

Psalm 56

1 To the chief Musician upon Jonathelemrechokim, Michtam of David, when the Philistines took him in Gath. Be merciful unto me, O God: for man would swallow me up; he fighting daily oppresseth me. 2 Mine enemies would daily swallow me up: for they be many that fight against me, O thou most High.

3 What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. 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 Every day they wrest my words: all their thoughts are against me for evil. 6 They gather themselves together, they hide themselves, they mark my steps, when they wait for my soul. 7 Shall they escape by iniquity? in thine anger cast down the people, O God. 8 Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book? 9a When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back:

9b this I know; for God is for me. 10 In God will I praise his word: in the LORD will I praise his word. 11 In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.

12 Thy vows are upon me, O God: I will render praises unto thee. 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?

Introduction:

1. "To the chief Musician" (1 Chr. 25:1-6) – Asaph, Jeduthun, Heman.
2. "Jonathelemrechokim" – meaning (1 time) – meaning "the dove of the distant terebinth trees." [Jonath-elem-rehokim]
3. "Michtam" – meditation. (of David).
4. When the Philistines...(1 Sam. 21:10-15).

Outline:

- A. Lament (vv.1-2)
- B. Trust in God (vv.3-4)
- C. Affliction and curses (vv.5-9a)
- B.' Trust in God (vv.9b-11)
- A.' Thanksgiving (vv.12-13)

Observations: David exhibits fear and faith, and faith prevails. Faith moves him to thanksgiving, and thanks gives way to blessings.

Lesson: The Believer's battles are daily. And we can praise God for His daily grace! (See: Lk. 9:23; Fear – 2 Cor. 7:5)

Psalm 57

1 To the chief Musician, Altaschith, Michtam of David, when he fled from Saul in the cave. Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast. 2 I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth all things for me. 3 He shall send from heaven, and save me from the reproach of him that would swallow me up. Selah. God shall send forth his mercy and his truth. 4 My soul is among lions: and I lie even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword.

5 Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; let thy glory be above all the earth.

6 They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down: they have digged a pit before me, into the midst whereof they are fallen themselves. Selah. 7 My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise. 8 Awake up, my glory; awake, psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early. 9 I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations. 10 For thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds.

11 Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: let thy glory be above all the earth.

Introduction:

1. "To the chief Musician" (1 Chr. 25:1-6) – Asaph, Ethan, Heman.
2. "Altaschith" - (4 times) – meaning "destroy not." (Ps. 57, 58, 59, 75). David pleads to God for his life and/or deliverance from his enemies.
3. "Michtam of David" – meditation of David.
4. "When he fled from Saul in the cave" – Adullam (1 Sam. 22) or Engedi (1 Sam. 24).

Outline:

- A. Lament (vv.1-4)
- B. Refrains (v.5) (v.11)
- C. Thanksgiving (vv.6-10)

Observations: Simple structure – two strophes with the same refrain. Themes: the reality of foes and the reality of God. (v.7) – My heart is fixed (or prepared or established, Ps. 40:1-2; 48:8).

Lesson: There can be no triumph where there is no trouble. Trust God in the midst of trouble.