PSALMS 58-60

REVIEW…

- **Psalm** **55** – Cast your Burden
  - A Psalm written when David was BETRAYED by his son Absalom…
  - David was OVERWHELMED by his BETRAYAL hurt him personally – his heart was in SEVERE pain…
  - For David – the ONLY CALL answer was to the upon God [אֱלֹהִים] – SAVE LORD [יְהוָה] could LORD him…
    - THROW his God BURDENS on the him [יְהוָה] – because would NEVER let him be moved!
- **Psalm** **56** – One answer
  - A Psalm written when David was CAPTURED by the Philistines - **I Samuel 21:10-15**
  - When David was AFRAID [imperfect] – he CHOSE to intensely [piel] PRAISE God for His WORD…
  - He put his TRUST [בָּטַח] in God [אֱלֹהִים] – and his FEAR melted away…
    - Because he realized – with God on his side – what could FLESH do to him!
- **Psalm** **57** – Know God

- Written when David fled to the cave of Adullam - right after the events of **Psalm 56**
- David KNEW – God was a God of GRACE – God most HIGH – and God of TRUTH…
- He KNEW – his enemy was a roaring lion – hunting him - **I Peter 5:8**
- He also KNEW – when we PRAISE God – we have nothing to FEAR from our enemy!

Psalm 58 – Wicked world

- **1st – Evil all around… vs. 1-5**
  - 1st – Introduction… vs. 1
    - To the Chief Musician. Set to - Do Not Destroy. A Michtam of David.
    - CHIEF Musician – the one who plays [piel] the music – leads the congregation in worship…
    - PLEASE [jussive] do not DESTROY – perhaps the TUNE the Psalm was sung to…
      - It could also be the CONVICTION of David not to DESTROY King Saul…
      - Or the PLEA of David – for God to not let King Saul DESTROY him!
    - MICHTAM – 6x in OT – always in the introduction - **Psalm 16** and **Psalm 56-60**
      - The word means GOLDEN – a VALUABLE Psalm – or CARVED – worth chiseling into stone…
      - Like an album that has gone GOLD – because it was so popular…
      - Septuagint [LXX] - it is translated [στηλογραφίαν] - an inscription on a column…
      - Possibly referring to SIX Psalms with this introduction…
      - Being CARVED into the walls of the CAVE where David was hiding from Saul!
  - 2nd – Bad Leaders… vs. 1-2
    - Do you indeed speak righteousness - you silent ones.
    - Do you judge uprightly - you sons of men. No - in heart you work wickedness.
    - You weigh out the violence of your hands in the earth!
    - David questioned the JUDGEMENT of MEN [those who stood with King Saul]
    - They were SILENT when they should have SPOKEN [piel] out against wickedness…
    - Rather than do what was RIGHT – they spread VIOLENCE throughout the LAND!
    - NEVER look to this world for JUSTICE – because this world is full of MEN…
    - People are influences by their OPINIONS – and POLITICAL motivations…
    - The only real JUSTICE comes from the LORD – and NOT in this LIFE –
    - **Isaiah 59:14** – "Our courts oppose the righteous - and justice is nowhere to be found. Truth stumbles in the streets - and honesty has been outlawed."
  - 3rd – Bad People… vs. 3
    - The wicked are estranged from the womb. They go astray as soon as they are born!
    - The question is – do people become BAD – or are they born BAD…
    - Men from the WOMB are WICKED – and walk away from God as soon as they are BORN...

- The moment we come into this world – we are already a SINNER…
- We do NOT have to teach our KIDS to LIE – we have to teach them to tell the TRUTH…
- We do are NOT a SINNER because we SIN – we SIN because we are born a SINNER…
- **Psalm 14:3** – "They have all turned aside… there is none who does good."

