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## Psalm 62

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Psalm 62.

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### Topics.

- God is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.
- How long will you batter a man like a leaning wall and a tottering fence?
- On God rests my salvation; my glory; my mighty rock and my refuge.
- Those of low estate are a breath; those of high estate are a delusion.
- If riches increase, set not your heart on them.
- Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: power belongs to God?
- God will render to everyone according to their work.

**FOR INFORMATION:** concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

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### INTRODUCTION

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Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

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### BOOK TWO (PSALM 42-72)

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### PSALM 62:1-2

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To the Choirmaster: according to Jeduthun. A Psalm of David.

#### **God is My Rock, My Salvation, My Fortress; I shall not be Shaken.**

- **Psalm 62:1-2:** For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.  
<sup>2</sup>He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress (defence in KJV); I shall not be greatly shaken.

**Rock:** comes from the Hebrew word (*tsuwr*) and literally means a rock, a boulder or a sharp rock or stone, a high and steep cliff. Figuratively it carries the idea of a refuge as a place of shelter and protection. Symbolically it can refer to the Almighty God or His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Fortress/defence:** comes from the Hebrew word (*misgab*) literally it refers to a high cliff (or some other lofty or inaccessible place such as a high fort or tower (especially one that is inaccessible) and carries the idea of a safe and strong place of refuge and defence. Figuratively it means exalted, excellent, strong and set on high. David's faith was such that he gave up himself and all his affairs to God's will and wisdom and kept himself open to accept God's ways upon his life (whether they were blessing or chastisement). His heart was fixed in trusting in God only God could be His Rock and his salvation therefore he looked above all things to Him. He knew God would save him to eternal life and because of this

confidence trusted everything else to God's will, knowing come what may all would turn to his salvation. As David's faith moved toward an unshaken steadfastness in God's steadfast love and grace his relationship with God moved to greater levels of joy and trust and hope and peace.

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## PSALM 62:3-4

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### How long will you Batter a Man like a Tottering Fence?

- **Psalms 62:3-4:** How long will all of you attack a man to batter him, like a leaning wall (a bowing wall in KJV) a tottering fence? <sup>4</sup>They only plan to thrust him down from his high position. They take pleasure in falsehood. They bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse. *Selah*

**Selah:** is a musical pause.

David asks, "How long would his enemies continue to show their determined purpose to remove him from the throne and take his life." He is basically saying will this rage against me ever come to an end, will their persecution never cease, which implies that his enemies had been expressing their desire to see his downfall for some time. Some scholars believe the enemy in focus is King Saul when he sought David's life and who was later slain by the Philistines with all those aligned to him (1 Samuel 31). Others feel the enemy is Absalom and his followers who made various attempts upon David's life, but who the enemy is, we are not told in the Psalm so the principals we learn from it can be applied to any enemy that comes against the faithful and the innocent.

**A bowing wall:** a wall that bows out, or swells out; a wall that may fall at any moment. The expression, "The wall is bowing," was a common Eastern proverb said of a man at the point of death while a tottering wall carries the idea of a very decayed fence or weak wall that is at the point of collapse.

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**Like a leaning and bowing wall and a tottering fence:** (v3) following are the two most common interpretations of these words:

1. David and those with him is the leaning and bowing wall and the tottering fence. Before his enemies David feels like he could be suddenly and easily overthrown like a ruined decayed wall and a broken tottering fence that is about to fall. The bowing wall and tottering fence is expressing David's weakness against powerful enemies which had the potential to destroy him as easily as it would be to destroy a tottering fence or bowing wall.
2. David's enemies are the leaning and bowing wall and the tottering fence. The expression refers to the sudden and certain destruction of David's enemies being as easy as it is to destroy a leaning and bowing wall and a tottering fence. The idea is that David's enemies would be defeated in their purpose, as a wall that has no solid foundation tumbles to the ground. The meaning could be paraphrased in the following manner, "How long will you attack a man, that you may put him to death? All of you shall be as a bowing wall and a tottering fence you will not accomplish your wicked purposes, but will instead fall as a wall without strength falls to the ground."

**They take pleasure in falsehood:** (v4) these enemies of David's speak words to flatter and charm David to appear as his friend, but inwardly are not only desiring his downfall, but actually plotting how they can bring ruin upon him and have him killed, they bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse, meaning they have an evil agenda against him.

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## PSALM 62:5-8

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**On God rests My Salvation; My Glory; My Rock and My Refuge.**

- **Psalm 62:5-8:** For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. <sup>6</sup>He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. <sup>7</sup>On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God. <sup>8</sup>Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. *Selah*

Three times David says, "God only is my rock" (v2, 6, 7) it mattered not to David what his circumstance were (good or bad) God was always the Rock of His heart and God's Spirit and love was what sustained Him and what he most sought after. David's was a king who had abundant riches and wealth, a harem of the most beautiful women and was a mighty warrior, a man full of courage who faced the most horrific bloodthirsty battles and yet within was not only a humble man before God whose greatest treasure was God's love dwelling within his heart and mind, but also a man who was deeply hurt and remorseful when convicted of any sin he had committed before God. Whether David was prospering and full of joy; in despair and depression; surrounded by his enemies; lying on his bed suffering the pain of sickness or facing death he always spoke honestly to God of how he felt, and always ends his Psalms, his prayers and his petitions with praising the name of the LORD, the Most High God the foundation of his life and Rock of his heart and mind..

