

Psalm 27: 1-14  
Sermon text verse 14

## THE LORD IS MY LIGHT AND IN HIM SHALL I DWELL

### **Psalms 27:14**

I. How free he is from fear in any danger; and he shows also the cause of his confidence,  
Psa. 27:1-3

II. He expresses his love to God's house and his religion, Psa. 27:4-6

III. He prays for succour and support, Psa. 27: 7, etc.

IV. He exhorts others to dependence on the Lord, Psa. 27:14

Verse 1 / The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

1. In Bethlehem from the hand of Samuel, in the house of his father Jesse; <1 Sam. 16:13>
2. At Hebron, after the death of Saul, by the men of Judah; <2 Sam. 2:4>
3. By the elders of Israel, at Hebron, after the death of Ishbosheth, when he was acknowledged king over all the tribes, <2 Sam. 5:3>.

And lastly, it has been contended that it was written by David after he had been in danger of losing his life by the hand of a gigantic Philistine, and must have perished had he not been succoured by Abishai; see the account <2 Sam. 21:17>; and was counseled by his subjects not to go out to battle anymore, lest he should extinguish the light of Israel. To these advisers he is supposed to make the following reply:

- The Lord is my light and my salvation
- This light can never be extinguished by man; the Lord is my salvation, my safeguard, my shield, and my defense; of whom then should I be afraid?

Verse 2

When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.

- When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me]
- Near as I appeared to you to be in danger of losing my life, I was safe enough in the hands of the Lord; and those who thought to have eaten me up, stumbled, failed of their purpose, and fell; the Philistine lost his own life.

verse:3

- Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.
- [Though a host should encamp against me] I am so confident of the Almighty's protection, that were I alone, and encompassed by a host, I would not fear. I am in the hand of God; and while in that hand, I am safe.

Psalms 27:4

One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; 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 inquire in his temple.

- [One thing have I desired] If I am grown too old, and from that circumstance unable to serve my country,
- I shall then prefer a retirement to the tabernacle, there to serve God the rest of my days.
- There I shall behold his glory, and there I may inquire and get important answers respecting Israel.

Psalms 27:5

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

- [He shall hide me in his pavilion] in his tabernacle.
- I would make his temple my residence, I would dwell with God, and be in continual safety.
- Pavilion comes from papilio and the Greek word papilion, a butterfly. It signifies a tent made of cloth stretched out on poles, which in form resembles in some measure the insect above named.

- [In the secret of his tabernacle] Were there no other place, he would put me in the holy of holies, so that an enemy would not dare to approach me.
- [He shall set me upon a rock.] He shall so strengthen and establish me that my enemies shall not be able to prevail against me. He shall hide me where they cannot find me, or put me out of the reach of the fiery darts of the wicked. He who lives nearest to God suffers least from temptation. "Draw near to God and he will draw near to thee: resist the Devil and he will flee from thee."

Psalms 27:6

And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD.

- [Now shall mine head be lifted up] We shall most assuredly be redeemed from this captivity, and restored to our own land, and to the worship of our God in his own temple. There shall we offer sacrifices of joy; we will sing praises unto the Lord, and acknowledge that it is by his might and mercy alone that we have been delivered.

Psalms 27:7

Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me.

- [Hear, O Lord, when I cry]

Psalms 27:8

When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek.

- [When thou saidst, seek ye my face] "Unto thee, my heart, he hath said, Seek ye my face. Thy face, O Yahweh, I will seek. O my heart, God hath commanded thee to seek his face." Then, his face I will seek.
- The yearning strong desire of my heart, which speaks to God, and he alone hears; my face is to thee; that is, myself sought thee, and none other thing and from now I shall seek thee lastingly till my death, and till that I find what I seek.

Psalms 27:9

Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation.

- [Hide not thy face far from me] As my face is toward thee wheresoever I am, so let thy face be turned toward me

Psalms 27:10

When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.

- [When my father and my mother forsake me] Or, more literally, "For my father and my mother have forsaken me; but the Lord hath gathered me up." My parents were my protectors for a time; but the Lord has been my Protector always. There is no time in which I do not fall under his merciful regards.

Psalms 27:11

Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.

- Teach me thy way Let me know the gracious designs of thy providence toward me, that my heart may submit to thy will.
- [And lead me in a plain path] In the path of righteousness, because of mine enemies, who watch for my halting.

Psalms 27:12

Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty.

- [Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies] To their soul their whole soul thirsts for my destruction. Let them not be gratified.
- They have suborned witnesses against me, but they are false witnesses: unmask their wickedness, and confound their counsels.

Psalms 27:13

I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

- [I had fainted, unless I had believed]
- Throw out the words I had fainted, and leave a break after the verse, and the elegant figure of the psalmist will be preserved: "Unless I had believed to see the

goodness of the Lord in the land of the living"-- What! what, alas! should have become of me!

Psalms 27:14

Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

- [Wait on the Lord] All ye who are in distress, wait on the Lord.
- Take me for an example. I waited on him, and he strengthened my heart; wait ye on him, and he will strengthen your heart.
- You cannot be unsuccessful; fear not. Wait, I say, on the Lord; wait for his succour in doing his will. Age viriliter, says the Vulgate; act like a man, hope, believe, work, and fear not.