

Psalms 59

This evening - we're continuing our overview of the Old Testament book titled Psalms.

With this as our focus - let's open our Bibles to Psalms chapter 59 - and as we make our way to the 59th Psalm...

...I wanna begin by first pointing out that this Psalm - which was written by King David...

...is the fourth - of five successive songs - each of which are introduced as Michtams of David.

Now - I'll remind you that the Hebrew word - Michtam - isn't completely understood.

And while some scholars believe that this word was derived from the Hebrew word from - kethem - which means - gold....

...others believe that this word is a derivative of another Hebrew word - which means - to hide - or to cover.

And this certainly make sense - seeing how these five psalms were written...

...during the days when David was seeking shelter from his enemies.

For example - the first Psalm in this series of Michtams was written after David decided to hide from King Saul - by fleeing to Philistine city of Gath.

And in the second Psalm found in this series of Michtams - we find David describing the days when hid in the caves of Judah.

The third Psalm found in this series of Michtams seems to be connected to that same event.

And now - here in the fourth Psalm found in this series of Michtams...

...we find David - describing the days - when Saul sent his soldiers...

...to wait and watched the house in order to kill him.

The historical context of this song can be found in 1st Samuel 19...

...where we learn about the day when King Saul told his son - Jonathan - that he was planning to kill David.

Rather than allowing his father to accomplish his evil scheme...

...Jonathan warned David - so that he could escape Saul's murderous plot.

Then came the day when Saul sent his henchmen to David's house - to watch him and to kill him in the morning.

Thankfully for him - David was married to Saul's daughter - Michal.

And it was Michal who warned David about Saul's plan to murder him by morning.

That being the case - she helped David escape - by letting him down through a window.

And it was at that point when he sought help from Samuel at Ramah.

With this situation in mind - let's consider this song that David wrote - after he fled to Ramah - in order to escape from King Saul

Look with me here at the 59th Psalm - let's beginning reading there at verse 1 where David writes...

Psa 59:1 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.

Deliver me from my enemies, O my God;
Defend me from those who rise up against me.
Psa 59:2 Deliver me from the workers of iniquity,
And save me from bloodthirsty men.
Psa 59:3 For look, they lie in wait for my life;
The mighty gather against me,
Not for my transgression nor for my sin, O LORD.
Psa 59:4 They run and prepare themselves through no fault of mine.
Awake to help me, and behold!
Psa 59:5 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

Here in the beginning of this Psalm - we find David praying to the LORD of hosts - and the God of Israel...

...so that he might **deliver** him from his enemies - - and **defend** him against those who were trying to kill him.

That word - deliver - found in the middle of verse 1 - was translated from a Hebrew word...

...which can also be rendered - recover - and rescue.

And so we see that David was asking the God of Israel to rescue him from the king of Israel

We should also notice the word - Defend - found there at the end of verse 1...

...which was translated from a Hebrew word - which speaks of those...

...who are safe after being set in a secure stronghold

This is the same word that King Solomon used in Proverbs chapter 29 - it verse 25 where he declared...

Pro 29:25 The fear of man brings a snare,
But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.

Whoever trusts in the LORD shall be set in a secure stronghold...

...where the Lord defends us - and delivers us from the attacks of the enemy.

That being the case - those who trust in the Lord...

...have no reason to fear the enemy.

In order to make my case - let's take some time to consider the way that David described his enemies.

Look with me again - there at verse 2 - where David declared...

Psa 59:2 Deliver me from the workers of iniquity,
And save me from bloodthirsty men.

According to David - Saul and his servants were the workers of iniquity.

In other words - they were evil doers who were engaging in the works of wickedness.

Not only that - but they were bloodthirsty men who were guilty of shedding innocent blood.

Not only that - but - we should notice how David described them - there in verse 3 - where he declared...

Psa 59:3 For look, they lie in wait for my life;
The mighty gather against me,
Not for my transgression nor for my sin, O LORD.

Psa 59:4 They run and prepare themselves through no fault of mine. Awake to help me, and behold!

From this - we can see that - these bloodthirsty men weren't there to arrest David - according to the orders of a just judge.

No - they were attempting to murder him - according to the jealous rage of an unrighteous king.

And it's for this reason that David cried out to the LORD...

...Who alone was able to deliver him - and defend him against the King of Israel.

