

# Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs: The Master Musician's Melodies

Bereans Sunday School  
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by  
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## Psalm 108 — David's Double-Duty Psalms

### 1.0 Introducing Psalm 108

- Psalm 108 opens with Psalm 57:7-11 and closes with Psalm 60:5-11.
  - ✓ That Psalm 108 is the borrower appears to be proven by the fact that it contains 6 of the 7 occurrences of *Elohim* (“God” without suffixes in the Hebrew) in Book 5 (see 144:9)—Book 2 is dominated by that divine title.
- Other reused psalms: Psalm 18 is a revision of the psalm in 2 Samuel 22, Psalm 53 is a reworking of Psalm 14, and Psalm 96 appears to use or be used by 1 Chronicles 16:23-33.
- David composed Psalms 57 and 60, but someone else may have fused the two together for Psalm 108, which, by reason of the original psalms, is still David's.
- The revised psalm omits the lament sections of Psalms 57 and 60. The psalmist chose to utilize only the praise and confident faith sections in order to present a new psalm of faith and exaltation.

### 2.0 Reading Psalm 108 (NAU)

**108:1** A Song, a Psalm of David.

My heart is steadfast, O God;  
I will sing, I will sing praises, even with my soul.

**108:2** Awake, harp and lyre;  
I will awaken the dawn!

**108:3** I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the peoples,  
And I will sing praises to You among the nations.

**108:4** For Your lovingkindness is great above the heavens,  
And Your truth reaches to the skies.

**108:5** Be exalted, O God, above the heavens,  
And Your glory above all the earth.

**108:6** That Your beloved may be delivered,  
Save with Your right hand, and answer me!

- 108:7** God has spoken in His holiness:  
“I will exult, I will portion out Shechem  
And measure out the valley of Succoth.
- 108:8** “Gilead is Mine, Manasseh is Mine;  
Ephraim also is the helmet of My head;  
Judah is My scepter.
- 108:9** “Moab is My washbowl;  
Over Edom I shall throw My shoe;  
Over Philistia I will shout aloud.”
- 108:10** Who will bring me into the besieged city?  
Who will lead me to Edom?
- 108:11** Have not You Yourself, O God, rejected us?  
And will You not go forth with our armies, O God?
- 108:12** Oh give us help against the adversary,  
For deliverance by man is in vain.
- 108:13** Through God we will do valiantly,  
And it is He who shall tread down our adversaries.

For the choir director.

### 3.0 Understanding Psalm 108

#### 3.1 Outline

- I. David’s Confident Faith (vv. 1-6)
- II. God’s Complete Victory (vv. 7-13)



#### 3.2 Notes

- **vv. 1-5** See notes for Psalm 57.
- **vv. 6-12** See notes for Psalm 60.
- **Why reuse parts of Psalms 57 and 60 in Psalm 108?**
  - When God reuses passages in Scripture, it is obviously significant enough to bear repetition.
  - The use and reuse of Scripture itself is instructive.
    - ✓ New uses of older Scripture testify to its continuing relevancy.
    - ✓ We, too, ought to employ Scripture in our praise for God.
- **How significant are the differences?**
  - The revisions are quite minor, altering the meaning in a few places to present a slightly different emphasis:
    - ✓ “Lord” (57:9) > “LORD” (108:3) to transition from sovereignty to covenant relationship.
    - ✓ “us” (60:5) > “me” (108:6) to transition from corporate prayer to individual prayer.

✓ “Shout loud, O Philistia, because of Me” (60:8) > “Over Philistia I will shout aloud” (108:9) to transition from focus on the response of Philistia under judgment to God’s judgment of Philistia.

- vv. 1-5 “my soul”
  - The Hebrew is literally “my glory” (cp. Ps 57:8). Together with “Your glory” in verse 5, it brackets (inclusio) the first stanza of the psalm.
  - In addition, “O God” brackets this stanza (vv. 1, 5) with “O LORD” (v. 3) standing at the center of the stanza to focus on thanks and praise to the covenant-keeping God of Israel. The praise of His people has an international impact.