○ 4th – Bad words… vs. 3-5

- Speaking lies - their poison is like the poison of a serpent.
- They are like the deaf cobra that stops its ear…
- Which will not heed the voice of charmers - charming ever so skillfully!
- Men are LIARS – they LIE because that is who they are [participle]
- Like a DEAF cobra – who should be harmless because it OBEYS the charmer [master]
- Instead they REFUSE [אָטַם] to hear – and unleash their FURY [חֵמָה] on anyone nearby!
- **Matthew 12:34** – "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."
- We can tell what is in the HEART – by what comes out of the MOUTH…
- And sadly we see people are LIARS – who lash out in FURY at those around them…
- WORDS that eave scars that NEVER go away – because words are POWERFUL…
- Better to think first about what we are going to say - the consequence of our words...
- It is easy to say something - it is almost impossible to take our words back!
- **Ephesians 4:29** – "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers."

● **2nd – Prayer for punishment… vs. 6-9**

○ 1st – Broken teeth… vs. 6

- Break their teeth in their mouth - O God! Break out the fangs of the young lions - O LORD!
  - TEAR [imperative] out the teeth of these SERPENTS - BREAK the teeth of the LIONS…
  - Interesting David uses the TWO animals used to describe our ENEMY…
  - Satan is described at as SERPENT – **Genesis 3:1** and **Revelation 12:9**
  - And he is described as a roaring LION – **I Peter 5:8**
  - David is asking God [אֱלֹהִים] – he is asking the LORD [יְהוָה]
  - To DISARM the power behind the men who are coming against him!
- The real ENEMY…
  - **Ephesians 6:12** – "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood - but against principalities - against powers - against the rulers of the darkness of this age - against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."
  - We are in a Spiritual WAR – but we often miss who the real enemy is - we look at the people...
  - But people are puppets - BLINDED by the God of this world – DEAF to the TRUTH…

- The key is to ATTACK at the one who is in control – go to the root problem…
- The power behind the people – the spirit of ANTICHRIST – the spirit of ERROR…
- Because when we realize we are in the WAR – and understand who the ENEMY is…
- We will have VICTORY – because our ENEMY has been DEFEATED!
- **Hebrews 2:14** – "By dying He [broke] the power of the devil - who had the power of death."

- 2nd – Let them disappear… vs. 7-9
  - Let them flow away as waters which run continually.
  - When he bends his bow - let his arrows be as if cut in pieces.
  - Let them be like a snail which melts away as it goes.
  - Like a stillborn child of a woman - that they may not see the sun.
  - Before your pots can feel the burning thorns - he shall take them away as with a whirlwind.
  - As in His living and burning wrath!
  - David uses FIVE illustrations of HOW he would like the LORD to deal with WICKED men…
  - FIRST – make [niphal] them flow away like a RIVER – water never to be seen again…
  - SECOND – cause [hiphil] his weapons to BREAK as he uses them…
  - THIRD - let them be like a SNAIL that melts [perhaps when exposed to salt]
  - FOURTH – let them be like a STILLBORN child – who never sees the SUN…
  - FIFTH – faster than a POT heats up – sweep them away in the WHIRLWIND!
  - What they all have in COMMON – there will be SWIFT judgement for the WICKED…
  - Those who do not REPENT – will be QUICKLY removed by the LORD!
  - We might wonder – why does God not JUDGE that fast today…
  - But He does – life is FAST – even if we are given 100 years – nothing compared to ETERNITY…
  - God gives us as much time as He does – hoping we will REPENT…
  - But if we do NOT – then JUDGEMENT will come – and we will be SWEPT away!
  - **I Peter 3:9** – "The Lord… is longsuffering toward us not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance!"

- **3RD – THE JUDGEMENT… VS. 10-11**
  - 1st – Righteous Rejoice… vs. 10
    - The righteous shall rejoice when he sees vengeance - wash his feet in the blood of the wicked!
    - The RIGHTEOUS [צַדִּיק] are GLAD when the see God bring VENGEANCE…
    - When He [Jesus] comes and washes His FEET in the BLOOD of the wicked…

- This is perhaps a reference to the SECOND coming of Jesus Christ…
- When He will come to JUDGE the nation – and TRAMPLE the WICKED!
- **Revelation 19:15** – "He treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."
- The world is FULL of EVIL today – and it just keeps getting worse…
- SatanCon 2023 will take place in downtown Boston April 28-3
- It is said to be the largest gathering in history of Satan worshipers!
- God is PATIENT – but not FOREVER – there is a JUDGEMENT coming…
- When Jesus returns the RIGHTEOUS will finally rejoice – because of the END of EVIL!

