

Psalm 56 Prayer for Relief from Tormentors

To the Chief Musician. Set to "The Silent Dove in Distant Lands." A Michtam [Instructional Psalm] of David when the Philistines captured him in Gath.

Top Ten on the 1000 BC Jerusalem Billboard Charts? Saul killed his Thousands/David his Ten Thousands

- **David flees** to priest om Nob for Food/Sword of Goliath/**Doeg** [Saul's guy] rats
- **David flees** to Philistine city of Gath. **Recognized by Philistines...**

1 Samuel 21:13 So [David] changed his behavior before them, pretended madness in their hands, scratched on the doors of the gate, and let his saliva fall down on his beard. 14 Then Achish said to his servants, "Look, you see the man is insane. Why have you brought him to me? 15 **Have I need of madmen**, that you have brought this fellow to play the madman in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?"

- **David flees:** Probably written while escaping to cave of Adullam [next Psalm]

Enemies all around

No human comfort to be found. What now?

1 Be merciful to me, O God, for man would swallow me up; Fighting all day he oppresses me. **2** My enemies would hound me all day, For there are many who fight against me, O Most High. **3** Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. **4** In God (I will praise His word), In God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me? **5** All day they twist my words; All their thoughts are against me for evil. **6** They gather together, They hide, they mark my steps, When they lie in wait for my life. **7** Shall they escape by iniquity? In anger cast down the peoples, O God! **8** You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book? **9** When I cry out to You, Then my enemies will turn back; This I know, because God is for me. **10** In God (I will praise His word), In the Lord (I will praise His word), **11** In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? **12** Vows made to You are binding upon me, O God; I will render praises to You, **13** For You have delivered my soul from death. Have You not kept my feet from falling, That I may walk before God In the light of the living?

- **Vv 1-2 Constant them of Mercy:**

I can't fix this...I don't deserve anything...But help me anyway

1. **Man:** Desires to swallow me up
 2. **Enemies:** Hound me all day...David Prays for relief
- **Vv 3-7 Q. What can man do to me? A.** Not nothing
 1. **Twist** our words/question motives
 2. **Think** the worst about us
 3. **Turn** others against us/Set traps/snares for us [Jesus 24/7 life] **But...**

In Light of our Eternal Existence man can do nothing...Worst thing is the best thing

Matthew 10:28 ...do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. 30 But **the very hairs of your head are all numbered**. 31 Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.

- **V 8 You know** when I get up till I lie down
 1. Catch each tear/Save them as precious
 2. Know every hurt/Write them in Your book of remembrance

Malachi 3:16 Then those who feared the Lord spoke to one another, And the Lord listened and heard them; So a **book of remembrance** was written before Him For those who fear the Lord And who meditate on His name.

- **V 9-13** God is for me...

When all human has run for the hills...there is God
MAGOH: Putting all his hope in one truth: **God is for me**

Romans 8:31b... If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? ... **Christ...died, and... is also risen...**who also makes intercession for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? [Bad stuff will happen but doesn't mean God abandoned us. **Stuff like...**] tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." [Spiritual Vietnam till Jesus comes] 37 Yet in all these things we are **more than conquerors through Him who loved us**. 38 For I am persuaded that **neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

- **V 10** In God I will but my trust: **I will praise His Word 2x**

No more trying to fix stuff Myself: I will put my trust in God
He is the Light at the end of my trial...I believe it!

2 Corinthians 5:7 For we **walk by faith, not by sight...**

Hebrews 11:1 Faith is the **substance** of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

- This trial ended...**It came to pass**

Job 33:30 [God brought] his soul from the Pit... [Once again] **enlightened w/the light of life.**

Psalm 57 Prayer for Safety from Enemies

To the Chief Musician. Set to "Do Not Destroy." A Michtam of David when he fled from Saul into the cave.

- **Cave of Adullam:** South of valley of Elah. 20 miles SW of Jerusalem

- Saul pursues/David relents in killing Lord's anointed
- Bums/Bad guys gravitate to him become David' mighty men.
- Davids family followed him there for protection...

1 Samuel 22:1 David therefore departed from[Gath] and escaped to the cave of Adullam. So when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him.

