

Psalm 059 - Michtam Psalm: A Prayer for Deliverance and Justice

Again in this psalm we see David surrounded by his enemies, and prophetically it describes the suffering remnant during the Tribulation, surrounded by enemies.

Enemy of the King

Saul's fear and hatred of David was so strong that he gave orders to kill his son-in-law: twice Saul tried to do it himself (1 Sam 19:1-10); then he plotted to have him murdered at home (1 Sam 19:11-19), but his wife Michal (Saul's daughter) helped him escape through a window. A dummy in the bed gave David time to get to Samuel at Ramah.

Two slightly different refrains in this Psalm reveal David as one whose heart God was molding to be like His own. David began by asking God to be his fortress. Before he finished praying, God answered his urgent plea. Each refrain (v9-10a; v16-17) praises God as "my strength...my fortress, my God on Whom I can rely."

- The first refrain "watches" for God
- The second refrain "sings" of God's strong love, though God had not yet delivered David

Psalm 59

[To the chief Musician, Altaschith, Michtam of David; when Saul sent, and they watched the house to kill him.]

The Conspiracy of David's Enemies

1 Rescue me from my enemies, my God; Set me securely on high away from those who rise up against me.

1 Deliver me from my enemies, O my God; Set me securely on high away from those who rise up against me.

1 Save me from my enemies, my God! Keep me safe from those who rise up against me.

1 Deliver me from mine enemies, O my God: defend me from them that rise up against me.

- The focus of the psalm is God: the Deliverer (v9) and the Judge (v10-17)

— In the Psalms, David shows us how to pray for God's glory in our trials

2 Rescue me from those who practice injustice, And save me from men of bloodshed.

2 Deliver me from those who do iniquity And save me from men of bloodshed.

2 Save me from those who practice evil; deliver me from bloodthirsty men.

2 Deliver me from the workers of iniquity, and save me from bloody men.

3 For behold, they have set an ambush for my life; Fierce men attack me, Not for my wrongdoing nor for my sin, LORD,

3 For behold, they have set an ambush for my life; Fierce men launch an attack against me, Not for my transgression nor for my sin, O LORD,

3 Look, they lie in ambush for my life; these violent men gather together against me, but not because of any transgression or sin of mine, LORD.

3 For, lo, they lie in wait for my soul: the mighty are gathered against me; not for my transgression, nor for my sin, O LORD.

- The reason for David's prayer: violent men were laying a trap for him, even though he had done nothing to deserve their hostility

4 For no guilt of *mine*, they run and take their stand against me. Stir Yourself to help me, and see!

4 For no guilt of *mine*, they run and set themselves against me. Arouse Yourself to help me, and see!

4 Without any fault on my part, they rush together and prepare themselves. Get up! Come help me! Pay attention!

4 They run and prepare themselves without my fault: awake to help me, and behold.

5 You, LORD God of armies, the God of Israel, Awake to punish all the nations; Do not be gracious to any *who* deal treacherously in wrongdoing. Selah

5 You, O LORD 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*.

5 You, LORD God of the Heavenly Armies, God of Israel, stir yourself up to punish all the nations. Show no mercy to those wicked transgressors.

5 Thou therefore, O LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel, awake to visit all the heathen: be not merciful to any wicked transgressors. Selah.

- David broadened his request to include his nation, which suffered similarly at the hands of hostile Gentile nations

- Desperate circumstances stripped David of every pretense of self-sufficiency:

- David's need: Only God could deliver him. He asked God to "be my fortress against those who are attacking me" and "arise to help me."
- David's problem: Enemies and evildoers conspired against him, ready to attack him without cause. These foolish men doubted God and thought no one would ever discover their sin.

- David's emotions: Vivid imagery makes it clear that the willingness of Saul's men to follow the king rather than God threatened their own humanity. A pack of hungry, snarling mongrels threatened to tear him apart with their words.
- David's character: Innocent of offense, sin, or wrong-doing; confident in God
- God's character: Righteous and in control; personal, accessible and ready to deliver
- David's goal: God's glory

David's Triumph Over His Enemies

6 They return at evening, they howl like a dog, And prowl around the city.

6 They return at evening, they howl like a dog, And go around the city.

6 At night they return like howling dogs; they prowl around the city.

6 They return at evening: they make a noise like a dog, and go round about the city.

- David compared his enemies to wild dogs that gain courage under cover of night to threaten and boldly attack

7 Behold, they gush forth with their mouths; Swords are in their lips, For, *they say*, "Who hears?"

7 Behold, they belch forth with their mouth; Swords are in their lips, For, *they say*, "Who hears?"

7 Look what pours out of their mouths! They use their lips like swords, saying "Who will hear us?"

7 Behold, they belch out with their mouth: swords are in their lips: for who, say they, doth hear?

- The offensive weapons of the enemy included their words, which were similar to swords in their destructive power

