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Psalm 108: A Song. A Psalm of David.

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Psalm 108
A Song. A Psalm of David.
(NRSV)

- 1 My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast;^(a)
I will sing and make melody.
Awake, my soul!^(b)**
- 2 Awake, O harp and lyre!
I will awake the dawn.**
- 3 I will give thanks to you, O LORD, among the peoples,
and I will sing praises to you among the nations.**
- 4 For your steadfast love is higher than the heavens,
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.**
- 5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens,
and let your glory be over all the earth.**
- 6 Give victory with your right hand, and answer me,
so that those whom you love may be rescued.**
- 7 God has promised in his sanctuary:^(c)
“With exultation I will divide up Shechem,
and portion out the Vale of Succoth.**
- 8 Gilead is mine; Manasseh is mine;
Ephraim is my helmet;
Judah is my scepter.**
- 9 Moab is my washbasin;
on Edom I hurl my shoe;
over Philistia I shout in triumph.”**
- 10 Who will bring me to the fortified city?
Who will lead me to Edom?**
- 11 Have you not rejected us, O God?
You do not go out, O God, with our armies.**
- 12 O grant us help against the foe,
for human help is worthless.**
- 13 With God we shall do valiantly;
it is he who will tread down our foes.**

Footnotes:

- a. (v.1) Heb Mss Gk Syr: MT lacks *my heart is steadfast*
b. (v.1) Compare 57.8: Heb *also my soul*
c. (v.7) Or *by his holiness*

Psalm 108 appears to be a selection of some verses from two other psalms: 108:1-5 is almost identical to Psalm 57:7-11, and 108:6-13 is almost identical to Psalm 60:5-12. There is no fully satisfactory theory as to how or why this might have happened.

In its present form Psalm 108 expresses praise to God along with a prayer for victory in battle. It is a confession of complete trust in the loving-kindness and faithfulness of God the LORD. It also provides a basis for asking God to deliver his dear ones (verse 6), in battle against the foes of the surrounding nations. Without God's help and blessing, the Psalmist by himself cannot win any battles; but with the LORD "we shall do valiantly."

This reality also applies to us in our conflicts with whatever foes or troubles we may be facing. Compared with God's assistance, human help is of no value.

Prayer to accompany Psalm 108:

Lord accept the prayers of your servants, and prepare our hearts to praise your holy name. Come to our aid in times of trouble, that we may sing you songs of thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.