1 Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, Until these calamities have passed by. **2** I will cry out to God Most High, To God who performs all things for me. **3** He shall send from heaven and save me; He reproaches the one who would swallow me up. Selah God shall send forth His mercy and His truth. **4** My soul is among lions; I lie among the sons of men Who are set on fire, Whose teeth are spears and arrows, And their tongue a sharp sword. **5** Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; Let Your glory be above all the earth. **6** They have prepared a net for my steps; My soul is bowed down; They have dug a pit before me; Into the midst of it they themselves have fallen. Selah **7** My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise. **8** Awake, my glory! Awake, lute and harp! I will awaken the dawn. **9** I will praise You, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing to You among the nations. **10** For Your mercy reaches unto the heavens, And Your truth unto the clouds. **11** Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; Let Your glory be above all the earth.

- **V 1** Mercy until the trial is over...

Until these calamities have passed by
David's Default: God is for me

- **Vv 2-3 David:** In between what God **has done/will do again**
 1. Performed things
 2. Sent supernatural help
 3. Dealt w/ those who want to eat me up
 4. Sent Mercy to me/Truth to those lie about me...and will again
- **V 4-5 David purposefully magnifies God** with his heart/mind over his enemies

v5 Be exalted, O God, above the Heavens
 Let Your glory be above all the earth

- **V 6** David struggling not to think of enemies. Flip/Flops
- **V 7-11** Breaks through w/Heart [feelings] and Mind [Thought Life]
 1. **Steadfast Heart:** Catching the wave of Spirit
 2. **Attitude of Praise:** I will get up early and praise You.
 3. **Desire to soon magnify** God's greatness to all...

Vv 10-11 Your mercy reaches unto the heavens/Your truth to the clouds.
 Be exalted O God, above the heavens...Let Your glory be above all the earth.

Psalm 58 Just Judgment of the Wicked

To the Chief Musician. Set to "Do Not Destroy." A Michtam of David.

- **Same tune as Psalm 57:** Do not destroy

1 Do you indeed speak righteousness, you silent ones? Do you judge uprightly, you sons of men? **2** No, in heart you work wickedness; You weigh out the violence of your hands in the earth. **3** The wicked are estranged from the womb; They go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies. **4** Their poison is like the poison of a serpent; They are like the deaf cobra that stops its ear, **5** Which will not heed the voice of charmers, Charming ever so skillfully. **6** Break their teeth in their mouth, O God! Break out the fangs of the young lions, O Lord! **7** Let them flow away as waters which run continually; When he bends his bow, Let his arrows be as if cut in pieces. **8** Let them be like a snail which melts away as it goes, Like a stillborn child of a woman, that they may not see the sun. **9** Before your pots can feel the burning thorns, He shall take them away as with a whirlwind, As in His living and burning wrath. **10** The righteous shall rejoice when he sees the vengeance; He shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked, **11** So that men will say, "Surely there is a reward for the righteous; Surely He is God who judges in the earth."

- **Vv 1-5** David describes the wicked
 1. **Sick Heart:** Wicked from inside out. Bad Tree/Bad Fruit
 2. **Unrepenting:** Keep track of wicked deeds as trophies
 3. **Sence of wicked Urgency:** Hit the ground running from birth
 4. **Don't listen to wisdom:** Like a snake unable to be charmed
- **vv 6-8** David's call for God to act. Remove them

Everybody's a tuff guy till their till the reaping begins
Let Him be as salt on a snail...Let the fear of You melt away their inner man

Joshua 7:5 [Josuha's retreat from Ai] the hearts of the **people melted and became like water.** [Let it not be said of God's people but the wicked]

Ezekiel 21:7b [God's Judgement of wicked] ...when it comes, **every heart will melt,** all hands will be feeble, every spirit will faint, and all knees will be **weak as water.**

- **V 9** Sure judgment in then end
God's Living Burning Wrath for the Wicked vs Victory of the Righteous
- **V 10** Righteous will **see the fate of the wicked** and rejoice

Proverbs 29:16 When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increases; But the righteous will **see their fall.**

Psalm 37:34 Wait on the Lord, And keep His way, And He shall exalt you to inherit the land; When the wicked are cut off, **you shall see it.**

Vengeance is Yours Lord...But can I watch?

Will we want to?

Isaiah 66:22 "For as the new heavens and the new earth Which I will make shall remain before Me," says the Lord **23...** All flesh shall come to worship before Me," says the Lord. **24** "And they shall **go forth and look Upon the corpses of the men Who have transgressed** against Me. For their worm does not die, And their fire is not quenched. They shall be an **abhorrence to all flesh.**"

- Is hell **too harsh?**
- Was stoning just punishment for Juvenile Delinquency ?

