

Only God can satisfy your longing. Are you content in Christ and his completed work???

My Soul Thirsts for You

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

This is part of the canon of scripture; it's not just a subheading, we treat this like it's part of scripture, so a good question to ask is when was David in the wilderness and specifically when was he in the wilderness of Judah?

This helps us have a good context of when was David in the wilderness and what he was going through. There are 2 times that David found himself in the wilderness of Judah both times he was being chased, and in both cases they were trying to murder him. The 1st time it was King Saul, the 2nd time it was his own son Absalom who is trying to kill him. So it's good to be king as they say..... Psalm 63 was written after David was king so it was the 2nd time he was in the wilderness of Judah when he fled from Absalom

Background on Absalom

2 Samuel 14:25 describes him as the most handsome man in the kingdom. Absalom, David's third son, by Maacah, was born in [Hebron](#).^[5] At an early age, he moved, along with the transfer of the capital, to [Jerusalem](#), where he spent most of his life. **He was a great favorite of his father and of the people.** His charming manners, personal beauty, insinuating ways, love of pomp, and royal pretensions captivated the hearts of the people from the beginning. He lived in great style, drove in a magnificent chariot, and had fifty men run

before him.

So Absalom his own son (2 Samuel. chapters 16-18) who is trying to murder him.... Family Drama.... So this is written as David is fleeing from Absalom and his men (which were all the fighting men in the kingdom) that are trying to hunt him down and kill him. So David can not rest. He is constantly running, hiding, worrying, anxious about his enemies chasing him down, he can not rest, there is no reprieve for him. He is weary, tired, anxious, fearful, wondering what he could have done differently to avoid this outcome. With this in mind he writes the 63rd Psalm... So here we go...

1 O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

2 So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

3 Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. **4** So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.

5 My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,

6 when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

7 for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.

8 My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

9 But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of

the earth;

10 they shall be given over to the power of the sword; they shall be a portion for jackals.

11 But the king shall rejoice in God; all who swear by him shall exult, for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

1.Seek Him

Psalm 63: 1-2

1 O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

2 So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

1.This is good poetry, remember this is what the Psalms are poetry, Lord I am thirsty, I am ready to pass out, I am dehydrated, and by the way this is a desert there is no water, What a great place to be right?? He is in desperate need, he is in need right now, he needs an answer now. But notice what he needs, what he is searching for, **earnestly I seek you, my soul thirsts for**

you; my flesh faints for you, He is in distress but he looks to God, he seeks God, not physical need. When he is being chased by his enemies he looks to God for his satisfaction. Help if you need it quickly and that's what David is communicating here he's in desperate need of a mirror of his experience in the wilderness. David would know a thing or two about this sort of desperation and did you notice what does he say he needs, nothing about water he's not talking about food what is he searching for in his present distress what is he speaking of, he says earnestly I Seek You My Soul thirsts For You My Flesh faints for you God in a dry and weary land where there is no water he's being pursued by people trying to kill him in the wilderness.

2. What David believes he needs more than anything is God that's what I loved about the Psalm that is why it's one of my favorite Psalms because this really catches me off-guard cuz when I think about what I Turn to for comfort in times of suffering God's lucky if he's on that list to be quite honest. When I turn to God in times of trouble I treat it like some sort of divine vending machine give me the controls so I can make my circumstances little bit easier to deal with that's a prayer. earnestly I Seek You God my soul thirsts for you my questions for you so ask yourself what is it the comfort you in times of trouble what you seek out when you are facing adversity our American culture is built on this idea that you can weather any difficulty and satisfy every need if only

you've got the right stuff, better stuff, or different stuff to make problems and inconveniences in your life a little bit better a little easier to weather the storm that's how companies sell you stuff all the time, the problem is some longing unfulfilled want, you say better stuff problem solved. I saw a couple weeks ago and a car commercial it was terrifying because it's a man driving his car around a neighborhood, he's not really paying attention, looking at a iOS calendar or something whatever people do when they sit at green lights always distracted, someone is actually walking across the crosswalk he has no idea just at the moment right before he's by the rack up a nice manslaughter charge his car Slams on the brakes for him and it's like Hyundai, you know what they're saying everything you have a problem with is solved, but you on the verge of like almost murdering people with your car all the time that sounds so stressful and to be jailed sounds stressful and to Have to deal with that, you think better stuff so you do not have to deal with that sort of inconvenience. There is always a 2.0, there's always a new edition, there's always something better. Saint Augustine's commentary on Psalm 63 over sixteen hundred years ago the same problem exists in his culture he says it: longings there are in the hearts of men one Longs for gold, another longs for silver, another longs for possessions, another inheritance, another abundance of money, another many herds, another life, another honors, another Sons. You see these longings, they are in the hearts of men

inflamed with longing. Scarce is found one to say my soul thirsts for you, forget this world, I seek after you not my comforts but your will.

