

Psalm 63

"A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah."

Rashi - When David was fleeing from Saul.

The connection to the Exodus reading is his mention of the sanctuary (the Tabernacle at Shiloh) and the *kanaph* - wings of the cherubim over the Mercy Seat.

Psalm 63:1 - "O God (*Elohim*), thou art my God (*El*); early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;"

Elohim - God of creation; *El* - more the God of strength and might. i.e. speaking not only as a creature, but as one who trusts in His might.

Targum - thou art my strength

"thirsteth" = *tsame'* - to thirst, to desire eagerly

"thirsty" = *`ayeph* - faint, exhausted, weary, languishing.

The word used to describe Esau's condition when returning from his hunt in Genesis 25:29-30.

The wilderness of Judea reflected David's own inner condition.

longeth = *kâmahh* - to pine for something, to become pale, to faint with longing or desire. (The only time this word is used in the Bible).

Spiritual Thirst

- **Matthew 5:6** - "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

- **Isaiah 55:1** - "Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk Without money and without cost."

- **John 7:37** - "On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood up and called out in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink."

- **John 4:14** - "But whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a fount of water springing up to eternal life."

- **Psalm 107:9** - "For He has satisfied the thirsty soul, And the hungry soul He has filled with what is good."

Psalm 63:2 - "To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary."

Rashi - in the Sanctuary, the Tabernacle of Shiloh. My soul will be sated with the visions of Your strength and Your glory.

Psalm 63:3-4 - "Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name."

"lovingkindness" = *cheved* - mercy, love, kindness, constant abiding favor, goodness, "loyal love" as in the NET; from a root that means eager and ardent desire toward something.

- **Hebrews 2:14-15** - "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

Death looms over humanity, and has since the fall. God's mercy and love are "better" than life. That can only mean that he gives not only "abundant" life, but eternal life - life in "*olam*" eternity, outside of time.

- **1 Corinthians 15:19** - "If we have hoped in Christ only for this life, we are of all men most to be pitied."

- **John 10:28** - "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."

Psalm 63:5-6 - "My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips: When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches."

"marrow and fatness" = choice meat and fatness - fertility, abundance

Psalm 63:7 - "Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice."

wings = *kanaph* - once again, the skirt of a garment, thrown over someone as a covenant of protection and betrothal. - Also, on the mercy seat between the wings of the cherubim.

[See **Psalm 61:4**, **Psalm 91:4**, **Ruth 2:12** and **3:9**, **Revelation 7:15**]

Psalm 63:7 - "My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me."

"followeth hard after thee" = *dabaq* - to follow, cling to, adhere to like glue, pursue closely as if joined.

Like the Bride to the Bridegroom:

- **Genesis 2:24** - "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave (*dabaq*) unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

upholdeth = *tamak* - uphold, support, sustain, follow close to help, adhere.

Rashi - that I should not fall.

Both words imply being joined together - but we as believers are trying to follow the Lord by faith, while he is empowering, sustaining and supporting us in that very pursuit.

- **Isaiah 41:10** - "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold (*tamak*) thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

Psalm 63:9-10 - "But those that seek my soul, to destroy it, shall go into the lower parts of the earth. They shall fall by the sword: they shall be a portion for foxes."

Rashi - May their dwellings be destroyed, that foxes [jackals] should walk there.

Psalm 63:11 - "And may the king rejoice with God; may all who swear by Him boast, for the mouth of those who speak lies will be closed."

Rashi - "And may the king rejoice": He says this about himself because he had already been anointed. (See **1 Samuel 16:13**)

Rashi - "will be closed": will be closed up, as (**Genesis 8:2**) - "The fountains of the great deep... were closed."

Similarly, we can call for the lies and deceptions that come against faith within our own thoughts to be shut up and stopped.