We have no idea what sin is/Destruction/Pain/Agony it causes
How abhorrent it is to a Holy God who sent His Son to deal with it

- **V 11** When the dust settles men will say...

Surely there is a reward for the righteous cleansed by the Blood
God is just in His judgment of those who refuse the Blood

Psalm 59 Assured Judgment of the Wicked

To the Chief Musician. Set to "Do Not Destroy." A Michtam of David when Saul sent men, and they watched the house in order to kill him.

- **Same tune as Psalm 57/58**

1 Samuel 19:11 Saul also sent messengers to David's house to watch him and to kill him in the morning. And Michal, David's wife, told him, saying, "If you do not save your life tonight, tomorrow you will be killed." **12** So **Michal let David down through a window.** And he went and fled and escaped. **13** And Michal took an image and laid *it* in the bed, put a cover of goats' *hair* for his head, and covered *it* with clothes. **14** So when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, "He *is* sick." **15** Then Saul sent the messengers *back* to see David, saying, "Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may kill him." **16** And when the messengers had come in, there was the image in the bed, with a cover of goats' *hair* for his head. **17** Then Saul said to Michal, "Why have you deceived me like this, and sent my enemy away, so that he has escaped?" And Michal answered Saul, "He said to me, 'Let me go! **Why should I kill you?**' "

1 Deliver me from my enemies, O my God; Defend me from those who rise up against me. **2** Deliver me from the workers of iniquity, And save me from bloodthirsty men. **3** For look, they lie in wait for my life; The mighty gather against me, Not for my transgression nor for my sin, O Lord. **4** They run and prepare themselves through no fault of mine. Awake to help me, and behold! **5** You therefore, O Lord God of hosts, the God of Israel, Awake to punish all the nations; Do not be merciful to any wicked transgressors. Selah **6** At evening they return, They growl like a dog, And go all around the city. **7** Indeed, they belch with their mouth; Swords are in their lips; For they say, "Who hears?" **8** But You, O Lord, shall laugh at them; You shall have all the nations in derision. **9** I will wait for You, O You his Strength; For God is my

defense. **10** My God of mercy shall come to meet me; God shall let me see my desire on my enemies. **11** Do not slay them, lest my people forget; Scatter them by Your power, And bring them down, O Lord our shield. **12** For the sin of their mouth and the words of their lips, Let them even be taken in their pride, And for the cursing and lying which they speak. **13** Consume them in wrath, consume them, That they may not be; And let them know that God rules in Jacob To the ends of the earth. Selah **14** And at evening they return, They growl like a dog, And go all around the city. **15** They wander up and down for food, And howl if they are not satisfied. **16** But I will sing of Your power; Yes, I will sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning; For You have been my defense And refuge in the day of my trouble. **17** To You, O my Strength, I will sing praises; For God is my defense, My God of mercy.

- **VV 1-4** Deliver/Defend/Deliver/Save/Awake/Behold

Psalm 35:23 Stir up Yourself...awake to my vindication, To my cause, my God and my Lord.

- **V5 Punish all Nations:**

Jumps to Final Judgement: No mercy. No compromise. No quarter

- **Vv6-7**

1. **Wild dogs** looking for food
2. **Base:** Opposite of refined
3. **Godless:** No fear of God. God does not hear their cry but laughs

- **V 8 Presume getting away with sin:** God's response is laughter

Proverbs 1:25 Because you disdained all my counsel, And would have none of my rebuke, **26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes,**

- **V 10 God of judgment** to our enemies/**God of Mercy** to us
- **V 11-13** David's list of hopeful judgments on his enemy
 1. **Scatter** them Give them no home
 2. **Trip** them up Pride comes before the fall
 3. **Consume** them As they seek to consume me...

Let them know **You alone are God**...That You rule to the ends of the earth

Psalm 83:16 [Asaph] Fill their faces with shame, That they may seek Your name, O Lord. ¹⁷ Let them be confounded and dismayed forever; Yes, let them be put to shame and perish, ¹⁸ That they may know that **You, whose name alone is the Lord, Are the Most High over all the earth.**

- **Vv 14-15** More dog comparisons to enemy
- **Vv 16-17 But as for me...**
 1. **I will sing** of Your power and mercy in morning
 2. **I will sing:** You are my defense/refuge in the day of my trouble

To You **O my Strength** I will sing praises...For God is my defense My God of mercy

- **God my Strength:** David liked this term...

