



# Treasury of the Psalms

**Psalm 34**

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## **Introduction:**

First, let us notice that there are twenty-two verses in this Psalm. Many times, when a Psalm has been given this many verses, it is a clue to us that we are looking at an acrostic Psalm since there are twenty-two letters in the Hebrew alphabet. Such is the case for Psalm 34. An acrostic Psalm is one where the first line of each stanza begins with the successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Of course, the acrostic is lost in translation into English and is why we do not see the acrostic in our scriptures.

Second, we are told the occasion for the writing of this Psalm. The heading declares this was when David *“pretended to be insane in the presence of Abimelech, who drove him out, and he departed.”* This instance leads us to 1 Samuel 21:10-16, 20:31. 1 Samuel 21 falls in the middle of the time when Saul is trying to kill David. Jonathan, Saul’s son, was instructed by Saul to go find David and bring him back to the city to be killed. Jonathan warns David of this and David flees to the land of the Philistines. The Philistines recognize David as the king of Israel who the people were singing about killing tens of thousands. But David was afraid of King Achish and began to act insane so as to not pose a threat to the king. David walked around scratching on the door and letting saliva run out of his mouth. Because of his actions, the king did not see David as a threat and did not arrest him or kill him. The time of this near death scenario is when David writes this Psalm.

## **Turn to God with Praise (1-3):**

## **David praised God for hearing his cries for help (4-7):**

**Fearing God (8-11):**

**Righteousness (12-14):**

**An attentive God (15-22):**