We should also notice how David prayed for their punishment - there in verse 5 - where he declared...

Psa 59:5 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

I like the way that the scholars who created the Legacy Standard Bible rendered this verse - they put it like this...

Psa 59:5 You, O Yahweh God of hosts, the God of Israel,
Awake to punish all the nations;
Do not be gracious to any who are treacherous in iniquity.
Selah.

From this - we can see that - David was not only praying for personal deliverance from Saul...

...but - he was also praying for the day of judgment...

...when the Lord will punish the evil doers from every nation.

I like the way that David Guzik explained it in his commentary - here's how he put it...

The hope of God setting things right in David's cause made the psalmist think of God setting things right on a global scale.

David looked to the God of angelic armies (LORD God of hosts) to judge the nations and all wicked transgressors.

The desire for deliverance from evil doers should lead us to pray for the day...

...when the Lord God of hosts - will finally free the world from evildoers - forevermore.

I like the way that the psalmist put it - in the 96th Psalm - it's verses 10 thru 13 - where he declared...

Psa 96:10 Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns;
The world also is firmly established,
It shall not be moved;
He shall judge the peoples righteously."

Psa 96:11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
Let the sea roar, and all its fullness;

Psa 96:12 Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it.

Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice before the LORD.

Psa 96:13 For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth.
He shall judge the world with righteousness,
And the peoples with His truth.

Christian - listen - there's coming a day - when the Lord is going to judge the world in righteousness.

It's on that day - when He will condemn the workers of iniquity - according to their wicked works.

And while it's true that the Lord takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked...

...it's also true that we can rejoice in knowing that there's coming a day...

...when we will be delivered - from every evil doer.

Paul presented the proof of this - in Acts chapter 17 - where he declared...

Act 17:30 “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

Act 17:31 “because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

God has appointed a day - when He will judge the world in righteousness.

And the proof of this can be found in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In other words - the evidence of Christ's resurrection...

...provides us with proof of His second coming -
when He will judge the world in righteousness.

With that being the case - we can rejoice in knowing that there is an incredible amount of evidence...

...that helps us to see that Jesus Christ did in fact - rise up from the dead - on the third day.

This includes the eyewitness testimonies of those who would suffer and die for this message of our Messiah.

Why would these men die a martyrs death - if their testimony wasn't true?

Then there's the conversion stories of skeptics - like the brothers of Jesus...

...who didn't become believers - until after the resurrection of our Savior.

And let's not forget about the conversion of antagonists - like Paul.

The conversion of Paul makes absolutely no sense - unless the Lord Jesus rose up from the grave.

And listen - the Romans - and the Jews could've easily ended Christianity in the first century...

...by simply producing the lifeless corpse of Christ Jesus - - and yet - they didn't.

Clearly - the empty tomb - which had been guarded by Roman soldiers...

...is extraordinary evidence - that Jesus Christ rose up from the dead.

Therefore - it only stands to reason that He will also return - according to His promise.

Here's how Jesus put it - in Matthew chapter 24 - it's verses 29 and 30 - where he declared...

Mat 24:29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Mat 24:30 "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

The One Who rose up from the dead on the third day - has also promised to return - at the end of the tribulation.

And it's at that point in time when He will judge the world in righteousness.

Not only that - but - He will also deliver those who trust in Him - from the workers of iniquity.

And it's on that day when we will rejoice in the One
Who will defend His people - from the enemy.

With this in mind - let's continue to consider the way that David described his
enemies - here in this song of praise.

Let's pick up our study of the 59th Psalm - beginning there at verse 6 - where
David declared...

Psa 59:6 At evening they return,
They growl like a dog,
And go all around the city.
Psa 59:7 Indeed, they belch with their mouth;
Swords are in their lips;
For they say, "Who hears?"
Psa 59:8 But You, O LORD, shall laugh at them;
You shall have all the nations in derision.
Psa 59:9 I will wait for You, O You his Strength;
For God is my defense.
Psa 59:10 My God of mercy shall come to meet me;
God shall let me see my desire on my enemies.

Here in these verses - we find David - continuing to describe those who
were trying to take his life.

He compared them to growling dogs - who were snarling at him in
the night.

And in verse 7 - he carried this comparison forward - as he
referred to the way that they were foaming at the mouth...

...like a ravenous dog - infected with rabies.

