

PSALM 57

Prayer for Rescue from Persecutors.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. To the Chief Musician. Set to "Do Not Destroy." A Michtam of David when he fled from Saul in a cave. "A Prayer for Deliverance and Thanksgiving to God"
- B. "Set to 'Do Not Destroy'" Three of the psalms of David are set to this tune, 57, 58 and 59. Also Psa. 75, which is attributed to Asaph is set to this tune.
- C. "...when he fled from Saul in a cave." David stayed in the cave of Adullam (1Sam. 22:1), and in the cave of Engedi (1Sam. 24:3). There is nothing in the psalm to directly refer to either cave.
- D. In the introduction of Psalm 56 we mentioned these being called "twins."
 1. Both psalms begin with exactly the same words.
 2. In both, a refrain divides the psalm into two main parts.
 3. The same kind of distressing situation is seen in both.
 4. The ends of the earth ("nations," "Gentiles," or "peoples") in both are pictured as being concerned with David's deliverance.
- E. Also of interest, 57:7-11 is repeated with slight variation, in 108:1-5. This only continues to illustrate the constant repetition of themes, laments, praise, etc., in all of the psalms.

COMMENTS.

A. David Asks for Deliverance.

Be gracious to me, O God, be gracious to me,
For my soul takes refuge in You;
And in the shadow of Your wings I will take refuge
Until destruction passes by.

2 I will cry to God Most High,
To God who accomplishes *all things* for me.

3 He will send from heaven and save me;
He reproaches him who tramples upon me. Selah.
God will send forth His lovingkindness and His truth.

4 My soul is among lions;
I must lie among those who breathe forth fire,
Even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows
And their tongue a sharp sword.

5 Be exalted above the heavens, O God;
Let Your glory be above all the earth.

[v1] "...in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge..." This reminds us of Jesus' metaphor about the inhabitants of Jerusalem (Mt. 23:37).

[v3] "...He reproaches the one who would swallow me up." Who are the "people eaters" of this verse? (The expression, "the one who would" does not indicate that only one person is considered, but tells what God would do to anyone who would swallow up the righteous.)

[v4] "My soul is among lions...among the sons of men..." vivid, graphic language here describes characteristics of the men who were attacking David.

[v5] This is the refrain that also is repeated in 57:11 (at the end of each part of the psalm).

B. David Describes His Situation.

They have prepared a net for my steps;
My soul is bowed down;
They dug a pit before me;
They *themselves* have fallen into the midst of it. Selah.

7 My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast;
I will sing, yes, I will sing praises!

8 Awake, my glory!
Awake, harp and lyre!
I will awaken the dawn.

9 I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the peoples;

I will sing praises to You among the nations.

10 For Your lovingkindness is great to the heavens

And Your truth to the clouds.

11 Be exalted above the heavens, O God;

Let Your glory be above all the earth.

[v6] “They have prepared a net...they have dug a pit...they themselves have fallen.” How often we have seen in history, that those who plan bad things for others often suffer the same kind of fate as Haman was hung on his own gallows which he had prepared for Mordecai (Esther 7:9).

[v8] “Awake....Awake....I will awaken the dawn” (rather than let the dawn awake me).

[v9] “I will praise You, O Lord, among the peoples...among the nations.” David expresses a great understanding of God’s righteousness, and shows that he is a man after God’s own heart. He is concerned about all of the people of the world.

[v10] “For Your mercy reaches unto the heavens, and Your truth unto the clouds.” This parallelism illustrates that the word “heavens” means the “sky” or expanse of space, including the lower atmosphere.