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## PSALM 62:9

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### Those of Low Estate are a Breath; of High Estate a Delusion.

- **Psalm 62:9:** Those of low estate are but a breath; those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.

The King James Bible says:

- **Psalm 62:9:** Surely men of low degree *are* vanity, *and* men of high degree *are* a lie: to be laid in the balance, they *are* altogether *lighter* than vanity.

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**Low:** comes from the Hebrew word (*shaphel*) and means, to be depressed, to be made or sink low, to be abased, degraded, belittled and brought down. It carries the idea of being humiliated in circumstances or in nature and character.

**High:** comes from the Hebrew word (*'iysh*) and refers to a man as an individual especially a champion, a great and mighty man and a man of high degree.

**Vanity:** comes from the Hebrew word (*hebel*) and means emptiness, to lead astray, to be vain in act, word, or expectation, to be transitory, fleeting, short-lived, and passing and carries the idea of being unsatisfactory, substandard, disappointing and insufficient.

**Those of low degree and estate:** (v9) refers to the humble the poor and the lower classes.

**Those of high estate:** (v9) refers to those of exalted rank, kings, princes, nobles and the rich and wealthy.

The words, "They are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath" (v9) means, if it was possible to take a set of balances and put both those of low degree and those of high degree together in the scale on one side and vanity in the scale on the other side the scale with those of high and low degree on it would rise while the scale on the other side with vanity on it would go down, meaning the scale with vanity on it would be heavier than the scale with those of high and low degree on it. The idea carried here is that all of mankind without God whether powerful, rich or noble or lowly and poor are all vanity. This is because all is fleeting, short-lived, and passing and no one has the power to save another to eternal life and all are destined to decay and the darkness of the grave. The Bible teaches that from the one man Adam

God made every nation of mankind to live on the face of the earth (Acts 17:26) and the book of Ecclesiastes teaches that all that mankind does under the sun is vanity (Eccles. 1:14) which by implication means that all mankind are feeble, vulnerable defenceless creatures in themselves in that all are destined to decay and death and none can save themselves to eternal life. This is the reason David exhorts all mankind to trust in God, because there is no other person that can be safely trusted, for the following reasons:

1. Men of high degree are a lie and deceitful in that they are unable to perform by their power and dignity what they promise. They raise expectations and afterward disappoint and so deceive those that trust in them when they do not give what they promise. This does not mean that they are always false and deceitful, but that the power which they wield is unworthy to be relied on.
2. All mankind is vain no one in the entire human race has power to save us. All the kings of the earth with all their hosts of war, all princes and nobles with all that they can summon from the lower ranks of their people, cannot save one man or woman from death or deliver anyone from the consequences of their transgressions only God and God alone has this power.

**To be laid in the balance:** means take a true estimate of mankind (and ourselves) calmly deliberate and quietly judge not by nobleness, power, fame, richness nor by appearance, but by character, integrity and promises and the verdict will record that all are unworthy of our trust since no one amongst the entire human race has power to save to eternal life, yet despite this truth the universal view that almost all mankind prefers is to put their trust in the arm of the flesh rather than the power of the invisible, immortal Almighty God the creator of all things and source of all life.

- Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. (Jer. 17:5).

Trust in the elite, the educated and the intelligent for salvation is foolishness because not one of them no matter how educated or intelligent has control over life or any power to deliver from the grave and save to eternal life. Whoever promises they have is a walking lie, because they promise something they cannot deliver and, in the end, when relied upon, yield nothing but disappointment.

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## PSALM 62:10

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### **If Riches Increase, Set not your Heart on Them.**

- **Psalms 62:10:** Put no trust in extortion; set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, set not your heart on them.

Trusting in extortion carries the idea of trusting in one's own power to pressure another to conform to their will it might be by verbal authority, deception and lies or by power and might (i.e. war). Robbery obviously embraces theft, but also includes perverting justice for one's own advantage and oppressing the poor for one's own gain. If riches increase through honest work as the result of industry or commercial success those who gain by it should take care that they are not be unduly elated by their prosperity or fix their love upon the wealth they have been blessed with since it is difficult (not impossible) for the flesh (human nature) to have riches and not to trust in them as they increase. To bow an immortal spirit down to fading possessions of the world and allow the image and superscription of Caesar to deprive us of communion with Christ who is the image of the invisible immortal Almighty God is extreme foolishness indeed. All the wealth and honour of the whole world has no power to save to eternal life only those who lack wisdom would give up the joy of

obtaining an immortal soul to the fleeting pleasure of worldly riches. There is nothing wrong with wealth gained by lawful and honest means, but all who gain such wealth must take care that they do not set their affections unduly upon them. A world full of luxury and leisure is most enticing to draw the heart from God on whom alone it should be set.

