

## Troubled Trust – Psalm 60

*Living courageously in the season of uncertainty*

### The Setting

v.0

See 2 Samuel 8:1-14; 10:6-18; 1 Chronicles 18:1-13; 19:6-19

This Psalm appears to have been written when King David attacked his enemies in the northeast. He was succeeding in the campaign against the Syrians but something dreadful happened back home in Jerusalem. The Edomites attacked and greatly damaged the city. Joab was dispatched with his army to fight the Edomites in the valley of Salt just south of the Dead Sea. David penned this Psalm of lament that manifests a tone of trust and confidence in the midst of trouble and confusion.

### The Lament – a troubled people

v.1-4

This lament describes a particular defeat and interprets it as divine judgment.

#### The source of Israel's suffering – God

Source

“YOU” 8x

Suffering

“rejected” “broken” “angry” “quake” “torn”  
“totter” “hard things” “stagger” “flee”.

#### The source of Israel's salvation – God

“Restore...Repair” – David's prayer life demonstrates hope and trust.

## The Oracle – a triumphant message

v.5-8

This stanza provides a picture of certainty, divine power and victory through an oracle.

### A request

From: The King

For: Your beloved ones / us

The King cries out to God on behalf of his people to see them saved.

### A response

God has spoken in His holiness (sanctuary)

#### Expressing purpose

“I will divide up” – **He upholds His covenant** (cf. Gen.12:6; Ex. 15:3, 13-18; Josh.18:10; 24; [For possible reasons for suffering see Judges 2:1-3; 3:1-4])

#### Expressing pleasure

“With exultation” – **He takes pleasure in his works** (cf. Ps.115:3; 135:6)

#### Expressing possession

“mine” “mine” “my” “my” “my” “my” – **He owns everything**

#### Expressing plan

“Shechem” = west “Succoth” = east “Gilead” = east “Manasseh” = east / west  
“Ephraim” = north “Judah” = south – **He saves ALL His people**

#### Expressing power

“Moab” “Edom” “Philistia” – **He triumphs over all His enemies**

## The Plea – a troubled yet trusting people

v.9-12

This plea stands in tension between concerns over what the eye sees and confidence in what God says.

**Concern – apparent divine desertion and evident human helplessness**

**Confidence – V.12 AND THE UNSHAKABLE PROFESSION OF FAITH**

## Nine Lessons

1. *Life is unpredictable and hurts* (1-4).  
See 2 Sam. 10:12; Job 1:13; Eph.6:13
2. *Triumphs and tragedies happen under God's watch* (7-8).  
See Amos 3:6; Isa.45:7
3. *The LORD owns our enemies* (8).  
See Habakkuk; Isa. 45:1ff; Gen.50:20
4. *Our only hope is in our King who intercedes for us* (5-6).  
See 1 Jn.2:1; Heb.7:25
5. *To take the "fortified city" requires God's doing* (9-12).  
See Josh.6:2; Phil. 2:13
6. *Living courageously in the season of uncertainty requires Truth-fueled faith* (Ps.60).  
See Josh.1:8; Rom.10:17
7. *Our failures do not undermine God's plans* (Ps.60).  
See Judges 14:4; Acts 4:28
8. *When tension mounts between what the eye sees and what God says trust Him* (9-12).  
See 2 Kings 6:16; 2 Cor.5:7
9. *And never forget – what the LORD says the LORD does...always* (6).  
See Num.23:19; Rom.9:6