I like the way that the scholars who created the Revised Standard
Version of the Bible rendered verses 6 and 7 - they put it like this...

Psa 59:6 Each evening they come back, howling like dogs and
prowling about the city.
Psa 59:7 There they are, bellowing with their mouths, and snarling
with their lips-- for "Who," they think, "will hear us?"

According to David - his enemies were like ravenous dogs - who were so focused on the target of their attacks...

...that they were failing to realize that - the Lord was listening to their slanderous speech.

And it's for this reason that David decided to wait for the deliverance of the Lord.

Let's consider again how he put it - here in this song of praise - - look with me again - beginning there at verse 8 - where he declared...

Psa 59:8 But You, O LORD, shall laugh at them;
You shall have all the nations in derision.

Psa 59:9 I will wait for You, O You his Strength;
For God is my defense.

Psa 59:10 My God of mercy shall come to meet me;
God shall let me see my desire on my enemies.

As we take a closer look at these verses - we must not fail to notice that...

...the deliverance - and the defense of the Lord - results in the derision of evil doers.

For the sake of clarity - it'll help you to know that - the word - derision - found there in verse 8...

...was translated from a Hebrew word - which can also be rendered - ridicule.

More simply put - the Lord will mock those who attempt to attack His people.

We find this same Hebrew word being used in the second psalm - where the Psalmist asked...

Psa 2:1 Why do the nations rage,
And the people plot a vain thing?

Psa 2:2 The kings of the earth set themselves,
And the rulers take counsel together,
Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,
Psa 2:3 “Let us break Their bonds in pieces
And cast away Their cords from us.”
Psa 2:4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;
The Lord shall hold them in derision.
Psa 2:5 Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,
And distress them in His deep displeasure:

Christian - listen - there's coming a day when the Lord will mock
those who will try to overthrow the King of kings.

And as He delivers - and defends those who trust in Him...

...He will also distress those who reject Him - according to
His deep displeasure.

It's for this reason that the Psalmist concluded the second Psalm -
by declaring...

Psa 2:12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry,
And you perish in the way,
When His wrath is kindled but a little.
Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

Knowing that there's coming a day - when the Lord will
hold the armies of the world in derision...

...let's encourage them to repent - and trust in the
Son...

...so that they can escape the day of wrath.

With this in mind - let's consider how David prayed for his enemies - so that they
might submit to the God of Jacob.

Let's pick up our study of the 59th Psalm - beginning there at verse 11 - where
David declared...

Psa 59:11 Do not slay them, lest my people forget;
Scatter them by Your power,
And bring them down,
O Lord our shield.

Psa 59:12 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.

Psa 59:13 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

Here in these verses - we find David - asking the Lord to bring his enemies to the end of themselves...

...so that they might repent of their pride - and then submit themselves before the God of Jacob.

And not only that - but - David was also praying that the children of Israel might also learn a lesson...

...from the way that God dealt with his enemies.

With this in mind - let's consider how the scholars who created the New Living Translation rendered verse 11 - they put it like this...

Psa 59:11 Don't kill them, for my people soon forget such lessons;
stagger them with your power, and bring them to their knees,
O Lord our shield.

David wasn't asking the Lord to kill Saul and his soldiers - no - instead...

...he was praying for the Lord to bring them to their knees -
with Supernatural power

It's in verse 12 - where David also prayed that they would be trapped in their own pride...

...and that they might be caught in their own curses.

And in verse 13 - David prayed that they would be consumed by the wrath of God.

And as we consider the context - it seems to me that he asking the Lord to bring them to the end of themselves...

...wether by deposition - or by destruction.

Either way - David wanted them to come to the conclusion that the God of Israel not only rules in Jacob...

...but also to the ends of the earth.

And then he encouraged his audience to stop and think about that.

Christian - listen - the LORD God of hosts is not only the God of Israel...

...He is also the God Who rules over the entire Earth.

And while there are those who have bought into the belief that...

...there's a council of lesser gods - who rule over different regions of the Earth...

...David assures us here in this Psalm that there is Only One God...

...Who not only rules in Jacob - but - He rules to the ends of the earth.

And listen - this is true - even when it seems like the enemy is winning the day.

With this in mind - let's consider the final stanza of this Psalm - look with me - beginning there at verse 14 - where David declared...

Psa 59:14 And at evening they return,
They growl like a dog,

And go all around the city.