Korah in his Psalm wrote:

- For when man dies he will carry nothing away; his glory will not go down after him. (Psalm 49:17).

Those that trust in riches have foolish confidence, because no-one can ransom another person life with money. No-one can give to God the price of his or her own life because the ransom of eternal life is costly and no amount of money can ever suffice for it, so no-one has the power to lengthen their days. The Bible states:

- Man in his pomp yet without understanding is like the beasts that perish. (Psalm 49:20).

All who deny God die as the beast of the field dies. A man wisely said, "I have never seen a Hurst transporting the coffin of a corpse with a trailer attached and full of the deceased person's material possessions." I myself live in a downstairs unit. When the man above me died, a tip truck was backed up to the balcony of his upstairs unit and all the possessions were thrown into the tray of the truck most of the items smashing into little pieces as they hit the steel floor of the tray. These broken and worthless pieces were then taken to the smelly fires of the rubbish dump. These two simple examples clearly show the vanity of labouring and building our entire life solely on the temporary things of this world and giving no thought or time to God.

**NOTE:** this does not mean it is wrong for Christians to be rich and wealthy, there are many men and woman who have been very successful in their particular line of work, they do all their business deals honestly and with integrity and treat their staff justly and because of their success they have resources that are able to support others extend the Kingdom of God and help the poor. The focus of this Psalm is on those who give God no place in their heart, mind and thoughts and instead build their life upon what they achieve, own and possess and put all their trust in their riches and wealth and use it for their own selfish indulgences.

Money is not sinful or evil it can be used for good or for bad, to help the poor or to corrupt a king. It is the purpose it is used for that determines whether the money is good or bad, not the money itself. Nevertheless, though money can be used for great good and to extend the Kingdom of God our heart and mind must be set solely upon trusting wholly in God at all times which means we are to trust Him during:

1. Seasons of blessing, joy and laughter.
2. Seasons of grief and sorrow.
3. Seasons of hardships and troubles.

During all these three different seasons we are to always walk before God in faith and not only praise and thank Him, but also approach Him in prayer laying out our wants and our wishes and then patiently submitting our wills to His. This is pouring out our hearts to Him.

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## PSALM 62:11-12

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**Once God has Spoken; Twice have I Heard Power belongs to God.**

- **Psalm 62:11-12:** Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God. <sup>12</sup>and that to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love. For you will render to a man according to his work.

God has spoken once proclaiming that all power belongs to Him. So absolute and unchanging is God that he need not speak twice, as though he had changed. God has spoken through the host of heaven, (i.e., the moon, sun and stars etc.) and through all of creation the beasts of the earth, the birds of the air and the fish of the oceans, the birds, fish and of course through the creation of Adam and Eve and through His mighty miracles and wonders spoken of in the Bible and through His Son and His word which never changes.

**David wrote:**

- The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. <sup>2</sup>Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. <sup>3</sup>There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. <sup>4</sup>Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun (Psalm 19:1-14).

Not only does power to create and destroy, to judge and save belong to God alone, but also mercy also belongs to Him, no other can forgive sin and deliver from death and save to eternal life. Without God's mercy His Holiness, His power and His holy judgment would crush us, but God's mercy like His power endures forever. He is so full of mercy that He is ever present ready to shower all who come to Him with His steadfast love grace and mercy. God speaks once He never changes, but we do so we need to hear continually we do this through fellowship with others who belong to the family of Christ, through his eternal word, through meditation upon the Lord and through prayer.

**God will render to everyone according to their work:** (v12) this is the righteous judgment of God it matters not whether a person is a king, a ruler of a nation, famous, rich or noble or whether they are lowly and poor God shows no favouritism and is not influenced by a person's status, but judges each man and woman according to their works. The Judge of all the earth will judge all mankind according to wicked works, violence inflicted upon the innocent, oppression of the poor and how we stand against Jesus command to love our neighbour as ourselves.

**David's faith:** as much as David wanted his mortal life to flow smoothly, he held his salvation in God as the highest value and greatest blessing that he possessed. He knew if all else failed God in His steadfast love and grace would raise him up to immortality and everlasting happiness, joy, peace and eternal glory. It is very much like a billionaire approaching a poor person and telling them in ten years-time you will inherit one billion dollars. Obviously the poor person would like to have some of the money to spend over the next ten years, but if they don't they are not going to be disappointed, because they know and have confidence that regardless of what happens financially over the next ten years they are going to be a multi-millionaire and live their life out in absolute wonder and beauty, this was David's attitude toward eternal life.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*