

Worshipping God in a Strange Place Part 1

KJV Psalm 63:1 <A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.> O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is.

2 To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.

3 Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.

4 Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name.

The first time David flees Jerusalem is when king Saul thinks David is trying to take the kingdom from him.

David is a worshipper, yet because of jealousy he can't worship God in his native land, the palace, or the sanctuary!

David must worship God outside in the wilderness!

In caves, hills, and valleys, but this doesn't bother David because he was used to worshipping outdoors when he kept his father's sheep.

In fact, worshipping outdoors was what David was used to!

David learned to worship God anywhere as his circumstances changed!

Here in **Psalm 63** David is once again on the run, but this time he's running from his own son and David is no longer a young man.

David is now in his 60's he was in his 20's when he ran from Saul!

David must flee because his son Absalom rebels against him and takes the kingdom from David.

David must have been devastated; one of his sons rapes his own sister, takes his wives, runs him out of the holy city he fought and conquered.

He must leave everyone he worships with, the priests, and prophets; not to mention The Ark of The Covenant that represents the presence of God!

David leaves behind everything holy and sacred and finds himself in the wilderness.

The wilderness is a wild place. The saints can feel like this!

The wilderness can be a dry place! Some listening feels this way!

The wilderness is full of strange and unfamiliar sounds!

The wilderness can be disorientating, you can easily lose your place in the wilderness. Stand Your Ground and don't lose your place!

One place can look like another and you can begin going in circles.

Every day can seem like the next day in the wilderness!

But David's been here before, 40 years (a generation) ago!

David can remember when his king tried to kill him over the kingdom!

So, David made his mind up to **stay focused and worship!**

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David like many saints longed to be in the sanctuary of The Lord!

David like many of us was thirsty for worship, his flesh longed to be in God's presence with His people.

David wanted to see God's power and His glory as he had seen before in the sanctuary!

David said because of your **lovingkindness (unending supply of love)** my lips will praise you **no matter where I am!**

Because God's love is just as powerful in the wilderness as it is in the sanctuary, I will **worship** you!

It doesn't matter where I am in this physical world, in the realm of the spirit I know I'm seated in heavenly places with Christ Jesus.

And I'm going to **praise and worship you** because **I'm always in your presence!**

Your presence doesn't depend on a physical building, your love isn't limited by a physical building.

David says, I will bless thee, yes, I will lift my hands in your name no matter where I am, the wilderness, the palace, or the sanctuary!

Psalm 63:5 My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,

6 when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

7 for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.

8 My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.