

Sunday Night Message

March 30, 2014

Psalm 60 - "Recovering From a Sucker Punch"

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 60 (Read the text entirely before praying)

Introduction

To the chief Musician upon Shushaneduth, Michtam of David, to teach; when he strove with Aramnaharaim and with Aramzobah, when Joab returned, and smote of Edom in the valley of salt twelve thousand.

Upon "Shushaneduth" – literally upon "lilies of the covenant" – used only here and in Psalm 80.

"Michtam" – of uncertain meaning. It could mean "a poem". This is one of several Psalms that are said to be Michtams. (Psalms 16; 56 – 60) Martin Luther called it a golden jewel Psalm. J. Vernon McGee says the word means "engraven", speaking of that which is durable, lasting, and unmoveable.

"to teach" – the Word of God instructs – these songs instruct:

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." (Colossians 3:16)

Preaching Point - Good music (songs) will instruct us and encourage us in the will of God.

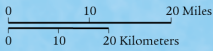
"...when he strove with Aramnaharaim and with Aramzobah, when Joab returned, and smote of Edom in the valley of salt twelve thousand."

The context of this psalm is found in 2 Samuel 8:1 – 14; 10:6 – 19 (parallel passages in 1 Chronicles 18:1 – 13; 19:6 – 19).

Apparently David was waging war in the northeast, as far as Syria (Aramzobah) and Mesopotamia (Aramnaharaim). While fighting the battle in the north, David was attacked from the rear by Edom, which caused quite a stir in the camp of David, but God delivered them.

BATTLES DURING DAVID'S REIGN

- City
- ◉ City with an uncertain location
- ➡ Philistines attack David in the Valley of Rephaim, near Baal-perazim (2 Sam. 5:17ff)
- ➡ David repels Philistine attacks (2 Sam. 5:25)
- ➡ David attacks Hadadezer, king of Zobah (2 Sam. 8:3ff)
- ➡ Edomites threaten David at Valley of Salt (2 Sam. 8:13)
- ➡ David decisively defeats the Edomites (2 Sam. 8:14)
- ➡ Ammonites, aided by the Aramean mercenary forces of Zobah, Beth-rehob, Maacah and Tob, challenge David near Rabbah (Amman) (2 Sam. 10:1ff)
- ➡ David's forces defeat the Ammonite-Aramean confederation (2 Sam. 10:7ff)
- ➡ Hadadezer, king of Zobah, leads an Aramean army against David at Helam (2 Sam. 10:15ff)
- ➡ David defeats Hadadezer's Aramean confederation at Helam (2 Sam. 10:17ff)
- ➡ David is expelled from Jerusalem by his son Absalom (2 Sam. 17:21ff)
- ➡ David dispatches a census team throughout his realm (2 Sam. 24:1ff)
- ★ Battle scene



I A Surprise Attack on God's People (vs. 1 - 5)

While David and his men were fighting a battle in the north, the enemy snuck up on them from the rear. The devil is a master at sneak attacks. Stay Alert.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:" (1 Peter 5:8)

"O God, thou hast cast us off, thou hast scattered us, thou hast been displeased; O turn thyself to us again." (Psalms 60:1)

Apparently, the initial attack on Israel from the Edomites had been successful. The Edomites won a decisive first battle, but God would win the war. You may lose some battles in the Christian life, but the war has already been won.

"Thou hast made the earth to tremble; thou hast broken it: heal the breaches thereof; for it shaketh." (Psalms 60:2)

"Thou hast shewed thy people hard things: thou hast made us to drink the wine of astonishment." (Psalms 60:3)

God likes to shake things up in our world sometimes. It forces us to put our trust in Him. There is nothing like a trial to cause you to fall to your knees.

"Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah." (Psalms 60:4)

"That thy beloved may be delivered; save with thy right hand, and hear me." (Psalms 60:5)

David knew that ultimately God's people would be victorious.

David understood the attack from the Edomites to be a judgment from God, though he doesn't indicate what the cause of God's displeasure was. David knew that no enemy could be victorious against him without the approval of God.

- 1 Acknowledge your faults – David was quick to admit that they had done something to displease God. Not all trials are the result of our wrongdoing, but many are, and all trials can teach us something. If God allows a trial to come your way, be willing to look for God's correction in it.
- 2 Ask for God to help you. God does not want your enemies to triumph over you. Call upon Him for help.

II A Swift Answer from God (vs. 6 - 8)

God gave David a quick reply to his prayer, and David believed what God said.

"God hath spoken in his holiness; I will rejoice, I will divide Shechem, and mete out the valley of Succoth." (Psalms 60:6)

"Gilead is mine, and Manasseh is mine; Ephraim also is the strength of mine head; Judah is my lawgiver;" (Psalms 60:7)

Shechem was the chief city in Ephraim, and with Succoth, was located west of the Jordan River, while Gilead and Manasseh (the half tribe) were east of the Jordan River. Ephraim was a strong tribe, called to defend Israel ("helmet"); and Judah was chosen to be the royal tribe, bearing the scepter (Gen. 49:10).¹

"Moab is my washpot; over Edom will I cast out my shoe: Philistia, triumph thou because of me." (Psalms 60:8)

Notice the derogatory way God refers to the enemies of His people.

III A Spoken Assurance (vs. 9 – 12)

David expresses his confidence in God's answer. He trusts that God was going to deliver them.

"Who will bring me into the strong city? who will lead me into Edom?" (Psalms 60:9)

"Wilt not thou, O God, which hadst cast us off? and thou, O God, which didst not go out with our armies?" (Psalms 60:10)

"Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man." (Psalms 60:11)

"Through God we shall do valiantly: for he it is that shall tread down our enemies." (Psalms 60:12)

Preaching Point – It is only "through God" that we will be able to defeat our enemies and live the victorious Christian life.

How can we recover from a sucker punch?

- 1 Don't quit – get back up.**
- 2 Depend upon God's strength not your own.**
- 3 Give God the glory.**
- 4 Watch out for another attack – don't let your guard down.**

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (2004). *Be worshipful* (1st ed., p. 207). Colorado Springs, CO: Cook Communications Ministries.