

Psalm 61

"Royal Plea and Gratitude for Deliverance"¹

For the choir director; on a stringed instrument. *A Psalm* of David.

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A1 ROYAL PLEA FOR DELIVERANCE 61:1-4

B1 The Urgency of the Plea 61:1

C1 {1} Hear my cry, O God;

C2 Give heed to my prayer.

B2 The Desperation of the Pleader 61:2

C1 His Extremity: {2} From the end of the earth I call to You

C2 His Condition: when my heart is faint;

C3 His Need: Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

B3 The Past Satisfaction of the Pleader 61:3

C1 God Has Been a Refuge: {3} For You have been a refuge for me,

C2 God Has Been a Strong Tower: A tower of strength against the enemy.

B4 The Content of the Plea 61:4

C1 Eternal Fellowship in God's Tabernacle: {4} Let me dwell in Your tent forever;

C2 Security in God's Presence: Let me take refuge in the shelter of Your wings. Selah.

¹ Title: Franz Delitzsch (*K & D*) entitles this Psalm, "Prayer and Thanksgiving of an Expelled King on His Way Back to the Throne." In his commentary he opines "It is a Psalm of the time of Absalom, composed in Mahanaim or elsewhere in Gilead, when the army of the king had smitten the rebels in the wood of Ephraim." That is certainly a possibility, but by no means a certainty. Allen P. Ross, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary (TBKC)*, observes correctly, "Many have suggested that this psalm describes one of David's narrow escapes in the rocky wilderness, but no historical setting is given."

A2 ROYAL GRATITUDE FOR DELIVERANCE 61:5-8

B1 His Gratitude for Hearing Past Vows 61:5

- C1 Elohim's Hearing: {5} For You have heard my vows,² O God;
- C2 David's Inheritance: You have given *me* the inheritance of those who fear Your name.³

B2 The Content of His Faith 61:6-7

- C1 Prolonged Life: {6} You will prolong the king's life; 61:6a
- C2 Extended Years: His years will be as many generations. 61:6b
- C3 Eternal Fellowship: {7} He will abide before God forever; 61:7a
- C4 Preservation of Purity: Appoint lovingkindness and truth that they may preserve him. 61:7b

B3 His Vow of Future Praise 61:8

- C1 Eternal Praise: {8} So I will sing praise to Your name forever,
- C2 Daily Installment: That I may pay my vows day by day.

EXPANDED ANALYSIS OF PSALM 61

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² 61:5 - vows (*neder*, 5088): A vow to do something on Yahweh's behalf in exchange for answered prayer was the nearest the ancients had to our modern day credit cards!

³ 61:5 - inheritance of those who fear your name: "true Israelites who feared the Lord remained loyal to David's kingship and did not rebel." (Allen P. Ross, *TBKC*)