

## A Study of the Book of Psalms – Week 10

### Read Psalm 63

1. Scholars contend that the historical context of Psalm 63 is David's sojourn in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Judaea (1 Samuel 21-31).
2. The wilderness in the Old Testament is a place where \_\_\_\_\_ in God is tested, renewed, and strengthened.

### Verses 1-4

3. It is more than significant that the psalmist begins by referring to God as \_\_\_\_ God.
4. In verse 1, the psalmist expresses the need or longing for God in terms of a desperate \_\_\_\_\_.
5. For the psalmist, the relationship with God is not simply one option among many, but a \_\_\_\_\_ of life.
6. It is logical that the psalmist would remember where he/she felt closest to God, namely, the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
7. Verse 3 represents a sort of \_\_\_\_\_ that paradoxically means the discovery of the fullness of life as God's gracious gift. (See Mark 8:35).

### Verses 5-8

8. The central portion of Psalm 63 is bounded by references to "my soul" in verses 5 and 8, signaling that the real subject of the psalm continues to be \_\_\_\_\_.
9. In verse 7 the psalmist, at least implicitly, renounces \_\_\_\_\_, choosing to live instead in fundamental dependence upon God and God's provision for life.

Verses 9-11

10. The profound depth of the psalmist's joy is evident in this section, where we learn that the psalmist's joy takes place amid \_\_\_\_\_ to his or her life.
11. For the psalmists (here and elsewhere in the psalms), God's life-giving, life-sustaining \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are experienced amid threat and suffering. (See Psalm 23)
12. The final affirmation of the psalm – “the mouth of liars will be stopped” – stands in relationship to the opening verb “\_\_\_\_\_.”
13. In the final analysis, the “stopped,” closed mouth symbolizes \_\_\_\_\_, resulting from violent opposition to God and God's purposes, whereas the open, praise-filled mouth symbolizes \_\_\_\_\_ as God intends it to be.
14. The psalmist in Psalm 63 is a wonderful example of how we in our relationship with God are to \_\_\_\_\_ to live (vv.4,6) and to live to \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.3,5,11).

In preparation for next week read Psalm 84.

**ABS Week 10**  
**March 8, 2010**  
**Psalm 84**  
**Discussion Questions**

Read Psalm 84

1. What is the “longed” referred to in verse 2? Why is the psalmist drawn by the courts of the Lord? Why does he cry out for the living God? What are the characteristics of that longing that God would like to see in our lives? Describe a time in your life where you “longed” to worship in God’s house. What was the experience like for you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What does it mean to have our strength in the Lord (v. 5)? What does it mean to go from strength to strength (v.7)? Can you think of any examples in your own life of going from strength to strength?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. In verse 10 the psalmist states that he would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of the Lord than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. What is he saying about his love for the Lord?

State your own preference for God by filling in the blanks with your own words: I would rather \_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_. Try to come up with two or three different statements.

4. In verse 11 we read that “no good thing will be withheld from those who walk devoutly.” Yet, in our earthly lives there are times when this promise seems untrue. What does this statement mean? How do we apply it to our own lives?