

2001

Psalm 28: Of David

Walter E. Keller
Valparaiso University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholar.valpo.edu/kellerpsalms>

Recommended Citation

Keller, Walter E., "Psalm 28: Of David" (2001). *Walter E. Keller's Devotional Studies of Psalms*. 34.
<https://scholar.valpo.edu/kellerpsalms/34>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives & Special Collections at ValpoScholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Walter E. Keller's Devotional Studies of Psalms by an authorized administrator of ValpoScholar. For more information, please contact a ValpoScholar staff member at scholar@valpo.edu.

Psalm 28
Of David
(NRSV)

- ¹ To you, O LORD, I call;
my rock, do not refuse to hear me,
for if you are silent to me,
I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.**
- ² Hear the voice of my supplication,
as I cry to you for help,
as I lift up my hands
toward your most holy sanctuary. ^(a)**
- ³ Do not drag me away with the wicked,
with those who are workers of evil,
who speak peace with their neighbors,
while mischief is in their hearts.**
- ⁴ Repay them according to their work,
and according to the evil of their deeds;
repay them according to the work of their hands;
render them their due reward.**
- ⁵ Because they do not regard the works of the LORD,
or the work of his hands,
he will break them down and build them up no more.**
- ⁶ Blessed be the LORD,
for he has heard the sound of my pleadings.**
- ⁷ The LORD is my strength and my shield;
in him my heart trusts;
so I am helped, and my heart exults,
and with my song I give thanks to him.**
- ⁸ The LORD is the strength of his people;
he is the saving refuge of his anointed.**
- ⁹ O save your people, and bless your heritage;
be their shepherd, and carry them forever.**

Footnote:

a. (v.1) Heb *your innermost sanctuary*

Psalm 28 is traditionally believed to have been authored by David. In the first part of the Psalm (verses 1, 2) David calls out to the LORD at a time when he is perilously close to defeat. If the LORD does not answer his call, he is threatened with going down to the Pit, that is, into the grave. In lifting his hands, David assumes the standard posture for prayer, and in his prayer, he prays toward the LORD's innermost sanctuary, that is, the Holy of Holies.

In the second part of the Psalm (verses 3-5), it becomes clear that David's enemies are the wicked, that is, those who belong to another nation, who are not the People of God, and hence do not esteem the works of the LORD (Yahweh), or acknowledge God's sovereignty. David expects that God will therefore give such wicked people the destruction they deserve, and he prays that it be now in time to benefit him. This may be thought of as not so much vindictiveness as a concern for a just society and a moral administration over the nation.

In the third part of the Psalm (verses 6, 7), David acknowledges that he has received assurance that God has heard his prayer, and gives grateful thanks to the LORD, because the LORD has helped him out of his peril. As a result of this assurance, David expresses his faith and trust and gratitude.

The concluding verses of the Psalm (verses 8, 9) apply the thought of the Psalm to the entire nation of Israel, for the LORD is not merely David's LORD and the source of his help as an individual, but also the LORD and source of benefit for all of his people. Perhaps verses 8-9 are the words of the song which David composed, and to which he refers in verse 7.

Prayer to accompany Psalm 28:

Strong Shepherd of your people, when your Son stretched out his hands on the cross, you heard him and he did not become like those who go down to the pit. By his resurrection, strengthen your people to offer you thanks for the mighty works that you have done, and make our hearts dance for joy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Linger longer over verses 8 & 9:

(Note especially the close identification between Jesus and his People.)

- ⁸ **The LORD is the strength of his people** (Israel, the Church);
He is the saving refuge of his anointed (David and each successive son of David, Jesus).
- ⁹ **O save your people, and bless your heritage;**
Be their shepherd, and carry them forever.