

## Psalm 64

In the Exodus 30 reading, atonement is mentioned in relation to the horns of the incense altar, "the mercy seat that is over the testimony, where I will meet with thee" and the half-shekel redemption money. This psalm exposes the "inward parts" of our fallen humanity and why atonement (and washing in the Laver) is necessary.

### Daniel?

The rabbis said David wrote this psalm about Daniel. David foresaw with the holy spirit all that would happen to him [Daniel], and prayed for him, because Daniel was his descendant. The enemies and their evil plots refer to Daniel's situation in the palace in Babylon.

- **Daniel 6:5**: "Then the viziers and the satraps sought to find a pretext against Daniel."

This of course could be said about Jesus as well. In effect, then, this psalm is universal for believers of any age.

**Psalm 64:1-2** - O God, in my prayer: preserve my life from fear of the enemy. Hide me from the secret counsel of the wicked; from the insurrection of the workers of iniquity:

David was looking around at secret enemies seeking to bring him down. Spiritually, we need to look inward at our own secret, hidden (subconscious?) self-seeking agendas that seek to persecute Christ within us.

"insurrection" = *riqshâh* - violent uproar of the crowd, i.e. the outworking of the secret counsels.

The Scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees plotted, resulting in the "Crucify him, crucify him!" of the crowd.

- **Galatians 5:17** - "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would."

**Psalm 64:3** - "Who whet their tongue like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows, even bitter words:"

The mental process of preparing to deliver slanderous or hurtful words is perfectly described here. We relish the process of pulling back the bow in anticipation of delivering the arrow.

"bitter words" and voices cast doubt on and slander God's ability, his sovereignty and his love.

Psalm 64:4 - "That they may shoot in secret at the perfect: suddenly do they shoot at

him, and fear not.”

“The perfect” = “the morally upright “ (Christ).

The Targum paraphrases, “they stretch out their bows, they anoint their arrows with deadly and bitter poison.”

**Psalm 64:5** - "They encourage themselves in an evil matter: they commune of laying snares privately; they say, Who shall see them?"

- **Isaiah 29:15** - “Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the LORD, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us?”

**Psalm 64:6** - "They search out iniquities; they accomplish a diligent search: both the inward thought of every one of them, and the heart, is deep."

Jewish translation: "They seek pretexts; they have completed a diligent search, hidden within man and in the depths of the heart."

"hidden within man" - showing the universal presence of this evil.

- **Jeremiah 17:9-10** - “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.”

i.e. they search out pretexts for accusations.

But God is victorious: **Psalm 64:7-10**

**Psalm 64:7** - "But God shall shoot at them with an arrow; suddenly shall they be wounded."

Jewish translation: "And God cast them down; their wounds were [like] a sudden arrow."

Rashi: "And God cast them down": He cast them into the lions' den, as it is written (**Daniel 6:25**): “And the king commanded, and they brought these men who had slandered Daniel, and they cast them into the lions' den, etc.”

[remember that **Exodus 30** ends with a promise that the disobedient "shall even be cut off from his people."]

But the righteous will be confident in God:

**verse 9** - "And all men shall fear, and shall declare the work of God"

**Psalm 64:10** - "The righteous shall be glad in the LORD, and shall trust in him; and all the upright in heart shall glory."

- **Galatians 6:14** - "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."