

**If you are a person who loves God and His Word, sooner or later Satan will see to it that something or someone rises up that will make things miserable.** Sometimes that person who will be most used by Satan may be one very close to you. That was certainly true in the life of David.

Now the superscription of this Psalm gives us the historical background of it:

- 1) This Psalm was written for the choir director, which means it was to be publicly communicated.
- 2) This Psalm was set to “Al-tashheth,” which means it is another “do not destroy” Psalm.
- 3) This Psalm was a “Mikhtam” of David, which means David is again focused on the written Word in writing this Psalm in these difficult circumstances.
- 4) This Psalm was written when Saul had sent men to watch David’s house in order to kill him.

Think about this for a moment. **This was David’s own father-in-law and he was trying to kill David.**

Now this story is found in I Samuel 19:8-14. **What we learn from this text is that Satan was behind this attempt to kill David (I Sam. 19:9), but Michal, David’s wife, helped David escape.**

**We also learn from this that God was sovereign in all of this.** So even though Satan was involved, God had actually permitted him to be involved. This is a good point to realize. No matter what is happening to us or hitting us, God is still sovereign in it.

Now, again in this horrible circumstance we find David doing what we have seen him doing multiple times in Psalms and that is he turned to God. The thesis of the Psalm is this:

**WHEN A FAITHFUL CHILD OF GOD COMES UNDER SOME FORM OF SATANIC ATTACK, HE NEEDS TO PRAY AND REALIZE, BASED ON THE WRITTEN WORD OF GOD, THAT GOD WILL HELP AND IN THE END HE WILL SING.**

When you are faithful to God, you will not always have life easy. There will be those who may be led of Satan who will turn against you for no apparent reason. These are not outsiders; these are people on the inside. These are people who talk about God and who go to church. But these people will be led by Satan to hound you and target you and try to destroy you. When these kinds of things happen, we must always remember the option we have of prayer. Praying to God is a critical theme of this book of Psalms. A repeated Davidic theme that we see in Psalms is talk to God, talk to God, talk to God.

There are five simple parts to this Psalm:

**PART #1** – David prays to God for deliverance. **59:1-5**

When you are under attack as a believer, you have two options:

1) Give up; 2) Go to God in prayer. David opted for this option.

We may observe that this prayer did stem from real urgent need, not some imaginary delusion. David's plight was real. Notice from **verse 1** that he identifies God as "**my God.**" Actually in this Psalm he will use several names for God: **1) God**–the Sovereign Creator; **2) LORD**–the Sovereign God of the covenant; **3) Lord**–the Sovereign controller and Master and Ruler over all things (**v. 11**). **4)** He will also identify God as being the "LORD God of hosts" meaning He is in sovereign charge of all forces in heaven and on earth.

Now in this prayer David appeals to God as his personal God for three reasons:

**Reason #1** - Because he needed deliverance from his enemies. **59:1**

David had both foreign and domestic enemies. David specifically prays that God will actually set him above and beyond the reach of his enemies.

**Reason #2** - Because he needed deliverance from those who do iniquity. **59:2a**

These were people who appeared to be very religious who were involved in perverse depravity.

**Reason #3** - Because he needed deliverance from men of bloodshed. **59:2b**

There are people who really do want to kill and destroy those right with God. If God were not sovereign, he will literally kill every servant of God.

Now in **verses 3-4**, he gives a description of the tactics of his enemies:

**(Tactic #1)** - They were setting an ambush for him. **59:3a**

Enemies are always looking to ambush one faithful to God.

**(Tactic #2)** - They were launching attacks against him. **59:3b**

David was the specific target of satanic attack.

**(Tactic #3)** - They were setting themselves against him. **59:4a**

This would indicate that these people entered into a conspiracy to try to destroy David.

**(Tactic #4)** - They were not doing this for any reason he deserved. **59:4**

Their actions were not justified. David was innocent of any sin or crime that would bring on this kind of treatment.

When David was hit with trouble, he became very introspective. He would honestly examine himself to see whether or not he had sinned to bring on the negatives. He was not a perfect man, but he would honestly analyze himself to determine whether or not he was the cause. In this case he was innocent. He had done nothing to bring this on. He was under attack and this attack was satanic.

