

STUDIES IN PSALMS

by the man whose name it bears; and the other the much forgotten circumstance that the Great Return from Exile from the four quarters of the earth is manifestly an event which has yet to be fulfilled.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. How is the artistic beauty of this psalm shown?
2. In what way can we see "psalmody in the making"?
3. There are lessons to learn from distress. Examples are given—how do these two examples fit all men?
4. These distresses can be read like parables—how?
5. Is it true that all natural phenomena is to be attributed to Jehovah? Can we make Him immediately and personally responsible for the millions who have died in famine and flood?
6. How is the problem of the late date of this psalm answered?

PSALM 108

DESCRIPTIVE TITLE

Two Fragments of Earlier Psalms.

ANALYSIS

Vers. 1-6 are taken from Ps. 57:7-11: and vers. 6-9 from Ps. 60:5-8. For Exposition, see those psalms. Probable Occasion for this Composite Psalm: Danger from Edom, Not so Accute as in Ps. 60.

(Lm.)—Song—Psalm—By David.

- 1 Steadfast is my heart O God!¹
I would fain sing and would play,—yea my glory!²
- 2 Oh awake lute and lyre!
I would fain waken the dawn:
- 3 I would thank thee among the peoples O Jehovah,
I would celebrate thee in psalm³ among the races of men.

1. Some cod. (w. Sep., Syr., Vul.) repeat the clause: "steadfast is my heart." Cp. 57:7—Gn.

2. See Ps. 16:9 note.

3. Or: "make melody unto thee."

PSALM 108

- 4 For great above the heavens is thy kindness,
and as far as the skies⁴ thy truth.
- 5 Be exalted above the heavens O god,
and above all the earth be thy glory,
- 6 To the end thy beloved may be rescued
oh save with thy right hand and answer me.⁵
- 7 God spake in his holiness:—
“Let me exult let me apportion Shechem,
And the Vale of Succoth will I measure out:
- 8 Mine is Gilead and mine Manasseh;
But Ephraim is the defence of my head,
Judah is my commander’s staff:
- 9 Moab is my wash-bowl,
Unto Edom will I cast my sandal,
Over Philistia raise a shout of triumph.”
- 10 Who will conduct me to the fortified city?⁶
Who will lead me as far as Edom?
- 11 Hast not thou⁷ O God rejected us?
and thou wilt not O God go forth with our hosts?
- 12 O grant to us help out of distress,
since unreal is a victory⁸ by man:
- 13 In God we shall do valiantly,
he himself therefore shall⁹ tread down our adversaries!
- (Lm.) To the Chief Musician.

PARAPHRASE

PSALM 108

O God, my heart is ready to praise You! I will sing and rejoice before You.

2 Wake up, O harp and lyre! We will meet the dawn with song.

3 I will praise You everywhere around the world, in every nation.

4 For Your lovingkindness is great beyond measure, high as the heavens! Your faithfulness reaches the skies!

4. Or: “fleecy clouds.”

5. Written “us,” but read “me;” and so most authorities.

6. Some cod: “city entrenched,” exactly as Ps. 60:9.

7. Some cod. (w. Sep., Syr., Vul.): “thou” emphatic as 60:10.

8 Or: “deliverance,” “salvation.”

9. Cp. on 60:12.

STUDIES IN PSALMS

5 His glory is far more vast than the heavens! It towers above the earth.

6 Hear the cry of Your beloved child—come with mighty power and rescue me.

7 God has given sacred promises; no wonder I exult! He has promised to give us all the land of Shechem, and also Succoth Valley!

8 "Gilead is Mine to give to you," He says, "and Manasseh as well; the land of Ephraim is the helmet on My head. Judah is My scepter.

9 But Moab and Edom are despised; and I will shout in triumph over the Philistines."

10 Who but God can give me strength to conquer these fortified cities? Who else can lead me into Edom?

11 Lord, have You thrown us away? Have You deserted our army?

12 Oh, help us fight against our enemies, for men are useless allies.

13 But with the help of God we shall do mighty acts of valor! For He treads down our foes.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why is this psalm a composite of two earlier ones? i.e. what is the occasion for its composition?
2. Is there any danger here of "vain repetition"? Discuss. Read: Phil. 4:4; Gal. 1-9; Phil. 3:1.

PSALM 109

DESCRIPTIVE TITLE

David, Rehearsing how His Enemies have Cursed him,
Refers his Cause to Jehovah.

ANALYSIS

Stanza I., vers. 1-5, The Psalmist Entreats Jehovah to speak up for him against his Accusers, of whose Groundless Hatred he Complains. Stanzas II.-VI., vers. 6-15, He Records, at length, his Enemies' Imprecations; and, Stanza VII., vers. 16-19, Their False Accusations, regarding these as Permitted

1. Literally, "Moab is my washbasin; upon Edom I cast My shoe."