

# **PSA63 - NOTES**

## **Background:**

1. Written by David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah (according to the title)
2. Psalm 63 is a God/Jehovah Psalm. It is a Trust Psalm.
3. There are varying opinions about when the Psalm was written. Some believe it was while Saul was after him, as he often drove David to the wilderness of Judah. Many believe it to be during Absalom's rebellion. David's reference to the king in v.11 would seem to be a reference to himself, and thus put the Psalm during the episode with Absalom.
4. The Psalm is about seeing God in difficult times, and praising Him even in those difficult times.
5. This Psalm seems to have a "See and Say" pattern. That is, he talks about what the Psalmist has seen of God and how each of those attributes/actions causes him to praise God by mouth.
6. Key words in this Psalm: Soul/Life 4x; God (el) 3x; Praise 2x; Shout for Joy 2x; Mouth 2x; Lips 2x; See 1x (used only once, but seems to be the cause of everything else he writes about).

## **VV. 1-2 - Presence and Praise**

1. He SAW God's glory and PRAISES Him.
2. v. 1 - In a desert, he is thirsting for God.
  1. **Synonymous Parallelism** = My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You
3. v. 2 - In times past, he has been to the place of worship and praised God. Though in a place that would seem to be the exact opposite, he still desires to praise God because of what he has seen.
  1. **Synonymous Parallelism** = Thus I have seen You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory.
    1. Seen - Hebrew word for "physically see with the eye"
    2. See - Hebrew word for "to see or understand"
    3. He physically saw God in the sanctuary. This led him to understand God's power and glory.
4. **Time:** Interesting that the word translated "earnestly" has an original meaning of "looking for dawn" (BDB). For the Psalmist, the praise of God extends from first thing into the morning until he lays down to sleep at night (v. 6). The praise of God will be all of his life (v. 4) and extends through the deaths of others (v. 9-11).

## **VV. 3-5 - Life and Praise**

1. He SEES God's faithfulness and PRAISES Him.
2. v. 3 - The lovingkindness or faithfulness of God is better than anything in this life. After his life has been turned upside down, after those he has loved has turned against him, the Psalmist knows the only sure thing in life is the Lord.
3. v. 4 - Because of v. 3, he praises the Lord. He does so by giving his life to God (see Romans 12:1-2).
4. v. 5 - Even though he has neither, being able to trust in the Lord is as good as being filled with the finest of foods. Thus, he will praise the Lord in times of want, for with the Lord he has no wants.

## **VV. 6-8 - Provision and Praise**

1. He SEES God provide for his needs and PRAISES Him.
2. v. 6. - At night, when he is most vulnerable, God protects him.
  1. Side Note: what a great thing to drift off to sleep by - thinking of all God has done for us ("count your blessings instead of sheep" -Bing Crosby).
  2. Meditates - He SEES in his mind.
  3. **Synonymous Parallelism** = When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches,
3. v. 7 - He meditates on all God has helped him through - under the protection (in the shadow of wings) of the Lord he praises Him (sing - or shout - for joy).
4. v. 8 - He will cling to God. The word is the same as in Gen. 2:24 (husbands are to CLEAVE to their wife). It means to be glued to (BDB). God's power is what upholds him.

## **VV. 9-11 - Future and Praise**

1. Through the eyes of faith, he SEES God's eventual judgment and PRAISES Him.
2. v. 9-10 - Those enemies of David will ultimately be taken care of by God.
  1. Depths of the earth = death/grave, not Hell.
  2. Foxes - probably a jackal or hyena - some sort of scavenger dog-like mammal.
3. v. 11 - His mouth will continue to praise God, the enemies will no longer be using their mouth.
  1. The king - Talking about David, though he never called himself the king during the days of Saul.