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Lesson 15: Psalm 27

Psalm 27

Author: David

Background: Possibly when David was on the run from Saul

Theme: David expresses confidence in God's protection, even though he is surrounded by his enemies.

Outline (*The outline comes from Wilmington's Outline Bible with additional notes from other resources as noted.*)

I. DAVID'S PRAISE (27:1-3): David trusts in the Lord to save him, strengthen him, and sustain him.

The phrases "my light" and "my salvation" mean essentially the same thing. "Light" and "salvation" (*yēšā'*) pertain to the work of God in giving relief and victory, crowning his people with his blessings¹

Moreover, God is likened to a "stronghold." The imagery of a stronghold (*mā'ôz*, "strength") is familiar in the OT (18:2; 28:8; 31:2, 4; 43:2; cf. "helmet" in 60:7; 108:8). He is the strength of his people, providing a place of refuge for them. The purpose of the stronghold is to protect those who seek refuge. Therefore the psalmist calls the Lord "the stronghold of

¹ Gaebelein, F. E., VanGemern, W., Ross, A. P., Wright, J. S., & Kinlaw, D. F. (1991). *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 5: Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (243). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

my life.”²

The LORD is my fortress, protecting me from danger,
so why should I tremble?³

“evil men” (v. 2) or “an army” (v. 3). The “evil men” are individual enemies in contrast with the national enemies (“my enemies,” “my foes”; cf. v. 3: “army,” “war”). The opposition and outright “war” do not touch him because his “heart” is strengthened by keeping a perspective on the Lord.⁴

Look at Romans 8:31–39.

II. DAVID’S PETITIONS (27:4–14): David asks God to grant him three requests:

A. **The Lord’s house** (27:4–6): David desires to be in the Temple, where he can worship the Lord in safety.

B. **The Lord’s haven** (27:7–10): David begs the Lord to hold him close. The depth of anxiety is expressed in “hear my voice” (v. 7; cf. 4:1; 5:2–3; 17:1; 28:2), “be merciful to me” (6:2; 26:11; 57:1), “do not hide your face” (v. 9; cf. 102:2; 143:7), and “do not turn ... do not reject” (38:22). The repetitious language communicates the intensity of the soul searching and the greatness of his need. He is praying for immediate deliverance out of the adversity (cf. 102:3; 143:7).⁵

C. **The Lord’s help** (27:11–14): David asks the Lord to show him how to live so he will not fall into his enemies’ hands.⁶

Regardless of who the enemies are, whether personal or national, they have arisen to undo the work of God. Their intent is only to destroy. At issue is whose “desire” will be granted: the psalmist’s or the enemies’?⁷

² Gaebelein, F. E., VanGemern, W., Ross, A. P., Wright, J. S., & Kinlaw, D. F. (1991). *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 5: Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (243). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

³ Tyndale House Publishers. (2004). *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. (2nd ed.) (Ps 27:1). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.

⁴ Gaebelein, F. E., VanGemern, W., Ross, A. P., Wright, J. S., & Kinlaw, D. F. (1991). *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 5: Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (244). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

⁵ Gaebelein, F. E., VanGemern, W., Ross, A. P., Wright, J. S., & Kinlaw, D. F. (1991). *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 5: Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (246). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.

⁶ Willmington, H. L. (1999). *The Outline Bible* (Ps 27). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.

⁷ Gaebelein, F. E., VanGemern, W., Ross, A. P., Wright, J. S., & Kinlaw, D. F. (1991). *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 5: Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs* (247). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.