

O Lord, Do Not Rebuke Me in Your Anger: Psalm 6

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INTRODUCTION

When did David write Psalm 6?

It would appear that it was sometime after David became king

It is clearly after he committed a serious sin and received discipline

Conceivably, the affair with Bathsheba & Uriah's murder is the background

Conceivably, the census in 2 Samuel 24 could be the background

Conceivably, the background is another time of serious sin in David's life

We do not know

Superscription: David, the author, instructs the chief musician to arrange it for stringed instruments including an eight-stringed harp

Eight-stringed harp is an educated guess for *sheminith*

The root word means 8, so this is a noun that would be "an 8 thing."

David prays for God to temper His rebuke and discipline with grace (1–3)

David experiences discipline with external enemies and ill-health

Discipline can (as in this case) continue after confession of sin

It is appropriate for believers to request grace in the midst of discipline

David requests for the Lord to deliver him for the sake of His *hesed*, because David cannot praise Him (before people) from the grave (4–5)

David's enemies are causing him anxiety that prevents sleep and is having physical consequences (6–7)

David warns his enemies to flee, because the Lord will answer Him, so suddenly David will be vindicated and his enemies shamed (8–10)

A Comparable New Testament example

As a related concept: We may petition God for those who are under discipline

(Many people misunderstand 1 John 5:14–17)

CONCLUSION:

[After confession] believers may appeal to God's covenant relation with us to temper His discipline with grace; God is free to answer that prayer positively (as He Did with David and with Peter) or to leave the discipline in place (cf. 1 John 5)