

GOD LISTENS

Sarah Kawalsingh

The Book of Psalms reflects the worship, devotional life and religious sentiment of approximately one thousand years of Israel's history. It is subdivided into five books. The first book, which contains Psalms 1-41, is mostly attributed to David.

Turn to Psalm 28

1. Links between this psalm and 26, 27 suggest that David is still in the same life-threatening situation, e.g. v3-5 (see 26:9-10; 27:2, 12)
2. The Lord's house is prominent in all three: 26:6-8, the focus of David's beliefs and 27:4-5, of his fellowship with the Lord; 28:2, the source of help
3. Each ends (26:12; 27:14; 28:9) with some reference to, or concern for, the wider company of God's people

For David, a time of trouble was a time for concentration on the Lord and care for people. But Psalm 28 throws its own light on David's situation: his plight will end in death unless the Lord acts (1), and his circumstances are such that his death at this time would identify him with the wicked (3). His fear is not of death as such but 'of death with unmerited disgrace'.

The beginning and end of the psalm are linked by my cry for mercy (2, 6). In v1-2, prayer for a hearing (1) is followed by the cry (2); in v6-9, the heard cry prompts praise (6, 7) and leads to prayer for the Lord's people (8, 9). In the middle verses, David prays that he may be kept distinct from the fate of the wicked (3), that they may receive what they merit (4), affirming (5) that this expresses divine retributive justice. – *New Bible Commentary*

Verse 1

*I pray to you, O Lord, my rock.
Do not turn a deaf ear to me.
For if you are silent,
I might as well give up and die.*

'God warned His people passionately never to forget what He had done on their behalf and to fear the prospect so vividly that their memories would be sharpened ever again like the blade of a warrior's sword.' – *Beth Moore*

'Observe his (David's) faith in prayer: O Lord, my rock, denoting his belief of God's power (he is a rock) and his dependence upon that power—"He is my rock, on whom I build my hope." Observe his fervency in prayer: "To thee will I cry, as one in earnest, being ready to sink, unless thou come in with seasonable (appropriate) succour (rescue, assist, relief) ." And observe how solicitous (uneasy) he is to obtain an answer: "Be not silent to me, as one angry at my prayers,' – *Matthew Henry*

Describing God as a rock

'Rock' (*tsoor*), properly a cliff, generally a rock or boulder, figuratively a refuge.

Rock is a symbol of God, emphasizing His protecting and sheltering characteristics.

The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. (Psalm 18:2)

Describing God as if He has a deaf ear

*Do not turn a deaf ear to me.
For if you are silent,
I might as well give up and die.*

We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but he is ready to hear those who worship him and do his will. (John 9:31)

If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. (Psalm 66:18)

God detests the prayers of a person who ignores the law. (Proverbs 28:9)

The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their cry; (Psalm 34:15)

And your heavens which are over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you shall be iron. (Deuteronomy 28:23)

'All believers have God in their heart. But not all believers have given their whole heart to God. The question is not, how can I have more of the Spirit, but rather, how can the Spirit have more of me?' – *Max Lucado*

Verse 2

*Listen to my prayer for mercy
as I cry out to you for help,
as I lift my hands toward your holy sanctuary.*

God desires us to have singleness of purpose—
to know Him and abide with Him.

*God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear,
Even though the earth be removed,
And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the
sea;
Though its waters roar and be troubled,
Though the mountains shake with its swelling. Selah
There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of
God,
The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High.
God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved;
God shall help her, just at the break of dawn.
(Psalm 46)*

*Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction;
be persistent in prayer. (Romans 12:12)*

*The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their cry for help.
The face of the Lord is set
against those who do what is evil,
to remove all memory of them from the earth.
The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears,
and rescues them from all their troubles.
The Lord is near the brokenhearted;
he saves those crushed in spirit.
One who is righteous has many adversities,
but the Lord rescues him from them all.
(Psalm 34:15-19)*

Conclusion

*Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee
from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.
Cleanse your hands, sinners, and purify your hearts, you
double-minded. Be miserable and mourn and weep. Let
your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.
Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.
(James 4:7-10)*

'Draw near': approach, be at hand, a deliberate act of will.
The Greek form used here calls for an immediate response
i.e. turn away from earthly pleasure, distractions
(2 Chronicles 15:2; Zechariah 1:3).

Bibliography: NKJV Lucado Encouraging Word Bible; Spirit Filled Life Bible; New Bible
Commentary; The Surpassing Value of Knowing Christ, Beth Moore