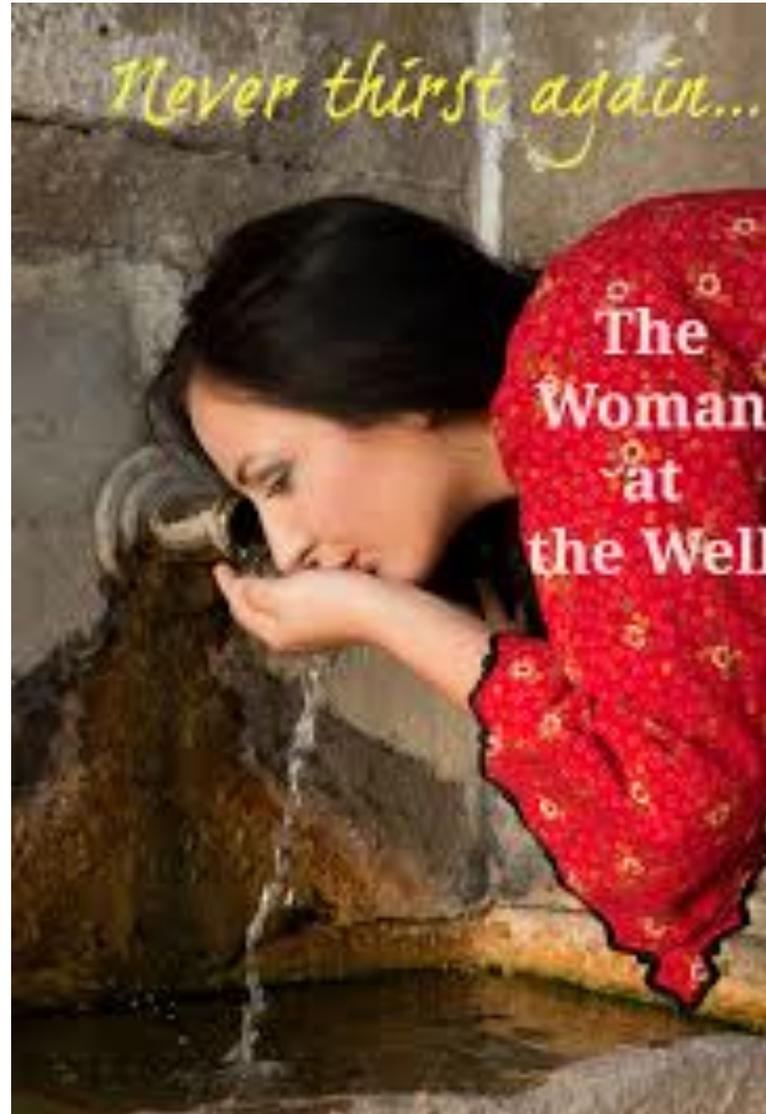


Psalm 64: Take refuge in God



Psalm 64 (63) (Mode 3. 3....12 / 4.....27I)

The psalmist is amazed at how corrupt are the hearts of the wicked. He is confident, however, that crime does not pay.

Hear my cry, O God. Listen to my complaint.

I am afraid. Please keep me safe.

Hide me from the secret plots of the wicked,
from the scheming of those set on evil.

The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse who can understand it?'(Jeremiah 17:9).

They sharpen their tongues like swords.
Like arrows they aim their cutting words.
They ambush the innocent.
They shoot suddenly and have no fear.
They hold fast to their evil purpose.
They talk of laying hidden snares:
‘Who can see us?’ they say,
our scheme is cunningly conceived.’
There is nothing but corruption
in the depths of their hearts.

It is God, who searches the mind
and knows the depths of the heart.
Suddenly they are struck
by arrows shot at them by God.

Because of their tongue God brings them to ruin.
All who see them shake their heads in horror.

Everyone is afraid.

They ponder what God has done.

The just rejoice and find refuge in the Lord.

The upright of heart sing praise.

‘For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel:
In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness
and in trust shall be your strength’(Isaiah 30:15).

‘The will fight for you, and you have only to keep
still’(Exodus 14:14).

‘Be still, and know that I am God!’(Psalm 46:10).