

Psalm 60: A plea to defeat Israel's enemies



Psalm 60 (59) (Mode 3. 3....12 / 4.....271)

Compare Psalm 108:6-13

The city wall has been breached. The invading army is causing the earth to tremble as in an earthquake.

Compare the following from the prophet Joel: ‘They leap upon the city, they run upon the walls; they climb up into the houses, they enter through the windows like a thief. The earth quakes before them, the heavens tremble. The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining’ (Joel 2:9-10).

O God, you have rejected us.

Our wall has been breached.

You are angry with us.

We need you to return.

You have caused the land to quake;
you have torn it open.

Repair its cracks for it is tottering.

You have made your people suffer a disaster.

You have given us a wine to drink
that has made us reel.

Set up a standard for those who revere you,
that they might rally to it out of bowshot.

‘Rouse yourself, rouse yourself! Stand up, O
Jerusalem, you who have drunk at the hand of
the Lord the cup of his wrath, who have drunk to
the dregs the bowl that has caused you to stagger
... See, I have taken the cup from your hand; you
shall drink no more from the bowl of my
wrath’(Isaiah 51:17,22).

Verses 5-12 are repeated in Psalm 108:6-13.

Give victory with your powerful arm,
so that those whom you love may be rescued.

‘Of Benjamin he said: The beloved of the Lord rests in safety – the High God surrounds him all day long – the beloved rests between his shoulders’(Deuteronomy 33:12).

God has decreed from the sanctuary:
'I will triumph and divide up Shechem.
I will portion out the Vale of Succoth.
Gilead is mine, and Manasseh.

'Ephraim is my helmet;
Judah is my commander's staff.
Moab is my wash bowl;
on Edom I plant my shoe.

Against me, Philistia,
hurl forth a war cry if you dare!





Who will lead us to Edom
to breach the city wall?
God, will you still hold back?
Will you desert our camp?

Grant us help against the foe,
for human help is of no avail.

With God we will do valiantly.

It is our God who will crush our foes.

The tension between God's remembered promise and the actual situation expressed in a lament is resolved in the final verse with an act of trust.