

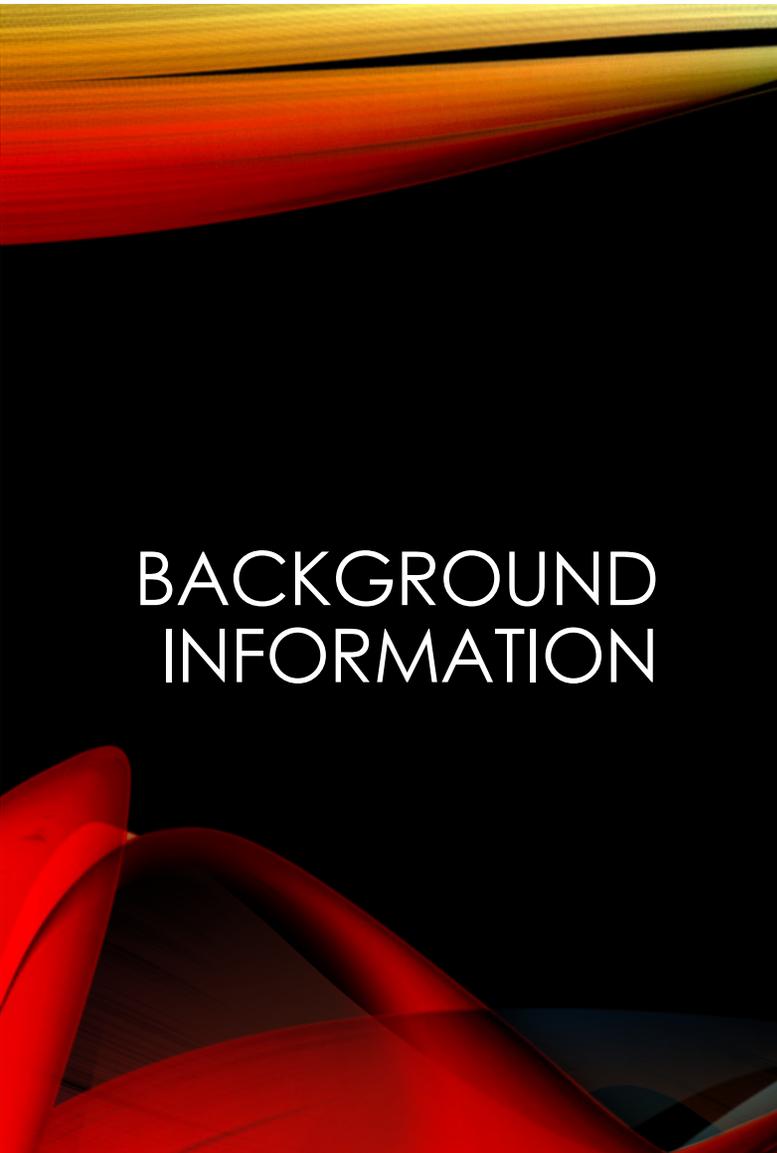
PRAYING THE PSALMS: MAKING IT PERSONAL

Psalm 64

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PSALM 64

- ¹ Hear me, my God, as I voice my complaint;
protect my life from the threat of the enemy.
- ² Hide me from the conspiracy of the wicked,
from the plots of evildoers.
- ³ They sharpen their tongues like swords
and aim cruel words like deadly arrows.
- ⁴ They shoot from ambush at the innocent;
they shoot suddenly, without fear.
- ⁵ They encourage each other in evil plans,
they talk about hiding their snares;
they say, "Who will see it?"
- ⁶ They plot injustice and say,
"We have devised a perfect plan!"
Surely the human mind and heart are cunning.
- ⁷ But God will shoot them with his arrows;
they will suddenly be struck down.
- ⁸ He will turn their own tongues against them
and bring them to ruin;
all who see them will shake their heads in scorn.
- ⁹ All people will fear;
they will proclaim the works of God
and ponder what he has done.
- ¹⁰ The righteous will rejoice in the LORD
and take refuge in him;
all the upright in heart will glory in him!



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

David is afraid and seeking for help from his enemies and their plotting against him.

It was a very personal meditation for David as is for me.

David had to acknowledge the power of the enemies he had but also the trust in his cry to God for deliverance.

TYPES OF PSALMS

While we are learning the many types of Psalms two can be acknowledge or recognized by Psalm 64

1. Complaint of David the individual

- in time of invasion, oppression, the threat of attack, and natural disaster.

