

A pass through
The Psalms

Week 6: Psalm 6



It is unclear exactly when this Psalm was written. Some argue that it was **during Absalom's revolt** or when **Saul attempted to kill David** or when **David was on his death bed** and inserted out of chronological order.

It is unclear whether David's lament is actually about a **physical illness**, a **physical threat** or **spiritual sin**, or both.

My assumption is that
Psalm 6 was written in the
same context of **3-4-5-7**;
which were all clearly written
during the flight from Absalom
in **2 Sam 15-17**, the year **1023 BC**

In **Psalm 3-4**, (2 Sam 15-17) David is clearly **on the run from Absalom**. In **Psalm 5** (2 Sam 17) David is **still on the run and fears wicked men getting near the dwelling (Temple)** of the Lord.

Psalm 7 (2 Sam 16:22) appears as though **Absalom has won as he enters Jerusalem** and David's house and sexually abused some of his wives.

My assumption then is that **Psalm 6** was written in the context of Absalom nearing the City of Jerusalem & David's Household and appearing to have won the siege against David. And not in the context of the end of the David's life.

My assumption then is that **Psalm 6** was written out of David's fear that God was going to remove David's kingdom, via Absalom, out of punishment for his sin with Bathsheba in **980 BC in 2 Sam 11**.

As prophesied by Nathan in
2 Sam 12:11-12...

This is what the LORD says: I will stir up trouble against you within your own household, and before your own eyes I will take your wives and give them to someone close to you. He will go to bed with your wives in broad daylight. You did this secretly, but I will make this happen in broad daylight in front of all Israel.

2 Sam 12:11-12

Absalom's revolt begins
only 4 years after in 976 BC,
with the murder of Amnon (another
son of David) who raped Tamar
(sister of Absalom) in **2 Sam 13.**

In **Psalm 6** then David is beginning to realize that Absalom is the one who was 'close to him' who will take his 'wives in broad daylight' as a **chastising** for the sin with Bathsheba.

In **Psalm 6** then **David begins to plead with God** regarding his chastisement (as he did when he pleaded with God about the death of his son with Bathsheba in **2 Sam 12:15-17**) and **begging God to be gracious in his dealing with him.**

(1-2) O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger,
nor discipline me in your wrath. Be gracious
to me, O LORD, for I am languishing; heal
me, O LORD, for my bones are troubled.



David opens by asking God to be gracious in his discipline or light in his **chastening** (of David).

Reprove (Rebuke)

Chasten (Discipline)

David is very aware that **he deserves to be rebuked**, and he feels that the rebuke in some form or other must/will come upon him.

David does not ask for God not to discipline him nor does he contest **the basis for the discipline**, but rather pleads for mercy within the discipline.

Jeremiah (10:24) echoes this prayer:

Discipline me, LORD, but only in due measure-- not in your anger, or you will reduce me to nothing. (NIV)

So correct me, LORD, but please be gentle.
Do not correct me in anger, for I would die.
(NLT)

“I know that I must be chastened, and though I shrink from the rod yet do I feel that it will be for my benefit; but, oh, my God, chasten me not in thy hot displeasure, lest the rod become a sword, and lest in smiting, thou shouldest also kill. So may we pray that the chastisements of our gracious God, if they may not be entirely removed, may at least be sweetened by the consciousness that they are ‘not in anger, but in his dear covenant love.’”

CH Spurgeon

For the LORD disciplines those
he loves, and he punishes each
one he accepts as his child.

Hebrews 12:6

Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.

John 15:2

(3-4) My soul also is greatly troubled. But you, O LORD—how long? Turn, O LORD, deliver my life; save me for the sake of your steadfast love.



David does not seek relief
like Adam to the bush or
Saul to the medium or
Jonah to the city of Tarshish...
rather **David turns to the Lord**.

David asks the Lord to
rescue him from the
consequence of his sin
and to alleviate his turmoil.

Psalm 6:4 consists only of
7 Hebrew words...

Return

(bring me back, bring it back,
put back, brought again)

**Psalm 6:4 consists only of
7 Hebrew words...**

Lord

(Yahweh, Yehovaw, God)

**Psalm 6:4 consists only of
7 Hebrew words...**

Deliver
(withdraw)

**Psalm 6:4 consists only of
7 Hebrew words...**

Soul

(myself, being, me)

**Psalm 6:4 consists only of
7 Hebrew words...**

Save
(preserve)

**Psalm 6:4 consists only of
7 Hebrew words...**

Reason/Purpose

(to the end that, on behalf of)

Psalm 6:4 consists only of
7 Hebrew words...

Favor

(goodness, kindness mercy)

David's request is twofold (1):

God, pull me out of this/remove me from this punishment because of your name sake and your loving kindness.

David pleads for God to redeem his soul from the burden of despair, and the consequence of his sin.

David's request is twofold (2):

God, bring me back to where you had me, restore/preserve your special purpose for me on behalf of your plan.

David pleads for God
to restore his grand
purpose for him.

David's basis is twofold (1):

**...because of
your loving kindness.**

David's basis is twofold (2):

**...because of
your plan.**

This is such an important, yet so widely missed biblical truth. It is the basis of our salvation & sanctification.

It should be the basis of every request we make for help, forgiveness, guidance & provision.

God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples...

Deut 7:6-8

...but because the LORD loved you and
kept the oath which He swore to your
forefathers, the LORD brought you out
by a mighty hand and redeemed you
from the house of slavery, from the hand
of Pharaoh king of Egypt...

Deut 7:6-8

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. **In love** he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, **according to the purpose of his will...**

Ephesians 1:3-5

David is appealing for
God to act on his behalf...
because of
God's great love
and God's revealed plan.

(5) For in death there is no remembrance of you; in Sheol who will give you praise?



David argues further that
if God allows David to be
destroyed in his sin and/or
the plan to fall apart two
horrible things would
happen...

(1) If I die (*in mercy, heaven*)
your **name** will not be
renowned by others
(remembrance).

**God's name is forever
attached to his plan.**

(1) If I die this way (*even if I am with you*), people will say you abandoned me, my God was weak & false...and **your name will be debased.**

(2) If I die (*in judgement,
separated from love*)
I will not be able to **praise**
your name.

**God's praise is forever
attached to his love.**

(2) If I die apart from your mercy/saving grace (*you do not act*) I will not be able to **sing your praise** from hell below.

David's reasoning for God
to act are incredibly
God-centered reasons...
not **Self-centered** reasons.

However, God's interests
and David's interests are
not mutually exclusive...in
fact they are intertwined.

If God acts, God will get the
praise of his love and the
esteem of his name...and David
will get the **love of God** and the
joy of participation in his plan.

(6-7) I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping. My eye wastes away because of grief; it grows weak because of all my foes.



(8-10) Depart from me, all you workers of evil, for the LORD has heard the sound of my weeping. The LORD has heard my plea; the LORD accepts my prayer. All my enemies shall be ashamed and greatly troubled; they shall turn back and be put to shame in a moment.

David closes in confidence
believing that God is not
against him (does not see
him as an enemy) and that
God has heard his prayer.

David closes believing that
God is committed to His
plan and that all his
(God's & David's) enemies
will eventually be made a
footstool.