Psalm 18:I will love You, **O Lord, my strength.**

Psalm 19:14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, **O Lord, my strength** and my Redeemer.

Psalm 22:19 But You, O Lord, do not be far from Me; **O My Strength, hasten to help Me!**

Psalm 60 Urgent Prayer for the Restored Favor of God

To the Chief Musician. Set to "Lily of the Testimony." A Michtam of David. For teaching. When he fought against Mesopotamia and Syria of Zobah, and Joab returned and killed twelve thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt.

- **After God's Covenant with David...**
 1. Attacks/Defeats Philistines/Moabites, Rehob King of Zobah
 2. Syrians help Zobah against David, he kills 22,000

2 Samuel 8:6 Then David put garrisons in Syria of Damascus; and the Syrians became David's servants, and brought tribute. So the Lord preserved David wherever he went. **7** And David took the shields of gold that had belonged to the servants of Hadadezer, and brought them to Jerusalem. [c.f. 1 Chron. 18]

- **Psalm 60:** Rest of story inc. problems not recorded in 2 Sam/1 Chron before victory

The victories described in 2 Samuel and 1 Chronicles do not mention the kind of setbacks lamented in this psalm. It reminds us that the historical record often condenses events, and that the successes were real, yet not always immediate.

- **IOWs** Seems to be written in the midst of a war that seems lost **but will be won**

1 O God, You have cast us off; You have broken us down; You have been displeased; Oh, restore us again! **2** You have made the earth tremble; You have broken it; Heal its breaches, for it is shaking. **3** You have shown Your people hard things; You have made us drink the wine of confusion. **4** You have given a banner to those who fear You, That it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah **5** That Your beloved may be delivered, Save with Your right hand, and hear me. **6** God has spoken in His holiness: "I will rejoice; I will divide Shechem And measure out the Valley of Succoth. **7** Gilead is Mine, and Manasseh is Mine; Ephraim also is the helmet for My head; Judah is My lawgiver. **8** Moab is My washpot; Over Edom I will cast My shoe; Philistia, shout in triumph because of Me." **9** Who will bring me to the strong city? Who will lead me to Edom? **10** Is it not You, O God, who cast us off? And You, O God, who did not go out with our armies? **11** Give us help from trouble, For the help of man is useless. **12** Through God we will do valiantly, For it is He who shall tread down our enemies.

- **Way is not clean:** Dirt and grime of battle

Proverbs 14:4 Where no oxen are, the trough is clean; But much increase comes by the strength of an ox.

- **In sinful world** even God's work through God's workers is not always spiffy clean

God may allow setbacks before the victory...**for a greater victory**
More impossible the victory seems...Sweeter the taste when it comes
And the more God is glorified

- **Vv 1-4 Do we feel like David...**

1. Cast off by God
2. Broken down [God breaks us down to build us up]
3. Unsure: Earth unstable beneath us
4. Confused even Forsaken

David did not realize the setbacks were on God's path to Victory

2 Corinthians 1:8 For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. 9 Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead, 10 who **delivered us** from so great a death, and **does deliver us**; in whom we trust that **He will still deliver us**,

- **Tribulation does not mean defeat in God's economy**

1. Fighting w/ "wild beasts" in Ephesus [1 Corinthians 15:32]
2. Suffering 39 stripes after being brought before a Jewish court [2 Cor 11:24]
3. Riot at Ephesus [Acts 19:23-41]
4. Persecution shortly before Paul left for Troas [Acts 20:19/1 Corinthians 16:9]
5. Recurring physical malady

God / **has** delivered/ **Is** delivering/**Will** deliver us to victory.
Light of Faith for the man/woman after God's own heart

Psalms 71:20 You, who have shown me great and severe troubles, **Shall revive me again,** And **bring me up again** from the depths of the earth.

- **Vv 5-10 David's default:** I am Your beloved...right?
- **You promised me victories...right.** [Every place I put my foot] yet
 1. **It felt like** You cast us off
 2. **It felt like** You didn't go w/our armies [Remember David eventually won]

Psalms 89:35 [God is faithful even when it feels like it to us or not] Once I have sworn by My holiness; **I will not lie to David...**

- **Vv 11-12** David casts cares on the Lord after the **Lord takes him to the end of self**

God has done Great Things!
Through God **we will** do valiantly...**He shall** tread down our enemies

Psalms 118:8 It is **better to trust in the Lord Than** to put confidence in man.