



Studies in Psalms by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

Psalms 61

12/10/12

Vs. 1-3 acknowledge what God has done for David already;
Vs. 4-5 state David's resolve to be faithful to God;
Vs. 6-8 give David's request for God to be mindful of "the king."

There is little to go on in determining when, in David's life, this was written. It was, possibly, before David was the king, but while David was being protected by God.

Before the Psalm, instruction for the "Musician" was that this was to be accompanied "With stringed instruments." Like every reference to musical instruments outside of the heart in the Old Testament, all were left behind when Jesus Christ was crucified, for Jesus "has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross" ([Colossians 2:13-14](#)). AND of all the references to musical instruments in the Book of Psalms, only 2 verses were quoted in the New Testament as pertaining to music in worship, and both say "sing" ([Psalm 18:49=Romans 15:9](#); [Psalm 22:22=Hebrews 2:12](#)).

Verse 1-3: "Thanksgiving" should always be a part of prayers ([Philippians 4:6](#)), and what God has done should always be acknowledged. God's hearing is not limited by geographical boundary ("From the end of the earth") or an overwhelmed heart. God has provided protection ("shelter") and strength ("strong tower") against enemies. "Lead me to the rock that is higher than I" inspired an oft-sung hymn. The "rock" of safety for the Israelites in the wilderness is later identified, for "they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ" ([1 Corinthians 10:1-4](#)). It was Jesus as God, before His coming to this earth in bodily form ([Philippians 2:5-10](#)).

Verse 4-5: David's commitment to God included abiding in God's Tabernacle "forever," confidence in "the shelter" of God's "wings," because God heard David's "vows," proof of which are "the heritage" (inheritance) of spiritual blessings to "those who fear Your name." Solomon summarized the "whole" of human purpose when he said, "Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all" ([Ecclesiastes 12:13](#)).

Verse 6-8: Though not specifically quoted in the New Testament, **verses 6-7** well describes Jesus Christ, for He now rules over His kingdom, the church of Christ ([Colossians 1:1-2, 13-18](#)); His life is prolonged "with years as many generations" ("alive for evermore," [Revelation 1:10-18](#)); who abides "before God forever" (as Mediator, [1 Timothy 2:5-7](#)); and is preserved by "mercy and truth" ([Matthew 9:11-13](#); [John 18:37](#); [2 John 3](#)). David spoke not of himself for he did not live the years of many generations, nor did he represent his people "before God forever." David was inspired by God as a truly "Messianic prophet." In **verse 8**, David's vows will daily be fulfilled as he would "sing praise" to God's name "forever."

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*All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.*