heart will glory.

COMMENTS.

- A. David's Plea for Help.

[v1] "...preserve my life from FEAR of the enemy." We might expect David to pray for victory or deliverance, but he prays for removal of fear. That might be through deliverance, but also greater faith and a willingness to suffer will also remove fear.

[v2] "...secret plots..." v. 4. "...in secret..." A chief characteristic of evil is secrecy. On the other hand, righteousness and truth shine in the light of day.

[v3] "Who sharpen their tongue like a sword...shoot their arrows--bitter words..." A second characteristic of the wicked is talking about plans to do evil, and slandering to weaken the victim, or perhaps it is bolstering their own courage for the evil deeds.
- B. The Secret Plans of the Wicked.

[v5] "They encourage themselves in an evil matter..." They boost each other's confidence.

[v6] "They devise iniquities..." They plan evil deeds.

C. God Will Deliver the Righteous.

[v7,8] “But God shall shoot at them with an arrow...He will make them stumble over their own tongue...” David is confident that God knows how to foil their plans and bring the evil they plan upon themselves.

- D. **[v9]** “All men shall fear...” Both the wicked and the good will fear when the wicked are overthrown.
[v10] “...all the upright in heart shall glory.” The wicked may fear, but only the righteous will glorify God for deliverance.