

Daily Encouragement from Gordon – Tuesday 26th May

Psalm 60

For the director of music. To the tune of 'The Lily of the Covenant'. A miktam of David. For teaching. When he fought Aram Naharaim and Aram Zobah, and when Joab returned and struck down twelve thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt.

Losing battles make David feel that God is no longer with them (v1, v10). But still he comes confidently to the God who is in control and will glorify his name.

- 1 You have rejected us, God, and burst upon us;
you have been angry – now restore us!
- 2 You have shaken the land and torn it open;
mend its fractures, for it is quaking.
- 3 You have shown your people desperate times;
you have given us wine that makes us stagger.
- 4 But for those who fear you, you have raised a banner
to be unfurled against the bow.

God chooses weak things to show the world his greatness. Our frailty is part of his plan. We rally under his banner.

- 5 Save us and help us with your right hand,
that those you love may be delivered.

6 God has spoken from his sanctuary:

The ultimate authority and power - God has spoken! He still speaks to us, and we can rely on his word

'In triumph I will parcel out Shechem
and measure off the Valley of Sukkoth.

- 7 Gilead is mine, and Manasseh is mine;
Ephraim is my helmet,
Judah is my sceptre.

8 Moab is my washbasin,
on Edom I toss my sandal;

over Philistia I shout in triumph.'

Stephen Fry's biography is titled 'Moab is my washpot' (from the Authorised Version). I think he's trying to joke about the Bible not making sense. But actually this is a very clear picture of victory over David's enemies. 'I wash my feet in the dirty bowl'

- 9 Who will bring me to the fortified city?
Who will lead me to Edom? The enemy's stronghold
- 10 Is it not you, God, you who have now rejected us
and no longer go out with our armies?
- 11 Give us aid against the enemy,
for human help is worthless.

Even when we think we are failures, we can trust God, and only God to lead us

- 12 With God we shall gain the victory,
and he will trample down our enemies.

One with God is a majority.

Gordon

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