

Deliverance from Defeat

Psalm 60: 1-5, 11-12

Our text today was written during a difficult time for King David and the nation of Israel. David had been in the north, fighting against Mesopotamia, and the Edomites had attacked from the south, inflicting much damage and destruction in Judah. From all appearances, Israel had suffered a crushing defeat, and yet David knew on whom he could depend. He may have lost a battle, but the Lord he served remained faithful.

At times we face similar situations in our Christian journey. While these are not physical battles, we all are forced to engage in spiritual battles. At times it appears we have overcome and are gaining ground; while at others, we suffer defeat and lose ground to the enemy. Either way, we must continue to rely upon the Lord. If we have gained a victory, it was the result of the Lord's provision and grace. Even when we suffer defeat, our Lord remains faithful. Regardless of the situation, we must continue to serve the Lord and rely on Him to meet our needs.

As we move through this psalm, I want to examine the [assertions](#) of David as we consider: [Deliverance from Defeat](#).

I. The Punishment from God (1-3) – In the opening verses, it is apparent that David felt God had punished Israel. They had suffered a great defeat, and the only reasonable explanation was their disobedience toward the Lord. Notice:

A. God's Displeasure (1) – [O God, thou hast cast us off, thou hast scattered us, thou hast been displeased; O turn thyself to us again](#). Following a crushing defeat, David was not angry with those who led the troops in battle. He did not question the ability or loyalty of the men as they engaged their enemies. David was well aware they had suffered defeat because they lacked the favor and provision of God. The Lord had been displeased with Israel, and He had not gone with them into battle. David cried out for the Lord to turn again toward Israel, restoring His favor unto them.

- We discover a principle that few are willing to admit in our day. America has become proud, and dependent solely upon her own ability. We have placed our faith and trust in elected officials, military power, and financial growth. Like Israel, we will see great defeat apart from God's hand of favor. We must repent of our sin, turn to God, and hope He will again show us His favor!

B. Their Defeat (2) – [Thou hast made the earth to tremble; thou hast broken it: heal the breaches thereof; for it shaketh](#). David was well aware of their need for God. Apart from His presence and

provision, they had been defeated. The Lord reigns in power, having the ability to make the earth tremble at His command. The enemy had defeated them and they needed the Lord to restore the breaches in their ranks.

- We cannot expect to enjoy continued peace and prosperity apart from the Lord's presence and provision. Many in America have rejected the Lord and see no need for Him. Without His favor upon our land, we too will experience defeat. God alone can promote and preserve a nation. We stand in desperate need of His healing in our day.

C. Their Dismay (3) – [Thou hast shewed thy people hard things: thou hast made us to drink the wine of astonishment.](#) As Israel walked with the Lord, enjoying His favor, they prospered against their enemies. Due to disobedience and rebellion, they had suffered defeat. This left a once proud people in astonishment. They were dismayed at the events that had befallen them. Such a defeat was difficult for Israel to bear.

- The parallels to America in our modern day are many as we study the history of Israel. We too have enjoyed the good hand of God, and yet we have become proud and self-reliant. Like Israel, many believe America would never suffer defeat. We must admit that apart from God we are vulnerable to defeat and likely will experience a similar situation. May God help us to repent of our sin and arrogance, while returning to Him.

II. The Provision of God (4-5) – As difficult as the situation may have been, David realized hope was not lost. They had suffered a great defeat, but they had not been utterly destroyed. Hope remained in the faithful provision of God. Consider:

A. The Display (4) – [Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth.](#) *Selah.* Defeat had been swift and severe, but God had not abandoned Israel. In the midst of their despair, David was reminded of the banner of God that hovered over those who feared Him. They had suffered defeat, but they had not been forsaken. David drew from the wisdom and words of Moses. Following their victory over the Amalekites, Moses built an altar and worshipped the Lord, referring to Him as Jehovah-nissi – The Lord our Banner. Defeat had come, and yet hope remained in the God they served.

- Life has its share of ups and downs. There are seasons of victory and times of defeat. Through it all, our Lord is faithful. He is our Banner, our shield, our stay, and our hiding place. We may endure adversity, but we are secure within His mighty hand. The saved by grace are kept by one who has promised He will never leave or forsake us!

B. The Deliverance (5) – *That thy beloved may be delivered; save with thy right hand, and hear me.*

Israel had thousands of well-trained, valiant men within her ranks, and yet David did not rely on them for victory. He knew that God alone provided victory in battle and deliverance from their enemies. He knew God was their only hope for deliverance.

- Psalms such as this one cause us to reflect upon our lives. Who or what do we depend upon to meet our needs? Are we relying in our own wisdom, abilities, and accomplishments, or do we rely upon the Lord? He is the source of every blessing we possess. Apart from Him we are nothing and will never overcome the struggles we face. Many may not want to admit it, but we desperately need the Lord to fight our battles and meet our needs. We will never have victory apart from His provision and deliverance!

III. The Prayer to God (11-12) – In the closing verses of the psalm, David offered a heart-felt prayer unto the Lord. Through this humble prayer, David revealed their need for God. Notice:

A. Their Desire (11a) – *Give us help from trouble.* David revealed the desire of their hearts with this simple and yet profound request – God, provide the help we need in trouble. He did not look to Joab and the valiant men to bring victory. He was not relying on their resources or military preparedness – He relied solely upon God to provide the needed help.

- This is a simple prayer, and yet it is one we need to learn to earnestly pray. There have been battles in my life when all I could muster was a simple prayer – Lord help! While it wasn't elaborate or eloquent, it described the condition of my heart and revealed the great need I faced. At that moment, it was all I could pray. I needed the Lord and knew He alone could provide. I was confident in His ability and simply requested that He intervene in my situation.

B. Their Discernment (11b) – *for vain is the help of man.* David had been fighting in the north, and dispatched Joab to deal with the Edomites in the south, but he knew they lacked the ability to overcome. David did not need the limited help of men; he needed the sovereign help of God. He faced a situation that only God could handle. The abilities of mere mortals would not be sufficient. David knew he needed God to intervene if they were to overcome.

- Again, this causes us to question our loyalties and upon whom or what we actually depend. Many today rely upon others, or the resources available in life. At times these may provide what we desire, but there are other times when God alone can provide that which is needed. The greatest example of this is in regard to our salvation. We stood in need of one to provide atonement for sin. Men were unable to provide. God alone had to step in and meet the need.

C. Their Dependence (12) – *Through God we shall do valiantly: for he *it is that* shall tread down our enemies.* David wisely admitted their dependence upon the Lord. He would provide for their need, defeating their enemies. If God stood for them, victory would be certain. David had cried out unto the Lord with his need, and he rested knowing God would provide.

- We need to sense our dependence upon the Lord. We need Him at all times, continually throughout the day. This is true in the battles we face, and it is also true in every situation. Our lives are totally dependent upon the Lord. Without Him we would cease to exist. We are here today because of His good and gracious favor upon us. He provides for us daily, even at times and in situations we are completely unaware. Where would any of us be apart from the provision and grace of our Lord? We need the Lord in our lives!

Conclusion: David had suffered a great defeat, but he was not utterly destroyed. He faced a situation that he could not handle, but he trusted in one who was able. Admitting their great need, David called out to the Lord, depending solely upon Him.

You may be struggling in a battle today. Are you seeking victory in your own ability, or have you realized your dependence upon the Lord? Apart from Him, defeat will come; but through Him, victory is certain. Bring your needs to the Lord and let Him fight your battle!