

# *Ponderings in the Psalms*

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The following is a Messianic Study on

## *Psalm 27*

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**Brit Chadashah**  
ברית חדשה

The *Pondering* studies were published in the Brit Chadashah Newsletter. Brit Chadashah (*New Covenant*) is a Messianic Fellowship in Sydney. Led by Paul Cohen a Jewish believer in Messiah Yeshua (Jesus). We meet together fortnightly for Bible studies from a Messianic Jewish Perspective. We are a unique fellowship made up of Jewish and Gentile people who are believers in Yeshua as the promised Messiah of Israel.

If you don't know Yeshua as your Messiah, we encourage you to search out the Scriptures for yourself. God promised in the book of Jeremiah, "*You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart*" (Jeremiah 29:13). And we hope you will make contact with us so that we can share more about the Messiah, His life and ministry.

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# Pondering Psalm 27

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## Psalm 27

1 A Psalm of David. The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; Whom shall I dread? 2 When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh, My adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell. 3 Though a host encamp against me, My heart will not fear; Though war arise against me, In spite of this I shall be confident. 4 One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, To behold the beauty of the Lord And to meditate in His temple. 5 For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; In the secret place of His tent He will hide me; He will lift me up on a rock. 6 And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me, And I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord.

7 Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice, And be gracious to me and answer me. 8 When You said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You, "Your face, O Lord, I shall seek." 9 Do not hide Your face from me, Do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; Do not abandon me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation! 10 For my father and my mother have forsaken me, But the Lord will take me up. 11 Teach me Your way, O Lord, And lead me in a level path Because of my foes. 12 Do not deliver me over to the desire of my adversaries, For false witnesses have risen against me, And such as breathe out violence. 13 I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord In the land of the living. 14 Wait for the Lord; Be strong and let your heart take courage; Yes, wait for the Lord.

## Summary of Psalm 27

This Psalm has two segments (strophe). In the first half David praises God and desires to be in the House of the Lord, while in the second half there is a plea for help from the LORD. The style change can be seen in the outline below. The praise turns to prayers; this should not surprise us, for we too sing with joy and bring our petitions in the same breath (Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17).

## Outline

1. David's praise (27:1-6)
  - a. David's praise and confidence in the LORD (27:1-3)
  - b. David's desire to be in the Tabernacle (27:4-6)
2. David's Prayer (27:7-14)
  - a. David's desire for a close relationship with the Lord (27:7-10)
  - b. David's desire for Divine protection (27:11-14)

## David's praise (27:1-6)

### **a. David's praise and confidence in the LORD (27:1-3)**

God is described in a threefold manner by David: his Light, his Salvation, and his Stronghold. Although God is associated with light a number of times throughout the Tanach, this is one of the few places where He is mentioned explicitly as being light (Job 38:19; Psalm 18:28, 36:9, 104:2; 2 Samuel 22:29). The same is true for Yeshua in the Brit Chadashah, where there are general references but also explicit ones, such as Yeshua is the Light (John 1:1-9; 8:12, 12:46).

God is David's salvation. In the Tanach this generally means a physical deliverance, or a physical rescue (Exodus 15:2; Psalm 3:8; 18:2, 62:2, 6; 68:19-20; Isaiah 12:2, 51:6-8, 61:10 etc.). It is not until we come to the New Covenant (Luke 1:77) that spiritual salvation comes sharply into focus (Luke 19:9; John 4:22; Acts 4:12, 13:26; Romans 1:16, 11:11, 13:11 etc.).

Finally, God is David's stronghold. David's son Solomon wrote the same thing: "*The Name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe*" (Proverbs 18:10). These are descriptions of God being his true Refuge, a common theme in Psalms (Psalm 18:2; 62:6; 91:2 etc).

In the three-fold aspect, we see that David describes the Lord as his guide, his deliverer and his refuge. And this is our prayer, LORD be our guide, our deliverance and be our refuge.

What David is saying is that nothing can shake his confidence in the LORD who is light, salvation, and a safe refuge. I think that the apostle Paul echoes this in Romans 8:38-39 "*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Messiah Yeshua our Lord.*"

### **b. David desires to be in the Tabernacle (27:4-6)**

There is a determination about David, and the one thing he desires is to dwell with God. He describes God's earthly dwelling: "*the house of the Lord*" (v. 4), "*his temple*" (v. 4), "*his dwelling*" (v. 5), "*his tabernacle*" (vv. 5-6) and "*his tent*" (vv. 5-6). Some of the names can be seen during the priesthood of Eli, when a structure had been built around the Tent of Meeting (1 Samuel 1:9; 3:3). The word temple here *הֵיכָל* (*heykal*) carries the basic meaning sanctuary or palace.

David desired one thing - to "behold the beauty of the LORD" but the 1<sup>st</sup> Temple had not been built so David is not referring to the beautiful building (Mark 13:1), but to the kindness of the Lord, and on this is what David wants to meditate on.

Biblical meditation is never emptying the mind, but filling it with Scripture. David sings of meditating on the Law of the LORD day and night (Psalm 119, cf. Joshua 1:8). For us this would include all of Scripture and if we do this, it will transform and renew our minds (Romans 12:2 cf. Proverbs 22:17-18).

## David's Prayer (27:7-14)

### **a. David desire for a close relationship with the Lord (27:7-10)**

David appeals to the Lord to be heard and not rejected by the Lord, due to his sin. He wants to be received in grace (חַנּוּן *chanan*). David knows from past experiences that the Lord is his help (עֲזָרָה *ezrat*) and his salvation (יִשׁוּׁי *yish'i*) and as such he feels confident that he will never be forsaken by the Lord.

He then refers to the *Birkat Cohanim* (the Priestly blessing), “*Seek My face*” (Numbers 6:22-27), and David takes this as a command and responds “*Your face, O LORD, I shall seek.*”

### **b. David's desire for Divine protection (27:11-14)**

David makes an appeal to the Lord to teach him and guide him to a level path (Psalm 23:3-6; 143:10). David's enemies, who wanted his destruction, bore false witness against him. But David had confidence that he would see the goodness of the Lord. In verse 4 it was the beauty and in verse 13 it is the goodness of the LORD. I tend to see these descriptions as a poetic way of saying the splendour and holiness of the LORD. If so, David is not so much making a contrast between the dead and those in the land of the living (Psalm 142:5 & Isaiah 38:11), but that his life is immersed in God's presence. Even when he was on the run from his enemies (1 Samuel 21:10-15), he “*sought the Lord, and He answered me, and [He] delivered me from all my fears*” (Psalm 34:4).

In the closing verse he instructs himself “*Wait for the Lord.*” It was hard to do then and it is still not easy. We are people who want action, who want solutions... but David repeats “*Yes, Wait for the Lord.*” The Lord will resolve the issues in His time and in His ways, and in God's strength all things are possible (Isaiah 40:31, Matthew 19:26, Mark 9:23), if they are in His will (Mark 14:36).

Friends let us be like David by praising and expressing our confidence in the LORD and desiring to be in His presence, seeking His ways as we wait upon the LORD.

*Selah*

*Blessings in Messiah*

*Paul & Sue*