

Psalm 62: Waiting on God



Psalm 62 (61) (Mode 3. 3....12 / 4...271)

In a situation of menace, the psalmist asserts his trust in God alone. In verses 8ff he pleads with others to do the same, reminding them that the power claimed by their oppressors is illusory. Real power rests with God. Ultimately what matters to God is the way we live.

Only in God can my soul find rest.

*In God alone is my salvation,
my rock, my safety, my fortress.*

I shall not be shaken.

How long will you keep up your attack?
How long will you batter your victim,
as you batter a leaning wall,
or a tottering fence?

Their only plan is to bring a person down.
They take pleasure in falsehood.
With their mouths they utter blessing,
but in their heart they curse.

‘Do not drag me away with the wicked, with those
who are workers of evil, who speak peace with
their neighbours, while mischief is in their
hearts’(Psalm 28:3).

‘An enemy speaks sweetly with his lips, but in his heart he plans to throw you into a pit. An enemy may have tears in his eyes, but if he finds an opportunity he will never have enough of your blood’(Sirach 12:16).

Only in God can my soul find rest.

*In God alone is my hope,
my rock, my safety, my fortress.*

I shall not be shaken.

In God is my salvation and my glory,
my stronghold, my haven.

Trust God at all times, O people.

Before God our refuge pour out your heart.

Common folk are but a breath,
those of high estate a delusion.

Placed in the scales, up they go;
they weigh less than a breath.

‘Human beings live in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust, who are crushed like a moth’(Job 4:19).

‘Even the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as dust on the scales; see, he takes up the isles like fine dust ... All the nations are as nothing before him; they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness’(Isaiah 40:15,17).

Psalm 39:4-6

‘Lord, let me know my end,
and what is the measure of my days;
let me know how fleeting my life is.
You have made my days a few handbreadths,
and my lifetime is as nothing in your sight.
Surely everyone stands as a mere breath.
Everyone goes about like a shadow.
Surely for nothing they are in turmoil;
they heap up, and do not know who will gather.’

Put no trust in extortion.
Set no vain hopes on fraud.
If your wealth increases,
do not set on it your heart.

‘You reject this word, and put your trust in oppression and deceit, and rely on them’(Isaiah 30:12).

Jesus told us: ‘Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also’(Matthew 6:21).

Ezekiel 22:7,12,29

‘Father and mother are treated with contempt in you; the alien residing within you suffers extortion; the orphan and the widow are wronged in you ... In you, they take bribes to shed blood; you take both advance interest and accrued interest, and make gain of your neighbours by extortion; and you have forgotten me, says the Lord God ... The people of the land have oppressed the poor and needy, and have extorted from the alien without redress.’

Time and again God has said:
'Strength and love are mine to give.'
The Lord repays each of us
according to what we have done.

'Come, you that are blessed by my Father,
inherit the kingdom prepared for you
from the foundation of the world;
for I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
I was naked and you gave me clothing,
I was sick and you took care of me,
I was in prison and you visited me'(Matthew 25:34-36)