

Psalm 28

"David's Prayer for Judgment upon the Wicked; His Grateful Request for Blessing upon the Nation"

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A Psalm of David.

A1 DAVID'S PRAYER AGAINST THE WICKED 28:1-5

B1 David's General Call to Yahweh for a Hearing 28:1-2

C1 His Initial Call 28:1

D1 The Object of His Call:

E1 His Name: *{1}* To You, O LORD, I call;

E2 His Description of Stability: My rock,

D2 His Plea to be Heard: do not be deaf to me,

D3 His Fear: For if You are silent to me, I will become like those who go down to the pit.

C2 His Repeated Call 28:2

D1 The Urgency of His Cry: *{2}* Hear the voice of my supplications when I cry to You for help,

D2 The Direction of His Attention: When I lift up my hands toward Your holy sanctuary.¹

¹ 28:2 - holy (*qodesh* 6944) sanctuary (*debiyr* 1687): Charles Ryrie, *Ryrie Study Bible (RSB)*, refers this to the Holy of Holies. This is certainly possible, because the original tabernacle and altar of burnt offering prepared under Moses apparently remained in use at the high place of Gibeon, and David himself went there to seek counsel from God (1 Chron. 21:29). But David in Ps. 28:2 could also be speaking of a provisional tent in which he had placed the ark of the covenant when he brought it into Jerusalem early in his career as king (2 Sam. 6:17). Presumably both sites, Gibeon and Jerusalem, functioned as worship centers, at least until his terrifying encounter with the Angel of Yahweh convinced David that the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite was to be the site of the central sanctuary, and the altar he had constructed there was to take the place of the altar in Gibeon until Solomon could erect a permanent temple (1 Chron. 21:26 - 22:5). Why David, in all the intervening years, had not moved the Mosaic tabernacle and altar of burnt offering to Jerusalem is unclear. Perhaps the original tabernacle was in such disrepair that David felt he had no choice but to institute a new tent preparatory to building a permanent temple. The writer of Kings later uses the same words to designate the Holy of Holies, "the most holy place" (1 Kings 6:16), in which was placed the ark of the covenant (1 Kings 6:19) and the cherubim (1 Kings 6:23). (See also 1 Kings 8:6-8; 2 Chron. 5:7-9). *debiyr* is used only in 1 Kings, 2 Chronicles, and Psalm 28:2.

B2 David's Specific Request Regarding the Wicked 28:3-5

- C1 His Request for Preservation from the Judgment to Befall the Wicked: {3}
Do not drag me away with the wicked And with those who work iniquity,
28:3a
- C2 His Description of the Wicked: Who speak peace with their neighbors,
While evil is in their hearts. 28:3b
- C3 His Prayer for Judgment upon the Wicked 28:4
 - D1 {4} Requite them according to their work and according to the evil
of their practices;
 - D2 Requite them according to the deeds of their hands;
 - D3 Repay them their recompense.
- C4 His Assurance of Judgment upon the Wicked 28:5
 - D1 The Cause for Judgment
 - E1 {5} Because they do not regard the works of the LORD
 - E2 Nor the deeds of His hands,
 - D2 The Nature of the Judgment: He will tear them down and not build
them up.

A2 DAVID'S PRAISE FOR ANSWERED PRAYER 28:6-8

- B1 His Blessing of Yahweh for Answered Prayer! {6} Blessed be the LORD,**
Because He has heard the voice of my supplication.
- B2 His Exultation in Yahweh for Answered Prayer 28:7**
 - C1 {7} The LORD is my strength and my shield;
 - C2 My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped;
 - C3 Therefore my heart **exults**, And with my song I shall thank Him.
- B3 His Testimony of Yahweh's Support of the Nation and the King 28:8**
 - C1 His Strengthening of the Nation: {8} The LORD is their strength,
 - C2 His Defense of the King: And He is a saving defense to His anointed.

A3 DAVID'S PRAYER FOR THE NATION 28:9

B1 For Salvation and Blessing: {9} Save Your people and bless Your inheritance;

B2 For Shepherding and Sustaining: Be their shepherd also, and carry them forever.

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 28
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November, 2009

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