

Psalm 64

David's Plea for Protection from Enemy Conspiracies; His Assurance Elohim Would Turn Their Plots Against Them

For the choir director. A Psalm of David.

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A1 THE PLEA TO ELOHIM FOR PROTECTION 64:1-2

B1 To Hear and Preserve 64:1

- C1 Hear His Complaint: *{1}* Hear my voice, O God, in my complaint;
- C2 Preserve Him from His Enemy: Preserve my life from dread of the enemy.

B2 To Hide Him from the Plot of Evildoers 64:2

- C1 Hiding Him from Their Conspiracy: *{2}* Hide me from the secret counsel of evildoers,
- C2 Hiding Him from Their Chaos: From the tumult of those who do iniquity,

A2 THE DESCRIPTION OF CONSPIRING EVILDOERS 64:3-6

B1 Their Preparation of Vindictive Speech to Ambush the Blameless 64:3-4

C1 Their Devising Hurtful Speech 64:3

- D1 Like a sharpened sword: *{3}* Who have sharpened their tongue like a sword.
- D2 Like an aimed arrow: They aimed bitter speech *as* their arrow,

C2 Their Sudden and Fearless Ambush of the Blameless 64:4

- D1 The concealment of their attack: *{4}* To shoot from concealment at the blameless;
- D2 The suddenness and fearlessness of their ambush: Suddenly they shoot at him, and do not fear.

B2 Their Discussion of Ensnaring with an Unjust, Well-Devised Plot 64:5-6

C1 Their Evil Discussion of Laying a Secret, Undetectable Snare 64:5

D1 Their mutual evil purpose: {5} They hold fast to themselves an evil purpose;

D2 Their strategy to ensnare: They talk of laying snares secretly;

D3 Their belief that their snares are undetectable by the victim beforehand or by law enforcement afterwards: They say, "Who can see them?"

C2 Their Diabolical Self-Congratulation on the Ingenuity of Their Unjust Plot 64:6

D1 Their devising injustice with a well-devised device!¹ {6} They devise injustices, *saying*, "We are ready with a well-conceived plot";

D2 David's reflection on the endemic diabolic perversity of man: For the inward thought and the heart of a man are deep.

A3 THE JUDGMENT OF ELOHIM AND ITS RESULTS 64:7-10

B1 The Description of His Judgment 64:7-8

C1 Poetic Justice -- Elohim's bow shot 64:7

D1 Divine archery: {7} But God will shoot at them with an arrow;²

D2 Sudden injury: Suddenly they will be wounded.

C2 Poetic Justice -- Their Stumbling Leaves Onlookers Stunned!

D1 Unexpected obstruction: {8} So they will make him stumble;³

D2 Boomeranging speech: Their own tongue is against them;

D3 Stunned onlookers: All who see them will shake the head.

¹ 64:6 - Title ("devise", etc.): a literal rendering of David's three-fold employment of the Hebrew root **שָׁפַח**.

² 64:7 - arrow: The arrow that the enemies shot at David (64:3) Elohim boomerangs back on them!

³ 64:8 - they will make him stumble: The translation is uncertain. From the rest of the verse, and the context, the meaning is that the words the evil-doers had spoken against David come back to injure them.

B2 The Beneficial Results of His Judgment 64:9-10

C1 For All Men 64:9

D1 Fear of Elohim: {9} Then all men will fear,

D2 Thoughtful declaration of Elohim's work

E1 And they will declare the work of God,

E2 And will consider what He has done.

C2 For the Righteous 64:10

D1 The righteous glad in Yahweh: {10} The righteous man will be glad in the LORD and will take refuge in Him;

D2 The upright glory in Yahweh: And all the upright in heart will glory.

EXPANDED ANALYSIS OF PSALM 64

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