So in **verses 4-5**, he reiterates his point that he wants God to come to his assistance. He wants God to focus on him and his enemies and punish them and do not be gracious to them in any way.

What the enemies of God's people don't realize is that they have a lot more to fear than just them, they need to fear that the faithful servant of God is praying about them because if God decides to answer the prayer, the enemies will not be the recipients of the grace of God, but the wrath of God. As David says in **verse 5**, "selah" stop and think about this.

**PART #2** – David gives a description of his enemies. **59:6-7**

There are four descriptions we get here about David's enemies and how they worked:

**Description #1** - David's enemies do their work deceitfully at night. **59:6a**

Godless people are involved in secret behind scenes dark and deceitful work. They prowl around howling like a dog talking to any who will listen.

**Description #2** - David's enemies go around the city. **59:6b**

These were respectable people of the city who were very religious. Most could not spot their deception.

**Description #3** - David's enemies destroy with their mouth. **59:7a**

The language here describes the fact that they cannot set a watch before their mouth. They cannot stop themselves from verbally belching forth their destruction and hate.

**Description #4** - David's enemies think no one hears. **59:7b**

Evil people who are verbally attacking faithful people think no one hears or listens. But Jesus said not one word is being missed by God (Matt. 12:33-37).

**PART #3** – David describes his confidence in God. **59:8-10**

When we find we are under attack, our confidence needs to be completely in God. David never put any trust and confidence in himself; he put every bit of it in God. David specifically trusted God to take four actions:

**Action #1** - David trusted that God would mock those who were his enemies. **59:8**

He trusted God would get a good laugh at the stupidity of these people.

**Action #2** - David trusted that God would use His strength to defend him. **59:9**

It is the strength and power of God that really needs to be feared.

**Action #3** - David trusted that God's mercy would sustain him. **59:10a**

David truly anticipated that God's mercy would specifically meet with him in the midst of these problems and sustain him.

**Action #4** - David trusted that God's sovereignty would let him triumph over enemies. **59:10b**

Now someone might say well this is just what David believed. His trust in God was his crutch. Well, can you think of a better crutch to lean on than Almighty God? But the way, this is exactly what did happen. God did defend David and God did destroy his enemies including Saul.

**PART #4** – David prays for the wicked. **59:11-15**

There are four specific requests David makes:

**Request #1** - David prays that God will not slay his enemies. **59:11a**

David wanted these people to live long enough to realize how foolish it was to turn against God's faithful people. God does not need to kill our enemies to destroy them. He can cause them to be hit with physical disasters; emotional breakdowns; financial disasters and work-related nightmares. God can cause enemies of his faithful people to have accidents and he can take away their businesses. All the while they are still alive, and if they are smart they begin to realize I should have never turned against faithful people of God.

**Request #2** - David prays that God will scatter his enemies. **59:11b**

This is the old principle of divide and conquer.

**Request #3** - David prays that God will trap his enemies in their own pride. **59:12**

God can trap people by their own words. One who lies against one faithful, God can cause to be caught in their own lies. Those who deceitfully use their speech to attack faithful people will themselves be attacked.

**Request #4** - David prays that God will destroy his enemies so they will never do it again.  
**59:13**

David says if God would do this to these dogs, then all men would realize it is God who rules over everything.

In **verses 14-15**, David again reminds God that if God does not stop them, they will just keep doing and saying what they do over and over again.

**PART #5** – David prays and offers praise to God. **59:16-17**

David always praised God. David knew that God was his refuge. David could sing of the mercy of God. He knew God was His strength and God was on his side and God would give him His grace.

#### **PRACTICAL LESSONS:**

- 1. When under attack, pray.**
- 2. When under attack, worship.**
- 3. Remember whoever God preserves, Satan cannot destroy.**
- 4. There is comfort in knowing you are innocent when under attack.**
- 5. It is good to know that God monitors those who verbally attack faithful people.**
- 6. Our strength and our security and our stability is not found in us, but with our God.**