○ 2nd – The Lesson… vs. 11

- So that men will say - Surely there is a reward for the righteous.
- Surely He is God who judges in the earth!
- The VENGEANCE of God causes [sequential] – TWO things to happen:
  - FIRST – men [אָדָם] will say – there is FRUIT [פְּרִי] from being RIGHTEOUS [צַדִּיק]
  - When we LIVE for Jesus today – people might think we are WASTING out time…
  - But we will be JUSTIFIED in the END – at the SECOND coming…
  - Unbelievers [אָדָם] – will SEE the FRUIT of living for Jesus!
- SECOND – men [אָדָם] will say – God [אֱלֹהִים] JUDGES the earth!
  - Unbelievers [אָדָם]will also see there is a CONSEQUENCE for rejecting God…
  - When Jesus RETURNS – and comes to JUDGE the earth – **John 5:22**
  - Unfortunately it will be TOO late for them to REPENT…
  - Which is why TODAY is the day of SALVATION – **II Corinthians 6:2**

Psalm 59 – the Lord rules

- **1st – The TRAP… vs. 1-8**

○ 1st – Introduction… vs. 1

- To the Chief Musician. Set to - Do Not Destroy.
  - CHIEF Musician – the one who plays [piel] the music – leads the congregation in worship…
  - PLEASE [jussive] do not DESTROY – perhaps the TUNE the Psalm was sung to…
  - It could also be the CONVICTION of David not to DESTROY King Saul…
  - Or the PLEA of David – for God to not let King Saul DESTROY him!
- A Michtam of David!
  - MICHTAM – 6x in OT – always in the introduction - **Psalm 16** and **Psalm 56-60**
  - The word means GOLDEN – a VALUABLE Psalm – or CARVED – worth chiseling into stone!
- When Saul sent men - and they watched the house in order to kill him.
  - A Psalm written when David FIRST learned of the murderous intent of King Saul…
  - While he was still living in Jerusalem – married to the daughter of Saul – Michal…
  - Saul sent men to watch his house – so they could MURDER him in the morning!

- **I Samuel 19:11** – "Saul sent messengers to David's house to watch him and to kill him…"

- 2nd – Deliver me… vs. 1-4
  - Deliver me from my enemies - O my God. Defend me from those who rise up against me.
    - Deliver me from the workers of iniquity - and save me from bloodthirsty men!
    - David begged [imperative] God to RESCUE [hiphil] him from his enemies…
    - DEFEND [piel] him from EVIL men – SAVE [hiphil] him from those who wanted to KILL him!
  - For look - they lie in wait for my life. The mighty gather against me.
    - Not for my transgression nor for my sin - O LORD.
    - They run and prepare themselves through no fault of mine!
    - David had done NOTHING wrong – he had NOT sinned – NO iniquity…
    - These men RAN to kill him – because GOD had anointed him to be the next King!
    - We were in Israel in 2006 – in the city of Haifa - during the Hezbollah war…
    - The sirens sounded telling us there were missiles coming – THIRTY seconds to impact…
    - I can remember the very unsettling feeling – someone was trying to kill me…
    - Not because I had done anything wrong – but because they were EVIL men!
    - It is quite sobering when we realize we have an ENEMY who wants to KILL us – **John 8:44**
    - Not because of WHAT we have done – but because of WHO we are – **I Peter 2:9**
    - He is literally standing outside – waiting for an opportunity…
    - But we have a God – who will RESCUE – DEFEND – and SAVE us…
    - If we are just willing to run to Him and ask for His help!
    - **I John 4:4** – "You are of God - little children - and have overcome them - because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."
- 3rd – God Sees… vs. 4-5
  - Awake to help me - and behold!
  - You therefore - O LORD God of hosts - the God of Israel - awake to punish all the nations.
  - Do not be merciful to any wicked transgressors. Selah!
  - WAKE up my HELPER [participle] – and SEE [imperative]
  - David wanted God to SEE what the UNBELIEVERS [הַגּוֹיִם] were doing [waiting to kill him]
  - And PLEASE [jussive] do NOT be GRACIOUS [חָנַן] to those who were WICKED!
  - David wanted God to WAKE up – but it was David who got to SEE…
  - The LORD [יְהוָה] – who is GOD [אֱלֹהִים] of HOSTS [צְבָאוֹת] - the Lord of heavens ARMIES!
  - When Egypt trapped Israel on the shores of the Red Sea – **Exodus 14:10**
  - The people were TERRIFIED – and cried out to God their HELPER…
  - But the reason God allowed them to be TRAPPED – was so they could SEE God part an ocean!
  - God is NEVER sleeping – He sees EVERYTHING – and He is ALWAYS working…
  - We are the ones who get our eyes off of Jesus – and become overwhelmed…

