

Psalm 056 - Michtam Psalm: David Finds Shelter in the Wilderness; The Remnant Finds Shelter During the Tribulation

The "Pentateuch" of Psalms

There are five divisions, each ending with a benediction (1-41; 42-72; 73-89; 90-106; 107-150):

- I. Genesis - About Man (Ps 1-41)
- II. Exodus - Deliverance (Ps 42-72)
- III. Leviticus - Sanctuary (Ps 73-89)
- IV. Numbers - Unrest, Wandering (Ps 90-106)
- V. Deuteronomy - Word of the Lord (Ps 107-150)

Another delightful cluster of psalms (Ps 56-60) are known as the michtam psalms: substantial, or enduring, or fixed. Michtam literally means "engraved" or "permanent." In Ps 57:7 when David says, "My heart is fixed" that is a michtam. All of these psalms have a prophetic undertone. Between the historical (David's experiences) and the prophetic (Israel's experience in the future), is a message for us today.

In an hour of deep despair, David fled to the Philistine city of Gath. He didn't get a good reception; he had to pretend to be insane to escape (1 Sam 21:10—22:1). Psalm 34 also came out of this experience

In Ps 55, David wished that he had the wings of a dove so that he could fly away into the wilderness (Ps 55:6-7). In this psalm his desire is realized. David's experience can also be seen as a picture of the Great Tribulation period.

Psalm 56

[To the chief Musician upon Jonathelem-rechokim, Michtam of David, when the Philistines took him in Gath.]

A Prayer about Trust in God

1 Be gracious to me, God, for a man has trampled upon me; Fighting all day long he oppresses me.

1 Be gracious to me, O God, for man has trampled upon me; Fighting all day long he oppresses me.

1 Have mercy on me, God, because men have harassed me. Those who oppress me have fought against me all day long.

1 Be merciful unto me, O God: for man would swallow me up; he fighting daily oppresseth me.

2 My enemies have trampled upon me all day long, For they are many who fight proudly against me.

2 My foes have trampled upon me all day long, For they are many who fight proudly against me.

2 Those who watch me all day have harassed me, for there are many who fight against me out of conceit.

2 Mine enemies would daily swallow me up: for they be many that fight against me, O thou most High.

3 When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You.

3 When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You.

3 On days when I am afraid, I put my trust in you.

3 What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.

4 In God, whose word I praise, In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can *mere* mortals do to me?

4 In God, whose word I praise, In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can *mere* man do to me?

4 In God, whose word I praise, in God I put my trust. I will not fear what mortal man can do to me.

4 In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.

5 All day long they distort my words; All their thoughts are against me for evil.

5 All day long they distort my words; All their thoughts are against me for evil.

5 All day long people distort what I say; all their schemes against me are for evil purposes.

5 Every day they wrest my words: all their thoughts are against me for evil.

6 They attack, they lurk, They watch my steps, As they have waited *to take* my life.

6 They attack, they lurk, They watch my steps, As they have waited *to take* my life.

6 They gather together and hide in ambush. They watch my every step as they lie in wait for my life.

6 They gather themselves together, they hide themselves, they mark my steps, when they wait for my soul.

- David admitted he was afraid, but he trusted the Lord to take care of him

7 Because of *their* wickedness, *will there be* an escape for them? In anger make the peoples fall down, God!

7 Because of wickedness, cast them forth, In anger put down the peoples, O God!

7 Cast them away because of their wickedness. In wrath, God, cast down these people!

7 Shall they escape by iniquity? in thine anger cast down the people, O God.

8 You have taken account of my miseries; Put my tears in Your bottle. *Are they* not in Your book?

8 You have taken account of my wanderings; Put my tears in Your bottle. *Are they* not in Your book?

8 You have kept count of my wanderings. Put my tears in your bottle— have not you recorded them in your book?

8 Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?

9 Then my enemies will turn back on the day when I call; This I know, that God is for me.

9 Then my enemies will turn back in the day when I call; This I know, that God is for me.

9 My enemies will retreat when I call on you. This has been my experience, because God is with me.

9 When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me.

- Matthew Henry: "The tears of God's persecuted people are bottled up, and sealed among God's treasures."

10 In God, *whose* word I praise, In the LORD, *whose* word I praise,

10 In God, *whose* word I praise, In the LORD, *whose* word I praise,

10 In God, whose word I praise, in the LORD, whose word I praise,

10 In God will I praise his word: in the LORD will I praise his word.

11 In God I have put my trust, I shall not be afraid. What can mankind do to me?

11 In God I have put my trust, I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?

11 in God I will put my trust. I will not fear what mortal man can do to me.

11 In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.

- He repeats v4, but uses the *YHWH*, the Covenant Name. If God be for us, who can be against us? (Rom 8:31)

12 Your vows are *binding* upon me, God; I will render thanksgiving offerings to You.
12 Your vows are *binding* upon me, O God; I will render thank offerings to You.
12 God, I have taken vows before you; therefore I will offer thanksgiving sacrifices to you.
12 Thy vows are upon me, O God: I will render praises unto thee.

13 For You have saved my soul from death, Indeed my feet from stumbling, So that I may walk before God In the light of the living.

13 For You have delivered my soul from death, Indeed my feet from stumbling, So that I may walk before God In the light of the living.

13 For you have delivered me from death and my feet from stumbling, so that I may walk before God in the light of the living!

13 For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?