2.Praise Him

3 Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. **4** So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.

A. David at this point is a King (at one point a shepherd boy)and he is confident in who God is. He understands that God will see him through this and every tough situation.

B. What does meditating on his steadfast love produce?
Worship

- Sometimes we think that being too intellectual will stifle the spirit of worship. I would say that it actually makes you want to worship more because the more you know about how great God is the more you worship his Greatness.
- So David in the pit of despair says “ your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you”. We need to see where David is here, hiding in the desert from his son who has won favor with the people and is at this point more powerful than the true king which was David.

David is Content to praise and worship God, he understands that his current problems do not change the need for him to worship his creator. He has already been through lions, bears, giants, Philistines, King Saul, and multiple battles of conquest. He knew who God is!

C. I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. The most important thing he can do here is recognize his need for God, If he goes out on his own strength he probably dies.

3. Be Satisfied with/by Him

5 My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will

praise you with joyful lips,

6 when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

1. David is in the desert he doesn't have the comforts that he is used to (he was a king and I bet we have it better) there is no food or at least not "fat rich food" (some food story) there is little to no water (he is in a desert) MY SOUL WILL BE SATISFIED! It doesn't matter the circumstances are horrible there is no rest he is massively outnumbered his life is almost over,

2. If we were taking odds on this contest it would be like Buster

Douglas vs Mike Tyson....50-1 Tyson wins, but that's not what happened. Buster Douglas pulled off one of if not the biggest upset in sports odds history. And if we were looking at this without God we would say David is done, no chance for him and a few tribes vs the entire kingdom. Look and see he the king of the land had to take watches in the night so his army was small. Night time was the best time to surprise your enemy and David knows this there is no rest yet David is worshiping God. He sees the Giant in front of him and says my God will win.....

4. Recognize Him

7 For you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy. **8** My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me. **9** But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of the earth; **10** they shall be given over to the power of the sword; they shall be a portion for jackals. **11** But the king shall rejoice in God; all who swear by him shall exult, for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

1. David verbally acknowledges God's provision for him he says yes Lord I see you. I get it. I know that you are

my keeper, my refuge as David Bashore spoke of last week.

2. God has been David's help, he has upheld David from the beginning and David knows this and clings to God and worships him even more. David has a long history of God meeting his needs and David clings to God even more. David understands that he has never held himself up, God has the whole time.... "your right hand upholds me" his stronghand? (so maybe God is right handed...)

3. If you take credit for all the things that God has done for you your eyes will be closed to the grace of God. You will not be able to worship because you think you did it all in your own

power. God upholds you, it's not you or your abilities. If you are anxious, nervous, worried about outcomes it may be because it's always been up to you. You are not recognizing that God carried you to this point and your reaction to your circumstances are met with fear because you believe you got yourself to this point. That's a lot of pressure because you control nothing, you can not uphold yourself.

4. Vs 9 the 1st mention of his enemy and David says his enemy will not win his enemy will go down into the depths of the earth. His enemies trust in themselves but David trusts in God's steadfast love and David rejoices in God. That's quite the contrast between an enemy trusting in their own numbers

and strength vs David's small army that knows they can't win, but God will uphold them in their time of need.

5. The enemy, Absalom, thinks they are so glorious but they are not. They actually become animal food, being eaten by jackals. How often does it look like the circumstances we are up against are so large that there is no way we can get through. And you are right you can not get through in your own power, but when we learn to run to God the only satisfaction for our soul and rest in him we will overcome.

6. A fateful [battle](#) was fought in the [Wood of Ephraim](#) (the name suggests a locality west of the Jordan) and Absalom's army was completely routed.^[19] When Absalom fled from David's army, his head was caught in the boughs of an oak tree as the mule he was riding ran beneath it. He was discovered there still alive by one of David's men, who reported this to [Joab](#), the king's commander. Joab, accustomed to avenging himself, took this opportunity to even the score with Absalom.^[20] Absalom had once set Joab's field of barley on fire^[21] and then made Amasa Captain of the Host instead of Joab. Killing Absalom was

against David's explicit command, "Beware that none touch the young man Absalom". Joab injured Absalom with three darts through the heart and Absalom was subsequently killed by ten of Joab's armor-bearers.^[22]

When David heard that Absalom was killed, although not how he was killed, he greatly sorrowed.

O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!

— 2 Sam 18:33

Applying the Word

Am I content?

Where do/should I look to be satisfied? Who is upholding me?

Do I trust God?... I mean really trust God.