- So God allows there to be PROBLEMS – so we LOOK and SEE the one who SAVES!

- 4th – God Hears… vs. 6-8
  - At evening they return - they growl like a dog - and go all around the city.
    - Indeed - they belch with their mouth. Swords are in their lips - for they say - Who hears!
    - If you have even been next to someone who had a good BURP – it does not SMELL good…
    - That was these men – they went around the CITY – and FOUL things came from their mouth…
    - Their WORDS were like SWORDS – and they did NOT care…
    - Because they did not believe they would be ACCOUNTABLE for what they SAID!
  - But You - O LORD - shall laugh at them. You shall have all the nations in derision!
    - BUT God – those are some of the MOST reassuring words in the Bible…
    - The LORD [יְהוָה] will LAUGH – He will MOCK the UNBELIEVERS [גּוֹיִם] – **Psalm 2:4**
    - People think they can SAY whatever they want – without any consequence…
    - I have noted that is especially true on Social Media – cyber bullying…
    - They think NO one SEES – and therefore they will get away with it…
    - But God SEES all – every WORD spoken – or TYPED – **Hebrews 4:13**
    - And we will have to answer one day for every one of them - **Matthew 12:36**

- **2nd – The Response… vs. 9-13**
  - 1st – We learn to wait… vs. 9-10
    - I will wait for You - O You my Strength. For God is my defense.
    - My God of mercy shall come to meet me. God shall let me see my desire on my enemies!
    - David would really [cohortative] HOLD onto the LORD – because He was His STRENGTH…
    - My God of LOVE [חֶסֶד] – will intensely [piel] meet me – cause [hiphil] me to SEE victory…
    - Do NOT miss this – in his time of NEED – David found his STRENGTH!
    - Paul asked God THREE times to take away his thorn…
    - And THREE times God answered and told him no - the thorn stayed...
    - Because His GRACE was sufficient for Paul – his weakness made Paul depend on God!
    - The KEY to having VICTORY in life – is the POWER of God…
    - When we realize we CANNOT – when we FAIL enough times…
    - In HUMILITY we come to the LORD and ask for HELP – He gives us His STRENGTH!
    - **II Corinthians 12:9** – "My strength is made perfect in weakness."
  - 2nd – Others never forget… vs. 11
    - Do not slay them - lest my people forget. Scatter them by Your power.
    - And bring them down - O Lord our shield!

- PLEASE [jussive] do NOT kill these WICKED men – instead cause [hiphil] them to SHAKE…
- HUMBLE [down] them so people will never FORGET – You are Lord [אֲדֹנָי]!
- I am often amazed at how people look too BAD people as EXAMPLES…
- They argue they are SUCCESSFUL – they are WEALTHY…
- But people have a VERY selective memory - they tend to FORGET what happens in the END…
- God wants BAD people to be an EXAMPLE – of what NOT to do!
- Those who REFUSE to LIVE for Jesus – may be successful TODAY…
- But it will NOT last – He is the MASTER [אֲדֹנָי] – not that God will KILL them…
- He will let their lives fall apart – HUMBLED – so we do for FORGET they are a BAD example!

