

PSALMS

Chapter 108

With God We Shall Do Valiantly

A Song. A Psalm of David.

My heart is steadfast, O God! I will sing and make melody with all my being! 2 Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn! 3 I will give thanks to you, O LORD, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations. 4 For your steadfast love is great above the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the clouds. 5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth! 6 That your beloved ones may be delivered, give salvation by your right hand and answer me! 7 God has promised in his holiness: “With exultation I will divide up Shechem and portion out the Valley of Succoth. 8 Gilead is mine; Manasseh is mine; Ephraim is my helmet, Judah my scepter. 9 Moab is my washbasin; upon Edom I cast my shoe; over Philistia I shout in triumph.” 10 Who will bring me to the fortified city? Who will lead me to Edom? 11 Have you not rejected us, O God? You do not go out, O God, with our armies. 12 Oh grant us help against the foe, for vain is the salvation of man! 13 With God we shall do valiantly; it is he who will tread down our foes.

Ps 108 Praise of God’s love, and prayer for his help against the enemies—a combination (with very slight modifications) of 57:7–11 and 60:5–12. For a similar composition of a new psalm by combination of portions from several psalms see 1Ch 16:8–36. The celebration of the greatness of God’s love (v. 4) links this psalm thematically with Ps 103 (see 103:11). See introduction to Ps 101. (CSB)

Drawn from 57:7–11 and 60:5–12, with a few variations. Each of these psalms of David was a response to stress (being hunted in 57 and being defeated in 60). Ps 108 combines the sections that emphasize God’s help. Interpreters are not sure why these two psalms are pieced together here. The psalm may reflect an unresolved problem with Edom following the exile. Edom had rejoiced at the downfall of Judah (137:7).

Format: Vv 1–4, intent to praise God’s steadfast love; vv 5–6, call for deliverance; vv 7–9, triumph for Israel; vv 10–13, prayer for help for the armies. (TLSB)

As it is rearranged here, this psalm has become a praise for God’s past acts of deliverance, a prayer for such deliverance in the future, and a statement of confidence in God’s help. (PBC)

108 of David. Both sources (Ps 57; 60) were credited to him. (CSB)

108:1–5 Praise of God’s love, possibly intended to function here as an expression of trust in God (the God of vv. 7–9, 11), to whom appeal is to be made (vv. 6, 12). (CSB)

His praise will be no simple word of thanks, but a celebration in the sanctuary. (A Commentary on the Psalms - Ross)

108:6–13 Prayer for God’s help against enemies. (CSB)

Though the Lord had chastened Israel for their sins, he had not abandoned them. He delivered them because of his covenant. He had helped them conquer all the areas of the land which he had promised to them, and he had helped them defeat the enemies who surrounded them. If he had done this, he would not forsake them in their present distress. With him they would gain the victory. (PBC)

Ps 108 From time to time, old defeats come back to haunt us. Perhaps a future challenge reminds us of a past failure. At times like this, we remember that God, who delivered us in the past, is with us in the present and the future. • O Lord, Satan would remind me of my past failures. Forgive all my sins—past, present, and future. “Keep steady my steps according to Your promise, and let no iniquity get dominion over me” (119:133). Amen. (TLSB)