

# Trust in Time of Trial

## *Psalm 62:1-12*

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Introduction: You have no doubt heard the expression, “Between a rock & a hard place.” Maybe you have found yourself there, in a time of physical affliction, financial hardship, family conflict, or spiritual persecution. This psalm was written by David, probably reflecting the time when he was fleeing from his own son, Absalom (same setting as Psalms 3 & 4?). In such a time as that, David demonstrates for us trust in the time of trial. The psalm falls naturally into 3 divisions, marked by the word “*Selah*.” We have noted previously that this word is variously translated as “rest, pause, reflect, or meditate.” Scroggie suggests these division speak of “Trust & adversity (:1-4); trust & security (:5-8); & trust & reality (:9-12). A key word of this psalm is the word “*only*” – found 6 times (translated as “*truly*” in verse one & “*surely*” in verse nine). With that in mind, I outline the psalm: “Redemption is in God alone (:1-4); reliance is upon God alone (:5-8); & reward is from God alone (:9-12). Whether right now or sometime in the near future we find ourselves between “a rock & a hard place,” may we find trust in time of trial.

### I. Redemption is in God alone (:1-4)

#### A. David’s waiting for the salvation of God (:1-2).

1. **Serene** waiting (in silence – the patient silence of a child of God):
  - a. God alone is his “*rock*” – refuge in the rocks when fleeing Absalom?
  - b. God alone is his “*salvation*” – deliverance; root word for “Joshua” & N.T. “Jesus.”
  - c. God alone is his “*defence*” – high fort; defiant tower.Summary: Compare Psalm 18:1-2.
2. **Secure** waiting – like a boat tied up at the dock; moves, yet is securely moored.

#### B. David’s warning to the enemies of God (:3-4).

1. His **plight**:
  - a. “*How long*” – not asking for information, but expressing that this has gone on too long.
  - b. He sees himself in a weakened condition, ready to collapse.
2. Their **plot**:
  - a. They “*consult*” to overthrow David.
  - b. They contrive lies (flattery of Absalom in II Samuel 15:3-6?).

“*Selah*” – “Here pause, & consider with astonishment the futile rancor of unholy men, & the perfect security of such as rest themselves upon the Lord” (Spurgeon).

### II. Reliance is upon God alone (:5-8)

#### A. David exhorts himself to wait upon God (:5-7) [compare verse 1 & 5].

1. His “*expectation*” of verse 5 is his “*salvation*” of verse 1.
2. “We expect from God because we believe in Him. Expectation is the child of prayer & faith, & is owned of the Lord as an acceptable grace” (Spurgeon).
3. Compare verse 2 with verse 6 > He said he would not be “*greatly moved* (shaken)” to not being shaken – “The greater the realization that God was his fortress, the greater the calmness in his heart” (Wiersbe).

#### B. David exhorts us all to trust in God (:8).

1. To see God as one’s refuge; trust Him always; pour out one’s heart in prayer.
2. “*Trust*” > To Rely Upon Someone Totally (to rest upon with all of one’s weight).

“Selah” – “Precious pause! Timely silence! Sheep may well lie down when such pasture is before them” (Spurgeon).

### III. **Reward** is from God alone (:9-12)

#### A. God’s evaluation of the sinner (:9-11).

1. The vanity of **prestige** or position > “*altogether lighter than vanity*” (compare Daniel 5:27, “...weighed in the balances & found wanting...”).
  - a. “*Men of low degree*” – literally, “sons of Adam,” speaking of weakness or frailty.
  - b. “*Men of high degree*” – literally, “sons of man,” speaking of nobility (cf. Psalm 49:2).
2. The vanity of **prosperity** > “*not vain in robbery: if riches increase...*” – warning about trusting in one’s wealth for security &/or salvation.

#### B. God’s examination of the saint (:11-12).

1. “*God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this...*”
  - a. Use of ascending numbers to express totality or certainty (cf. Amos 1-2; & Pro. 6:16).
  - b. “God has declared this once, & we should hear it twice; each ear should hear this one word, & hearing we should heed” (Scroggie).
2. “*For Thou renderest to every man according to his work.*”
  - a. God is keeping the books & the reward is up to Him.
  - b. “You will wonder then to see God recompensing you for doing what was your duty to do, & what was His work in you; giving you grace, & crowning that grace; enabling you to do things acceptable to Him & then rewarding you as having done them” (Edward Veal). See Philippians 2:13 & compare I Corinthians 3:8-15 & Revelation 4:10-11.

Conclusion: What does it mean to trust in time of trial? David speaks of waiting upon God in verses 1 & 5. Wiersbe points out: “To wait in silence before the Lord is not idleness or inactivity. It is calm worship & faith, resting in His greatness & submitted to His will. It is preparation for the time when God gives us orders to act (Psalm 18:30-45).” David speaks of in Whom to trust (*in Him*) & in what not to trust (“*oppression, robbery, riches*”). “The value of faith is determined by its object, & faith is worthless unless it rests upon the Lord alone” (RSB). So what are we to do when the trials come? We must recognize that redemption is in God alone, reliance is to be upon God alone, & reward comes from God alone. How about you tonight? Are you truly waiting patiently upon the Lord as you trust completely in the Lord?