○ 3rd – The wicked see God… vs. 12-13

- For the sin of their mouth and the words of their lips.
- Let them even be taken in their pride - and for the cursing and lying which they speak.
- Consume them in wrath - consume them - that they may know….
- God rules in Jacob to the ends of the earth. Selah!
- Because of their WORDS – the sin that comes from their MOUTH – cursing and lies…
- They will be taken [niphal] in their PRIDE – on the END [consumed] – they will have WRATH…
- God does NOT just bring WRATH - as an EXAMPLE for others…
- He still LOVES those who are WICKED – the BAD examples…
- He brings WRATH – so they can SEE [יָדַע]– He is the God [אֱלֹהִים] who RULES the whole world!
- I LOVE that God even works to reach those who REJECT Him…
- Not to say that EVERYONE will be SAVED – everyone has a CHOICE…
- But our God is so GOOD – He even LOVES His enemies – SELAH [סֶלָה] - **II Peter 3:9**

● **3rd – The Contrast… vs. 14-17**

○ 1st – The HUNGRY… vs. 14-15

- And at evening they return - they growl like a dog - and go all around the city.
- They wander up and down for food - and howl if they are not satisfied!
- The WICKED will growl like a DOG who has no FOOD…
- They SEARCH for FOOD – but HOWL because they are not SATISFIED!
- Most people think this world has answers – it lures us in with false hopes and promises…

- Then leaves us empty inside – never fulfilled - always wanting more…
- Nothing in this life will every SATISFY us!
- **John 4:13** – "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again…"

- 2nd – The Satisfied… vs. 16-17
  - But I will sing of Your power. Yes - I will sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning.
  - For You have been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble.
  - To You - O my Strength - I will sing praises. For God is my defense. My God of mercy!
  - BUT I – will sing [piel] of Your POWER and LOVE [חֶסֶד]
  - David was SATISFIED – because God [אֱלֹהִים] gave him STRENGTH and LOVE!
  - We were not CREATED by God to be FULFILLED by the things of this world...
  - We were CREATED by God to KNOW Him - WORSHIP Him - **John 17:3**
  - And only when we have His STRENGTH and LOVE - are we SATISFIED!
  - **John 4:14** – "Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst."

Psalm 60 – Victory from God

- **1st – Learning from the Battle… vs. 1-4**
  - 1st – Introduction… vs. 1
    - To the Chief Musician. Set to - Lily of the Testimony!
      - CHIEF Musician – the one who plays [piel] the music – leads the congregation in worship…
      - Lily of Testimony – is perhaps the TUNE the Psalm was sung to!
    - A Michtam of David - for teaching!
      - MICHTAM – 6x in OT – always in the introduction - **Psalm 16** and **Psalm 56-60**
      - The word means GOLDEN – a VALUABLE Psalm – or CARVED – worth chiseling into stone…
      - Here it is clarified that these MITCHAM - are to be used to TEACH others about the LORD!
    - When he fought against Mesopotamia and Syria of Zobah.
      - And Joab returned and killed twelve thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt!
      - These were EARLY victories when David was securing the Kingdom of Israel…
      - David conquered Philistia – Moab - Syria [Zobah] – and Edom – **I Chronicles 18:1-13**
      - There is no record of the STRUGGLES in the battle – recorded here in the Psalms…
      - A good reminder that the HISTORICAL books are an overview of events…
      - And victory from the LORD rarely comes without STRUGGLES!
  - 2nd – Broken… vs. 1-3
    - God You have cast us off. You have broken us down. You have been displeased - restore us again.
    - You have made the earth tremble. You have broken it. Heal its breaches - for it is shaking…
    - You have shown Your people hard things. You have made us drink the wine of confusion!