Psa 59:15 They wander up and down for food,
And howl if they are not satisfied.

Psa 59:16 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.

Psa 59:17 To You, O my Strength, I will sing praises;
For God is my defense,
My God of mercy.

Here the final verses of this Psalm - we find David - shifting his focus from the angry dogs who were attacking him...

...to the God Who was defending him - with supernatural strength.

And while it's true that the dogs of Saul were trying to hunt him down...

...it's also true that David was resting in the protective power of the Lord.

Rather than stressing - David was singing about the praises of the One Who was defending his life.

And in light of his example - we will all do well to realize that - the best way to overcome the fear of man...

...is to spend time singing the praises of our Almighty God.

In order to prove my point - let's take some time to consider the songs of praise...

...which will be proclaimed - during the time of tribulation.

With this as our focus - let's turn in our Bibles - to Revelation chapter 4 - where we find the apostle John - describing the throne room of the Lord.

According to John - the throne is surrounded by the twenty-four elders - who are clothed in white robes - and golden crowns.

And from the throne proceeds lightnings, thunderings, and voices.[

John also saw four living creatures before the throne of the Lord.

And it's here in Revelation chapter 4 - where he described the song of praise that they will sing...

...at the beginning of the tribulation.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 8 - where we learn that...

Rev 4:8 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying:
"Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God Almighty,
Who was and is and is to come!"

Rev 4:9 Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,

Rev 4:10 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

Rev 4:11 "You are worthy, O Lord,
To receive glory and honor and power;
For You created all things,
And by Your will they exist and were created."

It's here at the beginning of the Tribulation - when the four living creatures - and the elder who are before the throne of the Lord...

...will sing the praises of our Savior - Who alone is worthy to receive glory and honor and power.

We should also consider how they will continue to sing the praises of our Savior...

...as the Lord prepares to open the seven seals of the scroll that contains the judgments of God.

With this as our focus - let's flip forward to Revelation chapter 5 - - and let's direct our attention to verse 8 - where we read...

Rev 5:8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

Rev 5:9 And they sang a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll,

And to open its seals;

For You were slain,

And have redeemed us to God by Your blood

Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

Rev 5:10 And have made us kings and priests to our God;

And we shall reign on the earth.”

Here in these verses - we find the twenty-four elders - singing the praises of the One...

...Who alone will be able to open the scroll - with the seven seals.

And seeing how this scroll contains the seven judgments which will be poured out on this planet...

...we must not fail to realize that - our Lord is worthy to be praised...

...even when the wrath of God is being poured during the time of tribulation.

We should also notice how the angels - and the saints of God will sing his praises - as the Lord prepared to break the first seal.

Look with me again - there at Revelation chapter 5 - let's pick up at verse 11 - where John writes...

Rev 5:11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,

Rev 5:12 saying with a loud voice:

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
To receive power and riches and wisdom,
And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

Here in these verses - we find John - describing the way that those who are in the throne room of the Lord...

...will proclaim the praises of the Lamb - Who was slain - and
Who rose again the third day.

And it's just before our Redeemer opens the first seal of
the scroll...

...when we will glorify the One - Who alone is worthy

...to receive power and riches and wisdom and
strength and honor and glory and blessing!

We should also notice what John wrote - beginning there at verse 13 -
where he declared...

Rev 5:13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying:

“Blessing and honor and glory and power
Be to Him who sits on the throne,
And to the Lamb, forever and ever!”

Rev 5:14 Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

Now - as we consider these songs of praise — it's important for us
to remember that...

...this is all taking place - just before the seven seals of God's judgment - is poured out upon this earth.

What this also means is that - the Restrainer has been removed - and the church has been raptured.

That being the case - the mystery of iniquity is in full swing...

...as the wicked rulers of this world - prepare to attack the nation of Israel.

And yet - it's in the midst of these trials - when the saints in Heaven....

...will sing the praises of our Savior.

Christian listen - it's always the right time - to sing the praises of the Lord.

And while it's true that we currently find ourselves - living at a time when the universal church is being persecuted - more than ever before...

...it's also true at this is the right time - to offer up the sacrifice of praise...

...all the while knowing that the Lord has promised to defend - and deliver those who trust in Him.

And it's for this reason that I encourage you to follow in the footsteps of David's faith...

...by singing the praises of the Lord - Who is our God defense - and our deliverer. .