8 But You, LORD, laugh at them; You scoff at all the nations.

8 But You, O LORD, laugh at them; You scoff at all the nations.

8 But you, LORD, will laugh at them; you will mock all the nations.

8 But thou, O LORD, shalt laugh at them; thou shalt have all the heathen in derision.

- David knew that the Lord was not intimidated when He heard the threats of his enemies

-- Even the wrangling of the nations does not disturb God

9 *Because of his strength I will watch for You, For God is my refuge.*

9 *Because of his strength I will watch for You, For God is my stronghold.*

9 My Strength, I will watch for you, for God is my fortress.

9 Because of his strength will I wait upon thee: for God is my defence.

- This verse expresses David's trust in the Lord...rather than being terrified by his assassins, David trusted in his Avenger

10 My God in His faithfulness will meet me; God will let me look *triumphantly* upon my enemies.

10 My God in His lovingkindness will meet me; God will let me look *triumphantly* upon my foes.

10 My God of Gracious Love will meet me; God will enable me to see what happens to my enemies.

10 The God of my mercy shall prevent me: God shall let me see my desire upon mine enemies.

- Rather than being terrified by his assassins, David trusted in his Avenger

David's Desire for the Lord's Glory

11 Do not kill them, or my people will forget; Scatter them by Your power and bring them down, Lord, our shield.

11 Do not slay them, or my people will forget; Scatter them by Your power, and bring them down, O Lord, our shield.

11 Don't kill them!" Otherwise, my people may forget. By your power make them stumble around; bring them down low, Lord, our Shield.

11 Slay them not, lest my people forget: scatter them by thy power; and bring them down, O Lord our shield.

- David did not just want His Lord to frustrate the attacks of his enemies. He desired that God would use their aggression as a lesson of how He deals with those who oppose Him and His anointed.

12 *On account of the sin of their mouths and the words of their lips*, May they even be caught in their pride, And on account of curses and lies which they tell.

12 *On account of the sin of their mouth and the words of their lips*, Let them even be caught in their pride, And on account of curses and lies which they utter.

12 The sin of their mouth is the word on their lips. They will be caught in their own conceit; for they speak curses and lies.

12 For the sin of their mouth and the words of their lips let them even be taken in their pride: and for cursing and lying which they speak.

13 Destroy *them* in wrath, destroy *them* so that they will no longer exist; So that *people* may know that God rules in Jacob, To the ends of the earth. Selah

13 Destroy *them* in wrath, destroy *them* that they may be no more; That *men* may know that God rules in Jacob To the ends of the earth. *Selah*.

13 Go ahead and destroy them in anger! Wipe them out, and they will know to the ends of the earth that God rules over Jacob.

13 Consume them in wrath, consume them, that they may not be: and let them know that God ruleth in Jacob unto the ends of the earth. *Selah*.

David's Joy in View of Certain Deliverance

14 They return at evening, they howl like a dog, And prowl around the city.

14 They return at evening, they howl like a dog, And go around the city.

14 At night they return like howling dogs; they prowl around the city.

14 And at evening let them return; and let them make a noise like a dog, and go round about the city.

- David reminded the Lord of his enemies behaving like wild dogs (v6-7)

15 They wander about for food And murmur if they are not satisfied.

15 They wander about for food And growl if they are not satisfied.

15 They scavenge for food. If they find nothing, they become hungry and growl.

15 Let them wander up and down for meat, and grudge if they be not satisfied.

16 But as for me, I will sing of Your strength; Yes, I will joyfully sing of Your faithfulness in the morning, For You have been my refuge And a place of refuge on the day of my distress.

16 But as for me, I shall sing of Your strength; Yes, I shall joyfully sing of Your lovingkindness in the morning, For You have been my stronghold And a refuge in the day of my distress.

16 But I will sing of your power and in the morning I will shout for joy about your gracious love. For you have been a fortress for me; and a refuge when I am distressed.

16 But I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning: for thou hast been my defence and refuge in the day of my trouble.

- In contrast to the behavior of his enemies, David voiced his confident trust that the Lord would frustrate his enemies, as He had done often in the past

17 My strength, I will sing praises to You; For God is my refuge, the God who shows me favor.

17 O my strength, I will sing praises to You; For God is my stronghold, the God who shows me lovingkindness.

17 My Strength, I will sing praises to you, for you, God of Gracious Love, are my fortress.

17 Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing: for God is my defence, and the God of my mercy.

- David looked forward to singing praises to God, His strength, for being his refuge, and for showing him favor