

PSALM 54

Prayer for Defense against Enemies.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. To the Chief Musician. With stringed instruments. A Contemplation of David when the Ziphites went and said to Saul, "Is David not hiding with us?" (1Sam. 23:19).
- B. "Prayer for Deliverance from Enemies"
- C. When David was in the wilderness of Ziph, the Ziphites sent word to Saul that David was hiding there (1Sam. 23:14-28). Abiathar, the priest warned David that Saul was coming after him, so he had fled to Ziph, but now he went on to the wilderness of Maon to the South. When Saul followed David and pursued him in Maon, David and his men were on one side of the mountain while Saul and his men were circling to take him (v. 26). See 1Samuel 23:27-29.
- D. It seems that the deliverance when Saul was called away was the answer to David's prayer.

THE TEXT.

- 54:1** Save me, O God, by Your name,
And vindicate me by Your power.
2 Hear my prayer, O God;
Give ear to the words of my mouth.
3 For strangers have risen against me
And violent men have sought my life;
They have not set God before them. Selah.
4 Behold, God is my helper;
The Lord is the sustainer of my soul.
5 He will recompense the evil to my foes;
Destroy them in Your faithfulness.
6 Willingly I will sacrifice to You;
I will give thanks to Your name, O LORD, for it is good.
7 For He has delivered me from all trouble,
And my eye has looked *with satisfaction* upon my enemies.

COMMENTS.

- A. [v1] David does not depend on his own cunning or skill for deliverance.
- B. [v2,3] The "strangers" were the Ziphites who betrayed him into the hands of Saul to gain blessings of the king. These pagans did not worship God and Saul had begun to worship their gods, naming one of his sons Ethbaal after the Canaanite god, Baal.
- C. [v4,5] "Behold, God is my helper..." We are nothing unless God is with us. It has been illustrated by saying that we are a string of zeros, and are nothing until God stands before us as the great ONE. Then our zeros become innumerable.
- D. [v5] "He will repay my enemies for their evil." The thanksgiving centers on God's faithfulness in delivering, and punishing in truth justice.
- E. David closes with thanks and praise for the deliverance, when there was little hope for escape. David may well have taken Saul's abrupt departure when he had David surrounded, as assurance that God would continue to deliver him and protect him.