- God [אֱלֹהִים] allowed Israel to be DEFEATED in battle…
- He REJECTED them – so they were BROKEN – because He was ANGRY with them…
- It felt like the earth CRACKED – and David asked God to HEAL it – by coming back…
- Because God made [hiphil] Israel see CRUEL things – DEFEAT in battle…
- But it was NOT God who left – it was Israel who LEFT God!
- There was a quote from a movie a number of years ago that stuck with me…
- The protagonist just got some horrible news – and someone asked if he heard…
- His answer was he did not – because he could not hear over the sound of the earth splitting!
- When God is ANGRY with us – always for a good reason – life will get VERY hard…
- It can seem like there is NO hope – like the earth itself has CRACKED…
- But the problem is not our DEFEAT – it is we need to come back to the LORD!

  - 3rd – Banner of Grace… vs. 4
    - You have given a banner to those who fear You.
    - That it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah!
    - Being BROKEN is not the end – it is just the beginning…
    - I had a good friend who went through some VERY tough times – family left him…
    - Those tough times came because he got his eyes off of Jesus – fell into sin…
    - But as God began to restore him - I shared with him his life was now a BANNER of GRACE…
    - Because his TESTIMONY declared the TRUTH – victory comes from HOLDING onto Jesus!
    - Those who have been BROKEN – and come back to the LORD – get a BANNER…
    - A BANNER that says we know the TRUTH – victory only comes from the LORD!

- **2ND – THE BATTLE BELONGS TO THE LORD… VS. 5-12**

  - 1st – Delivered… vs. 5
    - That Your beloved may be delivered - save with Your right hand - and hear me!
    - When we COME back to the LORD – we are [niphal] SAVED [הוֹשִׁיעָ]
    - HOW – by Jesus who is His RIGHT hand – **Mark 16:19 – Acts 2:33 – I Peter 3:22**
    - And when we are SAVED by Jesus [יְשׁוּעָה] – God HEARS us!
    - No matter how far we wander away from God – He is never farther away than a prayer…
    - The moment we REPENT – come back the LORD – Jesus will SAVE us…

- We are RESTORED to God – we can come BOLDLY into His presence – **Hebrews 4:16**

- 2nd - God SPOKE… vs. 6-8
  - God has spoken in His holiness: I will rejoice. I will divide Shechem - measure Succoth.
  - Gilead is Mine - Manasseh is Mine. Ephraim is the helmet for My head. Judah is My lawgiver.
  - Moab is My washpot. Over Edom I will cast My shoe. Philistia shout in triumph because of Me.
  - God [אֱלֹהִים] intensely [piel] had SPOKEN – because he is HOLY [קָדַשׁ]
  - He would give Israel VICTORY in the LAND – from Shechem [central] to Succoth [south]
  - From Gilead and Manasseh [east of the Jordan] – to Ephraim His helmet [north]
  - Judah would be His lawgiver – because Jesus came from Judah – **James 4:12**
  - Moab [dishwasher] and Edom [shoe] and Philistia [shout] – because Israel will have VICTORY!
- 3rd – From Defeat… vs. 9-10
  - Who will bring me to the strong city. Who will lead me to Edom.
  - Is it not You O God who cast us off. And You O God who did not go out with our armies!
  - WHO led Israel to VICTORY – took them into the STRONG city of Edom [Bozrah]
  - So that they were able to kill 12,000 in the valley of salt - **I Chronicles 18:1-13**
  - The same God who had allowed them to be DEFEATED!
  - The difference between DEFEAT and VICTORY – is a RESULT of our WALK with the LORD!
- 4th – To Victory… vs. 11-12
  - Give us help from trouble - for the help of man is useless.
  - Through God we will do valiantly - for it is He who shall tread down our enemies!
  - Help [imperative] us – because the SALVATION of men [אָדָם] is USELESS…
  - ONLY in God [בֵּאלֹהִים] do we have STRENGTH – He gives the VICTORY!