### Side-by-Side Comparison of Psalm 108 with Psalms 57 & 60

Psalm 108:1-6	Psalm 57:7-11
<p>1 A Song, a Psalm of David. My heart is steadfast, O God;</p> <p>I will sing, I will sing praises, <b>even with my soul.</b></p> <p>2 Awake, harp and lyre; I will awaken the dawn!</p> <p>3 I will give thanks to You, O <b>LORD</b> among the peoples, <b>And</b> I will sing praises to You among the nations.</p> <p>4 For Your lovingkindness is great <b>above</b> the heavens, And Your truth <b>reaches</b> to the skies.</p> <p>5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, <b>And</b> Your glory above all the earth.</p>	<p>7 My heart is steadfast, O God, <b>my heart is steadfast;</b> I will sing, <b>yes</b>, I will sing praises!</p> <p>8 <b>Awake</b>, my glory! Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn.</p> <p>9 I will give thanks to You, O <b>Lord</b>, among the peoples; I will sing praises to You among the nations.</p> <p>10 For Your lovingkindness is great <b>to</b> the heavens And Your truth to the clouds.</p> <p>11 Be exalted above the heavens, O God; <b>Let</b> Your glory <b>be</b> above all the earth.</p>
Psalm 108:7-13	Psalm 60:5-11
<p>6 That Your beloved may be delivered, Save with Your right hand, and answer <b>me!</b></p> <p>7 God has spoken in His holiness: “I will exult, I will portion out Shechem And measure out the valley of Succoth.</p> <p>8 “Gilead is Mine, Manasseh is Mine; Ephraim also is the helmet of My head; Judah is My scepter.</p> <p>9 “Moab is My washbowl; Over Edom I shall throw My shoe; <b>Over Philistia I will shout aloud.”</b></p> <p>10 Who will bring me into the besieged city? Who will lead me to Edom?</p> <p>11 Have not You Yourself, O God, rejected us? And will You not go forth with our armies, O God?</p> <p>12 <b>Oh</b> give us help against the adversary, For deliverance by man is in vain.</p>	<p>5 That Your beloved may be delivered, Save with Your right hand, and answer <b>us!</b></p> <p>6 God has spoken in His holiness: “I will exult, I will portion out Shechem and measure out the valley of Succoth.</p> <p>7 “Gilead is Mine, and Manasseh is Mine; Ephraim also is the helmet of My head; Judah is My scepter.</p> <p>8 “Moab is My washbowl; Over Edom I shall throw My shoe; <b>Shout loud, O Philistia, because of Me!”</b></p> <p>9 Who will bring me into the besieged city? Who will lead me to Edom?</p> <p>10 Have not You Yourself, O God, rejected us? And will You not go forth with our armies, O God?</p> <p>11 <b>O</b> give us help against the adversary, For deliverance by man is in vain.</p>

Key: **Actual differences.** **Translational differences.**

#### 4.0 Singing Psalm 108

##### Singing Glory!

1 I've something in my heart that Jesus  
gave to me,  
It makes me feel like singing glory all  
the day;  
He found my captive soul and gave me  
liberty,  
And now I feel like singing glory!

**Refrain:**  
*He makes the path grow brighter ev'ry  
passing day;  
He makes the burden lighter all along the  
way;  
His Word is my delight, His will I now  
obey,  
And all the time I'm singing glory!*

3 My Savior loosed my tongue that I  
might speak His praise;  
Since then I have been singing glory all  
the day;  
I love to tell the lost of Jesus and His  
ways,  
And oh, it keeps me singing glory!

4 My Savior took my feet from out the  
miry clay;  
Since then I have been singing glory all  
the day;  
He placed them on the Rock that shall  
not pass away —  
I cannot keep from singing glory!

5 O weary heart and sad, O heavy laden  
soul,  
If you would feel like singing glory all  
the day,  
Just let the Savior in, and let Him take  
control;  
Then you will feel like singing glory!

— Words & music: Lucy R. Minor

#### 5.0 Praying Psalm 108

- Let me sing Your praises, O God — even during the night. [v. 1]
- Father, Your steadfast love is great. [v. 4]
- O Lord, answer my prayer. [v. 6]
- Teach me to trust You, rather than men. [v. 12]
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#### 6.0 Applying Psalm 108

- A believer controlled by confident faith is a singing saint.
- Our praise has international impact.
- God gives us victory in difficult and dangerous circumstances.

“All prayer, not least when God’s people are under pressure, must be an appeal to his word. Times may change, but what God has *spoken in his holiness* (v. 7 RV) remains inviolable and true.”

— Michael Wilcock, *The Message of Psalms 73–150: Songs for the People of God*,  
The Bible Speaks Today (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001), 154