

MOUNT PISGAH AME CHURCH  
Rev. Jay B. Broadnax, Pastor  
Rev. Donna M. Minor, Associate Minister  
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## **Psalm 61 - The Rock That Is Higher Than I**

Psalm 61 is a Psalm of David. It is a prayer from David's heart which display elements of lament and trust. Psalm 61 is divided into four parts: 1. A petition to God (verses 1,2); 2. An affirmation that God is David's refuge (verses 3,4); 3. An affirmation that God provides (verses 5-7); 4. A vow to praise God (verse 8).

### **A. The Prayer - 1) A *petition* to God.**

Vs 1 - "*Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer.*"

- Cry - the meaning - ringing cry of entreaty, supplication; ringing cry in proclamation, joy, praise; creaking (or shrill sound)

Hear my cry is a language of a lament psalm; David calls on the Lord to hear his prayer.

Vs 2 - "*From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint*" (NIV); "*From the end of the earth I will cry to You, when my heart is overwhelmed*" (NKJV).

- Cry - to call, call out, recite, read, cry out, proclaim
- Overwhelmed - to turn aside; to envelop oneself, cover; to be feeble, grow weak

In this verse David had found himself in a place where safety and deliverance seem remote. David knows the throne of grace was only a breath away, so he draws near to receive mercy and find grace to help in time of a great need. Hebrews 4:16

When we are at the end of human understanding, strength and resources, cry to the Lord. When you are at the limit of wisdom, endurance and ability, call to the Lord.

Vs 2 con't - "*Lead me to the rock that is higher than I*" (NIV).

- A rock for protection; the rock must be higher than us
- David's Song of Praise (2 Samuel 22:1-3, 32-33)

David acknowledges that he does not have the wisdom or strength to direct his own steps, so he asks the Lord to lead him to Himself.

- That rock was CHRIST (1 Corinthians 10:1-4)

When our heart is overwhelmed we need at least 3 things:

- We need the rock; we need a rock that is higher than I; we need God to lead us to that rock.

## **2) An affirmation that God is David's refuge.**

Vs 3 - *"For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe (enemy)."*

- Refuge - shelter from danger
- Strong tower (Proverbs 18:10)

Vs 4 - *"I long to dwell in your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of your wings"* (NIV) *"I will abide in Your tabernacle forever; I will trust in the shelter of Your wings"* (NKJV).

David, the worshipper, mentions the tabernacle, the center of Israel's sacrifice and worship.

*Wings* as the near and protected place that a mother bird gives to her offspring, protecting her chicks under the shelter of her wings; a chick has complete trust under its mother's wings. (Psalm 63:7; Psalm 91:4)

## **B. The answer to the prayer. 3) An affirmation that God provides.**

Vs 5 - *"For you, God, have heard my vows; you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name."*

- Vow - a promise to God
- Heritage - inheritance, possession (applied in the OT to the land of Canaan (Exodus 6:8); Heritage - eternal life (Colossians 1:12))

God provides to us a *Savior*...the *One* who we can call on.

Vs 6,7 - *"Increase the days of the king's life, his years for many generations. May he be enthroned in God's presence forever; appoint your love and faithfulness to protect him."*

David's words in this passage are more appropriate for another King, the King of kings - Jesus Christ

- His years will endure to all generations (Hebrews 1:12); He will be enthroned forever before God (Hebrews 1:8); Steadfast love and faithfulness will watch over Him, like bodyguards (Psalm 91:1-16)

## **4) A vow to praise God.**

Vs 8 - *“Then I will ever sing in praise of your name and fulfill my vows day after day (daily).”*

David has reached the Rock that is higher than himself, and is so grateful that he is determine to sing the praises of the Lord continually, paying his vows of worship, love and service.

Sources: Believer's Bible Commentary; Enduring Word