**Psalm Sixty-Four**

***“Hide me from the secret counsel”***

**Introduction**

I

n another appeal to God, David implored the Lord to protect him from the secret plot against him. He addressed the psalm to Asaph, the chief musician[[1]](#footnote-1) and colleague in the flight from Absalom. The content of the psalm refers to *“secret counsel”* and to *“insurrection”* by those speaking sharp words towards the king. Although the servants of Saul howled like dogs outside of the house of David (Ps. 59:1, 6, and 14), the context fits better with the attempted ouster by Absalom. The hatred for King David and what and Who he represented was evident in the tongues of his enemies. He was the LORD’s choice for king and he represented the ultimate “David,” the Lord Jesus Christ. As many of these psalms have revealed, David was heartbroken at many levels about Absalom’s betrayal and David’s potential loss of Kingship. Certainly one level was the infidelity of his own son Absalom. How could a loving father and a great man produce such an ungracious and irreprehensible son? There is no guarantee that godly parents produce godly children (cf. Prov. 22:6).[[2]](#footnote-2)

**Structure**

David’s psalm is predicable in that he has an ongoing crisis and as he prays he gains assurance of answers which leads to praise to the Lord.

A. The Petition (vv. 1-2)

B. The Persecution (vv. 3-6)

B.’ The Protection (vv. 7-9)

A.’ The Praise (v. 10)

**Exegesis**

**A. The Petition (vv. 1-2)**

 ***1. The Recipient (v. 1a)*** David’s psalm (*mizmor*) was directed to Asaph

 ***2. The Requests (vv. 1b-2)***

 a. Hear my prayer (v. 1b) > *shama`* (1159x) > voice/meditation > preservation (*natzar*)

 b. Hide my person (v. 2) > *sathar* (82x)

 1) From the Wicked’s Secret > *sod, >“counsel”> ra`a`* > *bera* (Gen. 14:2)

 2) From the Workers’ Sedition > *regesh >“insurrection”> ‘aven*

**B. The Persecution (vv. 3-6)**

 ***1. Their Actions*** > Ps. 140:3

 a. Their Tongue (vv. 3-4a) > Jam. 3:5-11

1) As a Sword (v. 3a)

2) As Arrows (v. 3b)

3) As Bitter Words (3c-4a) > Jam. 3:11

b. Their Target > the *“perfect”* (v. 4b) > Ps. 37:37; I Sam. 24:6; 26:9, 11, 16, 23; I Chr. 16:22; Ps. 105:15

 ***2. Their Attitude (vv. 4c-6)***

 a. Their Courage (vv. 4c-5a) > Ps. 10:11, 13; 59:7; Isa. 29:15

 b. Their Communion (v. 5b) > I Sam. 18:22

 c. Their Callousness (vv. 5c-6b)

 1) Their Search (v. 6a) > Mic. 7:3

 2) Their Seriousness (v. 6b)

 a) Thoughts > cf. Gen. 6:5

 b) Heart > Mt. 15:19

**B.’ The Protection (vv. 7-9)**

 ***1. The Reciprocation on Malicious (vv. 7-8) >*** Ps. 7:11-13; (i.e., Ahithophel [II Sam. 17:7 ff.])

***2. The Result of Men (v. 9)***

 a. The Sinners (v. 9a) > Ps. 58:11

b. The Saints (v. 9b) > Eccl. 12:13-14

**A.’ The Praise (v. 10)**

 ***1. Reaction of the Righteous (v. 10a)***

 ***2. Result of the Righteous (v. 10b)***

 a. They Trusted in the LORD > Ps. 5:11

 b. They Gloried in the LORD > Ps. 32:11

**CONCLUSION: Serious family problems of rebellion forced David to seek the Lord daily, and henceforth came many of his Psalms! Are you a rebellious parent, spouse, or child?**

1. The heading occurs 17x, from Ps. 11:1 to 140:1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Solomon’s son Rehoboam died ungodly (II Chr. 12:14-15). One of the many “false expectations” that Fundamentalism gives is that fundamentalist pastors and families must have perfect children, saved and surrendered to the mission field, both while in the home and after they leave the parents. If not, shame, and guilt follow for the family, and disqualification follows for the “failed” pastor. Other false expectations include that pastors cannot be bi-vocational, and that the Lord’s assemblies must have “church buildings” ASAP! [↑](#footnote-ref-2)