

## Lead Me To The Rock; Psalm 61:1-8

### I. Hear Me!

A. Psalm 61:1–4; 1 Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer; 2 from the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I, 3 for you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy. 4 Let me dwell in your tent forever! Let me take refuge under the shelter of your wings! *Selah*

### B. A painful experience

1. Many of the scholars I researched think that this was written in the time when David left Jerusalem, fleeing from Absalom
2. 2 Samuel 15:30; But David went up the ascent of the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went, barefoot and with his head covered. And all the people who were with him covered their heads, and they went up, weeping as they went.
3. “From the end of the earth” is an expression denoting a painful sense of removal to a great distance from the dwelling-place of God.
4. It seems like David feels as if he were banished to the extremity of the earth, far from the face of God.
5. He was far from the city that he loved most, from his home, from his throne, and from the tabernacle of his God.
6. I’m sure we have felt this way, far removed from anyone and anything we love, feeling all alone with no one to lean upon or help
7. I want you to think back on some painful experiences you have been through
8. Matthew 26:69–75; 69 Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” 70 But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you mean.” 71 And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.” 72 And again he denied it with an oath: “I do not know the man.” 73 After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.” 74 Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know the man.” And immediately the rooster crowed. 75 And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.
9. These experiences should cause us to cry out to God

### C. Lead me to the Rock

1. We often refer to God as our Rock
2. Psalm 18:1–3; 1 I love you, O Lord, my strength. 2 The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. 3 I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.
3. Cover and concealment
4. 1 Corinthians 10:1–4; 1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 and all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.
5. “Higher than I” - exalted over me

6. "For ancient Israel, the Rock was a symbol of the love and protection of God, a figure of the security, serenity and protection provided for the believer by the Lord. For this generation, "Our Lord Jesus Christ is the true Rock for human souls." Wilson Jones

D. Refuge

1. Refuge (according to Davie) is a tower, a tent, and wings
2. Tower - a fortification against your enemies
3. Tent - a home in the presence of God
4. Wings - The provision provided by a loving parent

II. A Heritage!

- A. Psalm 61:5–8; 5 For you, O God, have heard my vows; you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name. 6 Prolong the life of the king; may his years endure to all generations! 7 May he be enthroned forever before God; appoint steadfast love and faithfulness to watch over him! 8 So will I ever sing praises to your name, as I perform my vows day after day.

B. A heritage

1. This Hebrew word is only used 14 times; 12 of those times it is translated "possession," most often referring to Canaan, the land of promise
2. David was king over the land that God gave to the Israelites, their possession, their heritage
3. We have a heritage, an inheritance, a possession as well; it is Kingdom residency
4. Colossians 1:11–14; 11 May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. 13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
5. Revelation 21:6–7; 6 And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. 7 The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.
6. We inherit eternal life!
7. Matthew 19:29; And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life.

C. The route to our inheritance, our heritage?

1. Steadfast Love

- a) Immovable love for the Father and for His word
- b) Psalm 119:12–16; 12 Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes! 13 With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth. 14 In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. 15 I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. 16 I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.
- c) "The whole Psalm is a prayer for steadfastness in the midst of an ungodly, degenerate race in the midst of great trouble." Delitzsch
- d) No matter what is happening in our lives, our love for God and His son should not waiver!

2. Faithfulness

- a) To have a strong confident reliance upon someone or something (in this case, the promises of God fulfilled in Christ Jesus)
- b) David was in the midst of exile while Absalom ruled Jerusalem yet his confidence in the promises of God did not waiver

- c) Yet not only did David return to his rule; God's promise to keep one of his lineage on the throne forever finds its fulfillment in Christ's reign
  - d) No matter what happens, our confidence in God and His ability to fulfill His promises should not waiver!
- D. Sing praises
- 1. This love and faithfulness should make us want to sing His praises
  - 2. Hebrews 13:13–15; 13 Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. 14 For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. 15 Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.
- III. Lead Me to the Rock
- A. Out of the depths of our faint hearts we cry out to God
  - B. He is our strong tower, our tent, our shelter
  - C. He gives us a heritage of eternal life!