2. Thanksgiving Songs of the Individual

- Similar to complaints but offered in response to the deliverance after the complaint.

It might be difficult to see the Thanksgiving in the Psalm considering it is a prayer of meditation for deliverance, but it also speaks with Thanksgiving through the expression of Faith that **GOD WILL.**



PSALM 64

“THE PRAYER”

PRAYER OF DESPAIR AND TRUE FEAR

Hear me, my God, as I voice my complaint; protect my life from the threat of the enemy

As I read this prayer; I instantly feel the pressure of the author and can relate to the times of my life in which I needed the Lord to **HEAR** me and **know (acknowledge)** the difference of a normal call or crying out vs. this moment of despair and extreme fear.

I consider and feel the agony, the pain, the hurt, the worry, the anxiety, the true fear that nearly cripples you because you literally see your life passing before your eyes and know that you can't save yourself.

The “WHY” of the Prayer

Hide me from the conspiracy of the wicked, from the plots of evildoers.

They sharpen their tongues like swords and aim cruel words like deadly arrows.

They shoot from ambush at the innocent; they shoot suddenly, without fear.

I have no where to go, no other options. I have reached a place of desperation. And only **YOU** can hide me, give me refuge, or protection. These are some wicked, dangerous, evildoers. They will not think twice about who I am or if there is anyone to protect me. It's not a physical protection I seek but I need hidden from secret ideas and thoughts and plans.

Being human is a natural recipe for haters, being saved and Christian is another strike, being male, being female, being born of a woman you are subject to have enemies that want nothing more than to plot and scheme how they will destroy you.

It is almost as if you have a target on your back; a bounty on your head.

This scripture is speaking to those of US who are called with a purpose and all we are trying to do is live that purpose out and yet we are criticized, ridiculed, bullied, and threatened.

David spelled this out so plain that we might be able to draw on it as experience.

Sticks and stones may break my bones; but names or words will never hurt me.... A straight lie from the pit of Hell.

This Psalm is literary beauty. The metaphor of a tongue being sharp like a sword paints the picture of how words are weaponized with the intent to kill. These aren't just any words, but the writer says they are cruel words likened unto deadly arrows. Both a sword and an arrow are INTENTIONAL and dangerous. Psychologists believe it takes a special individual to kill a person with a weapon like sword or arrow because there is an immense amount of skill to get the targeted person as well as an intentional and deliberate action to leave no survivor.

The attack is sudden and unexpected.

The “WHO” of the Prayer

Verses 5,6,7

Definition of the enemy

- The wicked or evildoer is fearless
- They encourage each other in evil plans,
- They talk about hiding their snares; they say, “Who will see it”?
- They plot injustice and say, “We have devised a perfect plan!”
- Surely the human mind and heart are cunning

Make up of the enemy

Fearless, divisive, cunning, sneaky, duplicitous, calculated, manipulative, human.

I can't assume my enemy is a ghost of fiction but rather my supervisor on the job, my jealous hating coworkers, my conniving family member who when they don't get their way or can't swindle me out of money sets out to scandalize my name or annihilate my character.

You see them throw a rock then hide their hand as if they weren't trying to hurt you. It is sad to think that we assume we know the enemy we are fighting and too often we didn't even see the weapon coming because we underestimated the plan of attack. The scheme that was DEvised (key word) in an effort to cause or inflict harm.

The “Answer or Result” of the Prayer

HEARING IS ACTION

- But God will shoot them with his arrows;
they will suddenly be struck down.
- ⁸ He will turn their own tongues against them
and bring them to ruin;
all who see them will shake their heads in scorn.
- ⁹ All people will fear;
they will proclaim the works of God
and ponder what he has done.

When the Lord hears he moves. The strike of God with his arrows is also sudden. What the enemy meant for my evil God turns around and uses against them causing them ruin but also displaying publicly the plans they devised in secret. They will be their own destruction and become an embarrassment to themselves. Just like David, my trust in God is solid and confirmed because I knew when I cried out; God would answer.



PSALM 64

MY PERSONAL PRAYER

God, You know that I am incapable of protecting myself against the secret darts and bitter, wicked, hatred, jealousy, and envy of those laying in wait to destroy me. God, you know that I need you because their venomous words and attacks are coming at me devised and planned for my bad. I need your shelter, your refuge, which is ultimately your peace. Be my banner and covering.

Help me to heal when the enemy is family, friend, or those I love the most. Save me and preserve me oh God.

Amen