

Psalm 27

"David's Confidence in and Dependence upon Yahweh, with Whom He Fellowship in the Sanctuary"

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A Psalm of David.

A1 AFFIRMATION: David's Expression of Confidence in Yahweh 27:1-6

B1 His Characterization of Yahweh 27:1

- C1 Light and Salvation, Negating Fear: {1} The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear?
- C2 Defense, Negating Dread: The LORD is the defense of my life; Whom shall I dread?

B2 His Triumph over Evil Enemies 27:2-3

- C1 The Stumbling of Devouring Adversaries: {2} When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh, My adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell. 27:2
- C2 His Statement of Confidence Despite the Prospect of Facing an Encamped Enemy Army 27:3
 - D1 {3} Though a host encamp against me, My heart will not fear;
 - D2 Though war arise against me, In *spite of* this I shall be confident.

B3 His Desire for Fellowship with Yahweh in His Sanctuary (Tent)¹ 27:4-6

- C1 His Yearning for Fellowship with Yahweh in the Sanctuary 27:4
- D1 Spending time with Yahweh in His house throughout his life: {4} One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek: That I may dwell² in the **house of the LORD** all the days of my life,
- D2 Beholding and meditating on Yahweh's goodness: To behold the beauty³ of the LORD And to meditate in His **temple**.
- C2 His Sense of Safety Because of His Association with the Sanctuary 27:5
- D1 {5} For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His **tabernacle**;
- D2 In the secret place of His **tent** He will hide me;
- D3 He will lift me up on a rock.
- C3 His Promise of Praise in the Sanctuary Because of Victory 27:6
- D1 His assurance of victory: {6} And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me,
- D2 His promise of praise
- E1 Offering thank offerings joyfully: And I will offer in His **tent** sacrifices with shouts of joy;
- E2 Singing praise: I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD.

¹ 27:4-6 - Sanctuary, Tent: David uses several words to describe the structure in which he delighted to meet Yahweh: house (*bayith* 1004) (v. 4); temple (*heykal* 1964) (v. 4); tabernacle (*cok* 5520) (v. 5); and tent (*ohel* 168) (twice -- vv. 5, 6). I am using the word sanctuary to denote the place of worship. Actually, the most accurate descriptive word is tent, for that is precisely what it was. The KJV often uses the phrase "tabernacle of the congregation," (Ex. 27:21) which the NASB more accurately, in my view, typically translates "tent of meeting."

² 27:4 - dwell: The word *yashab* (3427) properly means "to sit," though it is more often translated in an extended sense, "to live" or "dwell." Here, the word could easily be translated in its primary sense, "That I may sit in the house of the Lord all the days of my life."

³ 27:4 - beauty: The Heb. word *no'am* (5278) is translated elsewhere in both NASB and NIV "favor" or "pleasant." See, e.g., Ps. 90:17; Prov. 16:24; Zech. 11:7, 10. Strong further defines it as "agreeableness." So David here is not likely enthralled by Yahweh's beauty, so much as His goodness, even His grace, as the N. T. might put it. Since Yahweh is invisible, the "beholding" of which David speaks is explained as "meditating" in the latter part of the verse.

A2 PRAYER: David's Plaintive Request for Deliverance 27:7-12

B1 His Request for Yahweh to Hear: {7} Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice, And be gracious to me and answer me. 27:7

B2 His Request for Yahweh Not to Abandon Him 27:8-9a

C1 His Deliberate Seeking of Yahweh's Face: {8} *When You said*, "Seek My **face**," my heart said to You, "Your **face**, O LORD, I shall seek."

C2 His Plea for Yahweh Not to Hide His Face 27:9

D1 {9} Do not hide Your **face** from me,

D2 Do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help;

C3 His Plea to God Not to be Forsaken 27:9b-10

D1 His Plea: Do not abandon me nor **forsake** me, O God of my salvation! 27:9b

D2 His greater confidence in Yahweh than in his parents: {10} For my father and my mother have **forsaken**⁴ me, But the LORD will take me up. 27:10

B3 His Request for Yahweh's Instruction and Guidance 27:11

C1 Instruction: {11} Teach me Your way, O LORD,

C2 Guidance: And lead me in a level path Because of my foes.

B4 His Request for Preservation from His Enemies 27:12

C1 His Request Not to be Delivered to His Enemies: {12} Do not deliver me over to the desire of my adversaries,

C2 His Charge Against His Enemies

D1 False witnesses: For false witnesses have risen against me,

D2 Violence: And such as breathe out violence.

⁴ 27:10 - forsaken: NASB translates David's parents' forsaking him as actual; NIV and KJV translate the condition as hypothetical.

A3 TESTIMONY: David's Renewed Expression of Confidence in Yahweh 27:13-14

B1 His Own Personal Faith in Yahweh: *{13} I would have despaired* unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living.
27:13

B2 His Challenge to Israel to Wait for Yahweh 27:14

C1 Wait: *{14} Wait for the LORD;*

C2 Be Courageous: Be strong and let your heart take courage;

C3 Wait: Yes, wait for the LORD.

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 27

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